

DIPR organises cultural programmes on Gandhi Jayanti, Int’l Day of Older Persons

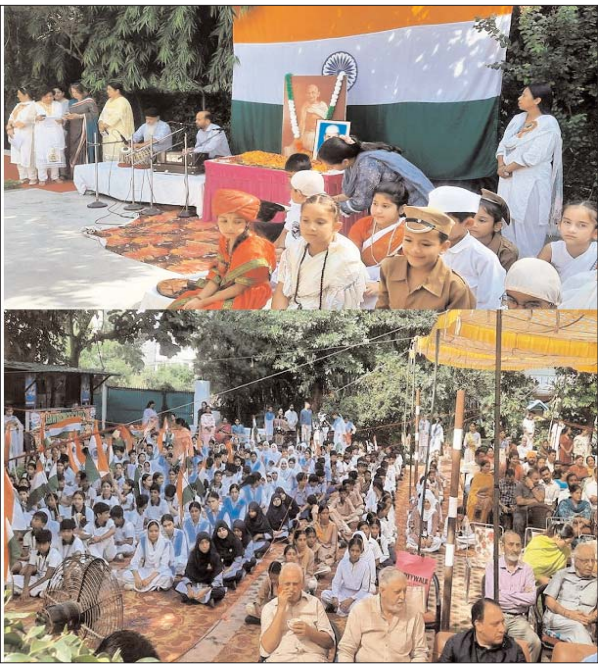
JAMMU, OCTOBER 02: The Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu organised a series of cultural programmes at different institutions in Jammu to mark Gandhi Jayanti and the International Day of Older Persons.

A cultural programme was organised on September 30, 2026 at Ved Mandir, Ambphalla, Jammu. Artists of the Cultural Unit, along with casual artists Vanshika Dogra and Parveen Kumar, presented patriotic and folk songs, enthralling the audience with their performances.

Students of Ved Mandir Ambphalla also showcased their talent by presenting songs in different languages, reflecting the rich cultural and linguistic diversity of the region.

President Ved Mandir, Puran Chand Sharma and Cultural Officer Jammu, Rajinder Kumar Digra, along with staff members, witnessed the programme. The President appreciated the efforts of the Cultural Unit DIPR Jammu for organising the programme and promoting cultural activities.

On October 1, 2026, the International Day of Older



Persons and Gandhi Jayanti were commemorated at the Home for the Aged and Infirm, Ambphalla. Artists of the Cultural Unit presented a series of patriotic and devotional songs, creating an atmosphere of respect, devotion and national spirit among the residents.

DIG Shailender Singh was the Chief Guest, while Cultural Officer Jammu Rajinder Kumar Digra was the Guest of Honour.

The programme was attended by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary, Old Age

Home; Er. Vijay Gupta, Joint Secretary; S. Ratandeeep Singh, Member Managing Committee; S. Rajinder Singh, Member Managing Committee; Dr. B.B. Sharma, Ex-CMO; and Medical Officer, besides staff and residents of the Home.

In his address, the chief guest appreciated the Cultural Unit for organising the programme and using cultural performances as a means of spreading joy, respect and social awareness among senior citizens. The programme concluded with a vote of

thanks proposed by Dr. Dinesh Gupta, Secretary, Old Age Home.

Today, the Cultural Unit, in collaboration with Gandhi Global Family, organised another cultural programme at Lawrence Public School Sidhra, as part of the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. Artists of the Cultural Unit presented patriotic songs and rendered “Vaishnav Jan To”, one of Mahatma Gandhi’s favourite bhajans, paying a musical tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

The series of programmes highlighted the role of culture and music in promoting patriotism, social harmony, respect for senior citizens and awareness of India’s rich cultural heritage. The performances by the Cultural Unit artists also provided a platform for students and local artists to showcase their talent and strengthened the department’s efforts towards taking cultural programmes to educational institutions and the community.

The programmes were organized under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Rajinder Kumar Digra.

GDC Samba Realises Gandhi Ji's Mantra "Cleanliness is Next to Godliness"

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 02

GDC Samba Realises Gandhi Ji’s Mantra “Cleanliness is Next to Godliness” - Observes Gandhi Jayanti with cleanliness and awareness at Chichi Mata temple. Government Degree College Samba today celebrated Gandhi Jayanti with great zeal and enthusiasm to mark the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi Ji.

The celebration began with paying of floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi Ji by Principal Prof. (Dr.) NirlpeKour along with faculty, staff and students. After the tribute ceremony, the following activities were conducted under Swachhata Hi Seva Campaign:

1. Swachhata Pledge: A Swachhata Pledge ceremony was organized in the college. The pledge was administered by Principal Prof. (Dr.) NirlpeKour. All staff members, NSS volun-



teers and students took pledge to remain committed towards cleanliness, devote time for cleanliness and to spread the message of Swachhata among others.

2. Campus Cleanliness Drive: Immediately after the pledge, a campus cleanliness drive was organized which was led by Principal Prof. (Dr.) NirlpeKour. During the drive, the entire college campus and parking area were thoroughly cleaned. The playground,

corridors and surroundings were also cleaned and plastic waste and garbage were collected and properly disposed off.

3. Cleanliness of Chichi Mata Temple: With the spirit of community service, the NSS Unit of GDC Samba extended the cleanliness drive to Chichi Mata Temple, Samba. The NSS volunteers cleaned the temple premises and surrounding areas and also sensitized the local people and devotees

about the importance of cleanliness at public and religious places.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Prof. (Dr.) NirlpeKour said that Mahatma Gandhi Ji always emphasized on cleanliness and the true tribute to him is to keep our surroundings neat and clean. The whole programme was organized by NSS Unit of the College under the supervision of NSS Programme Officer Dr. Babita Kumari.

IIM Jammu Honours Outstanding Natrang Artists

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 02

Outstanding performing artists of Natrang were honoured by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu at the Mandapam Auditorium for their remarkable contribution to the performing arts and for taking the rich cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir to national and international platforms.

The artists were honoured by Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, who presented plaques of honour and certificates of appreciation to the performers in recognition of their exceptional artistic contribution. The felicitation took place on the occasion of Natrang’s highly acclaimed production, ‘Colours of Jammu & Kashmir’, presented as part of the celebrations marking 10 years of excellence of IIM Jammu.

‘Colours of Jammu & Kashmir’ is a unique theatrical concept conceived and created by Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, founder and director of Natrang.

The production celebrates the extraordinary cultural diversity of Jammu and Kashmir through a vibrant synthesis of dance, music, theatre and traditional per-



forming arts. It brings together the distinct cultural expressions of the region and presents them in a visually engaging and spectacular format.

The production has earned widespread recognition for its innovative presentation and its ability to communicate the cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir to audiences across the world. Balwant Thakur first showcased ‘Colours of Jammu & Kashmir’ at the British Parliament, where it received appreciation for its distinctive portrayal of the region’s pluralistic cultural traditions. Since then, the production has travelled to several countries, introducing international audiences to the diverse artistic heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

One of the most significant milestones in the journey of the production

was its presentation during the G20 celebrations in Kashmir, where it captivated audiences from across the globe. The performance provided a powerful cultural window into the traditions, colours and artistic diversity of Jammu and Kashmir.

The felicitation at IIM Jammu was not merely a recognition of individual artists but also an acknowledgement of their collective contribution to preserving, promoting and taking the cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir to wider audiences.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B. S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, appreciated Natrang’s sustained contribution to the performing arts and its efforts to showcase the cultural wealth of the region through innovative and contemporary presentations.

The honouring of Natrang artists added a special cultural dimension to IIM Jammu’s 10th anniversary celebrations and reaffirmed the importance of art and culture in strengthening the region’s cultural identity and connecting it with audiences nationally and internationally.

The artists who were honoured on the occasion including Neeraj Kant, Sunny Mujoo, Mohd. Yaseen, Pawan Verma, Shivam Singh, Kananpreet Kaur, Arya Sharma, Pallvi Sharma, Khushboo Pandita, Vani Verma, Chinky Behal, Muskan Gupta, Sakshi Gupta, Musrrat Bano Bhatt, Janvi Biloria, Vanshika Manhas, Vipashu Sharma, Deepika Jangral, Aryan Sharma, Sanket Bhagat, Krishna, Arun Dev Verma, Arun Sharma, Amit Rana, Narinder and Sahil Narwalia.

Reform Utsav activities held across 143 Panchayats of Ramban on Gandhi Jayanti

RAMBAN, OCT 02: District administration Ramban launched Reforms Utsav across all 143 Panchayats of the district, coinciding the mega initiative with Gandhi Jayanti celebrations.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan participated in the programme at Panchayat Kunfer, Chanderkote, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Assistant Commissioner Development Imran Naik; Tehsildar Deep Kumar and other sectoral officers.

The Deputy Commissioner, officers and participants paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, recalling his enduring message of cleanliness, self-reliance, community participation and service to the people.

The Deputy Commissioner also administered the Swachhata Pledge to



the participants, reaffirming the collective commitment towards maintaining clean and healthy villages. Later, he participated in a Swachhata awareness rally and led a sanitation drive in the Panchayat.

As part of Reforms Utsav, Special Gram Sabhas were organised across the district for formulation of

Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GDPDs) and to provide rural residents with a platform to learn about key departmental initiatives, flagship welfare schemes and ongoing reforms.

The Gram Sabhas also facilitated direct interaction between citizens and government functionaries, enabling the people to

share feedback, raise local priorities and contribute to development planning.

The initiative, being organised nationwide by the Ministry of Rural Development in collaboration with six Central Ministries, seeks to strengthen people-led governance and bring government reforms and welfare initiatives closer to citizens.

The district administration urged the people of Ramban to actively participate in their respective Special Gram Sabhas, share their suggestions and priorities and contribute towards the formulation of convergence-based development plans tailored to local needs.

The administration emphasised that active public participation and constructive feedback are essential for strengthening grassroots development and ensuring that government initiatives effectively respond to the needs and aspirations of rural communities.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrated at PMTC KVIC Pampore

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 02

The Production-cum-Marketing-Training Centre (PMTC) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Pampore, today celebrated the 157th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with enthusiasm and reverence at Gandhi Park, PMTC Pampore.

The programme was organised to commemorate the birth anniversary of the Father of the Nation and to highlight his enduring ideals of truth, non-violence, cleanliness, self-reliance and social responsibility.

A floral tribute was paid to Mahatma Gandhi by Principal/Assistant Director, PMTC KVIC Pampore, Anil Kumar Sharma, along with employees, trainees and other participants.



As part of the celebrations, a series of activities were organised, including live spinning and weaving demonstrations by women artisans, a cleanliness drive and a plantation drive.

Drawing and debate competitions were also conducted for school-children to promote awareness about Gandhian values and principles.

A pledge-taking cere-

mony and a rally were also organised, during which participants reaffirmed their commitment to cleanliness, social responsibility and the ideals propagated by Mahatma Gandhi.

The programme was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Awantipora, Mushtaq Ahmad Lone besides employees, trainees, women artisans, school children and other participants.

Speaking on the occasion, participants highlighted the continued relevance of Mahatma Gandhi’s teachings in promoting cleanliness, self-reliance, rural development, sustainable livelihoods and social harmony.

The celebrations concluded with a renewed commitment to carry forward the values and principles championed by Mahatma Gandhi.

NILM Observes Gandhi Jayanti, Pays Tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, OCT 02

National Incredible Literacy Mission (NILM), Jammu, celebrated Gandhi Jayanti at its Project Centre, Bantalab, Jammu, to honour Mahatma Gandhi and promote his enduring values of peace, non-violence, cleanliness and community service.

The programme began with a floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, followed by a bhajan session and cultural activities highlighting his life, teachings and contribution to the nation.

NILM staff, volunteers, students and community members participated in the celebrations.

A cleanliness drive was



also organized at and around the Project Centre, emphasizing the importance of cleanliness, civic responsibility and environmental awareness.

Speaking on the occasion, NILM Secretary Kavita Bali said, “Gand-

hiji’s teachings of truth, peace and service continue to inspire us. Gandhi Jayanti reminds us of our responsibility towards society and the welfare of those in need.”

The programme concluded with a pledge to uphold Gandhian values

and continue working for the betterment of society through education, community service and sustainable development initiatives. NILM staff members who participated in the event included Priyanka Sharma and Tanvi Bashin.