

Div Com Jammu pays tributes to Mahatma Gandhi, Lal Bahadur Shastri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 02

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at a function organised by Gandhi Global Family at Lawrence Public School, Sidhra, to mark Gandhi Jayanti.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Commissioner said that October 2 commemorates the birth anniversaries of two towering personalities of India—Mahatma Gandhi and former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri.

Recalling Mahatma Gandhi's pivotal role in India's freedom movement, he said his ideals continue to hold relevance in the contemporary world. He observed that the principle of non-violence offers a path towards resolving many conflicts confronting the world today. He also highlighted that Gandhi's call for Swadeshi finds resonance in the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.

Paying tribute to Lal Bahadur Shastri, the Divisional Commissioner said his immortal slogan, "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan," continues to inspire and empower the nation. He said the spirit of "Jai Jawan" should inspire the youth of today



to stand united against the drug menace and channelise their energy towards nation-building. He added that Shastri's simplicity, integrity and commitment to public service continue to offer an enduring example for leadership.

Students from various government and private schools presented cultural programmes, including singing performances and speeches, highlighting the life, ideals and contributions of the two national leaders. Artists of the Information Department also presented musical tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.

Among those present on the occasion and who paid

tributes were Chief Conservator of Forests, Dr. V.S. Senthil Kumar; Joint Director School Education (Jammu/Samba/Kathua), Anil Salgotra; DPEO Jammu, B.D. Sharma and Principal, Lawrence Public School, Shivani Joshi.

From the Gandhi Global Family, those present on the occasion included Chairman and Founder Member Wg Cdr (Retd) M.M. Joshi, Women Wing President Dr Alka Sharma, Vice Presidents Dr. Summi Seth and Dr Robin Gill, General Secretary Naresh Maini, Advisors Ved Verma and Gopal Sharma, Coordinator Amit Verma besides others.

The participating schools included Lawrence Public School, Panjirthi and Sidhra branches; Surya Tapi School, Bajalta; Government Middle School, Majheen; Chetan Academy, Bajalta; Government Girls Model Higher Secondary School, Mubarak Mandi, Jammu; Government Middle School, Sidhra; Government High School, Channi Rama; Government Girls Middle School, Channi Himmat; Government High School, Greater Kailash; Government High School, Sidhra; B.E.N. Higher Secondary School, Nawabad; and Government Middle School, Ragoora.

Gandhi Jayanti; 12th Anniversary of Swachh Bharat Mission celebrated at HC of J&K, Ladakh- Jammu Wing

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 02

Under the patronage of Dr. Justice Pushpendra Singh Bhati, Chief Justice High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the directions of M.K. Sharma, Registrar General, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh and under the supervision of Registrar Judicial, High Court Wing, Jammu, the Gandhi Jayanti and the 12th Anniversary of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan were observed today at the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Jammu Wing.

The celebrations were held in accordance with the theme of "Swachhata Mein Sahbhag, Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat"

As part of the observance, a cleanliness and sanitation drive was conducted in the High Court Complex and its adjoining areas. Judicial Officers, officers and officials of the Registry actively participated in the cleanliness drive and contributed towards the collective endeavour of promoting cleanliness and hygiene.

Among those who participated in the drive were Sunil Kumar, Secretary, High Court Legal Services



Committee; Ajay Kumar Sharma, (Registrar); besides other officers and officials of the Registry.

On the occasion, Swati Gupta, Registrar Judicial, High Court Jammu Wing, emphasized the importance of cleanliness and

hygiene in everyday life. She conveyed the message that the spirit of cleanliness should not remain confined to our homes and workplaces, but should also become an integral part of our thoughts, conduct and way of life.

The programme reaffirmed the commitment of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh towards fostering a clean, hygienic and environmentally conscious institutional and social environment.

DLSA Jammu celebrates Gandhi Jayanti

JAMMU, OCTOBER 02: District Legal Services Authority Jammu, under the guidance of chairman (Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu) Tahir Khurshid Raina and under the supervision of Civil Judge Senior Division (Secretary, DLSA) Jammu Maleeka Sharma, celebrated Gandhi Jayanti at District Court Complex, Janipur.

The programme was attended by all Ld. Judicial Officers of District Headquarter Jammu, Panel Lawyers, staff and PLVs of DLSA Jammu.

The programme commenced with paying floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by Chairman DLSA Tahir Khurshid Raina fol-

lowed by other Ld. Judicial Officers. Thereafter a plantation drive, in collaboration with Social Forestry Department Jammu was also organised in the Court Complex. Tree Saplings were planted by the Chairman and other Ld. Judicial Officers as a tribute to Gandhiji and to promote the message of clean and green environment. Range Officer Social Forestry Department Jammu Dinesh Joshi along with other staff members were also present.

Later, Chairman DLSA Jammu Tahir Khurshid Raina addressed the gathering and threw light on the life, philosophy and Gandhian principles of truth, non-violence, self-reliance, peace and justice.

RD&PR organises Special Gram Sabhas across 4,291 Panchayats of J&K

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 2: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR) today organised Special Gram Sabhas across all 4,291 Panchayats of the Union Territory to mark Gandhi Jayanti and observe Reform Utsav 2026.

The Special Gram Sabhas witnessed enthusiastic participation from Deputy Commissioners, senior civil and departmental officers, Panchayat representatives, officials of line departments, field functionaries, women, youth and local residents. The initiative brought the administration and communities together to discuss local development priorities and strengthen transparent, inclusive and participatory governance at the grassroots level.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Indu Kanwal Chib, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioners of Kulgam and Ramban, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban participated in the proceedings in their respective districts and interacted with local communities.

Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, Riyaz Ah-



mad Wani, participated in the Special Gram Sabha held at Panchayat Choon in Budgam. Addressing the gathering, he said that the Gram Sabha is the most important platform for citizens to participate directly in local governance and influence the development of their villages.

He said that Panchayat Development Plans must emerge from genuine consultation with the people and reflect the actual needs of every section of society, particularly women, children, senior citizens, persons with disabilities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other vulnerable groups.

"Development planning cannot be confined to offices. It must begin in the Gram Sabha, where citi-

zens identify their needs, discuss priorities and collectively decide the future course of their Panchayat. Every voice must be heard, and no section of society should remain excluded from the planning and development process," Wani said.

He underlined that Special Gram Sabhas should not be treated merely as formal meetings but as effective forums for social accountability, public participation and responsive governance. Through the spirit of "Sabki Yojana, Sabka Vikas," the Special Gram Sabhas reinforced the importance of people-led planning, transparency, accountability and collective ownership of rural development.

The Department reiter-

ated that informed and participative Gram Sabhas are essential for building Sashakt Panchayats, Atmanirbhar Panchayats and Viksit Panchayats, contributing to the larger national endeavour of achieving Viksit Bharat.

The Gram Sabhas also deliberated on the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and the role of Panchayats, families, schools, youth groups and community institutions in preventing substance abuse. Citizens were sensitised about the social, economic and health consequences of drug addiction and the need for early intervention, counselling, rehabilitation and sustained community vigilance.

As Swachhata Hi Seva 2026 culminated on Gandhi Jayanti, sanitation and responsible waste management also formed an important part of the Gram Sabha agenda. The provisions and community-level implications of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026 were discussed to promote segregation of waste at source, scientific disposal, cleanliness of public spaces and sustainable operation and maintenance of sanitation assets.

BANDIPORA, OCTOBER 02: On the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti, Special Gram Sabhas were held across all Panchayats of district Bandipora as part of the Reform Utsav, highlighting the importance of empowered Panchayats, participatory governance and people-led development.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, visited several Panchayats, including Nadihal Panchayat C and Banyari-A, and participated in the programmes organised on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the spirit of Gandhi Jayanti reminds everyone that meaningful change begins with collective participation and responsibility. She called for joint efforts towards building resilient Panchayats and prosperous villages.

At Nadihal, the DC interacted with the participants and listened to various issues raised by the residents. The demands included commissioning and functionality of the Jail Jeevan Mission scheme, construction of a new building for the already sanctioned NTPHC, establishment of a Fire Service Station, installation of street lights and other local require-



ments.

The DC directed the concerned officers to note down the issues raised and assured the residents that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate redressal.

Similarly, at Banyari-A, the DC interacted with residents and heard their demands pertaining to shortage of staff in schools, medical facilities, electricity poles and wires, road connectivity and drinking water.

She assured the residents of necessary action on the genuine demands and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned departments for early redressal of their basic needs.

The DC urged the residents to actively partici-

pate in the formulation of development plans for their respective areas, stressing that greater community involvement in planning and implementation leads to more effective and sustainable outcomes.

She emphasised that there is always scope for citizens to participate in governance and contribute towards the proper implementation of government schemes, ensuring better and long-lasting results at the grassroots level.

Addressing the participants at Nadihal, the speakers highlighted the significance of Gandhi Jayanti as an appropriate occasion to celebrate Reform Utsav, recalling Mahatma Gandhi's vision of Gram Swaraj and the central role of villages in the development of the coun-

try. The programme focused on strengthening Panchayats through greater autonomy, planned and convergent development, active participation of citizens in the Gram Sabha, transparent and accountable governance, and the creation of prosperous and self-reliant villages.

On the occasion, the participants were informed about the importance of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDP) in ensuring planned development by bringing together the requirements and priorities of local communities with the resources and schemes of different departments.

The programme also highlighted the vision of Viksit Bharat, Viksit Gram, with emphasis on strengthening rural infrastructure, water security, livelihood infrastructure and works related to disaster management and climate resilience. The importance of convergence between Panchayats and line departments for effective implementation of development works was also underlined.

The Gram Sabhas also stressed that meaningful public participation is essential for achieving sustainable development.

District Admin Pulwama celebrates Gandhi Jayanti at GDC Boys

PULWAMA, OCTOBER 02: The District Administration Pulwama today celebrated Gandhi Jayanti at the Auditorium of Government Degree College for Boys, Pulwama, with a series of activities highlighting the ideals and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, including truth, non-violence, cleanliness, selfless service and community participation.

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Pulwama, Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Ashraf, Principal GDC Boys Pulwama, Prof. Dr. Bashir Ahmad Sheikh, DSP Headquarters Pulwama, Showkat Ahmad Bhat, district officers, college faculty and students.

At the outset, the chief guest, ADDC Pulwama, along with other officers and dignitaries, paid floral tributes at

the portrait of Mahatma Gandhi as a mark of respect and remembrance, recalling his invaluable contribution to India's freedom struggle and his enduring philosophy of truth and non-violence.

A plantation drive was also held in the college campus, during which the ADDC Pulwama, along with other officers, planted saplings, underlining the importance of environmental conservation, cleanliness and collective responsibility towards building a greener and healthier society.

The main programme featured a series of cultural and educational presentations by students of different schools, depicting various aspects of Mahatma Gandhi's life, message and contribution to the freedom movement.

Students of Government Upper Primary School Darsoo, Pulwama, presented a programme under the theme "Swachhata Hi Seva", high-



lighting the importance of cleanliness, sanitation, personal hygiene and responsible citizenship, in line with Gandhi's vision of a clean and healthy society.

Students of Government Upper Primary School Wagam, Pulwama, presented a thematic programme on "Non-Violence", portraying Gandhi's

philosophy of Ahimsa and his belief in peaceful resistance, tolerance and harmony.

Similarly, students of Government Middle School New Colony, Pulwama, presented a programme based on the "Salt Satyagraha", depicting the historic movement and highlighting Gandhi's vision of peaceful civil

resistance, collective participation and determination during the freedom struggle.

Addressing the gathering, the ADDC spoke about the enduring relevance of Gandhi's ideals in contemporary society and called upon students and citizens to imbibe the values of truth, discipline, cleanliness, service and responsibility in their daily lives.

He also highlighted the importance of Gram Sabhas in strengthening participatory grassroots governance, enabling people to identify local priorities, participate in planning and contribute actively towards inclusive and sustainable development. The ADDC urged the younger generation to become responsible citizens and carry forward the values of Mahatma Gandhi through meaningful community participation and constructive social action.

Speakers from various colleges and

schools also addressed the gathering and spoke about Mahatma Gandhi's life, his role in India's freedom struggle and the continuing relevance of his principles of truth, non-violence, simplicity, social harmony and public service.

Principal GDC Boys Pulwama, in his address, highlighted Gandhi's significant contribution to the freedom movement and elaborated on his philosophy of non-violence and his message of peace, tolerance and service to society.

On the occasion, progressive farmers were also felicitated and certificates of appreciation were distributed by the District Administration through the Departments of Agriculture, Horticulture and Animal Husbandry, recognising their contribution to the agricultural and allied sectors and encouraging them to continue adopting innovative and sustainable practices.