

# Jammu Riverfront gets top-level boost; CS Dulloo reviews Tawi Artificial Lake progress

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**JAMMU:** To assess the progress of the Tawi Artificial Lake and Riverfront Development Project in Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a comprehensive review meeting on Wednesday.

The review covered key components including riverfront development works, barrage construction, sewerage interception, and protection measures being executed under the Smart City initiative.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD); Divisional Commissioner, Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC); Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Chief Engineer, PWD/UEED; and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary undertook a detailed assessment of both completed and ongoing works, including new initiatives aimed at enhancing the project's aesthetic appeal and public utility.

He also reviewed restoration works necessitated by damages caused during last year's flash floods. Stressing the importance of timely completion, he directed all concerned departments to ensure that this major city beautification project is dedicated to the public at



the earliest, with all requisite amenities in place.

Reviewing the progress of the Tawi Barrage (Artificial Lake), Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra informed that all 31 gates including 11 at Waddi Tawi and 20 at Nikki Tawi have largely been installed, with hydromechanical works nearing completion.

He detailed out that the electrical works, including transformers had seen the progress of around 70% while that of HT/LT panels has witnessed completion status of 60%. Similarly, he added that the main distribution panels (80%), and SCADA systems (50%), are at advanced stages. Civil works such as piers, cement concrete blocks, toe walls, gabions, and the control room building (98% complete) are nearing completion, although some components at Nikki Tawi are still in progress.

He further informed that the remaining works required for operationalisation of

barrage gates, including embedded components and concreting of service gate grooves, are targeted for completion by the month end.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur informed that Phase-1 (Part A) of the river front project has been completed. This phase includes the development of a 2.7 km-long four-level promenade and 2.5 km of interceptor drains, resulting in the reclamation of approximately 440 kanals of land.

She added that retaining walls have been constructed 1.5 metres above the highest flood level recorded in 2014 and have withstood recent flood events without any distress, demonstrating the robustness of the design and execution.

Meanwhile, Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar apprised the meeting that construction of a four-lane road on the right bank is progressing steadily. The project includes a 35-metre span RCC bridge

over the Ranbir Canal and Distributary-9, with 50% physical and 33% financial progress achieved so far.

He made out that the road will connect Bhagwati Nagar rotary with Bikram Chowk and is expected to significantly ease congestion along the Canal Road-Jewel Chowk corridor. Protection works, drainage, and underground utility provisions are also included in this component, he apprised the meeting. CEO, Jammu Smart City Limited, Devansh Yadav informed that under Phase-1 (Part B), works related to end-to-end promenade flooring, landscaping, and electrical fixtures on the left bank and central island are progressing well.

He further divulged that the project has achieved 55% physical and 40% financial progress and is targeted for completion by next 2-3 months. The works include installation of decorative lighting at two promenade levels, plantation with drip and sprinkler irrigation

systems, and paving using Kota stone and paver blocks.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed protection works being executed by UEED at multiple vulnerable locations, including Christian Colony, Gujjar Nagar, Prem Nagar, and Jogi Gate, along with retaining wall and nallah diversion works near Peer Kho. The total project cost for these works is ₹11.06 Cr and is currently under tendering.

Regarding the interception and diversion of major nallahs, it was informed that two major packages are under execution. In Package-1, covering the Gujjar Nagar to Tawi Bridge stretch, civil works have reached 92% completion while Package-2 on the right bank has achieved 85% completion, including RCC pipeline laying and construction of a 10 MLD equalisation tank. Some works were damaged during flash floods in August 2025, and restoration is currently underway, with revised timelines extending to March.

Emphasising timely completion, the Chief Secretary directed all executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work, maintain strict quality control, and adhere to project timelines, particularly in view of the upcoming flood season. He reiterated that the project will transform Jammu into a modern riverfront city, enhancing urban mobility, flood management, environmental sustainability, and economic potential.

# Balwant's 'Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun' outshines at Amritsar National Festival

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**AMRITSAR:** The vibrant cultural space of Virsa Vihar came alive as Balwant Thakur's iconic children's play Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun delivered a spellbinding performance, earning a thunderous standing ovation.

Presented as part of the ongoing National Theatre Festival—featuring some of the most celebrated national and international theatre directors—the production by Natrang Jammu emerged as a clear highlight, captivating audiences with its artistic brilliance and emotional depth.

Spectators were unanimous in their praise, with many calling it “the discovery of the festival” and lauding its exceptional presentation style, refined direction, and remarkably mature performances by the young cast.

The production stood out not only for its theatrical excellence but also for its powerful social commentary.

Aap Hamaare Hain Kaun is a deeply thought-provoking play that challenges prevailing societal norms around parenting and education. It confronts parents, educators, and guardians with uncomfortable questions about materialism, consumerism, and the relentless pursuit of status and success.

The play urges elders to pause and reflect on the emotional consequences of



imposing their unfulfilled ambitions on children.

Through a compelling narrative, the play exposes how children are often treated as vessels for their parents' aspirations—pushed into predefined roles such as doctors, engineers, or civil servants. In this process, their individuality, creativity, and natural curiosity are suppressed.

The pressure manifests in various forms—constant comparisons, emotional stress, and a lack of freedom to choose their own paths—gradually turning vibrant young minds into mechanical performers driven solely by examinations.

The production also offers a sharp critique of the contemporary education system, particularly in the context of rapidly evolving technology and AI-driven learning environments. It highlights how an excessive focus on performance metrics and outcomes often sidelines creativity, critical thinking, and emotional intelligence. As a result, children risk growing up disconnected from empathy, purpose, and self-awareness.

Serving as both a mirror and a wake-up

call, the play addresses the complex challenges faced by today's youth—pressures that stem not from external adversaries but from within their own homes and immediate surroundings. Its message resonates strongly, calling for a more compassionate, balanced, and child-centric approach to upbringing and education.

The stellar young cast featured Aanandita Dutt, Samaeira Raina, Dwijesh Dutta, Aadhwika Gupta, Mahira Gupta, Anmol Sharma, Advik Sharma, Ruhaan Chandan, Kavish Sharma, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Supria Gorka, Aarohi Singh, Aaradhya Thakur, Sachetas Anand, Aaraiya Shan, Gautam Bhagat, Mehak Chib, and Vedanshi Sharma, all of whom delivered performances marked by sincerity, energy, and remarkable stage presence.

The musical score, composed by Suraj Singh, added emotional depth to the narrative, while rhythm was deftly handled by Rakesh Kumar. The visual aesthetics were enhanced by Neeraj Kant's lighting design, and Kushal Bhat's meticulous management of stage properties ensured seamless execution.

# Indian Army conduct Tree Plantation Drive at Samote

**RAJOURI:** In its continued commitment to environmental conservation, the Indian Army conducted a Tree Plantation Drive at GHSS Samote.

This initiative aimed at preserving the environment, countering deforestation and promoting ecological balance in Jammu & Kashmir.

Recognizing the importance of conserving natural resources, the drive highlighted the critical role of forests in sustaining life and mitigating the adverse effects of deforestation and climate change.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from 34 students (16 boys and 18 girls) and 3 teachers, reflecting a strong community commitment to environmental preservation.

A total of 21 saplings, including Bamboo, Acacia Glauca and Senegalia Catechu (Khair) were planted. These species were selected for their ecological benefits such as preventing soil erosion, improving air quality and enhancing biodiversity.

The drive successfully raised awareness and emphasized the need for sustained efforts to protect and expand green cover. Local residents pledged to nurture the saplings, contributing to a greener future.

# Army conducts TB awareness programme at Seri, Nowshera

**AKHNOOR:** On the occasion of World Tuberculosis Day, the Indian Army organized a health awareness event at Government Higher Secondary School, Seri.

The programme featured an informative session led by Army Medical Officer, who highlighted the causes, symptoms, prevention and treatment of tuberculosis (TB).

The session emphasized the importance of early detection and timely treatment in the fight against the disease.

A total of 46 students and 15 teachers attended the programme and actively participated in the discussions.

The session helped raise awareness among attendees and encouraged the adoption of preventive health practices. Such initiatives continue to promote health awareness and community engagement, especially among the youth in border areas.

# Additional 3AC Coach to be added to Rajdhani Express for Passenger Convenience

**JAMMU:** In view of heavy passenger rush and with the objective of reducing the waiting list, the Jammu Division of Northern Railway has decided to add an additional 3AC coach to Train No. 12426 (Rajdhani Express).

This step has been taken to provide a more comfortable travel experience to passengers during the festive season and peak travel periods.

Focusing on the key details: The additional Air-Conditioned Third Class (3AC) coach will be added to Train No. 12426 (Rajdhani Express) from March 28 to April 4. With the addition of this extra coach, approximately 72 additional seats/berths will become available per trip, thereby enabling more passengers to secure confirmed tickets.

Keeping passenger convenience in mind, the Jammu Division is continuously monitoring passenger demand; additional coaches may be added to other important trains as and when required.

Passengers are requested to utilize the official IRCTC website or the Railway Enquiry Number 139 to check for seat availability and the latest status updates.



# Medical Camp held at Passarkut Kishtwar

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**KISHTWAR:** In a gesture of goodwill and community outreach, the Indian Army organized a comprehensive medical camp at Village Passarkut, District Kishtwar.

The camp aimed to provide medical assistance and promote health awareness among the local population.

A total of 187 civilians from Passarkut availed medical check-ups, health assessments and expert guidance on hygiene, nutrition and disease prevention. The medical team provided personalized care to each patient, offering appropriate advice.

Free medicines were also distributed to the patients, providing them with immediate relief.

The medical camp serves as a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of the people of Kishtwar, Jammu and Kashmir. By providing essential healthcare services, the Army is strengthening its bond with the local community and fostering a sense of trust and cooperation. This initiative reflects the Indian Army's steadfast commitment to the well-being of the people of Kishtwar and its ongoing efforts to build a stronger, more harmonious relationship with the community.

# Army facilitates skill development, empowering youth at Sohal, Akhnoor



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**AKHNOOR:** The troops of the Crossed Swords Division, under the aegis of White Knight Corps, organized a felicitation ceremony at Sohal, Akhnoor, to honour the outstanding achievers of five skill development courses conducted under Operation Sadbhavana in synergy with the civil administration and Rashtriya Sarva Shiksha Abhiyaan (RSSA).

A total of 109 participants were felicitated for successfully completing courses in Plumbing (General Construction), GST Account Assistant, Basic Computer Certificate,

Tractor Operator (Agriculture) and Assistant Beauty Therapist.

These training programmes aimed to equip local youth and women with practical, employment-oriented skills, thereby enhancing their employability and promoting self-reliance.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the community, with over 160 attendees, including government officials, students, teachers, Ex-Servicemen and Veer Naris.

The ceremony recognized the dedication and commendable achievements of the trainees who successfully

completed their respective courses. On the occasion, a tree plantation drive was also conducted to promote environmental awareness and encourage sustainable practices within the community, reaffirming the commitment to a greener and healthier environment.

These initiatives highlight the strong civil-military cooperation in the region and reflect the Indian Army's continued commitment to empowering local communities and contributing to the socio-economic development of Jammu & Kashmir through meaningful engagement and capacity-building programs.

# 150 Years of 'Vande Mataram': GDC Thannamandi organizes Cultural Prog

**THANNAMANDI:**

As part of the week-long celebrations commemorating 150 years of the national song Vande Mataram, Government Degree College (GDC) Thannamandi organized a vibrant cultural programme in the college premises.

The event was conducted under the able guidance of the Principal, Dr. Shamim Ahmed Azad, with the aim of fostering patriotism and national pride among students. A large number of students and staff members participated enthusiastically in the programme. The cultural event featured a series of patriotic performances, including melodious renditions of national song, patriotic songs and inspiring poetry recitations.

The students expressed their love for the nation through their performances, reflecting the historical and emotional significance of Vande Mataram.

# Poster making competition organised at GDC Kakryal

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**KAKRYAL:** A Poster Making Competition was organized at Government Degree College, Kakryal Katra on Wednesday to celebrate and promote awareness about constitutional values among students.

The event aimed to sensitize young minds about the importance of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity as enshrined in the Constitution of India.

The programme was organised under the able guidance of principal of the college, Dr. Rajni Bhagat. The competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various semesters, who showcased their creativity and artistic skills through meaningful and thought-provoking posters.

The participants beautifully illustrated themes such as fundamental rights and duties, secularism, democracy, and the rule



of law, highlighting the relevance of constitutional ideals in contemporary society.

The programme was coordinated by Dr. Amreen and Dr. Bindu Rajput who encouraged students to actively engage with the spirit of the Constitution. The judges for the event, Dr. Usha Sharma and Somalya Dogra, evaluated the posters based on creativity, clarity of message, originality, and overall presentation.

Sneha and Nisha from Sem-VI bagged first position, Tania Sem II secured second position and Nanika from Sem II secured third position.

The Principal of the college appreciated the efforts of the organizing committee and lauded the students for their active participation and innovative expression.

The event served as an effective platform for students to reflect on their roles and responsibilities as citizens of the nation. The faculty members who were present during the event included Dr. Manisha, Prof. Shikha Bhasin and Dr. Ishfaq.

# SMVDU interns document Traditional Baolis in Shivalik Hills under IKS Project

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**KATRA:** Student interns from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), appointed under an Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS) project, recently conducted extensive site visits to document traditional water systems, particularly Baolis, in the Trikuta (Shivalik) Hills.

The initiative is part of the research project titled “Vanishing Architecture and Spatial Planning Wisdom for Traditional Sustainable Water Management in Trikuta Hills, Jammu and Kashmir: A Study of its Contemporary Relevance,” funded by the IKS Division, Ministry of Education, Government of India, under the IKS Institutional Internship Program—2025.

The fieldwork was led by Ar. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor, School of Architecture & Landscape Design, SMVDU, and Principal Investigator of the project.

The student team—Harsha, Aman, Aditya,



Partha, Variga, and Mamita—actively participated in site documentation, mapping, and analysis of selected baolis across the region. A key highlight of the study was the involvement of Anil Paba, a state government awardee, social activist for cultural and heritage conservation, and archaeologist.

As an external expert, he accompanied the team during site visits, providing valuable insights into the historical, cultural, and architectural significance of the baolis, and reviewed the project at various stages. The team documented important sites including Billan, Devika, Panchvati (Thanda Paddar),

Charai Muttal, and Londana baolis.

**NOTICE**  
I, Lobzang Tsetan S/o Lt. Tundup Dorjay R/o Nimoo, Leh-Ladakh UT do hereby inform that I have lost Contract Carriage Permit of my vehicle bearing Regn No. JK10A-3487. Now, I have applied for issuance of duplicate of the Permit. Objection, if any, conveyed to ARTO Leh within seven days of this publication.