

UIDAI hosts UT-Level Training Workshop for Aadhaar Authentication Operators at Jammu

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JAMMU: The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI), Regional Office Chandigarh, in association with Information Technology Department UT of Jammu & Kashmir, on Wednesday organised a one-day UT-level training workshop for Aadhaar authentication operators here at the Convention Center.

More than 100 officials from the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Jammu & Kashmir Bank, Jammu & Kashmir Grameen Bank and other departments attended the programme.

State Project Manager UIDAI Shoaib Khan welcomed the participants and outlined the evolution of Aadhaar and its future roadmap. He elaborated on the two major divisions, Enrollment & Update



and Authentication & Verification and recent advancements in both areas.

He shared Aadhaar's success over the past decade and highlighted Aadhaar

as a fundamental digital identity of more than 350 Central and 50 State/UT government schemes and services.

The training programme covered the Aadhaar

authentication ecosystem, related rules and procedures, best practices and security protocols required for efficient and compliant service delivery.

The session focused

on improving skills, maintaining data accuracy, ensuring confidentiality and solving practical issues through interactive discussions, demonstrations and real-life examples.

Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision: AEROs, Booth Officers imparted training at Doda

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DODA: A training programme for Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) and Panchayat Election Booth Level Officers (PEBOs) was conducted Wednesday here at Town Hall Doda to facilitate smooth conduct of the ongoing Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision with reference to April 1-2026 as the qualifying date.

The programme was attended by ACR Ashraf Parvez; ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi; ENT Shashi Kotwal, besides officials from the Election Office.

The trainees were sensitized to the instructions and guidelines issued by the State Election Commission, UT of J&K. Emphasis was laid on maintaining accuracy, transparency and adherence to timeliness in the electoral roll revision process.

They were informed



that the filing of claims and objections, including additions, deletions, corrections and transpositions, started from March 27-03-2026 shall continue till April 29-2026.

"Special camps will be organized at polling booths from April 4-2026 to April 26, where Panchayat Election Booth Officials (PEBOs) including Panchayat Account Assistants, VLWs,

MPWs and GRSS along with Assembly BLOs, shall remain available with requisite forms and Panchayat electoral rolls to facilitate and guide electors," the officials were told. It was further informed that the disposal of claims and objections by the Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) shall be completed by May 8-2026, while the final publication of the Electoral Roll is scheduled for May 15-2026.

Dr Ritu Singh appointed National Initiative Head Visual Arts at FICCI FLO

JAMMU: Kuwarani Dr. Ritu Singh has been appointed as the National Initiative Head - Visual Arts for the year 2026-27 at the first Governing Body Meeting of FICCI FLO held in New Delhi under the leadership of National President Pooja Garg.

A visionary leader with extensive experience within the FLO ecosystem, Kuwarani Dr. Ritu Singh has played a pivotal role in strengthening the organization's outreach and impact.

She served as the Founding Chairperson of the FICCI FLO Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh Chapter for two years and has been an active Governing Body Member for over five years. Her journey has been marked by impactful contributions at both regional and national levels.

Dr Ritu Singh has worked closely with former National Presidents, contributing significantly to initiatives focused on digital literacy, MSME development, skilling programmes, job fairs, and capacity-building efforts. Her leadership has consistently emphasized empowerment through innovation and collaboration.

In her new role, Dr Ritu Singh aims to create a transformative platform that bridges creativity with economic empowerment. The vision is to promote visual arts not merely as a form of expression but as a sustainable livelihood opportunity by building a strong and inclusive national ecosystem.

SMVDU, faculty presents Research Paper in Tokyo

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JAMMU: Dr. Ajay Koul, Professor, Department of Computer Science & Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University attended an International Conference on Advances in Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning (AAIML 2026) in Tokyo Japan.

The conference was organized by Chuo University and sponsored by IEEE Systems, Man, and Cybernetics Society.

Dr. Koul presented a research paper, entitled "Enhancing Security of Android Devices against Obfuscated Malware Attacks by using Machine Learning. A session was also chaired by him in the conference. The research paper presented in detail a comparative and application-oriented evaluation of multiple machine learning classifiers for the identification of obfuscated Android malware detection.

The Conference was attended by renowned speakers and delegates from Italy, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, USA, India,



China, South Africa and other countries.

Prof. Koul got a unique opportunity to discuss and exchange ideas about various research findings and new advancements in the areas of cyber security with the eminent Scientists and academicians, researchers across the globe.

The conference was sponsored by the University and Prof. Ajay expressed gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, for granting permission to present the research work.

Army organizes awareness campaign on Agnipath Scheme at Dak Bunglow, Loran

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RAJOURI: The Indian Army successfully conducted an awareness campaign on the Agnipath Scheme at Dak Bunglow and Loran, Rajouri.

The event aimed to inform and inspire local youth to explore career opportunities in the Armed Forces, with active participation from students, aspiring candidates and local residents.

The campaign provided a comprehensive overview of the Agnipath Scheme, a recruitment initiative launched by the Government of India in 2022.

This scheme enlists young men and women as Agniveers for a four-year tenure, offering them an opportunity to serve the nation. Army officials explained key details of the scheme, including eligibility criteria, recruitment procedures, training structures and service conditions.

The Army also highlighted the



financial benefits under the "Seva Nidhi" package, along with skill development opportunities and avenues for future employment after completing service. An interactive question-and-answer session allowed participants to clarify their doubts and

gain a better understanding of life in the Indian Army.

The event underscored the values of discipline, dedication and patriotism, motivating the youth to contribute to nation-building by joining the Armed Forces.

NGT Compliance: DC Krishan Lal pushes for strengthening environmental management

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DODA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of directives issued by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) and evaluate the status of environmental management practices in the district.

The DDC emphasized strict adherence to NGT guidelines and underscored the need for coordinated and sustained efforts to preserve ecological balance and ensure a clean and healthy environment for the public.

He stressed the timely execution of the Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) project at Baderwah and directed the concerned officers to expedite its completion within the stipulated time frame.

Reviewing the progress of D-Wet projects in Baderwah, the officers



informed that four such units are planned for construction. The DDC directed that all procedural formalities be completed promptly to facilitate early execution.

The meeting also reviewed the status of soakage pits, commercial establishments, public waste management units and CCTV installations.

It was informed that 47 soakage pits have been completed and CCTV

cameras installed at key locations to monitor and deter violations. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) apprised that the STP at Sub-Division Hospital Baderwah is fully functional and effectively treating hospital waste, contributing to improved water quality.

Detailed deliberations were held on solid waste management, including door-to-door waste collection, segregation at

source, development of community sewage sheds, provision of dedicated waste collection vehicles and scientific disposal methods. DDC directed all concerned departments and municipal bodies to ensure comprehensive coverage of waste collection services and to strengthen sanitation systems, particularly in urban and semi-urban areas.

Special emphasis was laid on promoting public participation through awareness programmes, highlighting the impact of human activities on the environment. The DDC directed stakeholder departments to prepare a calendar of IEC (Information, Education and Communication) activities and intensify cleanliness drives, especially along the Neeru River.

The DDC also reviewed the progress of the 6-kilometre fencing project along the Neeru River.

DTF rescues 9 minors forced into child labour

RAMBAN: District Task Force (DTF) on Wednesday conducted an enforcement drive against child labour in main market areas of Ramban Town.

A team comprising Chairperson Child Welfare Committee Nighat Ganai; SHO Vikram Parihar; officials from the Labour and Employment Department, Child Helpline and the Healthcare Department carried out the drive under the supervision of Assistant Labour Commissioner Amit Kumar.

The team conducted inspections, awareness activities and raids at various locations across the township to identify instances of child labour and children in street situations, ensuring strict compliance with labour laws.

The team rescued nine children forced in child labour.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress under Mission YUVA, JKICP

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RAJOURI: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri Abhishek Sharma Wednesday chaired a meeting in the VC Room of the DC Office to assess the progress achieved under Mission YUVA and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKICP) in the district.

At the outset, the DDC reviewed the block-wise progress under Mission YUVA.

He directed for the effective implementation of the programme at the grassroots level. Specific targets were assigned at the block level, with a focus on Self-Help Groups and ensuring wider community participation.

The meeting also witnessed a detailed review of the progress under JKICP in four blocks of the district. The DDC took stock of the performance

of Sheep Husbandry, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Agriculture and Cooperatives and emphasized convergence and coordinated efforts for achieving desired outcomes.

Highlighting the importance of value addition and income generation, the DDC laid special emphasis on the establishment and strengthening of wool shearing units, mutton processing units and milk processing units to boost the rural economy.

Reviewing the agriculture sector progress, the DDC stressed the need to adopt climate-smart practices, including promotion of climate-resilient and rainfed crops. Directions were issued to scale up interventions such as mulching, drip and sprinkler irrigation to ensure sustainable agricultural growth and efficient water management.

GDC RS PURA organises farewell ceremony for outgoing NCC Cadets

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JAMMU: The NCC Unit of Government Degree College (GDC) R.S. Pura organized a grand and emotionally resonant farewell ceremony for its outgoing NCC cadets under the esteemed patronage of Principal Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour.

The event was marked by dignity, enthusiasm, and a deep sense of appreciation for the cadets' dedication, discipline, and service to the nation.

The programme commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by the Principal along with faculty members, symbolizing the triumph of knowledge, hope, and positivity. This was followed by a formal opening that set a respectful and celebratory

tone for the occasion.

The gathering brought together faculty members, NCC officers, and cadets to collectively celebrate and honor the achievements of the outgoing cadets.

In her address, Prof. (Dr.) Preetpal Kour warmly welcomed everyone and praised the cadets for their unwavering commitment, discipline, and strong sense of patriotism.

She highlighted the significant role of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in shaping responsible citizens and future leaders.

She encouraged the cadets to carry forward the values of integrity, leadership, and selfless service in all their future endeavors, emphasizing that their NCC training would guide them in every phase of life.

MLA Pathania corners govt over 'Red-Category' units in Battal Ballian, challenges validity of Pollution Clearances

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JAMMU: In a dramatic confrontation that has sent ripples through the corridors of power, MLA Udhampur (East), Ranbir Singh Pathania, has placed the Government in a severe legal and moral quandary regarding the operation of hazardous 'Red-Category' industries in the residential pockets of Battal Ballian, Udhampur.

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Chowdhary was helplessly seen searching for words and excuses with a view to just passing on the buck and buying the time.

The standoff reached a fever pitch during the ongoing Assembly session when the Government attempted to shield



polluting units by citing technical "Consents to Operate" (CTO) and emission compliance reports. However, Pathania—armed with Supreme Court precedents and NGT mandates—has effectively dismantled the administration's defense, leaving the "Sarkar" struggling for a legally sound response.

While the Government maintained that the

industrial units in Battal Ballian possess valid licenses and operate within prescribed pollution limits, Pathania countered with a stinging legal rebuke. Citing the Supreme Court's landmark rulings (M.C. Mehta vs. Union of India), Pathania argued that a "Consent to Operate" is not a "License to Kill."

A mere piece of paper from the Pollution Control Committee cannot override the Fundamental Right to Life under Article 21," Pathania thundered. "The Government is hiding behind technicalities while the residents of Battal Ballian and Rathian are being subjected to a slow-poisoning of their environment."

Pathania highlighted

that even if a unit meets pollution norms, its siting in or near a residential zone is an actionable illegality. The Government has failed to explain how 'Red-Category' units (hazardous) were permitted within the buffer zones of human habitation.

Drawing from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines, the MLA asserted that the "Precautionary Principle" places the burden of proof on the Government and the industry to prove zero harm—a burden they have failed to meet.

Political observers note that Pathania's strategy of pitting Town Planning and Siting Norms against the Pollution Control Committee's

clearances has cornered the administration. If the Government ignores these siting illegalities, it risks a humiliating rebuke from the High Court or the NGT; if it acts, it faces the closure of major industrial units.

As the Government remains in a fix, the local residents of Battal Ballian rallied behind Pathania's "Right to Breathe" crusade. The MLA's stance has transformed a local pollution complaint into a significant Constitutional challenge against the state's regulatory negligence.

The "Sarkar" is now expected to provide a point-by-point rebuttal in the house, but with Pathania invoking Article 21, the legal net appears to be tightening.

Power shutdown

JAMMU: Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Transport Nagar, Narwal, Railway Colony, Upper Chowadi, Part of Channi Himmat, Malik Market, Matto Colony, Bathindi, Sunjwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 2 and 4 from 9 AM to 2 PM.

Similarly, the power supply to Bathindi, Sunjwan and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 2 and 4 from 9 AM to 9.30 AM and 1.30 PM to 2 PM.

Likewise, the power supply to BSF Rajpura, Lala Chak, Mawa, Sanaora, Badyal, Sujana and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 3 from 9 AM to 2 PM.