

CII J&K submits comprehensive development proposal to DC Kishtwar; scientific solid waste management takes centre stage

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KISHTWAR: The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Jammu and Kashmir, submitted a comprehensive representation highlighting key developmental priorities for District Kishtwar to Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

CII J&K Infrastructure Panel Convener Er Sahil Sharma presented the representation on behalf of CII J&K Chairman Iqram Ali Shafiq.

The memorandum focussed on several sectors requiring immediate attention, including infrastructure development, scientific solid waste management, drinking water supply, tourism, power reliability and agriculture and horticulture.

However, scientific solid waste management emerged as the principal agenda of the meeting, with detailed deliberations on the need to establish a modern, sustainable waste management system for the district.

CII J&K representatives highlighted that the absence of a structured mechanism for waste collection, segregation, processing and scientific disposal has become a major environmental and public health challenge for Kishtwar.

The representation recommended an integrated solid waste management system with source segregation, scientific processing and disposal facilities, strengthened sanitation infrastructure and sustained public awareness campaigns to promote responsible waste disposal and environmental sustainability.



Er Sahil Sharma added that Kishtwar's natural beauty and tourism potential make effective waste management a prerequisite for sustainable development.

In addition to solid waste management, the representation recommended improved road connectivity to remote areas such as Warwan, Marwah and Dachhan, better drinking water infrastructure, tourism infrastructure, a reliable power supply and the modernisation of agriculture and horticulture through irrigation, cold storage and stronger market linkages.

The Deputy Commissioner

appreciated the initiative taken by CII in identifying key developmental challenges and presenting practical, solution-oriented recommendations for the district.

The DC acknowledged the constructive role of CII in supporting the developmental agenda of Jammu and Kashmir and assured the delegation of the District Administration's full cooperation in taking forward the proposed initiatives. He said collaborative efforts between the administration and industry bodies are essential for sustainable and inclusive development.

CUJ awarded 'A' Grade in NPTEL SWAYAM Courses Certification consecutively 6th Time

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JAMMU: The Central University of Jammu SWAYAM-NPTEL Local Chapter has again been awarded A Grade Consecutively Sixth times in the recently declared results of the online courses offered by SWAYAM NPTEL.

By reflecting their outstanding performance 123 students have been awarded Gold Medals, 236 students got Silver Medals and 441 students have achieved Elite Certifications in the recently declared results of the Session Jan-June 2026.

On the basis of this performance, the Local Chapter of NPTEL Central University of Jammu has got this distinction, wherein 75 students have been ranked among toppers across country in various courses offered by NPTEL.

In addition to this achievement 93 students have been awarded Gold Medals, 282 students got Silver Medals and 272 students have achieved Elite Certifications in the Session July-Dec 2025 also.

The National Program on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL) is a joint venture of the IITs and IISc, funded by the Ministry of Education (MoE) Government of India, and was launched in 2003.

SWAYAM NPTEL has been offering self-study courses across engineering, humanities and science streams for more than a decade. SWAYAM NPTEL offers online certification for its courses by which the students get an opportunity to earn a certificate from the IITs or IISc Bangalore.

The Vice Chancellor Central University of Jammu, Prof. Sanjeev Jain congratulated all the students



and faculty for achieving this milestone and achieving 'A' Rating getting consecutively Sixth Times as being listed among top 100 institutes across the country.

HVC Prof Sanjeev Jain further remarked that this is a major encouragement to all of our efforts to provide our students with the best resources to expand their knowledge beyond the classroom. He also appreciated Prof J N Baliya SPOC, SWAYAM NPTEL Central University

of Jammu for putting up his sincere efforts in this direction.

Sharing this achievement Prof. J. N Baliya informed that Central University of Jammu SWAYAM NPTEL Local Chapter, which is active since 2017, has been facilitating the NPTEL technology courses offered through online platforms.

Prof Baliya has been invited for a Felicitation Ceremony to be held yesterday (27th June 2026) at IIT Kanpur for receiving this recognition.



ADC Udhampur launches Intensified Pulse Polio Immunisation Drive at Jhakhani

UDHAMPUR: Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh Sunday inaugurated the Intensified Pulse Polio Immunisation Programme (IPPI) at AAM Sub Centre, Jhakhani, in the presence of Chief Medical Officer Udhampur Dr Anil Manhas.

The programme marks the start of a focussed district-wide immunisation drive to ensure that every eligible child receives the Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV).

The ADC highlighted the importance of universal immunisation in safeguarding children against preventable diseases and urged parents and caregivers to participate actively in the campaign by ensuring that every eligible child is vaccinated.

The Chief Medical Officer said the programme's success depends on community participation and the efforts of healthcare workers and frontline staff. He appealed to the public to cooperate with vaccination teams so that no child is left out of the drive.

3-day historic Sudhmahadev Mela commences in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: The historic three-day Sudhmahadev mela in Sub Division Chenani of Udhampur district commenced Sunday.

Thousands of devotees visited the holy Sudhmahadev temple to seek the blessings of Lord Shiva on the first day of the mela.

MLA Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia formally inaugurated the mela in the presence of Mela Officer Pankaj Singh and other officers of the district administration, alongside the general public.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest congratulated the people and said such occasions reflect our rich cultural and religious heritage and also help strengthen brotherhood and communal harmony in the area.

He stressed the importance of preserving culture and traditional values and called for promoting the mela as an integral part of local culture. The MLA also appreciated the arrangements made by the district administration.

Various government departments set up stalls to inform the public about schemes for the socio-economic upliftment of the people. The MLA also inspected the stalls.

Students of various educational institutions, along with local folk artists, presented folk dances and cultural programmes depicting the traditions of the area, which the audience appreciated.

Over 36 thousand children take Pulse Polio vaccine in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma Sunday launched the Nationwide Pulse Polio Immunisation Drive in Kishtwar district, achieving significant coverage among children aged zero to five years.

The DC formally inaugurated the drive at the BMO Office Kishtwar in the presence of CMO Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Kumar Bhat, BMO Kishtwar Dr Anil Sharma and other senior health officials.

Of the 38,580 targeted children, 36,267 were administered the Oral Polio Vaccine, achieving 94% coverage. The campaign was conducted through 370 polio booths and three transit camps at Kishtwar Bus Stand, Gulabgarh Bus Stand and Chatroo Bus Stand.



Punjabi Kavi Darbar held in Jammu

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JAMMU: Punjabi Sahitak Sabha (PSS), RS Pura organized a Punjabi Kavi Darbar at New National Higher Secondary School, Tali Mode, Miran Sahib, Jammu where well-known Punjabi poets of Jammu attended the meeting.

Jang S. Verma, well-known artist, writer & columnist on art & culture was the chief guest on this occasion whereas S. Harjit Singh Uppal, a renowned Punjabi poet & writer of Jammu & former President PSS RS Pura presided over the meeting. Dr. Rajvir Singh, President of Punjabi Sahitak Sabha (PSS), R S Pura shared the dais.

Dr Rajvir Singh formally extended the welcome address. In his address he said that the day's programme was scheduled to honour Prit Pal Singh Betab, the recipient of Sahit Academy Award this

year, but due to his health issue the felicitation could not be conducted.

While expressing his views on the presentation and conduct of the literary meeting of PSS, Sh. Harjit Singh Uppal appreciated the initiative of PSS to organize such events and applauded the participation of poets writing in various genres & styles.

While speaking on this occasion, the chief guest of the meeting, Jang S. Verma expressed his views on the poems recited by the poets in the meeting with various themes & genres, reflecting various aspects of contemporary life issues, and the Nature.

The poets who presented their poetry included Suraj Prakash Rallan, Renu Sharma, JPS Azad, Bhupinder Bhargav, Bachan Bharti; Jang S. Verma, and Harjit Singh Uppal.

Youth are backbone of nation; collective fight against drugs essential: Rajesh Kesri



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ARNIA: Shiv Sena Hindustan constituted a new organisational unit at Said Plato in Arnia Block during a meeting chaired by the party's Jammu and Kashmir President, Pandit Rajesh Kesri.

During the meeting, Jaswinder Singh was appointed as President, Pradeep Choudhary as Vice President, Naresh Kumar as Secretary, Kulwinder Singh as Treasurer, and Amit Choudhary as Organiser. Several local residents also joined Shiv Sena Hindustan as new members. On the occasion, Border President Sanjeev Sharma and

Arnia President Balwant Saini welcomed the newly appointed office-bearers and members by felicitating them with flower garlands.

Addressing the gathering, Rajesh Kesri administered an oath to the new members, urging them to work with honesty, dedication and commitment towards strengthening the organisation. He also called upon them to actively contribute to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha's 100-day Nasha Mukh Bharat campaign.

Emphasising the need to safeguard the younger generation, Kesri appealed to parents to closely monitor their children's

Aatmanirbhar Bharat not just vision but reality under PM Modi's leadership: Rekha

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JAMMU: Aatmanirbhar Bharat is not just a vision but a reality under PM Modi's leadership, said BJP Jammu & Kashmir Vice President Rekha Mahajan, while praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi's transformative approach towards building a strong, self-reliant and developed India.

She said the nation's progress in defence, technology, innovation and grassroots development reflects the success of PM Modi's vision of empowering every Indian and taking Bharat towards a new era of confidence and global recognition.

Reacting to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 135th episode of "Mann Ki Baat", Rekha Mahajan said that the Prime Minister's address reflects the confidence, achievements and aspirations of a rising India. She said PM Modi has transformed the mindset of the nation by encouraging citizens to become partners in the journey of development, innovation and progress.

"Under the leadership

of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India has moved from dependence to self-confidence.

Whether it is defence, technology, innovation or grassroots development, the nation is witnessing a historic transformation where Indian talent and capabilities are getting global recognition," Rekha Mahajan said.

She said the focus on Aatmanirbhar Bharat has empowered every sector and strengthened India's position as a capable and confident nation. "The success of indigenous defence production, advancement in science and technology and India's growing global influence are proof of the strong foundation laid under PM Modi's leadership," she added.

Rekha Mahajan said Prime Minister Modi's vision has always placed citizens at the centre of development. She appreciated his emphasis on public participation, social responsibility, scientific thinking and celebrating the achievements of ordinary Indians who

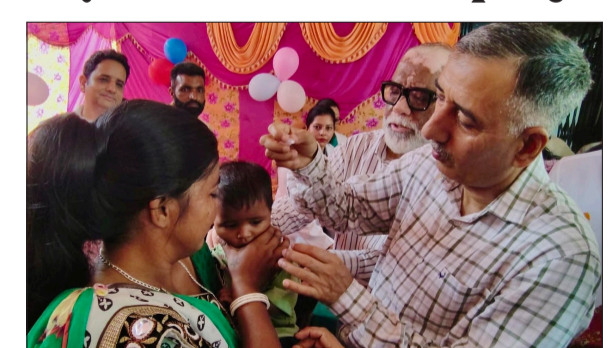
are contributing towards nation-building.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi has given a new direction and energy to India's development journey. His vision of a developed India is inspiring every citizen to contribute towards making Bharat stronger, prosperous and self-reliant," she said.

Highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's progress, Rekha Mahajan said that the people of the Union Territory are actively participating in the journey of peace, development and empowerment. She said that improved infrastructure, new opportunities and welfare initiatives are strengthening public confidence and opening new avenues of growth.

She further stated that PM Modi's leadership has given India a new identity on the world stage. "Today, India is being recognised as a nation of innovation, capability and confidence. The journey towards Viksit Bharat is moving ahead with the dedication and participation of every Indian," she added.

DC Kathua kickstarts 3-day Pulse Polio campaign



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KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Sunday launched the Pulse Polio Immunisation Campaign at Government Mahatma Gandhi Hospital.

The Deputy Commissioner launched the campaign by administering polio drops to children and stressed the importance of complete immunisation coverage among children aged zero to five years.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said India has kept polio at bay through sustained immunisation efforts and that it is the collective

responsibility of all stakeholders to maintain this achievement by ensuring that every eligible child receives polio drops.

A target of over 1 lakh children has been set for the three-day Pulse Polio campaign. All Government health centres across the district are administering polio vaccines on June 28, while June 29 and 30 are dedicated to house-to-house visits to identify and vaccinate children who may have been left out.

Special teams have been constituted to cover slum areas, migratory populations and important transit points so that no child remains unvaccinated.

Satwant Singh Rissam appointed Chairman of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial Trust

JAMMU: The Baba Banda Singh Bahadur Memorial Trust has appointed Dr. Satwant Singh Rissam as its new chairman. The appointment was approved by the trust in recognition of Dr. Rissam's distinguished social leadership and commitment to community welfare.

Dr Satwant is a media and communications professional, author, heritage conservationist, and blood-donation activist, and is recognized for his engagement with Sikh community matters concerning heritage, identity, and public service.

Welcoming the appointment, president Harpreet Singh said it was an honor for the trust that such an intellectual member of the Sikh community has agreed to take on this responsibility. He expressed confidence that Dr. Rissam's insights will greatly benefit the organization's mission. "His experience in media, heritage conservation, and community activism makes him an ideal leader for our trust," advisor Manjeet Singh added.

Accepting the responsibility, Dr. Satwant Singh Rissam said, "I will try my best to serve the Sikh community and take initiatives that help the entire Sikh community, especially youth." He emphasized his commitment to strengthening community service, preserving heritage, and addressing issues affecting Sikh youth across the region.

The trust expressed confidence that under Dr. Rissam's leadership it will further strengthen its work in community service, heritage awareness, and issues concerning Sikh youth and society. His appointment marks a significant step in advancing the trust's mission of honoring legacy through active social and religious engagement.