

SCs, STs, OBCs organise Awareness camp at Naardiwala Panchayat, Tehsil Akhnoor

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JAMMU: As part of its continued efforts towards the socio-economic empowerment of Scheduled Castes (SCs), Scheduled Tribes (STs) and Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the J&K Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes/Other Backward Classes Development Corporation Saturday organised an awareness-cum-outreach camp at Naardiwala Panchayat, Tehsil Akhnoor, Jammu District.

The awareness programme was organised under the visionary leadership of the Managing Director, Ranjeet Singh, with the objective of creating awareness among eligible beneficiaries about the Corporation's various welfare and financial assistance schemes.

The camp was organised in collaboration with the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC), New Delhi. The programme was graced by Vaid Puran Chand (86 years), a distinguished social worker, as the Chief Guest, while Sumit Dugotra, a young and successful entrepreneur from the area and proprietor of Santokhoo Gun Works, attended the programme as the Guest of Honour.

A large number of people, particularly from the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward



Classes, participated in the awareness camp.

They were sensitised about the Corporation's various self-employment, education loan, term loan and micro-credit schemes being implemented with financial assistance from the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC).

The participants were also informed about the eligibility criteria, application procedures and the benefits available under different schemes aimed at promoting self-employment

and sustainable livelihoods.

Addressing the gathering, Naveen Kumar Sharma, Deputy General Manager, highlighted the Corporation's unwavering commitment towards the social, educational and economic empowerment of the target groups.

He emphasised that the Corporation is making sustained efforts to ensure that the benefits of its welfare schemes reach every deserving beneficiary and urged the participants to take full advantage of the financial assistance and self-employment oppor-

tunities offered by the Corporation.

Rupali Langeh, District Manager, Jammu, delivered a detailed presentation on the objectives of the Corporation and its various welfare schemes. She explained the eligibility conditions, documentation requirements and application procedures for availing financial assistance and assured the participants of every possible assistance in accessing the benefits of the Corporation's schemes.

Prominent social activist Asha Verma also addressed the gathering and appreciated the Corporation for organising the awareness camp in a rural area.

She stressed the importance of spreading awareness among the target communities so that deserving beneficiaries can fully benefit from the developmental and self-employment opportunities provided by the Corporation.

The Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour appreciated the initiatives of the J&K SC/ST/OBC Development Corporation in organising awareness programmes across the Union Territory. They commended the Corporation's sustained efforts towards the socio-economic upliftment and empowerment of the weaker sections of society and encouraged the people to make effective use of the schemes being implemented for their welfare.

Bank Nationalization Day: AIBOC organises charitable initiative



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JAMMU: Marking the eve of Bank Nationalization Day, the All India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), Jammu & Kashmir Unit, organized a charitable initiative by donating 50 mattresses to Balgran – A Charitable Home for Destitute Children at Channi Rama Jammu.

The mattresses were donated through the generous voluntary contributions made by officers posted at the SBI Administrative Office Jammu, reflecting the banking

fraternity's enduring commitment to social responsibility and community welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, AIBOC representatives said that Bank Nationalization was a landmark step in India's economic history, aimed at making banking accessible to every section of society. The ideals of financial inclusion, equitable development, and service to the nation continue to inspire public sector bank officers, who remain committed not only to strengthening the banking system but also

to contributing to the welfare of society. The representatives of Balgran expressed their heartfelt gratitude to AIBOC and all the contributing officers for the thoughtful gesture, noting that the donated mattresses would significantly enhance the comfort and well-being of the children residing at the institution. AIBOC J&K reaffirmed its commitment to undertaking such humanitarian initiatives in the future and called upon all stakeholders to continue supporting causes that bring hope and dignity to the underprivileged.

DC Poonch chairs NCORD Committee meeting to review anti-drug measures

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POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Saturday chaired a district-level meeting of the Narco-Coordination (NCORD) Committee to review action taken by various departments for prevention and control of drug abuse and narcotics-related activities.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed action taken by different departments regarding enforcement measures, awareness campaigns, rehabilitation initiatives and inter-departmental coordination to curb drug abuse.

A detailed discussion was held on the status of drug-related activities across all subdivisions. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments concerned to strengthen monitoring and patrolling in identified



hotspot areas and take strict action against those involved in drug-related activities.

The SDMs briefed the Chair on the status of anti-drug initiatives, vulnerable areas and the ongoing drive against cannabis cultivation in their respective jurisdictions.

The police officers and Drugs Inspector informed the meeting about action taken, in-

cluding registration of cases, issuance of challans and suspension of licences.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Forest, Police and Revenue Departments to launch a coordinated drive for destruction of cannabis cultivation and ensure strict enforcement against those involved in narcotics-related activities.

Speaking on the occasion, Senior Superintendent of Police Shafket Hussain Bhat stressed the need for sustained action against drug trafficking and illegal cultivation of cannabis and called for close coordination among departments to eliminate the drug menace and protect youth from substance abuse.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Chief Medical Officer, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, Medical Superintendent, Drugs Inspector, ARTO, Tehsildar Haveli, Tehsildar Headquarters, Forest Department officers, college professors and other officers concerned. SDMs Surankote and Mendhar, along with Tehsildars, SDPOs and DySPs, participated through virtual mode.

DC Ramban reviews progress of RDD, sets timelines for completion of works

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RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess progress of development works and flagship schemes being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD).

Reviewing progress scheme-wise, the Deputy Commissioner fixed strict timelines for completion of development works under various schemes and directed BDOs to ensure timely execution of projects.

On the District Capex Budget 2026-27, the DC directed BDOs to prepare estimates for all 2,063 approved works and initiate tendering for works whose estimates have been completed, so that all projects are executed within stipulated timelines and 100 per cent targets are achieved.



On the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to ensure judicious utilisation of funds for operation and maintenance activities and complete tendering for hiring agencies to ensure sustainable management of sanitation assets.

On the Viksit Bharat Gram-RAM-G (VBG-RAM-G), the Deputy Commissioner directed BDOs to expedite execution of the 3,564 approved works and complete e-KYC for all works by the end of the month.

On the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to complete construction of the 196 ongoing houses within the prescribed timeline and take necessary action in Category-B and Category-C cases regarding recovery or exemption, strictly as per guidelines. He said no eligible beneficiary should be left out on the ongoing PMAY-G New Survey and was informed that surveys of 26,469 beneficiaries have been completed.

On the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), the Deputy Commissioner directed BDOs to expedite construction of all ongoing Panchayat Ghars and ensure their completion within the stipulated time frame.

During the meeting, Block Development Officers raised various issues affecting implementation of development works. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the bottlenecks and issued on-the-spot directions to resolve them.

Earlier, Assistant Commissioner Development presented scheme-wise details of physical and financial progress achieved under various RDD programmes. Among those present were Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Sheraz Ahmed and Block Development Officers (BDOs) of the district.

Director Health Services, Jammu reviews health programmes during visit to Samba

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JAMMU: Director Health Services, Jammu Dr Poonam Sethi, accompanied by Assistant Director (Schemes) Dr Ila Gupta, Saturday visited Samba to review implementation and progress of various health programmes and schemes being executed in the district.

During a review meeting at the office of Chief Medical Officer Dr Vidhi Bhatial, Director Health Services, Jammu conducted a comprehensive assessment of the functioning of different health programmes and centrally sponsored schemes.

She reviewed progress achieved under various initiatives, discussed existing challenges and issued necessary directions for improving implementation and ensuring effective delivery of quality health-



care services at the grassroots level. Dr Poonam Sethi appreciated the efforts of Chief Medical Officer Samba and her team in strengthening healthcare services and urged officers to maintain a patient-centric approach. Among those present were the Medical

Superintendent, District Hospital, Samba, Block Medical Officers and other officers concerned. Detailed deliberations were held on enhancing service delivery, improving programme performance and ensuring timely achievement of health targets.

Congress promised, Modi delivered; India now leads World in innovation: Bali Bhagat

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JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat has hailed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visionary leadership, stating that India is witnessing an unprecedented era of scientific advancement, technological innovation, infrastructure development and global recognition under the Modi Government.

Referring to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's message on the maiden orbital launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital launch vehicle by Skyroot Aerospace, Bali Bhagat said the mission marks a defining moment in India's space journey and reflects the success of the government's path-breaking reforms in the space sector.

He said the opening of the space ecosystem to private participation has created new opportunities for young innovators, startups and entrepreneurs, transforming India into a global hub for space technology and research.

Bali Bhagat further congratulated Prime Minister Modi on the successful launch of India's first hydrogen-powered passenger train, describing it as another landmark achievement in the country's transition towards green and sustainable transportation.

He said India has now joined the select league of nations operating hydrogen-powered trains, showcasing the country's growing technological capabilities and commitment to clean energy.

"The Modi Government has

redefined India's global image. From Chandrayaan and Aditya-L1 to Gaganyaan preparations, from Vande Bharat trains to the first hydrogen-powered train, from digital revolution to record infrastructure expansion, every sector is witnessing historic transformation," Bali Bhagat said.

He stated that under Prime Minister Modi's leadership, India has become the world's fastest-growing major economy, a trusted global partner and a leading voice on issues ranging from climate action to emerging technologies.

He added that initiatives such as Make in India, Digital India, Startup India, Atmanirbhar Bharat, National Green Hydrogen Mission and bold reforms in defence and space have strengthened India's strategic

and economic position.

Bali Bhagat said the successful launch of Vikram-1 demonstrates that Indian youth are no longer merely participants but are becoming global leaders in innovation. "This is the New India envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi—an India that innovates, manufactures, leads and inspires the world," he remarked.

The senior BJP leader said the achievements being recorded across sectors are a testament to decisive governance, policy stability and the Prime Minister's unwavering commitment to nation-building. He urged the youth of the country to take inspiration from these milestones and contribute towards building a developed and self-reliant India (Viksit Bharat).

DDC reviews preparation of Village Development Plans under PM-AJAY

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DODA: District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal Saturday chaired a meeting to review implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY) and preparation of Village Development Plans (VDPs) for newly selected villages in the district. The meeting was held at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda.

During the meeting, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Doda gave a PowerPoint presentation on the objectives of the PM-AJAY scheme, its implementation framework and the roadmap for prepara-

tion of Village Development Plans.

It was informed that six villages from five blocks — Bhaderwah (Bhalra), Bhalesha (Darie and Batara), Chiralla (Bhallara), Thathi (Sharote) and Kahara (Suranga) have been selected under Phase-III of PM-AJAY for the financial year 2025-26. The meeting reviewed the planning process to ensure holistic development of the villages through a convergent approach.

The DDC directed departments to prepare need-based, participatory and time-bound Village Development Plans, involving local stakeholders and ensuring convergence of government schemes and

to submit the plans within prescribed timelines reflecting the developmental needs of selected villages.

The meeting discussed developmental indicators under ten key sectors including drinking water and sanitation, education, health and nutrition, social security, rural roads and housing, electricity and clean fuel, agriculture, financial inclusion, digitisation and livelihood and skill development. Departments were instructed to identify infrastructure gaps and ensure 100 percent saturation of beneficiary-oriented government schemes in the selected villages. Detailed deliberations were also held on preparation of Vil-

lage Development Plans, household surveys through the AJAY Mobile App, infrastructure gap analysis and constitution of Village Level Convergence Committees (VLCCs) headed by Block Development Officers concerned. The meeting also reviewed preparation of a multi-year Prospective Plan under the Special Central Assistance to Scheduled Caste Sub Plan (SCA to SCSP) to identify priority development projects to improve the socio-economic conditions of Scheduled Caste communities. The DDC directed Block Development Officers to accord priority to functional toilet facilities in schools in the selected PM-AJAY villages and

directed departments to complete surveys, submit the Village Development Plans within the stipulated timeframe and ensure effective execution through regular monitoring.

Among those present were Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Doda, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Doda, XEN PDD Doda, Assistant Director Planning, officers of the School Education Department, Block Development Officers concerned, District Employment Officer, Tehsil Social Welfare Officers, representatives of J&K Bank, Assistant Engineers of respective blocks, officials of Mission YUVA and officers of departments concerned.

Army mark AWWA Day with veterans' families at Samote

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RAJOURI: The Indian Army celebrated AWWA Day 2026 by organising an interaction with the spouses of Ex-Service men and Veer Naris at Samote, Rajouri, on 18 July 2026.

The event reaffirmed the Army's commitment to the welfare of veterans' families and strengthened its enduring relationship with the veteran community.

During the interaction, participants shared their concerns, grievances and welfare-related issues with Army representatives.

Each matter was carefully noted and they were assured that all genuine cases would



be taken up through appropriate channels for timely resolution.

The participants were also briefed on various welfare schemes, medical facilities, pension assistance and CSD services. The session aimed to enhance awareness and help beneficiaries access available support and entitlements.

The spouses of Ex-Service men and Veer Naris ex-

pressed heartfelt gratitude to the Indian Army for its continued care, assistance and outreach initiatives.

They appreciated the sustained efforts to address their concerns and safeguard the well-being of veterans families. The event further reinforced mutual trust, respect and the strong bond between the Indian Army and the people.