

J&K issues 10-Day deadline to lagging districts in TB-Free Drive

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JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has set a 10-day deadline for underperforming districts to take corrective action under the PM TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, with a focus on strengthening grassroots screening, ensuring timely diagnosis and patient-centric care, and intensifying community participation to accelerate TB elimination across the Union Territory.

In this regard, Saugat Biswas, Commissioner/Secretary to the Government, Health & Medical Education Department, J&K, today chaired a review meeting to assess progress under the Abhiyaan across the Union Territory.

A detailed presentation on the progress and imple-



mentation of the programme was made by Athar Aamir Ul Shafi Khan, Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM), J&K. The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Principals of Government Medical Colleges, senior officers of the H&ME Department, Directors of Health Services, Jammu/Kashmir, State Tuberculosis Officers, Chief Medical Officers and District Tuberculosis Officers.

Expressing concern over the low performance in certain districts, the Commissioner/Secretary reiterated the Government's commit-

ment to achieving the national goal of TB elimination through a collaborative and multi-sectoral approach.

He emphasised robust grassroots screening, timely diagnosis, patient-centric care and extensive community participation under the Jan Bhagidari initiative, with special focus on underperforming districts.

He directed the rationalization and optimal utilization of X-ray machines, asking officers to explore measures to increase daily testing beyond the prescribed benchmarks of 50 tests for mobile machines and 20 tests for fixed ma-

chines, wherever operationally feasible.

All State and District Tuberculosis Officers were directed to work in close coordination with Deputy Commissioners, Directors of Health Services and Chief Medical Officers to bridge the identified performance gaps within 10 days.

Daily performance monitoring and reporting to the respective Deputy Commissioners were made mandatory to ensure accountability and timely corrective action.

Taking note of shortages of chips and cartridges affecting screening operations, the State Tuberculosis Officers were instructed to immediately coordinate with the concerned agencies to address the shortfalls and ensure uninterrupted functioning of diagnostic equipment.

Book ‘Dr Chanchal Dogra Ka Kavya-Sansar’ launched at Hindi Sahitya Mandal Jammu

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JAMMU: A grand launch of the book ‘Dr Chanchal Dogra Ka Kavya-Sansar’ (The Poetic World of Dr. Chanchal Dogra), focused on the analysis of the work and personality of Dr Chanchal Dogra, was organized here Thursday by the Hindi Sahitya Mandal Jammu.

In this program held on Thursday evening at the local Kala Kendra Auditorium, the well-known Hindi writer and cultural activist of Jammu and Kashmir, Dr Agnishekhar, presided over the event. Dr Arvinder Singh Aman was present as the special guest.

Udhampur's renowned Hindi litterateur, Dr. Adarsh, presented a detailed paper evaluating the book. Apart from the literary community, Dr. Chanchal Dogra's husband, Devraj Dogra, family members, and many former colleagues were also present at the ceremony. Along with the introduc-



tions written for Dr. Chanchal Dogra's two poetry collections, ‘Apne Se Alag’ (1992) and ‘Rooh Tak Pahunchti Hai Kavita’ (2018), and multiple post-publication reviews, Dr. Dogra's critical writings have also been compiled in this book.

In this context, while analyzing, Dr. Adarsh termed this book as a kind of ‘Dr. Chanchal Dogra Samagra’ (The Complete Works of Dr. Chanchal Dogra). This book has been edited by Naresh Gulati, the former secretary of the Mandal, and published by Narmada Prakashan, Bhopal.

A formal welcome to the guests was extended by the Vice President of the Mandal, Sunil Sharma. Mentioning the activities of the Mandal, especially the successful execution of the publication series, he stated that 5 books have been published since June 2025.

He also mentioned the upcoming event of the Mandal, the Ramesh Mehta Memorial Award to be presented to Kripal Singh Dev in November.

Following the book launch ceremony, Dr. Adarsh presented his detailed paper analyzing the content of the book.

He discussed the contents of this book, which is divided into three sections, in detail. In this context, quoting reviews written by the late Ramesh Mehta, Prof. Anmol Singh, Manoj Sharma, Rupendra Raj, Naresh Gulati, and Neena Pathania regarding the distinctive features visible in Dr. Chanchal Dogra's poetry collections and compilations, Dr. Adarsh highlighted her poetic brilliance.

A comprehensive introductory paper written by Dr. Adarsh himself during the Academy's interview series with Dr. Chanchal Dogra in May 2025 has also been included in Section 1 of the launched book.

Dr. Adarsh informed that a compilation of various critical essays written by Dr. Chanchal Dogra from time to time for seminars, the Academy, magazines, and radio has been featured in the second section of the book.

GDC Majalta inaugurates maiden workshop on Nurturing Creativity, Honing Communication Skills

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MAJALTA: Government Degree College (GDC) Majalta inaugurated its maiden three-day workshop on Nurturing Creativity and Honing Communication Skills Thursday, marking a significant step towards enriching students' learning experiences through experiential, participatory and skill-oriented education.

Scheduled from 22 to 24 October 2026, the workshop commenced with an inaugural ceremony and Saraswati Vandana, invoking the blessings of the Goddess of Knowledge. The inaugural session was presided over by the Principal, Dr. Alpna Vohra.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Vohra described the workshop as a milestone in the academic journey of the college.

She emphasised that education must extend beyond textbooks and conventional



classroom teaching to instil creativity, hone communication skills and enhance the overall personality of students.

The first session, ‘Exploring Music as a Medium of Communication,’ was conducted by Dev, a former corporate professional who has embraced the life of a travelling musician and hails from Ghaziabad, Uttar Pradesh. Through music and interactive engagement, he introduced participants to the power of rhythm, melody and musical expression as effective means of communi-

cation.

The workshop then moved towards peer-led learning, with Ankita and Jiya, peer mentors from Government College for Women (GCW), Parade Ground, Jammu, conducting sessions on ‘A Bliss Called Reading’ and ‘Theatre as a Means of Communication.’

These sessions encouraged students to explore the joy of reading, appreciate literature as a source of intellectual and emotional enrichment, and understand theatre as a powerful medium of self-expression,

empathy, teamwork and social communication.

The peer-led format created an engaging learning environment in which students learned from fellow students, exemplifying the spirit of participatory education.

Dr. Rashid Ali, Assistant Professor, Department of Mass Communication and New Media, Central University of Jammu, conducted an insightful session titled ‘The World Through My Mobile Camera.’

The session familiarised participants with the creative and communicative possibilities of mobile phones, encouraging them to observe their surroundings critically and communicate ideas and stories through audio visual frames. In an increasingly digital world, the session highlighted the relevance of visual literacy, creative observation and responsible digital expression.

SIR-IIIM-J scientists, scholars pledge to fight drug menace

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JAMMU: Scientists, research scholars and staff members of CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu, on Thursday came together to take a pledge against substance abuse as the institute organised a special programme under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA), marking six years of the nationwide campaign. Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu and CSIR-National Botanical Research Institute (CSIR-NBRI), Lucknow, Dr Zabeer Ahmed, administered the Nasha Mukht Bharat pledge to the participants, calling upon them to contribute towards building a drug-free society and spreading awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Addressing the gathering, Dr Ahmed said that drug abuse was a serious concern, particularly among young people, and tackling it re-



quired collective efforts from families, educational institutions and society at large.

He emphasised that awareness and prevention were equally important in addressing the problem and that scientific institutions also have a responsibility to educate and guide younger generations.

‘Young people are the strength and future of our country. It is our collective responsibility to ensure that they remain away from drugs and are encouraged to pursue education, research, sports and other meaningful activities. A drug-free society cannot be achieved

through individual efforts alone; it requires commitment and participation from everyone,’ Dr Ahmed said.

He urged scientists, research scholars and staff members to take the message beyond the institute and encourage their families, friends and communities to join the campaign.

Dr Ahmed further said that adopting a healthy lifestyle, staying physically active and creating a positive environment for young people could go a long way in preventing substance abuse.

During the programme,

awareness videos highlighting the harmful effects of drug abuse were also screened for the participants.

The videos focused on the physical, mental and social consequences of substance abuse, reinforcing the importance of prevention and informed choices.

As part of the programme, sports activities were also organised on the institute campus, with the aim of encouraging physical fitness, teamwork and healthy competition among participants.

The programme was held as part of the nationwide mobilisation to commemorate six years of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan, an initiative of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. The campaign aims to reach more than 10 crore people through awareness programmes, pledge drives, youth engagement, sports activities and community outreach.

Awareness prog held under Vigilance Awareness Week in Jammu Division

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JAMMU: An awareness programme under Vigilance Awareness Week was organized today, 22nd October, in the conference hall of the Divisional Railway Manager's office, Jammu Division.

This programme was organized as part of preparations for the Vigilance Awareness Week to be observed from 26th October to 1st November, 2026, whose theme for this year is ‘Satyanishtha se Samridddhi - Probity for Prosperity’.

The programme was chaired by Divisional Railway Manager, Jammu, Shri Vivek Kumar, in which Additional Divisional Railway Manager along with all Branch Officers, staff and officers of the Signal and Mechanical Vigilance Department were present.

On this occasion, speakers highlighted the importance of eradication of corruption, ethical conduct, transparency in work and accountability.

At the end of the programme, everyone was urged to maintain complete honesty in their work area and to spread awareness against corruption.

Jammu Division is committed to a corruption-free, transparent and accountable administration.

Khaur farmers oriented on modern horticultural practices, Govt schemes

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JAMMU: The Department of Horticulture Jammu Thursday organised an Interaction-cum-Awareness camp at Khaur to familiarise farmers with modern horticultural practices, departmental schemes and opportunities to diversify into high-value fruit crops.

Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Syed was the Chief Guest.

At the outset, Chief Horticulture Officer R. K Kotwal gave a detailed presentation on the different schemes and programmes being run by the Department of Horticulture.



He particularly spoke about the potential of dragon fruit cultivation in the Jammu region as a profitable diversification crop. Farmers were briefed on important aspects of dragon fruit cultivation, including choosing quality planting material, site selection, trellis systems, irrigation, plant spacing, orchard care, nutrient management and income potential.

The Director highlighted the Department's efforts towards improving horticultural infrastructure, promoting quality planting material, introducing new and profitable fruit crops and providing technical support to farmers. He emphasised the important role of horticulture in strengthening the rural economy and improving the livelihood of farming families.

Basohli Utsav concludes on a grand note; Festival highlights region's heritage, economic potential

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KATHUA: The three-day Basohli Utsav 2026 concluded Thursday with a spectacular celebration of the region's rich cultural heritage, artistic traditions, sporting spirit and entrepreneurial potential.

The final day witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, artists, investors and the general public, reaffirming Basohli's growing prominence as a vibrant centre of art, culture and tourism.

A major highlight of the festival was the massive turnout of people to witness Basohli's century-old traditional Ramleela. The historic open-air performance drew large crowds from Basohli and adjoining areas, reflecting the enduring appeal of

this age-old tradition and its deep-rooted cultural and religious significance.

The overwhelming public participation underscored the importance of preserving and promoting Basohli's rich cultural heritage for future generations.

The other major attraction of the festival was the Cartoon Workshop Camp, featuring seven eminent cartoonists from across India. Organised at the Front Park in the historic Fort area near Rani Talab, the workshop brought together renowned artists and budding talents.

Students from different schools and artists from the Basohli Painting Centre enthusiastically participated, showcasing their imagination and artistic skills.

Cartoonist Chander Shekhar Sharma (Bunty)



from Jammu also showcased his work at the camp. Based on the themes ‘Vikas Bhi Aur Virasat Bhi’ and ‘Nasha Mukht Bharat’, the workshop creatively conveyed messages of development, heritage preservation and a drug-free society.

Promoting sportsmanship and teamwork, a Tug of War event was held at Ramleela Ground, drawing enthusiastic participation from the sporting community. The event added energy to the festival while highlighting the

importance of physical fitness, discipline and collective spirit.

In a significant initiative to promote economic growth and investment, an Investor Meet was organised as part of Basohli Utsav 2026, bringing together more than 70 investors.

The meet provided an important platform to explore investment opportunities and highlight Basohli's potential for enterprise, tourism and economic development.

The festival also showcased the region's exceptional artistic legacy through an exhibition featuring traditional artefacts, Basohli paintings and Basohli Pashmina. Presented around the theme ‘Shakti Parampara vis-à-vis Basohli Arts’, with Geet Govind as a central theme, the exhibition highlighted the distinctive artistic traditions, craftsmanship and cultural heritage that make Basohli renowned. It offered visitors an opportunity to appreciate the region's traditional art forms and the creative excellence of local artisans.

The literary sessions added intellectual depth to the celebrations. The Youth Parliament on ‘Gaon Mein Rozgar Ke Avsar’ provided a platform for students to deliberate on rural employment

opportunities, while the panel discussion on ‘AI Mein Manavta Ka Sangharsh’ encouraged reflection on the evolving relationship between artificial intelligence and humanity.

The evening featured a spiritually uplifting Ravi Aarti at the iconic Atal Setu, creating a memorable confluence of devotion, tradition and the scenic beauty of the Ravi riverbank. Traditional Jhanki presentations and cultural performances further enriched the festive atmosphere, adding to the vibrancy of Basohli Utsav 2026.

Basohli Utsav 2026 culminated with vibrant cultural programmes and a prize distribution ceremony, celebrating the talent and creativity of artists, students and performers.