

Omar-led Govt at forefront to serve downtrodden with welfare schemes: By CM Surinder Choudhary

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JAMMU: In impressive function organised at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu, where Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, felicitated the newly nominated District Presidents ST Cell of Jammu Urban Mr Nadeem Choudhary, Jammu Rural "A" Mehmood Ahmad Rizvi (Advocate) and Samba Shoket Choudhary. On this occasion, Deputy Chief Minister J&K was also present and addressed the workers. Surinder Choudhary expressed hope that the newly nominated District Presidents ST Cell of JKNC would work with dedication to strengthen the ST community and ensure their overall development. He emphasized that the government led by Omar Abdullah has



consistently supported the downtrodden and weaker sections of society and has launched several welfare schemes aimed at uplifting the ST community.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Lal Gupta reiterated that the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference is firmly committed to the upliftment of marginalized

and weaker sections of society. He recalled the visionary leadership of Sher-e-Kashmir late Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah who, along with Made Meharban Begum Abdullah, introduced a special developmental plan for the Gujjars and Bakarwals communities in 1975. Under this initiative, hostels were constructed

for Gujjar and Bakarwal students in every district to promote education and social advancement.

The development process of ST communities were carried forward by Dr. Farooq Abdullah and presently carried forward by visionary and dynamic leader Jenab Omar Abdullah Hon'ble Chief Minister.

Gupta further stated that the Omar-led government remains committed to strengthening educational infrastructure, expanding hostel facilities, and ensuring comprehensive development for the Gujjar and Bakarwal community across Jammu and Kashmir.

The function concluded with a renewed pledge by party leaders and workers to work untidly for the welfare and empowerment of the ST community.

Among others who were present on this occasion included: Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu, Subash Chander Bhagat District President Jammu Rural "A", Vikram Puri Chairman Trade and Industry, Rakesh Singh Raka, Rita Gupta Vice Presidents Central Zone, S. Gurnam Singh District Secretary Jammu Urban and others.

AIIMS sensitises about ENT issues to mark World Hearing Day



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SAMBA: AIIMS Jammu marked World Hearing Day by organising a general awareness programme in the OPD Block to sensitise patients and attendants about various ear diseases, hearing loss, and the advanced treatment facilities available at the institute. The programme was conducted under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, and Prof. (Dr.) Meeta Gupta, Dean (Academics) & Medical Superintendent, AIIMS Jammu, who reiterated the institute's commitment to strengthening comprehensive ear and hearing care services for the community.

The initiative was led by the Department of Otorhinolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery (ENT), with active participation from Dr. Darwin Kaushal (Additional Professor), Dr. Amardeep Singh (Associate Professor), Senior Residents Dr. Youshita Mahajan and Dr. Pooja Rani; Junior Residents Dr. Muskan Rao, Dr. Gunjan Lakhmani, Dr. Manish Kaur and Dr. Sai Gayatri; Audiologists Nityansh Saluja and Akshita Gupta; Reyaz Ahmed; along with the dedicated nursing staff.

During the programme, the team emphasised the critical importance of early screening and early intervention, particularly in children. AIIMS

Jammu is actively running a Newborn Hearing Screening Programme, which plays a vital role in identifying hearing impairment at birth. Early detection ensures timely intervention, thereby supporting normal speech, language, and overall developmental milestones.

The institute is equipped with advanced diagnostic and therapeutic instruments for managing a wide range of hearing-related disorders. AIIMS Jammu is successfully performing Cochlear Implant surgeries for children born with profound hearing loss as well as for adults who have completely lost their hearing, thereby restoring auditory function and significantly enhancing quality of life.

Comprehensive treatment services are also available for Chronic Suppurative Otitis Media (CSOM), Acute Suppurative Otitis Media (ASOM), and other middle ear conditions. The team further highlighted the rising incidence of Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss (SSNHL), a medical emergency in which immediate treatment greatly improves the chances of recovery. The public was strongly advised not to ignore sudden hearing loss and to seek urgent medical attention without delay.

As part of the awareness drive, the department shared important public health

guidance. Individuals were encouraged to maintain proper nasal hygiene, ensure adequate hydration in children, practice safe ear care by cleaning only the outer ear gently, maintain a balanced diet, and seek timely medical consultation for persistent ENT-related symptoms. The public was cautioned against inserting sharp objects into the ear, excessive use of earphones and prolonged mobile phone usage, attempting home-based earwax removal, and frequent consumption of junk food that may aggravate ENT issues.

On the occasion of World Hearing Day, AIIMS Jammu appealed to the general public to prioritise hearing health through regular check-ups, safe listening habits, and early medical consultation. Hearing is fundamental to communication, education, social integration, and overall well-being. Observing World Hearing Day serves as an important reminder that many causes of hearing loss are preventable or treatable if addressed at an early stage.

Under the leadership of Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, the institute remains dedicated to promoting awareness, early detection, and comprehensive management of hearing disorders, working towards a future where no individual is left behind due to preventable hearing loss.

MLA Manyal begins blacktopping work

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JAMMU: Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh, on Tuesday kick-started the blacktopping work on two major road projects in the Ramgarh Assembly Constituency, involving a total sanctioned amount of Rs 50 lakh. The Radian-Swankha road and the Bandral-Gho road are each being upgraded at an estimated cost of Rs 25 lakh, aimed at strengthening road infrastructure in the rural belt.

The initiation of these works reflects a focused effort towards improving connectivity and enhancing the quality of life of the local population. These roads are vital for daily commuters and play a crucial role in connecting villages with markets, educational institutions, healthcare facilities, and other essential services. The blacktopping work will ensure smoother, safer, and all-weather road connectivity, reducing travel time and improving



overall transportation efficiency.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal reaffirmed his strong commitment to the holistic and inclusive development of the Ramgarh constituency. He stated that development of basic infrastructure, particularly road connectivity, remains a top priority, as it directly contributes to economic growth and social progress. He further assured that quality standards will be strictly maintained and all

works will be completed within the stipulated timeframe.

The occasion was attended by Amit Dubey, General Secretary (District), Naveen Sharma, Mandal President Swankha, Nancy Choudhary, Mandal President Ramgarh, Shri Kasturi Lal, Roop Chand (General Secretary, Swankha), District President OBC Mochha Harvinder Singh, Ms. Neeru (Vice President, Mahila Mochha), Roshi, along with other party functionaries and local residents.

Prog outlining women rights held at Billawar

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KATHUA: On the second day of Women's Week celebrations, a Women Awareness Programme on Rights and Safety Laws was organized at the PWD Guest House, Billawar, under the chairmanship of ADC Billawar, Vinay Khosla.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADC emphasized the importance of awareness about legal rights and safety laws in the lives of women. He underlined that informed and empowered women play a vital role in building a progressive and equitable society.

He urged participants to remain aware of their rights and make effective use of the legal safeguards provided for their protection and

welfare.

During the programme, legal experts including Jatinder Singh Bhadwal, Bhumika Verma and other advocates also deliberated upon various legal provisions related to women's safety and rights.

They sensitized the participants about existing laws and redressal mechanisms, encouraging them to approach the appropriate authorities in case of need.

CDPO Billawar Shefali Bhagat also highlighted various initiatives and programmes being implemented by the department for the empowerment and welfare of women.

A large number of women attended the programme and actively participated in the awareness session.

DLSA hosts awareness event on Mediation for Nation 2.0

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REASI: Under the visionary leadership of Khalil Choudhary, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge Reasi) and the able guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on Mediation for Nation 2.0 was organised on Tuesday at District Court Complex.

The programme witnessed active participation from Panel Lawyers/Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) and ALADC members Dheeraj Thakur and Niharika Bamotra. The programme aimed at promoting amicable settlement of disputes through mediation mechanisms, thereby reducing litigation burden and ensuring speedy, cost-

effective and accessible justice for the common people.

Another awareness programme on Assistance for disabled beneficiaries was conducted by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) at District Hospital. PLVs assisted specially-abled persons in obtaining their Unique Disability Identity (UDID) Cards.

The beneficiaries were guided regarding the registration process, submission of documents, medical assessment procedures and the benefits associated with the UDID card.

Awareness on Water Consumption and Conservation was generated at various places of Tehsil Mahore (including Dewal, Govt. Middle School Angralla etc.).

Target of achieving 60% CD Ratio set in DLRC meet

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KATHUA: The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ending December 2025 was convened on Tuesday at the DDC Office to review the performance of banks and the flow of credit in the district.

The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma. SSP Mohita Sharma; ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma; GM DIC, Mushtaq Choudhary; AGM & LDO RBI, Rajneesh Malhotra; DDM NABARD, Nipun Sharma, besides senior officers of banks and line departments attended the meeting. The meeting was convened by Lead District Manager Kathua.

The Chair reviewed the progress achieved under key banking parameters including Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, deposits and advances, priority sector



lending and performance under Government Sponsored Schemes such as Kisan Credit Card (KCC), new KCC for Dairy, Poultry, Fisheries and Sheep Husbandry, PMEGP (KVIB/KVIC/DIC), NRLM SHGs, NULM and PMMY. Emphasis was laid on timely disposal and disbursement of cases and effective credit linkage of beneficiaries.

The DDC directed the banks and line departments to reconcile pending sponsored loan applications and work

in close coordination to ensure saturation of eligible beneficiaries.

Stressing financial inclusion, the Chair advised banks to achieve maximum coverage under social security schemes including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.

SSP Mohita Sharma called upon banks to maintain close coordination with law enforcement

agencies and share details of suspected and high-value transactions for verification of their genuine sources, in order to curb financial frauds and unlawful activities. She emphasized strengthening vigilance and ensuring strict adherence to KYC norms and regulatory guidelines.

The DDC directed the banks to submit consolidated monthly reports of such suspicious and high-value transactions to the district administration and district police for scrutiny and necessary follow-up action.

Nukkad Natak on theme 'Hearing Care for All Children' presented

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JAMMU: The World Hearing Day was observed today by the Health Department in collaboration with the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR). A Nukkad Natak was presented at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar to spread awareness on this year's theme: "Communities to Classrooms – Hearing Care for All Children."

The programme focused on educating people about the common symptoms of hearing loss and ear diseases among children, along with the crucial steps required to detect hearing impairment early—before it affects a child's cognition, speech and language development.

The Nukkad Natak by artists of the Cultural Unit

effectively conveyed the message in an engaging and impactful manner, drawing the attention of patients, attendants, medical staff and visitors at the hospital.

The programme was conducted under the direction of Joint Director Information, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer, Mohit Sharma.

The event was attended by Director Health, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Medical Superintendent Dr. Narinder Bhatiyal; senior officers from the Health Department and Nodal Officer national programme for prevention & control of deafness Dr. Mridula Singh. A large number of people and medical interns were also present on the occasion and participated in the awareness interactions.

HPV vaccination drive launched in Bhaderwah

DODA: Bhaderwah on Tuesday joined the nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign aimed at preventing cervical cancer among girls.

The vaccination drive was inaugurated at Sub District Hospital (SDH) by ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal.

Block Medical Officer (BMO), Dr. Varsha Sharma highlighted the significance of the HPV vaccine, stating that it is a crucial preventive measure against cervical cancer and helps reduce health risks among women.

Artisans clear doubts regarding PM Vishwakarma scheme

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UDHAMPUR: The MSME-DFO Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Udhampur, on Tuesday organised a PM Vishwakarma awareness programme here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The programme witnessed participation from more than 200 PM Vishwakarma artisans. Their active involvement highlighted the growing inclination toward entrepreneurship as a means of achieving self-reliance and sustainable livelihood. The interactive session enabled participants to raise queries regarding financial assistance, subsidy-linked schemes, enterprise registration, digital platforms, marketing support and business expansion opportunities.

Earlier, the event began with a welcome address by Young



Professional, MSME-DFO Jammu Shahid Hussain Wani, who emphasized the importance of formalizing traditional artisans

and integrating them into the mainstream economic framework through structured government support.

A presentation on the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) was delivered by Sarthak Khoda, GeM Trainer, North Region. He explained the process of seller registration on the GeM portal, product listing, participation in government procurement and the benefits of digital marketing and transparent procurement systems for artisans and small entrepreneurs.

District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Yash Paul Sharma listed the JKEDI schemes aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and startup culture in the region. He elaborated on financial assistance, seed capital support, training programmes, skill development initiatives and mentoring support available to aspiring entrepreneurs.

A detailed presentation on MSME schemes was delivered by D.K. Tyagi (IEDS), Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Jammu

General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch and Functional Manager Jagdeep Singh delivered a comprehensive presentation on UT Government schemes and industrial incentives available in Jammu & Kashmir.

A presentation on employment schemes was delivered by SBDU-Coordinator, Employment Officer Paras Dubey. He informed participants about the employment-oriented initiatives, skill enhancement programmes, job facilitation services and self-employment support measures available through the Employment Department.

The banking perspective was shared by Lead District Manager State Bank of India Vikram Singh. He elaborated on banking schemes including MUDRA loans, credit-linked subsidy schemes, the importance of financial discipline and maintaining a good credit history.

Preparations assessed for Intl Women's Day event

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa on Tuesday chaired a meeting with officers from the line departments to review preparations for the International Women's Day celebrations in the district.

Among those present were Programme Officer Poshan, Subash Dogra and senior officials from the concerned departments.

The Deputy Commissioner issued detailed directions to ensure timely and comprehensive arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the event.