

Financial inclusion awareness programme conducted at Leh

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LEH: As part of the DFS, led one-month campaign for saturation of Financial Inclusion Schemes, J&K Bank zonal office Leh Friday organized a financial inclusion saturation mega camp at community hall shenan, Leh city.

General Manager FIDD RBI Central office Mumbai Shalija Singh was chief guest and the event was attended by Subin Kundal LDO RBI, Tsering Wangmo UTLBC head Ladakh, Tsewang Dorjai GM JK Bank, Prem Lal Bodh Director RSETI, Phuntsog Angchuk LDM Leh, Shakti Bhise Associate Director Crisil Foundation and officials of NABARD, LRLM and other banks operating in the region.

Tsering Wangmo - AGM welcomed the guest and gave detailed presentation on background of ongoing campaign on saturation of financial inclusion schemes and role of financial institution to expand the financial inclusion net.

Tsewang Dorjai DGM J&K



Bank highlighted the importance of Financial Inclusion Schemes and emphasized the role of J&K Bank as a major player in offering these schemes to rural populace of UT of Ladakh.

The General Manager, RBI impressed upon the importance of social security schemes and other financial inclusion schemes for rural population along with requirement of KYC and safe digital banking.

She stressed on the need for timely completion of Re-KYC to ensure uninterrupted banking services and also cautioned the public to remain vigilant against digi-

tal frauds and money mules. Kifayat Hussain, Manager Crisil Foundation gave brief presentation on CFL Project implemented by Crisil Foundation in UT of Ladakh. CFL team actively supported lead bank office and J&K bank to organize this mass awareness financial inclusion camp.

Consultants of Crisil Foundation delivered detailed presentation on social Security schemes covering - PMSBY, PMJJBY, APY and ReKYC. During the camp, the participants were sensitized about various Financial Inclusion Schemes, Digital Frauds

and Re-KYC through sessions from various resource persons and group discussions.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local community members, PRIs, SHG members of LRLM.

During the event dedicated counters were set up by banks and CFL staff for Social Security Schemes, Re-KYC, grievance redressal to aware the customers.

The event was moderated by stanzin Dazes Senior Manager zonal office JK Bank leh. Vote of thanks was presented by Mr Phuntsog Angchuk LDM Leh.

Fire and Fury Corps opens Library for Students in Ladakh's Tangtse

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LEH: The Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps has inaugurated a modern library at Tangtse in Ladakh's Changthang region under Operation Sadbhavana, providing students and local youth in the remote border area with access to educational resources and reading facilities.

Equipped with around 1,500 books and modern amenities, the library has been established to strengthen educational opportunities in one of Ladakh's high-altitude regions, where harsh winters and difficult terrain often disrupt access to learning resources.

According to the Army, the initiative seeks to provide students with a dedicated learning space while en-



couraging reading habits and academic engagement throughout the year, particularly during periods when heavy snowfall limits mobility. The project forms part of Operation Sadbhavana,

through which the Indian Army undertakes community development initiatives in remote border areas, with a focus on education, youth development and public welfare. The Army said the initia-

tive reflects its continued engagement with border communities by supporting educational infrastructure and creating opportunities for young people in geographically isolated regions.

Dental Surgeons' delegation led by Gyalson meets LG Saxena, seeks redressal of issues



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LEH: A delegation of dental surgeons, led by former Chairman and Chief Executive Councillor (CEC) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC), Leh, Advocate Tashi Gyalson, on Friday submitted a memorandum to Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena, seeking redressal of issues concerning dental professionals in the Union Territory.

The delegation, comprising Dr. Phunchok Nurboo, Dr. Palden Tundup and Dr. Fayaz

Ahmad, met the Lieutenant Governor at Raj Niwas and presented a detailed memorandum outlining a range of concerns and demands relating to the functioning and welfare of dental surgeons in Ladakh. According to a statement issued after the meeting, the memorandum highlighted issues affecting the dental fraternity and sought the administration's intervention to address them. The delegation urged the Lieutenant Governor to consider the demands with a view to strengthening the delivery of dental

healthcare services in the Union Territory.

The Lieutenant Governor gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured its members that the matters raised in the memorandum would be examined sympathetically in the larger interest of the medical fraternity.

The meeting was facilitated by Adv. Gyalson, who accompanied the delegation in presenting its concerns before the Union Territory administration, with the memorandum serving as the principal representation on behalf of dental surgeons in Ladakh.

CEO Doda assesses schools in Bhalessa and Bhatyas zones

DODA: Chief Education Officer Doda Bhushan Kumar Pathak concluded a two-day tour of Educational Zones Bhalessa and Bhatyas, assessing ground realities and infrastructure needs in remote schools of the district.

At Government Higher Secondary School Sinoo, the CEO operationalised the Girls' Hostel while directing the Principal to manage it in coordination with the CEO office. The move, along with the provision of a Mathematics teacher, was appreciated by the locals.

At Middle School Barthi and High School Barthi, the CEO reviewed academic arrangements, ordered rationalisation of classes and instructed the Cluster Head to monitor both institutions and explore land availability for infrastructure development.

The CEO also inspected HSS Gowari, Gandoh, Malanoo, Halaran and MS Halaran, assuring timely redressal of repair and renovation issues, and commended the adoption of digital learning tools such as smart panels.

He reiterated the department's commitment to improving educational standards in far-flung areas through student-centric approaches and effective implementation of initiatives like Vidya Samiksha Kendra.

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RAMBAN: The sacred occasion of Youm-e-Ashoora was observed with reverence and communal harmony at Chanderkote, Ramban, where hundreds of mourners participated in the traditional Zuljinah procession to commemorate the supreme sacrifice of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his companions at Karbala.

The procession commenced from Imambara Ali Nagar, Kunfer, Chanderkote, under the patronage of Anjuman-e-Imamia, passed through the main market of Chanderkote and culminated at the symbolic Karbala.

Religious scholars addressed the congregation at the Imam Bargah, illuminating the historical and spiritual significance of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his 72 companions at Karbala over 1,400 years ago. Mourners paid tribute to the martyrs for their unwavering stand for truth, justice and righteousness; values that continue to inspire generations and uphold the principles of Islam.

The district administration ensured the peaceful conduct of the procession through arrangements for security, medical assistance, drinking water, electricity and sanitation at Chanderkote. MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju



and several distinguished citizens also participated in the procession, congregation at the Imam Bargah, illuminating the historical and spiritual significance of the martyrdom of Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and his 72 companions at Karbala over 1,400 years ago. Mourners paid tribute to the martyrs for their unwavering stand for truth, justice and righteousness; values

that continue to inspire gen expressing solidarity and paying their respects.

Among those present were Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar, Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters) Waqar Bhat and officials from the Health Department, ambulance teams and departments concerned.

DCC Jammu demands Union Edu Min Pradhan's resignation over alleged Examination Paper Leaks



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JAMMU: The District Congress Committee (DCC) Jammu Rural on Friday demanded the resignation of Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan, alleging repeated failures in preventing examination paper leaks and seeking a time-bound judicial probe into major cases reported in recent years.

The demand was raised during a press conference organised under the 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' campaign, jointly addressed by former minister Jugal Kishore Sharma and DCC Jammu Rural Pres-

ident Neeraj Kundan.

Sharma alleged that recurring paper leak incidents in examinations, including NEET and UGC-NET, had undermined the credibility of the country's examination system and adversely affected the aspirations of students. Referring to Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's address at Kota, he said the party would continue to campaign for greater accountability and reforms in the education sector.

Kundan accused the Centre of failing to protect the integrity of competitive examinations and asserted that repeated irregularities had

eroded students' confidence in the system. He reiterated the demand for the Union Education Minister's resignation and called for an independent judicial inquiry into all major paper leak cases.

Describing 'Chhatron Ki Goonj' as a platform to amplify students' concerns, Kundan said the campaign would continue until a transparent, fair and secure examination mechanism is put in place.

The Congress leaders appealed to students, parents and civil society to support the movement for education reforms, maintaining that restoring public confidence in competitive examinations must remain a national priority.

Senior Congress leaders Suresh Kumar Dogra, Kapil Chib, Micheal Wazir, NSUI District President Manas Gandhi, party functionaries and student leaders attended the press conference.

International Day against Drug Abuse observed in Doda

DODA: The International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed in Doda Friday, marking the conclusion of Nasha Mukta Saptah that began on June 17, 2026. The event was held at Community Hall, Doda.

Students from the degree colleges and schools participated in debate competitions on drug abuse eradication. A skit on anti-drug themes was presented by students of Boys Higher Secondary School Doda and Parisha Doda, drawing attention to the social and personal consequences of substance abuse. Speakers called

for collective responsibility across government institutions, families, educational institutions and society at large. On the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal called for sustained efforts to make Doda a drug-free district, appreciated student participation and stressed strict action against drug peddlers. The DC also underlined the importance of rehabilitation for drug victims through government schemes offering employment and social reintegration.

The programme concluded with a pledge administered



by the Deputy Commissioner, resolving collective action against drug abuse across the district.

Among those present were SSP Doda Kartik Shrotriya (IPS), District Social Welfare

Officer Zubair Ahmed, District Culture Officer, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, students from Government Degree Colleges and Higher Secondary Schools, members of civil society and officers concerned.

Col Sharma appeals for restraint, teamwork

Army, J&K Police must preserve operational synergy: Army Veteran

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JAMMU: Expressing concern over the reported altercation between personnel of the Indian Army and the Jammu and Kashmir Police in Kishtwar, decorated Army veteran Col R.K. Sharma (Retd.), a recipient of the Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra and Sena Medal, on Friday urged both forces to reinforce their long-standing partnership, describing operational unity as indispensable for maintaining peace and countering terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

In a statement, Col Sharma said the Army and the J&K Police have fought shoulder to shoulder against ter-



risks undermining operational coordination and public confidence at a time when seamless cooperation among security agencies remains critical.

Paying tribute to the J&K Police, he said the force has consistently displayed exceptional courage and professionalism under challenging circumstances, with many personnel laying down their lives in the line of duty.

"The Indian Army and the J&K Police are made for each other. One provides invaluable grassroots intelligence while the other brings unmatched operational capability. Together, they accomplish the mission," he said, adding, "The colour of the uniform

may be different, but the colour of the blood is the same."

Drawing on his experience in counter-insurgency operations, Col Sharma recalled working closely with J&K Police personnel, saying mutual trust and coordinated action were central to operational success. He said the guiding principle throughout his service was "Dare, Care and Share"—confronting threats with courage, caring for fellow personnel and sharing intelligence and responsibilities.

Appealing to personnel of both organisations to move beyond the episode, he said, "Forget Atholi. Remember the brotherhood. Because the job is not completed yet."

Col Sharma maintained that operational disagreements, if any, should be addressed through established institutional mechanisms rather than confrontation. Visible differences between the two forces, he cautioned, could be exploited by anti-national elements to weaken public confidence and spread misinformation.

Expressing confidence that the matter would be resolved amicably, he urged the leadership of both organisations to uphold the spirit of professionalism, mutual respect and coordination that has long formed the backbone of successful security operations in Jammu and Kashmir.