

**National Unity Day: CM flags off 'Run for Unity'**

# Symbolises spirit of unity, value deeply cherished by people of Kashmir: Omar

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday flagged off the 'Run for Unity' from the back lawns of the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Center (SKICC) here, marking the celebration of National Unity Day.

This day honors the birth anniversary of independent India's first Home Minister, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

The event was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Home, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, and various



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah flagging off the 'Run for Unity'.

civil and police officials.

The 'Run for Unity' attracted a diverse crowd, with participation from civil administration, police, CRPF, and a significant number of local youth, including both men and women. Speaking at the event, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah highlighted that the 'Run for Unity' symbolizes the spirit of unity, a value deeply cherished by the people of Kashmir.

Prior to flagging off the run, the Chief Minister administered a unity pledge to the gathered participants. The run concluded at the scenic Botanical Gardens in Chashma Shahi.



## Run for Unity held in Jammu to mark National Unity Day



ADGP Anand Jain, Div Com Ramesh Kumar, DC Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya and others taking pledge.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: The "Run for Unity" was organised here on Tuesday, starting from Gulshan Ground and ending at Hari Singh Park, to mark National Unity Day. The event saw wide participation from citizens, officials and students, all promoting the theme of unity.

DDC Chairman Jammu Bharat Bhushan was present as the chief guest along

with MLA Suchetgarh Gharu Ram as the special guest. The event also saw the presence of ADGP Anand Jain, Divisional Commissioner Ramesh Kumar, DC Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya, SSP Joginder Singh and ADC Ansuya Jamwal. ADDC Sher Singh administered the unity pledge. The run was flagged off by

the dignitaries from Gulshan Ground, which culminated at the Hari Singh Park.

The event also brought together district officers, NCC cadets, and a large number of school students. Artists from the Department of Information and Public Relations presented patriotic songs, sharing messages of unity that resonated with the audience.

## Order of Mandatory Observance of 'Close Day' by Shops withdrawn: Sharma

**Don't harass traders in festive season: Former Mayor**

**'Govt supports businessmen in J&K, launched many schemes to help traders'**

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and former Jammu Mayor, Rajinder Sharma has said that the government in the country led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is working for the welfare of all sections of the society and much has been done to facilitate the traders and businessmen in J&K also while every elected public representative of BJP and leader of the party is committed to make efforts to help the different sections of the society facing any type of problem.

Sharma was talking to a delegation of Confederation of All India Traders Association at his residence in Jammu which was led by Neeraj Anand, president of J&K and All India vice president of the Confederation which visited him with their problems due to the govern-



ment order for Mandatory Observance of "Close Day" by Shops/ Establishments in J&K vide circular number 05-LC of 2024.

After meeting the delegation, the BJP leader took up the issue with Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha and got the order withdrawn to facilitate the traders of Jammu (No: LC-ENF/148/2024-2 (E-7565201))

Sharma informed the visit-

ing delegation that when he was a Corporator there emerged an issue of yellow lines which were to be drawn outside the shops in the city and the shopkeepers were asked to restrict displaying of their saleable items within the line.

"The issue created hue and cry among the traders of Jammu city prompting me to intervene and I instructed the concerned officers at the Urban Local Body regarding that and the issue was resolved," the former Mayor informed.

Earlier, he visited the busy market in Jammu city after the traders complained that Municipal authorities were lifting their saleable items displayed outside shops.

Sharma instructed the concerned authorities that the traders should not be harassed like this as they

have already suffered a lot due to reduction in sales because of online shoppings, lifting of Lakhanpur Toll Tax and COVID-19 pandemic.

He said that much has been done in the city to facilitate the traders and business persons so that they may run their business outlets without any hindrance from the government authorities.

"PM Modi is working to ensure welfare of all in J&K and to make the traders and other businessmen in the Union Territory increase their sales," the senior BJP leader maintained adding: "On the same pattern the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha is also supporting the traders and businessmen of J&K while all the support is expected in this regard from the newly elected government also."

Sharma also said that PM

Modi has started many schemes to facilitate the business and help unemployed youth to start their business and become self-dependant. These are PMEGP, which provides subsidised loan up to 50 lacks with 10% margin money and upto 35% sibsidy. Mudra scheme providing 10 lacks without mortgage and 100 of scheme run under MSME.

"There are many success stories of start-ups in J&K and all this was possible due to the visionary leadership of PM Modi," the BJP leader continued.

He assured the delegation to take their issues like better road infrastructure, proper power and water supply etc to the concerned quarters for a solution so that the business in Jammu can run smoothly and their sales take new heights.

## AIIMS Jammu performs first Palliative Esophageal Self-Expanding Metallic Stent Placement for Advanced Complicated Esophageal Cancer

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

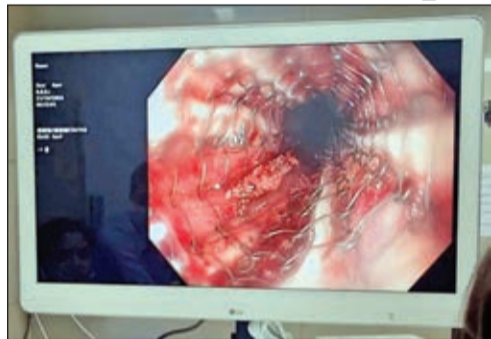
JAMMU: All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu announced a significant achievement in its ongoing mission to provide advanced medical solutions for complex health conditions.

The Department of Surgical Gastroenterology at AIIMS, Jammu, performed the first palliative esophageal self-expanding metallic stent (SEMS) procedure for an advanced esophageal malignancy, showcasing a milestone in the management of late-stage esophageal cancer.

This pioneering procedure marks a significant step in the hospital's commitment to advancing specialized, compassionate care for patients with advanced esophageal diseases.

The patient who underwent the procedure was experiencing significant choking and difficulty in swallowing. He underwent an endoscopy at AIIMS, which revealed mid Esophageal malignancy with the possibility of fistula with airway. CT scan confirmed the findings. Partially covered esophageal SEMS was placed on 21st Oct. Patient tolerated the orals and was discharged uneventfully.

The aim was to relieve symptoms by keeping the esophagus open and preventing food and liquids from entering airway from esophagus through



the fistula, thereby improving his overall well-being and quality of life.

The procedure was performed by Dr Sahil Sandal and his team, led by Harshita (Senior Nursing Officer), Madhusudhan (Endoscopic Technician), and Nursing officers.

Dr Sahil Sandal, Assistant Professor and Officer in Charge of the Department of Surgical Gastroenterology, said, "This first successful SEMS placement for esophageal malignancy is a significant milestone for our department and AIIMS Jammu. This minimally invasive procedure is particularly valuable for patients who are not candidates for surgery or are in the advanced stages of esophageal cancer, as it provides symp-

tom relief without the need for major surgery."

He further added, "The successful completion of this intervention highlights the department's dedication to providing innovative treatments and improving patient outcomes and will continue to expand its portfolio of minimally invasive procedures, aiming to provide both curative and palliative options for individuals with gastrointestinal (GI) and hepatopancreatobiliary (HPB) malignancies. With the initiation of these procedures, the patients requiring luminal stenting now need not go outside the state for these procedures.

He added, "The success of this initiative would not have been possible without the unwavering support of the Executive Director & CEO of AIIMS Jammu, Prof. (Dr) Shakti Kumar Gupta. His leadership and dedication have been instrumental in driving the hospital's mission to achieve excellence in healthcare.

Prof. Shakti Gupta, ED, and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, emphasized, "This initiative is a testament to our team's hard work and the collaborative spirit at AIIMS Jammu to bring the best healthcare practices to the people of Jammu and adjacent region. We are committed to enhancing our facilities and services to meet the growing needs of our community."

## Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations unite Jammu Zone in a grand parade



**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Commemorative events were held across the Jammu zone in the observance of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, popularly known as National Unity Day, which is celebrated on October 31st. The day is observed to pay tributes to the Iron Man of India, 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel', the first Home Minister of the country.

Impressive commemorative events were held in all ten districts of Jammu zone, with a large number of senior police officers and representatives of civil society participating in the solemn functions.

The main event in the winter capital was held at Gulshan Ground, Jammu, where Anand Jain, ADGP Jammu Zone, took the ceremonial salute.

The ADGP Jammu Zone administered a pledge in which all officers and personnel solemnly vowed to work towards strengthening national integration and promoting communal

harmony. During the ceremony, all participants pledged to work towards a harmonious and prosperous nation. Contingents from Jammu Police, Armed battalions, CRPF, and SDRF took part in the colorful march past.

Anand Jain said the police department is committed to maintaining law and order and ensuring the security of the nation. By organizing such events, the department aims to foster a sense of national pride and patriotism among its personnel and the public.

The event emphasized Sardar Patel's vision of a united India and his invaluable contribution to national integration. The ADGP Jammu Zone urged all to take the pledge for internal security, integrity, and sovereignty of the country.

Sarah Rizvi, DIG IR Jammu, Vinod Kumar, DIG Armed Jammu, Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG JKS Range, Sargun Shukla, CO IRP, Ansuya Jamwal, Additional District Magistrate Jammu, and senior officers of various units were also present on this occasion.

## Asia's largest spice center launches saffron processing season in Pampore

**MASROOR AHMAD**

PAMPORE: The Indian International Saffron Trade Center, recognized as Asia's largest spice hub, has launched this year's saffron processing season in Dusoo Pampore. This cutting-edge facility offers essential services to saffron farmers, including stigma separation, drying, grading, packaging, Geographic Indication (GI) tagging, and e-auction services. These advanced services aim to enhance profitability for local farmers by optimizing the saffron processing chain and improving product quality.

The initiative is set to strengthen India's saffron industry, positioning Pampore as a global leader in saffron production and supporting the livelihoods of thousands of saffron growers in the region. Dr. Khurshid Ahmad, In-charge of the Indian International Saffron Trade Center, while talk-

ing to media said that this year's saffron flower harvesting season is in full swing, with post-harvesting operations underway. "The center is fully equipped to assist farmers at every stage, ensuring a seamless journey from harvest to market," he stated, highlighting the center's commitment to maximizing farmer profitability and solidifying Pampore's reputation on the world stage.

The Saffron harvesting season in Kashmir begins from mid-October to late November. Saffron is one of the most expensive spices in the world, and it comes from the stigmas of the purple flower of the plant. Saffron is also referred to as "Red Gold". Pampore area is the famous for Saffron cultivation and out of total 5,707 hectares of land under saffron cultivation in Kashmir, more than 90 percent is in Pampore tehsil of Pulwama district.

According to Saffron

growers, after years of losses, we were in depression and most of the farmers were changing their crops. Niyaz Ahmad a Saffron farmer from Dusoo area of Pampore, said Saffron was cultivated on large scale in rural areas of district Pulwama in the past. However, due to different obstacles in Saffron cultivation, growers shifted to other horticulture crops and today Saffron crop is limited to the Pampore and its adjacent areas.

Pampore meadows attracts tourists from everywhere to witness the yellow, maroon and purple colour of blossoms that bloom beside giant Chinars and harvest time resembles a festival for villages in the area. The Saffron farmers of Dusoo area are still waiting for Saffron blossoms.

"Due to the constant dry weather this year, we do not expect that we will get more productions this year, may be it will be less," he said.

## 9th Ayurveda Day celebrated with fervor

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: To celebrate the 9th Ayurveda Day, the Directorate of Ayush J&K organized a Dhanvantari Yajna at the Dhanvantari Kunj in the premises of Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital Jammu. The event featured a significant program at the Brigadier Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, where the Prime Minister's address was telecast live from the All India Institute of Ayurveda in New Delhi. The program drew an impressive attendance of over 600 Ayurveda professionals from across the Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory. During the event, the Prime Minister dedicated several health schemes and programs to the public on Dhanvantari Jayanti, emphasizing the need for classical clinical texts of Ayurveda to become more evidence-based, thereby enhancing its status as a global wellness science. The Divisional Commissioner of Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, was the chief guest and congratulated the Ayurveda community, underscoring the vital role Ayurveda can play in achieving holistic well-being for citizens. He noted that emerging health threats, such as antimicrobial resistance and climate change, could be mitigated by integrating Ayurveda into the mainstream healthcare system. Kumar described Ayurveda not only as a healthcare approach but as an integral part of India's cultural heritage that needs preservation and promotion. Dr. Mohan Singh, Director of Ayush J&K, highlighted that Ayurveda is regarded as the "Mother of all health sciences." He pointed out that this year's Ayurveda Day is celebrated in over 150 countries with the theme "Ayurveda Innovations for Global Health." He stressed the importance of promoting Ayurveda's strengths in wellness tourism and entrepreneurship, urging the Ayurveda community to adopt a more creative and innovative mindset to globalize this ancient practice. Dr. Singh also emphasized the role of digital technology in enhancing Ayurveda's acceptance as a mainstream healthcare option. Other notable attendees included Dr. Suresh Kumar Sharma, Deputy Director of Ayush Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Raina, Assistant Director of Ayurveda, and Dr. Vandana Dogra, Medical Superintendent of Govt. Ayurvedic Hospital, among others. The event not only celebrated the legacy of Ayurveda but also aimed to inspire a new generation of practitioners committed to research and innovation.