

Transport Dept, JMC launch initiative integrating road safety with cleanliness

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a pioneering effort to combine road safety with cleanliness, the Transport Department J&K and Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) jointly launched an initiative as part of the ongoing National Road Safety Month 2025.

A meeting was convened on Thursday at Warehouse, which was jointly chaired by the JMC Commissioner Dr. Devansh Yadav and Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan. The meeting was attended by senior officers of JMC, Transport Department, Pollution Control Board and drivers of passenger vehicles, and locals.

During the meeting, the Transport Commissioner emphasized the dual importance of adhering to road safety protocols and maintaining cleanliness within the transport sector. He urged drivers to strictly follow Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for road safety, avoid rash driving, and ensure vehicle fitness to safeguard passengers and themselves.

Raising concerns about the litter generated by passengers and drivers on the roads,



Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan distributing small dustbins to drivers of passenger vehicles.

the Transport Commissioner said that such practices negatively impact Jammu's cleanliness and its Swachh Survekshan rankings. To address this, small dustbins were distributed to drivers of passenger vehicles for installation in their vehicles. The drivers were encouraged to sensitize the passengers about using these bins instead of littering roads.

In collaboration with JMC, the Transport Commissioner proposed installing large dustbins at bus stops and bus stands to collect wastes from the smaller bins in vehicles. The Commissioner JMC assured that the required infrastructure would be promptly set up, ensuring proper waste disposal.

Highlighting the unique ini-

tiative undertaken by the JMC to clean the Transport Yard Narwal, the Commissioner informed that JMC has removed tonnes of waste from transport yard Narwal as part of a comprehensive cleanliness drive, saying that Sanitation workers and garbage trucks have been deployed to ensure the yard's routine cleanliness.

Appealing to the owners of business establishments for timely payment of monthly usage, the Commissioner said that this would go a long way in making the initiative sustainable. He also asked them to use the dustbins and throw it in the dedicated garbage vehicles.

These efforts, launched ahead of Republic Day,

reflect the commitment of Jammu's administration to promoting road safety, public health, and environmental sustainability. The locals lauded the initiative, and assured that they would extend every possible help in making the initiative successful.

Later, the Commissioner JMC and Commissioner Transport conducted a joint tour of Apsara Road to get first hand appraisal and follow up on the directions issued earlier with regard to parking arrangements there.

Interacting with the representatives of the Market Association, it was decided that the shopkeepers would provide a list of vehicles, two and four wheelers, of the employees working in their business establishments so that the arrangement of their parking is ensured at alternative places.

As per order, there would be no parking on the left-side of Apsara Road from Gole Market and there would also be one way traffic from Gole Market downwards. The stringent action would be initiated by imposing fine to the violators.

Hands on Training on cGMP Pilot Plant for Extraction of Traditional (ISM) Plants concluded at IIIM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Hands on Training Program on cGMP Pilot Plant for extraction of Traditional Plants concluded on Thursday here at CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine, Jammu which saw participation from all over India.

Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director, CSIR-IIIM, was the chief guest at the event who in the valedictory address congratulated the participants on the successful completion of the training program and appreciated the participants for their dedication and diligent engagement throughout the training.

He emphasized on the importance of these hands-on training programs in providing job-oriented practical training, as well as raising scientific temperament among participants.

He said that these trainings also provide a flavour of research to young college students and may encourage them to take up research as a career.

"Such trainings and skilling courses are pivotal to achieve the goals of Viksit Bharat", he added.

In the press handout, it was informed that around thirty participants drawn from all over India, including states of



Director, CSIR-IIIM, Dr. Zabeer Ahmed with faculty and participants.

Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Telangana and UT of Jammu and Kashmir, underwent three days Hands on Training in cGMP Pilot Plant.

During the hands-on training, the participants have been imparted with practical working knowledge of cGMP Pilot plant with precisely designed hands-on training practical sessions equipping participants with fundamental skills and knowledge in extraction techniques.

Er Anil Katare, Principal Scientist on first day of training gave a lecture on the importance and principles of herbal extraction and discussed the significance for active compounds from herbal plants. He also stressed on exploring various phytochemicals which are present in plants (alkaloids, flavonoids, terpenoids etc.).

In the end of first day of

training there was discussion on the therapeutic properties of different phytochemicals followed by Hands on experiment for grinding and sifting of plant material by Mr Sumit Roy, Technical Officer.

On second day of training, there was discussion on fundamentals of solvent extraction which was followed by explaining the properties of different solvents & their selection criteria. Participants were also given trainings on techniques employed in solvent extraction by Sumit Roy and Goutam Dubey, Project Associate-I.

At the end of day, the participants were given an overview of maceration, percolation and Soxhlet extraction methods.

On third day of training the participants were made to understand drying techniques of extraction.

The participants were also introduced with crude drugs significance and were made to

have practical demonstration of basic drying techniques (Sun drying, air drying & Oven drying). In the end there was practical demonstration of drying equipment and trail run.

During the valedictory function, participants while giving positive feedback of such hands-on training programs requested for more exposure in future trainings for longer duration courses.

The proceedings of the valedictory session were conducted by Ashok Kumar Bhargava, Technical Officer and Dr Deepika Singh, Principal Scientist presented the formal vote of thanks.

Pertinently, the Training programs were conducted under the patronage of Er Abdul Rahim, Chief Scientist & Head, RMBD & IST Division and coordinated by Dr Nasir Ul Rasheed, Senior Scientist & Nodal Skill Development.

Labour Com inspects factory units at SIDCO Industrial Estate Samba



Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh during visit to SIDCO Industrial Estate.

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SAMBA: Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh on Thursday visited the SIDCO Industrial Estate in Samba and inspected various factory units including M/S Jai Beverages (Unit III) and M/S Modern Papers, with a focus on evaluating the adherence of these factories to labour laws and their commitment to workers' welfare and safety.

Accompanied by Inspectors of Factories Jammu, Ravinder Krundu and Inran Khan, the Labour Commissioner conducted an

on-ground review, interacting with both workers and the management. The visit centered on various aspects of workers' conditions, safety and overall welfare practices. These units were permitted to run on three shift basis and the visit was also to check the compliances regarding the same on ground.

In his interaction with the management of the factory units, the Labour Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining accurate and transparent records to ensure accountability in factory operations.

He stressed to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the Factories Act, 1948, which safeguards the health, safety, and welfare of workers, and sets standards for working conditions, wages, and leave. The Labour Commissioner further highlighted that maintaining a safe working environment and ensuring timely disbursement of wages are not only legal obligations but also vital for the well-being and morale of the workforce.

He reiterated that the department's role is not only to enforce compliance but also to work closely with industrial units to foster a culture of mutual respect and transparency.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to promote a safe and healthy work environment, the Labour Commissioner stressed the need for maintaining harmonious industrial relations while prioritizing workers' safety and well-being.

First-ever community service convictions pronounced in landmark cases

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: The Courts in Jammu and Katra made judicial history on Thursday by delivering the first-ever convictions mandating community service as a form of punishment under the newly enacted Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023.

The judgments, delivered in three separate cases of public misconduct by drunken individuals, mark a progressive shift toward restorative justice and community rehabilitation. These cases underscore the judiciary's commitment to implementing innovative sentencing measures aimed at societal betterment.

In the first case, in the court of the 3rd Additional Munsiff JMJC, Jammu, the accused, Anuj Kumar, was convicted under Section 355 of the BNS, 2023, for public misconduct in an intoxicated state. The accused was found obstructing traffic and causing public annoyance.

Judge, in his order, sentenced Anuj Kumar to one week of community service at the Community Health Center (CHC), Dansal.

The service involves cleaning, sweeping, and mopping the health facility for three hours daily, from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM. SHO Police Station Jhajar Kotli has been directed to oversee compliance and submit a report with photographic evidence.

In a similar case before the same court, the accused, Pappu, was convicted for identical misconduct under Section 355 of the BNS, 2023.

He was found causing disruptions to traffic and public order. The Court imposed a sentence of community service, directing the accused to clean and maintain a public park at Jhajar Kotli for one week from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM daily. SHO Police Station Jhajar Kotli was tasked with ensuring compliance and reporting back to the

court.

In the third case before Sub-Judge/JMJC Court in Katra, the accused, Vijay Kumar, was convicted for causing public nuisance in a drunken state at Panthal near Foura Chowk. The Judge ordered Vijay Kumar to perform community service by cleaning and maintaining the park managed by the Katra Development Authority at Railway Road, Katra, for three consecutive days from 1:00 PM to 4:00 PM.

The Chief Executive Officer, Katra Development Authority, was directed to oversee and report on the accused's compliance.

The adoption of community service as a punishment, under Section 355 of the BNS, 2023, represents a significant departure from traditional punitive measures.

This forward-thinking approach emphasizes offender rehabilitation and societal contribution, fostering personal accountability, empathy, and skill development among offenders.

Dy CM inspects Smart City works; asks to fast pace Jammu beautification



Dy CM, Surinder Choudhary inspecting ongoing smart city works in Jammu.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Deputy Chief Minister; Surinder Choudhary, on Thursday inspected the ongoing smart city works at Residency Road, Jammu.

The Dy CM was accompanied by Municipal Commissioner, Jammu Municipal Corporation, Devansh Yadav and other senior officers.

While inspecting the ongoing works, the Deputy Chief Minister directed for strict quality monitoring and fast paced execution of the project. He asked the officers for expeditious completion of beautification works being executed in Jammu city, so that the people get benefitted from these

development initiatives.

"Instructions have been already given to the executing agencies for taking the work in accordance with the already approved plans and there should be no compromise with the quality of works. Strict action would be initiated in case of any deviation and low quality works", maintained the Deputy Chief Minister.

While asking for undertaking developmental works in consonance with the local needs and aspirations, the Deputy Chief Minister said that developmental plans should be formulated in consonance with the demands and convenience of people of the area.

Sheikh Abdullah's land reforms exemplified Dr Ambedkar's vision of equality in J&K: CM

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday emphasized the transformative vision of Dr B R Ambedkar and Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah in advancing equality and justice.

Speaking at the inauguration of Dr BR Ambedkar Bhawan, constructed by the Dr BR Ambedkar Educational Society in Bari Brahmana, he highlighted the significance of land reforms in Jammu and Kashmir as a step towards empowering the oppressed.

"Dr. Ambedkar gave India its constitution, enshrining equal rights without discrimination. He tirelessly fought for the rights of marginalized communities, giving them a voice, an identity, and a sense of dignity. In Jammu and Kashmir, Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah complemented his vision by implementing land reforms that restored dignity and a future to the oppressed. Land is deeply tied to identity and preserving it is essential for safeguarding our heritage and future," the Chief Minister said.

He praised Dr. Ambedkar's emphasis on education as a catalyst for transformation.

"The establishment of this education society in Dr. Ambedkar's name reflects his vision. This land has been dedicated



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurating Dr BR Ambedkar Bhawan at Samba on Thursday.

to a library, study circle and community hall instead of commercial use. These facilities will enable the youth to study Dr. Ambedkar's works and conduct research, while also providing a space for social gatherings, for those in need," he said.

Recalling Dr. Ambedkar's role in framing India's constitution, Omar Abdullah noted its revolutionary principles.

"Dr. Ambedkar ensured equality from the very beginning, granting women equal voting rights at a time when many nations denied such basic rights. His

vision established a foundation of justice and equality, which remains unparalleled even today," he said.

He acknowledged the gaps in representation and stressed the need for greater efforts to realize Dr. Ambedkar's dream of true equality.

"If Dr. Ambedkar had foreseen the underrepresentation of women in assemblies and parliament in 2025, he might have introduced reservations for women from the start. While we have made progress, with women achieving milestones like becoming prime ministers and presidents, the journey

toward equality continues," he remarked.

The Chief Minister also drew attention to India's achievements in gender equality, which surpasses those of many nations.

"In contrast to some countries that have yet to elect a woman leader, India's strides in empowering women are a testament to Dr. Ambedkar's vision," he added.

Omar Abdullah assured the audience that the Charter of Demands presented at the event would be given due attention.

"I assure you that every effort will be made to address your concerns and fulfill your requests," he said.

The Chief Minister expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to inaugurate the Bhawan, describing it as a landmark institution that embodies Dr. Ambedkar's ideals of education, equality, and progress.

Advisor to the chief minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Samba Rajesh Sharma, President Dr BR Ambedkar Education Society Bari Brahmana Pooran Chand, General Secretary of the organisation Romesh Chand, senior officers and other staff bearers of the organisation were also present on the occasion.

SPPND GDC Samba gets Pink Washroom Complex

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

SAMBA: Pink Washroom Complex constructed under CSR initiative of Berger Paints India Ltd. was inaugurated at SPPND GDC Samba by the Principal, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri along with Vinay Sharma, General Manager (Berger Paints India Limited, Samba) and his team who were also present on the occasion.



The Pink Washroom Complex in the college campus is dedicated to the well-being and convenience of

female students, staff, and visitors, ensuring a safe, dignified, and comfortable environment. Equipped with sanitary napkin vending machines, disposal units, Incinerator and accessibility features for differently-abled individuals, the Pink Washrooms reflect a commitment to empowering women and fostering a gender-sensitive campus also ensuring the safe and environmental

friendly disposal of sanitary waste. Its interiors showcase calming hues and thoughtful designs, combining functionality with aesthetic appeal. This initiative is a testament to the college's commitment to promote cleanliness and hygiene aligning with the broader goal of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. Convener Women Cell along with senior faculty of the college attended the event.

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