

# BVP Taushi Branch organizes awareness program on Oral Health & Tobacco Abuse at GHS Muthi

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the eve of World No Tobacco Day, Taushi Branch of Bharat Vikas Parishad (BVP), J&K Prant, in collaboration with the Department of Public Health Dentistry, Government Dental College, Jammu, organized a comprehensive awareness program at Government High School (GHS) Muthi.



A doctor speaking at an awareness programme.

The event aimed to educate students on maintaining good oral hygiene and the severe health hazards associated with tobacco and drug abuse. Dr. Mandeep Kaur and her team from the Department of Public Health Dentistry led an interactive session, emphasizing the importance of healthy lifestyle choices and the dangers of substance abuse.

The students were sensitized to the life-threatening consequences of addiction, and a pledge was administered, with students vowing to stay away from tobacco and drugs. The team also included Dr. Ayeda, Dr. Wajih, and Akanshi, who provided insightful information to the students. Chandler Mohan Sharma, Sanskar Pramukh, Taushi Branch,

addressed the gathering, outlining the objectives of BVP. He also spoke about environmental conservation, urging students to adopt eco-friendly habits such as conserving water and energy, and reducing plastic and air pollution. An integral part of the program was a dental check-up for all students. The dental team offered consultations and advice on maintain-

ing oral hygiene, underlining its link to overall health. The dental team also included Dr. Manisha Koul, Simran, Pulak, Roopali, Ayush, Sahil, and Sandeep Sharma. Ajay Khajuria, President, Taushi Branch, extended thanks to the Department of Public Health Dentistry and the school administration for their cooperation in making the event successful. The program was coordinated by Kuldesha Sharma, Sewa Pramukh, and Chandermohan Sharma, Sanskar Pramukh. Others who contributed included Jagmohan Sharma, Secretary, Arvind Khajuria, Paryavaran Pramukh, Balwant Singh, and Sat Pal Sharma, a prominent local resident.

## Khajuria Biradari Bi-Annual Mail on June 8

### STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The bi-annual mail of the Khajuria Biradari will be held on June 8 (Sunday) at the Dev Sathan Baba Ambo, located near Bagh-e-Bahu in Jammu.

The announcement was made by Baba Ambo Samarak Committee during a meeting presided over by Ajit Khajuria (President) and Yash Pal Khajuria (Vice-President) along with other key committee members. The auspicious event will begin with a Hawan ceremony at 8:00 AM, followed by Puran Ahoi, after which a Preeti Bhoj (community feast) will be organized for all devotees. The committee has extended an open invitation to all Khajuria families to attend the religious gathering and seek the blessings of the Kul Devta. As part of its community outreach, the committee will also organize a free medical camp, where several renowned doctors will provide medical consultations.

Free medicines will be distributed to those in need, as part of the charitable efforts associated with the mail. Prominent members present at the planning meeting included Sudershan Khajuria, Anil Khajuria, Subash Shastri, Ajay Khajuria, Sudhakar Khajuria, Ravi Khajuria, Radhey Shyam Khajuria, Vinod Khajuria, Mahinder Khajuria, Bimal Khajuria, Kulbhushan Khajuria, and Sourabh Khajuria. The committee has appealed to all community members to participate in large numbers and make the event a grand spiritual and social success.

# World No Tobacco Day observed in DHS Jammu

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: World No Tobacco Day was observed in Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Jammu on 31st May in the Conference Hall, under the guidance of Director Health Services Jammu Dr Abdul Hamid Zargar. The event was organized by State Tobacco Control Cell, Jammu Division under the aegis of National Tobacco Control Programme with technical support from Vital Strategies India Pvt. Ltd. New Delhi. The programme was attended by several senior Officers of the Directorate of Health Services and associated Offices of the Health Department, including Deputy Director Dentistry Dr. Sanjay Sharma, State Malariaologist Dr. D.J. Raina, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Harbakhsh Singh, AD Schemes Dr. Ila Gupta, State Epidemiologist Dr. Harjeet Rai.



DHS Jammu officials at a programme.

A presentation was given by the Nodal Officer, NTCP on the Tobacco Epidemic, its epidemiology, health and environmental consequences of Tobacco use and Tobacco Control Laws, with a special focus on this year's theme, which is: "Unmasking the Appeal: Exposing Industry Tactics on Tobacco and Nicotine Products."

This year's campaign will focus on revealing the tactics that the tobacco and nicotine industries use to make their products more attractive, by adding flavours and other agents that change their smell, taste, or appearance. These additives are designed to mask the harshness of tobacco, thereby increasing its palatability, particularly among young people. Glamorized marketing, deceptive designs, and addition of Coolants and additives strategically attracts a younger demographic, including through digital media channels.

These tactics can contribute to early initiation of smoking or nicotine use, with potential life-long addiction and health consequences. By making these products more attractive, the industry not only boosts their immediate consumer base but also makes quitting harder, prolonging exposure to harmful substances. The audience were informed that annually Tobacco kills 50 lakh people globally out

of which 13 lakhs die due to Tobacco in India alone, which translates to almost 3500 deaths per day in India. It has been found that 90% of oral cancers are caused by chewing tobacco. Its consumption is associated with higher incidence of deaths in TB patients, almost 38% of TB deaths are associated with tobacco use. It also causes infertility in women, Impotence in men, higher incidence of Low Birth Weight babies and many other diseases, Not only human health, but Tobacco also causes environmental destruction, polluting the soil, air and water resources with its toxic ingredients. The programme culminated with a No Tobacco Pledge by all present. The Day was also observed in health institutions of all Districts and Blocks of Jammu Division with active participation of Chief Medical Officers, Medical Superintendents and Block Medical Officers along with Officers & Officials of respective Districts and Blocks.

# Rekha pledges to carry forward ideals of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar



Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan and others at an event.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader Rekha Mahajan on Saturday participated in a solemn and inspiring event organized by Dharma Jagran Samanvaya at Bharat Mata Ashram, Belicharana, to commemorate the 300th birth anniversary of Lokmata Ahilyabai Holkar - a symbol of valour, service, and devotion. The program began with floral tributes offered to the portrait of Ahilyabai Holkar, after which Rekha Mahajan delivered the presidential address. In her speech, Rekha Mahajan highlighted Ahilyabai Holkar's unparalleled contribution to society, emphasizing how she rose above her times to become one of India's most revered women rulers, known for her administrative excellence and spiritual legacy. "Ahilyabai Holkar's life is a glowing example of righteous leadership and dedication to dharma and service.

Even in the face of personal tragedies, she devoted herself to the upliftment of people and the restoration of temples across the nation. Her legacy continues to inspire us to uphold justice, compassion, and cultural pride," she added. Meenu Mahajan graced the occasion as Special Guest, while Sangeeta Puri, Prachar Sampark Pramukh, and Poonam Rajput, Seh-Sanyojika of Dharma Jagran Samanvaya Jammu Prant, were also present. Members of the Rotary Club joined the gathering, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the event. The ceremony served as a reminder of the rich cultural heritage India holds and the need to honor women leaders like Ahilyabai Holkar, who have shaped the moral and spiritual foundation of the nation.

The event concluded with a pledge to carry forward her ideals and work for a society based on service, harmony, and Dharmic values.

# Tawi Aarti held to commemorate 300th Birth Anniversary of Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar



BJP leaders and others performing Tawi Aarti.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: A grand spiritual

show of Tawi Aarti was performed to celebrate the

300th Birth Anniversary of Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar at Har Ki Pauri, Bahu Fort, on the banks of the sacred Tawi River in Jammu.

one of the most visionary female rulers. He said that her public welfare works and administration, even after facing personal tragedies, are beyond comparison.

built numerous temples, ghats, and rest houses, often beyond her own kingdom, demonstrating her broad vision and commitment to the welfare of others.

She rebuilt her kingdom while empowering the people, especially the neglected and oppressed. She empowered women and rebuilt a new social structure while extending her spiritual and public welfare initiatives beyond the boundaries of her empire. Her vision enabled real-time connectivity across the nation.

She also played a role in promoting education and social reforms, challenging the traditional norms of her time.

The modern-day 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' initiative by the Prime Minister is effectively an extension of the same vision once envisioned by the legendary queen, Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar, he added.

Jugal Kishore Sharma spoke about the life of Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar.

Sunil Sharma, while offering floral tributes, lauded the performance of Tawi Aarti on the auspicious occasion of the 300th birth anniversary of Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar.

He stated that to take her legacy to the masses, similar programs are being organized in other parts of the nation by the BJP under the direct supervision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This is part of a greater mission to connect the entire nation culturally, he said.

He said that her legacy should be passed on to future generations. He emphasized that although she lived a life of simplicity and humility, she gave the world a true example of greatness. He also highlighted the importance of organizing such cultural events to develop these heritage spots.

Mahant Saraswati Ji Maharaj of Har Ki Pauri also delivered an inspiring spiritual speech that enlightened the attendees.

Ashok Koul said that beyond her military and administrative achievements, Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar was known for her philanthropy and religious fervor. She

Priya Sethi presented an overview of the event and spoke on the significance of performing Tawi Aarti on the auspicious occasion of the birth anniversary of Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar.

A grand Vedic Aarti, which began with Shanknaad, was performed by 11 pandits to commemorate the occasion. This was followed by the distribution of sweet Prasad among the attendees. Floral tributes were also paid to the portrait of Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar. Sat Sharma, while offering floral tributes to Punyashloka Ahilyabai Holkar, described her as

DDC Vice-Chairperson Suraj Singh, Ashwani Sharma, Anju Dogra, Ayodhya Gupta, Adv. Rajesh Gupta, Naresh Singh Jasrotia, Rajiv Charak, Sunil Prapajati, Neelam Langleh, Reema Padha, Prabhat Jamwal, Dr. Tahir Choudhary, Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, Sanjay Baru, Rekha Mahajan, and many others were also present on the occasion.

# Randhawa highlights JMC, JDA, Housing Board malfunctioning in J&K

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and MLA from Bahu Assembly Constituency, Ch. Vikram Randhawa, addressed a press conference at the J&K BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.



MLA Bahu, Ch. Vikram Randhawa talking to reporters.

During the conference, the MLA highlighted the malfunctioning in three key departments: Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Jammu Development Authority (JDA), and Jammu & Kashmir Housing Board.

He further questioned the lack of proper registration and regularization of shops and markets in Gandhi Nagar, arguing that the development of the area must align with present-day needs. He alleged that people are being harassed under outdated rules by the concerned departments.

He pointed out that weak policy implementation is causing delays in necessary procurements and changes in the nomenclature or ownership (Maliki) of documents required for various purposes.

Randhawa was accompanied by BJP Mandal Presidents Rahul Kumar, Nitish Gupta, and Surjit Sonu on the occasion.

He expressed concern that the recently passed Budget has yet to be implemented in J&K. As an elected public representative in the J&K Assembly, he said he is pained to witness the failure to secure Constituency Development Funds (CDF) for developmental works in his constituency.

He questioned why residents are not considered rightful owners (Malik) of their purchased lands and raised concerns about the imposition of hefty charges for changes in ownership when the full payment had already been made in the past.

While addressing the press, Randhawa strongly condemned the inefficiencies in the Revenue, Finance, and Housing & Urban Development departments, all of which fall under the ambit of the Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir.

Randhawa remarked that while the Modi government at the Centre is ensuring fast-paced development in Jammu & Kashmir, the NC-led government has been failing on the development front.

He further questioned the lack of proper registration and regularization of shops and markets in Gandhi Nagar, arguing that the development of the area must align with present-day needs. He alleged that people are being harassed under outdated rules by the concerned departments.

He expressed concern that the utter failure of the Revenue Department, he brought attention to the issue of Gair Mumkin Khad, commonly seen in Jammu's

landscape but left unattended. He noted that due to restrictions on the sale and purchase of these lands, local residents are facing significant hardships, and the government exchequer is also suffering losses.

The MLA was vocal about the insensitivity prevalent in the Housing, JDA, and JMC departments, which, according to him, are subjecting locals to serious hardships. He stressed that the Bahu Assembly Constituency is among the worst affected due to the apathy of these departments.

He expressed concern that the relief material will be officially handed over to the respective District Administrations in Poonch.

Randhawa criticized the delay in granting Free-Hold rights in the Gandhi Nagar

area by the Housing Board. He pointed out that weak policy implementation is causing delays in necessary procurements and changes in the nomenclature or ownership (Maliki) of documents required for various purposes.

The relief material was collectively arranged by GGF J&K, Mission Peace & Compassion Healing the Wounded Humanity headed by Father Yasudeep Sandhu Director Little Flower School Udhampur, Shiksha Niketan School Jeevan Nagar, Jammu headed by Rameshwar Mengi, Lawrence Public School Sidhra Jammu headed by Manish Joshi, News 4 You Channel headed by Naresh Maini, Unnat



Gandhi Global Family members and others dispatching 3rd consignment of relief material for families to Poonch.

NGO headed by Ankush Abrol and Dr. Monica Narang from University of Jammu. It includes biscuits, maggi, grocery kits, sanitary napkins for women and sports items for children.

GGF J&K President Dr. S. P. Varma to Dr. Nitin Sharma, General Secretary, GGF Jammu region. The event witnessed the presence of academicians such as Prof. Lalit Sen Sharma (Provost, Boys Hostel), Dr. Surinder Sharma (Warden), Dr. Rajesh Sharma & Dr. Satya Priya (Warden). Also present were senior

members of Gandhi Global Family J&K, including Dr. Dinesh Gupta General Secretary GGF J&K, Manish Joshi Secretary GGF J&K, Ved Prakash President GGF Jammu Urban, Kirtan Singh Advisor GGF Jammu Urban, Gurmeet Singh President GGF Jammu Border and Naresh Maini Coordinator Media Incharge GGF Jammu. Dr. S. P. Varma expressed gratitude for the timely support extended by all the donors for their generous contribution toward the affected families.

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nally made by the JDA in the 1980s on a 40-year lease. He said that even after five years since the lease expired in 2020, shop owners are unable to apply for loans or carry out other legal processes due to the pending lease extensions.

He described this as a serious injustice affecting the present and future of many hardworking people.

He questioned why residents are not considered rightful owners (Malik) of their purchased lands and raised concerns about the imposition of hefty charges for changes in ownership when the full payment had already been made in the past.

The MLA also raised a security concern, questioning why Rohingyas and Bangladeshis are being employed in various works under the JMC through NGOs. He called this a dangerous practice that must be checked immediately to avoid potential threats to regional security.

He further questioned the lack of proper registration and regularization of shops and markets in Gandhi Nagar, arguing that the development of the area must align with present-day needs. He alleged that people are being harassed under outdated rules by the concerned departments.

Randhawa urged the NC government to ensure minimal bureaucratic interference but maximum assistance to promote good governance. He reminded the government of its fundamental duty to serve the residents of Jammu & Kashmir.

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# BTS calls for nationwide boycott of Chinese goods, urges economic strike against hostile intentions of China

## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a powerful and patriotic appeal, the Bharat Tibet Sangh (BTS) has called for a nationwide boycott of Chinese goods, urging Indian citizens to unite against China's hostile policies and economic exploitation. The press conference held in Jammu was addressed by Dr. Kuldeep Sharma, National General Secretary and North India In-charge of BTS.



National General Secretary BTS, Dr. Kuldeep Sharma talking to reporters.

He emphasized that patriotism today must translate into action, and that refraining from purchasing Chinese products is a national responsibility. "Every rupee spent on a Chinese product indirectly strengthens forces that aim to

undermine India's sovereignty and national security. "It is not only hypocritical but shameful that China thrives economically due to Indian consumers, and uses that very wealth to fund actions that destabilize our borders and promote terrorism," he remarked.

Government of India to enhance economic ties with trusted allies like Japan and Israel, who have consistently supported India in global and regional affairs. "Redirecting our economic engagement toward friendly nations will strengthen India's global standing," he stated.

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