

Randhawa starts blacktopping work in Ward 20



MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa starting blacktopping work in Ward No. 20.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In a major step toward strengthening road infrastructure in the Bahu constituency, MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa on Friday initiated the blacktopping work in Ward No. 20, Gandhi Nagar. The project is part of developmental activities aimed at upgrading civic amenities across the region.

The inauguration was held in the presence of senior officials from the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), who are supervising the execution of the work to ensure quality and timely completion.

Prominent local leaders and residents joined the event to show their support and appreci-

ation. Among those present were Rahul Kumar (Mandal President), Kulveer Charak, Pankaj Bral, Satvir Singh, Bhushan Verma, Daljeet Singh, Lovisha, Varun, Harshmeet Singh, Rajesh Sharma, and other community members.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Randhawa said, "Development of basic infrastructure like roads remains one of my top priorities. This blacktopping work will not only benefit the residents of Ward 20 but also improve connectivity for daily commuters and businesses in the area."

He emphasized that similar road improvement works are being undertaken across other

wards as well, under a structured plan for holistic urban development. He also instructed the concerned departments to maintain high standards in construction and to resolve any public inconvenience during the work. Local residents expressed their gratitude, stating that the new blacktopping would provide much-needed relief from potholes and damaged roads, especially ahead of the monsoon season.

This initiative is part of the broader vision of Randhawa to bring visible and lasting development to all corners of the Bahu constituency through proactive leadership and coordination with civic bodies.

Swarnkar Sangh Jammu West to observe summer vacation from June 18

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Swarnkar Sangh Jammu West held a press conference on Friday to inform the public about upcoming shop closures and advise customers to plan their purchases accordingly.

The press conference was led by Lovekesh Gondi, Additional General Secretary of Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province, alongside Raj Kumar, Senior Vice President Jammu West, and Mr. Vimal Verma, Cashier.

The main objective of the press conference was to raise awareness among customers regarding the Summer Vacation of jewelry shops. The Sangh urged the public to complete any necessary

purchase either before June 18th or after June 22nd, as shops will remain closed during this period. The empha-

sis was on customer convenience and preparedness.

We understand the importance of jewelry in the lives of our customers, especially during this time of year when many auspicious events and celebrations take place," stated. Lovekesh Gondi during the press briefing. "Our aim in holding this press conference well in advance is to empower our patrons with timely information, allowing them ample opportunity to complete their purchases without any inconvenience. We value our customers and their trust immensely," he said.

Lovekesh has appealed to all the shopkeepers in Jammu to keep their shops



Additional General Secretary of Swarnkar Sangh Jammu Province, Lovekesh Gondi talking to reporters.

closed from the 18th to the 22nd and enjoy this vacation with their families, making these holidays a success.

Induction of Urdu in Naib Tehsildar Exam unfair, intolerable: Arun Prabhat



BJYM activists raising slogans during a protest at Jammu.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) on Friday held a silent protest march from the main gate of Jammu University to Dr BR Ambedkar Chowk, Jammu, in strong opposition to the Jammu and Kashmir Government's controversial decision to impose Urdu as a compulsory subject in the recently notified Naib Tehsildar recruitment examination.

Hundreds of BJYM youth workers alongwith aspirants from across the Jammu Province participated in the protest march, raising their voices against this discriminatory and regionally biased move. The protest march was marked by spirited slogans and placards, asserting the rights of Jammu's youth to fair and equal access to public employment.

State President BJYM

Jammu & Kashmir, Arun Prabhat, while addressing the gathering, lambasted the NC-led government for introducing a policy that sidelines youth from the Jammu region. "This imposition of Urdu is a deliberate attempt to exclude deserving candidates from Jammu. Such regional discrimination will not be tolerated. We demand an immediate rollback," he stated.

This move is discriminatory, unjustified, and violates the principles of equality, inclusivity, and regional fairness in public sector employment.

The Naib Tehsildar post is open to candidates from all parts of Jammu and Kashmir. However, making Urdu a mandatory qualifying criterion disadvantages aspirants from the Jammu region-most of whom study in Hindi, Dogri, or English and do not have Urdu as their medium of instruction. This is not only

exclusionary but also deprives capable candidates of a fair chance at government employment.

This decision amounts to linguistic imposition and systemic bias, and stands in violation of the Constitution of India, which guarantees equal opportunity in employment and freedom from language-based discrimination.

Moreover, the role of a Naib Tehsildar demands effective interaction with local populations. In most parts of Jammu, the working language is not Urdu. Therefore, proficiency in regional languages such as Dogri, Hindi, or English is more relevant for governance at the grassroots level.

Arun Prabhat also appealed to civil society, legal experts, and political leaders to unite against this unfair policy and defend the Constitutional rights of the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

This is not just about a language-it is about equal opportunity, regional justice, and inclusive governance.

Furthermore, Arun Prabhat submitted a representation to the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu. He also urged honorable I.G Sh Manoj Sinha to intervene into the matter to do Justice.

AAI hosts Blood Donation Camp at Jammu Airport



Airports Authority of India officials and employees with CISF officials during blood donation camp at Jammu Airport.

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Airports Authority of India (AAI) organized a blood donation camp at Jammu Airport on Friday to mark World Blood Donor Day, observed

globally on June 14. The camp was conducted in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society, Jammu (UT).

A medical team led by Dr. Deepshikha from the

Postgraduate Department of Immunohematology and Blood Transfusion, GMC Jammu, facilitated the donation process.

Staff from AAI, CISF, Indigo Airlines, Air India, Spice Jet, Air India Express and other stakeholders actively participat-

ed by donating blood, demonstrating strong community spirit and humanitarian commitment.

On this occasion, all stakeholders also took a pledge to encourage their family members, relatives, and friends to donate blood and support this noble

cause. Airport Director Sanjeev Kumar Garg commended the donors for their selfless contribution and extended thanks to Rohit Khajuria, General Secretary of the Indian Red Cross Society, for organizing the camp at short notice.

Sunil Kumar Raghuvanshi, Senior Commandant, CISF and B. M. Kaul General Manager (Project), AAI was also present at the event. Commandant, CISF appreciated the CISF personnel for their enthusiastic participation and urged them to continue supporting such life-saving initiatives.

Special Crime Wing Jammu organizes Shabeel, Langar at Channi Rama

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In light of the ongoing heat wave sweeping across Jammu, the Special Crime Wing (SCW) Jammu took an initiative by organizing a Shabeel/Langar at the Crime Headquarters, Channi Rama.

The event commenced in the morning with the distribution of chilled sweet water to locals, passersby, and the officers/officials from the various Jammu-based units of the Crime Branch, J&K.

This thoughtful gesture was followed by the serving of a wholesome lunch, bringing relief and refreshment to all present.

The initiative drew a heart-



Special Crime Wing Jammu officials serving Langar.

warming response, especially from the children of nearby localities, reflecting the positive impact of such community-centered efforts.

This outreach reflects SCW Jammu's commitment to not only upholding professionalism

in investigations but also fostering strong community relations and promoting humanitarian values.

The wing remains dedicated to continuing such charitable and public-friendly initiatives in the future as well.

Unscheduled, frequent power cuts causing huge hardships to people: Ravinder

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Congress has taken strong exception to the power and water situation in Jammu region, during the worst heat wave and criticised the statement of Union Power Minister Manohar Lal Khattar regarding power situation in J&K.

In a statement, JKPC has expressed grave concern over the frequent unscheduled power cuts in this scorching heat causing lot of hardships to the people especially aged, infirm ailing and children.

The frequent power cuts and low voltage has severely affected the water supply in urban and rural areas of most parts of Jammu province.

Party has said that people opposed installation of smart meters but were forcibly installed on the assurance of 24 hours uninterrupted power supply, however the experience of the people has

proved worst. People of the region are paying from their noose the hefty bills of smart meters but in return facing the same situation during difficult period of heat wave.

The government befooled and lied to the power consumers and didn't fulfill it's promise causing great resentment amongst people, with no solution to their plight, JKPC Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma said.

The rural belts of Jammu province are reeling under acute water crisis and people have to pay a lot for getting tanker supplies but there are several areas which are non accessible to tanker services.

Government should immediately press more tankers, tractor trollys to supply drinking water to the rural areas of Jammu region besides replacing old machinery and improving men and material for improving water supply, Sharma said.

Ritika pays candlelight tribute to victims of Ahmedabad Plane crash

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Ritika Trehan, Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT, Member Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) Directorate of Industries and Commerce, Government of J&K, on Friday paid heartfelt candlelight tributes to the victims of the devastating Ahmedabad plane crash.

Several prominent personalities joined her in this solemn gesture who came together to pay their respects to the departed souls. The candlelight tribute was a poignant moment of silence and reflection, honoring the memories of those who lost their lives in the tragic incident. The event served as a testament to the solidarity and compassion of the community, coming together in a moment of grief.



Chief Spokesperson BJP Mahila Morcha J&KUT, Ritika Trehan and others paying candlelight tributes to victims of devastating Ahmedabad plane crash.

Ritika Trehan, in her condolence message, expressed her deepest condolences to the families of the victims, describing the tragedy as "heartbreaking" and "horri-

fying." She expressed her deep shock and sorrow over the incident, extending her thoughts and prayers to those affected.

She emphasized the importance of standing together in times of tragedy, offering support to the families of the victims. Ritika Trehan's heartfelt prayer for the

departed souls and their families reflects her deep empathy and compassion.

She sought divine peace for the deceased and strength for their loved ones to cope with the irreparable loss. Her words conveyed a sense of shock and sadness, emphasizing the importance of preventing such tragedies in the future.

Ritika prayed for the departed souls to find peace in heaven. She wished for the families to find the strength to bear their loss. Ritika expressed her hope that such devastating incidents would not occur in the future. Her message conveyed a sense of solidarity with the affected families and a deep sense of sorrow for the loss of innocent lives.

KSS condoles plane crash losses

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Kashmiri Sahayak Samiti (KSS) Jammu in its executive body meeting held under the chairmanship of its President, Suriender Munshi condoled the great loss of precious lives travelling in Air India flight from Ahmedabad to London in an unprecedented tragic plane crash yesterday near Ahmedabad Airport.

KSS in its unanimously adopted resolution prayed for the peace of departed souls and expressed their heartfelt condolences to all bereaved and wished that Almighty give courage to their family members to bear this irreparable loss of their loved ones.

KSS also wished speedy and healthy recovery of the injured persons including lone survivor passenger. Munshi also thanked Government of India and Gujarat for their swift and timely action on the ground zero to save further loss of life and property caused due to this huge tragedy.

Dr. Karan Singh expresses shock over Air India Plane Crash

STATE TIMES NEWS

NEW DELHI: Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Civil Aviation Minister, has expressed profound shock and grief over the tragic Air India plane crash incident in Ahmedabad. In a statement issued today, the former Union Minister said, "I am deeply saddened by the terrible accident. My heartfelt condolences go out to the families who have lost their loved ones in this devastating tragedy."

He further added that the incident is a grim reminder of the need for utmost vigilance and safety in the aviation sector.

Dr. Karan Singh also urged the authorities to ensure a thorough investigation and extend every possible support to the affected families.

GSI hosts workshop on 'Landslide Challenges and Mitigation Measures in J&K, Ladakh'

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Geological Survey of India (GSI), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh unit, organized a one-day workshop on "Landslide Challenges and Mitigation Measures in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh" on Friday in Jammu.

The workshop aimed to address the increasing frequency and impact of landslides in the region, which is characterized by complex geological structures and vulnerable climatic conditions. The workshop highlighted that landslides pose significant threats to life, infrastructure and ecological balance that need a coordinated response and strategic planning on the part of different stakeholders.

The event witnessed participation from several institutions including the State Disaster Management Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction Department JK, National Institute of Hydrology Jammu, Central University of Jammu, University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, Cluster University Jammu, Department of Geology and Mining Jammu and the Central Ground Water Board Jammu. The workshop also featured insights from defense and law enforcement personnel. Brigadier Anuraj Tyagi of the Northern Command and Dr. Mohd Haseeb Mughal, DIG Traffic Police Department, shared practical challenges encountered on the ground in landslide-

prone zones. Virtual attendees included representatives from GSI-GHRM Cell Kolkata, GSI State Units from Lucknow and Uttarakhand and GSI Srinagar Office. Officials from NHID-CL, CVVP and the Kiro-Kishtwar Hydro Project, along with academicians from various institutions across Jammu and Kashmir; also contributed to the proceedings.

The workshop was conducted under the chairmanship of Rajinder Kumar, Additional Director General and Head of Department, Northern Region, GSI, Lucknow in the presence of Sanjiv Kumar, Deputy Director General. The event was convened by Dr. P. S. Misra, Deputy Director General, J&K and Ladakh, GSI, with valuable contributions from several retired senior officers of the organization. A key highlight of the event was a panel discussion focusing on landslide disaster management in the Ramban area of Jammu & Kashmir, encouraging open dialogue and sharing of best practices. Presentations by GSI experts and other stakeholders emphasized the role of scientific data, early warning systems and collaborative strategies in enhancing regional disaster management.

As per the expert participants, this workshop was a crucial step for promoting inter-agency coordination and adopting evidence-based approaches to mitigate landslide risks in the Himalayan region.

20 students of KCPS complete adventure trek in Saach Pass region

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Saach Pass in district Chamba of Himachal Pradesh is situated at an altitude of 14500 ft and is considered to be the toughest pass in the Pir Panjal range of the Lesser Himalayas. 20 students from KC Public School (KCCPS) completed an adventure trek to this pass from June 7 to 10, 2025 under the aegis of the International Award for Young People (IAYP) and Adventure ideal of the Round Square.

KCPS students escorted by Academic Director Dr. R.D Thakur and IAYP Award Leaders Ajay Thappa, Rajni Dubey, Nishu Dubey and Rahul Thakur reached the village of Baira Garh in Saach Pass region on the evening of June 7.

The adventure began with an acclimatization trek to Devi Kothi on June 8. This part of adventure involves a steep climb of 6 kilometers to the apex of a ridge



KC Public School students and faculty at Saach Pass in Chamba.

through a dense alpine forest, followed by a short descent to the ancient shrine in Devi Kothi village considered to be a significant heritage site in HP.

On the morning of June 9, they left for Saach Pass by road and reached there at noon after taking two acclimatization treks at altitudes 11200 ft and

14000 ft. During these treks, they observed the local flora and fauna under the guidance of their Biology teacher Rahul Thakur. They spent an hour atop the cold and windy Saach Pass and viewed the mountain ranges on the other side of the pass at the feet of which is located the tribal Pangri valley. After

the completion of the trek, they returned to Jammu on June 10.

Raju Chowdhary, Chairman of KC Public School and AK Mishra, Principal of KCPS congratulated the students for completing a challenging Himalayan trek in their pursuit of the ideals of holistic education.