

# Excise Department launches cleanliness and awareness drives around office premises

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The Excise Department of Jammu & Kashmir UT has recently spearheaded a series of cleanliness and awareness drives in and around the office premises.  
 The initiative was conducted in the presence of Excise Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Excise Commissioner Executive Jammu Kusum Sharma and involved active participation from various officers including Excise and Taxation Officers and officials of the Excise Department.  
 The drives, focused on promoting cleanliness and hygiene, included a range of activities such as waste management, sanitation practices, and community clean-up efforts.  
 Pankaj Kumar Sharma, in his address, emphasized the significance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment.  
 He conveyed that the initiative not only aimed at improving the cleanliness around office premises



Excise Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Dy Excise Commissioner Executive Jammu Kusum Sharma and officials carrying out cleanliness drive.

but also at setting a standard for the wider community.  
 "Cleanliness is not just a necessity but a reflection of our commitment to a better and healthier society," said Pankaj Kumar Sharma.  
 "By ensuring that our office premises and surrounding areas are

well-maintained, we are setting an example for everyone. It is crucial that each one of us takes personal responsibility for cleanliness and hygiene, both in our professional and personal lives," he added.  
 The participation of Excise Department officials underscored the collective effort required to achieve and sustain high standards of cleanliness.  
 The drives were designed to raise awareness about the importance of proper waste disposal, regular cleaning, and maintaining hygienic conditions.  
 Local residents and staff members responded positively to the initiative, with many expressing appreciation for the department's efforts in leading by example.  
 The Excise Department remains dedicated to these cleanliness drives and aims to continue fostering a culture of hygiene and environmental responsibility within the community.



# SGWF Chief Patron Sham Lal convenes first meeting of Board of Directors

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**AKHNOOR:** The Synergetic Green Warriors Foundation (SGWF) convened its first Board of Directors meeting, led by Chief Patron Sham Lal Sharma.  
 The meeting was attended by a distinguished group including Patrons Sat Paul Sharma, Bodh Raj Khajuria, Ravi Verma, Ram Paul Sharma (Ex-CAO and Advisory Committee member), K.D. Sharma (Senior Board Member), and other Board, Executive, and General Body members. Local Sarpanches, Panches, and community members also participated.  
 Special guest SSP Mohan Lal Bhagat praised SGWF's initiatives and emphasized the vital collaboration between law enforcement and NGOs in environmental protection.  
 His insights underscored the importance of police in safeguarding natural resources and enforcing environmental laws.  
 Bhushan Bral, DDC Bhalwal Brahmana, welcomed guests and commended SGWF's efforts in environmental conservation and rural development.  
 Dr. Sonia Verma, SGWF Director, delivered an inspiring



Chief Patron SGWF Sham Lal Sharma planting a sapling.

keynote address, highlighting the foundation's significant achievements and its role in environmental conservation and community development.  
 Reeta Verma, National President of SGWF, presented a detailed progress report, outlining past milestones and future plans, including new conservation initiatives and expanded community involvement.  
 Chief Patron Sham Lal Sharma reviewed SGWF's work, praising its dedication and accomplishments. He offered valuable guidance on future plans, emphasizing sustainable development and community participation.  
 Following the meeting, a plantation drive led by Shamsheer Singh at Panchayat Ghar Gurha Brahmana East symbolized SGWF's commitment to environmental conservation.  
 Sham Lal Sharma planted a summer apple tree, donated by Reeta Verma in memory of her late husband, highlighting the foundation's dedication to a greener future.  
 The event, organized by Board Member Sandeep Sharma with participation from Makhani Verma (Vice President) and Jyoti Verma (District President Samba), concluded with Sat Paul Sharma (Founder Director, DCM Public School) delivering a vote of thanks to all guests, media representatives, and members.

# Illegal miners, drug traffickers not be spared whatever their clout: Dr Jitendra

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**HIRANAGAR:** Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh here on Saturday said that a campaign has jointly been launched by the administration and the police to deal with illegal mining, drug cartels and bovine smugglers. He gave a clarion call, appealing to all sections of society to complement the ongoing efforts to curb the use of psychotropic drugs, rampant cattle smuggling and illegal mining.  
 The Minister was addressing "Empowering Youth for Viksit Bharat programme" organised at Government Degree College at Hiranagar in Kathua district of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that all-out efforts are being made by the local administration and the police to deal with these challenges. "No one will be spared, irrespective



Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh speaking during formal launch of campaign against illegal narcotic drugs menace at an event "Empowering Youth for Viksit Bharat" at Hiranagar on Saturday.

of or whatever their clout or political affiliation when it comes to confronting smugglers, illegal miners and facilitators of terrorists, he warned.  
 "Those who are pushing children of others into drugs must realise that their own wards are not safe at all as they are prone to taking to the menace

"Their energy and talent cannot be sacrificed at the altar of these crimes", Dr Singh emphasised.  
 Dr Jitendra Singh appealed to all sections of the society to play their part in the crusade against these illegal activities. He also made a fervent appeal, asking the people to take a pledge against such illegal activities and strengthen the government's measures aimed at ushering in greater transparency and more honest governance.  
 The Union Minister called for breaking the nexus between terrorists and drug dealers. On the measures taken to deal with rising incidents of terror in the area, Dr Singh informed that VDGs have been strengthened and they have been provided with sophisticated weapons. "Defence forces and other law enforcing agencies have recalibrated

their strategy to take on the challenges posed by terrorists in a more effective manner", Dr Singh said.  
 Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted that Kathua district has seen rapid development in the last 10 years of Modi government. "The district has earned a unique recognition for having first-ever national projects like North India's first bio-tech park", he mentioned. He said it offers avenues of self-employment for the local youth.  
 Later, the Union Minister held a more than two-hour public durbar during which Dr Singh alongside Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Minhas heard people's grievances and demands. A large number of grievances were redressed on the spot. The Minister directed the district administration to fulfill citizens' demands in a time-bound manner within the spirit of Jan Bhagidari.

# Congress responsible for decades of turmoil in J&K: Rana



Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana visiting Kamini Nallah in Jagti.

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Senior BJP leader Devender Singh Rana on Saturday hit out at the Congress for adopting appeasement policy towards Jammu and Kashmir since the times of first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru to Sonia Gandhi controlled Manmohan Singh government, leading to chaos, turbulence and even extinction of minuscule minorities in connivance with inimical political lackeys and proxies.  
 Replying to questions from media persons on the side-lines of a function held in the city outskirts here, Devender Rana said the successive Congress governments took almost all decisions about the sensitive erstwhile state, bordering hostile Pakistan, not in the national interest but to placate and satiate alter ego of political friends that led to growth of separatism, nepotism, corruption, destruction and finally terrorism.  
 He attributed myopic policies, governance deficit and promotion of a few political elites under the patronage of the Congress responsible for all ills in Jammu and Kashmir for nearly seven decades, saying but for the course correction

effected by Prime Minister Yashasvi Narendra Modi, particularly after the abrogation of Article 370 the Union Territory would have continued to remain at edge.  
 Rana said Jammu and Kashmir is close to the heart of the present National Leadership that has hugely succeeded in the socio-economic upliftment of the Union Territory in a big way. He referred to the launch of various projects and schemes, saying these will completely transform this part of the country economically. Obviously, the massive development taking place in a peaceful atmosphere is an eyesore for the Congress in particular that has based its politics on dividing the people. This is something that was unthinkable during the earlier dispensations.  
 Rana said, for the first time the element of discrimination and appeasement have been overtaken by fair-play in the governance. Both the regions of Jammu and the Valley are progressing equitably and element of discrimination becoming night-time of past.  
 Earlier, Speaking at a grand function, held to commemorate Sanskrit Month, under the aegis of Shri Kailakh Jyotish

# CCI appreciates LG administration for smooth Amarnath Yatra, starting AIIMS OPD services

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** The Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) extended its appreciation to the Lieutenant Governor (LG) administration for ensuring the smooth conduct of the ongoing Baba Amarnath Yatra, which has seen participation from over 5,00,000 pilgrims. This achievement has been made possible through the active involvement and support of the people of Jammu.  
 Arun Gupta, President of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry, expressed his gratitude to LG Manoj Sinha, Union Health and Family Welfare Minister J.P. Nadda, MOS in the Prime Minister's Office Dr. Jitendra Singh, and Member of Parliament Jugal Sharma.  
 "Their combined efforts have fulfilled a long-pending



CCI Jammu President, Arun Gupta addressing a press conference.

demand of the people of Jammu," Arun Gupta said in a press conference here on Saturday.  
 He also acknowledged Dr. Shakti Gupta for his significant role in initiating the OPD services in AIIMS Jammu.  
 Arun Gupta noted that this development will allow thousands of patients to receive specialized treatment locally, saving them time and money.  
 While commending the Administrative Council led by LG Manoj Sinha for resolving the Khad Land issue, the Chamber requested that the execution of lease deeds for JDA and other state properties be addressed similarly without further delay.  
 The Chamber expressed gratitude to LG Manoj Sinha for resolving the issue concerning 39 shopkeepers of Nai Basti, who were previously asked to vacate their shops by July 29. The Chamber had appealed to the LG to address this matter sympathetically.  
 Additionally, the Chamber requests that 20% of land developed for industries be reserved for MSME units. During the allotment

process, local residents should be given preference.  
 Arun Gupta congratulated LG Manoj Sinha for launching the new film policy 2024 at the J&K Film Festival held at SKICC Srinagar.  
 He believed this initiative will transform Jammu and Kashmir into a global film production hub.  
 Gupta emphasized that Jammu, with its scenic beauty comparable to the Kashmir Valley, should be promoted through various media to attract Bollywood filmmakers. This will boost local trade, tourism, and generate employment for the youth.  
 The Chamber also called for the announcement of a power amnesty scheme for commercial users, similar to the one previously granted to domestic consumers.

# Modi Govt transformative policies designed to empower, uplift youth of country: Yudhvir Sethi

**STATE TIMES NEWS**  
**JAMMU:** Yudhvir Sethi, J&K BJP Vice President, on Saturday underscored the transformative policies of the Narendra Modi Government designed to empower and uplift the youth of India.  
 The senior BJP leader was addressing a gathering during a program held in the Bahu Fort area of Jammu.  
 The event saw the presence of prominent BJP leaders, including Kavinder Gupta, former Deputy Chief Minister; Rekha Mahajan, District President Jammu South; Arun Dev Singh Jamwal, State President BJYM; Vinay Gupta, Seh Prabhari Jammu North; Jitendra Monu Salathia, Moreha District President; and other notable figures such as Abhishek Salathia, Akhil Prashar, Bharat Bhushan, Pushpinder Charak, Luv Sharma, Daler Singh, and Gagandeep Singh.  
 In his address, Yudhvir Sethi highlighted several key initia-



J&K BJP Vice President, Yudhvir Sethi lighting ceremonial lamp.

tives launched by the Modi Government, including the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY), National Education Policy (NEP), Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Digital India campaign, and the National Mental Health Programme.

our educational system to ensure that it meets the needs of the 21st century," he said, adding "The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme is providing a safety net for our rural population, and the Digital India campaign is transforming our country into a digitally empowered society."  
 Yudhvir encouraged the youth to actively engage with these initiatives, utilize the opportunities they offer, and contribute to the nation's growth. He also called upon the young voters to support the BJP in the upcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, stressing that their participation is crucial for continuing the momentum of progress and development in the region.  
 Rekha Mahajan, District President Jammu South, praised the Modi Government's transformative policies, noting their significant impact on youth empow-  
 erment. She highlighted the role of initiatives like the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and the National Education Policy in providing essential skills and modernizing education.  
 She emphasized the importance of these programs in shaping a brighter future for the youth and encouraged active participation in leveraging these opportunities for personal and communal growth.  
 Arun Dev Singh Jamwal, State President of BJYM, spoke about the significant strides the BJP has made in empowering the youth and reiterated the party's commitment to ensuring that young people are at the forefront of the nation's growth story.  
 The program concluded with a call to action for the youth of Jammu to leverage the opportunities provided by these government schemes and to support the BJP's vision for a prosperous and progressive Jammu and Kashmir.