

JAMMU & KASHMIR

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DIPR Samba organises Bhajan Sandhya at Chichi Mata Temple on First Navratri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 11

To mark the auspicious beginning of Navratri, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Samba Center on Sunday organised a Bhajan Sandhya here at Chichi Mata Temple.

The event created a spiritually uplifting atmosphere and added colour to the religious fervour. The local artists of Ajeet & Party presented devotional songs and bhajans. The melodious renditions of devotional hymns filled the temple premises with spiritual energy and added to the festive spirit of the first day of Navratri.

The event aimed to promote the region's rich cultural and devotional traditions, while providing local



artists a platform to showcase their talent and contribute to the preservation of the area's cultural heritage.

The programme was organised under the supervision of District Information Officer (DIO) Ekshu Sharma. The objective was

to foster community participation and celebrate the auspicious occasion with devotion and cultural expression.

Officials and staff members of the District Information Office, representatives associated with Chichi Mata Temple, devotees and mem-

bers of the local community participated in the devotional programme with great enthusiasm.

The Bhajan Sandhya concluded on a devotional note, spreading a message of faith, harmony and spiritual togetherness among those present.

JKRLM Kick-Starts 3-Day Training program on Village Prosperity Resilience Plan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 11

The Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) kickstarted a comprehensive three-day Union Territory-level training programme on Village Prosperity Reduction Plan (VPRP).

The capacity-building initiative aimed to equip key resource persons, district teams, and block mission coordinators with the technical frameworks necessary to streamline community-driven rural development across J&K.

Operating under the guidelines of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj and the Ministry of Rural Development, the VPRP serves as a structured, grassroots planning exercise led by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) and their federations. As an institutional sub-plan of the broader Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP), it ensures that the economic, social, and developmental priorities of vulnerable households are systematically incorporated into local governance agendas.

The program focuses on developing a pool of master trainers who will extend capacity-building instruction to rural women across community-based organizations.

This cascading training structure is designed to capacitate rural women to



voice their common concerns through proper planning, and its integration of into local Gram Sabhas and GPDPs.

The VPRP serves as a comprehensive demand plan prepared by women-led SHG networks. It addresses key pillars of grassroots development, including social entitlements, livelihood plan, Social development plan, Public good service and Resource development plan. Once finalized, these plans will be integrated into the GPDPs to ensure participatory and inclusive governance.

The training facilitated by professionals from the NMMU on programmatic

and technical aspects, highlighting conceptual learning through practical sessions. Participants will gain hands-on experience with the VPRP process through interactive sessions, demonstrations, and peer-learning activities.

During the 3-day program, state resource persons will facilitate interactive workshops to enable digital mapping, demand consolidation, and effective presentation before local Gram Sabhas.

Highlighting the significance of the training program, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director, JKRLM, said, "The Village Prosperity & Resilience Plan is a pivotal step to-

ward strengthening grassroots democracy and translating in tangible socio-economic progress. By empowering our rural women and SHG federations to lead the development agenda, we are ensuring that government interventions align directly with the genuine needs of every household. Our goal is to build self-reliant, resilient villages where every community member has a say in their planning."

The three-day program will conclude with established frameworks for submitting and converging community demand plans directly into upcoming Gram Panchayat Development Plans.

2-Day Special Intensive Voter Enrolment Drive concludes across J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 11

The two-day Special Intensive Voter Enrolment Drive concluded today across Jammu and Kashmir, with a strong response from electors and election functionaries undertaking extensive outreach to facilitate voter registration, address public grievances and raise awareness about electoral services.

Organised on October 10 and 11, the drive was conducted at polling stations across the Union Territory from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM on both days. It provided eligible citizens with an opportunity to enrol as voters, seek correction or updation of their electoral particulars, and obtain assistance with matters related to electoral registration, in keeping with the guiding objective of the Election Commission of India: "No Eligible Voter to Be Left Behind."

The drive was conducted under the overall supervision of Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, Sanjeev Verma with the district

election machinery coordinating arrangements and facilitating the delivery of enrolment services across the Union Territory.

District Election Officers, Electoral Registration Officers, Deputy Director Information (Nodal Officer SVEEP), Assistant Electoral Registration Officers and Election Naib Tehsildars (ENTs) oversaw the exercise in their respective jurisdictions, while Booth Level Officers (BLOs) played a key role in assisting electors at polling stations and at the grassroots level.

BLOs remained available at polling stations to guide citizens through the prescribed electoral registration formalities. Assistance was provided regarding Form 6, Form 7 and Form 8. Citizens were also guided on accessing digital services through the Voter Helpline App.

During the drive, grievances and queries raised by electors were taken up by the election functionaries concerned for redressal and appropriate action. Contact numbers of officials concerned were also shared with the pub-

lic to facilitate direct communication and enable citizens to seek assistance regarding their electoral particulars and enrolment-related matters.

The Election Department reiterated that the election machinery across Jammu and Kashmir remains available round-the-clock to assist the public, address grievances and provide guidance on voter enrolment and other electoral matters.

The Election Department further clarified that any eligible person, including young and first-time voters, may apply to the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) concerned for inclusion of their names in the electoral roll under the process of continuous updation.

Meanwhile, a significant component of the special-drive exercise was door-to-door outreach, inspection by election officers and election functionaries to identify and reach eligible voters. The outreach also focused on encouraging eligible voters to avail themselves of the enrolment facilities.

Salam Din, Deputy Director Information (Nodal

Officer SVEEP) in the Office of the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K, interacted with the media during the drive and highlighted the importance of voter awareness, accessible enrolment facilities and sustained public participation in the electoral process. He also acknowledged the media's role in ensuring that information about the drive reached the public and in encouraging greater awareness about voter enrolment.

The two-day exercise reflects the continued efforts of the Election Commission of India and the Election Department, J&K, to make electoral registration more accessible and inclusive. It also underscores the importance of accurate and comprehensive electoral rolls in ensuring that every eligible citizen has the opportunity to participate in the democratic process.

With the conclusion of the current drive, the Election Department reiterated its commitment to making such camps and voter facilitation exercises a regular feature in the future.

Mission YUVA Anantnag organises Udyam Jagriti program for Retired Soldiers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 11

An Udyam Jagriti programme under Mission YUVA was organised for Retired Soldiers and Widows Pariwar of District Anantnag to sensitise

them about the scheme and apprise them of the opportunities available for establishing sustainable self-employment ventures.

The programme witnessed the participation of Team Sainik Welfare Srinagar, Lead District Manager (LDM), Anantnag,

Employment Officer, Career Counselling Officer, SBDU/BHD Anantnag, and officials from the Employment Department along with huge gathering of Retired Soldiers from Anantnag.

The initiative reflects the commitment of Mis-

sion YUVA towards promoting entrepreneurship, encouraging self-employment and facilitating inclusive economic development by enabling Retired Soldiers to explore viable business opportunities and contribute to the local economy.

Govt College of Education celebrates World Mental Health Day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 11

The Government College of Education (Institute of Advanced Studies in Education), Cluster University Srinagar, celebrated World Mental Health Day 2026 in the College Auditorium.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the importance of mental health, promote emotional well-being, and encourage students to develop a supportive and empathetic attitude towards individuals experiencing mental health challenges.

The programme was organised under the guidance of the College Principal and Nodal Principal of Kashmir Division Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, and witnessed en-

thusiastic participation from students and faculty members.

Dr. Irfat Ara Khan, Convener of the Programme, highlighted the significance of observing World Mental Health Day and emphasised the need to promote mental health awareness among students.

The programme featured special remarks by Dr. Zoya, Clinical Psychologist at Khyber Hospital, who shared her professional insights into mental health and highlighted the importance of psychological support.

The cultural segment added vibrancy to the event, featuring a Rouf performance by the college's cultural group.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Ab. Majid, Head of the Department of Psychiatry,

SKIMS, Bemina. His address focused on the importance of recognising mental health concerns, understanding psychological well-being, and promoting awareness about mental health issues.

An important segment of the programme was a student seminar, during which participants shared their perspectives on mental health and related concerns. The seminar provided a platform for students to express their views, exchange ideas, and contribute to meaningful discussions on mental health awareness.

The programme also featured an exhibition of canvases prepared by students of the Department of Psychology. The display provided a creative medium through which students expressed their

thoughts, feelings, and perspectives on mental health.

Prof. Lateef Ahmad Shah, Assistant Professor, Department of Education, acknowledged the importance of mental health awareness and appreciated the contributions of the participants in making the programme meaningful. Certificates were subsequently distributed among the participants in recognition of their involvement.

The programme reinforced the message that mental health deserves attention, understanding, and support. It also highlighted the important role of educational institutions in fostering an empathetic, inclusive, and psychologically supportive environment for students and the wider academic community.

CJP protest: No detention of peaceful protesters; smooth movement to be allowed, orders SC

NEW DELHI, OCT 11:

The Supreme Court on Sunday ordered that there shall be no detention of peaceful protesters and smooth movement of people shall be permitted in accordance with law.

"There shall not be illegal detention, save and except by procedure established by law, particularly with regard to assemblage of people beyond the area within which it's imposed," a Bench of Justice Joymalya Bagchi and Justice V Mohana ordered during a rare Sunday hearing.

"Assembly shall be permitted in accordance with law, particularly in respect of peaceful assembly of people beyond the area where Section 163 BNSS is in operation, in accordance with law," it said.

The Bench ordered that Delhi Metro and railway services should function normally, unless regulations were required to be imposed, keeping in mind disturbance to public order as envisaged under Article 19(2) of the Consti-



tution.

"Similarly, free movement of people in the city shall be permitted, subject to traffic regulations. Barricades imposed shall be reviewed.

The requirement of imposition of barricades shall be reviewed forthwith, keeping in mind law and order and other traffic conditions," the court ordered.

"Internet facilities shall remain undisturbed, as per law," the Bench said, clarifying that, "We are not taking away the powers (vested in authorities) under the Information

Technology Act."

The Bench—which was hearing a contempt petition filed by advocate Shailendra Mani Tripathi and a habeas corpus petition filed by senior counsel and Trinamool Congress Rajya Sabha MP Menaka Guruswamy —said, "We are always at the service of the nation whenever needed."

As several lawyers complained about the imposition of Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) (prohibitory orders) in and around the vicinity of the Supreme Court, the top

court directed the authorities concerned to take down the notice, if it had not already been done, so that citizens as well as lawyers could have unhindered access to justice.

Solicitor General Tushar Mehta told the Bench that internet facilities in the city had already been restored, all Delhi Metro stations were open and railway trains were fully operational.

He assured the top court that lawyers, journalists and other professionals shall not be impeded in the discharge of their professional duties.

Mehta said that out of the 303 Delhi Metro stations, only 45 had their entry and exit closed on Saturday, and that the restrictions were no longer in place.

The Bench asked the Centre to file a short response to the petitions and posted the matter for further hearing on Tuesday. It also allowed all intervention applications, saying they will be taken up on October 13.