

Intensive Market checking drive conducted across Ramban District to ensure food safety, fair trade amid festive Season

29XNEWS
RAMBAN, OCT 10

In view of the ongoing festive season, intensive market checking drives were conducted by enforcement agencies across Ramban District to safeguard consumers’ interests, ensure fair trade practices and maintain quality standards.

In Batote, the drive was carried out under the supervision of Naib Tehsildar with active participation of officials from the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Legal Metrology Department, Police Department and the Municipal Committee.

The team inspected numerous establishments to check adherence to prescribed norms, drives across different markets



quality standards and notified rates of commodities. A fine of ₹1,600 was recovered from erring traders for violating market regulations.

Meanwhile, the Legal Metrology Department (LMD) conducted intensive checking drives across different markets

of the district to ensure strict enforcement of the revised GST rates, effective from September 22, 2025. The inspection teams verified pricing and billing practices of distributors and retailers dealing in food and personal care products, ensuring that the benefits of the

GST reduction announced in the 56th GST Council Meeting are duly passed on to consumers. A penalty of ₹27,000 was imposed on violators under the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and Packaged Commodities Rules, 2011. Additionally, the Municipal Council Ramban seized 3 kg of banned polythene during its festive season cleanliness drive and imposed a fine of ₹2,500 on offenders. The District Administration Ramban will continue such drives to ensuring consumer protection, fair trade and environmental cleanliness, urging traders and shopkeepers to comply with all legal and environmental norms, particularly during the festive season.

Samba admin hosts orientation training for field staff to strengthen MGNREGA implementation

SAMBA, OCT 10: A landmark one-day training programme was organised today to equip Rural Development Department field functionaries from Kathua and Samba districts with advanced technological tools and updated protocols to facilitate seamless implementation of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The event was inaugurated by District Programme Coordinator (DPC) MGNREGA Ayushi Sudan, who emphasized the critical role of capacity building in achieving the scheme’s core objectives of rural employment generation and asset creation. The programme witnessed active participation from Block Development Officers of the twin districts, along with executive and technical staff from the Rural Development Department, reflecting a unified commitment to programme excellence. The training curriculum was meticulously designed across seven specialized sessions covering

Yuktdhara portal for GIS-based planning, NMMS eKYC features, electronic Muster Book (eMB) utilization, GeoMGNREGA’s geofencing capabilities, SECURE 2.0 for technical estimates and additional functionalities, documentation and record maintenance protocols, and comprehensive guidelines on permissible works under MGNREGA. The session modules aimed at bridging knowledge gaps and fostering digital literacy among field staff to leverage technology for improved programme monitoring and accountability. The event culminated with an engaging online quiz and assessment, enabling participants to evaluate their learning outcomes and reinforce key concepts. This training initiative represents the administration’s steadfast commitment to building institutional capacity, promoting good governance and ensuring that MGNREGA continues to serve as a powerful instrument for rural transformation and livelihood security.

RDPRD conducts district-Level IT workshops to strengthen MGNREGA implementation across J&K

29XNEWS
SRINAGAR, OCT 10

In a major stride toward modernising the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the Rural Development and Panchayati Raj Department (RDPRD) is conducting a series of district-level workshops on

IT initiatives and record maintenance across the Union Territory. The capacity-building workshops aim to equip field functionaries and stakeholders with practical knowledge of the latest digital platforms, such as Yuktdhara, NMMS, e-KYC, e-MB Module, SECURE 2.0, and Geo-fencing. Workshops have already been successfully organized

in the Anantnag-Kulgam, Shopian-Pulwama, Udhampur-Ramban, Doda-Kishtwar, Jammu-Reasi, Rajouri-Poonch, and Baramulla-Bandipora districts. Speaking on this initiative, Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja said that the integration of cutting-edge technology in rural development ensures transparent, need-based, and



efficient planning at grassroots level. “The use of platforms like Yuktdhara enables scientific and resource-aligned

planning at the Gram Panchayat level, ensuring judicious utilization of resources,” he said. Waseem Raja said that the NMMS app enhances real-time monitoring through digital attendance and e-KYC verification, while the e-MB module facilitates accurate digital measurements and timely updates of on-ground progress, ensuring greater accountability and efficiency.

Designed to be both interactive and practical, the workshops included live demonstrations on operating the digital tools. Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Engineers, Junior Engineers, Programme Officers (MGNREGA), Panchayat Secretaries, MIS Operators, Technical Assistants, and Gram Rozgar Sahayaks

(GRS), received hands-on training to strengthen their capacity in digital implementation and monitoring of MGNREGA works. In the coming days, similar workshops are scheduled to be held in the Kathua, Samba, Kupwara, Srinagar, Ganderbal, and Budgam districts to ensure complete coverage across all regions of the Union Territory.

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SC gives Centre four weeks to respond to pleas on restoration of J&K statehood

status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. It ordered that assembly elections be held in the union territory by September 2024 and its statehood be restored “at the earliest”. Last year, a plea was filed in the top court seeking directions to the Centre for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir within two months.

Security Forces Bust Terrorist Hideout in Kupwara Forest; Arms and Ammunition Recovered

infrastructure and prevent the smuggling of weapons into the region. Further investigation and search operations in the adjoining forest areas are underway.

Last date of admission extended to 14th October for Annual Private/Biannual 2025 session class 12th pass-outs: Director Colleges with multiple-exit options, offered across various degree colleges of J&K against leftover vacant seats for the Academic Session 2025-2026.

In continuation to earlier notification, the last date for admission has now been extended up to October 14, 2025, in view of multiple representations received from students. Other terms and conditions will remain unchanged.

Div Com Jammu reviews hospital readiness, civic measures for Dengue control

and the preventive measures to be implemented for prevention of Dengue. Readiness of hospitals, availability of medical equipment and staff were also reviewed.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to prepare a plan with involvement of officials of Health ULB, BDO and District Malaria Officers, underlining points of action to control Dengue spread. He further asked for intensified IEC activities and publicity of Dos and Don’ts for protection against Dengue.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the health officials to share the data of Dengue cases with Municipal authorities for timely implementation of anti Dengue measures. Principal Government Medical College apprised the Divisional Commissioner on the readiness of GMC and Hospitals for Dengue patients.

One Dead, Two Injured in Road Accident in Ramban

rescue teams rushed to the spot and shifted the injured to a nearby hospital for treatment.

Police have taken cognizance of the case and initiated further investigation to ascertain the cause of the accident.

Power shutdown

Miran Sahib, Salehar, Airforce and Chatha Grid Station will remain affected on October 12 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Khanachak, Rural-I and II, Rangpur, Sunderpur, SKUAST, Town-I, Town-II, RS Pura Purana Pind and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 12 and 15 from 8 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the powers supply to Poonch Town, Jhullas, Mandi, Chandak, MES and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 12 from 8 am to 2 pm.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer, (Distribution), JPDCL, O&M Circle, Kathua has informed that the power supply to Vijaypur Industry, Old Vijaypur and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 11 and 12 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to Badhori and adjoining areas will remain affected on October 12 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Chief Secretary pushes for seamless fruit transportation from valley

While reviewing long-distance transportation options, the Chief Secretary advised the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, to explore

the introduction of rail freight services for transporting horticultural produce to major markets such as Mumbai, Kolkata and Bengaluru. He emphasized the need to engage with fruit growers in this regard and to coordinate with the Divisional Railway Manager (DRM), Jammu, to examine the feasibility of such a service.

The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, apprised the Chief Secretary of the availability and adequacy of transport services for fruit growers, informing that sufficient trucks are presently available at reasonable rates and that growers are not facing any major logistical difficulties.

Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, further informed the meeting that in case of any shortage of transport vehicles, the fleet of J&K SRTC trucks would be deployed to facilitate smooth evacuation of fruit from the Valley to outside markets, ensuring full assistance to the fruit growers.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the administration is fully committed to ensuring seamless transportation of horticultural produce, which forms a key pillar of the Valley’s economy, and directed all concerned officers to maintain coordination and take proactive measures to ensure smooth transportation of this crop throughout the ongoing fruit season.

AIIMS Jammu shines on the national stage: Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta honoured as “Healthcare Personality of the Year 2025” by FICCI

healthcare ecosystem. The ceremony was graced by Shri Rajiv Gauba, Member, NITI Aayog and former Cabinet Secretary, Government of India, as the Chief Guest, who lauded the remarkable contributions of healthcare professionals shaping India’s health future.

Prof. Gupta was selected for this national honour through a rigorous, transparent, and merit-based evaluation process conducted by an eminent jury chaired by Mr. C. K. Mishra, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, and co-chaired by Dr. Harsh Mahajan, Chair, FICCI Health Services Committee and Founder & Chairman, Mahajan Imaging & Labs.

The award stands as a testament to Prof. Gupta’s visionary leadership, strategic foresight, and unwavering commitment to advancing India’s healthcare delivery systems.

Hailing from Ari village (LOC), Poonch, J&K, Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta is an alumnus of GMC Jammu (MBBS) and AIIMS New Delhi (MHA). Beginning his career as an Assistant Surgeon in J&K Health Services, he went on to join AIIMS New Delhi as faculty, where he later headed the Department of Hospital Administration.

A distinguished academic and administrator, he has mentored over 45 postgraduate and PhD scholars, guided 112 research studies, and authored 110+ publications and 20+ book chapters on hospital management and healthcare systems. Under his leadership, the Department of Hospital Administration became the first at AIIMS to receive ISO certification.

His contributions extend globally, having led WHO and national projects on hospital governance, public-private partnerships, and digital health systems. A Fellow of multiple medical academies, Prof. Gupta is also the recipient of several national and international accolades, including:

- State Award for Meritorious Public Service (J&K Government)
 - International Partner of the Year Award (Cologne University, Germany)
 - Times Healthcare Achievers Award
 - Rotary Club Jammu Tawi Lifetime Achievement Award
- Under his leadership, AIIMS Jammu has achieved remarkable milestones — completing 43 world-class buildings in just 3.5 years and securing 7th rank in Outlook Magazine’s 2025 Government Medical Universities Ranking, the second-highest after AIIMS New Delhi.
- Owing to official commitments, Prof. Gupta could not attend the ceremony in person but conveyed his heartfelt gratitude to FICCI

and the distinguished jury for this honour. He dedicated the award to the team of AIIMS Jammu, acknowledging their relentless dedication, teamwork, and service to humanity.

Prof. Gupta remarked that this recognition further reinforces AIIMS Jammu’s mission to emerge as a model of excellence in patient care, research, and medical education, contributing meaningfully to India’s vision of “Health for All.”

Instituted in 2009, the FICCI Healthcare Excellence Awards are among the most respected honours in the healthcare sector, recognizing innovation, leadership, and excellence across diverse domains.

This national recognition for Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Kumar Gupta marks a proud milestone for AIIMS Jammu, reaffirming its status as a Centre of Excellence and Innovation in Northern India.

Train Accident Averted Thanks to Station Master’s Swift Action

halt after crossing the advance signal at kilometer 81/2 between Bhangala and Mukerian stations. With the assistance of the gateman at Level Crossing Gate No. 120, the affected carriage was inspected. The technical fault was rectified, and the sparks were extinguished before the train was allowed to resume its journey safely. Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) Jammu, Vivek Kumar, lauded the Station Master’s presence of mind and prompt action, announcing that he will be formally honoured for his commendable service. The incident stands as a shining example of the vigilance, dedication, and professionalism of Indian Railways personnel, who play a crucial role in ensuring passenger and operational safety every day.

Lieutenant Governor Addresses Athletes at 10th All India Police Judo Cluster

adopting a multifaceted approach to tackle internal security challenges.

The Lieutenant Governor also praised the J&K Police force in building a fear-free environment for citizens.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the power of sports to foster a sense of collective identity, camaraderie, courage, character building, peace, equality and friendship among people and the region.

He called upon the youth to develop qualities like compassion and courage, and dedicate their potential and talents in service to the nation.

“Sports is the universal language of unity and it promotes inclusivity and mutual respect. The sports events like All India Police Judo Cluster serves as a vibrant platform to celebrate Unity in Diversity and showcase India’s rich cultural and social heritage,” he said.

More than 2,000 athletes are participating in the championship comprising of Judo, Wushu, Pencak Silat, Taekwondo and Karate, hosted by Jammu Kashmir Police.

DGP, Shri Nalin Prabhat; Shri S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; ADGP Armed, Shri Anand Jain; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration; representatives of various sports associations; prominent sports personalities, and youth in large number were present.

DHS Jammu inspects patient care services at PHC GhouManhasan

He appreciated the efforts of the staff in maintaining healthcare services in the rural area. He directed the concerned officials to ensure effective implementation of all national health programmes and strengthen preventive and promotive healthcare measures at the grassroots level.

The Director reiterated the commitment of the Health Department to provide quality healthcare services to the people of Jammu Division and assured that all necessary support will be extended for further upgradation of facilities at PHC GhouManhasan.