

DC reviews Dengue control preparedness measures in Kathua district

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today convened a meeting of stakeholder departments to review the preparedness and response measures put in place to contain the spread of Dengue in the district.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina briefed the meeting about the prevailing situation. He informed that a total of 527 dengue cases have been reported in the current year so far, with no casualties. He further stated that September and October are the most vulnerable months for the spread of Dengue and sampling of suspected cases has been intensified to ensure early detection and timely treatment.

Highlighting the identified hot spots, the CMO informed that in Kathua urban areas, Ward No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 have reported increased activity. Similarly, the vulnerable locations have also been identified in Parole, Barnoti, CTM, Hatlimorh, Saktachak, Govindsar, Hamirpur, Dyalachak, Mela (Billawar), Ramkote, Lakhri (Basohli), Mahanpur, Bani town, Backon, Ghatti and Rolka.

It was informed that blood sample collection centres have been established at block levels with samples being transported to GMC & Associated Hospital Kathua for testing. Two dedicated beds with mosquito nets have also been designated for dengue-positive patients in each Sub-District Hospital at Parole, Hiranagar, Billawar, Basohli and Bani.

The CMO further informed that Gambusia fish, known for controlling mosquito larvae have been introduced in 134 permanent ponds



across the district as part of vector control measures. The meeting also discussed the functioning of Rapid Response Teams at both district and block levels to ensure swift response to any reported outbreak.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure effective prevention and control measures. He laid emphasis on the Municipal Council Kathua to intensify fogging operations, sanitation drives and awareness campaigns through public announcements and jingles.

He directed the Principal GMC Kathua to ensure daily updation of dengue cases and to keep separate provisions for dengue patients. The CTM was asked to maintain sanitation and activate the health unit for quick response.

The Education Department was instructed to create awareness among students about dengue prevention during morning assemblies,

while the Jal Shakti Department was directed to repair leaking water taps and ensure regular testing of water sources. The PWD was asked to ensure proper disposal of materials and prevent water stagnation near construction sites.

The Rural Development Department was directed to raise awareness among rural masses about preventive measures, while the Information Department was tasked to intensify information dissemination through print, electronic and social media platforms.

The DC urged all departments to remain vigilant and adopt a proactive approach to ensure a dengue-free Kathua through community participation and coordinated action.

ADC Vishavjeet Singh; ACD Akhil Sadotra; SE PWD, Medical Superintendent GMC & AH Kathua and other concerned officers were also present.

Cultural Unit DIPR Jammu sensitizes students about Dengue prevention, swachtha

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Continuing its efforts to raise public awareness on health and hygiene, the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today organised awareness programmes on "Dengue" and "Swachh Bharat" at Government High School Pakhiyaan Jammu and Government Degree College Paloura.

At GHS Pakhiyaan, the event featured an array of engaging performances, including folk songs, theme-based songs and patriotic numbers presented by the artists of the Cultural Unit, Information Department, Jammu. Their energetic and informative performances inspired the audience to maintain cleanliness and adopt preventive measures against vector-borne diseases like dengue.



Adding to the enthusiasm, students of the school also actively participated by presenting speeches on the theme, effectively conveying key messages about cleanliness, hygiene and community responsibility in controlling mosquito-borne infections.

The Chief Guest and Headmaster of the School, Vandna Sharma addressed the gathering and appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising such a meaningful and socially relevant programme. She

lauded the efforts of the Cultural Unit for using music as a powerful medium to educate and inspire young minds—the true future of the nation.

Another awareness event was organised at Government Degree College Paloura.

The Chief Guest and Principal of the College Kulvinder Kour appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for conducting such awareness drives that combine education with cultural engagement. He also

encouraged students to act as ambassadors of cleanliness and health awareness in their communities.

The entire programme was conducted under the guidance of Joint Director Information, Jammu and supervised by the Cultural Officer.

The programmes successfully conveyed the message that collective efforts, community awareness and personal responsibility form key to keeping our surroundings clean and preventing diseases like dengue.

DC Ramban reviews Tobacco Control measures, implementation of COTPA 2023

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee for the implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and reviewed control measures being taken, including the enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003.

The meeting was attended by Additional SP Ramban Majeed-Ur-Rehman, ACD Ashfaq Ahmed, CMO Kamal Je Zadoo, Divisional Coordinator NTCP Shiveta Raina, BMOs, CEO MC Ramban and officers from School Education, Higher Education and other departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized strict enforcement of the COTPA Act to eliminate tobacco usage particularly in public places across the district. He directed the concerned officers to install mandatory signage in educational and health institutions as well as public areas like bus stands and government offices to raise awareness about the prohibition and harm-



ful effects of tobacco use.

The DC directed all stakeholders to launch an intensified enforcement-cum-awareness drive to effectively implement the NTCP in the district. He instructed BDOs, BMOs and ZEOs to work in mission mode to make all schools, colleges, other institutions and villages tobacco-free as per prescribed parameters.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner asked CEOs and institutional heads to strengthen anti-tobacco campaigns and administer anti-tobacco pledges to students during morning assemblies. He also instructed designated officers to actively participate in enforcement drives to ensure all edu-

cational and health institutions become tobacco-free zones.

Reviewing the progress made by stakeholder departments, the DC directed them to launch a comprehensive IEC campaign to sensitize the public about the harmful effects of tobacco use and the provisions of COTPA-2003.

Earlier, in a detailed presentation, the CMO and Divisional Coordinator NTCP provided insights into the tobacco usage scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, explained the penal and enforcement provisions under COTPA-2003 and discussed strategies for implementing the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0.

LPG distribution rationalized in Kishtwar to facilitate consumers on Diwali Festival

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In view of the forthcoming Diwali festival, a multiple department enforcement Team, led by the Assistant Director, FCS&CA, Shafqat Ali Keen and Tehsildar Nirbhay Sharma, today conducted an extensive inspection of LPG distributors' godowns in Kishtwar town and its adjoining areas.

During the inspection, the LPG distributors were sensitized to ensure timely and hassle-free home delivery of LPG cylinders without any lapse. They were also directed to refrain from over-charging or indulging in black marketing of LPG cylinders.

To ensure smooth and systematic distribution, a



comprehensive schedule for home delivery of LPG cylinders was framed.

As per the schedule, deliveries will be made on Monday to Shaheedi Chowk, Veterinary, Shakrit Nagar, Shiv Nagar, Wasser

Kund and Simna Colony; on Tuesday to Mini Bus Stand, Link Road, Kichloo Mohalla Malipath, Lower Soori Mohalla and Upper Link Road; on Wednesday to Sangrambhata, Charhar, Jail Road and

Shalimar; on Thursday to Hidyat, Tund, Hargadi, Matta, Tulsi Nagar, Sarkoot, Bera Bhatta and Begana; on Friday to Lower and Upper Pochhal and Kundali; and on Saturday to Panditgam, Wasser, Banderna, Puhie, Zelna, Berwar, Hullar Hunjala and Gudhali.

The distributors were cautioned that any violation of the schedule, over-charging, or failure in ensuring home delivery service, would invite strict action as per the relevant rules and regulations.

In addition, a market inspection drive was also conducted on the directions to monitor and regulate the rates and availability of vegetables and other essential commodities, ensuring that consumers are not overcharged during the festive season.

GDC Kastigarh hosts Poster Making Competition

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Government Degree College Kastigarh organized a Poster Making Competition under the banner of the "Tobacco-Free Youth Campaign 3.0", an initiative launched by the Government of India to raise awareness among the younger generation about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and to promote a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle.

The event was held under the guidance of Principal of the College Prof. Koshal Kumar Mangotra, who emphasized the vital role of youth participation in spreading awareness about tobacco control and de-addiction. He highlighted that such campaigns inspire students to become agents of change, helping to



build a healthier and more conscious society.

A large number of students participated enthusiastically, showcasing their creativity through informative and thought-provoking posters depicting the ill effects of tobacco on human health and the environment. Their artwork carried powerful messages advocating for a tobacco-free

and healthy society.

The event was coordinated by Dr. Sumit Kotwal and Dr. Anupam Lata with active support from faculty members who encouraged students to embrace and promote healthy living habits. The best posters were judged by a panel of judges and the winners will be felicitated in the upcoming college function.

DC inaugurates 3-Day Free Eye Surgery Camp at Poonch

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Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today inaugurated a three-day free eye surgery camp.

The camp is being organized by Government Medical College (GMC) & Associated Hospital Rajouri, in collaboration with Pritam Spiritual Foundation and active support from the District Administration Poonch, under the Ayushman Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PM-JAY).

While interacting with the patients, he assured full



cooperation and support from the district administration to make the camp a

success. A total of 30 patients from different villages of

the district have been selected for free cataract and other eye surgeries. The first batch of 15 patients has been referred to GMC Rajouri for detailed screening and subsequent surgeries under the aegis of the Principal GMC, Dr. Amarjeet Singh Bhatia and in-charge Ayushman Bharat, Suresh.

The Pritam Spiritual Foundation has arranged the transport and food facilities for the patients. This initiative underlines the joint commitment of civil society organizations and government institutions to extend quality healthcare to underserved populations in remote areas.

Operation Sadbhavana: Indian Army organises girls archery, shooting competition at Doda

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Under the aegis of Operation Sadbhavana, the Indian Army (10 Rashtriya Rifles Rajput) today organized a Girls Archery and Shooting Competition at Sports Stadium Doda.

The event aimed to encourage young girls to actively participate in sports and inspire them to represent the nation on global platforms.

Themed "Let's Rise, Aim & Reach the World Stage," the competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various schools across the district.

The programme was graced by Sheetal Devi, the pride of Jammu & Kashmir and India's Para-Archery Champion as the Chief Guest.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, officers of the Indian Army (10 RR) and dignitaries from civil and police administration were also present on the occasion.

A highlight of the event was the inspiring presence of Sheetal Devi, whose exceptional achievements at national and international levels have brought immense glory to the nation. Her journey of determination and success served as a source of great motivation for the young participants, encouraging them to dream big and pursue excellence in their chosen fields. During the event, a Pledge for a Tobacco-Free Life was also administered to all participants and attendees, reinforcing the message of



health, discipline and positive lifestyle choices among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sheetal Devi shared her inspiring story with the students and said, "When I tried, I won medals in archery at both national and international levels. Every child has the ability to achieve great things if they try with dedication and confidence."

She encouraged the students to believe in themselves, work hard, and never give up on their dreams despite challenges.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh appreciated the Indian Army for organizing such a meaningful and motivating event under Operation Sadbhavana. He lauded the Army's continuous efforts in nurturing local talent, fostering sports culture and promoting youth empowerment across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda further remarked that "Sheetal Devi has brought immense pride and recognition to Doda and erstwhile district Kishtwar (Jammu and Kashmir) at the national and international level. If all children try and dedicate themselves with the same passion and determination as seen in this shooting and archery competition, Doda will continue to produce champions who can make the entire nation proud."

An Indian Army Officer also addressed the participants, emphasizing that Operation Sadbhavana is not only a symbol of the Army's commitment to peace and development but also a bridge of trust and cooperation between the Army and the local populace. He encouraged the youth, especially girls, to make the best use of such opportunities and contribute to the progress of the nation.