

DC Kishtwar leads mega Padh Yatra marking launch of 100-Day "Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan"

KISHTWAR, APRIL 11: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today led a massive Padh Yatra marking the launch of the "Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan" in the district as part of the Union Territory-wide 100-day Anti-Drug Campaign.

The campaign has been launched across the UT of Jammu & Kashmir by Lieutenant Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha, aiming to eradicate drug abuse through awareness, enforcement and community participation.

The Padh Yatra commenced from Char Chinar Chowgan Ground, Kuleed Chowk and culminated at the Mini Secretariat, witnessing an overwhelming participation of 5000-6000 individuals including officers, teachers, students, police personnel, traffic staff, CRPF and employees from various departments.

A key highlight of the rally was the active participation of religious leaders, representing diverse communities of District Kishtwar. Representatives from the Santan Dharma Sabha, Majlis-e-Shoura Committee and Gurudwara Prabhak Committee joined the initiative and addressed the gathering, urging citizens—especially the youth—to refrain from drug abuse and contribute toward building a healthy, drug-free society.

At the historic Chowgan Ground, the Deputy Commissioner administered "Nasha Mukht Pledge" to all participants, reinforcing their collective commitment to the cause.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized a three-pronged strategy for the district to combat drug abuse. He stated that the first priority is awareness



generation, which involves reaching out to schools, colleges and all sections of society to educate people about the harmful effects of drugs. He underscored that awareness must penetrate every corner of the district to create a strong social resistance against substance abuse. The Deputy Commissioner further highlighted strict enforcement as the second pillar of the campaign. He stressed the need to strengthen law enforcement mechanisms to curb drug trafficking and ensure stringent action against offenders.

He reiterated that enforcement agencies would intensify their efforts during the 100-day campaign to dismantle drug networks and maintain strict vigilance. Elaborating on the third component, he em-

phasized public outreach, stating that the administration will actively engage with communities to ensure that the campaign reaches every Panchayat of the district. He called for collective participation from government departments, NGOs, religious institutions and the general public to make the initiative a mass movement.

Similar rallies of significant scale were also carried out across all Tehsils and Panchayats, as well as in educational institutions throughout the district, reflecting widespread participation and strong grassroots engagement in the anti-drug campaign.

The DC also urged the general public to actively participate in the campaign and support the administration in its mission to

make Kishtwar a drug-free district. It is pertinent to mention that the 100-day "Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan" will continue across the district in accordance with a comprehensive activity calendar prepared by various departments under the guidance of the Deputy Commissioner.

SSP Naresh Singh; Commandant 52 Bn CRPF; Bhupesh Yadav; ADC Pawan Kotwal; PO ICDS Dr. Rishi Kumar Sharma; CEO KDA Kaiser Bhawani; ACR; ACD Manoj Kumar; ACR Idrees Lone; ACP Neeraj Sharma; DSWO Tariq Parveez Qazi; CEO MC Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Dy. SP Hqrs. Dr. Ishan Gupta; DYSSO and other officers, officials and representatives of various religious communities were also present.

Divisional Awareness Programme concludes with widespread outreach across Jammu Division

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 11

The three-day Divisional Level Awareness Programme organised by the School Education Department culminated with a significant expansion of its outreach as students and educators carried the message of the campaign beyond institutional spaces and into the community at large.

The concluding day witnessed a continuation of diverse activities across schools in the Jammu division including poster making, slogan writing, essay writing, awareness sessions and expert lectures sustaining the momentum of engagement built over the preceding days.

In a marked progression from dialogue to direct public interface, students and staff members across districts organised rallies, taking the core message of the programme to the doorsteps of the people. These rallies reflected a conscious effort to translate awareness into community-level engagement,



reinforcing the participatory spirit of the initiative.

The main rally in Jammu was led by MLA Yudhveer Sethi, Secretary, School Education Department, Ram Niwas Sharma along with Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, Personnel Officer, DSEJ, Manisha, CEO Jammu Ajeet Sharma and other dignitaries.

The rally commenced from GGHSS Mubarak Mandi and culminated at SRML Higher Secondary School witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and teachers of

both government and private institutions.

Across the division, the programme continued to draw the involvement of public representatives, government officials, subject experts, parents and members of the general public, lending depth and inclusivity to the campaign.

At the district level, the activities were conducted under the supervision of Chief Education Officers in close coordination with the concerned Joint Directors and Personnel Officer, DSEJ, Manisha, ensuring effective execution and uniformity of purpose.

The entire programme was organised under the overall supervision of Director School Education Jammu, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, whose emphasis on sustained awareness and community participation shaped the initiative into a cohesive and impactful endeavour.

With its culmination, the programme leaves behind not merely a record of activities, but a continuum of intent where awareness, having been articulated, now seeks to endure through collective responsibility and informed action.

Labour Commissioner chairs concluding session of 'Aarogya Abhiraksha Saptah' at Pulwama

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 11

Labour Commissioner and Director Jammu & Kashmir Employees' State Insurance (JKESIC) S. Charandeep Singh today chaired the concluding session of 'Aarogya Abhiraksha Saptah' at Laspipora here.

During the session, a comprehensive Insured Persons (IP) Awareness Camp was organised which witnessed participation of around 100 HR representatives, Insured Persons and members of Trade Unions. The camp focused on spreading awareness regarding ESI benefits, digital initiatives and service delivery mechanisms.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Labour Commissioner highlighted the importance of health security and social protection for workers under the ESI scheme.

As part of the 'Aarogya Abhiraksha Saptah' various activities and programmes were held for the benefit of workers as well as HR professionals.

On April 8, 2026, an interactive meet with HR representatives was organized at National Institute of Electronics & Information Technology, Rangeth, which witnessed participation of around 100 HR professionals representing various establishments including Fil Industries Pvt. Ltd., Jankash Vehicleleads, Paras Hospital, Ujala Cygnus Hospital, Bombay Darbar, Iqra International School, Continental Heating, Alba Powers, High Electronics, Assal Tax Consultancy, Kids Care International School, Mushtaq Trunk Factory, Khyber Cement, Holy Mission School, Comfort Polymers and SBC Brick Kiln. The meet served as an important platform for discussion on ESI coverage, compliance and stakeholder engagement.

On April 9, 2026, a webinar was organised on the topic "Social Security and Health Care under ESI Scheme". The webinar witnessed participation of around 180 HR representatives along with their teams, insured persons (IPs) and workers.

The webinar featured expert sessions by Vinay Singh from V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, who delivered valuable insights on labour welfare



and social protection. Dy. Director, ESIC, Chandra Bhanu Jha, elaborated on the ESI Scheme and its transformative role in providing social security and healthcare benefits to workers.

Dr. Deeba, Psychiatrist, spoke on workplace stress and its effective management, highlighting the importance of mental well-being. The session was also addressed by Labour Commissioner and Director JKESIC, S. Charandeep Singh.

The programme was followed by a medical camp, which was organized to provide health check-ups to approximately 200 insured persons, their dependants and workers. Specialists from the Health Department, Kashmir also joined the team of JKESIC during the medical camp, further strengthening the outreach and healthcare services.

In addition, multiple awareness and outreach programmes were conducted by Insurance Med-

ical Officers (IMOs) across various locations, focusing on educating insured persons and employers about benefits, healthcare services and recent reforms under the ESI Scheme, particularly in light of the New Labour Codes.

Participants across all events were sensitized about various initiatives, reforms and entitlements under the ESI framework. Interactive sessions were held to address queries and encourage greater enrolment under the scheme.

The successful conduct of the campaign was made possible through the joint efforts of the officers and officials of JKESIC and the Labour Department along with active involvement of Insurance Medical Officers and support from the Health Department.

The department reaffirms its commitment to continue such initiatives aimed at strengthening the social security framework and ensuring accessible healthcare for all beneficiaries.

Principal Secretary DMRRR chairs UT-level review meeting on Pre-Monsoon readiness

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 11

Principal Secretary, Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRRR), Chandraker Bharti today chaired a UT-level review meeting regarding preparedness-coordination for Pre-Monsoon preparedness here at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting was attended by representatives of Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioners (Chairpersons DDMAs)-All, besides officers from Jal Shakti Department, Public Works (R&B) Department, Housing & Urban Development Department, Health & Medical Education Department and Rural Development & Panchayati Raj Department.

Representatives from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board, JMC, SMC NDRF, SDRF, Civil Defence, Army, Police, Central Armed Police Forces, Border Roads Organisation, NHA and other stakeholder agencies also participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, it was informed that Jammu and Kashmir is highly vulnerable to a wide range of natural and human-induced disasters including



floods, flash floods, landslides, earthquakes, forest fires, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), fire incidents and other calamities, resulting in loss of precious human lives and damage to property and infrastructure.

Emphasising on the importance of disaster risk reduction, the Principal Secretary underscored the need for a proactive and comprehensive approach through sustained and co-ordinated efforts among Government agencies, Non-Governmental Organisations and the general public with active community participation.

He stressed upon adoption of proactive 'Zero Casualty Approach' during natural calamities and called for strengthening inter-departmental coordination, identification of structural and non-structural vulnerabilities and leveraging technology for robust early warning systems.

The Principal Secretary also directed all Emergency Support Functionaries, line

departments, Divisional and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Fire and Emergency Services and other concerned agencies to adopt a proactive approach towards preparedness, mitigation and prompt response to any disaster-related eventuality during the pre-monsoon period.

He directed all departments and DDMAs to regularly update details of human resources, machinery and equipment on the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) portal.

He also emphasised on conduct of regular mock drills, including night-time simulations, and called for making such drills mandatory to ensure better preparedness.

The DDMAs were directed to share Incident Response System (IRS) notifications and operational details with Army, Police, Central Armed Police Forces and SDRF for better coordination during emer-

gencies.

The Principal Secretary further stressed upon regular training of frontline workers across departments and active involvement of youth and Aapda Mitras in disaster preparedness initiatives at district and sub-district levels through capacity building programmes.

The Geological Survey of India (GSI), Central Water Commission (CWC), Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) and National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) were directed to convene coordination meetings for effective data sharing and constitute a Steering Committee involving all stakeholders.

Regarding preparations for the forthcoming Machil Mata Yatra, the Principal Secretary asked the Divisional Commissioner Jammu to ensure all preparedness measures are put in place for smooth and successful conduct of the Yatra scheduled to commence from April 2026.

Injured Kwar HEPP worker gets Rs 19.92 Lakh Compensation

KISHTWAR, APRIL 11: A worker injured and left disabled while working at Kwar Hydroelectric Power Project has received a compensation of Rs 19.92 lakh, thanks to the intervention and sustained perusal of his case with the employer firm by the Labour Department Kishtwar.

Bhanu Pratap Singh, S/O Mukesh Kumar, R/O Palmar was working as a laborer at the project during which he sustained injuries that led to permanent disability.

The Compensation amount was credited in the Bank Account of Assistant Labour Commissioner by Patel



Engineering Ltd. Today, the cheque worth ₹1,99,23,300 (Nineteen lakh, Ninety-two thousand, three hundred

thirty rupees) was handed over to Bhanu Pratap Singh by the ALC Mamta Sudershan.

CM Omar congratulates SKUAST-Kashmir on breakthrough in Morel Mushroom research

SRINAGAR, APRIL 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended his heartfelt congratulations to Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) for achieving a significant scientific breakthrough in the research and advancement of Morel (Gucchi) mushrooms.

The Chief Minister, who is also Pro-Chancellor of the university, lauded the university's remarkable accomplishment, stating that the breakthrough reflects SKUAST-K's unwa-

vering commitment to scientific excellence and the promotion of high-value natural resources.

Highlighting the broader impact of the research, the Chief Minister noted that the development holds immense potential for enhancing livelihoods, particularly in mountainous and rural regions where Morel mushrooms are both an economic asset and an integral part of traditional heritage. He emphasized that the university's efforts are poised to open new avenues for sustainable cultivation, value addi-

tion, and increased income generation.

The Chief Minister also placed on record his special appreciation for the dedicated efforts of the scientists involved in the research.

Conveying his best wishes, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the entire SKUAST-K fraternity, including its scientists and researchers, will continue to excel in future endeavours and contribute meaningfully to agricultural innovation and rural prosperity.