

SDD unveils HSDP for mega skilling of JK populace

CS lays emphasis on achieving set targets

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 17

Jammu and Kashmir is all set to embark on a transformative journey in skill development with the unveiling of Holistic Skill Development Plan (HSDP), a comprehensive strategy aimed at creating a future-ready workforce and fostering sustainable economic growth.

The plan was presented to Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, which outlines the ambitious goals and strategic interventions across various sectors.

Present on the occasion were ACS, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Skill Development Department (SDD); MD, Skill Development Mission besides Director, Skill Development along with other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the true impact of the plan lies in its effective implementation at the grassroots level. He underscored the need for seamless coordination between the Education and Skill Development department, terming it essential for the plan's successful execution.

Highlighting the significance of skill development, Dulloo stated that it is a cornerstone for securing sustainable livelihoods for the people. He further noted that the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 offers a clear roadmap to guide this transformative mission.

Reviewing the Department's progress under schemes like PM Vishwakarma and PMKVY, the Chief Secretary asked the officials to go beyond basic training. He stressed the importance of complementing skill-building efforts with distribution of toolkits and access to credit link-



ages to truly empower the beneficiaries and enhance their livelihood opportunities.

ACS, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, in his remarks, made out that a lot of transformative work had been done to link the education sector with the vocational courses to enhance employability of the students. He acknowledged that the department has a greater role to play in view of the objectives set under NEP-2020 and this skilling plan as well.

Principal Secretary, SED, Ram Niwas Sharma, also gave his inputs about the time bound implementation of the skilling plan besides ensuring about the seamless coordination with SDD in making the strategy to achieve these goals without facing any hindrance.

Secretary, SDD, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, while highlighting the plan informed that J&K has strengthened its skilling infrastructure to a larger extent in the past few years. He revealed that there are currently 54 Government ITIs offering 71 trades with enrolment of 12,600 admissions taken against a capacity of 12,832 students. Similarly, the region has 22 Government Polytechnics offering 18 trades with an intake capacity of 3,275 students and corresponding enrolment of 3,200 admissions in 2024, he added.

The main focal point of this meeting was the discussion on the Holistic Skill Development Plan (HSDP) created by the department, envisioning empowerment of every individual with rel-

evant skills, entrepreneurial mindset and livelihood opportunities, leading to sustainable employment and enterprise creation.

The plan delineates four tracks of skilling program: Skilling for School Explorer (Age 14-18) which focuses on early vocational exposure and foundational skills. This is followed by Skilling for Career Launchpad (Age 18-22) which envisages equipping the students with job-ready certifications and entrepreneurial orientation.

The 3rd path comprises of 'Skilling for Job & Entrepreneurship Accelerator' (Age 22-35) enabling youth to choose between employment, entrepreneurship or competitive exams. The fourth one is 'Skilling for Livelihood Enabler' (Age 35-59) which would support re-skilling for sustainable livelihoods and promote home-based/self employment.

The key challenges identified in HSDP implementation were set in the shape of the skilling ecosystem in J&K facing weak placement linkages, lack of upskilling pathways, limited access to skilling, poor delivery, outdated curriculum and lack of industry feedback.

The plan simultaneously proposed interventions propelled by the force of 4 E's engine constituting the Establish, Enrich, Execute and Empower strategy. The first engine aims at establishing institutional support by strengthening the J&K Skill Development Mission, industry engagements, district skill planning and establishing a J&K Skills Uni-

versity as a central hub with model ITIs/Polytechnics as nodes.

The Enrich part focuses on curriculum upgradation, aligning the training content with market demand. It also encompasses adopting model curricula, introducing priority sector tracks for new-age skills (AI, ML, Green Economy) and building 21st-century life skills and digital competencies. The Execute part focuses on efficient delivery by improving trainee mobilization, manpower management (trainer identification and capacity building), enhancing experiential learning through apprenticeships and dual system of training and providing structured offline placement support. The whole strategy is envisaged to empower by building the enabling ecosystem throughout J&K. This pillar of the strategy also features developing the Mission YUVA App as a one-stop platform, implementing a Skills Passport system and facilitating the financing for skilling through loan schemes and vouchers.

Other focused initiatives constitute engaging Village-Level Skill Mitras/YUVA Saathis, who are trained volunteers at the Panchayat level to mobilize youth and link them with the schemes. For artisans and weavers, it envisions 'Mission Artisan 2047', a dedicated vertical to preserve and modernize traditional crafts.

About the implementation, it was set out that the strategy will involve a multi-tier approach at Block, District and Divisional levels, ensuring convergence of UT and Centrally Sponsored Schemes.

The plan also emphasizes diverse training modes, including satellite campuses, online skilling, classroom training and mandatory on-the-job training.

Pulwama admin organizes mega awareness & benefit saturation camp at Nargistan Tral

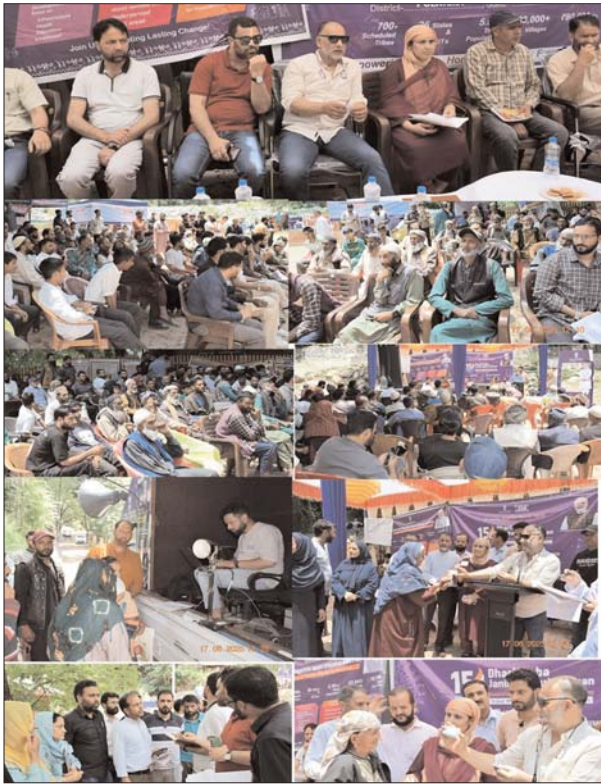
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In line with the national vision of tribal welfare and inclusive development, district administration Pulwama today organized a mega Awareness and Benefit Saturation Camp at Nargistan Panchayat of Aripal Block under the banner of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA).

The camp marked the third day of the fifteen-day long campaign aimed at ensuring 100 percent saturation of all eligible tribal beneficiaries under various Central and UT Government schemes. The initiative envisions holistic upliftment of tribal communities through focused interventions in infrastructure, healthcare, education, livelihoods, and digital inclusion.

Departments including Health, Education, Social Welfare, Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Industries, Forest and others participated in the camp and set up dedicated stalls to deliver on-spot services and scheme benefits.

Each departmental stall



facilitated real-time support through on-the-spot registrations, beneficiary enrolments, scheme consultations, and awareness dissemination. Brochures, booklets and pamphlets were also provided to enhance informed participation.

To promote digital inclusion, a Common Service Centre (CSC) was established at the venue. The CSC enabled beneficiaries to enroll, correct, or update

various important documents such as Aadhar Card, PAN Card, Kisan Credit Card, Driving License, Ayushman Bharat Card, Domicile Certificate and register for various digital services and Government initiatives.

On the occasion, Rural Development department had set up a dedicated desk that facilitated on-the-spot registration of Job Cards under MGNREGA, assistance with claims under the

Forest Rights Act (FRA), and saturation of eligible households under PMAY (G).

Officials also sensitised the public about rural infrastructure development initiatives and livelihood convergence schemes tailored for tribal communities. The stall attracted a significant number of tribal beneficiaries seeking assistance and clarity on entitlements and application procedures.

A significant highlight of the event was the health camp organized by the Health department where residents availed free consultation and medical services provided by a team of doctors and paramedics. Special focus was laid on awareness regarding sickle cell disease and water-borne illnesses, with health experts educating the community about preventive healthcare, safe drinking practices, and early detection protocols.

On-spot screenings and basic diagnostics further strengthened the preventive healthcare outreach.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from tribal residents of all age groups who expressed deep appreciation for the government's proactive outreach.

Empowering local entrepreneurs: PMFME scheme awareness camp held at Shopian

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Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Shopian, today organized an awareness programme on the Prime Minister's Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme at Bohrihallan Heerpora, Shopian.

A large number of potential entrepreneurs, especially women Self Help Groups (SHGs), actively participated in the event, showing great enthusiasm toward self-employment opportunities in the food processing sector.

The programme was attended by the Area Marketing Officer Shopian, along with his field staff, LDM, CLF Head, and DRP-PMFME scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Assistant Grading and Marketing Officer (AGMO) Shopian addressed the gathering and highlighted the objectives and potential of the PMFME scheme in enhancing local micro food



processing units.

He informed the participants that the scheme offers a 35% credit-linked capital subsidy with a maximum ceiling of Rs10 lakh for individual units, along with seed capital support of Rs 40,000 per member for SHGs and producer cooperatives.

It also includes assis-

tance for branding, marketing, and capacity building, with dedicated hand-holding support to units established under the scheme.

LDM elaborated on the procedures to be followed during the sanctioning of cases by banks and explained the importance of proper documentation.

On-spot registration of many interested women entrepreneurs was carried out during the programme.

District Resource Person provided a detailed explanation of the application process and shared guidance on documentation and formalities required for availing the scheme benefits.

Training session on 'Pension Suvidha' Portal for Electronic Pension Processing conducted at Bandipora

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In a major push towards digital governance and in line with the directions of the Director General Accounts & Treasuries J&K, District Treasury Office Bandipora today conducted a comprehensive training programme on the newly launched Pension Suvidha portal for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The training programme was held to facilitate the transition to electronic processing of pension cases of retiring government employees through the Pension Suvidha software application, developed by the Jammu & Kashmir Government in collaboration with the Accountant General (A&E) and NIC.

District Treasury Officer Bandipora, briefed the par-



ticipants about the key features and benefits of the new system. He emphasized the importance of timely and error-free pension case processing and urged all DDOs to ensure full compliance with the new digital procedure.

During the session, the officers were guided on var-

ious aspects of the portal including login procedures, uploading of documents, digital verification, and submission of pension cases through the online platform.

District Treasury Officer informed that the implementation of the Pension Suvidha Portal will bring

greater transparency, efficiency, and speed in pension-related matters and will benefit both departments and retiring employees alike. He also stressed that similar follow-up training and support sessions will be organized to address technical queries from field offices.

Training prog on Pension Suvidha held at Pulwama

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District Treasury Office Pulwama today successfully conducted a training programme for Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the district, focusing on the operationalization of the Pension Suvidha Portal.

The initiative was held in accordance with the directions of the Director General Accounts & Treasuries, Jammu and Kashmir.



nessed participation from DDOs and dealing assistants of various Govt. Offices operating under the District Treasury Pulwama.

Programme aimed to enhance the understanding and capacity of the officers with respect to the newly

launched Pension Suvidha Portal, designed to streamline pension-related processes and promote transparency and efficiency.

District Treasury Officer Pulwama highlighted the significance of digital trans-

formation in public financial management. Participants were given a detailed orientation on various features and functionalities of the portal, followed by a practical demonstration.

On similar lines, parallel training programmes were also held at all Sub-Treasuries across the district.

These sessions ensured uniform sensitisation, capacity building, and readiness among all Drawing and Disbursing Officers (DDOs), thereby laying a strong foundation for the seamless district-wide implementation of the Pension Suvidha Portal.

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As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaigns were today held across multiple panchayats and municipal areas of district Budgam to raise awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and to mobilize communities towards a drug-free society.

The awareness programmes were conducted at Gogjipatheri A, Gogjipatheri B, Dadompura Payeen, Dadompura Balla, Bonyar, Government Middle School Surnhall, and Panchayat Ghar Choon.

In addition, several municipal wards of Khansahib also witnessed enthusiastic participation in the campaign.



These events marked another step forward in the district administration's commitment to eradicate the growing menace of substance abuse.

Organised with the active collaboration of departments such as Health, Education, Social Welfare, and local bodies including the Municipal Committee Khansahib, the events drew the involvement of stu-

dents, teachers, civil society members and youth volunteers.

Resource persons from the concerned departments sensitized the participants on various facets of substance abuse including its psychological, social, and legal consequences.

Focus was placed on early intervention, strengthening community-level support systems, and

linking vulnerable individuals with counselling and rehabilitation services.

The programmes featured interactive sessions, anti-drug pledge ceremonies, educational skits, awareness rallies, poster exhibitions, and distribution of IEC materials. Youth participants were encouraged to act as agents of change within their peer groups and localities.