

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## LG attends valedictory session of International Painting Workshop at IIM



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JAN 16

"Artists and GenZ Entrepreneurs will forge India's future together. Art and business alliance is a unique power and Imagination and Investment will be able to build a vibrant and developed society," the Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He was speaking at the valedictory session of International Painting Workshop, organised by Anandam: The Centre of Happiness and the Art Club at IIM Jammu.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor extended

his felicitations to the renowned artists and students for building a stronger tomorrow through creativity.

"Artists are the architects of national pride and they are shaping identity, unity, progress and forging a united future. The combined energy of creative minds and the future CEOs can become the new engine of national progress.

On one hand we have dreamers as artists and on the other Doers as next gen leaders and their united effort will redefine the pace of progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that in today's

era of artificial intelligence and machine learning, creative thinking is most needed to discover new opportunities. He said the Business Management professionals must be prepared to learn from experiences and adopt new approaches.

"Art is a vital pillar of interdisciplinary education. Art enriches institutions, transforms personalities, and fosters a sense of belonging, thereby strengthening responsibility towards society and the nation. I see art as the heartbeat of society and the conscience of the nation, shaping our values, preserving our identity, encouraging dialogue, and inspiring a

collective purpose," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the eminent and emerging painters. He also commended the IIM Jammu for the unique academic-cultural initiative.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Dr Shakti Gupta, former Executive Director AIIMS Jammu, Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal Chairperson Anandam: The Centre for Happiness; Shri KK Gandhi and other eminent painters, senior officials, heads of educational institutions, faculty members and youth in large number were present.

## DDC Reasi reviews progress of District, UT Capex Works, emphasizes timeline completion

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District Development Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of District and UT Capex (Tribal Affairs) works being executed in the district.

The Chief Planning Officer briefed the DDC on the status of schemes and ongoing works. He informed that 1,025 works have been completed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, while 174 works under UT Capex (Tribal Affairs). Additionally, 9 works have been completed under PMAGY.

The DDC reviewed the physical and financial progress of each work as well as the status of tendering and allotment of remaining works. She directed the stakeholder



departments to promptly resolve land-related issues and initiate works without further delay to ensure timely completion.

Emphasizing close monitoring, the DDC instructed officers to conduct weekly reviews of works. She

stressed the need for coordinated efforts and effective execution to ensure optimum utilization of funds and timely delivery of development works.

The meeting also reviewed 16 new works proposed under the District

Capex Budget 2025-26, which are yet to receive administrative approval. The DDC directed the concerned departments to complete the required formalities expeditiously to ensure that these works can be taken up at the earliest.

Later, the DDC also reviewed damage assessment reports of public infrastructure submitted under SDRF (Capex Part). She assessed the restoration estimates prepared by the line departments. Emphasis was laid on timely and accurate estimates, particularly for permanent restoration of damaged infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Sukhdev Singh Samyal; Chief Planning Officer, Narinder Kumar; ACD, Vijay Kumar; Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and PWD; BDOs and other concerned officers.

## DC Kathua reviews implementation of Food Safety and Standards Act-2006

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee on Safe Food and Healthy Diets to review the implementation of the Food Safety and Standards Act-2006 along with directions issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI).

The meeting discussed issues related to strengthening enforcement and ensuring strict adherence to the provisions of the Act across the district.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Food Safety Jammu Division, Madan Lal Magotra, who is also the Designated Officer, Food Safety District Kathua briefed the meeting about the overall performance of the district unit. He apprised the committee on inspections carried out, lifting of sample, prosecution, penalties imposed, registration and licensing of food business operators, besides analysis of samples through Mobile Food Testing Vans (MFTVs). It was informed that penalties amounting



to Rs 14.04 Lakh have been imposed on Traders for violation under different provisions of the Act. During the period under review, 917 inspections were conducted, 476 food samples were lifted and prosecution was launched against 62 defaulters.

The meeting specifically discussed the ongoing training and registration of food handlers of the hotel and hospitality industry under FSSAI guidelines.

The Committee decided to intensify and expand the training programme to cover ICDS Anganwadi

Workers, staff engaged in Mid-Day Meal schemes in schools, Fair Price Shop dealers and their staff, so as to ensure safe handling, preparation and distribution of food at all levels.

The Deputy Commissioner called for joint inspections and random sampling of eatables to send a strong message to violators. He stressed the need for generating maximum awareness among the general public about food safety, hygiene and adulteration through sustained outreach activities across the district.

The DC underscored the need to involve Agriculture and allied departments in disseminating information on food safety and promotion of healthy diets. He further instructed the stakeholder departments to impart training to their employees through the Food Safety Department and ensure strict implementation of all advisories and directions issued in the interest of public health.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Vishavjeet Singh, members of different departments and other

## Labour Deptt organises 1-day awareness camp on New Labour Codes at Samba

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The Labour Department on Friday organised a one-day awareness and interactive programme on the New Labour Codes at Cadila Pharmaceutical. The Human Resource (HR) professionals from industrial establishments and other stakeholders were sensitized to new Labour Codes introduced by the Government of India.

They were familiarized with salient features, compliance requirements and additional benefits of the four Labour Codes, which seek to simplify existing labour laws, improve compliance mechanisms, enhance ease of doing business and strengthen the social security and welfare framework for workers.



Deputy Labour Commissioner Jammu, Sukhpal Singh, the Chief Guest highlighted the significance of the new Labour Codes in reinforcing transparency, improving industrial relations and a balanced approach between employers and employees.

The event was also attended by President, Association of Industries Samba, Raman Jolly; General Secretary, Arjun Malhotra and other members. They emphasised the importance of

awareness and collaboration between industry stakeholders and the Labour Department for smooth implementation of the new labour reforms.

Assistant Labour Commissioner, Himani Jerath delivered a detailed presentation and guided the participants on the four new Labour Codes, Wages Code; Industrial Relations Code; The Code on Social Security; Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code

She elaborated practical implications, compliance procedures and the benefits offered to both industries and workers under the new legal framework.

The programme concluded with an interactive session. The participants raised queries and shared their experiences. The session was well appreciated by the attendees and proved to be a valuable platform for enhancing awareness and understanding of the new labour law regime.

## RDD Team reviews development works in remote Panchayats of Doda

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A team of the Rural Development Department Doda on Friday visited remote Assar Block Panchayats to assess the development works and listen to people's issues.

Five Panchayats - Bibrota, Chakka A1, Chakka A2, Chakka B and Shamthi are under the administrative control of District Ramban but form part of Assar Block of District Doda.

The team led by Assistant Commissioner Development, Din Mohammad Afaqi inspected the ongoing and completed works under MGNREGA, Capex Budget, Swachh Bharat



Mission (SBM) and Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY). He reviewed the quality of work, physical progress and adherence to timelines while interacting directly with beneficiaries at several locations.

The ACD also held meetings with multiple public

delegations, patiently listening to their issues and grievances. He assured them of full cooperation from the administration and emphasized that development works would be implemented effectively on the ground with transparency and accountability.

These Panchayats have long remained neglected due to jurisdictional complexities. The visit by the ACD gave a ray of hope to the local population, who welcomed the administration's outreach to these remote areas.

## Admin all set to start 2nd phase commemoration activities

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The District Administration Ramban today finalized the arrangements for the second phase of the Commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride - 'Vande Mataram' to be observed from January 19 to January 26.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak, who is also the Nodal Officer for the commemoration.

He briefed the meeting on the comprehensive schedule issued by the District Administration and emphasized coordinated implementation by all concerned departments.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning



Officer, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Chief Education Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers and Heads of Colleges, among others.

The District-level inaugural programme would be held on January 19 at Ramban, featuring the invocation of Vande Mataram, cultural performances, screening of patriotic films and addresses by guests.

Similar programmes will be organized at Sub-Division, Tehsil and institutional levels, ensuring participation of local artists, students and the general public.

A range of activities have been planned during the week, including exhibitions on the freedom struggle, debates, quizzes, essay writing, painting, poster-making and slogan writing competitions focusing on

patriotism, national unity and cultural heritage. Patriotic murals, cleanliness drives and a ceremonial plantation drive titled "Salute to Earth" shall also be organized.

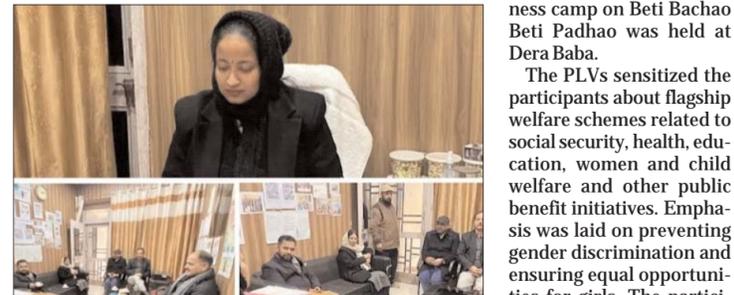
Discussing the day-wise plan, the ADC directed the officers to ensure timely arrangements as per their assigned responsibilities to facilitate smooth execution and maximize public participation.

## Secy DLSA Reasi reviews working of Panel Lawyers

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Under the leadership of Chairman (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Reasi Pooja Gupta today chaired a meeting to review the functioning and performance of Panel Lawyers and to assess the implementation of legal aid services at the grassroots level.

The Secretary reviewed case disposal, quality of legal representation, assistance being provided to beneficiaries and adherence to the objectives of NALSA and J&K LSA. Stress was



laid on strengthening coordination among the Panel Lawyers and improving outreach activities and ensuring prompt and effective legal aid delivery.

Meanwhile, a series of awareness programs were organised in different parts

of the District. The PLVs organized camps at villages Gran Morh and Karua to acquaint locals about the Government Schemes meant for women empowerment, welfare of senior citizens, children and persons with disabilities etc. An aware-

ness camp on Beti Bachao Beti Padhao was held at Dera Baba.

The PLVs sensitized the participants about flagship welfare schemes related to social security, health, education, women and child welfare and other public benefit initiatives. Emphasis was laid on preventing gender discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities for girls. The participants were also informed about the role of Legal Services Authorities in providing free legal aid and assistance to eligible persons.

Similarly, an awareness program was at Mahore to educate the public about the benefits of Lok Adalat.