

World Wetlands Day: EIACP hosts Mansar Lake tour for GCW- Parade students

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 03

To mark World Wetlands Day 2026, Department of Ecology, Environment & Remote Sensing (EIACP) J&K Hub on Tuesday organized an awareness and outreach programme in alignment with the global theme of “Wetlands and traditional knowledge: Celebrating cultural heritage” and the Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative. The event aimed to sensitize students and the local community to the ecological, cultural and environmental significance of wetlands.

Students from the Department of Environmental Sciences (EVS), Government College for Women (GCW), Parade, along with Dr. Harmanmeet Kour, HOD & Dr. Neha were taken on an educational field visit to Mansar Lake, a renowned wetland and a Ramsar site of Jammu region. During the visit, an awareness rally was organized around the periphery of the lake, where students



actively spread messages discouraging the use of plastic and highlighting its harmful effects on wetlands and biodiversity.

A cleanliness drive was also conducted along the lake area, in which students participated enthusiastically. The drive resulted in the collection of approximately 70 kilograms of plastic waste (handed over to Wildlife department for disposal under rule), reinforcing the core principles of Mission LiFE through collective action and responsi-

ble behavior.

The participants were briefed about the ecological importance of Mansar Lake by Yashbeer Singh, Block Development Officer (BDO), who highlighted its biodiversity, conservation challenges and sustainable management practices.

The Programme Officer- EIACP J&K Hub, Dr. Kirti Bhatt elaborated on the cultural significance of wetlands, Ramsar sites and their role in maintaining ecological balance, emphasizing the need for commu-

nity participation in wetland conservation.

The programme was attended by Range Officer, Anil Sharma, Nitin Sharma, Chetan Gupta along with the staff of the NMSHE Project. The event witnessed the active participation of nearly 60 students and stakeholders, making it a meaningful and impactful observance of World Wetlands Day 2026. The programme was organized under the supervision of Dr. Rajan Singh, Coordinator, EIACP J&K hub.

DDC Kishtwar chairs District Level Cooperative Development Committee Meeting

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The 5th meeting of the District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DLCDC) was held today to review the working and progress of the Cooperative sector in Kishtwar District.

District Development Commissioner (DC) and the Chairman of the Committee, Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired the meeting.

The meeting was convened by the Deputy Registrar, Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal and attended by ADDC, Vinod Kumar Behnal; ACP, Neeraj Sharma; AD Handicrafts, Pardeep Shan; CAO, Kushal Chandel; AR Cooperative, Amit Sharma; AR Cooperative, Sanjay Singh; BM JCCB, Sameer Nabli; TSO; Inspector Fisheries



and other concerned.

Detailed discussions were held on the computerization of PACS under the 2nd phase, implementation of the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan, approval of projects under the Cooperative Infrastructure Development Fund (CIDF)

Scheme and establishment of PACS as Pradhan Mantri Kisaan Samridhi Kendras/Kisaan Khidmat Ghars.

The District Development Commissioner directed the officers and committee members to expedite the implementation of the ini-

tiatives at the grassroots level, including the operationalization of PM Kisaan Samridhi Kendras/Kisaan Khidmat Ghars, identification of feasible and suitable land parcels for the Grain Storage Plan and timely computerization of PACS (2nd phase).

ADC Bhaderwah reviews Poshan, Social Welfare Schemes

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Additional Deputy Commissioner, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today reviewed the implementation of Poshan and Social Welfare schemes in Bhaderwah Sub Division. The meeting aimed to assess the implementation and progress of various welfare initiatives in the tehsil.

The meeting was attended by the Child Development Project Officer (CDPO) Poshan- Farhat Shamim Khan; Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Shah Nawaz Ahmad, along with Supervisors of the project.

During the meeting, the



Tehsil Officer briefed the meeting about the schemes being implemented by the Social Welfare Department.

He informed that the major schemes include the Old Age Pension Scheme, Women in Distress Scheme,

Disability Pension Scheme, Transgender Pension Scheme and Marriage Assistance Scheme.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of the services of ICDS, such as Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), disbursement of honorarium, all indicators on Poshan Tracker, implementation of Supplementary Nutrition Programme (SNP), Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE), Aadhaar enrollment of children, payment of rent, infrastructure upgradation aligned with Poshan Tracker, besides availability of water, electricity, toilets in AWCs.

Chairperson DDC chairs quarterly General Council Meeting at Kishtwar

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Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar, Pooja Thakur today presided over the Quarterly General Council Meeting here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex..

At the outset, the CEO, General Council (ADDC), Vinod Kumar Behnal, extended a warm welcome to all council members and outlined the objectives of the meeting.

During the session, the council was briefed on the Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding grievances raised in the previous General Council Meeting. Officers from line departments provided updates on the progress made in addressing these concerns. It was informed that the majority of grievances have been resolved, while efforts were underway to address the remaining issues within a stipulated time frame.

The Chairperson conducted a comprehensive review of the sector-wise physical and financial progress of projects under the District Capex Plan, Area Development Plan, MGNREGA, PMAY-G, Awaas Plus 2.0 Survey and RGSA for FY 2025-26.

Additionally, block-specific issues and concerns related to various depart-



ments were highlighted by DDC members, who called for immediate resolution of the same.

These matters were duly noted by the CEO-General Council for forwarding to the concerned departments for necessary intervention.

The Chairperson instructed the concerned officers to take prompt action to resolve the highlighted issues. She also urged executing agencies to accelerate the implementation of ongoing developmental projects and ensure their timely completion within the FY 2025-26.

Furthermore, she directed the implementing

agencies to deploy resources and manpower efficiently to achieve the set targets.

The DDC Chairperson also raised several issues, including the Ikhala Block Boundary to Marwah Road issue, Forest Clearance of Shirshi to Chicha Road, Completion of work on Sazar Bridge, Community Sanitary Complex at Lopara, slab work of Balashram Road drainage, exclusion of beneficiaries from ration cards, pending compensation of landowners and the rationalisation of teachers.

She directed all departments to conduct aware-

ness programmes at the grassroots level to promote the schemes of the Agriculture, Horticulture, Labour and other government departments.

The Chairperson further called for expedited construction of Suid Bridge and Sirchi Bridge. Directions were issued to the concerned Executive Engineer to furnish the map and DPR of the Ikhala Block Boundary to Marwah Road.

She stressed the importance of interdepartmental coordination to eliminate bottlenecks hindering developmental works and to ensure seamless project execution.

Female trainees awarded certificates on completing Tailoring course

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Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (J&K KVIB) today awarded certificates to female trainees on completion of six-month Cutting and Training course here at Beli Charana.

The certificates were given away by Secretary Dr. Basharat Hussain. He congratulated the participants and encouraged them to establish micro-enterprises in the tailoring sector. “Skill development is the foundation of self-reliance,” he said and wished the participants a successful and healthy future as they embark on their entrepreneurial journey.

This initiative, sanctioned



by J&K KVIB, is part of a broader mission to create sustainable livelihood opportunities and promote self-employment among women in Jammu & Kash-

mir.

The programme was attended by Deputy CEO (Jammu Division) Tilak Raj; District Officer J&K KVIB Mohammad Sadiq,

trainees and other stakeholders, who collectively appreciated the Board's efforts in fostering women-led entrepreneurship and skill development.

Director Agriculture reviews progress of key departmental schemes

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Director Agriculture Jammu, Anil Gupta today convened a review meeting in the Conference Hall, Krishi Bhawan to assess the physical and financial progress of key agricultural initiatives across Jammu Division.

The meeting focused on the implementation status of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) works, NABARD-funded projects and the uploading of information on various portals.

The meeting was attended by SMS-RL, Krishan Kant; Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning), Mo-



hammad Yaqoob Zargar; Accounts Officer, Vriti Upal, along with officers from the CSS and Planning Sections of the Directorate. The Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) of Jammu Division and Farm Managers, Chakrovi and Chinore, participated in the meeting through Video Conferencing (VC).

During the meeting, comprehensive presentations were delivered, outlining scheme-wise and compo-

nent-wise physical and financial achievements, besides performance against approved targets under HADP, CSS, CAPEX and NABARD schemes.

The Director called for swift and prudent utilization of allocated resources to maximize benefits for the farming community, while ensuring transparency, accountability and strict compliance with prescribed guidelines.

Laying special emphasis

on the RKVY and Farm Mechanization components, Anil Gupta directed officers to accord priority to these sectors to enhance irrigation, agricultural productivity and mechanization. The Chief Agriculture Officers were asked to closely monitor the progress of HADP projects and ensure that expenditure under all components is completed up to 100 percent within the prescribed timelines.

District Task Force conducts inspection drive against Child Labour in Bandipora

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Under the Pan-India Rescue and Rehabilitation Campaign for the eradication of child and adolescent labour, the District Task Force under the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1996, conducted a comprehensive awareness and inspection drive in the main town of Bandipora and its adjoining areas.

During the campaign, multiple establishments including hotels, shops, and units in both organized and



unorganized sectors were inspected to identify instances of child and adolescent labour. The drive aimed to enforce legal provisions and ensure the pro-

tection and rehabilitation of vulnerable children.

As part of the initiative, business owners and general public were sensitized about the legal implications

of employing children and the harmful impact of child labour on their health, education, and future. Authorities also emphasized the crucial role of community participation in reporting child labour cases to concerned departments for timely intervention.

The campaign witnessed active participation from officials of Mission Vatsalya, Labour Department, and District Legal Services Authority Bandipora, who collectively reinforced awareness about Child Rights, legal safeguards, and rehabilitation support for rescued children.