

6 FPO registration certificates distributed at FPO Conclave during SKUAST-J Summit

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 14

An FPO Conclave was held on the third day of the SKUAST-Jammu Agriculture Summit and Kisan Mela 2026 at Chatha, serving as a focused platform for deliberations on strengthening Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and enhancing value chain competitiveness in Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme was presided over by Secretary, Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director HADP/JKCIP, Sandeep Kumar, who emphasised the critical role of FPOs in transforming agriculture from subsistence farming to enterprise-driven growth.

The conclave featured an in-depth workshop on the production and export scenario of niche Basmati rice, highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's strategic potential in quality production,



branding, processing and expansion into global markets. Experts from the Basmati Export Development Foundation (BEDF), industry representatives, financial institutions and the Agriculture Production Department shared key insights on strengthening financial linkages, improving credit access and enabling sustainable enterprise models for FPOs.

A major highlight of the event was the formal distribution of six registration cer-

tificates to newly registered FPOs under the Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JK-CIP). This milestone marks a significant step toward institutional strengthening and formalisation of farmer collectives in the region.

With formal registration, these FPOs are empowered to actively participate in processing, value addition, branding and export-oriented agribusiness development. The initiative aims to strengthen the agricultural

sector and enhance farmers' incomes by integrating them into competitive value chains and market-driven enterprises.

The conclave reaffirmed the commitment of the Agriculture Production Department under HADP/JKCIP to empower farmer-led organisations, promote high-value crops such as niche Basmati rice and build a robust ecosystem for sustainable agri-entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir.

Kisan Mela begins at historic Airwan Shrine in Kathua

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The annual Mahashivratri celebrations at the historic Airwan Shrine commenced today with the inauguration of a Kisan Mela organised by the District Administration Kathua. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of farmers, devotees and local residents.

MLA Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan and Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma inaugurated the mela.

The two-day fair features the exhibition and sale of locally grown agricultural produce, including fruits, vegetables and food grains, reflecting the agrarian strength of the region. Stalls established by the Agriculture and allied departments are providing awareness regarding modern farming techniques, departmental schemes and best practices. Farmers are also interacting with experts to obtain guidance on crop production, horticulture and animal husbandry.

Cultural performances presented by artists of the



Cultural Academy, including Shiva Tandava and Dogri items, added colour to the inaugural day and highlighted the spiritual significance of the festival.

Addressing the gathering, the MLA appreciated the efforts of the District Administration and the Airwan Mandir Committee for organising the mela. He stated that such events promote rural entrepreneurship, strengthen communal harmony and help preserve the rich cultural heritage of the area.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the Kisan Mela, besides enhancing

the festive atmosphere, serves as an important platform for the dissemination of knowledge regarding improved agricultural practices and welfare schemes among farmers. He urged them to make maximum use of the facilities and expert guidance available at the venue.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that a grand Ganga Aarti will be organised at 6:00 PM on the day of Mahashivratri at the shrine and invited the public to participate.

The Airwan Mandir Committee, under the supervi-

sion of Tehsildar Nagri Aana Jamwal thanked the administration, participants and devotees for their cooperation and support.

Earlier, competitions in Kabaddi, Volleyball, Tug of War and athletics were conducted with large public participation. Prizes were distributed among the winners and local and national-level school players were felicitated.

Among others, Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Jatinder Khajuria, Block Development Officer Nagri Pardeep Singh and other senior officers were present.

MLA Chenani, DC Udhampur flag off 4th Kanwar Yatra at Jakhani ahead of Maha Shivaratri

UDHAMPUR, FEBRUARY 14: Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia along with Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai, today flagged off the 4th Kanwar Yatra from Jakhani, Udhampur, in connection with the forthcoming festival of Maha Shivratri.

On the occasion, the MLA and the Deputy Commis-



sioner extended warm greetings to the people. They emphasised that religious events and spiritual gatherings serve as platforms to foster peace, brotherhood and communal harmony in society.

They appealed to the public to celebrate the festival in a spirit of unity and mutual respect while spreading the message of peace, tranquility and righteousness.

ADC Bhaderwah chairs review meeting on Shivratri and Ramadan arrangements

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Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal chaired a review meeting to finalize special arrangements for the upcoming festivals of Shivratri and the holy month of Ramadan.

Detailed discussions were held regarding uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation, traffic regulation, market inspections and the availability of essential commodities to ensure the smooth conduct of the festivals.

Among those present were Tehsildar Bhaderwah Kamalpreet Singh, Naib Tehsildar Bhaderwah



Parampreet Singh, Naib Tehsildar Bhalla Shambu Nath, Assistant Engineer (AE) Arif Manzoor of

JPDCL, AE Majid Ali of Jal Shakti Department, the Medical Officer and the Tehsil Supply Officer (TSO)

of Bhaderwah/Bhalra. The Presidents of Sanatan Dharam Sabha Bhaderwah and Anjuman Islamia Bhaderwah were also present in the meeting.

The ADC emphasised maintaining communal harmony and directed all departments to ensure proper cleanliness around temples and mosques, adequate street lighting and smooth supply of essential items.

All concerned officers were instructed to remain vigilant and responsive to public grievances to avoid any inconvenience during the festive period, reaffirming the administration's commitment to the peaceful observance of both festivals.

2-day HRD program on Integrated Pest Management inaugurated at Jammu

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 14: A two-day Human Resource Development (HRD) Programme on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) was inaugurated today at the Conference Hall of the Directorate of Agriculture, Talab Tillo, Jammu. The programme is being organised by the Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC) Jammu in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Jammu.

Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta presided over the inaugural session as the chief guest.

Prominent officers present included Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Sanjay Anand, Deputy Director Agriculture (Central) Sanjeev Rai Gupta, Plant Protection Officer (PPO) Raju Mahajan, Deputy Director (Plant Protection) CIPMC Jammu Dr Mith-



lesh Kumar Arya, Assistant Director (Law Enforcement) Kuldeep Singh, ASCO (I&P) Sanjeev Mehta, Programme Officer Vivek Mahajan and Assistant Plant Protection Officer (Entomology) Ravi Kumar Chhapare.

In his inaugural address, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta emphasised the significance of capacity building for field functionaries and farmers in promoting sustainable agricultural practices. He highlighted the need to adopt eco-friendly and need-based pest management strategies to reduce

the indiscriminate use of chemical pesticides, ensure safe food production, safeguard environmental health and enhance farmers' income.

Sanjay Anand delivered a detailed presentation on the safe and judicious use of pesticides. He elaborated on recommended dosages, proper timing and method of application, use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), compliance with label claims and the importance of spreading awareness among farmers regarding the hazards associated with pesticide misuse.

Dr Mithlesh Kumar Arya made a comprehensive presentation on IPM and the safe use of pesticides. He explained the core principles of IPM, including pest surveillance, monitoring based on Economic Threshold Levels (ETLs), biological control measures, resistance management and integrated strategies to minimize environmental and health risks.

PPO Raju Mahajan addressed the gathering and reiterated the need for strengthening field-level implementation of IPM practices. He called upon the officers to work in close coordination to ensure that farmers adopt scientific and sustainable pest management techniques. He also sensitised the officers about creating awareness regarding the toxicity classification of pesticides as indicated on product labels.

DIC Ramban organises workshop on self-employment schemes

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Under the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan, the District Industries Centre (DIC) Ramban organised a one-day awareness workshop at the Community Hall, Ramban.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of Director Industries and Commerce Arun Manhas. General Manager DIC Ramban Ravinder Kumar inaugurated the workshop.

During the workshop, the general public was sensitised about Udyam Registration under RAMP, the PMEGP Scheme, PM Vishwakarma and various other self-employment schemes being implemented by the Industries and Commerce Department through DIC Ramban.

Project Manager DIC Ramban Swaroop Kotwal provided information about the schemes implemented by the department and highlighted the procedure for online registration under the PMEGP portal. He encouraged unemployed youth to avail the loan facilities provided by the Gov-



ernment and establish their own enterprises.

The participants were informed about the financial assistance and subsidies available under the PMEGP scheme in both manufacturing and service sectors. Awareness was also provided regarding the NCSS, a centrally sponsored scheme and the incentives provided under the J&K Industrial Policy 2021-30.

Special emphasis was laid on PM Vishwakarma, a holistic and technology-dri-

ven skill development scheme aimed at empowering traditional artisans. The officials also motivated entrepreneurs to register under the MSME Health Clinic and urged them to enrol their units on the MSME Health Clinic Portal to avail the benefits.

The workshop witnessed active participation from various line departments, including the Superintendent ITI Ramban and officials from RSETI Ramban, Handloom/Handicrafts De-

partment and Employment Office Ramban.

Through deliberations and interactive sessions, more than 200 aspiring youth and artisans were guided and motivated to take advantage of the Government's self-employment initiatives.

The workshop concluded with participants appreciating the initiative and expressing keen interest in availing the schemes for establishing their own ventures.

DIC Doda organises awareness programme on Udyam Registration under RAMP

DODA, FEBRUARY 14: The District Industries Centre (DIC) Doda organised a Special Awareness and Facilitation Programme on Udyam Registration under the RAMP (Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance) Programme, with the participation of around 90 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs from across the district.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh and Director Industries and Commerce Jammu Dr Arun Manhas and under the supervision of General Manager DIC Doda Mohd Ashfaq.

The programme aimed to sensitise entrepreneurs about the importance of Udyam Registration for the



formalisation of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). It highlighted benefits such as government incentives, subsidy-linked schemes, priority sector lending, protection against delayed payments and participation in government procurement.

District Nodal Officer JKEDI Shabir Majeed emphasised the need for enterprise formalisation through Udyam Registration to enhance access to finance, marketing assistance and capacity-building support.

Functional Manager DIC Doda Jatinder Bharti ex-

plained the simplified online registration process and highlighted that Udyam Registration is mandatory for availing various departmental schemes and financial assistance in a transparent manner.

Industries Promotion Officer DIC Doda Neeraj Sharma briefed participants about post-registration facilitation, grievance redressal mechanisms and departmental handholding support for new and existing units. The programme also witnessed the participation of representatives from the Employment Office Doda, KVIB, NULM and CSC, who apprised the attendees about the convergence of schemes and coordinated support available for entrepreneurs at different stages of enterprise development.