

Joint Director Agri Inputs inaugurates sale of Vegetable Seedlings at Kitchen Garden Lalmandi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 23

Joint Director Agriculture Inputs today inaugurated the sale of high-quality vegetable seedlings at the Kitchen Garden Scheme, Lalmandi, Srinagar.

The initiative aims to promote kitchen gardening, encourage self-sufficiency in fresh vegetables among urban and peri-urban households, and support sustainable agricultural practices in the region.

The event underscored the department's ongoing efforts to make quality planting material accessible to the public at subsidized rates, enabling residents to cultivate nutritious vegetables in their home gardens.

The distribution and sale drive is part of the broader



Kitchen Garden Scheme, which has been instrumental in boosting household vegetable production and reducing reliance on market supplies.

Speaking on the occasion, the Joint Director Agriculture Inputs emphasized the importance of such initiatives in promoting urban agriculture and

healthy eating habits. He urged the public, particularly kitchen garden holders from Srinagar and adjoining areas, to actively participate and avail the opportunity to procure certified seedlings for timely planting.

On the occasion, Deputy Director central, Qazi Showkat; Seed Production

Officer, Ajaz Ahmad Mir along with several senior officers of the Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department were present.

Their participation highlighted the collaborative approach of the department in implementing farmer-centric and community-oriented programs.

Dir SEK visits schools in Anantnag, Kulgam & Pulwama

SRINAGAR, FEBRUARY 23: In continuation of the reopening of schools across the Kashmir Division and the declaration of 2026 as the "Year of Academic Excellence," the Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, today undertook visits to various schools in South Kashmir to personally welcome students and encourage them at the beginning of the new academic ses-

sion. Wani attended the morning assembly at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Bijbehara, District Anantnag, where he joined students and staff in the morning prayer and prayed for the bright future of students and excellence in the academic year 2026. Prior to the assembly, he warmly welcomed students with flowers and small gifts as a gesture of encourage-

ment and goodwill.

Interacting with students, the Director enquired about their studies and constructive engagements during the winter vacations and motivated them to begin the session with renewed focus and discipline.

The Director said that the morning assembly is not merely a routine but it is a moment of collective reflection and commitment.

He emphasized the need for working with dedication, discipline and a shared vision to achieve outstanding academic outcomes during the year.

Continuing his outreach programme, Wani visited District Kulgam, where he welcomed students of Higher Secondary School (HSS) Nihama on their arrival and interacted with them in a warm and encouraging manner.

PM Vishwakarma awareness programme held at Shopian

SHOPIAN, FEBRUARY 23: A one-day PM Vishwakarma Awareness-cum-Capacity Building Programme on Business Management, Financial Literacy and E-Commerce was

organised today by the Br-MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Srinagar under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in collaboration with the District Administration Shopian at Conference Hall, Shopian.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone attended the programme as Chief Guest and underscored the significance of the PM Vishwakarma scheme in empowering traditional artisans and craftspeople by enhancing their skills, providing financial assistance and facilitating market linkages.

He stressed that such initiatives will not only preserve traditional crafts but also strengthen the lo-



cal economy by promoting self-reliance and entrepreneurship.

Principal, Polytechnic College Shopian, emphasized the role of technical education and skill development in upgrading the capabilities of local artisans. He assured institutional support for training and capacity building initiatives.

Assistant Director, MSME, Tariq Ishtiaq highlighted various components of the PM Vishwakarma scheme, including skill upgradation, toolkit incentives, credit

support and digital transaction incentives and encouraged artisans to avail maximum benefits under the scheme to expand and modernize their enterprises.

Imran-Ul-Amin from Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) Awantipora deliberated on business management strategies, financial literacy and the growing importance of e-commerce platforms in expanding market reach.

He motivated participants to adopt digital tools and innovative practices to

make their ventures sustainable and competitive.

Manager, JK Bank, highlighted financial literacy, credit linkage and banking support at PM Vishwakarma programme in the district.

During the event, participants raised queries and sought guidance regarding registration and benefits under the scheme.

The officers and officials from District Industries Centre, Shopian, representatives from Banks and artisans of the district participated in the programme.

MSME-DFO Jammu hosts Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme at ITI Basohli

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Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Government of India, through its field office MSME-Development and Facilitation Office, Jammu, in coordination with district administration Kathua, organized an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP) at Government ITI, Basohli today. The programme was held under the aegis of the Ministry of MSME and under the guidance of the Joint Director, MSME-DFO, Jammu, A.K. Tamarra. More than 200 individuals, including PM Vishwakarma artisans and trainees of ITI Basohli attended the programme, reflecting growing awareness and enthusiasm among aspiring entrepreneurs.

An informative lecture on schemes of the Ministry of MSME was delivered by



Assistant Director, Deven-der Kumar Tyagi, who elaborated on the benefits, eligibility criteria and application procedures of flagship schemes supporting micro, small and medium enterprises.

A session on entrepreneurship and its practical dimensions was conducted by Superintendent Government ITI Basohli, Archana Devi. She emphasized innovation, skill development and proactive engagement as key components for establishing and sustaining success-

ful enterprises.

Shivang Gupta from District Industries Centre provided detailed information on the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme and other schemes of the UT Government, outlining the financial assistance, subsidies and incentives available to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Dheeraj Handu from Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute apprised participants about entrepreneurship development initiatives and the J&K Startup

Policy, highlighting the support ecosystem, funding avenues, mentorship and incubation facilities available for startups in the region.

Additionally, a comprehensive session on financial inclusion and banking products was delivered by Director, Rural Self Employment Training Institute Kathua, Utpala Saikia who elaborated on various credit facilities, banking products and financial literacy measures aimed at empowering first-generation entrepreneurs.

NHPC Organizes Vasant Utsav 2026

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NHPC, India's 100% renewable energy company celebrated 'Vasant Utsav 2026' with great pomp and show on 22.02.2026 at NHPC Residential Complex, Faridabad. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Bhupendra Gupta, Chairman & Managing Director, NHPC and Smt. Shikha Gupta, Chairperson, NHPC Women Welfare Committee. Vasant Utsav is celebrated by NHPC with the aim of showcasing the richness and diversity of Indian culture during the spring season.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman and Managing Director greeted the gathering and said that spring brings new energy, enthusiasm, and hope. After the chill of winter, when the weather becomes pleasant, crops flourish in the fields, new buds sprout on the trees, and colorful flowers bloom everywhere, nature gives us the message that change is the foundation of life, and moving forward after every pause is the path to progress. In his address, Mr. Gupta also mentioned NHPC's ongoing projects and future plans, and said that the past year has been a year of achievements and transformation for NHPC. We have not only met our targets, but in many cases, surpassed them, achieving outstanding results.

Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director (Projects), Shri Suprakash



Adhikari, Director (Technical) and members of NHPC Women Welfare Committee, Smt. Mona Lal, Smt. Garima Singh and Smt. Soma Adhikari were also present on the occasion. In this festival, folk songs, music and folk dances were performed by local artists of Mathura whose wonderful performances mesmerized everyone. Stalls were also set up by NHPC Power Stations/Projects/Regional Offices to promote local handicraft products from various States/Union Territories like Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam etc. in this festival.

Vasant Utsav 2026 was celebrated with great enthusiasm by NHPC, India's 100% renewable energy company, on 22.02.2026 at the NHPC Residential Complex, Faridabad. The festival was inaugurated by Shri Bhupendra Gupta, Chairman and Managing

Director, NHPC and Smt. Shikha Gupta, Chairperson, NHPC Mahila Kalyan Samiti. NHPC celebrates Vasant Utsav during the spring season with the objective of showcasing the richness and diversity of Indian culture.

While addressing the gathering during the program, CMD, NHPC extended his best wishes to everyone and said that the spring season brings new energy, new enthusiasm and new hope into our lives. After the biting cold of winter, when the weather becomes pleasant, crops begin to sway in the fields, new buds sprout on trees and colorful flowers bloom all around, nature conveys the message that change is the foundation of life and that moving forward after every pause is the path to progress. In his address, Shri Gupta also spoke about NHPC's ongoing projects and future plans, stating that the previous year had been a year of achievements and transfor-

mation for NHPC. He said that NHPC had not only achieved its targets but, in many areas, had surpassed them with excellent performance.

On this occasion, Shri Uttam Lal, Director (Personnel), Shri Sanjay Kumar Singh, Director (Projects) and Shri Suprakash Adhikari, Director (Technical) along with members of the NHPC Mahila Kalyan Samiti - Smt. Mona Lal, Smt. Garima Singh and Smt. Soma Adhikari were also present. During the festival, local artists from Mathura presented folk songs, music and folk dances, whose splendid performances mesmerized everyone. To promote local handicraft products from various states and Union Territories such as Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam etc., stalls were also set up by NHPC power stations, projects and regional offices.

DC Kathua reviews HADP implementation; stresses enhanced beneficiary coverage and training

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) at the DC Office Complex.

The DC conducted a component-wise review of schemes and directed officers to intensify mobilisation drives to register more eligible farmers, youth and agri-entrepreneurs under various HADP components to achieve saturation across the district.



He emphasised providing structured training to potential beneficiaries to

equip them with knowledge of the latest farming technologies, climate-re-

silient and high-value crops, precision farming, protected cultivation and allied activities to ensure diversified and sustainable income.

The DC also called for streamlined tracking of applications on the Kissan Sathi Portal, timely processing of cases and improved coordination with banks for prompt sanction of eligible beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by CPO Ranjeet Thakur, CAO, CHO, CAHO, CSHO, DSO, Dy Registrar Cooperatives, other concerned officers of allied departments and banking institutions.

Border District Rajouri secures top position nationwide in MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026

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District Rajouri has achieved a remarkable distinction by securing the top position nationwide in the MY Bharat Budget Quest 2026 Quiz, registering the highest number of submissions in the country. A total of 14,402 youth from the district participated in the national-level online competition.

New Delhi district ranked second with 11,097 submissions, while East Delhi secured the third position with 8,307 submissions.

The quiz, conducted from February 3 to February 22 on the MY Bharat Portal, recorded participation of over 11 lakh youth across India.

The initiative aims to promote awareness and understanding of the Union Budget among young citizens. Quiz qualifiers will now advance to the Essay Round and selected candidates will get an opportunity to interact with the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

The achievement of Rajouri, a border district, reflects the enthusiasm and proactive engagement of its youth in national initia-

tives. In her Budget Speech, Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman termed this year's Budget as "Yuva-Shakti driven," highlighting the incorporation of youth suggestions received during the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Speaking to media persons, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma described the accomplishment as the result of systematic planning and coordinated efforts. He acknowledged the vital contribution of educational institutions, including schools, Degree Col-

leges and Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University, where special sessions on the Union Budget were conducted to guide participants.

"This success reflects true teamwork. Focused academic guidance and regular monitoring ensured better performance and higher participation," the Deputy Commissioner stated. The competition, organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, will now move to the Essay Competition stage, followed by the final interaction of essay qualifiers with the Prime Minister.

Special Market Checking Drive conducted in Handwara Town, Rs 6,800 fine imposed

KUPWARA, FEBRUARY 23:

On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, the Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi along with officials from the Revenue Department, Food Department, Municipal Committee, Police and members of the Traders Federation

Handwara, conducted a special market checking drive across the sub division today.

During the inspection, several violations related to market regulations and hygiene standards were detected. A fine of approximately ₹6,800 was imposed on erring shopkeepers, while one shop was sealed for serious vi-

olations.

Speaking on the occasion, The ADC stated that such inspection drives will continue regularly to ensure strict compliance with rules and to safeguard public health. He also directed bakery unit owners to install CCTV cameras in their processing units within two days. Meanwhile, the General

Secretary of the Traders Federation Handwara, appreciated the administration's initiative and urged all shopkeepers to maintain proper hygiene and strictly follow regulations.

The drive aims to improve sanitation standards and promote fair trade practices in the market.