

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Samba gears up for launch of National HPV Vaccination Campaign

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 26

A meeting of the District Task Force on Immunization (DTFI) was convened today under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan to review inter-sectoral preparedness for the launch of the National HPV Vaccination Campaign aimed at prevention of cervical cancer.

At the outset, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Vidhi Bhatia delivered the welcome address and highlighted the significance of coordinated efforts among various departments to ensure the successful implementation of the campaign. The District Immunization Officer, Dr. Kamlesh Kumari presented a detailed overview of the campaign,



including its objectives, operational strategy and target population.

The National HPV Vaccination Campaign aims to vaccinate girls who have attained the age of 14 years but have not yet reached 15 years of age.

The initiative seeks to provide timely protection against cervical cancer through administration of

the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine.

During the meeting, emphasis was laid on effective interdepartmental coordination, awareness generation, micro-planning, logistics management and monitoring mechanisms to ensure smooth rollout of the campaign across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of collective responsibility and directed all concerned departments to extend full cooperation for the successful and timely execution of the vaccination drive.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Health Department and other line departments.

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## ALC Ramban inspects construction sites

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Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Ramban, Amit Kumar, today conducted inspections at various construction sites across the district under the provisions of the Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Cess Act.

During the inspections, notices were served to building owners and contractors, directing them to deposit 1% cess of the total project cost as mandated under the Act. They were instructed to ensure compliance within 10 working days, failing which strict action shall be initiated as per the relevant rules.



The inspection drive was aimed at ensuring proper implementation of the Act and strengthening the welfare framework for construction workers in the district. The Assistant Labour Commissioner reiterated that the collection of cess is vital for the effective imple-

mentation of various welfare schemes being run by the Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

He emphasized that the timely deposit of cess directly contributes to providing financial assistance, medical aid, education support and other social security benefits to registered construction workers and their dependents.

The ALC appealed to all establishments, contractors and executing agencies involved in building and construction works in district Ramban to deposit 1% of the total project cost without delay and ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the Act.

## Preparations for HPV Vaccination Drive reviewed at Poonch

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Additional Deputy Commissioner, Tahir Mustafa Malik chaired a meeting of District Task Force to review the preparedness for Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccination campaign.

Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Parvaiz Ahmed Khan delivered a detailed Power-Point presentation highlighting the implementation plan, target beneficiaries, cold chain management and micro-planning strategy for the vaccination drive. He informed that the campaign will target 4,724 adolescent girls in the age group of 14-15 years across the district.

The HPV vaccination campaign is scheduled to be formally launched on February 28. Dr. Khan briefed the chair on strategies to achieve the target efficiently through proper micro-plan-



ning, coordinated efforts among departments and early coverage of the eligible group.

The ADC emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination to achieve full coverage under the HPV vaccination programme. He directed all concerned departments to ensure meticulous micro-planning, timely mobiliza-

tion of beneficiaries and strict adherence to guidelines for the successful conduct of the campaign.

The CMO further stated that adequate logistical arrangements have been put in place for the smooth conduct of the programme. A total of 21 cold chain points have been established, including 3 Community Health Centres (CHCs)

and 13 designated 24x7 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), to ensure proper storage and transportation of vaccines.

The meeting was attended by Chief Education Officer, Mukhtar Ahmed, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Dr. Mohd Shafeeq Choudhary, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Dr. Ruby Naz Bhatti, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Gazala Chowdhary, District immunizations Officer Dr. Zohra Parveen, Block Medical Officer Dr. Reyaz Jan representatives from Mendhar and Surankote, CDPO Haveli, RBSK teams from Mandi, Mendhar and Surankote, adolescent counsellors and the DEIC Manager.

The meeting concluded with an emphasis on inter-departmental coordination and ensuring effective implementation of the HPV vaccination programme to safeguard the health of adolescent girls in the district.

## Minga Sherpa assumes office as Deputy Commissioner Udhampur

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Minga Sherpa today assumed office as the Deputy Commissioner of Udhampur, taking charge from outgoing DC Saloni Rai.

Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, Chief Planning Officer, Utam Singh along with other district and sectoral officers were present.

The Deputy Commissioner chaired an introductory interaction with the officers of the district administration and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts, transparency and prompt public service delivery for the overall development of the district.



The outgoing Deputy Commissioner extended her best wishes to the new incumbent and expressed confidence that the district would continue to progress under his leadership.

## DC Reasi reviews functioning of Cooperative, Jal Shakti, Health Deptts

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek today chaired a series of meetings to review the functioning and performance of the Cooperative, Jal Shakti and Health Departments in the district.

Reviewing the working of the Cooperative Department, the Deputy Commissioner called for initiating measures to strengthen the financial health of Cooperative institutions by reinforcing transparency and promoting income-generating activities in coordination with stakeholder departments.

Assessing the achievements of the Jal Shakti Department, the DC inquired about the status of ongoing projects, with a focus on the financial and physical progress. He directed officers to prioritize the completion of ongoing projects.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting of the District Task



Force to finalize arrangements for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive, scheduled to commence on February 28, 2026.

The vaccination drive aims to protect 14-year-old girls against cervical cancer, a significant public health concern in the country. Detailed discussions were held regarding the target popu-

lation, infrastructure readiness, availability of trained manpower, cold chain management and identification of vaccination sites to ensure smooth implementation of the programme.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the overall status of health services in the district. He assessed achievements under various health sector

schemes, the functioning of health institutions, infrastructure upgradation and healthcare facilities being provided to patients.

Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar, Executive Engineers of the stakeholder departments and officials of the Cooperative, Jal Shakti and Health Departments attended the meetings.

## Media sensitization meeting held at Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar ahead of National HPV Vaccination Campaign

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A media sensitization meeting was held today at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, Jammu in connection with the upcoming National Human Papillomavirus (HPV) Vaccination Campaign commencing from 28th February, 2026 across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was chaired by Dr. Poonam Sethi, Director, Family Welfare MCH & Immunization J&K. She was accompanied by Dr. Shahid Hussain, State Immunization Officer, J&K, Dr. Azmat Khan, Surveillance Medical Officer, WHO-NPSN Jammu and Rakesh Sharma, State Mass Education & Media Officer J&K.

Addressing the media, Dr. Poonam Sethi highlighted that the Government of India has introduced the HPV vaccine in campaign mode for the girls aged 14 years and not completed 15 years with the ob-



jective of preventing cervical cancer in later life. She emphasized that cervical cancer is one of the leading causes of cancer-related morbidity and mortality among women, and timely vaccination is a safe and effective preventive measure.

Dr. Shahid Hussain elaborated on the operational aspects of the campaign, informing that vaccination sessions will be organized at designated health institutions across J&K. He assured that adequate vaccine stocks, cold chain arrangements, and trained health-

care workers have been put in place to ensure smooth implementation of the campaign.

Dr. Azmat Khan urged the public not to believe in any false propaganda or misinformation regarding the HPV vaccine. He appealed media representatives to verify facts with the department before publishing any news, emphasizing that responsible reporting is crucial for the success of this important public health initiative.

The Director appealed to media representatives to

play a constructive role in disseminating accurate information, addressing myths and misconceptions, and motivating eligible beneficiaries and their parents to participate in the vaccination drive.

Family Welfare MCH & Immunization Department expressed confidence that with the support of media and community stakeholders, the HPV vaccination campaign would achieve its desired objectives in safeguarding the health of adolescent girls across Jammu & Kashmir.

## CSIR-IIIM concludes 3 day skill development training on Laboratory Animal Techniques

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The CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM), Jammu successfully concluded its three-day Skill Development Training Programme on Laboratory Animal Techniques for Preclinical Experiments, designed to enhance practical expertise in ethical animal handling, experimental design and GLP-compliant preclinical research.

The programme, held from 24th to 26th February 2026, attracted participants from a wide range of academic and professional backgrounds, including biological sciences, pharmaceutical sciences, veterinary sciences and allied life science disciplines, reflecting a growing interest among young researchers and professionals in hands-on training for high-quality biomedical research.

The valedictory session, addressed by Dr. Zabeer Ahmed, Director of CSIR-IIIM Jammu, highlighted



the importance of regulatory-compliant animal experimentation and adherence to globally harmonized research standards.

Dr. Ahmed emphasized that ethical practices, standardized protocols and quality-assured procedures are vital for generating credible data that can be accepted at the international level.

The session also featured a welcome address, participant introductions and the release of training materials and souvenirs, setting the stage for an immersive and comprehensive learning experience.

Throughout the three days, participants were engaged in both theoretical and practical components.

The first day focused on understanding the biology of laboratory animals, laws and ethical regulations governing animal experiments and hands-on training in handling and restraining laboratory animals. The sessions were conducted under the guidance of senior faculty members including Dr. Ramajayan Pandian, Dr. Govind Yadav and Dr. Nasir ul Rasheed, ensuring a strong foundation in both scientific principles and ethical practices.

On the second day, the programme delved deeper into biosecurity, biomedical waste management and experimental design, including randomization, sample size calculation and power analysis.

Participants were trained in dose calculation, clinical observation and humane endpoints, as well as different routes of drug administration and sample collection procedures. The practical sessions provided participants with invaluable hands-on experience, reinforcing the theoretical concepts introduced earlier and emphasizing the importance of accuracy, precision and ethical responsibility in preclinical research.

The third and final day was dedicated to advanced practical skills such as anaesthesia and analgesia, clinical pathology and histopathology techniques. Participants were trained in isolation and culture of alveolar macrophages from mice, as well as euthanasia and necropsy procedures, under strict ethical and biosafety guidelines.

The programme concluded with a valedictory session where students presented their Form-B reports, shared feedback and received certificates in the presence of dignitaries and faculty.