

'Vibrant Villages Programme'

# LG visits Sariah in Rajouri, inaugurated several development projects

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residents who dwell there.

"A road reaching a border village builds not just passage but unshakable confidence in our defense. Electricity lighting a border village home offers not mere illumination but fresh hope. Employment for a border village youth transforms not only one life but the trajectory of an entire community.

My vision is clear that border village development is integral to national security, and every border village must rank among our nation's most prosperous," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that since assuming responsibility for Jammu Kashmir in August 2020, he had prioritized border villages' aspirations.

"In border villages where women rise each dawn dreaming of brighter futures for their children amid challenges, where farmers toiling in their soil through hardships, and where communities stand as sentinels without uniforms, we have ignited a new dawn of progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon officers to achieve 100% saturation of

HADP, Mission Youth, Mudra Yojana, and all welfare schemes, leaving no eligible citizen behind.

"Our commitment has transformed lives, and I affirm with confidence that change is tangible in Jammu Kashmir's border villages where roads now weave networks, health-care is thriving, digital connectivity is transforming the education sector and residents now feel integrated to India's rapid growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said true development means equal opportunity, dignity, and instilled confidence and the Vibrant Villages Programme embodies this, advancing employment, education, infrastructure, and digital empowerment holistically.

"It is our moral duty to secure every citizen's brighter future. Sariah's border village residents have guarded our borders alongside soldiers; we owe them comprehensive progress, leaving none behind.

Border village residents have endured much for this nation; now, they must stand at prosperity's core.

A developed India de-

mands a strong rural heartland, incomplete without its first villages. I call upon Sariah's residents to unite in realizing the Vibrant Village resolve. All officials will ensure 100% saturation of every central scheme and welfare program," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor visited the exhibition on Gyan Bharatam and inspected the stalls installed by various departments and stakeholders. He launched the Vibrant Village Anthem and handed over sanction letters and appointment letters to various beneficiaries under Mission Yuva, HADP, PM Mudra, PMAY-G and other different schemes. The Lieutenant Governor also distributed TV Sets with DTH, and felicitated TB Cured Warrior, Nasha Mukta Abhiyaan volunteers, and citizens from diverse backgrounds for their valuable contribution to society.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP J&K; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; Shri Abhishek Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri; senior officials of army, police and civil administration, political leaders, prominent citizens and people in large number were present.

# DC Pulwama reviews functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars

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supply mechanisms, service delivery systems and the overall performance of Krishi Udyamis in the dis-

trict. He emphasised the need for strengthening last-mile delivery to ensure that farmers receive timely

and quality services.

Stressing the importance of Kisan Khidmat Ghars, the DC directed that these centres be made fully functional as single-window facilitation hubs for farmers. He called for maintaining transparency, accountability and efficiency in all service delivery processes.

Dr. Qayoom further stressed the need for regular capacity-building programmes for Krishi Udyamis to enhance their effectiveness and outreach.

Earlier, Krishi Udyamis shared their field experiences and provided valuable feedback aimed at further strengthening service delivery mechanisms

The meeting was attended by senior officers of Agriculture and allied sectors and Krishi Udyamis from across the district.

# GMC Srinagar conducts UT-level Psychiatry Virtual Medical Board Meet

SRINAGAR, APRIL 17:

Department of Psychiatry, Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), GMC Srinagar, today successfully conducted the first UT-level Virtual Medical Board Meet in Psychiatry.

The academic meet witnessed an overwhelming participation of around 200 delegates, including senior faculty members, consultants, postgraduate scholars and trainees from all medical colleges across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, including GMC Jammu SKIMS Medical college GMC Anantnag, GMC Baramulla, GMC Handwara, GMC Doda,

GMC Kathu, GMC Rajouri and also Psychiatrists from Telemans team.

The session was inaugurated by Principal GMC Srinagar who emphasized the need for strengthening academic integration and clinical uniformity across all medical institutions of the UT.

The Scientific session mainly revolved around newer role for mECT particularly in Neuro Cognitive Disorders.

An atypical clinical case with diagnostic and management implications was presented by Dr. Chandini Wani senior resident and moderated by Dr. Yuman Kawoos, Assistant Professor Psychiatry and Dr Faisal, Assistant Professor Anaesthe-

sia provided insights about anaesthetic implications of the procedure.

The meet served as an important platform for discussion on key psychiatric and mental health priorities, standardization of clinical practices, interdepartmental referrals, and structured academic activities aimed at improving mental health-care delivery.

The role of IMHANS, GMC Srinagar, was particularly significant in facilitating the academic coordination, expert interaction, and structured conduct of the virtual board meet, reaffirming its position as a leading mental health and academic hub in the UT.

The participants actively

engaged in discussions related to evolving challenges in mental health care, strengthening institutional collaboration, and enhancing coordinated psychiatric services across Jammu and Kashmir.

The initiative was widely appreciated by attendees as a step forward towards unified mental health planning and improved academic networking.

The Department of Psychiatry at GMC Srinagar reiterated their commitment to continue such UT-level academic and clinical engagements in the future, with the goal of enhancing both patient care and academic excellence in the field of Psychiatry across the region.

# Satish emphasizes robust enforcement mechanism in Legal Metrology, zero tolerance for consumer exploitation

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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the Legal Metrology Department to assess its functioning and strengthen enforcement mechanisms aimed at protecting the consumer interests.

The meeting was attended by Controller Legal Metrology and other senior officers of the department. They briefed the Minister on the current status of enforcement drives, manpower deployment, inspection mechanisms, and key challenges being faced in ensuring compliance across markets.

Emphasizing the critical role of the Legal Metrology Department in safeguarding the consumer rights, the Minister directed the officials to intensify regular market inspections and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed standards. He stressed that enforcement must be visible, consistent

and effective to deter violations and build consumer confidence.

Sharma laid special emphasis on inspection of petrol pumps, directing the department to undertake frequent and surprise checks to prevent any malpractice in measurement and delivery.

He said that even minor discrepancies in fuel dispensing directly impact the consumers and must be dealt with firmly. He instructed that strict penal action be taken against the erring outlets found violating norms.

The Minister further directed the officials to widen the scope of inspections to cover shops, retail outlets and other commercial establishments. He called for strict monitoring of the use

of standardized weights and measures, proper stamping and verification of equipment and mandatory display of price lists and other consumer-related information to ensure transparency and accountability.

Highlighting the need for a proactive approach, Sharma asked the department to strengthen its field presence and adopt a technology-driven monitoring system to ensure efficiency and accountability. He also stressed the importance of regular awareness campaigns to educate the consumers about their rights and encourage them to report violations.

Reiterating the government's unwavering commitment to consumer protection, the Minister called

for a zero-tolerance policy against any form of malpractice, fraud or exploitation.

He directed that enforcement action be taken promptly and without exception, ensuring that defaulters are dealt with strictly under the law.

The Minister also reviewed the department's future action plan and stressed the need for better coordination with district administrations and other enforcement agencies to ensure uniform implementation of Legal Metrology laws across all regions.

The senior officers assured the Minister that necessary steps would be taken to further strengthen the enforcement and enhance transparency in market practices.

# DC Bandipora interacts with Resource Persons under Nasha Mukta Abhiyan Campaign

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Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a review meeting with resource persons to assess the implementation of the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan under the ongoing 100-Day Mission Mode Campaign and to take feedback on IEC (Information, Education and Communication) awareness programmes.

During the meeting, the DC interacted with resource persons, who shared their field experiences, challenges, and suggestions. She specifically sought reasons for low participation in certain IEC activities.

The DC emphasised the need to reassess outreach strategies to ensure that awareness efforts are effectively reaching the intended target groups. She underscored the importance of establishing an emotional connect, noting that different age groups require tailored approaches. She also clarified the distinction between orientation and training, stating that structured de-addiction training will be provided to interested individuals.

On the occasion, ACD Bandipora stressed that awareness content should

be delivered in simple language and preferably in the mother tongue to ensure clarity and better public engagement. It was also emphasised that programmes should prioritise impact and behavioural change over mere numerical coverage. Resource persons from various departments shared valuable insights. The ATF informed that multiple training sessions have been conducted on handling addiction cases, identifying early warning signs, and leveraging the role of religion in prevention. Teachers highlighted concerns such as increasing social isolation among youth and lack of adequate recreational spaces. Health department representatives

pointed to behavioural indicators like withdrawal, changes in routine, and emphasised the need for early screening and regular parent-teacher interactions. Reiterating the role of families in prevention, the DC stressed the importance of strong communication between parents and children. She urged parents to closely observe changes in behaviour, habits, and peer groups of their children, and not to ignore early warning signs. She further advised that simple practices such as regularly sharing meals and engaging in indoor activities with children can help families stay connected and better monitor the well-being and movements of adolescents.

Official from Social Welfare and other departments noted that neglect of children and lack of parental engagement are significant contributing factors. It was informed that awareness programmes are being conducted across schools and Panchayats, covering both substance and non-substance addictions, including excessive social media use.

Police and other stakeholders stressed the importance of community participation, religious engagement, and promotion of sports activities as preventive measures against substance abuse.

The DC directed that the single-point contact number under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan be widely shared for greater accessibility. She also called for systematic collection of data on addicts and recovered individuals to enable targeted interventions, reiterating that addicts must be treated as persons in need of care and rehabilitation, not as criminals.

The meeting concluded with directions to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, enhance ground-level mobilisation, and ensure meaningful and measurable outcomes under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan campaign.

# Handwara unites against Drugs: Mega Pad Yatra ignites a mass movement against Drug menace

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Shrikant Balasaheb Suse, SSP Handwara, Sahil Sarangal, Director Colleges Prof (Dr) S. Ajaz Bashir and ADC Handwara Javed Naseem Masoodi, alongside enthusiastic participation from Former DDC members, officers, civil society members, traders association, transport association, youth, and a large number of students.

Echoing with impactful slogans and vibrant placards, the Pad Yatra transformed the streets of Handwara into a powerful platform of awareness, highlighting the devastating effects of drug abuse and the urgent need for collective action.

The overwhelming participation reflected a strong and growing pub-

lic resolve to eliminate the menace from society.

The march moved through key streets and markets, drawing widespread public attention and energizing the anti-drug campaign at the grassroots level. Participants also took the "Nasha Mukta" pledge, reaffirming their determination to stand united against substance abuse.

The rally culminated at Government Degree College Handwara, where speakers and dignitaries emphasized that the fight against drugs is not just an administrative responsibility but a societal mission requiring collective vigilance, awareness, and sustained action.

Adding further strength to the campaign, a signature drive was conducted,

symbolizing a shared commitment to building a drug-free future.

Notably, similar Pad Yatras were organized simultaneously across Handwara sub-division under the Nasha Mukta JK Abhiyan, witnessing massive participation and amplifying the message across every corner of the district.

Later District Mentor also inspected functioning of Addiction treatment facility at GMC Handwara.

The District Administration Kupwara reiterated its firm commitment to continue such impactful initiatives and called upon parents, educators, and community leaders to play an active role in safeguarding the future of our youth.