

DC Doda reviews preparations for World Red Cross Day; issues key directions

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 20

A review meeting regarding the preparations for the upcoming celebration of World Red Cross Day was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal, who also serves as Chairman of the District Red Cross Society Doda.

The meeting aimed at finalizing the planning, arrangements and overall strategy for the observance of the event on 8th May 2026 across the district.

A comprehensive presentation on the celebration plan and preparedness was delivered by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Ashraf Pervez which included organization of awareness programmes, health camps, blood donation drives, first-aid training sessions and grand rally to mark the occasion.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized increasing the number of voluntary blood donors in the district to ensure timely availability of blood for needy patients.

It was informed that the main rally for World Red Cross Day will commence from the DC Office Complex Doda, proceed towards GMC Doda and culminate at Government



Boys Higher Secondary School Doda, where a mega event will be celebrated.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination for the successful organization of the event and to ensure maximum public participation especially among youth and students. He instructed the Chief Education Officer to organize Red Cross Day activities in all schools to promote awareness.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to ensure proper security arrangements and preparation of banners for the event, assigning responsibilities to the Additional

Deputy Commissioner. He further directed that individuals who have made notable contributions to Red Cross activities be felicitated during the celebration. He stressed the need for enhanced publicity of Red Cross initiatives and urged civil society members and business stakeholders to come forward and extend their support.

The District Information Officer was directed to intensify awareness campaigns and ensure wide dissemination of information regarding all activities under the Red Cross Society. The district officers also shared their valuable suggestions for the successful celebration of the event and for strengthen-

ing the Red Cross Society in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Bhutyal, ASP Headquarters Mohd Aslam, ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi, SDMs, SE Jal Shakti, Principal GDC Javid Iqbal, Chief Education Officer Bhushan Kumar Pathak, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Tanvir Ahmed, District Information Officer Abhimanyu Singh, District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed, Tehsildar along with other district officers, representatives of the Indian Army and officials from various government departments.

Month-Long World Oral Health Programme concludes at Govt Hospital Gandhi Nagar

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A month-long series of activities and events organised under the World Oral Health Programme concluded today at Government Hospital Gandhi Nagar, marking the successful culmination of extensive awareness and outreach efforts aimed at promoting dental hygiene and oral health.

The programme commenced with announcements and awareness drives focusing on proper dental care and good oral hygiene practices. Throughout the month, a range of activities including special OPDs and awareness lectures were conducted across various wards and sections of the hospital to sensitise patients and the general public about the importance of oral health.

To further engage the community, several interactive activities such as painting and slogan writing



competitions, Nukkad Natak performances and a dental awareness rally were organised in collaboration with different institutions, witnessing enthusiastic participation from more than 60 students. Prizes were distributed among the students who excelled in these activities.

As part of the outreach

initiative, a special oral health awareness programme was conducted at Bal Gran School, Channi, where students and teachers were educated on maintaining oral hygiene and informed about the harmful effects of tobacco and tobacco-based products. A Nukkad Natak, performed by participants from the

Department of Information and Public Relations, further reinforced the message through an engaging and impactful presentation.

Dr. Narinder Singh Bhatial along with Dr. Rohit Kohli, Dr. Bhavneet, Dr. Manish, Dr. Saira, Dr. Neeru, Dr. Jyoti, Dr. Indra, Dr. Mridula and Dr. Charu. Supporting dental staff including Rakesh Saini, Jangbir, Mukhtiar and Ramjan along with administrative staff and participants from various institutions were present on the occasion.

All activities were conducted under the guidance of Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar and Dr. Sanjay Sharma and were personally monitored by Dr. Narinder Singh Bhatial.

The successful conclusion of the programme reflects the commitment of the Health Department and DIPR Jammu towards spreading awareness and encouraging preventive healthcare practices among the public.

DC Kishtwar reviews preparedness for Mock Drill in the District

KISHTWAR, APRIL 20: A meeting to review preparedness for the Civil Defence Air Raid/Blackout Mock Exercise (1st Mock Exercise) was held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner, Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma at the Meeting Hall of the Mini Secretariat, New DC Office Complex.

It was decided that the mock exercise will be conducted on April 23, 2026.

Detailed deliberations were held to ensure effective coordination and preparedness among all stakeholder departments for the successful execution of the mock drill.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Dy. SP DAR (In-charge Deputy Controller, Civil Defence/Home Guards/SDRF), Kishtwar, to formulate a comprehensive action plan in consultation with all concerned line departments and stakeholders.

The plan shall cover inter-departmental coordination, communication protocols, emergency response mechanisms and public awareness strategies.

Emphasizing seamless coordination, the Deputy Commissioner issued necessary directions to all Heads of concerned line departments (HoDs) to ensure close collaboration among the civil administration, police, paramilitary



forces, health services, fire and emergency services, transport authorities, telecommunication agencies and other allied departments.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of operational readiness and effective response during the mock exercise to assess the district's capability in handling emergency scenarios such as air raids and blackout situations. All departments were instructed to ensure full participation, timely deployment of resources and strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).

The involvement of Civil Defence Wardens, Home Guards, Fire & Emergency Services, NCC cadets, NSS volunteers, Aapda Mitra volunteers and Red Cross volunteers was also emphasized to strengthen response capacity and public participation.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed that

advance intimation of the mock exercise shall be widely disseminated through print and electronic media, as well as local announcements to ensure that the public is aware that the activity is only a drill and to prevent any panic.

Key preparedness measures include the pre-positioning of response teams, ensuring the readiness of ambulances, fire services, hospitals and the activation of Control Rooms/EOCs on a 24x7 basis during the exercise period.

The concerned departments were also instructed to identify shelters and safe zones, as well as Vulnerable Areas (VAs) and Vulnerable Points (VPs) and to ensure the readiness of sirens, communication systems and emergency equipment.

The exercise will also focus on evaluating inter-agency coordination, public participation, identifying gaps and shortcomings and formulating recommendations for fur-

ther strengthening emergency preparedness.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that adequate precautions must be taken to avoid public panic, high-risk activities should be avoided, medical teams must remain on standby and all activities should be conducted in a controlled and supervised manner, with the utmost priority given to public safety.

The meeting concluded with a call for coordinated and committed efforts from all departments to ensure the successful and effective conduct of the mock exercise across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Vinod Kumar Behnal; ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACR Idrees Lone; Tehsildar (HQA to the DC), Mohd. Rafie Naik; ARO Tasleem Wani; CEO Sanjay Dogra; representatives from Traffic Police, District Red Cross Society, Aapda Mitra volunteers and staff from concerned departments.

SWD organises Drawing-Cum Anti-Drug awareness event at BVM Bhaderwah

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Under the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukti Campaign, the Social Welfare Department organized a Drawing-cum-Awareness programme against Drug Abuse at Bhartiya Vidya Mandir (BVM), Bhaderwah.

The programme was conducted under the guidance of the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Doda and the close supervision of the Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Bhaderwah, Shah Nawaz Ahmad.

The event aimed at sensitizing students about the ill effects of drug abuse and encouraging them to become ambassadors of a drug-free society.

Students actively participated in the drawing competition, showcasing cre-



ativity and strong messages against drug addiction. The initiative was highly appreciated by the school authorities and participants.

Principal of the institution Priya Kohli high-

lighted the crucial role of educational institutions in shaping a healthy and responsible society.

She urged students to remain vigilant, make informed choices and actively

contribute towards building a drug-free environment.

The TSWO emphasized the importance of collective efforts in making society free from the menace of drugs and urged students to stay away from harmful substances and guide others as well.

Meanwhile, drawing competitions were organised at Doda and Thathri in collaboration with the Higher Education Department.

The competitions were organised at Government Degree College Doda and Government Degree College Thathri, where students enthusiastically participated and expressed their perspectives on the harmful effects of drug abuse through creative artwork.

Dir Agri reviews HADP projects in Sunderbani

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Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today conducted an extensive tour of Sunderbani area in District Rajouri to review the progress of various initiatives being implemented under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

He was accompanied by Joint Director Agriculture (Extension), Sanjay Anand, Chief Agriculture Officer Rajouri, Rajesh Verma along with other officers of the department.

During the visit, Anil Gupta visited the Growth Multipurpose Cooperative Society, Sunderbani, where he inspected a Commercial Vermicompost Unit established under HADP. The unit is playing a vital role in supplying quality organic manure to farmers, with a production of approximately 600 quintals of vermicompost recorded within a year.

The members of the cooperative also informed that, with the support and guidance of the Agriculture Department, they are in the process of launching a local



brand of pickles, aimed at enhancing value addition and farmers income.

The Director also visited a Hi-Tech Polyhouse established by young entrepreneur farmer Rajesh Prasher of Bhajwal-A, Nadani, Sunderbani. The farmer apprised that through multi-layer farming practices, crops such as bitter melon, pumpkin and bottle gourd are being cultivated simultaneously along with brinjal, strawberry and tomato in lower layers. He further informed that the produce is completely organic, with no use of chemicals and strict adherence to Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) is being ensured by workers. The

initiative is also generating employment opportunities for local youth.

Appreciating the efforts of the progressive farmer Rajesh Prasher, the Director emphasized that youth must actively engage in modern and sustainable agricultural practices.

He stated that adoption of innovative technologies like polyhouses and organic farming can significantly enhance farm productivity, generate employment and contribute to strengthening the rural economy.

He further highlighted that HADP is designed to transform agriculture into a profitable and sustainable enterprise, encouraging di-

versification, value addition and entrepreneurship among farmers.

During the tour, the Director also conducted field visits to review natural farming practices, including cultivation of turmeric, ginger, curry leaves, colocasia (kachalu), mint and rose farming. He visited orchards where farmers have planted 250 pecan nut plants, 300 lemon plants and 500 galgal trees.

Later, Anil Gupta visited the Seed Multiplication Unit established under HADP by Alok Nath in Sunderbani. He emphasized the critical importance of quality seed production in enhancing agricultural productivity.

Multi-Specialty Medical Camp held at District Jail Bhaderwah under 100 Days Nasha Mukti Abhiyan

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As part of the ongoing 100 Days Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan, a multi specialty medical check-up camp for jail inmates was organized at the District Jail Bhaderwah.

The camp was organized by the Health Department Doda in collaboration with the District Jail Authority Bhaderwah. The programme was conducted under the guidance of CMO Doda Dr. Tanveer Ahmed Rather and supervision of Superintendent District Jail Bhaderwah Hamid Ullah Naik.

The camp was headed by Dr. Irfan Tasaduq, Dy Medical Superintendent AH Govt Medical College Doda and was attended by staff from Govt Medical College Doda and the CMO Office



Doda. During the camp, a wide range of healthcare services was provided to around 200 inmates, including general health check-ups, skin consultations and psychiatry consultations. A dedicated counseling session was also conducted to address mental health concerns and to create aware-

ness among inmates about stress management, substance abuse prevention and overall mental well-being.

Free medicines, including Allopathic and AYUSH medicines were also distributed among the inmates to ensure continued treatment and care.

Speaking on the occasion,

Superintendent District Jail Bhaderwah, Hamid Ullah Naik, expressed his gratitude to the Health Department Doda for organizing the medical camp and providing much-needed healthcare services to the inmates.

He appreciated the efforts of the medical team and emphasized that such initiatives play an important role in improving the physical and mental well-being of jail inmates.

The initiative aimed to promote physical and mental well being among inmates and to support the objectives of the ongoing Nasha Mukti Abhiyan by encouraging a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Jail authorities and inmates expressed gratitude to the Health Department for extending healthcare services within the jail premises.