

DC reviews preparations for civil defence Air Raid mock drill scheduled on April 24

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the upcoming Civil Defence Air raid mock drill, scheduled to take place on 24th April, 2026 at 8 pm.

The drill is a crucial exercise aimed at evaluating the district's preparedness and response systems in the event of an air raid.

The mock drill will include a series of coordinated activities, starting with the activation of the Air Raid Early Warning System. This will involve the sounding of sirens to alert the public and test the effectiveness of early warning systems in the district. Following this, Blackout Measures will be implemented, demonstrating how the community will respond by reducing visibility and ensuring safety during an air raid scenario.

The drill will also include a key focus on Evacuation Procedures. These procedures will test the district's ability to efficiently evacuate civilians, provide shelter and deploy rescue measures. Special attention will be paid to



the mobilisation of vehicles and ambulances for evacuation, ensuring the smooth movement of people to safe areas.

In addition, the exercise will involve a Medical Response and Casualty Evacuation phase. This will test the district's readiness to identify emergency medical evacuation routes and ensure the swift treatment of casualties. Search and Rescue Operations will also form part of the exercise, allowing the district to assess its ability to carry out search and rescue efforts during an air raid situation. The drill will further evaluate the Identification of Shelters and the coordination of Emergency Services. Key emergency services, including the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), local health departments will be engaged to ensure a coordinated

response to the mock air raid.

Participation from 21 wards in the Municipal Council will be a crucial aspect of the exercise, with volunteers from each ward being trained as first responders. This initiative aims to ensure that local communities are actively involved in disaster response efforts. The drill will also focus on Accurate Information Dissemination and ensure that the public is well-informed about emergency contact numbers and procedures.

The meeting also discussed the need to identify the location for the simulation exercise and highlighted the importance of conducting a Tabletop Exercise to raise awareness and enhance preparedness. The Civil Defence Air Raid Mock Drill is a vital step in strengthening Udhampur's disaster

management protocols.

The district administration urged all involved agencies to work in close coordination to make the exercise a success and ensure the safety and well-being of residents in the event of an actual emergency.

The meeting was attended by the Station Commander of the Air Force Station Udhampur, Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Additional Superintendent of Police, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Commandants from CRPF. Besides Executive Engineer (JPDC/JSD), NDRF and SDRF officials, as well as representatives from GMC Traffic/Telecom, Fire & Emergency Services, BSNL and STC BSN, along with government officials were also present.

DC Bandipora conducts extensive tour of Tulail on Day 2 of Gurez Visit

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Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today conducted an extensive tour of Tulail Block in Sub-Division Gurez on the second day of her ongoing Gurez tour, reviewing developmental works and assessing public service delivery across the area.

At Kashpot, the Executive Engineer, PMGSY apprised the DC that approval had been accorded for permanent restoration of the Kashpot-Kilshay road at an estimated cost of ₹76 lakh, and for the Neeru-Sikandar road damaged due to avalanches at an estimated cost of ₹90 lakh.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officials to expedite the process and ensure completion within the stipulated timeframe. She also directed that SDRF funds be utilized in landslide-prone areas and asked the Executive Engineer PMGSY to submit the necessary proposals.

During her visit to Sheikhpora Tulail, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of the receiving station being developed to provide on-grid electricity to Tulail Block. Officials informed that the project is scheduled for completion by 2027.

She also inspected the work on an underground diesel storage tank at PTL, where she was apprised



that administrative approval had been obtained and that pending work on the Snow Control Room would commence shortly. The Executive Engineer, R&B, Gurez stated that the tendering process would be initiated within a week. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the timely execution of urgent works.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Primary Health Centre Sheikhpora and took stock of health-care facilities. She interacted with the staff, inspected the OPD and IPD sections, and reviewed records. She directed the BMO Gurez to ensure quality patient care, minimize referrals, and submit a list of institutional deliveries.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Government Degree College Tulail and reviewed its functioning. The Principal informed

that the college is currently operating from prefabricated huts, while work on the main building is underway with a tentative completion timeline of 2026. It was further informed that the tender for truss work had been floated.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the library attendance register and was apprised that visitor numbers remained low due to seasonal migration, despite the availability of around 15,000 books. She was also informed that work on the indoor stadium had been completed, while the hostel and residential quarters, along with water and electricity facilities, were under construction.

Meanwhile, the Principal GDC, Tulail raised the issue of shortage of driver and the Deputy Commissioner assured that a driver would

be provided for the college bus to facilitate student transport, and stated that financial assistance would be extended to meritorious students from economically weaker sections. She also assured the establishment of a Skill Centre at GDC Tulail in collaboration with the technical departments of District Bandipora.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Government High School Jurniyal, where she interacted with students and staff and inspected a sketch competition organized under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. She encouraged the students to remain confident and pursue their goals with dedication. On the occasion, she directed the Executive Engineer R&B Gurez to expedite the construction of girls' toilets in schools.

IMHANS-K holds Interactive Session with recovered patients of Drug Addiction

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An interactive session with recovered and recovering patients of substance abuse was held today at Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS-K) as part of the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The event, co-hosted by the Directorate of Social Welfare, was attended by around 23 patients of substance abuse who have recovered from the same.

Welcoming the participants, Medical Superintendent, IMHANS-K, Dr Ajaz Baba lauded them for their courage and resolve in combating the affliction of drug addiction. HOD, Psychiatry, Prof (Dr) Arshad Hussain highlighted the role of such interactions in reducing isolation and fostering hope among those struggling with addiction and drug dependence.

Nodal Officer, Drug Dependence and Rehabilitation, Prof (Dr) Yasir Has-



san termed the recovered patients of Substance Abuse as 'fellow combatants' in the fight against drug addiction. Several patients shared their stories of struggle and success. One of the recovered patient related how after giving up drugs his relationship with his family had undergone a sea change and how he had got his business back on track and

gained back his lost respect. He termed his successful recovery as "a journey back from darkness to light." Another patient said that though the struggle wasn't easy he had got his life back and was "happily married now and living a meaningful life."

Some patients complained that societal attitudes towards former substance users are not very

encouraging and they have to struggle with suspicion and distrust.

The event which was coordinated by Dr Ajaz Subahf, Medical Officer Oral Substitution Therapy (OST) and Sajad Ahmed, Sr. Social worker, IMHANS concluded with a shared resolve to combat the menace of drug addiction at individual as well as community levels.

MD HADP/JKCIP directs timely completion, strong monitoring, priority implementation of HADP Projects in Doda, Kishtwar

DODA, APRIL 22: A comprehensive review meeting on the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and JKCIP projects in district Doda and Kishtwar was held at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Doda.

The meeting was chaired by Mission Director HADP/JKCIP, Dr. Sagar D. Dattatray and attended by Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal, Additional District Development Commissioner Kishtwar, Additional Deputy Commissioner Doda Anil Kumar Thakur, who also serves as Nodal Officer HADP, Chief Planning Officer Doda Manesh Kumar Manhas, Sub-Divisional Officers, District Nodal Officers of HADP from both districts and officers from various line departments under the Agriculture Production Department, including Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Apiculture, Animal Hus-



bandry and Sheep Husbandry, along with other allied sector stakeholders.

During the meeting, the District Nodal Officers from both districts gave PowerPoint presentations showing the physical and financial progress, sector-wise achievements and challenges under HADP initiatives. The Mission Director reviewed key sectors including Agriculture, Horticulture, Sericulture, Apiculture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry and allied departments. He also re-

viewed targets achieved, applications received, approved and rejected cases and stressed the need for better tracking systems, especially in important areas. Special focus was laid on strengthening Kisan Sathi activities, promoting oilseed cultivation and adopting better methods for preservation and protection of local seeds.

The Mission Director directed officers to complete all projects under HADP on time by following set timelines. He stressed the need

for better coordination between departments, stronger field-level monitoring and proper reporting with clear records. He also directed that regular progress reports be submitted by Deputy Commissioners and Additional Deputy Commissioners for better review and implementation.

Officers were asked to increase farmer awareness through outreach programmes and extension activities so that benefits reach people at the ground level.

Key projects reviewed during the meeting included High-Density Plantation Scheme, Exotic Vegetable Cultivation Project, Integrated Dairy Development Project, Sheep and Goat Development Programme, Poultry Development Scheme, Fisheries Development Project, Apiculture Development Project, Rainfed Area Development, Soil Health Management and Agricultural Mechanization.

Supreme Court's "Samadhan Samaroh" Initiative for amicable case settlement launched in Ganderbal

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In a significant move to reduce legal burdens and provide speedy justice, the District Legal Services Authority Ganderbal has rolled out a special initiative titled 'Samadhan Samaroh'.

The program, launched under the guidance of the Supreme Court of India, focuses on settling pending court cases through mediation and friendly agreements rather than prolonged courtroom

litigation. The initiative serves as a preparatory phase for a major Special Lok Adalat event which is set to take place in late August this year.

The program is open to all individuals who have cases currently pending before the Court that can be resolved through mutual discussion.

This includes a wide range of legal matters such as property and financial disputes, family and marriage issues, employment disagreements, insurance claims, and minor criminal offenses where the law al-

lows for a settlement between parties.

By participating in the drive, litigants have a unique opportunity to close their cases permanently in a stress-free environment.

Starting today, interested parties and members of the legal community can visit the District Legal Services Authority office at the District Court Complex Ganderbal to begin the registration process. Early registration is encouraged as it allows the authorities to identify and shortlist eligible cases for the upcoming settlement days.

To ensure the benefits of the scheme reach every corner of the district, field staff and legal volunteers have been mobilized across Ganderbal. These representatives are working on the ground to identify eligible residents, explain the advantages of settling cases outside of court, and provide the necessary guidance to help people access the legal help desk.

The initiative marks a major step towards making the judicial process more accessible and less intimidating for the general public.

Mega Drug Awareness Programme held at Women's College Pulwama

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As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a mega awareness programme was jointly organised by J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Department of Information & PR Pulwama, A.R. Azad Memorial Foundation J&K, and Government Degree College for Women, Pulwama.

The programme aimed to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote cultural consciousness among the youth.

Eminent poet and critic Prof. Shad Ramzan attended the event as the Chief Guest. The programme was also attended by Principal GDC for Women Pulwama, Prof. Sumi Jan; Syed Shaikat Ghayoor; Muntazir Mohi-ud-Din; and noted writer Mohi-ud-Din Farooq Trali. Speakers on the occasion highlighted that drug abuse has emerged as a serious societal challenge, adversely affecting the future of the younger generation.



They stressed the urgent need for collective awareness and institutional interventions to curb the menace.

Emphasising the role of educational institutions, the speakers emphasized that colleges must not only impart academic knowledge but also cultivate moral and social responsibility among students to

steer them away from negative influences.

The programme also featured cultural performances, including skits and recitations highlighting the menace of drug abuse. Students also presented skits and cultural performances conveying powerful messages about the ill effects of drug addiction and the importance of

prevention. The performances were widely appreciated by the audience.

The event concluded with a grand Mushaira presided over by Mohammad Subhan Shooqeen, with Majid Masroor and Muntazir Mohi-ud-Din. Poets recited verses reflecting social issues, particularly raising awareness against drug abuse.