

DC Kathua visits RSETI, distributes certificates among trainees

Stresses entrepreneurship, skill development for self-reliance

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, APR 22

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited the SBI Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Kathua and reviewed the functioning of the institute.

The Deputy Commissioner was accorded a warm welcome by the institute authorities on his arrival. He inspected the training infrastructure and took stock of the ongoing skill development programmes being imparted to the youth.

During the visit, the DC interacted with trainees and successful candidates, evincing keen interest in their training experiences and future plans. He lauded the efforts of RSETI in equipping youth with employable skills and promoting self-employment opportunities in the district.

The trainees shared their experiences and success stories, expressing gratitude to the institute for enabling them to become self-reliant.



The Deputy Commissioner also distributed certificates among the candidates who successfully completed their training programmes.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized

the importance of skill development and entrepreneurship in achieving economic independence. He exhorted the trainees to effectively utilize the skills acquired and strive to become job providers,

thereby contributing to the economic growth of the region.

The visit concluded with an interactive session and a vote of thanks by Director R-SETI Kathua Utpala Sekia.

Legal awareness programmes conducted across Reasi district

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The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi conducted an awareness programme on Mediation, directed by Chairman Khalil Choudhary and Secretary Pooja Gupta. Organized by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) alongside ALADCs Ranjeet Singh and Rishav Sharma, the session educated participants on the benefits of Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). Speakers explained how mediation offers a speedy and cost-effective way to resolve disputes, reduces the burden on courts and promotes harmony between parties. Attendees were also informed about the role of the DLSA and the availability of free legal aid services for eligible individuals.

A separate awareness session on Lok Adalats and ADR mechanisms was held at Panchayat Majrakund by PLVs of the Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Mahore, deputised by Chairman Himanshu Atri. Connected with the



Legal Aid Clinic Kunderdhan, the program highlighted the advantages of Lok Adalats, mediation, conciliation and arbitration for efficient dispute resolution. PLVs also provided information on free legal aid services provided by the Legal Services Authorities to ensure equal access to justice.

Similarly, TLSC Katra organized a "Save Girl Child" awareness programme at Panchayat Akhli. Led by a

PLV deputised by Chairman Siddhant Vaid, the initiative focused on protecting the rights of the girl child and addressing issues such as gender discrimination and female foeticide. The PLV outlined relevant legal provisions and government welfare schemes, emphasizing the importance of girls' education, equal opportunities in healthcare and fostering gender equality at the grassroots level. Additionally, an aware-

ness programme was conducted at LAC Arabia by TLSC Mahore, under the direction of Chairman Himanshu Atri. Panel Lawyers and PLVs educated attendees on the benefits of Lok Adalats as a free and efficient mechanism for dispute resolution. They also shared information regarding various welfare schemes and the availability of free legal services for eligible sections of society.

Govt Polytechnic Reasi hosts Police-Community awareness meeting under NMBA

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As a part of 100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan launched by the district administration Reasi, the Government Polytechnic College Reasi today organized a high-impact Police-Community Meeting under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) in the college campus. The session was held aimed to sensitize students and faculty about the escalating dangers of substance abuse and the collective responsibility of the community in its prevention.

The proceedings commenced with a welcome address by Principal Dr. Arun Bangotra, who formally received the distinguished guests. He emphasized that educational institutions



play a pivotal role in the "Nasha Mukht" campaign, noting that awareness is the strongest shield against the menace of drug addiction. He stressed the importance of awareness, early intervention and collective responsibility in addressing the pressing issue.

The event featured a distinguished panel of speakers, including law enforcement and medical experts.

Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP) Reasi Iftakhar Ahmed graced the occasion as the keynote speaker. He highlighted the critical role of the police-community partnership in identifying and dismantling drug networks. He urged students to act as catalysts for change and to remain vigilant within their local surroundings.

Dr. Bilal Ahmed and Dr.

Minali provided clinical insights into the psychological and physiological toll of drug addiction. They detailed the signs of substance abuse and the various medical and counseling resources available to those seeking help.

The program saw enthusiastic participation from the student body and concluded with a solemn Nasha Mukht Pledge.

Carmel Convent School celebrates World Earth Day with vibrant activities

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JAMMU, APR 22

Carmel Convent School celebrates World Earth Day with vibrant activities

Jammu, April 22: Carmel Convent School, Jammu, marked World Earth Day with a unique blend of creativity, learning, and environmental awareness, integrating its annual Talent Week with a series of eco-friendly initiatives on campus.

The school premises came alive with enthusiasm as students from LKG to Class III participated in a 3D Fancy Dress Competition. Dressed as elements of nature, including flora and fauna, the young participants highlighted the beauty and fragility of the planet through imaginative presentations.

Adding an educational dimension to the celebrations, students of Class VIII undertook an excursion to the Geography Department of



University of Jammu and the Wadia Museum of Natural History. The visit provided them with valuable insights into geological heritage and environmental conservation.

In a symbolic gesture underscoring its commitment to sustainability, the school observed a temporary power shutdown. The initiative aimed to sensitize students and staff about energy conservation and the im-

act of human activities on the environment.

The programme also featured a sustainability drive, during which students donated recyclable materials and participated in a rally to spread awareness about environmental protection.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Sr. Maria Suzette emphasised the importance of nurturing responsible citizens. "Our students are the nascent architects of a sus-

tainable future. Today's initiative—from the silent power shutdown to the vibrant rally—transforms environmental literacy into lifelong conservation habits," she said.

Through a combination of artistic expression, experiential learning, and meaningful action, Carmel Convent School reaffirmed its commitment to fostering environmentally conscious future leaders.

DDC Kathua launches pictorial publication on District Capex Works for 2025-26

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District Development Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today launched a publication titled "Visual Highlights of Development in the District - District Capex Budget (2025-26)" showcasing key development works executed across the district under the District Capex Programme.

The publication presents a comprehensive pictorial documentation of works undertaken in various sectors, reflecting the district administration's focus on transparency, accountability and quality in execution. It highlights the adoption of structured mechanisms including administrative approvals, technical sanc-



tions, budgetary provisioning, e-tendering, geo-tagging and regular physical verification to ensure effective implementation of projects.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said that the compilation is a matter of pride as it captures the collective efforts of the district administration, line departments and Panchayati Raj Institu-

tions in driving developmental initiatives across Kathua. He expressed confidence that such initiatives will further strengthen participatory planning and contribute towards sustained and inclusive development in the district.

The DDC appreciated the coordinated efforts of all stakeholders involved in the execution and doc-

umentation of works under the Capex Budget and emphasized the need to continue maintaining high standards of efficiency and transparency.

Among others present on the occasion were ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma, ADC Vishavjeet Singh, CPO Ranjeer Thakur, CIO NIC Shubham Singh and Statistical Officer Arun Lal.

CS reviews roadmap for promotion, strengthening of Handicrafts & Handloom sector in J&K

JAMMU, APRIL 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress and future roadmap for large-scale promotion and strengthening of the Handicrafts and Handloom sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir/Jammu; MD, JKHHMC and other concerned officers.

Taking a comprehensive review of departmental initiatives, the Chief Secretary emphasized the immediate operationalization of non-functional training centres across districts to ensure uninterrupted skill development and capacity building of artisans and craftsmen. He directed that these centres be aligned with the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF) to ensure wider recognition of training certifications.

Stressing formalization and financial inclusion, he instructed the department to enhance artisan registrations on the Udyam portal and facilitate their linkage with the RBI's Unified Lending Interface (ULI) to improve access to affordable credit. He further advised exploring the introduction of a dedicated term loan product for the sector,



on the analogy of the agriculture sector, to enable capital infusion and business expansion.

The Chief Secretary also called for expansion of training and capacity-building programmes in collaboration with the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), stating that short-term courses and diploma programmes would help integrate modern technology with traditional crafts.

Reviewing the progress on GI tagging, he directed optimal utilization of the QR-based management system for tracking and tracing GI products and emphasized its full operationalization through integration with the Government of India's MeghRaj cloud platform. He also stressed expediting the implementation of the Text-RAMPS scheme, including early finalization of the requisite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, presented

a detailed overview of departmental functioning and initiatives aimed at revitalizing the sector. He informed that proposals for multiple projects have been submitted to the Government of India for approval to strengthen handicrafts across districts. He also highlighted capacity-building programmes being conducted in collaboration with NIFT, Budgam, including courses ranging from 15 days to one year.

He further informed that approximately 17,000 artisans and weavers were registered during the previous year, taking the total to over 4.52 lakh across the Union Territory. Additionally, around 12,600 individuals have been trained through departmental training centres, he added.

Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Musarat Islam, highlighted key initiatives including establishment of a Craft Village at Sonpah (Budgam), Common Facility Centres (CFCs) for wool processing, yarn dyeing and dehairing

in Srinagar, and upgradation of IICT Srinagar and PTQCC laboratories. He also outlined efforts to enhance product quality and curb counterfeit products.

Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu, Mohammad Nazir Sheikh, apprised the meeting of projects under consideration by the Ministry of Textiles, including raw material depots for Pashmina and wheat straw clusters, bamboo cluster at Samba, calico printing cluster at Jammu, and development of an Urban Haat at Samba. He further informed that several CFCs in Kathua and Samba districts have already been completed.

The meeting also reviewed financial inclusion initiatives, including the Credit Card Scheme for Artisans and Weavers, under which more than 2,400 cases have been sanctioned, providing credit facilities up to ₹2 lakh with interest subvention. Under the Karkhandar Scheme, 46 karkhandars have been established with government assistance amounting to ₹185.79 lakh.

Regarding GI certification, it was informed that 970 new authorized GI users were registered during 2025-26, taking the total to nearly 4,700 across various crafts. A total of 80,545 products have been QR-labelled.