

DC Shopian engages with youth clubs, Mahila Samitis on Nasha Mukta JK Abhiyan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 13

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today convened a community interaction program at Mini Secretariat Shopian with youth clubs and Mahila Samitis members of the district, aimed at enhancing community engagement measures for combating drug abuse in the district under the ongoing 100 Day Nasha Mukta Campaign.

Youth club and Mahila Samitis members are acting as volunteers in all gram panchayats of the district, who are being mobilised under the campaign for community engagement in villages.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for collective responsibility and close coordination among all stakeholders to tackle the growing menace of drugs. He called upon all the members to educate and inform the people especially the vulnerable about the harmful effects of drug addiction.

"Youth and Women have a tremendous role in creat-



ing deterrence against the Drug Abuse. Fight against Drugs will not succeed without proactive public commitment, so it's significant to involve the village level community members and volunteers for fulfilling the objectives of the campaign, said DC Shopian during the interaction.

He emphasized that awareness at the grassroots level is essential and urged participants to motivate

youth towards constructive activities, particularly sports & skill development programmes and encouraged people to come forward for establishing self-employment units, assuring that the District Administration would provide every possible support and facilitation in this regard. He further urged them to maintain close vigilance over children and create awareness within

families to keep society free from drugs.

The meeting concluded with a collective resolve to intensify awareness campaigns and strengthen community participation across the district.

ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz, ACD, Muzaffar Ahmed, DIO, Showkat Hussain Ganie, BDOs, officers/officials of RDD and other concerned were also present in the interaction.

JKNC delegation meets Cluster University VC, raises key academic & administrative issues

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JAMMU, MAY 13

A delegation of the Jammu Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), led by Zonal Secretary & Coordinator Dr. Vikas Sharma, met the Vice Chancellor of Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. K. S. Chandrashekhar, to discuss several important issues concerning the functioning and administration of the University.

During the meeting, the delegation strongly emphasized the urgent need for permanent appointments to key administrative posts, including Registrar, Controller of Examinations, Dean Academic Affairs, Assistant Registrars, and Assistant Professors against all sanctioned vacancies. The delegation stated that prolonged in-charge and ad-hoc arrangements are adversely affecting accountability, timely decision-making, and the smooth functioning of the university.

The delegation also urged the university administration to prioritize local candidates in recruitment processes so that highly qualified youth from Jammu can receive better employment opportunities in higher educational insti-



tutions. It was highlighted that local youth prefer university employment and deserve fair representation in appointments.

Raising concerns over institutional functioning, the delegation alleged that some Deans are receiving preferential treatment in academic and administrative matters, while others are being sidelined. The delegation demanded equal opportunities, fair representation in committees, and equal access to institutional resources for all Deans across faculties.

The delegation further highlighted the issue of low salaries being paid to Contractual Assistant Professors. Referring to UGC

guidelines, the members demanded implementation of the prescribed minimum salary of ₹57,700 per month for contractual faculty members, with retrospective effect from the date of appointment. They noted that similar standards have already been implemented in Ladakh.

Another major concern raised during the meeting was the alleged non-participation of several Deans in classroom teaching. The delegation requested the Vice Chancellor to ensure that all Deans take regular classes for at least 4-5 hours per week in order to strengthen academic accountability and reduce the burden on junior faculty

members.

The delegation also brought to the notice of the Vice Chancellor allegations against a faculty member accused of teaching incorrect and unapproved practices to students and allegedly ignoring repeated warnings from higher authorities. The members stated that students had already submitted multiple complaints to the university administration and demanded an immediate inquiry along with strict disciplinary action if the allegations are found to be true.

The JKNC delegation appreciated the efforts of the Vice Chancellor in taking the university forward but stated that issues such as favouritism, wage disparity, absentee academic leadership, alleged wrong teaching practices, and vacant administrative posts are negatively impacting the institution's academic environment and reputation.

Responding to the issues raised, Vice Chancellor Prof. K. S. Chandrashekhar assured the delegation that several demands would be considered seriously and that deserving local candidates would be given due consideration in future appointments.

SKUAST-K reaffirms commitment towards Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir

SRINAGAR, MAY 13:

An awareness rally under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was organized at the Shalimar Campus of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) by the Dean Students Welfare in collaboration with the Kashmir Jurists Bar Association to spread awareness against the menace of drug abuse and to promote a healthy and responsible society.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, was the Chief Guest at the occasion, while Senior Superintendent of Police, Nighat Aman was the Guest of Honour.



Among other prominent attendees were Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth Director Extension, Dean Students Welfare, Prof. Sajad Ahmad Gangoo, Altaf Ganderbali, President, Kashmir Jurists Bar Association, Taseer Hamid, SHO, PS Harwan, along with several mem-

bers of Kashmir Jurists Bar Association, civil society, faculty members, medical officers of the university, students, and school children participated.

The programme commenced with the address by the Vice Chancellor, who reiterated that Sher-e-

Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir remains committed to carrying forward the mission of a Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir envisioned by the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor. He emphasized the collective responsibility of educational institutions and society in safeguarding youth from the harmful effects of substance abuse.

Addressing the gathering, Nighat Aman highlighted the ill effects of drug addiction and urged students and youth to actively participate in awareness initiatives aimed at eradicating the menace from society.

BJP MM holds awareness meeting on healthy living, fuel conservation & responsible lifestyle

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 13

A meeting of BJP Mahila Morcha Jammu & Kashmir was held today at the BJP Headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, under the leadership of Mahila Morcha President Adv. Neha Mahajan.

During the meeting, women members collectively resolved to promote healthy living, fuel conservation, responsible spending and social awareness across Jammu & Kashmir. Inspired by the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi for a self-reliant and strong India, the Mahila Morcha members discussed encouraging simple yet impactful lifestyle changes within society.

The emphasis was laid on reducing unnecessary fuel consumption through carpooling, walking for short distances and adopting healthier daily habits. The members also discussed spreading awareness among families regarding



the balanced use of cooking oil and the importance of maintaining a healthy lifestyle for the well-being of children and families. At the same time, women members expressed the need for responsible and need-based spending habits, encouraging society to focus more on savings, education, health and self-reliance rather than unnecessary luxury expenses.

A special discussion was also held regarding unnecessary expenditure on gold purchases. During the interaction, many women members supported the

idea of voluntarily avoiding or minimising gold purchases for one year as a symbolic step towards promoting financial discipline, savings and responsible household management. It was observed that such awareness can help families focus more on children's education, health-care, self-reliance and overall family welfare.

The Mahila Morcha also appealed to citizens to embrace the spirit of "Vocal for Local" by supporting local products and businesses to strengthen the nation's economy. It was

resolved that women and youth across Jammu & Kashmir would be motivated to actively participate in awareness campaigns related to health, environment, responsible living and nation-building.

Neha Mahajan stated that when women take positive initiatives within families and society, it creates a meaningful impact on the nation's future. She added that healthy families, responsible citizens and socially aware communities are the foundation of a strong and self-reliant India.

FICCI FLO Signs Landmark Triple MOU with Garuda Aerospace

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In a defining act of national intent, FICCI FLO — the women's wing of India's apex business chamber, FICCI — signed three landmark Memoranda of Understanding with Garuda Aerospace, NEOSKY India and YRG — formally launching a country's most ambitious women-led drone skilling programme writing a new chapter in India's story of women-led transformation. The MoU was signed by FICCI FLO's national president Puja Garg on behalf of FICCI FLO along with partner organisations, Mrs. Rithika Agnishwar, Co-Founder, Garuda Aerospace, Mr. Sarath Chandra CEO, NEOSKY India, Mr. AK Srikrishnan COO, YRG. "India's drone revolution is no longer a distant ambition — it is policy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Drone Didi initiative has established a bold national vision: that the women of Bharat will not merely witness the rise of drone technology, they will lead it. The Skill India Mission and Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao provide the moral and policy architecture for exactly this kind of intervention." Said Ms Puja Garg, National President, FICCI FLO



DGCA-certified women drone pilots by March 2027, deployed across 22 chapters in every region of India, this initiative transforms a government vision into ground-level reality — one woman pilot, one certified skill, one transformed livelihood at a time" said Ms Garg. "Garuda Aerospace is a flagship name in India's DGCA-approved drone manufacturing and training ecosystem. Garuda brings technical depth, certified infrastructure, and a proven track record of producing skilled drone operators at scale across the country." Said Mrs. Rithika Agnishwar, Co-Founder, Garuda Aerospace. "A pioneering force in drone skilling and ecosystem development, NEOSKY's DGCA-approved training architecture and pan-India reach ensure that the programme is delivered with consistency, quality, and strategic reach." Said

NEOSKY India. Mr. Sarath Chandra, CEO YRG joins as the CSR-compliant NGO partner, anchoring last-mile beneficiary outreach, documentation, and regulatory compliance — ensuring that every woman reached is a woman who truly needs this opportunity." Said YRG (NGO Partner) Mr. AK Srikrishnan, COO India's drone sector is on a trajectory to become a ₹30,000 crore industry by 2030 — spanning agriculture, logistics, surveillance, infrastructure inspection, and disaster management. FICCI FLO's programme is not simply a skilling drive. It is a long-term national investment in building a pipeline of women-led drone professionals who will power this industry from within.

Through 22 FLO chapters, this initiative will reach women who have historically stood at the periphery of technology — and place them at its very

centre. Every woman who earns her DGCA licence under this programme is not just gaining a skill. She is claiming her place in the Aatmanirbhar Bharat that Prime Minister Modi has envisioned for every daughter of this nation. "FICCI FLO does not merely celebrate women — we equip them. This programme is our commitment to Prime Minister Modi's vision: that the sky is not a limit for India's women, it is their starting point. We will put 1,000 women in the skies of Bharat — certified, skilled, and unstoppable." Added Ms Garg. "Mrs. Dekyi Yangtso Chawla, Head — AI & Digital Skilling, FICCI FLO National "Drone technology is the frontier of India's economic future. Through this consortium, we are ensuring that women are not left out of that future — they are leading it. This is not a skilling programme.

MLA visits KVK Gurez, appreciates innovative Agricultural Interventions

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Gurez Constituency, Nazir Ahmad Khan on Tuesday visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Gurez and appreciated the innovative interventions being implemented by the institution for promotion of sustainable agriculture and agri-tourism in the valley.

During the visit, the MLA inspected several pioneering initiatives undertaken by KVK Gurez under the guidance of Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and support of Director Extension, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth.

The dignitary undertook a detailed field visit of various projects including the first-ever Tulip yard in Gurez Valley, Kala Zeera domestication fields, Lavender demonstration yard and the Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) germplasm bank established by the Kendra.

The initiatives are aimed at diversification of agriculture, revival of heritage crops and promotion of natural and organic farming practices in the region besides creating new opportunities for agri-tourism



and livelihood generation among farmers.

Termining the Tulip initiative a "great success", the MLA said the introduction of tulips in Gurez Valley would significantly boost tourism and open new avenues for economic development in the area.

He appreciated the vision of Vice

Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai for promoting innovative agricultural practices and improving the quality of life of tribal farmers in Gurez Valley. He also lauded the efforts of Head KVK Gurez and his team for their dedication and commitment towards the farming community.