

JAMMU & KASHMIR

DC Samba chairs NCORD meeting, Calls for intensified anti-drug campaign across distt

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 30

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level NCORD (Narco Coordination Centre) Committee to review the Action Taken Report on anti-drug initiatives and assess the progress achieved on decisions taken during the previous meeting.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed the measures undertaken by various departments to curb drug abuse and narcotics trafficking and stressed the need for a coordinated, multi-sectoral approach to effectively tackle the menace.

She directed all stakeholder departments to further strengthen preventive, enforcement, treatment, rehabilitation and awareness measures to ensure a sustained impact at the grass-



roots level.

Emphasizing the importance of treatment and rehabilitation, the DC directed the concerned authorities to strengthen the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Samba and ensure greater accessibility of counselling and de-addiction services for individuals affected by substance abuse.

The Deputy Commissioner underscored the critical role of educational institutions in prevention efforts and called for enhanced capacity building of teachers and educators to enable them to identify vulnerable youth, provide guidance and promote awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Highlighting the need for community participation,

she directed all departments to intensify awareness campaigns, outreach programmes and IEC activities across the district. She further stressed for organizing orientation programmes, sports events and youth engagement activities to encourage healthy lifestyles and channelize the energies of young people towards constructive pursuits.

DLSA Udhampur organizes awareness programme on Road Safety



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 30

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Udhampur today organized an awareness programme on Road Safety at Government Higher Secondary School Barmeen, Ramnagar to educate students and staff about safe road practices and traffic rules.

The event was conducted under the guidance of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District and Sessions Judge), Udhampur Kalpana Revo and under the overall supervision of Ld. Secre-

tary/Sub-Judge, DLSA Udhampur Sumati Sharma.

The programme commenced with a welcome address by the school Principal Neenu Ganjoo, who emphasized the importance of early road-safety education and thanked DLSA Udhampur for organizing the session. Cultural items, skits and songs themed on road safety were presented by the students, reinforcing the programme's key messages in an engaging manner.

Sumati Sharma spoke on the legal aspects of road safety, role of DLSA in public awareness and the importance of compliance with

traffic laws. She also appreciated the participants for their active involvement in the programme.

The resource person, Adv. Sanjeet Kumar Bavouria, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Udhampur, elaborated on the legal consequences of traffic violations and offered practical advice on accident prevention and post-accident legal procedures. Rashpal Singh, President of the Transport Unions, addressed drivers' responsibilities, vehicle maintenance and the need for collaborative efforts between transport stakeholders and the community. Pankaj Sudan, Deputy Su-

perintendent of Police (Traffic) shared traffic-safety tips, emphasized the importance of wearing helmets and seatbelts, advised on speed regulation and described ongoing traffic enforcement initiatives in the district.

The interactive session concluded with a question-and-answer segment in which students raised queries on pedestrian safety, helmet standards and emergency response. Books were later distributed to the students and they were encouraged to act as ambassadors of road safety within their families and neighbourhoods.

Agriculture Department Jammu accords farewell to retiring employees

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 30

The officers and staff of the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu, bid farewell to Madan Lal, Regional Level Subject Matter Specialist (JDA Extension Office, Jammu); Gopal Krishan, Head Draftsman (Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu); Manju Gupta, Field Assistant-III (Divisional Soil Survey Office, Jammu); Madan Lal, GCEO (ADLE, Jammu) and Jeet Singh, Driver (Agriculture Chemist, Jammu), who superannuated today after rendering more than three decades of dedicated service to the department.

A farewell function was organised at the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan Jammu to honour the re-



tirees for their valuable contributions towards the department and the farming community.

Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu Anil Gupta along with sectoral heads, senior officers and staff members, graced the occasion and extended their best wishes to the retirees.

Anil Gupta appreciated

the services rendered by the retiring employees and commended their professionalism, dedication and commitment towards agricultural development and farmers' welfare. He observed that their contributions had strengthened the functioning of the department and that their sincerity and work ethic would continue to serve as an inspira-

tion for others. Officers and staff from various districts of Jammu Division also extended their best wishes to the retirees and acknowledged their long-standing service and dedication.

As a mark of respect and recognition, mementoes were presented to the retirees on behalf of the department.

GBMHSS Rajouri organises symposium on "Nasha Mukh Bharat"

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 30

As part of the ongoing efforts under the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, the Government Boys Model Higher Secondary School Rajouri today organised a symposium on the theme "Nasha Mukh Bharat" to generate awareness regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage a healthy and responsible lifestyle among youth.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma and the patronage of Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafeez.

The symposium witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and teachers of various educational institutions across the district. Students from Government Boys Model HSS Rajouri, Government Girls Model HSS Rajouri, Himalayan Education Mission School Rajouri, National Public School Rajouri and Himalayan Super School Dhangri presented their views on the causes, consequences and prevention of drug addiction.

District Education Planning Officer Sardari Lal attended the programme as



the chief guest, while Principal GHSS Kulgam Maqbool Hussain was the guest of honour.

The chief guest highlighted the growing challenge posed by drug abuse and stressed the need for collective efforts involving educational institutions, parents, law enforcement agencies and society at large to combat the menace. He urged students to remain focused on their studies, adopt healthy habits and actively contribute towards

building a drug-free society. Maqbool Hussain emphasised the importance of value-based education and character building in safeguarding youth from social evils. He encouraged students to channel their energy towards academics, sports, creative activities and community service.

During the symposium, students expressed their views on the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society.

They advocated greater awareness, counselling, community participation and youth empowerment as effective measures to eradicate drug addiction.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks presented by Principal GBMHSS Rajouri M M Wani. All participants also took a pledge to remain committed to the cause of a Drug-Free India and to spread awareness against substance abuse in their respective communities.

DC Kathua reviews anti-drug, tobacco control measures; Calls for coordinated action

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 30

Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired meetings of the District Level NCORD Committee and District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meetings were attended by ADC Mahima Madan, GM DIC Mushtaq Choudhary, ASP Sunil Kesar, RTO Surinder Sharma, CMO Dr. Vijay Raina, ACD, ACP, CEO and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the NCORD agenda, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the action taken on decisions of the previous meeting. ADC Mahima Madan informed that extensive awareness activities are being undertaken under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Ab-



hiyan, with scope for improving further outreach besides reaching out to uncovered and remote areas. The meeting was informed that around 21,000

kg of lahan had been destroyed, 39 litres of illicit liquor seized/destroyed and four working stills dismantled during recent enforcement drives. ASP informed

that properties worth nearly 77 crore belonging to drug peddlers had also been dismantled as part of the intensified crackdown against narcotics networks.

International Day of Potato 2026 celebrated at PSDF Nathatop

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 30

The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu today celebrated International Day of Potato 2026 at Potato Seed Development Farm (PSDF) Nathatop under the guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta.

Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB) Jammu Aman Jyoti Sharma spearheaded the programme.

More than 30 farmers participated in the programme, which was organised under the theme "Where Potatoes Grow, Livelihoods Flourish." Among those present were Agriculture Economist Tilak Raj Sharma, Potato Development Officer Jammu Ravi Sharma, Farm Manager PSDF Nathatop Ravinder Singh, besides officers and staff of the department.



The Director extended greetings to farmers, agriculture professionals, FPOs and stakeholders. He highlighted the vital role of potato cultivation in ensuring food security, nutritional security, employment generation and sustainable rural livelihoods.

Joint Director Agriculture (Farms/SLUB) Aman Jyoti Sharma emphasised the adoption of scientific cultivation practices, quality seed and modern technologies to enhance potato productivity and farmers income.

He highlighted the importance of potato cultivation as a key contributor to

the agricultural economy of the region.

Agriculture Economist Tilak Raj Sharma stressed the economic potential of potato cultivation and advised farmers to explore value addition and collective marketing initiatives for better returns. Potato Development Officer Ravi Sharma informed that potato cultivation occupies nearly 900 hectares in hilly areas and about 2,045 hectares in plain areas of Jammu Division, where farmers are cultivating several improved and high-yielding varieties. Farm Manager Ravinder Singh sensitised farmers about

improved potato varieties, scientific cultivation practices and disease management techniques.

During the programme, farmers received education on the importance of potato cultivation, quality seed production and modern crop management practices.

A field visit was also conducted at the farm where participants observed seed multiplication activities, improved potato varieties and scientific cultivation methods. Progressive farmers shared their experiences and success stories, encouraging fellow farmers to adopt improved technologies for higher productivity and profitability.

The United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 30 May as the International Day of Potato in December 2023, recognising the potato as a vital food crop consumed by more than one billion people worldwide.