

DC Srinagar participates in annual Mahayagna at Bhagwan Gopinath temple Habbakadal

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Monday visited the Bhagwan Gopinath Ashram at Kharyar Habbakadal to participate in the annual Mahayagna, a significant spiritual event that attracts devotees from different parts of the Valley.

The Deputy Commissioner joined hundreds of devotees who had gathered at the Ashram to offer prayers and seek blessings on the auspicious occasion. He paid his respects to the revered mystic saint, Bhagwan Gopinath Ji and observed the religious rituals and devotional proceedings being conducted as part of the annual celebrations.

The Mahayagna was marked by a deeply spiritual atmosphere, with devotees participating in prayers, bhajans and other religious observances dedicated to the saint. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of the Kashmiri Pandit community and devotees, highlighting the enduring



legacy of Bhagwan Gopinath Ji and his message of peace, devotion and self-realization.

During his visit, DC Srinagar interacted with the management of the

Ashram and devotees present on the occasion.

The annual Mahayagna at the Bhagwan Gopinath Ashram remains one of the prominent religious observances associated

with the saint, drawing large numbers of followers particularly Kashmiri Pandits every year to commemorate his life, teachings spiritual contributions.

NMBA Campaign continues across Pulwama with Awareness, Sports Activities

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As part of the ongoing 100-day campaign under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of awareness, counselling and sports activities were conducted across Pulwama district to promote a drug-free society and encourage active community participation in combating substance abuse.

Awareness programmes were organised at Batgund Aripal, Saimooh Dadsara, Drabgam Shadimarg, Hari Awantipora and Bathnoor Chandgam, where participants were sensitised about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of collective efforts in preventing substance abuse. Various awareness activities were conducted to highlight the message of a drug-free society and encourage community involvement in the ongoing campaign.

Meanwhile, Self Help Group (SHG) members organised awareness and counselling sessions along with a padyatra at Ichegoza to spread awareness regarding drug abuse prevention and promote healthy lifestyles among the local populace.



The Education Department conducted creative writing competitions at various educational institutions across the district, encouraging students to express their views on the ill effects of drug abuse and the significance of building a healthy and drug-free society.

Furthermore, the Department of Youth Services and Sports (YSS), Pulwama organised a series

of sporting and awareness activities under the NMBA campaign. Zone Pulwama organised an Inter-School Zonal Level Under-14 Boys Cricket Tournament at Sports Stadium Chewa Khurd. Similarly, Zone Kakapora hosted a Zonal Level Under-17 Girls Kabaddi Tournament at PS Naman, Kakapora, where participants showcased their talent, team-

work and sporting spirit. Zone Tahab conducted zonal-level tournaments in Volleyball, Kho-Kho and Kabaddi at Holy Faith Model Institute, Rakh Litter. Participants across all events pledged their commitment towards the vision of a healthy, progressive and drug-free Pulwama through collective awareness, community engagement and active youth participation.

KVK Bandipora-1 organizes training on 'Organic Standards for Healthy Soil & Regenerative Health Care'

BANDIPORA, JUNE 16: Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bandipora-1, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), today organized a one day training programme on "Organic Standards for Healthy Soil and Regenerative Health Care" under HADP-16, "Alternate System of Agriculture for Sustainable Future."

The programme aimed to promote certified organic production, healthy soil management, and regenerative agriculture under the theme, "Towards Certified Organic Production, Trustworthy Food and Sustainable Future." It focused on organic standards, soil health, and sustainable farming for safe food production.

The programme witnessed active participation from farmers, rural youth, officers, Self Help Groups, entrepreneurs, students, and other stakeholders from across the district.

Dr. Tariq Sultan, Head, KVK Bandipora-1, inaugurated the programme and highlighted the importance of organic farming in restoring soil fertility, con-



servicing natural resources, and improving farm profitability. He emphasized that certified organic production offers opportunities for sustainable agriculture while meeting the growing demand for safe and quality food. He urged participants to adopt scientific organic farming practices.

Dr. Tahir Saleem, Subject Matter Specialist, Vegetable Science, delivered a technical session on regenerative agriculture and sustainable crop production.

He highlighted organic nutrient management, crop rotation, vermicomposting, and bio fertilizers for improving soil fertility and crop productivity. He encouraged farmers to adopt sustainable cultivation practices for certified organic production and long term soil health.

Dr. Bilal Ahmad Zargar, Subject Matter Specialist, Agricultural Extension, delivered a lecture on organic standards, certification procedures, National Programme for Organic Pro-

duction, Participatory Guarantee System, quality assurance, and market opportunities for organic produce. He stressed the need to strengthen the organic farming ecosystem and improve farmers' access to premium markets.

Dr. Shahista Fayaz, Senior Research Fellow, Faculty of Agriculture, Wadura, spoke on the importance of organic standards in producing safe and trustworthy food. She emphasized scientific organic practices, certification, and quality assurance for sustainable agriculture and consumer confidence.

Shabnum Mumtaz, Subject Matter Specialist, Entomology, delivered a session on eco-friendly pest management, conservation of beneficial insects, and biological control measures to reduce dependence on synthetic pesticides in organic farming systems.

Participants appreciated the initiative and expressed confidence that the knowledge gained would help them adopt sustainable farming practices for producing safe, trustworthy food and ensuring a sustainable future.

DC Shopian chairs DLTC Meeting Reviews development of telecom infrastructure in district

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To review and discuss the development of telecom infrastructure under Jammu & Kashmir Communication and Connectivity Infrastructure Project (JKCCIP), a meeting of District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) was today held under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta here at DC Office Shopian.

During the meeting, the Committee deliberated on key issues related to strengthening of telecom infrastructure and enhancement of network connectivity across Shopian district.

Detailed discussions were held regarding the commissioning of mobile towers, 4G saturation, status of Right of Way (RoW), progress under the Bharat-Net Project, 5G mapping and other related matters.

The DC also emphasized improving telecom con-



nectivity at key tourist destinations by expediting the installation of mobile towers to ensure better network coverage, enhance tourist safety and support tourism related activities in these areas.

The DC also urged the saturation of 4G network coverage and the Bharat-Net projects across the district, noting that these initiatives are vital for enhancing digital connec-

tivity and benefiting residents across all communities.

Highlighting the significance of robust telecom networks, DC stated that improved connectivity is vital for effective governance, delivery of essential services, education and economic activities.

During the meeting, the DC also took detailed feedback from telecom companies operating in the dis-

trict and urged them to enhance the quality of telecom services, particularly in remote areas.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; ACD, Muzaffar Ahmad; ACR, Shakoor Ahmad; Dy.SP DAR, CEO MC, Executive Engineers, besides officers from Forest, Wildlife etc and representatives of various telecom companies operating in district.

Chief Secretary reviews progress of TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the ongoing Pradhan Mantri TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan to assess the progress achieved across the Union Territory and chart out a strategy for accelerating efforts towards tuberculosis elimination.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education (H&ME); Mission Director, National Health Mission (NHM); Managing Director, JKMSCL; Principals of Government Medical Colleges (GMCs); Director, Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu; and Senior Faculty Members from various medical institutions across the UT.

Reviewing district-wise performance, the Chief Secretary noted that while several districts have achieved encouraging results, there remains considerable scope for improvement in certain critical indicators. He directed the

Health & Medical Education Department to intensify efforts in districts reporting lower coverage of X-ray screening, differentiated TB care, TB preventive treatment and nutritional support.

He emphasized on expanding the coverage achieved in screening populations residing in identified high-risk villages, directing district administrations and health authorities to substantially increase the number of Nikshay Shivirs and ensure saturation coverage of all notified high-risk villages within the stipulated timelines. He emphasised optimum utilisation of hand-held X-ray units and greater outreach in remote and vulnerable areas.

While reviewing the implementation of the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, the Chief Secretary instructed the concerned authorities to complete all pending beneficiary authentication and ensure timely release of financial assistance to the eligible patients. He further directed that all pending cases be cleared through a special drive so that no patient is deprived of entitled benefits.



The Chief Secretary also called for intensified efforts to enhance TB Preventive Treatment coverage among household contacts and healthcare workers, strengthen differentiated care protocols, improve Poshan Kit distribution and expand community participation through Nikshay Mitras.

Dulloo also stressed the need to improve the uptake of the recently launched TB Mukta Bharat App and Khushi Chatbot, observing that digital tools can significantly enhance treatment adherence, patient counselling and service delivery. He directed all concerned doctors and field functionaries to ensure registration and active utilisation of the platform

by every notified TB patient. Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary observed that the performance reflects the efforts made by the healthcare workers, district administrations and community volunteers engaged in the campaign. He stressed that sustained efforts are essential to maintain momentum and achieve the national goal of eliminating tuberculosis.

The Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M. Raju took this occasion to present the detailed overview of the achievements, challenges and future action plans under the TB Mukta Bharat Abhiyan being implemented across the districts of J&K.

The Commissioner Secretary apprised the meeting that Jammu & Kashmir has emerged as one of the best performing regions in the country under the ongoing 100-Day TB Mukta Bharat Campaign, securing 2nd rank among States and Union Territories under Phase-II of the national campaign launched on March 24, 2026.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that J&K has achieved notable success in several critical indicators, including vulnerable population screening, presumptive TB testing, TB notification, drug-resistant TB detection, differentiated TB care, nutritional support and community participation

through Nikshay Mitras.

The MD, NHM, Akriti Sagar presented that over 2.45 lakh vulnerable individuals have been screened during the ongoing campaign, while 70 percent of the enrolled vulnerable population has undergone X-ray examination, surpassing the national benchmark.

She further added that the UT has also recorded 90 percent utilisation of NAAT-based molecular diagnostic testing, ensuring faster and more accurate diagnosis of tuberculosis cases.

The review further revealed that J&K has maintained strong performance in TB case detection, with 4,472 TB cases notified during the first five months of 2026, representing about 40 percent of the annual target. The programme has also strengthened presumptive TB testing, recording over 2.52 lakh tests across the Union Territory during the current year.

It was noted that more than 2,100 TB patients have received Poshan Kits during the current year under community support initiatives, while the

number of registered Nikshay Mitras has increased to over 13,100 reflecting growing societal participation in supporting TB patients.

The Chief Secretary was informed that 1,504 TB patients have been assessed under Differentiated TB Care, ensuring personalised treatment and management based on disease severity and associated vulnerabilities.

Moreover it was highlighted that significant improvement has also been registered in TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) coverage, which increased from 7 percent during Phase-I to 34 percent during Phase-II, indicating better protection of household contacts and other high-risk groups from developing active tuberculosis.

Emphasising that tuberculosis elimination requires a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach, he urged all departments, district administrations, civil society organisations and volunteers to actively contribute towards the goal of making Jammu & Kashmir TB-Mukht in the days to come.