

DC Doda reviews progress of NRLM, directs enhanced coverage of households

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 20

Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) and the functioning of Self Help Groups (SHGs) across the district. The meeting, held in the Mini Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Doda, focussed on financial inclusion, household mobilisation, SHG formation, livelihood promotion and implementation of NRLM initiatives.

During the meeting, officials reviewed job card holders' status, household census records, target versus achievement of household coverage, formation of Self Help Groups and village-wise progress under NRLM.

The Deputy Commissioner examined block-wise performance including the percentage of household coverage, village saturation and achieve-



ments against prescribed targets.

The Deputy Commissioner urged officials to enhance NRLM outreach, particularly in Doda Town and Thathri, where greater registration and mobilisation efforts are required and directed that all villages and panchayats be brought under the ambit of NRLM to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of Self Help Groups in in-

development and enterprise promotion. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the departments concerned to furnish updated lists of Self Help Groups, monitor their performance regularly and identify successful SHGs for recognition and replication of best practices. He emphasised healthy, viable and sustainable functioning of SHGs by strengthening capacity-building, promoting financial literacy and facilitating timely access to institutional credit and directed officials to conduct regular field monitoring, improve coordination with banking institutions and intensify awareness campaigns to maximise community participation under NRLM.

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Among those present were Chief Planning Officer Doda Manesh Kumar Manhas, Assistant Director Planning Kishore Kumar, officials of banking institutions and other stakeholders associated with the implementation of NRLM in the district.

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Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Standing Committee (DLSC) on border security to review the security scenario and welfare measures in areas adjoining the Line of Control (LoC).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on strengthening coordination among departments, enhancing community welfare and ensuring the safety and well-being of residents living in border villages.

The Deputy Commissioner said Block Diwas programmes will be conducted in border villages to directly hear grievances and ensure timely redressal.

Reviewing essential services and security arrangements, the DC took stock of water supply and electricity facilities in border areas, and directed departments concerned to assess areas lacking basic amenities and take measures for improvement.



The Revenue Department was directed to compile and submit details of worship places, households and residents located beyond the fencing, and land beyond the fence not under cultivation; Tehsildars to provide updated information on land and other issues in these areas; and the Police Department to maintain updated

records through registration and verification of tenants, helpers and individuals working beyond the fence.

During the meeting, Army representatives briefed the committee on ongoing efforts to maintain peace, security and stability along the border. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the coordinated efforts of secu-

rency forces and civil departments in safeguarding border communities. Among those present were Senior Superintendent of Police Poonch Shafqat Hussain Bhat, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed and officers from the Army, BSF, CRPF, Brigade and various district departments.

Kathua admin organises Yoga session at picturesque Purthu, Basohli

KATHUA, JUNE 20:

As part of the week-long Yoga awareness activities organised ahead of the 12th International Day of Yoga-2026, the District Administration Kathua in collaboration with the District AYUSH Office today organised a Yoga session at Purthu in Basohli, popularly known as the 'Mini Goa of Basohli'.

Among those present were MLA Basohli Darshan Singh, Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, ADC Kathua Mahima Madan, ADC Basohli Pankaj Bagotra and CPO Ranjeet Thakur, besides a large number of citizens and Yoga enthusiasts.

The Yoga session was conducted by a team led by District AYUSH Officer Dr



Rakesh Sharma and Nodal Officer Dr Bodh Paul, along with other members of the AYUSH department, who guided participants through various Yoga asanas and explained their significance for physical and mental wellbeing.

MLA Basohli Darshan Singh appreciated the initiative of the District Administration and said pro-

moting Yoga at such scenic locations helps spread the message of health and wellness among the masses. He said Yoga is highly relevant today and called for a collective resolve to adopt "Yoga 365" by practising it daily for a healthier lifestyle. Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma said the series of

organised across the district ahead of International Day of Yoga-2026 was aimed at sensitising people about the health benefits of Yoga and encouraging its adoption as a way of life.

The DC called upon people to participate in the International Day of Yoga celebrations on 21 June and make Yoga an integral part of their daily routine.

GHSS Latti hosts awareness programme under NMBA

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JAMMU, JUNE 20

A programme on mental health, stress management, anxiety and personal hygiene under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was organised today at Govt Higher Secondary School Latti. Sub Divisional Magistrate Dudu Dr Manmeet Kumar was special guest at the event.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Principal Diwan Kundal, in which Dr Hardeep Kumar, MD, DM (Neurology) and Dr Sandeepa, MBBS, PG (Community Medicine) were the resource persons.

The SDM addressed the students on career counselling and the importance



of sports. Dr Hardeep Kumar spoke on stress management, anxiety and mental health, mindful mobile phone usage and importance of reading physical books.

He also spoke on physical exercise, good nutrition and

proper sleep. Dr Sandeepa spoke on the importance of hygiene and conducted a separate lecture for girls and female staff on personal health and hygiene, addressing their queries.

In his vote of thanks,

Principal Diwan Kundal requested the resource persons to visit for such programmes in future as well and thanked SDM Dudu Dr Manmeet Kumar for addressing the students on career counselling and the importance of sports.

Legal rights must translate into accessible, dignified institutional support for women: Justice

SRINAGAR, JUNE 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority under the guidance of National Legal Services Authority today organised a mega awareness programme on "Empowering Women and Strengthening Institutional Legal Support" at SKICC, Srinagar.

Among others present on the occasion were Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, National Legal Services Authority; Justice S. V. N. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Supervising Judge for J&K Legal Services Authority; Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority; Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, High Legal Services Committee besides other Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The programme was conceived as a common institutional platform to strengthen awareness of the legal rights of women and girl children and to improve coordination among the Legal Services Institutions, Police, Health, Education, Social Welfare, One Stop Centres, Child Welfare Committees and other authorities responsible for protection, legal assistance, compensation, rehabilitation and follow-up support.

In his presidential address, Justice Vikram Nath, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Executive Chairman, NALSA, emphasized that the effectiveness of Legal Services Institutions must be judged by whether a person in distress is able to approach the system without fear, be heard with dignity and receive competent assistance without avoidable delay. He called upon all the stakeholders to strengthen the legal literacy, institutional coordination and grassroots outreach so that constitutional and statutory safeguards become a practical reality for women and girl children.

Justice S. V. N. Bhatti, Judge, Supreme Court of India and Supervising Judge for the J&K Legal Services Authority, during his special address, highlighted the need for functional grievance mechanisms, trained stakeholders and victim-sensitive procedures. He observed that women and children should not be compelled to navigate a fragmented institutional system or repeatedly recount traumatic experiences before different authorities. Clear referral pathways, confidentiality and accountability, he stated, are necessary for meaningful legal empowerment.

While delivering the inaugural address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Chief Justice (Acting), High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority, underscored that access to justice cannot be measured merely by the availability of laws and institutions. Justice Sanjeev Kumar called for stronger grassroots outreach and effective functioning of Front Offices, Legal Aid Clinics, Panel Lawyers and Para-Legal Volunteers so that persons in need are guided to appropriate remedies without procedural hardships. He also stressed the importance of convergence among all stakeholder institutions dealing with women in distress.

Recalling the distinguished tradition of humanitarian and justice-oriented intervention by the J&K Legal Services Authority, Justice Sanjeev Kumar highlighted its exemplary response in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake of 2005. The J&K Legal Services Authority undertook proactive measures to reach out to the affected population and facilitated timely settlement of their claims. In a



significant departure from conventional court-based proceedings, Judicial Officers stepped beyond the confined traditional courtrooms and conducted Lok Adalats in the open, closer to the affected communities, enabling victims to receive compensation and have their claims settled on the spot.

Senior functionaries, including the General Managers of the concerned insurance companies, were brought together on a common platform so that insurance claims could be examined and settled expeditiously, thereby demonstrating how responsive, innovative and compassionate justice-delivery mechanisms can provide meaningful relief during times of crisis.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, High Court Legal Services Committee, in his address, observed that recognition of a right in law is only the beginning and that the real test of justice lies in whether the right can be understood, approached and

effectively enforced.

Justice Sanjay Dhar emphasized that the constitutional character of the justice system is reflected in the manner in which a woman is received by the first institution she approaches. Prompt assistance, confidentiality, sensitivity and institutional follow-up, he said, are essential to prevent secondary victimisation and restore confidence in the justice system.

On the occasion, "ENDEAVOUR-2025", the Annual Newsletter-cum-Compendium reflecting the legal services activities and initiatives undertaken across the Union Territory during the year 2025, was released by the dignitaries.

The awareness programme was also graced by the presence of Justice Sindhu Sharma, Justice Rajesh Oswal, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohd. Yousuf Wani, Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice

Shahzad Azeem.

The programme was also attended by a Former Chief Justice and other former Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh; officers of NALSA and the Registry of High Court of J&K and Ladakh; Judicial Officers; representatives of the Civil and Police Administration; academicians and representatives of various Government departments and institutions.

The dignitaries also flagged off Multi-Utility Vehicles for the District Legal Services Authorities of Kashmir Province. These vehicles will strengthen the mobile legal services and enable DSLAs to extend legal awareness and legal aid services to remote, far-flung and underserved areas.

The programme thereafter unfolded through two technical sessions. The first technical session, on the theme "Women's Rights, Legal Empowerment and Access to Justice: Role of Legal Services Institutions", was chaired by Justice Vikram Nath and co-chaired by Justice S. V. N. Bhatti. The session focused on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012 and the Medical Termination of Pregnancy Act, 1971.

The deliberations in the first session covered safe and dignified workplaces, constitution and effective functioning of Internal and Local Committees, child-friendly procedures under the POC SO Act, protection of identity and privacy, reproductive rights, bodily autonomy, confidentiality and timely access to lawful medical care. The role of Legal Services Authorities in creating awareness, facilitating early legal intervention and coordinating with first-response institutions was also discussed.

The session concluded with remarks by Justice S. V. N. Bhatti, who stressed that statutory compliance must be substantive and not merely formal or paper-based.

The second technical session, on the theme "Institutional Support, Victim Assistance and Convergence Mechanisms for Women in Distress", was chaired by Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, Ladakh Legal Services Authority and co-chaired by Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

While chairing the session, Justice Sindhu Sharma emphasized the need for a coordinated and compassionate institutional response that places the dignity, safety and rehabilitation of the survivor at the centre of every intervention.

Justice Sindhu Sharma stressed that effective convergence among Legal Services Institutions, police, medical authorities, welfare departments and other stakeholders is essential to ensure timely and comprehensive assistance to women in distress.

The technical resource persons emphasized that justice for a survivor cannot end with registration of a case or conclusion of trial and that medical care, counselling, legal representation, shelter, protection, compensation and rehabilitation may be required simultaneously.

The session also discussed cyberstalking, impersonation, misuse of images, online blackmail and technology-enabled abuse, with emphasis on prompt reporting, preservation of digital evidence, privacy and victim-sensitive handling of complaints.

In her concluding remarks, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi underlined that convergence becomes meaningful only when responsibilities are clearly assigned, timelines are known and the victim is supported through a continuum of assistance.

The welcome address was presented by Shazia Tabasum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority and the vote of thanks was delivered by Haq Nawaz Zargar, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairperson, District Legal Services Authority, Srinagar.