

CRC Jammu conducts RCI-Accredited CRE Programme in Baramulla

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 25

The Composite Regional Centre (CRC) for Skill Development, Rehabilitation and Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities (Divyangjan), Jammu, successfully organized a Rehabilitation Council of India (RCI) Accredited Continuing Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programme in the Aspirational District of Baramulla under the National Fund for Conducting Rehabilitation Education (CRE) Programmes.

The State-level CRE Programme was organized on the theme "Recent Developments in Prevention, Diagnosis and Management of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities" and witnessed enthusiastic participation from more than 150 rehabilitation professionals, special educators, therapists, academicians, and stakeholders from across the region.

The programme was attended by Nasir Ahmed, Chief Planning Officer, Baramulla; Dr. Rohnika Sharma, Director, CRC Jammu; Naveen Gupta, Administrative Officer, CRC Jammu; Rahul Singh, Rehabilitation Officer, CRC Jammu; and Dr. Rayees Zahoor Shah, CRE Coordinator and Developmental Therapist, CRC Jammu.

Addressing the gathering as the Chief Guest, the Chief Planning Officer, appreciated the efforts of CRC Jammu in bringing quality professional training programmes to aspirational districts and underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in ensuring inclusive development and better rehabilitation outcomes for persons with disabilities.

Director, CRC Jammu, emphasized the importance of capacity building among rehabilitation professionals and the need to remain updated with recent advancements in prevention, diagnosis, and management practices relating to intellectual and developmental disabilities. She reiterated CRC Jammu's commitment to strengthening rehabilitation services and professional competencies across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Developmental Therapist, CRC Jammu and CRE Coordinator, Dr. Rayees Zahoor Shah, highlighted the significance of continuous professional development in the field of rehabilitation.



During the technical sessions, valuable insights on contemporary practices and emerging developments in the management of intellectual and developmental disabilities were highlighted. Experienced rehabilitation professionals and subject experts, while speaking on the occasion, covered various aspects related to the prevention, diagnosis, assessment, intervention, and management of intellectual and developmental disabilities. The sessions provided participants with evidence-based knowledge, practical strategies, and updates on recent developments in the field.

SKUAST-K ranks 4th in IIRF University Rankings

SRINAGAR, JUNE 25: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) has been awarded 4th rank nationally (Agriculture & Horticulture University category) in the International Institutional Ranking Framework (IIRF) University Rankings 2026, reinforcing its growing stature as one of India's leading institutions in agricultural education and research.

Ranked just behind three of the country's most prestigious agricultural universities, ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana; and Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, SKUAST-K's achievement reflects its remarkable rise as a leading center of excellence in agricultural education, research, innovation, and rural transformation.

The recognition places SKUAST-K among the country's top agricultural universities and reflects its expanding academic, research, and innovation footprint. The ranking is based on IIRF's comprehensive evaluation of over 2,500 institutions nationwide, using key performance indicators such as academic reputation, student diversity, research outcomes, innovation, infrastructure, community engagement, and international outlook.

SKUAST-K registered a strong performance across multiple ranking indicators, including academic excellence, research, innovation, inclusivity, community engagement, infrastructure, and global outreach. The university currently offers 14 undergraduate programs, the highest among state agricultural universities in the country, and has nearly 30 percent of its students from outside Jammu and Kashmir.

In research and innovation, SKUAST-K's IPR tally stands at 123 IPRs, including 117 in the last four years, holds an H-index of 115, and has over 200 extramural research projects in operation. The university has also strengthened its profile through large-scale community engagement and development initiatives, such as the Student Rural Exploration Program, which covers 400 villages, involves about 4,000 students, and is expanding its national and international collaborations with reputable institutions and industries.

Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, said the achievement reflects the sustained efforts of the university's faculty, scientists, students, and staff. He said SKUAST-K remains committed to strengthening research, promoting innovation, and supporting farming communities through education, community engagement, and technology transfer.

The ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), Degree Colleges across Bandipora district on Thursday organised a series of awareness and plantation programmes aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of substance abuse while promoting environmental conservation.

GDCs organise NMBA Awareness Programmes to promote Drug-Free Society in Bandipora

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As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), Degree Colleges across Bandipora district on Thursday organised a series of awareness and plantation programmes aimed at sensitising students about the harmful effects of substance abuse while promoting environmental conservation.

At HKM Govt Degree College (GDC) Bandipora, the NSS Units, in collaboration with the Literary Club, organised a counselling session for newly admitted students on substance abuse and its preventive measures. The session focused on creating awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and preventive measures among the new entrants, encouraging them to adopt a healthy and responsible lifestyle from the beginning of their academic journey.

The programme was organised under the guidance of the NSS Programme Officers and Convener of the Literary Club, Prof. Sadaf Shafi. Students actively participated in the session and appreciated the initiative for providing valuable guidance and awareness.

Meanwhile, the NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora also organised an awareness programme titled "Ek Ped Nasha Ke Viruddh" under the convnership of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay. Faculty members and students participated enthusiastically in the programme, which highlighted the harmful consequences of substance abuse while promoting environmental responsibility through tree plantation. The participants reiterated the importance of adopting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and preserving the environment.

Similarly, Government Degree College Gurez organised a plantation drive titled "Ek Ped Nashay Kay Viruddh" under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan under the supervision of Principal, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir. Students and faculty members planted saplings within the college campus, symbolising their commitment towards environmental conservation and a drug-free society.

Addressing the participants, Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir said that every tree planted represents hope, responsibility and a pledge to safeguard nature as well as society from the menace of substance abuse. He urged students to become ambassadors of environmental stewardship and actively contribute towards the vision of a Nasha Mukht Bharat.



Similarly, Government Degree College Sumbal, organised a Plantation Drive titled "Ek Ped, Nashay Ke Viruddh" under the aegis of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS). The initiative was carried out under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Shabeena Iqbal Shawl, Principal, Government Degree College Sumbal, with the objective of promoting environmental awareness while reinforcing the message of a drug-free society. Faculty members, NSS volunteers, and members of the NMBA Committee actively participated in the drive.

As part of the activity, saplings were planted at various locations within the college campus, symbolizing growth, hope, and a commitment to a healthier future. The participants pledged to contribute towards environmental conservation and support the vision of a healthy, sustainable, and drug-free society.

DE&CC Bandipora organizes One-Day Job Fair; over 450 unemployed youth participate

BANDIPORA, JUNE 25: District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC), Bandipora, on Thursday organized a one-day Job Fair at the Employment Office premises under the theme "One Platform for Employment and Entrepreneurship."

The event aimed to bridge the gap between job seekers and employers by providing a common platform for employment opportunities and career advancement. The Job Fair witnessed an overwhelming response from the youth of the district, with more than 450 unemployed candidates from different areas participating enthusiastically in the event. Around 15 reputed companies and private-sector employers representing diverse industries took part in the recruitment drive, offering employment opportunities across various sectors.

During the course of the event, 450 candidates submitted their applications for different job profiles. Following preliminary screening and interaction sessions, 140 candidates were shortlisted for the next stage of the selection process, while six candidates secured on-the-spot placements, marking a significant achievement of the recruitment drive. To further strengthen employment and entrepreneurship initiatives, a dedicated Mission YUVA Facilitation Stall was established by the Block Handholding and Development (BHD) team. The stall provided guidance and registration support to aspiring entrepreneurs and unemployed youth under various Mission YUVA schemes. Participants were sensitized about livelihood generation opportunities, skill development programmes, self-employment initiatives, financial assistance schemes, and other socio-economic empowerment programmes aimed at promoting sustainable entrepreneurship and employment.



Assistant Director Employment, Bandipora, Akil Khateeb, appreciated the active participation of the youth, employers, and all stakeholders. He expressed gratitude to the participating companies, officials, and organizing teams for their collective efforts in making the Job Fair a grand success and reaffirmed the department's resolve to continue organizing such initiatives for the welfare and empowerment of the youth. Speaking on the occasion, the Career Counselling Officer, DE&CC Bandipora, encouraged the participants to register themselves on the J&K Employment Portal, which has been integrated with the National Career Service (NCS) Portal.

Two-Day National-Level Seminar concludes with fervour and devotion at Mattan Sahib

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The two-day National-Level Seminar dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji concluded with great fervour, devotion, and peaceful participation at Gurdwara Guru Nanak Dev Ji, Mattan Sahib, Anantnag.

The concluding day featured soulful Shabad Gurbani Kirtan by Bhai Popinder Singh and Jatha, Singhpora, Anantnag, and Bhai Jagtar Singh from Jammu. Giani Harmeet Singh Raina from Jammu and Giani Harbhinder Singh, Incharge Sikh Mission, Jammu & Kashmir, delivered spiritually enriching Gurbani Vichar and Katha, highlighting the life, teachings, supreme sacrifice, and enduring legacy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. The devotional performances and discourses created an atmosphere of deep spiritual reflection and reverence.

The seminar, organized by the North Zone Cultural Centre (NZCC), Ministry of Culture, Government of India, in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL), witnessed the participation of scholars, religious leaders, intellectuals, and members of the Sikh community from across the region. President, District Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (DGPC), Anantnag, expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, scholars, organizers, volunteers, local administration, and the Sikh Sangat for their wholehearted support and cooperation in making the event a grand success.

The organizers reiterated their commitment to preserving and promoting the rich spiritual, cultural, and humanitarian legacy of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, whose supreme sacrifice continues to inspire generations across the world. The seminar was held alongside an Exhibition on the Life, Teachings, and Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, which was formally inaugurated on 24 June 2026. The exhibition will remain open to the public till 30 June 2026, up to 5:00 PM, providing visitors, students, and devotees an opportunity to learn about the Guru's invaluable contribution to humanity, religious freedom, and communal harmony.

The ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) continues to witness sustained public participation across Shopian district, with a series of awareness, outreach, and preventive initiatives being carried out to strengthen the fight against substance abuse. As part of the campaign, various government departments, educational institutions, health institutions, civil society organizations, traders' associations, youth groups, and local communities organized activities to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote a culture of healthy and responsible living.

As part of these initiatives, the Drug Control Organization Shopian, in collaboration with the Chemists and Distributors Association, organized a drug free awareness rally at Keller. The rally witnessed active participation from members of the medical fraternity, chemists, civil society, and local residents, reinforcing the message of collective responsibility in preventing substance abuse and building a drug-free society.

Public awareness programmes, rallies, interactive sessions, pledge-taking ceremonies, and community outreach activities were conducted at different locations across the district to educate people, particularly the youth, about the social, legal, and health consequences of drug abuse. In addition to awareness initiatives, preventive measures also remained a key component of the campaign. A special drive for the identification and eradication of wild Bhung (wild cannabis) continued across various areas of Sub-Division Zainapora with the active involvement of the concerned departments. The initiative aims to eliminate the illegal growth of narcotic plants and strengthen preventive measures against substance abuse while promoting a safer and drug free environment. Higher education and youth services department also engaged youth and students in various sports competitions and awareness activities.

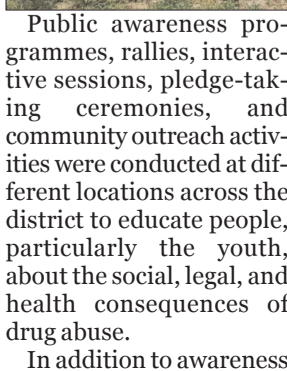
District wide anti drug initiatives continue under Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan in Shopian

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