

DC Kishtwar leads awareness programme on International Day against Drug Abuse

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 26

The District Administration Kishtwar organised an awareness programme at the GDC Auditorium, Kishtwar, to observe the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking on the theme "World drug problem: Persisting issues, new challenges, innovative responses."

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma attended as Chief Guest and Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal as Guest of Honour.

Dr Imtiaz Mansur, Senior Consultant Psychiatry and former Nodal Officer, Mental Health, Kashmir Division, DHS Kashmir, attended as Special Guest and delivered a presentation on drug abuse covering its causes, symptoms, harmful effects and treatment options.

The programme featured a signature campaign against drug abuse launched by the DC, alongside a painting competition, awareness skits and speeches on drug prevention.



The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the administration's 100-day anti-drug campaign launched UT-wide on April 11 by the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, covering awareness, enforcement and rehabilitation. Extensive awareness drives were conducted across the district, followed by strict action against drug peddlers, including confiscation of movable and immovable properties and legal action under relevant laws. On rehabilitation, the DC said persons affected by drug addiction should be treated as victims and

given opportunities to rebuild their lives; two recovered addicts in Kishtwar were provided loans for livelihood generation, with one purchasing a vehicle to support his family.

The DC further informed that illegal poppy cultivation was detected and destroyed at three locations through joint efforts of the Police and Excise Department, and called for collective efforts to make Kishtwar a drug-free district.

Under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan - Viksit Bharat Ki Pehchan, awareness activities were conducted across government

and private educational institutions during Nasha Mukta Bharat Saptah from June 17, 2026, with active participation from students and the public.

Among those present were District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Parveez Qazi, Chief Medical Officer Dr Sanjay Bhat, Deputy Chief Education Officer Masood Ahmed Qazi, Nodal Officer ATF Dr Hariss, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Rajesh Sharma, and officers and staff from the Social Welfare Department, Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti Kishtwar.

Army strengthens women, youth empowerment through community development initiatives

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Reaffirming its commitment to the welfare and socio-economic development of border communities, the Indian Army has undertaken a series of impactful community development initiatives across the Poonch district, focusing on women empowerment, youth development, skill enhancement, and sustainable livelihood generation. These initiatives are aimed at improving the quality of life in remote border villages by creating opportunities for self-employment, promoting vocational education, and empowering local residents with practical skills to achieve financial independence.

One of the flagship initiatives currently underway is a four-week Vocational Training Programme being conducted at the Kaushal Vikas Kendra, Degwar, from June 2 to June 30, 2026. Organised by the Poonch Brigade, the programme is specifically designed for women from the villages of Degwar Terwan and Bagial Dara. The training includes professional courses in Beautician and Tailoring, enabling participants to acquire market-oriented vocational skills that can help them establish their own businesses or secure employment opportunities.

The programme has benefited 40 women, including young girls, homemakers, and aspiring entrepreneurs, who are receiving hands-on practical training under experienced instructors. Besides enhancing their technical skills, the initiative is also boosting



their confidence and encouraging them to become financially self-reliant. Recognising the positive response from the local population, the Indian Army is planning to further strengthen the Kaushal Vikas Kendra by collaborating with reputed Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). This collaboration is expected to introduce additional vocational courses, improve infrastructure, and expand the scope of training so that a larger number of beneficiaries from remote villages can be covered in the future.

Continuing its efforts towards youth empowerment, the Indian Army has also established the Silver Suvidha Kendra at Mandi, Poonch, which serves as an integrated platform for vocational training, career counselling, skill development, and various community welfare activities. The centre has rapidly emerged as a hub for constructive engagement of local youth and women by providing them with guidance on career planning, personality development, competitive

examinations, and recruitment processes for various government services.

More than 50 young aspirants have already been mentored and trained at the Silver Suvidha Kendra, particularly those preparing for recruitment into the Indian Armed Forces, paramilitary forces, and other government departments. Through regular counselling sessions, physical training, motivational lectures, and career guidance, the centre is helping local youth build confidence, improve employability, and pursue meaningful career opportunities. The initiative is playing a significant role in steering young minds towards productive avenues while contributing to the overall socio-economic progress of the region.

In another remarkable step towards promoting sustainable livelihoods, the Indian Army has established the Feather Soft Wool Knitting and Training Centre at VTC Seklu, Poonch. The centre has been specially designed to empower women residing in remote border villages

by equipping them with modern knitting and garment manufacturing skills. The facility is furnished with advanced computerised flatbed knitting machines, semi-automatic knitting machines, as well as stitching and linking machines, enabling participants to produce high-quality woollen products.

So far, 14 local women artisans have successfully completed training at the centre and are now independently manufacturing a wide range of woollen products, including sweaters, mufflers, balaclavas, stoles, shawls, baby wool garments, and other knitted items. These products not only provide a sustainable source of income but also promote local entrepreneurship and preserve traditional craftsmanship by integrating it with modern technology.

The initiative has significantly enhanced the financial independence and self-confidence of the participating women, enabling them to support their families and contribute meaningfully to the local economy.

Sensitization Programme held on International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Budgam

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On the occasion of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, the District Administration Budgam in collaboration with social welfare department organized an awareness cum sensitization programme at Pareesa, Khansahib Budgam under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

The programme was attended by Anganwadi Workers (AWWs), senior citizens, women, youth and officials of the Social Welfare Department. The event aimed to create awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage community participation in preventing substance abuse.

Besides, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO), Budgam, who spoke about the impact of drug manace on individual, community and societal level. He highlighted the role of communities in preventing substance abuse through awareness, early intervention, and rehabilitation. Other speakers from the social welfare department



also highlighted the menace of drug abuse and various measures to curb this menace. Participants actively in-

teracted with the speakers and reaffirmed their commitment to supporting the vision of a drug-free and healthy society.

Participants actively in-

Trauma Hospital Khellani organises Blood Donation Camp

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A voluntary blood donation camp was organised at Trauma Hospital Khellani in collaboration with Government Medical College Doda.

The camp was inaugurated by Block Medical Officer Assar Dr Syed Mohd Ismail in the presence of the Blood Bank team from GMC Doda and the staff of Trauma Hospital Khellani. The drive collected 19 units of blood from donors drawn from the public, healthcare workers and volunteers.

Dr Syed Mohd Ismail appreciated the contribution of all blood donors and thanked the Blood Bank team and hospital staff for their support. He urged people to donate blood regularly.



International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking celebrated at Shopian

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International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed today at Government Degree College (GDC), Shopian, where Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta presided over the programme.

The event witnessed participation from officers of various departments besides students, teaching and faculty members, and other public from diverse fields.

Addressing the gathering, various speakers emphasized the need for collective efforts to eradicate the menace of drug abuse from society. They stressed the importance of creating widespread awareness among youth and encouraging them to adopt a healthy and productive lifestyle.

Speakers from the Health, Education and So-



cial Welfare Departments highlighted the ill effects of substance abuse on individuals, families and society at large. They also discussed preventive measures, rehabilitation initiatives and the need for sustained youth engagement campaigns and role of parents to curb the growing menace of drug addiction. Students from various

educational institutions actively participated in the programme and presented cultural performances, including awareness items, depicting the harmful consequences of drug abuse and the importance of staying away from narcotics.

The programme concluded with a pledge by participants to work collectively towards building a drug-free society and to

spread awareness against the abuse and trafficking of illicit drugs.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; Principal, GDC, Prof. Tariq Ahmed; GM, Shurjil Naik; CEO, DIO, Dy.SP, DSWO, Dy.CEO, Principals of HSSs, besides officers from police and civil Administration participated in the mega event.

International Day Against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed at Anantnag

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Department of Social Welfare in collaboration with District Administration, Anantnag, today organised an awareness programme at Government Degree College (GDC) Women, Anantnag to observe the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The programme aimed to spread awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promote collective efforts towards building a drug-free society. The event also marked the culmination of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Saptah campaign of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Tariq Ahmad Malik, attended the event as the Chief Guest, while the SDPO Bijbehara was the Guest of Honour.

Addressing the gathering, the dignitaries highlighted drastic consequences of drug addiction and emphasized the need for coordinated efforts by government departments, educational institutions, families, and society to curb it. They urged the youth to stay away from drugs and play an active role in creating a healthy and addiction-free society.



On the occasion, a felicitation ceremony was held during which mementoes were presented to achievers from various departments in recognition of their outstanding contribution to the Nasha Mukta campaign. Certificates of appreciation were also distributed among participants and contributors. The participants reiterated their

commitment to strengthening awareness and combating drug abuse through sustained community participation.

The programme was attended by the District Social Welfare Officer, Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Child Development Project Officers, college faculty, students, and officers and officials from various departments.