

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed at Kulgam

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 27

Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with the District Administration Kulgam, organized an awareness-cum-counselling programme on various aspects of drug abuse at the Auditorium-cum-Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Kulgam, to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking-2026.

Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam presided over the programme as the Chief Guest, while the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Viqar Ahmad Giri Kulgam attended as the Guest of Honour.

Resource persons from Government Degree College Kulgam, ATF Kulgam, DLSA Kulgam and Government Higher Secondary School Yaripora



addressed the gathering and sensitized participants about the harmful effects of drug abuse, preventive measures and the importance of counselling and rehabilitation support.

The programme witnessed active participation of ASHA workers from the Health Department, Anganwadi workers from the ICDS Department and students from various schools and col-

leges. On the occasion, the Nasha Mukh Pledge was administered to all participants, reaffirming their collective resolve to work towards a drug-free society under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

DC conducts inspection of Urban Development, Civic Infrastructure Projects in district

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Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today conducted an extensive inspection of Kulgam town to review ongoing urban development initiatives and identify priority interventions aimed at improving civic infrastructure, traffic management, sanitation facilities, and the overall aesthetic appeal of the town.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner finalized the proposed sites for the establishment of a vending market and a public convenience (public toilet) at Laroo Adda.

The proposed vending market is envisioned to provide an organized space for street vendors, enhance livelihood opportunities, reduce roadside encroachments, and improve pedestrian movement. The proposed public toilet will further strengthen sanitation infrastructure for commuters, shopkeepers, and the general public.

The Deputy Commissioner also visited Ghanta Ghar to review the proposed revival of the landmark and inspected plans for footpath beautification under the Kulgam Beautification Plan.

Emphasis was laid on developing aesthetically designed pedestrian pathways, improving



landscaping, installing street furniture, enhancing lighting, and creating clean, attractive, and pedestrian-friendly public spaces that reflect the town's heritage and identity.

Subsequently, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the area surrounding District Hospital Kulgam to identify suitable locations for on-street parking with the objective of easing traffic congestion and ensuring smooth vehicular movement in the

hospital vicinity. The proposed parking arrangements are expected to improve accessibility for patients, attendants, emergency services, and the general public while strengthening overall traffic management in the area. Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited the hospital premises and inspected the ongoing developmental works being executed within the campus. The progress and quality of the projects were reviewed in detail, and the concerned

officers and executing agencies were directed to expedite the pace of work while strictly adhering to prescribed quality standards.

Stressing the importance of creating modern and efficient healthcare infrastructure, the Deputy Commissioner instructed that all ongoing projects be completed within the stipulated timelines so that the enhanced facilities become operational for the benefit of the public without unnecessary delay.

DLSA Ganderbal continues Drug Awareness Campaign through Legal Awareness Programmes

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In continuation of its sustained efforts to promote legal literacy and public awareness, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the Chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal, and under the guidance and supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, today organised legal awareness programmes under the NALSA (DAWN) Scheme - Drug Awareness and Wellness Navigation for a Drug-Free India, 2025, as part of its ongoing campaign against drug abuse.

A Legal Awareness Programme was organised at Valley Lakes Educational Institute, Kohistan Colony, Safapora, Ganderbal, with the objective of sensitising students about the harmful effects of drug abuse, the legal consequences of involvement in narcotic offences, the importance of preventive measures, and the need for collective efforts in building a drug-free society. The participants were also informed about



the free legal aid services available through the Legal Services Institutions and the rehabilitation support mechanisms available for persons affected by substance abuse.

Adv. Younis Saleem Wani, Member, DAWN Unit, DLSA Ganderbal, and Burjeena Hameed, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Ganderbal, sensitised the participants about the physical, psychological, social, and legal consequences of substance abuse, highlighted preventive measures and rehabilitation facilities, and encouraged the youth to

adopt healthy lifestyles and seek timely assistance whenever required.

In another awareness programme organised by the Department of Social Welfare, Ganderbal, at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal, Shaheena Ali, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, DLSA Ganderbal, sensitised the participants about the legal, social, and psychological consequences of drug abuse, explained the legal provisions relating to narcotic offences, and emphasised the importance of coordinated

efforts by educational institutions, families, government agencies, and the community in protecting the younger generation from the menace of substance abuse.

These programmes were organised in continuation of the district-wide awareness campaign launched by the District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal. The Authority had also conducted extensive legal awareness and outreach programmes through its Para Legal Volunteers across various locations of the district to mark the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, spreading awareness on the ill effects of drug abuse, preventive measures, rehabilitation facilities, and the availability of free legal aid.

The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who appreciated the initiatives undertaken by the District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy, responsible, and drug-free society.

Director Agri Kashmir conducts inspection of Pesticide Dealers in Shopian; seizes substandard Pesticides

SHOPIAN, JUNE 27:

As part of the ongoing drive to ensure the availability of quality agricultural inputs to farmers and to curb the sale of unauthorized and substandard pesticides, the Director Agriculture Kashmir conducted a surprise inspection of various pesticide dealers in District Shopian.

During the inspection, stocks of pesticides and related records maintained by dealers were thoroughly examined to verify compliance with the provisions of the Insecticides Act and Rules. The inspection aimed to safeguard farmers' interests and ensure the use of quality plant protection chemicals in the farming sector.

During the drive, a quantity of 235 kilograms of 'Super M-45' pesticide was seized on suspicion of non-



compliance with prescribed standards and regulatory requirements. The seizure was carried out in the presence of the Executive Magistrate, Shopian, following due legal procedure.

The Director Agriculture Kashmir reiterated the department's commitment towards maintaining strict vigilance over the sale and

distribution of agricultural inputs and warned dealers against indulging in the sale of spurious, misbranded or unregistered pesticides. He emphasized that strict action shall be taken against violators under the relevant provisions of law. Farmers were advised to purchase pesticides only from authorized dealers, insist on proper

compliance with prescribed standards and regulatory requirements. The seizure was carried out in the presence of the Executive Magistrate, Shopian, following due legal procedure.

The Department of Agriculture Kashmir shall continue such inspection drives across the Valley to ensure the availability of genuine and quality agricultural inputs to the farming community.

DIPR's Cultural Unit organises Awareness Programme under NMJKA at GGHS Naseem Bagh

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JAMMU, JUNE 27

Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Kashmir, today organised a comprehensive awareness programme under the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan (NMJKA) at Government Girls High School (GGHS), Naseem Bagh, Srinagar.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and the school administration. A speech competition was organised wherein students passionately highlighted the alarming consequences of drug abuse and stressed the collective responsibility of society in safeguarding the younger generation through awareness, education and positive engagement.



Adding a powerful cultural dimension to the campaign, artists of the Dilkash Dramatic Club presented a thought-provoking thematic skit depicting the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. Blending entertain-

ment with a strong social message, the performance effectively reinforced the objectives of the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, inspiring students to stay away from drugs, adopt healthy lifestyles and become active ambassadors of a drug-

free society. The presentation received wide appreciation from the audience for its impactful message and artistic excellence.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal of the School Rehana Masoodi, on behalf of the school administration, expressed sincere gratitude to the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising such a meaningful and informative awareness programme. She appreciated the Department's sustained efforts in sensitising students through educational and cultural initiatives.

The programme concluded with all participants collectively taking a pledge to remain committed to the ideals of the Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan and to work together towards building a healthy, responsible and drug-free society.

International Day against Drug Abuse & Illicit Trafficking observed at Kaloosa

BANDIPORA, JUNE 27:

Social Welfare Department Bandipora today observed the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking at Auditorium Hall Kaloosa with the aim of creating awareness about the ill effects of substance abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from officials, students, teachers, representatives of various departments, and members of the local community.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Junaid Zargar from ATF Bandipora highlighted the serious health and social consequences of drug addiction. He urged the youth to stay away from narcotic substances and emphasized the importance of early intervention, counselling, and community support in preventing substance abuse.

Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Sumbal, Fayaz Ahmad Lone, in his address, stressed the need for collective efforts by families, educational institutions, civil society, and government agencies to eliminate the menace of drug abuse. He highlighted the objectives of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and called



upon everyone to actively participate in creating a healthy, drug-free society.

Other speakers also addressed the gathering and underscored the importance of awareness, prevention, and rehabilitation in combating substance

abuse. A Nasha Mukh Bharat pledge was administered to all participants, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free Bandipora and a Nasha Mukh Jammu & Kashmir.

Social Welfare Department Bandipora reiterated its commitment to continue organizing awareness programmes and community outreach initiatives to protect society, particularly the youth, from the menace of drug abuse.