

JKRLM Women SHGs gain global spotlight at JKTPO Buyer-Seller Meet

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 30

Women-led Self Help Groups (SHGs) supported by the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) showcased their products at the J&K International Buyer-Seller Meet organised by the Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO) at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Held under the "Know Your Artisan" initiative, the event connected SHGs directly with national and international buyers, helping eliminate intermediaries and create new market opportunities.

JKRLM SHGs displayed a diverse range of products, including Pampore saffron, RS Pura Basmati rice, Ud-hampur Kalari, Kupwara walnuts, Doda essential oils, Rajouri's chir pine needle woodcraft, handloom products, handicrafts and other value-added rural products.



Mission Director JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, said the participation reflects the growing strength of rural women entrepreneurs in Jammu and Kashmir. "Our Self Help Groups are transforming traditional skills into quality, market-ready products with strong national and

global potential. Such platforms enable women entrepreneurs to connect directly with buyers, expand their businesses and secure better incomes," she said. She added that JKRLM remains committed to strengthening women-led enterprises through capacity building, branding, market linkages and enter-

prise promotion to ensure sustainable livelihoods for rural women. The Buyer-Seller Meet offered SHG members an opportunity to explore business partnerships, understand market trends and position Jammu and Kashmir's unique products in wider domestic and international markets.

DC Baramulla visits Uri Border Villages, reviews progress under Vibrant Villages Programme

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Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, today undertook a field visit to several Vibrant Villages, including Tulawari, in the border Sub-Division Uri to assess the progress of developmental works and review implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP).

During the visit, the DC inspected various developmental works and assessed the availability of essential public services across the Vibrant Villages. He interacted with local residents, heard their grievances, and directed the concerned officers to redress their concerns on priority.

S.F. Hamid directed all officers to maintain close coordination with local communities, regularly monitor the progress of works, and ensure that all developmental interventions are executed in a transparent, efficient, and time-bound manner.

Earlier, the DC chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Officers Club, Uri, attended by SDM Uri, CPO Baramulla, and nodal officers for the Vibrant Villages Programme.

The meeting focused on the saturation of VVP indi-



cators across all identified Vibrant Villages of Uri Sub-Division to ensure holistic development of border villages through improved infrastructure, enhanced public services, livelihood generation, and better connectivity. In a significant decision taken during the meeting, it was resolved that senior district-level of-

ficers shall undertake night stays in the Vibrant Villages for on-ground assessment and close monitoring of developmental works and public service delivery. The nominated officers will interact with local residents and Panchayat representatives, review the status of infrastructure, connectivity, health, education,

drinking water and electrification, and submit detailed visit reports for time-bound follow-up.

The DC reviewed the status of ongoing and proposed projects under VVP and directed the concerned departments to ensure their timely completion while upholding quality standards.

DC Poonch flags off farmers' tour under ATMA

POONCH, JUNE 30: A five-day farmers' tour and exposure visit under the SAME scheme (Sub Mission of Agriculture Extension) of ATMA was flagged off today by Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma.

The tour includes 50 farmers from different areas of Poonch district, who will undergo technical training at SKAUST Jammu, observe farm demonstrations, improved crop variety trials and on-field experiments and interact with extension staff on organic farming, eco-friendly pest control, water-



efficient techniques and climate-resilient cropping practices suited to hill and mountainous regions.

The DC said exposure visits to institutions like

SKAUST Jammu give farmers an opportunity to learn advanced technologies, improved crop management, climate-resilient agriculture and sustainable farm-

ing methods. He urged participants to engage actively during the training, interact with scientists and experts and share the knowledge gained with fellow farmers in their villages to help raise agricultural productivity and farmers' income across the district.

Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Singh Slathia told farmers that the tour would help participants and other farmers in the district adopt scientific methods to enhance productivity and promote modern farm practices, organic farming and increased cropping intensity.

GDC Bandipora organises series of Awareness Activities under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

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JAMMU, JUNE 30

HKM Govt Degree College Bandipora on Tuesday organised a series of awareness activities under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to reinforce the message of a drug-free society and promote awareness among students about the ill effects of substance abuse.

The NSS Units of the college organised an Anti-Drug Pledge Ceremony under the leadership of Principal, Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, and the guidance of Programme Officer, Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay. Students participated enthusiastically and took a solemn pledge to abstain from drug abuse and spread awareness about its harmful effects. The programme highlighted the collective responsibility of youth in combating the drug menace and promoting a healthy, addiction-free lifestyle.



On the occasion, the College Literary Club also organised an interactive session on substance abuse under the convenership of Prof. Sadaf Shafi. The session educated students about the adverse effects of substance abuse on individuals and society and stressed the importance of adopting a healthy and

drug-free lifestyle. Meanwhile, the Red Ribbon Youth Club of the college organised a signature campaign under the leadership of Principal Prof. Suresh Kumar Dogra, coordinated by Dr. Mehrajuddin Talie, Convener, Red Ribbon Youth Club. Students and faculty members actively partici-

pated by signing a pledge to fight the menace of drugs and promote a healthy, addiction-free society. The programmes concluded with a renewed commitment by students and faculty to continue spreading awareness and supporting the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

KVK Bandipora-1 organizes Awareness Programme on Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and its Management

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JAMMU, JUNE 30

Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Bandipora-1, Sher e Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, in collaboration with the Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, Shalimar, today organized a one day awareness programme on "Apple Leaf Blotch Miner and its Management."

The programme aimed to create awareness among apple growers regarding the identification, surveillance, damage symptoms, and scientific management of the emerging invasive pest. A large number of apple growers from different villages of Bandipora district participated in the programme along with scientists from SKUAST-Kashmir, officials of the Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, and KVK Bandipora-1.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tariq Sultan, Head, KVK Bandipora-1, emphasized the importance of timely awareness programmes for protecting apple orchards from emerging insect pests. He urged growers to remain vigilant, monitor their orchards regularly, and adopt scientific recommendations for effective pest management.

Dr. Barkat Hussain, Professor, Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, highlighted the importance of early detection, regular surveillance, and coordinated efforts among scientists, extension agencies, and farmers to contain the spread of Apple



Leaf Blotch Miner.

Dr. Zewar Hussain, Associate Professor, Division of Entomology, explained the methods of field surveillance, pest identification, and monitoring techniques. He advised farmers to inspect their orchards regularly and seek timely technical guidance whenever infestations are observed.

Dr. Sajad Ahmad, Assistant Professor, Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, delivered the keynote technical lecture on the biology, life cycle, damage symptoms, and integrated management of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. He emphasized orchard sanitation, destruction of fallen leaves and infested debris, scraping of loose bark, installation of pheromone and sticky traps, conservation of natural enemies, and timely application of recommended insecticides for ef-

fective management of the pest. Dr. Tahir Saleem, Subject Matter Specialist, Vegetable Science, KVK Bandipora-1, highlighted the importance of scientific orchard management practices, balanced nutrition, and timely advisory services for maintaining healthy orchards and improving apple productivity. He encouraged farmers to remain in regular contact with KVK Bandipora-1 for need based technical guidance.

Shabnum Mumtaz, Subject Matter Specialist, Entomology, KVK Bandipora-1, emphasized the importance of early pest surveillance, orchard sanitation, and adoption of integrated pest management practices for effective control of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner. She advised farmers to regularly monitor their orchards and report any unusual pest incidence for timely scientific interven-

tion.

During the interactive session, farmers raised several queries regarding the identification and management of Apple Leaf Blotch Miner, which were satisfactorily addressed by the experts. The programme concluded with the commitment of KVK Bandipora-1, the Division of Entomology, SKUAST-Kashmir, and the Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, to strengthen farmer awareness and promote sustainable management of emerging pests in apple orchards.

The programme was also attended by Mohd Abbas, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO), Bandipora, officials of the Department of Horticulture, Bandipora, scientists from SKUAST-Kashmir, officials of KVK Bandipora-1, and a large number of progressive apple growers from different villages of the district.

JMC accelerates AI-driven road repair, smart civic monitoring across Jammu

JAMMU, JUNE 30:

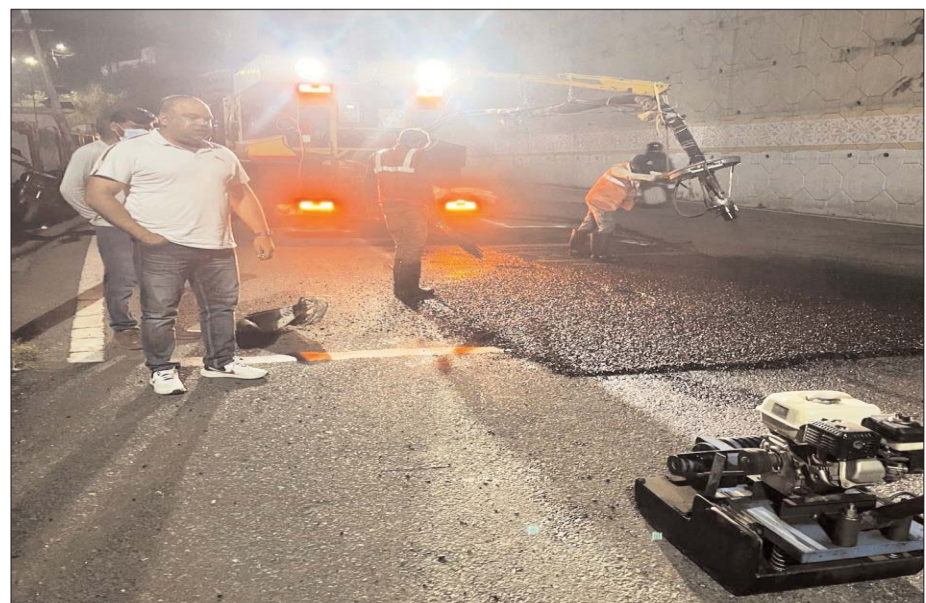
The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) is executing an AI-enabled road monitoring and repair programme to strengthen urban infrastructure and improve civic service delivery in the city.

Under the initiative, JMC carries out road repairs of approximately 150 to 200 metres every night after traffic subsides, using a cold emulsion patching machine that enables quick, durable and all-weather restoration of potholes and damaged stretches with minimal inconvenience to commuters.

Municipal vehicles equipped with AI-enabled cameras continuously survey roads across the city and automatically detect potholes and other surface defects.

The system geo-tags affected locations and generates digital reports, enabling engineering teams to undertake timely and targeted repairs.

The AI platform also



identifies civic deficiencies including overflowing garbage bins, waterlogging, open drains, damaged footpaths, faded road markings, illegal parking, encroachments, stray cattle and unauthorised dumping of construction and demolition waste.

JMC Commissioner Dr Devansh Yadav directed of-

ficers to ensure defects identified through the AI platform are attended to promptly and that a robust monitoring mechanism is maintained for timely redressal. He directed the Engineering, Sanitation and Enforcement wings to coordinate and use the AI-generated reports for planning and field operations and di-

rected field officers to intensify night-time road repair work, regularly review system-detected defects and rectify civic deficiencies within stipulated timelines.

Repair operations were carried out last night in various wards of Jammu, including stretches near Gandhi Nagar and outside the MLA Hostel.