

5-Day Farmers' Exposure Visit concludes at Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 04

The five-day Farmers' Exposure Visit Programme, organized by the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir, concluded today at the Directorate Hall, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, with Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, presiding over the valedictory function as the chief guest.

The programme was designed to provide participating farmers with first-hand exposure to modern agricultural technologies, innovative farming practices and successful models of sustainable agriculture. Throughout the five-day programme, farmers interacted with subject experts, visited important agricultural institutions and gained practical insights into improved crop management, resource-efficient farming and value addition in agriculture.

Addressing the participants, Director Agriculture Kashmir, emphasized that exposure visits are an important component of capacity building as they enable farmers to learn from successful experiences,



adopt scientific interventions and replicate best practices in their own fields. He said that such initiatives help bridge the gap between research and field-level implementation, ultimately contributing to enhanced agricultural productivity, higher farm incomes and sustainable agricultural development across the Kashmir Valley.

Shah appreciated the enthusiasm, dedication and active participation displayed by the farmers

during the programme and urged them to act as ambassadors of modern agriculture by sharing the knowledge and experiences gained with fellow farmers in their respective villages.

He stressed that the Agriculture Department remains committed to empowering the farming community through continuous skill development, farmer-centric training programmes, exposure visits, field demonstrations and technology dissemination

under various developmental initiatives.

On the occasion, the Director distributed certificates among the participating farmers in recognition of their successful completion of the programme. The participants expressed their gratitude to the Agriculture Department for providing them with a valuable learning platform and affirmed their commitment to adopting the improved technologies and practices demonstrated during the exposure visit.

ADDC Shopian chairs reviews Saturation of Banking, Financial Services Campaign at GP, ULB levels

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Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today chaired a meeting at the Mini Secretariat, Shopian to review and discuss the implementation of the saturation campaign of deepening financial inclusion by ensuring universal access to banking and financial services for the un-served and under served population at Gram Panchayat (GP) and Urban Local Body (ULB) levels being conducted from June 15 to July 15, 2026.

During the meeting, the ADDC stressed the importance of ensuring 100 per cent coverage of eligible beneficiaries under different government welfare schemes and directed all departments to work in



close coordination for effective implementation of the campaign.

He also emphasized extensive awareness generation, extending financial and banking services in un-served and under-

served areas.

Officers were instructed to intensify field-level activities and submit regular progress reports for achieving the objectives of the saturation campaign within the stipulated

timeframe.

ACD, Muzaffar Ahmed; ALC, Dr. Nida Yousof; LDM, Farooq Ahmed, BDOs, CSC, Manager, District Manager, NRLM, and other concerned attended the meeting.

FDA imposes Prohibition on Gutkha, Pan Masala, and Tobacco-Mixed Food Products for one year

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The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued a comprehensive ban on the manufacture, storage, transportation, distribution, and sale of all food products containing tobacco and nicotine as ingredients.

The order is issued by Commissioner FDA, J&K, who is also designated as Commissioner of Food Safety, J&K, in the interest of public health and in exercise of powers under Section 30(2)(a) & (b) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, in accordance

with Regulation 2.3.4 of the Food Safety and Standards (Prohibition and Restrictions on Sales) Regulations, 2011, keeping in view directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, and advisories issued by the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) and the Government of India.

The prohibition covers Gutkha, Pan Masala containing tobacco/nicotine, and all chewable or flavoured food products containing tobacco and/or nicotine, whether sold as a single product or in separate packages intended to be mixed and consumed together. The order will re-

main in force across the entire Union Territory for a period of one year starting June 2026.

The measure aims to safeguard public health, particularly protecting children, adolescents, youth and other vulnerable groups from the harmful effects of tobacco and nicotine consumption.

The Commissioner has directed all Designated Officers, Food Safety Officers and enforcement teams across the Union Territory to intensify market surveillance, inspections and enforcement drives. Special focus has been laid on educational institutions, public places, transport hubs,

wholesale markets and areas frequented by young consumers.

The Food & Drugs Administration has appealed to general public, educational institutions, civil society organizations, traders' associations and other stakeholders, to support the initiative and report any instances of manufacture, storage, transportation or sale of prohibited products to the concerned authorities through the Toll-Free Number 104, by email at cfjsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in, or through the FSSAI consumer grievance portal, <https://foscoc.fssai.gov.in/consumergrievance>.

'Dosti Discussion' held at HSS Mantrigram under 100-Day Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan

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As part of the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan, a "Dosti Discussion" programme was organised at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Mantrigram on Saturday to raise awareness among students about the harmful effects of drug abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and responsible life.

Deputy District Election Officer, Er. Hilal Ahmad, attended the programme as Nodal Officer and underscored the importance of



collective efforts in combating the menace of substance abuse.

Chief Education Officer Bandipora also attended the programme and appreciated the initiatives being undertaken under the campaign to sensitise youth and promote a drug-free society.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, who pledged to play an active role in spreading awareness against drug abuse and contributing towards building a drug-free society.

Dosti Discussions strengthen community resolve against Drug Abuse across Bandipora

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JAMMU, JULY 04

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan, a series of Dosti Discussions were organised on Saturday at various educational institutions across Bandipora district to raise awareness among students and the community about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a healthy, responsible and drug-free lifestyle.

At Government Higher Secondary School Shadipora, the programme was attended by Deputy Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Dr. G.M. Puj, who participated as the Nodal Officer.

Principal HSS Shadipora, Anees Farhat, also addressed the gathering and highlighted the importance of collective efforts in safeguarding youth from the menace of substance abuse. The event witnessed active participation from members of Civil Society Shadipora, parents, teachers and students of the cluster.

A Dosti Discussion along with the "Maa Se Guft-a-Gu" programme was also held at Government Higher Secondary School Gadakhud, Sumbal. District Treasury Officer Bandipora, Imtiyaz Ahmad attended the event as the Chief Guest and



stressed the vital role of families, educational institutions and society in nurturing responsible and drug-free youth.

Similarly, a Dosti Discussion was organised at Government Higher Secondary School Purana Tulail, where the Principal, Government Degree College Tulail, attended as the Chief Guest and encouraged students to stay away from drugs and contribute positively towards society.

Another Dosti Discussion was held at Government Higher Secondary School Mantrigram, where Deputy District Election Officer Bandipora, Er Hilal Ahmad, attended as the Chief Guest and witnessed participation of Chief Education Officer Bandipora, Er Hilal Ahmad urged students to make informed choices, remain focused on their goals and actively support the vision of a drug-free society.

The programmes featured interactive discussions on the ill effects of substance abuse, the importance of early awareness and the shared responsibility of families, educational institutions and the community in preventing drug addiction. Participants reaffirmed their commitment to making Bandipora a drug-free district through sustained awareness, community participation and collective action.

JKRERA inspects various Illegal Colonies across multiple locations

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The Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JK RERA) has issued a strong advisory to the general public, requesting citizens to refrain from investing in real estate projects that are not registered with the Authority.

The advisory follows a series of stringent enforcement actions on the ground. Under the supervision of the Chairperson of JK RERA, Satish Chandra, a team of officers including Deputy Secretary JK RERA, Esha Chib, and Naib Tehsildar, Gias-u-din

carried out extensive inspections of various illegal and unregistered colonies across multiple locations. The enforcement drive targeted unauthorized developments at 90 Feet Road, Nowgam, Zakoora, and Gulab Bagh in Srinagar, as well as several areas in Budgam district.

To protect hard-earned money and avoid falling into legal or financial traps, JK RERA strongly advises prospective buyers to follow a strict verification process before making any financial commitments. Before investing or booking a property, citizens must first ensure that the real estate project is explicitly reg-

istered with the JK RERA. If a project lacks a valid RERA registration number, individuals should not invest in that project under any circumstances.

Furthermore, buyers must ensure that the real estate agent facilitating the transaction is also registered with JK RERA. Under the Real Estate Act 2016, only a RERA-registered real estate agent is authorized to market, promote, or facilitate transactions for a RERA-registered real estate project.

Dealing with unregistered individuals or entities leaves buyers exposed to significant risks. Investing in unregistered projects or

dealing with unregistered agents strips buyers of their legal protections under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act.

Chairperson, JK RERA, Satish Chandra, reiterated the Authority's commitment to bringing transparency and accountability to the region's real estate sector. He warned developers and agents operating without valid registration to halt activities immediately or face strict legal and penal action. He further advised citizens to verify the registration status of both projects and agents by visiting the official JK RERA portal before finalizing any property deals.

Green Cooperative Day observed at NM Govt Higher Secondary School Bandipora

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As part of the ongoing Cooperative Week being observed from June 29 to July 06, 2026, the Department of Cooperatives, Bandipora on Saturday organised a Plantation Drive under the theme "Green Cooperative Day" at NM Government Higher Secondary School Bandipora.

The programme was organised in line with the observance of Cooperative Week, commemorating five years of the Ministry of Cooperation, Government of India.

The initiative aimed to promote environmental conservation while highlighting the role of the cooperative sector in advancing the vision of "Sahakar Se Samridhhi."



The plantation drive was attended by Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Bandipora, Adnan Nazir; Assistant Registrar Cooperatives, Aatif Majeed; PACCs Development Officer, BCCB, Zahoor Ahmad Andrabi; and In-

charge Principal, NM Gov-

ernment Higher Secondary School Bandipora, Muneer Ahmad Pintoo. Besides, officials of the Cooperative Department Bandipora, staff and students of the Eco Club of the School Bandipora also participated in the programme.

Students, staff and officers of the Cooperative Department enthusiastically participated in the plantation drive and planted saplings within the school premises, reaffirming their commitment towards environmental protection and sustainable development.