

ICDS Bandipora organises ‘Kabaad Se Jugaad’ TLM Competition for Anganwadi Workers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 25

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, and District Programme Officer ICDS Bandipora, Yaar Ali Khan, today presided over a Teaching Learning Material (TLM) Competition for Anganwadi Workers here under the "Kabaad Se Jugaad" initiative.

The main objective of the initiative was to promote creativity, resourcefulness and environmental awareness among Anganwadi Workers. Through the competition, workers were encouraged to prepare low-cost, innovative and child-friendly Teaching Learning Materials using discarded and waste materials.

The "Kabaad Se Jugaad" initiative served a dual purpose. It enhanced the quality of preschool education through attractive and interactive learning aids, and promoted the message of cleanliness and environmental responsibility by converting waste into useful educational resources.

Anganwadi Workers



from different centres across Bandipora participated in the competition with great enthusiasm. Each worker prepared TLMs from materials that would otherwise be thrown away. The exhibits included alphabet and number charts made from old cardboard and chart papers, shape sorters and puzzles from waste plastic bottles and boxes, storytelling puppets from old socks and cloth, counting beads and abacus from bottle caps and wires, and envi-

ronmental charts made from newspapers and magazines.

The TLMs were judged on the basis of creativity, usefulness, durability, safety for children and effective use of waste material.

The competition had a positive impact on both teaching and cleanliness. It enhanced the teaching skills of Anganwadi Workers and also spread the message of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle." By turning kabaad into useful learning

tools, the Anganwadis became more colourful and engaging for children. At the same time, the initiative helped in maintaining cleanliness in and around the centres.

Overall, the "Kabaad Se Jugaad" initiative reflected the dedication of Anganwadi Workers in Bandipora. With limited resources, they are providing quality ECCE education to children while also contributing to Swachh Bharat and environmental protection.

JKEDI organizes Interactive Session for Women Entrepreneurs in Srinagar

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Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), through its District Office Srinagar/CWE-K, today organized an interactive session for women entrepreneurs aimed at fostering innovation, strengthening entrepreneurial capabilities, and facilitating meaningful engagement with industry leaders.

The session was presided over by Shradha Sharma, CEO and Founder of Your Story and Bharat Project. The event was attended by Shabir Hussain Shah, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI and other officials from JKEDI. The interaction also witnessed the participation of distinguished faculty members from the Central University of Kashmir and the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, alongside aspiring and established women entrepreneurs from across



the region.

Addressing the gathering, Sharma underscored the pivotal role of mentorship, networking, and strategic guidance in enabling women-led startups to scale and succeed. She emphasized the need for nurturing entrepreneurial talent through sustained support mechanisms and highlighted the growing ecosystem of funding opportunities available to innovative startups.

Encouraging women entrepreneurs to build scalable and impactful ventures, Sharma reiterated her commitment to supporting promising women-led enterprises with viable and market-ready products.

The session provided participants with valuable insights into startup growth strategies, access to funding, and the importance of building resilient business models. It also of-

ferred an open platform for women entrepreneurs to share their experiences, discuss challenges, and seek expert guidance on strengthening their entrepreneurial journeys.

JKEDI continues to organize such capacity-building initiatives to promote innovation, encourage entrepreneurship among women, and strengthen the startup ecosystem across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

FDA conducts special Enforcement Drive on Milk & Milk Products across all districts of UT

213 inspections conducted; 170 Milk Samples lifted for quality & safety testing

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JAMMU, JULY 25

The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, conducted a focused UT-wide special enforcement drive on milk and milk products with a view to ensuring the quality and safety of milk being sold to consumers across Jammu & Kashmir.

During the drive, Food Safety teams conducted 213 inspections of retail milk vendors across various districts and lifted 170 enforcement samples of loose milk for testing of prescribed quality and safety parameters through NABL-accredited Food

Testing Laboratories.

The enforcement samples were lifted from different areas of Jammu, Samba, Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Udhampur, Kathua, Srinagar, Anantnag, Bandipora, Budgam, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Shopian, Kulgam and Pulwama. In addition, 10 samples of other high-risk food commodities were also lifted for quality and safety testing.

Milk and milk products, being highly perishable and widely consumed food commodities, have been accorded priority under the enforcement and surveillance activities of FDA. The special drive was undertaken to maintain regu-

latory oversight over the quality and safety of milk and milk products available in the market.

Further, during the drive, three Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and a penalty of ₹5,000 was imposed for violations observed during enforcement activities. Five Improvement Notices were issued to Food Business Operators for rectification of deficiencies relating to sanitary and hygienic requirements noticed during inspections.

The Food & Drugs Administration has reiterated that such focused enforce-

ment and sampling drives shall continue across the Union Territory, particularly in respect of high-risk food commodities like Meat & Meat products, Sweets, Bakery products, and appropriate action under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 shall be initiated against Food Business Operators found violating the prescribed food safety standards.

Consumers have been advised to remain vigilant while purchasing milk and milk products and to report any suspected instance of unsafe, adulterated or substandard food through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or by email at cfs-jandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

Proactive planning and early warnings mitigate flood impact in Rajouri

RAJOURI, JULY 25: District Administration Rajouri's emphasis on advance preparedness and a robust early warning system played a crucial role in mitigating the impact of the severe weather event that struck the district in the early hours of 19 July 2026.

In anticipation of the adverse forecast, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Rajouri convened a review meeting on 18 July 2026 to assess

preparedness across all departments and issued detailed instructions to field officers and line departments on identification of vulnerable locations, activation of control rooms, pre-positioning of machinery and manpower, inter-departmental coordination, dissemination of early warnings and advance evacuation of vulnerable populations.

Following the weather warnings, the district and

sub-divisional administrations, Police, SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services and other line departments activated the established response mechanism. They disseminated early warnings, closely monitored vulnerable areas and carried out precautionary evacuations in several locations before floodwaters reached critical levels.

These measures mobilised emergency response teams without delay and

contributed significantly to the protection of human life. The coordinated functioning of the administration, emergency services, local volunteers and community members demonstrated the effectiveness of preparedness-based disaster management.

The district administration has once again urged citizens to remain vigilant, heed official advisories and cooperate with authorities during adverse weather.

DC Kathua chairs Rent Assessment Committee meet

Accords approval to 13 rent cases of buildings used by different Govt Deptts

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to finalise rent assessment cases of buildings used by various Government departments.

During the meeting, 14 rent cases of buildings presently used by Government departments — including ICDS, Handicraft, Handloom, Health, Education, FCS&CA, Social Welfare, Ayush, CID, Revenue and JKRLM — were placed before the Committee for fixing of monthly rent.

The Committee examined each case in detail. Of the 14 cases, 13 were approved while one was deferred for re-submission due to technical deficiencies.



The Chairman DRAC directed officers to give priority to vacant Government buildings for housing offices and to clear all pending rent assessment cases.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Kathua Mahima Madan, Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Kathua Vishav Partap Singh, Programme Officer

ICDS Mushtaq Chaudhary, Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Kathua and members of all the departments concerned whose offices function from private buildings in the district.

DLSA Ganderbal organises Legal Awareness Programme on Solid Waste Management

GANDERBAL, JULY 25: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, today organized an awareness programme on Solid Waste Management at the International Youth Hostel, Sonamarg, with an aim to sensitize the local community, tourists, and stakeholders about sustainable waste disposal practices and the legal framework governing environmental protection.

The programme was conducted under the supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal.

During the session, Tanveer Ashraf and Asima Khaliq, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel Ganderbal, delivered detailed deliberations. They underscored the critical importance of scientific waste management in preserving the ecological integrity of Sonamarg, which remains one of the most frequented tourist destinations in the Kashmir Valley. They elaborated on the statutory provisions under the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016, and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, while stressing compliance with the directives of the National Green Tribunal (NGT).

The speakers highlighted



the necessity of four-way segregation of waste at the source into wet, dry, domestic hazardous, and sanitary waste categories. They also cautioned against the open burning of waste and the continued use of banned single-use plastics, informing the audience about the penal provisions, including the imposition of

environmental compensation and sealing of non-compliant establishments.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from local residents, hoteliers, shopkeepers, and members of the International Youth Club. The interactive session allowed participants to raise queries regarding

day-to-day waste handling challenges, which were suitably addressed by the resource persons.

The event concluded with a collective resolve to adopt responsible waste management practices and contribute towards making environment clean, green, and sustainable destination.

DC Ramban inaugurates Centre of Excellence for e-Governance Services

RAMBAN, JULY 25: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today inaugurated the Centre of Excellence for e-Governance Services, 'Zila Seva Kendra', at the DC Office Complex, Ramban.

The Centre has been established to provide access to a range of online government services under one roof, enhancing transparency, efficiency and citizen-centric service delivery.

Upon inauguration, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the infrastructure, digital service counters and the online services provided through the Centre. He reviewed the operational mechanism and interacted with the staff to assess the quality and efficiency of service delivery.

The DC directed the staff concerned to deliver all online services within the prescribed timelines and to provide proper guidance and assistance to citizens visiting the Centre. He stressed maintaining high standards of efficiency, transparency and accountability in the Centre's functioning.



The Deputy Commissioner also directed the District Manager CSCs Ramban to ensure proper functioning of all Common Service Centres across the district and delivery of services strictly as per the prescribed norms and fee structure. He further instructed that awareness of the digital services available through the

CSCs and the Zila Seva Kendra be enhanced, particularly in rural and remote areas, so that more citizens can benefit.

Among those present were Tehsildar Ramban Deep Kumar, the District Coordinator Common Service Centres (CSCs), officials of line departments and officers concerned.