

District-Level Sensitization Workshop on Tobacco Control held in Bandipora

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

To strengthen tobacco control measures and promote a tobacco-free environment, a District-Level Sensitization Workshop for Heads of Institutions and key stakeholders under the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003 was held on Thursday at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The workshop was organised by the Tobacco Control Cell, Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, in collaboration with the Health Department Bandipora. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, Dr. Bhajan Kour, presided over the programme.



Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bhajan Kour highlighted the harmful effects of tobacco consumption on public health and stressed the importance of effective implementation of the provisions of COTPA, 2003. She called upon all stakeholders to work in close co-

ordination to create greater awareness, ensure compliance with tobacco control laws, and protect the younger generation from the ill effects of tobacco use. The workshop was attended by officers from the

National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP), Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), who delivered technical presentations on tobacco control. On the occasion, Dr. Nabeel, District Nodal Officer, NTCP Bandipora, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the health hazards of tobacco use, while officers from DHSK made presentations on the objectives of NTCP, the provisions of COTPA, 2003, and strategies for the effective implementation and enforcement of tobacco control measures. The workshop sensitised participants about the objectives of the National Tobacco Control Programme, the legal provisions of COTPA, 2003, and the role of various departments in enforcing tobacco control measures.

GCW Parade organises 1-day awareness programme on 'Emerging Trends in Biotechnology'

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

The Science Club and Department of Biotechnology, Government College for Women Parade Ground Jammu, in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science & Technology today organised a one-day awareness programme on 'Emerging Trends in Biotechnology' at the College Auditorium.

The event witnessed participation from over 150 students and faculty members.

Science Club Convener Prof Aasia Rashid Bhat delivered the welcome address, highlighting the value of exposing students to emerging scientific developments and career opportunities in biotechnology. She conducted the proceedings jointly with Head of the Department of Biotechnology Assistant Professor Kaurab Singh.

Presiding over the inaugural session, Principal Dr Naveen Anand underlined the importance of such events in enhancing scientific awareness and fostering a research-oriented mindset. He reiterated the



college's commitment to strengthening the Department of Biotechnology through collaborations with leading research and innovation institutions, widening student opportunities in research, skill development, innovation and entrepreneurship.

JKSTIC Deputy Director Shruti Khanna and Accounts Officer Ieshita Choudhary also attended, extending their support for the programme and appreciating the college's initiative.

The programme featured two resource persons. Director School of Biotechnology University of Jammu, Dr Madhulika Bhagat lectured on the latest advancements and emerging opportunities in the field, briefing participants on cutting-

edge research trends and expanding career prospects. She encouraged students to develop scientific curiosity, embrace interdisciplinary research and contribute to the advancement of biotechnology. Business Manager of the Technology Business Incubator (TBI), CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (CSIR-IIIM) Jammu, Dr Vidushi Abrol spoke on emerging trends in research, technology translation and their applications in academia and industry. She elaborated on the TBI's role in fostering innovation, supporting startups, promoting entrepreneurship and translating scientific discoveries into commercially viable technologies, motivating students to consider entrepre-

neurship alongside research. An interactive session followed, in which participants sought guidance on higher education, research opportunities, innovation ecosystems, startup incubation and career prospects in biotechnology. Assistant Professor, Department of Chemistry, Dr Manjulla Gupta proposed the vote of thanks, thanking the resource persons, JKSTIC officials, the Principal, faculty members and participants. The Science Club members who organised the event were Dr Harmanmeet Kour, Prof Aasia Rashid Bhat, Prof Usha Devi, Dr Sarita Parihar, Dr Tishu Devi, Prof Kaurab Singh, Dr Manjulla Gupta and Dr Pervaiz Ahmad Pervaiz.

Block-Level Monitoring Committees review TB elimination strategy in Assar, Bhaderwah, Thathri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

Block-Level Monitoring Committee meetings under the TB Mukht Bharat initiative were today held across Medical Blocks Assar, Bhaderwah, Thathri and Ghat to review the ongoing strategy and reinforce measures for the elimination of Tuberculosis.

The meetings reviewed the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Block-Level Monitoring Committee and measures to strengthen TB screening, diagnosis, treatment and prevention at the grassroots level. Emphasis was laid on 100% Digital Chest X-ray screening of high-risk villages, wards and congregate settings through TB Shivirs and outreach activities, upfront NAAT testing for all presumptive cases, differentiated and patient-centric care, 100% TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) coverage of eligible individuals after ruling out active TB and universal use of the TB Mukht Bharat App and



Khushi Chatbot. The committees further stressed micro-planning and identification of gaps at village and ward levels, mobilisation of community participation through NCC and MY Bharat volunteers, inter-departmental convergence, regular field visits, timely submission of progress reports to the District Tuberculosis Officer (DTO) and prompt resolu-

tion of operational challenges. At Medical Block Assar the meeting was chaired by SDM Assar Ashok Singh Katoch, with BMO Assar Dr Syed Mohd Ismail; at Bhaderwah by ADC Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, with BMO Bhaderwah Dr Versha Sharma; at Thathri by SDM Thathri Sheetal Sharma, with BMO Thathri Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo; and at Ghat, including Doda

Town, by Programme Officer (Poshan) ICDS Doda Akhtar Hussain Qazi, with BMO Ghat Dr Abdul Gafoor, BDO Ghat, CDPO Doda, BDO Kastigarh, BDO Bhagwah, CDPO Bhagwah, BDO Gundna, Liyaqat Ali Zargar (JHI), Mashhood Latif (Nodal Officer-TB) and Irshad Ahmed Malik (STS), alongside committee members and officers concerned.

DC Jammu suspends official over bribery complaint, assures swift action against corruption charges

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

A citizen who visited the office of Deputy Commissioner Jammu on Wednesday complained that he had to pay money to obtain his income certificate. On verification, the complaint was found prima facie true.

It is informed that the official concerned has been placed under suspension and proceedings to dismiss him from service have been initiated. Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas reiterated that documents such as an Income Certificate, Domicile Certificate, Ration Card, Fard and other revenue records are the entitlement of every citizen and that anyone demanding money for these services is stealing from the public. The district administration reaffirmed its commitment that every complaint will be heard, the identity of the complainant will be kept confidential and the action taken will be made public. Citizens have been urged

to report any official demanding money or gratification for any legal service, with an assurance that such complaints will be acted upon with speed. "Do not pay. Do not adjust. Do not let it go," the DC said, adding that one complaint moved the entire system yesterday and each citizen's complaints can do the same.

DC chairs District Advisory Committee meeting of MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar today convened a District Advisory Committee (DAC) meeting under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review and strengthen youth-centric initiatives under the MY Bharat platform. District Youth Officer MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar Sandeep Sharma briefed the committee on the objectives and key components of the MY Bharat initiative. The Deputy Commissioner called for coordinated efforts among all stakeholder departments to implement MY Bharat programmes effectively. He observed that meaningful youth participation through leadership, volunteerism, community service and



civic engagement is essential for nurturing a progressive, responsible and self-reliant society. The DC directed the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) to identify and facilitate a suitable office for MY Bharat Kendra and all

departments concerned to intensify registration drives for maximum enrolment of eligible youth aged 15-29 years on the MY Bharat portal. He also directed all line departments to extend full cooperation in mobilising students, volunteers and

young citizens, particularly at the grassroots level. The committee also reviewed the action plan for MY Bharat Kendra Kishtwar, which includes awareness campaigns, institutional outreach programmes, youth interaction sessions, skill development activities, volunteer engagement initiatives and collaborative programmes with government departments and educational institutions. Among those present were ADC Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACP/ACD Neeraj Sharma, DSWO Tariq Parveaz Qazi, DIO Dr Kuldeep Kumar, ALC Mamta Sudershan, CMO Dr Sanjay Bhat, DYSSO Jaffer Haider Sheikh and Deputy CEO Masood Ahmed Qazi, besides other officers and staff concerned.

MLA, DC lead 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign to promote environmental conservation

KATHUA, JULY 30:

As part of the ongoing Van Mahotsav 2026 celebrations, the Social Forestry Department Kathua today organised a mega plantation drive under the nationwide 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign from Kathua Waterfront to Kalibari to enhance the district's green cover. Member of Legislative Assembly Kathua Dr Bharat Bhushan led the drive, in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma, ADCC Surinder Mohan Sharma, ADC Mahima Madan, DFO Social Forestry Hitakshi Sharma, senior Social Forestry officers, district officers, representatives of various government departments, volunteers and members of civil society. Dr Bharat Bhushan said the campaign encourages every citizen to plant a tree



in honour of their mother while contributing to a sustainable future. He urged the public, particularly the youth, to participate actively in afforestation drives and ensure the survival and proper care of the saplings. The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the department's efforts and stressed that increasing green cover through com-

munity participation is essential for maintaining ecological balance, mitigating climate change and preserving biodiversity. He called upon all stakeholders to make tree plantation a people's movement. Officers of the district administration, prominent citizens, civil society representatives and media persons planted indigenous and ornamental saplings

along the Waterfront-Kalibari stretch and pledged to protect and nurture them. Earlier, DFO Social Forestry Hitakshi Sharma welcomed the dignitaries, outlined the objectives of Van Mahotsav 2026 and the campaign and sensitised participants on nurturing the saplings for their healthy growth and long-term sustainability.

ADC reviews enforcement of National Green Tribunal guidelines in Bhaderwah

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal has intensified enforcement of National Green Tribunal (NGT) guidelines across the Bhaderwah subdivision. During a review meeting, the ADC called for strict implementation of environmental norms to ensure sustainable waste management and ecological protection. Directions issued included daily monitoring of waste collection systems and mandatory daily sharing of geo-tagged photographs to ensure transparency and accountability.



The ADC further directed the departments concerned to achieve 100 percent door-to-door waste collec-

tion in rural areas. To improve sanitation in marketplaces, separate vehicles were to be deployed to col-

lect waste from fruit and vegetable markets and chicken shops. Bhutyal directed the Executive Officer Municipality, BDO Bhaderwah and BMO Bhaderwah to launch an awareness programme on daily monitoring of the waste collection system and sanitation drives in schools, colleges, hospitals and the main markets. The Municipal Committee Bhaderwah was directed to stop illegal constructions. Among those present were BMO Bhaderwah, Executive Engineer I&FC, BDO Bhaderwah, AEE PHE, AE PHE, AEE R&B, Account Assistant BDA, Mechanical Department and representatives of various departments.