

40 Trainee Civil Judges visit FSL Srinagar for exposure to Forensic Science

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 31

A batch of 40 trainee Civil Judges, accompanied by the Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, today visited the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL), Srinagar as part of an exposure programme aimed at enhancing their understanding of the role of forensic science in the criminal justice system.

The programme commenced with an introductory presentation by Sheikh Suhail Ahmad, Scientific Officer, Fingerprints Division, who briefed the participants on the mandate, organizational structure, scientific capabilities, and pivotal role of FSL Srinagar in assisting investigating agencies and the judiciary through scientific examination of evidence.

The participants were subsequently taken on a guided tour of the laboratory, coordinated by Dr. Rais Ahmad, Scientific Officer, Narcotics & Chemical Division, and Sheikh Suhail Ahmad, Scientific Officer, Fingerprints Division. During the visit, the trainee judges interacted with experts across various forensic disciplines and were briefed by the respective Scientific Officers on the functioning of their divisions, modern analyt-



tical techniques, sophisticated instrumentation, quality assurance practices, and the scientific procedures followed in the examination of forensic exhibits.

Later, Dr. Qazi Danish Mushtaq, Deputy Director JKFSL Srinagar interacted with the visiting judicial officers regarding functional functioning of the District Mobile Forensic Units (DMFUs). He highlighted the crucial role of the mobile forensic units in providing on-the-spot scientific assistance at crime scenes, ensuring proper collection, preservation, and documentation of physical evidence, and facilitating timely forensic support to investigating agencies across the Union Territory.

The exposure pro-

gramme offered the trainee judicial officers valuable insights into the practical application of forensic science in criminal investigations and judicial proceedings. The participants actively interacted with the forensic experts, discussing the evidentiary value of scientific findings and the significance of forensic reports in ensuring fair and effective administration of justice.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Director, J&K FSL Srinagar, stated that "The criminal justice system increasingly relies on scientific evidence. Such exposure visits strengthen the understanding of judicial officers regarding forensic processes and promote closer coordination between the judiciary and

forensic experts for the effective delivery of justice."

Sheikh Suhail Ahmad emphasized that "The objective of the programme is to familiarize judicial officers with the capabilities of modern forensic science and to provide them with firsthand exposure to the scientific procedures adopted in the laboratory."

The visiting officers appreciated the state-of-the-art facilities and professional expertise available at FSL Srinagar and described the interaction as highly informative and beneficial. The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the importance of continued collaboration between the judiciary and forensic institutions in strengthening the criminal justice system.

CEO of J&K unveils achievers of North India

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The book Achievers of North India, dedicated to recognizing the remarkable achievements of distinguished personalities from various fields across North India, was formally unveiled by Shri Sanjeev Verma, IAS, Chief Electoral Officer of Jammu & Kashmir. The event was attended by Mahant Rohit Shastri, State Awardee and President of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Ashwani Ji, Editor of the book, along with several eminent dignitaries.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sanjeev Verma, IAS, said that Achievers of North India is not merely a book but an inspiring document that reflects the struggles, dedication, and accomplishments of individuals who have made outstanding contributions to society and the nation in their respective fields. He stated that such publications inspire the younger generation and encourage a spirit of excellence, positivity, and commitment towards meaningful work. He congratulated the editor and everyone associated with the publication and expressed confidence that the book would serve as a valuable source of inspiration for years to come.

On the occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri, State



Awardee and President of the Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, appreciated the initiative of bringing together distinguished achievers from across North India on a single platform. He said that many individuals are selflessly serving society in the fields of education, culture, spirituality, social service, administration, healthcare, literature, arts, industry, and several other sectors. Documenting their life journeys, dedication, and achievements is the need of the hour. He added that such publications not only recognize talent and service but also motivate the younger generation to contribute positively to society.

Ashwani sharma Ji, MD Gold events and Editor of the book, informed that Achievers of North India features the biographies, achievements, and significant contributions of several eminent and inspiring personalities from North India. He said that the primary objective of the publication is to bring the inspiring journeys of these achievers to the wider public and to encourage others through their stories of determination, perseverance, and success despite challenges.

The dignitaries present at the event described the publication as a commendable initiative, emphasizing that such efforts not only

honour deserving individuals but also contribute to building a positive and progressive social environment.

Among those present on the occasion were Shri Saurbah Raina, Secretary, Jammu Development Authority (JDA), Kulbhushan Jamwal, and other distinguished guests.

All the attendees extended their best wishes for the success of the book and expressed hope that Achievers of North India would serve as a powerful source of inspiration, guidance, and positive motivation for society while encouraging future generations to play an active role in nation-building.

FDA takes enforcement action against Unsafe Ghee and Misbranded Frozen Meat

SRINAGAR, JULY 31:

The Food & Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K has initiated enforcement action following the declaration of four Ghee samples, namely Dairy Mohan, Apna Dairy Milk, Sahi Taj, and Milk Bite, as unsafe by the National Food Laboratory, Ghaziabad.

Based on the laboratory reports, the Designated Officer, Food Safety, Anantnag, seized 1,250 litres of Ghee belonging to the affected batch numbers, valued at approximately ₹4.97 lakh, and issued a Prohibition Order under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. The sale and distribution of the affected

batches have also been prohibited under Section 36(3)(b) read with Section 18(1)(f) of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Further, Food Safety Teams in the Jammu Division conducted inspections, collected three additional samples of the affected Ghee brands, and forwarded them to NABL-accredited laboratories for analysis of quality and safety parameters.

During the inspections, 1,277 litres of Ghee, valued at approximately ₹4.97 lakh, were seized under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, pending receipt of laboratory analysis reports.

In a separate enforcement action, the Food Safety Team, Srinagar,

conducted inspections of seven establishments dealing in meat and meat products.

During the inspection, 2,600 kg of frozen meat, valued at approximately ₹5.98 lakh, was seized from an establishment at Bubghair, Kawadara, Srinagar, as the product was found to be misleading due to a mismatch between the contents of the package and the declarations made on the label, in violation of the labelling requirements prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and the regulations. The frozen meat was also found to be stored under unsanitary conditions.

Accordingly, a complaint has been filed before the Additional Deputy

Commissioner, Srinagar (Adjudicating Officer) under Section 61 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for furnishing false or misleading information or declarations, and under Section 56 for storing food under unhygienic or unsanitary conditions. Section 61 provides for a penalty of up to ₹10 lakh, while Section 56 provides for a penalty of up to ₹1 lakh.

The Food & Drugs Administration, J&K advises members of the public to remain vigilant and report the sale or availability of the prohibited Ghee batches or any suspected case of unsafe, adulterated, or misbranded food through the Toll-Free Helpline 104 or by email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

VC JKLCMA reviews progress of Lake Conservation initiatives in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 31

The Vice Chairman (VC), Jammu & Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, convened a review meeting today, to take stock of various ongoing activities and works being undertaken by the Authority for the conservation, protection and management of water bodies in Jammu & Kashmir.

All the officers of JKLCMA participated in the meeting.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the progress of various ongoing works and field activities was undertaken.

The Vice Chairman emphasized the need for time-bound execution, effective monitoring and regular

field inspections to ensure that the objectives of lake and waterbody conservation are achieved in a coordinated and sustainable manner.

The meeting also reviewed measures being undertaken for the protection of water bodies from encroachments, illegal constructions, dumping of solid waste, and discharge of untreated sewage. The concerned officers were directed to maintain close coordination with the field agencies and take prompt action wherever violations affecting the water bodies are noticed.

The progress of demarcation and clearance of encroachments, cleaning and maintenance of water channels, outlets and other associated works was also reviewed. The officers were directed to intensify field-level monitoring and en-

sure that cleared areas are protected from re-encroachment.

Issues relating to the 19 inlet channels coming from hinterlands came up for discussion. The Vice Chairman stressed the importance of ensuring proper functioning and maintenance of the regulatory gates installed on these inlet channels. It was desired that J&K PCC, in light of the directions of the Hon'ble High Court, shall be approached for banning the use of pesticides/chemicals by farmers along the hinterlands and ultimately flowing into these inlet channels thereby deteriorating the water quality of the lake.

The functioning and maintenance of aerators, fountains and other lake conservation infrastructure were also reviewed. Directions were issued for early

rectification of deficiencies and ensuring that such infrastructure remains operational and is properly maintained.

The Vice Chairman further stressed upon the officers to ensure regular submission of progress reports, proper documentation of works and close supervision of projects at the field level. The concerned officers were directed to adhere strictly to the timelines and submit updated status reports on the progress of works.

The Vice Chairman reiterated that conservation of the water bodies is a collective responsibility and called for sustained efforts, inter-departmental coordination and strict enforcement of applicable provisions to safeguard the fragile aquatic ecosystems of Jammu & Kashmir for future generations.

ADDC Budgam chairs MY Bharat District Advisory Committee meeting; reviews youth engagement initiatives

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Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, today chaired the meeting of the Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) District Advisory Committee at the Conference Hall, Budgam, to review youth engagement initiatives and strengthen coordination among stakeholder departments.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of various MY Bharat programmes aimed at promoting youth participation in nation-building, volunteerism, skill development, leadership, and community service. Discussions also focused on enhancing outreach, increasing youth registrations, and ensuring active participation of educational institutions and line departments in MY Bharat activities.

The ADDC stressed the need for greater convergence among departments to create meaningful op-



portunities for young people and directed the concerned officers to organise regular awareness and engagement programmes across the district.

Later, the ADDC chaired a review meeting of the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) to assess the progress of ongoing sanitation initiatives in the district.

The meeting reviewed the status of key SBM

components, including solid and liquid waste management, cleanliness drives, sanitation infrastructure, and awareness campaigns.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing works and maintain sustained efforts towards achieving the objectives of the mission.

The ADDC emphasized close monitoring of field-

level activities, effective public participation, and inter-departmental coordination to strengthen sanitation and hygiene across the district.

The meetings were attended by the CPO, ACD, ACP, District Officer, MY Bharat, District Panchayat Officer, Executive Officers of Urban Local Bodies, Block Development Officers, and other concerned officers.

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Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President, Jammu, Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC), has welcomed the notification issued by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir on 30 July 2026 for the implementation of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006.

Addressing a Press Conference at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, Jammu today, Rattan Lal Gupta said that the implementation of the Forest Rights Act is a long-awaited step towards ensuring justice, dignity and constitutional rights to the Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers who have been residing in and depending upon forest areas for generations.

Gupta stated that the Act is intended to recognize both individual and community forest rights, safeguard traditional livelihoods, and empower Gram Sabhas in the protection and management of forest resources. He expressed



hope that the notification would now pave the way for speedy recognition of genuine claims in a transparent, fair and accountable manner.

He urged the Government to ensure that all eligible beneficiaries, particularly Gujjars, Bakerwals, Gaddis, Sippis and other eligible forest-dwelling communities, receive the benefits of the Act without delay. He also called for extensive awareness campaigns in remote and hilly areas so that no eligible claimant is deprived of his or her lawful rights due to lack of information.

The Provincial President emphasized that the entire

implementation process must remain free from bureaucratic delays and unnecessary hurdles. He urged the concerned departments to complete verification and disposal of claims within a fixed timeframe while maintaining complete transparency.

Rattan Lal Gupta said that "no member of a forest dwelling Scheduled Tribe or other traditional forest dweller shall be evicted or removed from forest land under his occupation till the recognition and verification procedure is complete."

Rattan Lal Gupta further said that the National Conference has always stood

for the protection of the constitutional, social and economic rights of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, particularly the weaker and marginalized sections. He reiterated that the proper implementation of the Forest Rights Act would strengthen social justice, improve livelihoods and contribute to the inclusive development of tribal and forest-dwelling communities across the Union Territory. Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu and Thakur Yashvardhan Singh Additional Spokesperson Jammu were also accompanied in the press Conference.