

J&K Bank Partners with SBI Life to Expand Life Insurance Portfolio

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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J&K Bank has entered into a strategic corporate agency agreement with SBI Life Insurance to offer a wider range of life insurance products through its extensive branch network across the country, further strengthening its customer-centric financial services portfolio.

The partnership will enable J&K Bank customers to access SBI Life's comprehensive range of protection, savings, retirement and child-focused insurance plans, giving them greater flexibility to choose products that suit their financial goals and life-stage requirements.

The agreement was signed by J&K Bank's DGM Cross-selling, Masood Ahmad Lankar, and SBI Life's Regional Manager, Institutional Alliances, Budhaditya Banerjee, in the presence of J&K Bank MD &



CEO Amitava Chatterjee, SBI Life MD & CEO Amit Jhingran and SBI Life President (Business Strategy) Santosh Chacko, along with senior officials from both organisations. Speaking on the occasion, Amitava Chatterjee said the collaboration reflects the Bank's commitment to its philosophy of "socially empowering banking" by expanding customers' access to competitive, need-based life insurance solutions. He said the addition of SBI Life to

the Bank's insurance partners would enhance customer choice while leveraging the trust and reach J&K Bank has built across Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh and the rest of the country.

SBI Life MD & CEO Amit Jhingran said the partnership would help deepen insurance awareness and strengthen financial protection for families. He noted that life insurance is an essential component of long-term financial planning and said the collabora-

tion supports the national vision of 'Insurance for All by 2047'.

The partnership also aims to improve access to insurance products, promote financial inclusion and encourage customers to integrate life insurance into their long-term savings and financial planning. Both organisations will jointly undertake awareness initiatives to help customers make informed decisions for securing their families and future aspirations.

SKUAST-K launches month-long advanced training to strengthen J&K's soil conservation

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Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), through its Directorate of Extension, today launched a month-long advanced training programme on "Soil/Silt Testing and Sediment Monitoring in Soil Conservation" to enhance the technical capacity of officials from the Jammu & Kashmir Department of Soil and Water Conservation in scientific soil analysis, watershed management and climate-resilient land resource management.

The programme has brought together 10 departmental officials for intensive training, combining classroom lectures, laboratory demonstrations, field-based practicals and hands-on sessions. The training is being delivered by experts from the Division of Soil Science and the Division of Soil and Water Conservation Engineering, SKUAST-K.

Inaugurating the programme, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, said healthy soils form the foundation of sustainable agriculture, environmental conservation, food security and the promotion of natural and organic farming. She emphasised that scientific soil and silt testing,



coupled with sediment monitoring, is critical for soil health management, watershed conservation and judicious nutrient management. Stressing the importance of continuous capacity building, she said such programmes equip field functionaries with modern scientific knowledge and practical skills to strengthen soil and water conservation, enhance climate resilience and promote sustainable agricultural practices across Jammu and Kashmir.

The comprehensive cur-

riculum covers soil sampling and laboratory analysis, soil physical and chemical properties, soil moisture measurement, organic carbon estimation, soil erosion assessment, runoff measurement, sediment sampling and monitoring techniques, watershed management, infiltration studies, hydraulic conductivity, contour farming, water harvesting, and the use of modern instruments for soil and sediment monitoring. A strong emphasis has been placed on laboratory exercises and field demon-

strations to ensure participants acquire hands-on expertise in contemporary soil conservation methodologies.

The programme is being coordinated by Prof. S. K. Raina, Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat and Prof. Lyaqat Choudhary. By bringing together expertise from multiple disciplines, the initiative is expected to significantly strengthen the technical capabilities of field officials and contribute to more effective soil and water conservation practices across Jammu and Kashmir.

Disaster Preparedness Awareness Programme, Mock Drill held at GHSS Malwan

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District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Kulgam, through the SDRF/HG Unit Kulgam, in collaboration with the Fire & Emergency Services (F&ES), Kulgam, and Aapda Mitra Volunteers, today conducted an awareness programme-cum-Mock Drill at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Malwan.

Over 200 students and staff members actively participated in the programme, which covered disaster awareness, mitigation measures, earthquake safety, safe evacuation techniques, rescue of trapped victims during a simulated building collapse, safe use of LPG, fire safety precautions, and practical demonstrations on extinguishing different classes of fire.

The awareness programme and mock drill



aimed to equip students with life-saving skills and strengthen their capacity to act as first responders during emergencies,

thereby reducing loss of life and property.

District Administration appreciated the dedicated efforts of SDRF, Fire &

Emergency Services, and Aapda Mitra Volunteers in promoting a culture of preparedness and resilience among the youth.

SKUAST-K takes nutrition awareness to Baramulla village, empowers women with healthy eating, affordable recipes

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In a bid to promote healthier families through better nutrition, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) reached out to women in Village Ijara, Boniyar, Baramulla, with practical lessons on balanced diets, anemia prevention and affordable nutritious cooking.

The Division of Community Science, Faculty of Horticulture, organised a lecture-cum-demonstration programme for beneficiaries of the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS), combining expert guidance with hands-on recipe demonstrations that participants could easily replicate at home.

The programme was organised under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Masarat Shafi, Professor and Head, Division of Community Science, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K.

Delivering the technical sessions, Prof. Iffat, spoke



on health, nutrition, maternal and child nutrition and healthy lifestyle practices. Prof. Afsha, highlighted the importance of balanced diets and explained how simple dietary changes and iron-rich foods can help prevent anaemia, particularly among women and children.

The highlight of the programme was a live cooking demonstration by Dr. Saima Paul, who showcased the preparation of

low-cost, nutrient-rich recipes using locally available ingredients. The interactive session encouraged participants to ask questions, learn practical cooking techniques, and explore ways to make everyday meals healthier without increasing household expenses. The programme witnessed participation from ICDS beneficiaries and local women, who actively engaged in discussions on improving family

nutrition and adopting healthier food habits. Abdul Hamid, who provided programme support, assisted in the smooth organisation and successful conduct of the event.

Concluding with the message, "Right Nutrition Today for a Healthier Tomorrow," the programme reinforced SKUAST-K's commitment to taking scientific knowledge beyond classrooms and laboratories to rural communities.

Cong, NC hold protest rallies on anniversary of Art 370's abrogation

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The Congress and the National Conference (NC) on Tuesday held separate protest rallies in Jammu on the seventh anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, observing it as a "Black Day".

They also demanded the restoration of statehood and constitutional safeguards for land, jobs and other rights.

The police prevented the protest marches towards the city centre, leading to a brief jostling with workers at different locations.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) organised a demonstration near Shaheedi Chowk, where party leaders and workers raised slogans

against the Centre and accused it of depriving the people of Jammu and Kashmir of their democratic and constitutional rights.

Congress workers carrying party flags attempted to march ahead but were stopped by the police.

Congress leaders demanded the immediate restoration of statehood and constitutional protections, alleging that the people had been deprived of their rights over land, jobs and resources.

"We want our statehood back. Our jobs, our land and our rights must be protected. Instead of listening to our democratic demands, the government is stopping us from protesting. We are observing a 'Black Day' today. We will continue our agitation until Jammu and Kashmir re-

gains its statehood," a Congress leader told reporters here.

Another party leader described August 5, 2019 as a "painful day" in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that the erstwhile state's special status, opportunities and constitutional rights had been taken away. The leader also claimed that unemployment had risen and urged the Centre to restore the rights of the people.

The NC held a separate protest near Sher-e-Kashmir Bhavan, with leaders and workers carrying party flags and placards while wearing black badges.

The police stopped the NC workers from marching ahead, resulting in a brief jostling between security personnel and protesters.

NC leaders reiterated their demand for the

restoration of statehood and constitutional rights.

"The decision taken on August 5, 2019, behind closed doors, will never be accepted by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. We are not asking for anything new, we are only demanding the restoration of the rights that belonged to us and were taken away in 2019," an NC leader said.

Responding to the BJP's claim that the abrogation of Article 370 had helped curb terrorism, the leader questioned the assertion, saying militant attacks and the killing of security personnel continued.

"If terrorism ended with the abrogation of Article 370, why are security personnel still being martyred? Why are attacks on our people and our forces continuing?" the leader asked.

DC Bandipora, SSP review preparations for I-Day celebrations at GHSS Nadihal

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, today visited Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Nadihal to review the preparations for the forthcoming Independence Day celebrations.

The visit was undertaken to assess the arrangements being put in place at the venue, where the district-level Independence Day function will be held this year in view of the ongoing developmental works at S.K. Stadium, Bandipora.

During the inspection, the DC and SSP took a comprehensive review of the preparations, including the main function area, seating arrangements, stage setup, security arrangements, parking facilities, sanitation, drinking



water, electricity, medical facilities and other essential logistics required for the smooth conduct of the event.

Interacting with the officers of the concerned departments, the DC stressed the importance of close co-

ordination among all line departments to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in time. She directed the concerned officers to maintain the highest standards of preparedness and ensure that every aspect of the celebra-

tion is meticulously planned and executed.

Among others, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Executive Engineer R&B, and senior officers of the Police Department.