

NABL Surveillance Assessment Conducted at Pesticide Testing Laboratory Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 08

National Accreditation Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories (NABL) Surveillance Assessment was conducted today at the Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Jammu, to assess the laboratory's continued compliance with the applicable requirements of NABL accreditation under ISO/IEC 17025:2017.

The assessment team comprised Dr. Shivakant Dwivedi, Lead Assessor and Dr. Sunil Singh, Technical Assessor, who carried out a detailed assessment of the laboratory's technical competence, quality management systems and testing procedures.

The surveillance assessment was conducted under the guidance and supervision of Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu, Anil Gupta and Agriculture Chemist, Jammu, Roshan Lal Bhagat.

The assessment focused on evaluating the laboratory's continued conformity with NABL requirements and ensuring the maintenance of high standards of quality, technical competence, accuracy and reliability in laboratory



testing services.

The assessment proceedings were attended by Assistant Agriculture Chemist, Ravinder Kumar Gupta; Research Assistant, Tarminder Singh; Junior Agriculture Extension Officers, Vikas Gupta, Inderdeep Singh, Adarsh Anand Thaploo and Rampreet Kour.

Speaking on the occasion, Director Agriculture Jammu, Roshan Lal Bhagat, said that the surveillance assessment provides an important opportunity to review and further strengthen the laboratory's quality management system and technical operations. He stated that the laboratory is committed to maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, im-

partiality and reliability in pesticide testing. Roshan Lal Bhagat assured the assessment team that all prescribed procedures and NABL requirements would continue to be followed in letter and spirit. He also acknowledged the guidance and support of the Director Agriculture Jammu in strengthening the laboratory's technical infrastructure and quality assurance mechanisms.

During the assessment, the NABL team carried out a detailed inspection of the laboratory facilities and witnessed the implementation of laboratory activities to verify continued compliance with NABL accreditation requirements.

and objectives of the Act, roles and responsibilities of PRIs, preparation and approval of VGPPs, issuance and management of GRGCs, convergence with other government schemes, social audit, transparency and accountability mechanisms and other operational and implementation-related aspects.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for Panchayats to adopt a focused and need-based approach towards asset creation, sustainable livelihoods, resilient infrastructure and water conservation. He highlighted four key

DC inaugurates District-Level Panch Sammelan on VB-GRAM-G Act-2025 at Kishtwar

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Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, on Saturday inaugurated a District-Level Panch Sammelan organised by Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj to sensitize rural stakeholders to the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (VB-GRAM-G) Act, 2025. The DC also serves as the District Programme Coordinator (DPC), Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM-G).

The district level programme themed as "Uniting Gram Panchayats for a Progressive & Self-Reliant Rural Kishtwar," was held in the Conference Hall of the New DDC Building and formed first among the series of sessions being held for 3 days. Today's Conference was attended by former PRI members and filed functionaries from Kishtwar, Trigam, Palmar, Thakrie and Warwan blocks.

The block-wise sensitization programme would continue till August 10, 2026, with detailed sessions on the important components of the VB-GRAM-G framework, including the vision



priority areas for rural development in the district. He said the mission sets to focus on addressing water scarcity through measures such as the construction of check dams, rooftop rainwater harvesting and other water conservation initiatives; the development of core rural infrastructure through effective and need-based Village/Gram Panchayat Plans; the promotion of sustainable rural livelihoods; and strengthening disaster resilience in view of Kishtwar's vulnerability to flash floods, cloudbursts and changing rainfall patterns.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of generating widespread awareness about the key provisions and objectives of the VB-GRAM-G Act, 2025 to enable the grassroots stakeholders to have a clear understanding of the new framework and its benefits reach eligible rural households effectively. He also called for greater public awareness regarding disaster preparedness and safety, particularly in vulnerable areas.

He stressed the need to strictly avoid encroachment and construction activities in flood prone areas and urged stakeholders to promote awareness about the risks associated with such activities.

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JDA Inputs reviews seed distribution, recovery and reconciliation

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Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs), Jammu, Sanjay Anand today chaired the meeting of Area Development Officers and District Agriculture Officers to review seed-related activities and ensure timely implementation of departmental programmes for the Kharif 2026 and Rabi 2026-27 seasons.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on various agenda items, including squaring up of pending seed recoveries of previous seasons, submission of treasury challans and revenue realisation statements for July 2026 and submission of revised requirements and recommendations regarding new varieties and exclusion of varieties in use for less than five years for the Rabi 2026-27 season.

The meeting also reviewed the status of



amounts deposited in the official account and their reconciliation, besides the list of farmers covered under the Seed Village Programme for Rabi 2025-26. The officers also deliberated upon the availability and supply of seed to farmers for Kharif 2026.

Special emphasis was laid on submission of pending reconciliation statements pertaining to Kharif 2026 and Rabi 2025-26, along with details of the to-

tal quantity of seed distributed under various schemes, duly authenticated by the concerned Chief Agriculture Officer, District Agriculture Officer and Store Officer.

Sanjay Anand directed all concerned officers to ensure timely submission of the required information and completion of pending seed recovery and reconciliation cases on priority. He stressed the importance of maintaining accurate

records, ensuring transparency in seed distribution and recovery and adhering strictly to prescribed departmental procedures and timelines.

The Joint Director further directed the field officers to ensure effective co-ordination among the concerned offices and timely submission of all reports so that the availability and distribution of quality seed to farmers remains smooth and uninterrupted.

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The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Centre Jammu, today successfully concluded Batch-11 of the Management Development Programme (MDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme.

A total of 25 existing entrepreneurs, including 24 women and 1 man, successfully completed the programme. The training was aimed at enhancing the managerial and business competencies of entrepreneurs through sessions on business planning, financial management, marketing strategies, digital business tools, government support schemes, regulatory compliance and enterprise growth.

Addressing the participants during the valedic-



tory session, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Rajesh Kotwal congratulated the participants on successfully completing the programme and encouraged them to leverage the knowledge gained for strengthening and scaling their enterprises.

"Entrepreneurship plays a vital role in economic growth and employment generation. Through capacity-building initiatives under the RAMP Scheme, JKEDI remains committed to strengthening the capa-

bilities of existing entrepreneurs and enabling them to build competitive, sustainable and growth-oriented enterprises. The enthusiastic participation of women entrepreneurs in this batch is particularly encouraging and reflects the increasing contribution of women-led enterprises to the economy," he said.

The programme was conducted by Monika Salaria, who served as the trainer and resource person for the batch. Through interactive sessions, case studies and

practical discussions, she guided the participants on various aspects of business management, enterprise growth, market expansion and effective utilization of government support mechanisms.

The programme forms part of JKEDI's ongoing efforts to strengthen the MSME ecosystem and promote enterprise growth across Jammu and Kashmir under the RAMP initiative of the Ministry of MSME, Government of India.

Principal Secy Culture, Div Com Kashmir review preparations for Tiranga Rally, I-Day Celebrations

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Principal Secretary Culture Department, Brij Mohan Sharma and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today jointly chaired a comprehensive meeting at the Tourist Reception Centre (TRC) to review and finalize arrangements for the mega Tiranga Rally scheduled to be held from SKICC to the Botanical Garden on August 12 and the Independence Day celebration at Bakshi Stadium.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary directed the concerned departments to put in place innovative and theme-based arrangements to enhance public participation and patriotic fervour during the Tiranga Rally.

Brij Mohan Sharma called for installation of theme-based selfie points at SKICC and the Botanical Garden to encourage participants to capture and upload photographs. He also directed deployment of NCC volunteers to facilitate participants at these selfie points.

The Principal Secretary directed the Roads & Buildings (R&B) Department to undertake theme-based colouring of tree trunks along the rally route, while the Srinagar Munic-

ipal Corporation (SMC) was asked to install the National Flag on electric poles along the route.

He further directed to sensitize participants about adherence to the National Flag Code and called for organizing a Shikara Tiranga Rally in Dal Lake as part of the celebrations.

Principal Secretary also reviewed plan for setting up theme-based stalls and exhibition at SKICC. He directed the concerned departments to ensure attractive displays and effective public engagement.

Brij Mohan Sharma also reviewed arrangements for cultural programmes, band performances and the felicitation of VVIPs, war widows and war heroes.

On the occasion, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg directed all concerned departments and stakeholders to ensure overwhelming participation in the Tiranga Rally. He called upon officers to ensure that participants reach SKICC well in advance to facilitate the smooth conduct of the event.

He reviewed the transport plan for participants and directed the concerned agencies to ensure effective mobilization as per the prescribed targets. He also stressed the need for foolproof security arrangements at all venues and along the designated rally route.



Anshul Garg also directed for constitution of a committee comprising officers of SMC, Police and Sanik Welfare Department to monitor the strict

compliance for respect of flag code during the event.

Besides, Div Com directed for en-mass participation in Har Ghar Tiranga and celebration of National Song.

The Divisional Commissioner further reviewed arrangements for drinking water and uninterrupted power supply at the venue and issued necessary directions to the concerned departments. He also directed the establishment of First Aid Camps and deployment of ambulances at strategic locations to meet any medical emergency.

Anshul Garg also reviewed preparations for the Independence Day celebrations at Bakshi Stadium and directed officers to ensure seamless, coordinated and foolproof arrangements for a vibrant celebration of the national event.

He issued detailed directions regarding the showering of flower petals by the Air Force, illumination of government buildings, constitution of parade and band contingents, issuance of security passes, appointment of nodal officers, organization of cultural programmes and nomination of commentators.

He also reviewed seating arrangements, security arrangements and other logistical requirements at the main venue.

Emphasizing the importance of basic amenities, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure uninterrupted electricity supply, installation of adequate water dispensers, cleanliness and sanitation at the venue, proper traffic management and deployment of medical personnel and ambulances.

Anshul Garg stressed the need to sensitize participants regarding the protocol to be observed during the hoisting of the National Flag and singing of the National Anthem.

The Divisional Commissioner also directed that participants be briefed about the sequence of programmes in advance and called for preparation of a uniform schedule for the Independence Day celebrations across the division to ensure coordinated observance of the national event.

The meeting was attended by the DIG Police, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Heads of Departments and senior officers from Floriculture, Health, School Education, Colleges, SMC, R&B, PHE, I&FC, I&C, H&H, KPDCI, Information, Fire & Emergency Services, SSCL, RTC, Doordarshan, Government Press, Youth Services & Sports, University of Kashmir, NIT Srinagar, Traffic Police, security agencies, BSF, CRPF and other concerned departments.