

JDA conducts draw of lots for JDA Heights Phase II, Lower Roop Nagar; Allotment letter issued on spot

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 14

The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) on Friday conducted the Draw of Lots for allotment of flats at JDA Heights Phase II, Lower Roop Nagar, marking an important milestone in the Authority's efforts to ensure transparency, fairness and accountability in the allotment of residential properties.

JDA has initiated the process for construction of 144 residential flats, comprising 24 five-BHK, 48 three-BHK and 72 two-BHK flats. Against these flats, 85 eligible applicants, who had been issued Letters of Intent (LOIs) during 2022 and 2023, participated in the draw.

The Eighty five allotments include seven 5-BHK out of total 24; Forty one 3-BHK out of 48 and thirty seven 2-BHK out of total 72.

The Draw of Lots was



conducted in the presence of the eligible applicants and concerned officials in an open, impartial and transparent manner. The process was undertaken to ensure that every eligible applicant was provided an equal and fair opportunity for allotment.

A significant feature of the exercise was that the successful applicants were handed over their allotment letters on the spot. This initiative has further

strengthened the Authority's commitment towards transparent and citizen-centric service delivery.

The Vice Chairman, JDA, Dr. Rupesh Kumar said "Transparency and fairness are at the core of JDA's allotment process. The Draw of Lots has been conducted in an open and impartial manner so that every eligible applicant receives an equal opportunity. The on-the-spot issuance of allotment letters is another step

towards ensuring greater transparency and strengthening the confidence of citizens in the Authority."

The applicants present during the draw also expressed their appreciation for the transparent manner in which the proceedings were conducted. Several beneficiaries welcomed the initiative of issuing allotment letters immediately, describing the process as fair, orderly and transparent.

District admin Ramban launches Mega Plantation Drive under Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

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As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, the District administration Ramban today launched a mega district-wide plantation drive aimed at strengthening green cover, promoting ecological conservation and supporting soil stabilization in the hilly district.

The plantation drive was led by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alys Khan at Pernote, the area which witnessed major land subsidence and sliding. Subsequently, over 400 saplings were planted in the affected area by the officers, Forest Department personnel and local residents.

The subsidence zone was selected for the plantation to strengthen natural soil binding, checking erosion and contributing to the ecological rehabilitation and stabilization of the terrain.

SSP Arun Gupta, Addi-



tional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, PO ICDS Abdul Quyoom, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Divisional Forest Officer Ramban Anil V John and other senior administrative officers of

various departments, staff members and prominent members of civil society took part in plantation drive.

The Deputy Commissioner said that the Forest Department has set a target

of planting more than 1 lakh saplings across the district during the campaign, with active participation of government departments, local communities, youth and civil society organizations.

Rather greets people on Urs of Hazrat Sultan Ali Aali Balkhi Asks district administration for ensuring adequate facilities, arrangements for devotees

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 14: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, has extended warm greetings to the people on the auspicious occasion of the Urs of Hazrat Sultan Ali Aali Balkhi (RA), which is scheduled to commence from August 15.

In his message, the Speaker highlighted the deep spiritual and religious significance of the occasion. He said that the annual observance of this religious festival holds immense importance for the devotees across Jammu and Kashmir and beyond. He said that a large number of devotees are expected to visit the revered shrine of Hazrat Sultan Ali Aali Balkhi (RA) at Pakherpora during the 20-day-long Urs.

The Speaker particularly underscored that major religious gatherings are expected on the 11th and 13th days of the Islamic calendar, with Poshak Bandi on August 25 and Shab Khawani on August 27.

In view of the anticipated heavy footfall, he stressed the need for meticulous advance planning and coordinated arrangements to ensure that the devotees are able to participate in the religious gatherings peacefully, safely and conveniently.

The Speaker directed the district administration to put in place all necessary

arrangements well in advance, with focus on drinking water supply, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, healthcare, transport, traffic management, cleanliness and other essential civic amenities in and around the Shrine.

He called for adequate provision of drinking water points and standby arrangements to meet any exigency besides ensuring uninterrupted electricity supply at the shrine and other important locations. He also directed the concerned agencies to ensure proper sanitation facilities, deployment of adequate sanitation staff and regular lifting of waste to maintain cleanliness and hygiene throughout the Urs period.

Emphasising the importance of healthcare arrangements, the Speaker directed the Health Department to ensure availability of medical teams, essential medicines, ambulances and first-aid facilities at strategic locations, especially during the major gatherings. He called for adequate preparedness to deal with any medical emergency and directed that emergency response mechanisms remain functional throughout the event. The Speaker stressed the need for a comprehensive traffic and transport management plan to regulate the movement of devotees and vehicles. He called for identi-

cation of adequate parking spaces, smooth traffic flow, proper route management and deployment of sufficient personnel to prevent congestion and inconvenience to visitors.

Rather directed the district administration to ensure adequate availability of passenger transport for hassle-free movement of devotees visiting the shrine. He called for sufficient passenger vehicles to be made readily available for direct connectivity between Anantnag, Pulwama, Shopian, Budgam, Chadoora and Srinagar and Pakherpora besides ensuring convenient return transportation from Pakherpora to these destinations.

He also directed the concerned departments to undertake intensive cleanliness and sanitation drives in advance of the major gatherings and maintain the same throughout the Urs. Special attention, he said, should be paid to approach roads, public spaces, parking areas, sanitation points and other places witnessing heavy public movement. He also called for adequate street lighting in the lanes and bylanes of Pakherpora and proper illumination of the shrine complex ahead of the Urs Sharief.

The Speaker stressed for ensuring sufficient availability and uninterrupted supply of essential com-

modities, including rice, flour, sugar, cooking gas and kerosene oil, during the Urs days. Keeping in view the anticipated heavy rush of devotees, he sought an additional ration quota for local consumers so that the regular requirements of the resident population are not affected.

He also called for intensified market checking in Pakherpora and adjoining areas to prevent profiteering, hoarding, black-marketing and overcharging by unscrupulous traders.

The Speaker called upon all concerned departments to work in close coordination and maintain effective inter-departmental synergy so that every aspect of the arrangements is adequately covered. He emphasised that all basic facilities should be fully functional before the commencement of the major gatherings and that contingency arrangements should also be kept ready to meet any unforeseen situation. Rather appealed to the devotees and visitors to maintain peace, cleanliness and discipline and extend cooperation to the administration and volunteers for smooth conduct of the Urs.

The Speaker expressed hope that the sacred occasion would further strengthen the spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood and spiritual devotion among the people.

KVK Bandipora-1 hosts exposure visit for Ganderbal FPO, showcases modern Farming Technologies

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 14

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), through Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, organised a Demonstration-cum-Exposure Visit for more than 25 members of Sheikh-ul-Alam Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO), Ganderbal.

The programme aimed to provide practical exposure to modern agricultural technologies, diversified farming enterprises and income-generating activities, with a focus on strengthening FPO-led entrepreneurship and enhancing farmers' revenue.

The visiting FPO members were given an extensive practical exposure to various demonstrations and farm-based enterprises established at KVK Bandipora-1. Senior Scientist & Head, KVK Bandipora-1, interacted with the participants and delivered a detailed technical session on opportunities for increasing farm income through crop diversification, value addition, collective input procurement, aggregation, market linkages and development of FPO-managed business activities.

During the programme, Head, KVK Bandipora-1, explained various technologies and practices through field-based demonstrations and highlighted the importance of converting available farm resources into commercially viable enterprises. The participants were encouraged to adopt integrated and diversified



farming systems according to local resources, market demand and economic feasibility. The participants visited the Lotus Demonstration Plot at KVK Bandipora-1, where they were briefed about its cultivation, management and economic potential. They also visited the Makhana demonstration, a new initiative of KVK Bandipora-1, and were apprised of the potential of Makhana cultivation and other aquatic crops for diversification, wetland utilisation and additional income generation. The FPO members further visited the Apple Nursery, Walnut Nursery and Walnut Block, where they received practical information on nursery management, quality planting material, orchard establishment and improved production practices. The

participants also visited the polyhouse facilities and were briefed about protected cultivation, efficient use of resources, crop diversification and the potential of protected cultivation for generating higher returns.

Scientist, Vegetable Science, KVK Bandipora-1, interacted with the participants and provided technical guidance on vegetable production, protected cultivation, crop management and diversification. He highlighted the scope for integrating high-value vegetable enterprises with FPO activities to improve productivity, marketability and farm income.

The programme provided the FPO members with an opportunity for direct interaction with the scientists and practical observation of ongoing

demonstrations at KVK Bandipora-1. Discussions focused on identifying suitable technologies and enterprise models that can be replicated by FPO members in Ganderbal for enhancing productivity, reducing production constraints, improving value addition and strengthening market linkages. The visiting FPO members appreciated the practical demonstrations and initiatives undertaken by KVK Bandipora-1. The programme concluded with an emphasis on strengthening farmer-led enterprises, promoting technology adoption and facilitating knowledge exchange between KVK Bandipora-1 and Farmer Producer Organisations for sustainable agricultural development and improved livelihoods.

District Information Centre Budgam organises Cultural Programme to Commemorate 150 Years of Vande Mataram

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 14

The District Information Centre Budgam, in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam, organised a cultural programme to commemorate 150 years of Vande Mataram and promote the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, highlighting their enduring significance as symbols of patriotism, national unity and love for

the motherland.

The programme was attended by district officers and officials of the District Administration, who actively participated in the proceedings.

The event featured a soulful patriotic song presented by the Doodhganga Folk Cultural Forum, followed by a short theatrical presentation on the theme "Horrors of Partition", presented under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The musical and theatrical performances highlighted the values of patriotism, unity, sacrifice and collective responsibility associated with the nation's journey. The presentations also served as a reminder of the importance of preserving national unity, peace and communal harmony, evoking a strong sense of pride and patriotism among the audience.

The programme provided an opportunity to reflect on the rich cultural

and historical legacy associated with Vande Mataram and the significance of displaying the National Flag under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

The District Information Centre, Budgam, expressed gratitude to the District Administration, participating officers and officials, artists, Doodhganga Folk Cultural Forum and all other participants for their valuable contribution towards the successful conduct of the programme.

Bandipora wears Tricolour Spirit as District-Wide Har Ghar Tiranga Celebrations intensify

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 14: As part of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and the commemoration of 150 years of Vande Mataram, a series of patriotic activities were held across Bandipora district, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students, youth, officials, staff and members of the community.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, District Bandipora, continued its district-wide patriotic activities across all zones, with Government and private educational institutions actively participating in various events. A mega Har Ghar Tiranga Rally was organised at Nadikhai, Hajin, witnessing enthusiastic participation from students and youth, who carried the Tricolour and spread the message of patriotism, unity and national pride.

The Department of AYUSH, Bandipora, also participated in the campaign through awareness sessions, Yoga activities, Flag Hoisting ceremonies and selfie sessions at various AYUSH institutions in collaboration with schools. Students, officials and



community members participated enthusiastically. Selfie videos and photographs with the Tiranga were also captured as a mark of respect for the National Flag.

The participants were sensitised about the significance and objectives of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign and encouraged to proudly display the National Flag, strengthening the spirit of national unity, patriotism and pride.

Har Ghar Tiranga was

also celebrated at Receiving Station Ajas with patriotic spirit and enthusiasm. The participation of officials and staff reflected a strong sense of patriotism and dedication towards the nation.

Municipal Committee Sumbal organised a Tiranga Rally in Sumbal with enthusiastic participation of youngsters, senior citizens, students, officers and officials, who carried the Tricolour and raised patriotic slogans, reflecting

the spirit of "Har Ghar Tiranga" and conveying a strong message of national unity, pride and devotion towards the nation.

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, organised a Tiranga Rally as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, with enthusiastic participation of farmers, staff and members of the community, who carried the Tricolour and spread the message of patriotism, national unity and pride in the National Flag.