

## 1-Day Kisan Mela organised under MIDH at Agriculture Extension Office Jhullas



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, AUG 22

Under the guidance of District Development Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma, the Department of Agriculture, Poonch organised a One-Day Kisan Mela under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at the Agriculture Extension Office, Jhullas.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohd Sayed inaugurated the programme, which focussed on promoting youth participation in

agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors.

Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Slathia stressed the need for greater farmer outreach and awareness about the opportunities available in the agriculture and allied sectors. He highlighted the importance of adopting modern, sustainable and climate-resilient farming practices to improve productivity and farm income. He urged farmers and youth to actively participate in departmental programmes, training activities and schemes and to take advantage of the technical and financial support available.

Addressing the gathering, the Assistant Commissioner Revenue highlighted the immense potential of the agriculture and allied sectors in generating employment, promoting entrepreneurship and strengthening the rural economy. He encouraged youth to adopt modern farming technologies, explore agri-based business opportunities and make optimum use of various government schemes and subsidies. He also emphasised the importance of moving towards value addition and market-oriented

agriculture to make farming more profitable.

Subject Matter Specialist Charanjeet Singh Raina highlighted the growing scope of youth entrepreneurship in agriculture. He informed participants about various subsidised schemes through which eligible youth can establish startups and agri-based enterprises. He also made farmers aware of the ongoing Agri Stack initiative launched jointly by the Revenue and Agriculture departments and urged them to complete their PM KISAN e-KYC before the release of the next installment to continue receiving their benefit.

Officers of the Agriculture Department, the district heads of the Agriculture and allied departments and the Chief Scientist, KVK Poonch also participated in the event and interacted with farmers and youth, providing technical guidance, information about government schemes and advice on improved agricultural practices. The participants were encouraged to adopt new technologies and diversify their farm activities according to local opportunities. They were also encouraged to explore opportunities in horticulture, mushroom cultivation, beekeeping, dairy farming, nursery development, food processing and other allied activities.

## Kissan Mela Organised Under MIDH at Nagrota



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An Exhibition-cum-Kissan Mela under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) was organised at Nagrota to create awareness among farmers about vegetable cultivation, modern agricultural practices and crop diversification.

Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma was the chief guest. District Agriculture Officer (Extension) Vinod Khajuria and other agriculture experts interacted with farmers and delivered informative lectures on improved vegetable production, farm

income and nutritional security. The mela featured displays of vegetables, agricultural produce, farm machinery and modern technologies. Farmers were also apprised of various departmental interventions and improved farming practices.

The programme was or-

ganised under the guidance of SDAO Dansal Ashwani Gupta and coordinated by AEO Nagrota Dr Koushalya Devi along with field functionaries. Officials expressed hope that such programmes would further promote vegetable cultivation and horticulture-based farming in the Nagrota area.

## National Senior Citizens Day celebrated in Samba

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The Department of Social Welfare, Samba organised a programme to mark National Senior Citizens Day at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Samba, with Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan as the Chief Guest.

The programme was held under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY) Action Plan 2026–27, focussing on promoting the dignity, health, well-being and social security of senior citizens.

On the occasion, an ENT Medical Check-up Camp and an AYUSH Health Camp were organised for senior citizens.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the invaluable contribution of senior citizens to society and stressed the importance of ensuring their dignity, respect, health-



care and social security.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Vidhi Kohli and AYUSH Department Nodal Officer Renu Tikku underlined the importance of regular health check-ups, preventive healthcare and healthy ageing.

Muskaan Foundation State Nodal Officer Parveen Sangral was also

present.

A large number of senior citizens took part in the programme, which provided a platform for health assessment, awareness and interaction while recognising the valuable experience and contribution of the elderly.

The Department of Social Welfare informed that

several activities for senior citizens have also been planned under the AVYAY Action Plan, including vocational training, a recreational trip to Jamboo Zoo, awareness drives on welfare schemes, protection against elderly abuse and sports activities for ex-servicemen.

## 26 RR organises free medical camp at COB Thathri

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26 Rashtriya Rifles (Indian Army) organised a free medical camp at COB Thathri on 22-08-2026 to provide accessible healthcare services, medical screening and health awareness to the local population.

During the camp, Thathri Block CHO Dr Shamailla Orussa, under the guidance of BMO Thathri Dr Shakeel Ahmed Kichloo, actively participated and provided medical services to the beneficiaries. A number of people were screened and examined for various health conditions, while the health staff also provided health counselling and necessary guidance.

The medical team from the Indian Army also actively participated in the camp and extended support in delivering healthcare services to the people.

Free medicines were distributed among the beneficiaries as per their



medical requirements. The camp received a positive response from the local community and served as an important initiative towards

strengthening healthcare outreach and promoting preventive healthcare among the people of the area.

The Health Department

appreciated the efforts of 26 RR, the Indian Army and all the healthcare personnel involved in making the medical camp successful.

## Mohd Ayaz Raina of Rajouri selected for National Award to Teachers 2026

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Mohd Ayaz Raina, Lecturer in Botany at Government Higher Secondary School (HSS) Dalhori, District Rajouri, has been selected for the National Award to Teachers 2026, becoming the only awardee from the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir this year. The award will be conferred on Teachers' Day on September 5.

The selection is a moment of immense pride for Rajouri and the entire education fraternity of Jammu and Kashmir. For the awardee, it also recognises 13 years of dedication, commitment and contribution



to education. Expressing gratitude over the recognition, Raina said the award is

not merely a personal honour but a recognition of the collective efforts of his students, fellow teachers, educational institutions, family and all those who supported and encouraged him throughout his journey.

The awardee has previously earned several recognitions, including the National ICT Award 2017, the J&K UT Best Teacher Award 2021, the Global Teacher Award 2021 and the Global Best Educational Poster Award 2020.

The selection of Mohd Ayaz Raina has brought immense pride to Rajouri and Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting the remarkable contribution of teachers working in remote and challenging geographical areas.

## Jal Shakti clarifies water meter installation in Kathua

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Amid reports in print and digital media regarding the installation of water meters in District Kathua, the Jal Shakti PHE Division Kathua has clarified that the proposed metering exercise is strictly limited to registered commercial and industrial consumers and aims to introduce a fair, transparent and usage-based billing system.

The clarification follows reports suggesting the installation of meters on domestic con-

nections. The Division has categorically stated that there is no proposal to install water meters for domestic households.

Under the initiative, eligible commercial and industrial consumers will transition from the existing flat-rate system to usage-based billing, with charges linked to actual water consumption. The measure will also promote judicious use of water and minimise wastage in commercial and industrial areas.

The metering directive applies only to registered commercial and industrial consumers

having connection pipe sizes ranging from 15 mm to 32 mm.

The Division has urged eligible commercial and industrial establishments to extend necessary cooperation and complete the installation process promptly. It has also advised the public not to heed rumours or misinformation regarding metering of domestic connections.

For any clarification regarding meter specifications, installation procedure or related matters, consumers may contact the Office of PHE Division Kathua on any working day.

## DC Doda reviews mining plans for quarry sites

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Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal today chaired a meeting at DC Office Doda to deliberate upon and review mining plans and progressive mine closure plans for two quarry sites in the district.

The meeting discussed the Mining Plan and Progressive Mine Closure Plan for a quarry licence at Village Kandhote, Tehsil Thathri, as well as the Revised Mining Plan and Progressive Mine Closure Plan for the quarry site at Moza Chadota, Jattar, Tehsil Assar.

The Office of the District Mineral Officer, Doda, Geology and Mining Department convened the meeting, with the departments concerned participating in the deliberations and providing necessary inputs and relevant records.

During the meeting, the officers concerned examined the pro-



posed and revised mining plans, focussing on compliance with applicable rules and regulations, scientific and regulated mineral extraction, environmental safeguards and progressive mine closure measures.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that mining activities must be carried out in a regulated, transparent and environ-

mentally responsible manner, with strict adherence to all statutory requirements. He directed the officers concerned to ensure that all necessary approvals and clearances, including Environmental Clearance, Change of Land Use (CLU) permission, NOCs and Consent to Operate (CTO), besides other mandatory clearances wherever applicable,

are obtained before the commencement of any mining activity.

The DC further directed the departments concerned to review surveillance teams at the Tehsil level for regular monitoring of mining activities and to maintain close vigil over vulnerable locations to prevent violations.

He also called for strict action against illegal mining and the unauthorised extraction and transportation of minor minerals, directing the officers concerned to conduct regular inspections and act against violators under the applicable rules and regulations.

Among those present were ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, ACD Din Mohammad Afagi, the Member Secretary, Geology and Mining Department, Jammu, the Executive Engineer, I&FC, the EO Municipality and other officers concerned.