

Excise Commissioner J&K launches quarterly Newsletter

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 26

The Excise Department, Jammu & Kashmir, has launched (unveiled) the inaugural issue of its Quarterly Newsletter, an initiative aimed at strengthening institutional communication, facilitating dissemination of information and systematically documenting the Department's key achievements, initiatives and operational activities.

The Newsletter was formally released by the Excise Commissioner, J&K Vaibhav Kohli, in presence of the Principal, Excise & Taxation Training Institute (ETTI), Deputy Excise Commissioner (Executive), Deputy Excise Commissioner (Distillery), Excise & Taxation Officers and other officers and officials of the Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Excise Commissioner expressed satisfaction over the launch of the Department's first-ever Quarterly Newsletter and emphasised its importance as an effective instrument



for institutional communication, knowledge sharing and organisational excellence. He observed that the publication would provide a consolidated account of the Department's performance, achievements and major initiatives undertaken during each quarter.

Earlier, Principal, Excise & Taxation Training Institute (ETTI) Priyanka Bhat

highlighted the objectives and significance of the publication and gave a comprehensive overview of its various sections and contents.

The inaugural issue, inter alia, highlights the Department's revenue performance during the first quarter of FY 2026-27, comparative trends in revenue collection, enforcement activities, awareness

initiatives undertaken under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan and various capacity-building programmes organised by ETTI. The Newsletter is also envisaged as a platform for showcasing best practices, strengthening institutional memory and promoting greater awareness of the Department's multifaceted activities.

DC Ramban reviews anti-narcotics measures at NCORD meeting

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) to review anti-narcotics measures and strengthen efforts to curb drug abuse across the district under the Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan.

The meeting was attended by SSP Arun Gupta; Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Zadur; DSWO, CEO, CHO, CAO, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, CEO MC, Drug Control Officer and officers from various enforcement and line departments. SDMs, ACD, Tehsildars and other concerned officers participated in the meeting virtually.

The Deputy Commissioner directed SDMs, Tehsildars and the Excise Department to take strict action against the illegal cultivation of poppy and cannabis in their respective jurisdictions. He called for immediate action wherever such cultivation is detected.

Reviewing the implementation of directions issued in the previous NCORD meeting, the DC directed the Drug Inspector to intensify enforcement drives in coordination with the concerned Tehsildars and Police Department against the illegal



sale and misuse of psychotropic drugs. He also called for inspection of private courier services to prevent their misuse for transportation of narcotic substances.

Reviewing the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital Ramban, the DC directed the Medical Superintendent to ensure proper functioning of OPD and IPD facilities and provide quality medical care, counselling and follow-up support for effective rehabilitation and prevention of relapse.

The Deputy Commissioner said that after the successful conduct of the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Campaign in the district, con-

certed efforts would continue to curb drug abuse and strengthen the anti-narcotics campaign.

He directed the District Social Welfare Officer, Chief Education Officer and other concerned officers to intensify awareness activities through IEC campaigns in government and private educational institutions.

He also called for sensitisation of drivers and transport operators and directed the departments to involve members of Beopar Mandals, NGOs and other community organisations in the campaign. The Excise Department was asked to prepare a comprehensive awareness plan with special focus on youth.

The DC further directed

SDMs and Tehsildars to complete the required parameters for declaring drug-free Panchayats and Blocks in the district. The Assistant Commissioner Development and Tehsildars were asked to activate Mahila Samitis and youth clubs and involve them actively in awareness and community mobilisation activities.

Speaking on the occasion, the SSP suggested several measures to make society drug-free and stressed the need for close coordination among government departments, educational institutions, community organisations, Beopar mandals, Transport operators and civil society to effectively combat the menace of drug abuse.

Director FCS&CA Jammu holds meeting with Gold, Silver Traders

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Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Jammu Rajesh Kumar Shavan today chaired a meeting to discuss measures for protecting consumers against misleading practices in the sale of gold, silver and artificial jewellery.

The meeting was attended by Joint Controller Legal Metrology, Deputy Director F&R, Deputy Director Supplies, Chief Accounts Officer Directorate of FCS&CA, various Swarnakar Associations from Jammu, Udhampur, Katra and Reasi besides Assistant Directors of Jammu Division along with their Area inspectors

During the meeting detailed discussion was held with regard to complaints regarding artificial/non-



conforming articles being sold in the market by representing them as gold or silver, particularly in areas having high pilgrim and consumer footfall. Concerns regarding purity, hallmarking, weight, billing and misleading representation of making charges were also discussed.

The Director emphasised the need for close coordination among BIS, Legal Metrology Department and the Department of Consumer Affairs to ensure fair and transpar-

ent trade practices while protecting the interests of both consumers and genuine traders.

It was decided that joint awareness programmes and stakeholder meetings would be conducted at the district level. The concerned authorities were also directed to undertake regular/random inspections and take appropriate action against persons found indulging in unfair or misleading trade practices.

The meeting also stressed upon generating

greater awareness regarding BIS hallmarking and HUID verification, proper disclosure of weight, purity and other charges and strengthening the consumer grievance redressal mechanism.

The Director reiterated that coordinated efforts of all stakeholders are essential to restore consumer confidence, promote transparency and curb unfair trade practices in the jewellery trade. It was decided that the next awareness camp shall be held at Katra.

2-day Seminar on Dogri Drama concludes with discussions on contemporary trends

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The two-day seminar on "Dogri Drama", jointly organised by the Sahitya Akademi, New Delhi and Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages Jammu, concluded today at K. L. Saigal Hall, Writers Club, Jammu.

The second day of the seminar featured two academic sessions which focused on the development of contemporary Dogri drama and the diverse thematic and creative dimensions of Dogri theatrical literature.

The third session was chaired by Sudhir Mahajan, eminent Dogri writer and playwright. Ajay Singh Aithmiya presented an overview of Dogri drama from 2021 to 2026, highlighting recent developments and emerging trends in the field.

Kuldeep Dogra spoke on Dogri drama and political satire, while Raj Rahi presented his views on Dogri drama based on traditional sources and traditions.

The fourth and concluding academic session was chaired by Dr. Gyan Singh,



noted Dogri writer and playwright.

Dr. Sushma Rani Rajput discussed Dogri drama from a historical perspective, while Jagdeep Dubey examined the role of folk literature as a basis for Dogri drama. Dr. Sunil Mangoch spoke on Solo Act Play and Poetic Drama in Dogri. Experimental theatrical forms, drawing attention to the creative possibilities and changing dimensions of Dogri theatre.

The discussions emphasised that Dogri drama has

evolved considerably over the decades, reflecting changing social realities, historical experiences, folk traditions and contemporary concerns. The participants also highlighted the need to document, preserve and promote the rich dramatic heritage of Dogri while encouraging new experimentation in theatre and playwrighting.

The two-day seminar provided a valuable platform for writers, playwrights, scholars and theatre practitioners to critically examine the his-

torical journey of Dogri drama as well as its contemporary relevance. The deliberations also underlined the important role of Dogri theatre in preserving the cultural ethos and literary traditions of the region. The seminar concluded with a Samooch Theatre presentation "Bhole Ram the Jeev" from a play originally written by Hari Shankar Parsaayi in the shape of a Short Story, adopted and directed by Dr. Sudhir Mahajan based on a solo act presented by Rajinder Kumar Naarang.

5-day Bakery Training for SHG Women concludes at Samba

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The five-day Bakery Training Programme organised under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) Scheme for members of Women Self-Help Groups associated with NRLM Samba concluded here today amid a grand valedictory function.

The training, organised by the District Social Welfare Department, aimed at equipping women with practical bakery skills and promoting entrepreneurship, self-reliance and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

District Development Commissioner Ayushi Sudan formally presented certificates to the women members of Self-Help Groups who successfully completed the five-day Bakery Training Programme, acknowledging their participation and successful acquisition of bakery skills during the training.

The programme was attended by Principal Food Craft Institute, Jammu Jyoti Bhatti; Lecturer/Resource Person, Food Craft Institute Gagan Deep; representatives from Women Self-Help Groups, NRLM, and officers of the district



administration and Social Welfare Department.

Interacting with the trained women, Ayushi Sudan appreciated their enthusiasm, participation and efforts throughout the five-day training programme. She encouraged the participants to make effective use of the skills acquired during the training and explore opportunities for establishing their own bakery units and other income-generating activities.

The DDC emphasized that skill development, entrepreneurship and collective enterprise can play a vital role in promoting women's economic independence and self-empowerment. She encouraged the SHG members to work collectively, prepare viable proposals and transform their newly acquired skills into sustainable livelihood

opportunities.

The district administration Samba assured the participating Self-Help Groups of all possible support and facilitation for establishing bakery units in the district and encouraged them to come forward with innovative and viable proposals. The initiative is aimed at strengthening women-led enterprises, generating employment opportunities and contributing to the local economy.

Jyoti Bhatti appreciated the participation of the SHG women and highlighted the importance of practical, skill-based training in enabling women to become self-reliant and economically empowered.

Gagan Deep, who imparted training during the programme, interacted with the participants and

encouraged them to continuously hone their skills while maintaining quality and hygiene standards in bakery production and entrepreneurship.

District Social Welfare Officer Samba Shahid Iqbal Mughal highlighted the Department's efforts towards implementing women-centric initiatives under the BBBP Scheme and linking skill development with livelihood generation and economic empowerment of women.

The valedictory function concluded with appreciation for the trainees, the Food Craft Institute, Jammu, NRLM, Samba and all stakeholders for their contribution towards empowering women through skill development, entrepreneurship and livelihood-oriented initiatives.

DC reviews implementation of HADP/JKCIP in Reasi

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Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting to review the cases proposed for approval under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JK-CIP) schemes and issued directions to ensure strict compliance with the prescribed guidelines.

The Deputy Commissioner directed stakeholder departments that the cases placed before the District Level Committee (DLC)

must invariably be accompanied by requisite supporting documents, including land documents, Aadhaar Card, PAN Card, bank details and other relevant documents. He further directed that a detailed Feasibility Report prepared by the concerned Field Level Officer (FLO) must include each case, clearly mentioning the name of the beneficiary and the component for which the application has been submitted.

He emphasized that the quantum of land proposed for establishment of the unit must be clearly mentioned in both the application form and the Feasibility Report. He further directed that the Daksh

Kisan Course Certificate pertaining to the concerned component, for which the application has been submitted on the HADP/JKCIP Portal, must be mandatorily attached with the application while submitting the case before the DLC for approval.

Reviewing the status of previously approved cases, the Deputy Commissioner directed that applications approved by the DLC where establishment of the unit is still pending shall be disposed of by marking them as Inactive/Non-Responsive, as per the guidelines of the scheme.

He also stressed that subsidy shall be sanctioned strictly as per the seniority

of applications on the portal, subject to fulfillment of all prescribed eligibility criteria. The Deputy Commissioner called for strict adherence to the directions to ensure transparency, proper scrutiny and timely disposal of applications under HADP/JKCIP.

During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the progress of the District Steering Committee on Pulses (DSCP) under the Mission for Aatmanirbharata in Pulses and directed the concerned officers to explore all possibilities for increasing the target under the mission and make concerted efforts for its effective implementation.