

Poonch: DLIC approves 300 Mission YUVA cases to promote youth entrepreneurship

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 06

A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held to-day under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma to review the progress and implementation of the Mission in the district.

The Committee, after detailed scrutiny and deliberations, approved 300 cases under Mission YUVA aimed at promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth.

All bank branches associated with Mission YUVA participated in the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner conducted a branch-wise review of the cases pending with each bank branch and took stock of the status of sanction and disbursement. He directed the concerned bank branches to expedite the processing and ensure sanction and disbursement of all eligible pending cases within the stipulated time-



lines. The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all concerned departments and financial institutions to maintain close coordination and ensure timely disposal of applications. He also directed JKNRLM

officials to intensify awareness and outreach activities and make concerted efforts to increase applications from Lakhpati Didis under Mission YUVA.

The meeting was attended by officers of concerned departments,

branch heads/ representatives of all participating bank branches, the Lead District Manager, Cluster head Jk Bank, Nodal officer JKNRLM and members of the District Level Implementation Committee.

2-Day Folk Festival Culminated at Sunaseri MLA Ramban, DC Ramban Grace the Occasion

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The two-day grand Folk Festival was culminated today with enthusiasm and vibrant cultural fervour at the picturesque meadow of Sunaseri (Guglidhar), Pogal Paristan, showcasing the rich folk traditions, cultural heritage and ethnic identity of the Pahari community.

The festival was organized by the locals, in collaboration with the District Administration Ramban, Directorate of Tourism Jammu and Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, with the objective of promoting indigenous culture and strengthening the potential of Sunsari as an emerging rural and eco-tourism destination.

The festival witnessed enthusiastic participation of thousands of locals and visitors, who enjoyed traditional folk music, cultural performances and local ethnic cuisine, creating a vibrant atmosphere at the scenic destination.

MLA Ramban Arjun Singh Raju and Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan graced the occasion, along with SSP Ramban



Arun Gupta, SDM Ramsoo Sayed Mazahir Husain Shah and other civil and police administration officers, and a huge gathering.

On the occasion, the MLA inaugurated newly developed tourism infrastructure and amenities at the Sunsari, executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department at an estimated cost of 2.17 crore. The facilities include eco log huts, viewpoints, benches, improved drainage and connected pathways aimed at enhancing visitor amenities while maintaining the area's natural ecology.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA appreciated the Locals, District Administration and the local community for organizing the festival and preserving the region's rich cultural traditions. He described Sunaseri as one of the most picturesque yet unexplored destinations of Ramban and expressed his commitment to making the festival an annual feature after the monsoon season to attract more visitors.

In his speech, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the organizers and participants for their overwhelming response,

stating that the festival had provided a vibrant platform to showcase the rich Pahari heritage, folk traditions, music, cuisine and cultural diversity of the region.

The two days festival featured colourful Pahari folk and cultural programmes, showcasing traditional music, dance and local art forms; rural sports competitions promoting the region's indigenous sporting traditions; and camping activities that offered visitors an opportunity to experience the natural beauty and rural charm of Sunaseri.

NITI TARA Capacity Building and Orientation Programme held at Poonch

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A One-Day NITI TARA Capacity Building and Orientation Programme was organised here at the DC Office for District and Block-level officers/officials with the objective of enhancing their understanding and effective utilization of the NITI TARA platform for data-driven planning and development monitoring.

District Development Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma stressed the need for effective use of data and technology in planning and monitoring developmental activities. He called upon the participating officers to make optimum use of the NITI TARA platform for evidence-based decision-making and ensuring better outcomes for the people.

The participants were provided detailed orientation on the purpose, features and effective usage of



the NITI TARA platform, including accessing the platform, understanding and analysing available data, tracking key indicators and identifying developmental gaps.

The participants were sensitized on the importance of utilizing NITI TARA for data-driven planning, effective monitoring of progress, identification of

priority areas and informed decision-making.

The platform was highlighted as an important tool for strengthening the implementation of developmental interventions and improving outcomes at the district and block levels.

The programme also emphasized inter-departmental convergence and coordinated efforts among

different departments for effective monitoring and timely implementation of development initiatives.

The programme concluded with a focus on strengthening data-based governance, improving monitoring mechanisms and accelerating developmental outcomes across Poonch district and its blocks.

Poonch admin discusses Mining Plans

POONCH, SEPTEMBER 6: District Development Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired a meeting in his office chamber to deliberate upon the Mining Plans and Progressive Mine Closure Plans for Minor Mineral Blocks (03 Nos.) in Poonch district. The meeting was convened in accordance with the directions of the Geology and Mining Department with the objective of ensuring proper planning, regulation

and sustainable management of minor mineral resources in the district. The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development, Executive Engineer- I&FC Department, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Corporation and District Mineral Officer. During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the proposed mining plans, progressive mine closure measures and related technical and developmental aspects.

The DDC emphasized the need for scientific and regulated mining practices, strict adherence to prescribed norms, environmental safeguards and responsible utilization of mineral resources. The DDC directed the concerned officers to ensure close coordination among all stakeholder departments and to take necessary action as per the applicable rules and guidelines so that mining activities are carried out in a transparent.

Director reviews AYUSH programmes, infrastructure, digital initiatives in Kathua

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Director AYUSH, J&K, Dr. Ajay Kumar Tickoo, today visited District Kathua to review the progress of AYUSH infrastructure, programmes and various departmental initiatives. He was accompanied by Assistant Director Dr. Rakesh Raina; Section Officer (Planning) Sandeep Sharma; NAM Account Manager Ekta Soni and Nishad Khajuria.

District Officer Dr. Rakesh Kumar briefed the visiting on the functioning and achievements of the AYUSH Department in the district.

During the visit, the Director AYUSH inspected progress of work on the 50-bedded Integrated AYUSH Hospital coming up at Mandli, Billawar. He interacted with the officers associated with the project and directed PWD Engineers to ensure timely completion of the construction work, while adhering to prescribed quality standards.

The Director also visited the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kathua, where he held a detailed discussions on the bottlenecks, infrastructure requirements and other issues concerning AYUSH services in the district. The issues were deliberated upon with the concerned authorities, with

emphasis on their timely resolution and further strengthening of AYUSH healthcare delivery.

Later, the Director chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the officers and staff of the AYUSH Department. The meeting reviewed the implementation and progress of the AYUSH programmes, functioning of departmental portals, service delivery and strengthening of field-level activities.

Special emphasis was laid on the full-scale implementation of the AHMIS (AYUSH Hospital Management Information System) portal. Dr. Ajay Kumar Tickoo directed the concerned staff to en-

sure its effective and comprehensive implementation to strengthen digital record-keeping, transparency, monitoring and delivery of AYUSH healthcare services.

The Director AYUSH appreciated the work being undertaken by the AYUSH Department in District Kathua and acknowledged the efforts of the officers and staff in implementing various programmes.

He called upon the team to maintain the momentum and work with greater commitment towards achieving the objectives of the AYUSH Mission and ensuring quality healthcare services to the public.

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District Steering Committee (DSCP) for Mission for Atma Nirbharata in Pulses met here today to review and accord approval to the district action plan for the implementation of the Mission.

District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma, who is also the chairperson of the Committee, chaired the meeting.

Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Slathia (member Secretary DSCP) presented the annual action plan before the committee for deliberation and approval. The Committee approved the plan in accordance with the Annual Production and Productivity (APY) targets assigned to the district by the UT Administration for the FY 2026-27.

The approved action plan aims to strengthen pulses cultivation, enhance productivity and extend necessary support and technical assistance to farmers across the district.

The action plan will facilitate the timely distribution of quality seeds to eligible



and identified farmers, including necessary arrangements for lifting of seed samples for testing.

It will also focus on capacity building of farmers through training programmes and organization of Farmer Field Schools, enabling farmers to adopt improved cultivation practices, modern pulses varieties and better post-harvest management techniques.

The District Development Commissioner (Chairperson DSCP) stressed regular monitoring of the progress of the Mission against key performance indicators, including cluster approach, intercropping to improvise pulses yield, seed distribution and farmer participation. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely implementation, effective field-level monitor-

ing and maximum outreach among eligible farmers, with the objective of increasing pulses production and strengthening the income and resilience of the farming community in Poonch district.

Further, Head KVK was instructed to coordinate with the Agriculture Department to monitor Cluster Front Line Demonstrations (CFLDs) for the farmers.

SKUAST-K Promotes Sustainable Livelihoods, Urban Farming around Dal Lake

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Krishni Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Srinagar, SKUAST-Kashmir, launched a first-of-its-kind outreach campaign around Dal Lake to explore sustainable livelihood and urban farming opportunities for peri-urban and Dal-dwelling farming communities.

The initiative focused on technical support, entrepreneurial skill development, awareness generation and access to quality farm inputs to enhance farm incomes and promote self-reliant livelihoods.

The outreach campaign was undertaken as part of KVK Srinagar's commitment to strengthening resilient livelihoods and empowering farming communities at the grassroots level under its mission, "No Village Too Remote, No Farmer Left Behind."

To develop and document a real-time database of farming communities and their livelihood activities, a KVK team comprising Dr. Rukhsar A. Dar, Dr.

Showket A. Dar, Dr. Haseeb and Dr. Owais Bashir, under the leadership of Prof. & Head, Dr. S. A. Simnani, conducted a comprehensive baseline transect walk across Meer Behri, Lati Mohalla, Kalan, Kralpora, Sofi Mohalla and Malik Mohalla, covering major vegetable-growing areas in and around Dal Lake.

During the interaction, Prof. Simnani sensitised farmers about the vision, mission and mandate of KVK and encouraged local youth to explore skill-development and entrepreneurship opportunities under national flagship programmes.

The technical sessions focused on Khet Bachao and sustainable agricultural practices, including natural and organic farming approaches, with emphasis on soil health, conservation of natural resources, reduced dependence on external inputs, environmentally responsible food production and the One Health approach.

Farmers were also apprised of JKCIIP,

HADP and other government-supported initiatives, including relevant registration platforms through which eligible beneficiaries can access financial and technical assistance for establishing commercial agribusiness enterprises.

The Phase-I intervention culminated in an interactive scientist-farmer session, during which experts from KVK Srinagar addressed farmers' queries and discussed locally relevant livelihood and agricultural opportunities.

Zulfikar Ali Sofi, representing the communities of Meer Behri, Lati Mohalla Kalan, Kralpora, Sofi Mohalla and Malik Mohalla, appreciated the efforts of KVK Srinagar in extending agricultural extension services and technical guidance to farming communities around Dal Lake.

As part of the practical intervention, seeds of onion, kale, coriander, spinach, carrot and bottle gourd were distributed among farmers to encourage diversified vegetable production and facilitate access to quality planting material suited to local conditions.