

Div Com Kashmir reviews implementation of National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 12

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Promotion Scheme (NAPS) across Kashmir Division.

The meeting was attended by Director, Department of Skill Development; Deputy Commissioners of Kashmir Division; Director, Airport Authority of India; and senior officers from NHPC, BEACON, KPDCL, Industries & Commerce, Excise and other concerned departments and agencies.

During the meeting, Dr. Owais Ahmad, gave a detailed presentation on the contours of the NAPS, covering eligibility criteria, benefits, registration of establishments, trades covered, registration of apprentices, training components, and the potential for engagement by Central and State PSUs, Corporations and Banks.

It was informed that NAPS aims to enhance apprenticeship engagement, support establishments, and promote skilling across 12 strategic domains com-



prising 261 designated trades, by organizing specialized vocational training into structured industrial pipelines.

Addressing the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner stated that department-wise targets have already been fixed to enhance workforce engagement under the scheme.

He urged all departments, PSUs, MSMEs and contracting agencies to register their establishments on the NAPS portal and en-

gage apprentices in the prescribed band of 2.5% to 15% of their total workforce.

He further instructed corporations and executing agencies to ensure project-wise registration on the portal. The Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to facilitate registration of apprentices from colleges and schools and to monitor progress on a daily basis.

To ensure effective coordination, the Divisional Commissioner appointed

Additional Commissioner Kashmir, Zahoor Ahmad Magray, as the Divisional Nodal Officer for NAPS to facilitate inter-departmental coordination and achievement of targets.

Emphasizing time-bound achievement, the Divisional Commissioner said there is no scope for slippage as goalposts have been clearly defined, and called upon all officers to make concerted efforts to surpass the assigned targets within the stipulated timeframe.

Director Sericulture unveils ‘SILK KASH’ Quarterly Journal 2026

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Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, today unveiled the second issue of ‘SILK KASH’, the Quarterly Journal 2026 of the Sericulture Development Department in presence of senior officers and departmental staff of the Department.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director emphasized the immense potential of sericulture as a viable and remunerative livelihood activity, particularly its cost-effectiveness and capacity to generate sustainable returns for rural households. He stressed the need for an intensive and result-oriented publicity and awareness campaign to disseminate information about the benefits and opportunities associated with silkworm rearing, making effective use of every available medium of communication and outreach.

The Director stated that

the quarterly journal has been conceived as a dedicated knowledge and outreach platform aimed at showcasing best practices, documenting the achievements and success stories of progressive silkworm rearers and creating greater awareness among stakeholders about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship initiatives being implemented by the Department.

He highlighted that programmes such as Silk Samagra-2 and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) are being proactively implemented to strengthen the sericulture sector and extend the benefits of government interventions to stakeholders at the grassroots level. He observed that an informed stakeholder community is fundamental to ensuring effective implementation of schemes and maximizing their intended impact.

Bhat further stated that

through ‘SILK KASH’, the Department seeks to bridge the information gap and ensure that silkworm rearers, farmers, silk reeling and weaving unit holders, educated youth, women and tribal communities remain adequately informed about available schemes, subsidies, training programmes, departmental facilities and technical support. Such timely access to information, he said, would enable stakeholders to make informed decisions and fully capitalize on the opportunities emerging in the sericulture sector. The Director also underscored the importance of capacity building and continuous skill enhancement as key drivers for the sustainable growth and modernization of sericulture in Jammu & Kashmir. He informed that focused efforts are being made to strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders through skill-upgradation programmes for departmental field functionaries,

exposure visits for silkworm rearers and farmers and targeted awareness camps for educated youth, women and tribal communities.

He expressed the hope that ‘SILK KASH’ would evolve into an effective communication, knowledge-sharing and knowledge-dissemination platform, providing stakeholders with practical information, technological insights and greater awareness of the opportunities available in the sector, while also giving wider visibility to the achievements and initiatives of the Sericulture Department.

The unveiling of the journal marks another step towards strengthening communication, knowledge dissemination and stakeholder engagement with the broader objective of making sericulture a more attractive, productive and sustainable livelihood avenue across Jammu & Kashmir.

Mission Shakti Budgam organizes Awareness Programme on Cyber Safety, POCSO Act

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SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Budgam, under the guidance of DSWO Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad Dar, today organized an awareness programme on Cyber Safety and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012, at Spring Buds Higher Secondary School, Ompora, Budgam.

The programme aimed to sensitize students and participants about online safety, responsible use of digital platforms, and the legal safeguards available for the protection of children.

During the programme, an awareness session on Cyber Safety was conducted by Raies Ahmad, Cyber Safety Commando, Cyber Police Station, Budgam. He sensitized the participants about various cyber threats, safe use of social media and digital platforms, protection of



personal information, on-line fraud, cyberbullying, and the importance of reporting suspicious online activities to the appropriate authorities.

The participants were also apprised of the key provisions of the POCSO Act, 2012 by Advocate Yawar Ahmad, Assistant LADS, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam. He explained the legal provisions relating to the protec-

tion of children from sexual offences and emphasized the importance of awareness, timely reporting, confidentiality, and the role of parents, teachers, and educational institutions in ensuring a safe and secure environment for children.

The speakers stressed the need for collective responsibility among educational institutions, parents, students, law-enforcement agencies, and other stake-

holders to prevent cyber offences and protect children from exploitation and abuse.

The programme was organized as part of the ongoing awareness and sensitization initiatives of SANKALP – Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Budgam, aimed at promoting the safety, dignity, rights, and empowerment of women and children.

Awareness Programme on "Know Your Water" held at Oho Paisan Shangus for Students

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An educational and awareness programme under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), titled “Know Your Water,” was organised at Oho Paisan, Shangus, for students by the Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara.

As part of the programme, students were taken on an exposure visit to the Water Treatment Plant at Oho Paisan, where they were familiarised with various stages involved in making water safe for consumption and supplying it to households.

The students were briefed about the source of raw water and the processes of treatment, filtration, disinfection, testing and distribution. The visit provided them an opportunity to understand how water travels from its natural source through treatment infrastructure before reaching a household tap.

The programme aimed to create awareness among the younger generation about the importance of safe drinking water, water conservation and the achievements made under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

Students thanked the Jal Shakti PHE Division Bijbehara for organising the exposure tour. They said the visit helped them under-



stand the process of water treatment and made them realise the importance of preserving and conserving water for future generations. The programme also provided them with an opportunity to learn about the efforts being made under the Jal Jeevan Mission to improve rural drinking-water infrastructure and provide functional household tap connections.

The students were also sensitised about the need to prevent water wastage, protect water sources and use

drinking water responsibly.

The programme highlighted that a water treatment plant is more than just infrastructure, as the journey involves source collection, treatment, filtration, disinfection, quality testing and distribution before water reaches the household tap. The initiative also sought to familiarise students with the broader social impact of improved rural water supply. Under JJM, the shift from fetching water over long distances to accessing water through

household taps has the potential to save time, improve convenience and contribute to better health, hygiene and quality of life.

The programme emphasised that the sustainability of water systems depends not only on infrastructure but also on community participation and responsible water management.

Students were encouraged to protect water sources, prevent pollution, avoid wastage, report leakages and make conservation a part of their daily lives.

District-Level Seminar on 'Nasha Mukht Vidhyalaya' organized at GDC Shopian

SHOPIAN, SEPTEMBER 12: In a major push toward creating a substance-free educational ecosystem, the Education Department conducted a District Level Seminar on the theme "Nasha Mukht Vidhyalaya" today at the Auditorium Hall of Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

The event was graced by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone as the Chief Guest, while the Principal of GDC Shopian, Tariq Ahmed attended as the Guest of Honour.

The ADDC appreciated the students for their enthusiastic participation in the Nasha Mukht programme and lauded their efforts towards creating awareness against drug abuse. He urged the students to actively channelize their energy towards positive activities play the role of responsible ambassadors in society. He emphasized that the message of a drug-free life should reach every section of society and called upon the students to become role models in this regard and inspire others to stay away from drugs.



The ADDC praised the initiative, emphasizing that schools must serve as the primary defensive line against substance abuse by fostering positive guidance, vigilant monitoring and healthy engagement. He highlighted the institution's role in guiding youth toward holistic development and academic excellence, urging students to direct their energy into constructive pursuits.

The ADDC stressed for regularly hosting educational seminars, counseling sessions and youth engagement drives across all

schools in the district.

Later, a felicitation ceremony was held during which students and participants were felicitated and mementos and awards were presented in recognition of their participation and contribution to the programme.

The event also featured colourful cultural programmes presented by the students which conveyed meaningful messages on the importance of a healthy, drug-free lifestyle and added vibrancy to the event.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness among students, teachers and the

broader community regarding the perils of drug abuse, emphasizing the banner's core message: "Healthy Students, Brighter Tomorrow" and "Choose Dreams, Not Drugs."

The event concluded with a collective pledge from the administration, faculty, and students to actively work together toward building a Nasha Mukht (drug-free) society and safeguarding the future of the youth.

Chief Education Officer, Bashir Ahmed Shah, Professors and Staff of GDC and students of various educational institutions partic-

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reach.

The Director stated that the quarterly journal has been conceived as a dedicated knowledge and outreach platform aimed at showcasing best practices, documenting the achievements and success stories of progressive silkworm rearers and creating greater awareness among stakeholders about various Centrally Sponsored Schemes and flagship initiatives being implemented by the Department.

He highlighted that programmes such as Silk Samagra-2 and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) are being proactively implemented to strengthen the sericulture sector and extend the benefits of government interventions to stakeholders at the grassroots level. He observed that an informed stakeholder community is fun-

damental to ensuring effective implementation of schemes and maximizing their intended impact.

Bhat further stated that through ‘SILK KASH’, the Department seeks to bridge the information gap and ensure that silkworm rearers, farmers, silk reeling and weaving unit holders, educated youth, women and tribal communities remain adequately informed about available schemes, subsidies, training programmes, departmental facilities and technical support.

Such timely access to information, he said, would enable stakeholders to make informed decisions and fully capitalize on the opportunities emerging in the sericulture sector.

The Director also underscored the importance of capacity building and continuous skill enhancement as key drivers for the sus-

tainable growth and modernization of sericulture in Jammu & Kashmir. He informed that focused efforts are being made to strengthen the capabilities of stakeholders through skill-upgradation programmes for departmental field functionaries, exposure visits for silkworm rearers and farmers and targeted awareness camps for educated youth, women and tribal communities.

He expressed the hope that ‘SILK KASH’ would evolve into an effective communication, knowledge-sharing and knowledge-dissemination platform, providing stakeholders with practical information, technological insights and greater awareness of the opportunities available in the sector, while also giving wider visibility to the achievements and initiatives of the Sericulture Department.