

DC Reasi inaugurates Farm Machinery Bank under HADP

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Deputy Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today inaugurated a Farm Machinery Bank established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Project-P9.

The Farm Machinery Bank has been established for the Hari Om Self Help Group of Village Chapano, Tehsil and District Reasi. It will benefit ten members of the Self Help Group by providing an opportunity to generate income through the rental of farm machinery to local farmers in the surrounding areas.

On the occasion, the DC handed over the key of the



Farm Machinery Bank to the Hari Om Self Help Group. He emphasised that the initiative will provide lo-

cal farmers access to modern farm machinery, reduce the cost and effort involved in agricultural operations

and create additional income-generating opportunities for members of the Self Help Group.

FDA intensifies Food Safety Enforcement in Srinagar, 20 Street Food Establishments inspected

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FDA, J&K, conducted focused inspection drive targeting street food vendors across Srinagar city.

During the drive, the enforcement teams inspected food businesses to assess compliance with the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, with particular emphasis on the sanitary and hygienic requirements prescribed under Schedule 4.

As part of the enforcement exercise, a special RUCO (Repurpose Used Cooking Oil) drive was conducted among street food

vendors at Nishat, Maki Point, Nehru Park, LD Hospital and Khayam. A total of 20 street food establishments were inspected, out of which eight Food Business Operators (FBOs) were compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, for violations of prescribed sanitary and hygienic requirements with a fine of Rs 8000.

During the drive, approximately 45 litres of used/re-used edible cooking oil was identified as unsuitable for further use and was lifted through the concerned authorized RUCO aggregator for appropriate disposal.

The FBOs were directed to strictly adhere to the prescribed limits for the reuse of cooking oil and ensure that used cooking oil is disposed of only through authorized aggregator.

The enforcement teams also conducted on-site awareness and sensitization of street food vendors and other FBOs regarding safe food handling, personal hygiene, maintenance of sanitary conditions, proper storage of food and responsible management of used cooking oil.

The FDA reiterated that regular enforcement, inspection and awareness activities will continue across

Srinagar and other parts of the Union Territory, with special emphasis on street food establishments, high-footfall areas and RUCO compliance.

The department has further stressed that food businesses are required to maintain the prescribed standards of hygiene and safety to ensure that food served to the public is safe, hygienic and fit for consumption.

The Department has requested Consumers to report any suspected unsafe or adulterated food product through Toll-Free Helpline No. 104 or email at cfsjandk.fnd@jk.gov.in.

SKUAST-K hosts National Seminar on "Millets for One Health"

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 22: The Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS) and Kheti Virasat Mission (KVM), organised a National Seminar on "Millets for One Health: Building Healthy Ecosystems, Climate-Resilient Agriculture & Sustainable Food Systems" at the Shalimar Convention Centre.

The seminar brought together 755 participants, including around 350 farmers and FPO members from different districts of Jammu and Kashmir, besides scientists, medical professionals, faculty, students, entrepreneurs and policymakers. The deliberations covered the role of millets in food systems, climate-resilient agriculture, food safety, ecological farming and livelihoods.

Padma Shri awardee Dr. Khader Vali, popularly known as the "Millet Man of India", was the Chief Guest. He highlighted the nutritional and ecological significance of traditional grains and stressed the need to increase awareness and consumption of millet-based



diets.

Addressing the gathering, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai highlighted the University's approach of linking research, education, extension and entrepreneurship to address emerging challenges. He also outlined SKUAST-K initiatives in One Health, natural and organic farming, herbal resources and sustainable agriculture, including efforts towards a Centre of Excellence on One Health and herbs. He called for greater use of biopesticides, bio-based technologies and Arti-

ficial Intelligence in agriculture.

Prof. M. Ashraf Ganie, Director, SKIMS and Ex-Officio Secretary to the Government, highlighted the need for closer institutional collaboration between agricultural and medical institutions in addressing food and health concerns.

Speaking on regulation and standards, Khalid Jahangir, Commissioner, Food & Drug Administration, J&K, stressed the importance of maintaining quality and safety across the food chain, from production and processing to consump-

tion.

Prof. Fazlul Qadir Parry, Dean, Medical Faculty, SKIMS and Principal, SKIMS Medical College, Bemia, emphasised the importance of creating awareness about nutritious traditional foods and healthy dietary practices among the younger generation.

From the ecological agriculture perspective, Umedra Dutt, Executive Director, Kheti Virasat Mission, highlighted soil health, biodiversity and conservation of traditional agricultural knowledge.

Dr Owais Farooq shares Journey of Resilience, Education and Inclusion at Nun Chai Talks' 8th Episode

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 23: The 8th episode of "Nun Chai Talks" was organised today by District Administration Bandipora at Mini Secretariat Bandipora, featuring an inspiring interaction with Dr Owais Farooq, who shared his personal journey, experiences in education and valuable insights on overcoming challenges, building confidence and creating opportunities for specially-abled persons.

During the interaction, Dr Owais spoke about his educational journey in Delhi and his association with the University of Delhi. He also shared his experience of working as an Assistant Professor for several years and his continued engagement with schools and colleges, where he had been working towards creating awareness and contributing to the development of students.

The session was attended by several specially-abled participants, who actively shared their experiences, challenges and aspirations. They interacted with Dr Owais Farooq on issues related to education, accessibility, mobility, assistive technologies and opportunities for personal and professional growth, while highlighting the importance of greater inclusion, support and equal opportunities for specially-abled persons in society.

Reflecting on his early years, Dr Owais recalled his



schooling at Garoora, Bandipora, and highlighted the important role played by parents in supporting children and helping them navigate challenges. He said that every big dream came with its share of difficulties and obstacles, and emphasised that mental strength helped individuals regain confidence and move forward in life.

Sharing his personal experiences, he said that after moving out of his hometown, he started using Braille and actively participated in competitions. He said that writing was his hobby and that he found solace in it, while reading remained an important tool for learning and education

continued to be a great asset throughout life.

Dr Owais also highlighted the importance of mobility improvement courses for specially-abled persons, besides stressing the crucial role of digital devices and assistive software applications in enabling specially-abled persons to learn, communicate and participate more effectively in education and society.

He emphasised the need for special educators in schools, observing that the right guidance at the right time could make a significant difference in a student's life. He encouraged the students to remain focused, not lose hope and continuously work towards

developing their abilities.

Interacting with the students, Dr Owais encouraged them to develop at least one skill that made them unique and urged them to identify their strengths and build upon them.

He also assured the students of his continued support and encouraged them to approach him whenever they needed guidance or assistance.

The session provided the participants with an opportunity to draw inspiration from Dr Owais's journey and gain insights into the importance of perseverance, education, skill development and self-confidence in achieving their aspirations.

DDC Reasi chairs District Steering Committee meeting on Green India Mission

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District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting of the District Steering Committee to review the Annual Plans of Operations under the Green India Mission for the years 2026-27 and 2027-28.

The meeting focused on the proposed interventions under the Green India Mission in Mahore Forest Division, with detailed deliberations on measures aimed at restoration, improvement and sustainable management of forest and ecological resources in the district.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed various components of the proposed Annual Plans, including eco-restoration of degraded open forests, plantation of local fodder species, soil and moisture conservation measures and livelihood and employment



opportunities for local communities.

For 2026-27, the APO envisages treatment of 260 hectares through interventions including fencing, patch sowing, plant raising and soil and moisture conservation measures. For 2027-28, the plan covers 393 hectares and includes plantation, planting of grass slips, creation and maintenance of fire lines, plant maintenance, fencing and other allied activities.

The DDC stressed the need for close coordination among all concerned departments to ensure effective implementation of the approved interventions. He called for timely execution, regular monitoring and proper documentation of the works, with emphasis on transparency and adherence to prescribed guidelines.

He underscored that the planned interventions should contribute mean-

ingfully towards improving forest cover, restoring degraded ecosystems, conserving soil and water resources and enhancing the participation and livelihood opportunities of local communities.

The meeting was attended by DFO Reasi Sunil Singh, DFO Mahore Sudarshan Singh, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Assistant Commissioner Development and other concerned officers.

RAC meeting held at Anantnag, 17 cases approved

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 23: A comprehensive meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee, Anantnag was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at

the DC Office.

The meeting was convened to review and assess cases pertaining to rented accommodations being utilized by various government departments in the district.

Addressing the meeting,

the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure that rented accommodations are hired at feasible and suitable locations, keeping in view the convenience and easy accessibility of the general public, besides avail-

ability of essential facilities and other requirements. He emphasized that all cases related to hiring of private accommodations should be processed strictly after verification of requisite documents and fulfillment of prescribed norms.

Stronger support ecosystem to promote women-led rural enterprises: Dr Rajeshwari

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 23: Director Rural Livelihoods-I, DAY-NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, Dr. Rajeshwari S.M on Tuesday said that the Mission is building a robust entrepreneurial ecosystem to enable rural women to move beyond subsistence livelihoods and emerge as confident business owners.

She was addressing the inaugural session of a three-day National Consultative Workshop on SHE-LiFE—Self-Help Entrepreneurs in Livestock and Farm Enterprises, at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

Hosted by the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) under DAY-NRLM, the workshop brings together NRLM officers, repre-

sentatives of State Rural Livelihoods Missions from 28 States, members of the National Mission Management Unit and other stakeholders. The participants will deliberate on and contribute to the formulation of guidelines for promoting women-led livestock and farm enterprises across rural India.

Highlighting the scale and achievements of DAY-NRLM, Dr. Rajeshwari S.M. said that 10.05 crore women have been mobilised into more than 94 lakh Self-Help Groups, which have been federated into over five lakh Village Organisations and more than 34,000 Cluster-Level Federations.

She said the institutional network has facilitated more than ₹13.76 lakh crore in bank credit while maintaining a non-performing asset rate of be-



low two percent. In addition, over ₹66,000 crore has been extended as capitalisation support.

Rajeshwari S.M. further said that 5.2 crore Mahila Kisans and more than 87 lakh women-led enterprises are already part of the rural liveli-

hoods ecosystem. Under DAY-NRLM's Vision 2031, the Mission aims to transform rural households into enterprising drivers of prosperity through six key pillars—finance, skilling, mentorship, market access, technology and business support.

Dr Rajeshwari said DAY-NRLM must serve as an effective bridge connecting rural women with institutional finance, markets, technology and government support so that they can establish sustainable and competitive enterprises.

The workshop was inaugurated by Rajeshwari S.M. in the presence of Raman Wadhwa, Deputy Director, NRLM, Ministry of Rural Development; Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director, JKRLM; Syed Sajad Qadri, Director, JKRLM; Syed Naseer, Additional Mission Director, JKRLM Kashmir; Mission Directors and representatives of State Rural Livelihoods Missions from Mizoram, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh; besides other senior officers

and stakeholders.

Speaking on the occasion, Raman Wadhwa presented the proposed framework of SHE-LiFE, an initiative envisioned for implementation from 2026 to 2031. He said it seeks to enable rural women to progress from participation in livelihood activities to ownership of formal, market-linked and climate-resilient enterprises in livestock and dairy, agriculture and allied activities, and fisheries and aquaculture.

He said the initiative would draw strength from DAY-NRLM's extensive grassroots network, comprising 10.05 crore women associated with SHGs, five crore Mahila Kisans, more than two lakh producer groups and 50 lakh women organised into different collectives.