

# Working of Rural Development Department Kishtwar reviewed



■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Rajesh Kumar Shavan chaired a meeting and conducted a comprehensive review of the Rural Development Department (RDD), focusing on the implementation of MGNREGA and PMAY schemes.

At the outset, ACD provided detailed insights into the status of works under MGNREGA and PMAY. The DC directed the department to map the cardholders with the E-Shram portal and weed out passive job cards. The BDOs were asked to publish notices in all Panchayats, urging eligible

individuals to avail themselves of employment under MGNREGA and ensure that there was no delay in wage payments. Reviewing PMAY implementation, the DC asked the BDOs to identify defaulters and share the lists with Tehsildars for further action. He set March 31, 2025 as dead-

line for completion of all the PMAY houses sanctioned to date, while emphasizing on accuracy of ongoing AwasPlus survey. He also directed BDOs to prioritize water conservation, soil conservation, and beneficiary-oriented projects under MGNREGA adding that women's empowerment should be a

key aspect while framing development plans. The meeting was attended by ACD Kishtwar Phulail Singh, Tehsildars, AD Planning, all BDOs, Panchayat Secretaries, Technical Assistants, MIS Operators, GRSSs, Incharge Executive Engineer (REW Kishtwar) besides other staff of RDD.

## SWD organises camp for distribution of essential aids

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
POONCH: The Social Welfare Department today organised a Camp at Dak Bunglow Mandi for the welfare of specially abled persons of the area. Member Legislative Assembly Haveli Aijaz Ahmed Jan presided over the camp, engaged with attendees and offered words of encouragement. He committed a significant allocation of ₹10 lakh from his CDF to the Social Welfare Department to enhance support for specially able persons in Mandi.

The camp featured the distribution of essential artificial appliances, including wheelchairs, tricycles, hearing aids, artificial limbs, knee bends etc. ensuring that eligible beneficiaries received critical assistance. Beneficiaries expressed their heartfelt gratitude towards the Social Welfare Department for organizing the impactful program and thanked MLA Aijaz Ahmed Jan for his generous announcement, which promises to further empower the specially abled persons.

## District Level Cooperative Development Committee Meeting held in Samba

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
SAMBHA: The 6th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting was held today at the District Administrative Complex, Nandhani Hills, Samba.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Thakur. The meeting was convened by Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies (DRCS) and attended by Chief Agricultural Officer (CAO), Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO), Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO), Chief Sheep Husbandry Officer (CSHO) and Chief Fisheries Officer (CFO) and other district officers.

The meeting discussed the calendar of activities for International Year of Cooperatives. A series of activities and awareness programs were planned across the district, including awareness camps on Multipurpose PACS (M-PACS) formation, inaugurations of Jan Aushadi Kendras and Food Processing Units at multiple locations, cooperative Week Celebrations and mega awareness camps for farmers and strengthening Cooperative Infrastructure.

The Committee reviewed progress on key cooperative development targets. It was informed that one PACS has been registered, while two more are in the pipeline,

while efforts are underway for registering eight dairy and one fishery cooperative, with multiple applications under process. Updates were provided on the establishment of food processing units under new guidelines, with specific focus on value addition and market linkage for cooperative societies. The meeting was informed that Bagoona MPCs and Khara Madana MPCs have received loan and subsidy approvals under the food processing scheme and their bakery units will be operational soon.

Further, it was informed that under World's Largest Grain Storage Project, a flagship initiative, the land identification process has been completed with 8 Kanal land each transferred in Village Malani Rajpura and Rakhi Barotian in Vijaypur, while 5 Kanal land has been identified in Ramgarh with revenue extracts submitted for approval.

ADDC Champa Thakur stressed on timely execution of food processing and storage infrastructure projects to enhance farmer incomes and cooperative sustainability.

The meeting concluded with a resolution to expedite all cooperative development initiatives and ensure seamless coordination among departments for the effective implementation of cooperative schemes.

## Investiture ceremony held at GCW Kathua

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**  
KATHUA: Govt. Degree College for Women, Kathua, organized an Investiture Ceremony to formally induct the newly elected executive body of the college. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the elected representatives.

Tanya Rajput was appointed as President, Laxmi Devi as Vice-President, Palak Sharma as General Secretary, Hittu as Treasurer, Abbha as Literary Secretary, Dallu Mangotra as Cultural Secretary, and Manisha Kumari as Sports Secretary. They were honored with badges by the esteemed Principal of the college, Dr. Savi Behl.

Dr. Behl encouraged the student representatives to work diligently for the smooth functioning of the institution, emphasizing the importance of both academics and extracurricular activities. She urged them to adopt a responsible and positive approach for the betterment of the college.

The ceremony was organized under the guidance of Dr. Rachna Devi, DSW, with the presence of senior faculty members Dr. Seema Jolly, Dr. Inderjeet Kour, and Dr. Babita Mahajan. Members of the Student Welfare Committee, including Dr. Amita Dua, Dr. Renu, Dr. Sonika Jasrotia, Dr. Mukesh Kumari, Dr. Surekha, and Dr. Satish Khajuria, also attended the function.

Dr. Savi Behl appreciated the efforts of the DSW team in organizing the event and suggested conducting various awareness programs for students' welfare in the future. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Surekha Rani, while the formal vote of thanks was delivered by Dr. Rachna Devi, who encouraged the student council members to be role models and fulfill their responsibilities with sincerity as the future nation-builders.

## Handicrafts Department organises Bamboo Workshop at Village Kanjli

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

REASI: A Bamboo Workshop under the National Bamboo Mission was held today at Village Kanjli District Reasi by the Handicrafts Department. The event was inaugurated and chaired by Joint Director Handicrafts Jammu Manta Devi.

The workshop witnessed the participation of registered artisans, who demonstrated their skills and showcased innovative Bamboo craft techniques. Assistant Director Ujwal Sambyal, provided insights into various artisan societies and Self-Help Groups operating in the region.

In her address, Joint Director Mamta Devi encouraged artisans to continue their craft while incorporating innovation and modern

design elements to enhance their market reach. She also interacted with the artisans and took an overview of various stalls installed by the Handicrafts Department, Reasi.

The workshop served as a platform for artisans to share ideas, enhance their craftsmanship, and explore new opportunities in the bamboo industry. The initiative aligns with the government's mission to promote sustainable livelihoods through eco-friendly crafts and strengthen the bamboo sector in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Handicrafts and Handloom Department reaffirmed its commitment to empowering local artisans and ensuring the growth of traditional crafts in the region.

## Samba admin approves 704 cases across different HADP programmes

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SAMBHA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Samba Rajesh Sharma today reviewed the implementation and progress achieved under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) here at a meeting held in the District Administrative Complex.

At the outset, Chief Agriculture Officer S. Madan Gopal Singh presented a detailed overview of the progress made under the programme, including initiatives such as the promotion of vegetables/exotic vegetables through open and hi-tech protected cultivation, beekeeping, rainfed area development, and encouraging the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants. Key projects like millets, mushroom production, commercial floriculture, and oilseed promotion were also

highlighted, emphasizing income diversification for farmers.

The meeting also reviewed and finalized the list of feasible beneficiaries who applied online through the HADP portal. A total of 704 cases were approved across different programmes, spanning agriculture and allied sectors.

The District Development Commissioner underlined the importance of scaling up allied sector schemes, including Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture, Horticulture Planning and Marketing, and Sericulture. He emphasized extending the schemes' benefits to more stakeholders to maximize their impact across the district.

While addressing the participants, the DDC called for collaborative efforts among all stakeholders to foster sustain-

able agriculture and rural development in Samba district. He further urged banks to prioritize loan cases and ensure effective support to beneficiaries.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Samba chaired the technical discussions, ensuring a detailed review of operational strategies under HADP.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Samba, Assistant Commissioner Development Commissioner (ADDC) Samba, General Manager DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer Samba, Chief Horticulture Officer Samba, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Samba, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Samba, Assistant Director Fisheries Samba, District Officer HPM, Deputy Registrar Co-Societies Samba, District Head KVK Samba, and other committee members.

## Weekly Block Diwas organized across Doda District to address Public Grievances



Engineer (AEE) PHE, AEE PMGSY Bhaderwah and other concerned officers were present. The officers attentively listened to public concerns related to road connectivity, drinking water supply, power supply, and other essential services. Several

developmental issues were discussed and the concerned departments were directed to take immediate action to resolve the grievances at the earliest.

The ADC Bhaderwah emphasized the administration's commitment to delivering prompt services

to the people and ensuring equitable development in rural areas. He instructed the officials to expedite ongoing developmental works and address pending issues efficiently. The public appreciated the initiative and expressed satisfaction with the admin-

istration's proactive approach. The Weekly Block Diwas continues to serve as an essential forum for public participation in governance, fostering transparency and accountability in administration.

Simultaneously, the Block Diwas events were held at Panchayat Sinoo in Sub-Division Gandoh, Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Bhella in Sub-Division Thathri and BDO Office Assar in Sub-Division Assar, where respective Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) listened to public grievances and provided on-the-spot resolutions where possible.

## 'Doda admin to explore means for protection of heritage sites at Mohalla'

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

DODA: Deputy Commissioner Doda Harvinder Singh visited the Pandavas Heritage Rock Art Site at Shiva Dal and the Ek Mukhi Shiv Mandir in Mohalla to assess the preservation requirements of the historical sites.

The President of the Ek Mukhi Shiv Mandir Samiti Seva Ram Parihar accompanied the DC during the visit. He briefed the DC on the temple's religious importance and the heritage site's deep cultural roots. DC Doda emphasized the need for conservation initiatives and assured that necessary steps would be taken under the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) schemes and heritage conservation funds to protect these

sacred landmarks.

Later, the DC also inspected the progress of work on the five new rooms at Govt. Higher Secondary School (HSS) Mohalla being constructed under the Samagra Shiksha program. He interacted with local residents, who raised concerns about the shrinking playground area due to the new construction. Addressing their concerns, he assured them that feasible solutions would be explored to balance infrastructure development with the needs of students and the community.

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed the proposed site for the new Tehsil office complex in Mohalla, which is planned on two kanal land donated by a local resident. He inspected the

ongoing site development and directed officials to ensure timely completion while maintaining quality standards.

DC Doda reiterated the administration's commitment to heritage conservation and infrastructural development, aiming to enhance public facilities while preserving the cultural identity of the region. He also assured that the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums, J&K Government, would be approached to allocate archaeological conservation funds for the restoration and preservation of the Pandavas Heritage Site and Ek Mukhi Shiv Mandir, ensuring that these invaluable cultural landmarks receive the necessary support for their upkeep and protection.

## Breeders sensitized about scientific sheep husbandry practices

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

JAMMU: Department of Sheep husbandry Udhampur organised awareness camp for sheep and goat farmers/FPO members and SHGs under wool and pelt project of Holistic Agriculture Department Programme (HADP) at Panchayat Chiani, Block Majalta.

More than 100 progressive sheep farmers, Farmers Producer organization members and ex-PRIs members participated. The participants were educated regarding scientific sheep husbandry practices and different income generating schemes particularly HADP and Integrated Sheep Development Scheme through lectures, banners, posters and distribution of pamphlets containing resource material.

District Sheep Husbandry Officer Dr. Farhat Bashir, while interacting with farmers, laid emphasis on rearing of improved quality Sheep and Goats and availing of the benefits of HADP scheme, particularly establishment of commercial farms, use of artificial insemination in sheep and goats and establishment of farmers producer organization for wool collection, grading, transportation and marketing.

Veterinary Assistant Surgeon Majalta Dr. Pankaj Sharma, while interacting with the farmers, registered all the participants on Daksh Kissan and JK Samadhan portal.

The participants landed the role of Department in organising such a programme and demanded that more camps shall be organized in the area for welfare of the sheep farming community.

The participants were distributed resource material and free seed kits under the Fodder project of HADP.

Among others Ex-Sarpanch Chiani Panchayat, Block Majalta participated in the camp.

## Agri entrepreneur develops strawberry farm under UT Capex Scheme

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai inspected a strawberry farm developed by a youth Vinod Kumar over a 9-kanal area at village Thalora by availing benefits of UT Capex scheme and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

The DC was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Brj Vallabh Gupta.

The Agri venture has been supported with an incentive of Rs. 1.17 lakh by the Department of Horticulture.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed other essential components of the project,

including a borewell, an under-construction packing house and farm machinery procured under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme.

Commending the efforts of the young farmer, the DC remarked that this initiative would serve as an inspiration for other farmers in the region. She

## 07 persons booked for assaulting Forest Staff in Kangan

■ **STATE TIMES NEWS**

SRINAGAR: The Forest Department has filed a First Information Report (FIR) against seven residents of Mamer Kangan, Ganderbal for assaulting forest officials during a plantation project.

According to the Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Sindh Forest Division, "The incident occurred in compartment 69 of the Sindh Range, where the forest team was carrying out plantation work on an 08-hectare forest

land."

This project, funded by the Compensatory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), was approved by the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change in 2022 as compensation for forest land diverted for the Thune to Badipathri road.

Work commenced in early February, but was disrupted by the accused, who allegedly instigated villagers to

attack the forest team with stones and sticks.

The accused have been booked under sections 115(2) and 132 of the Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita, pertaining to provoking individuals to causing harm and assaulting government employees performing their duties.

DFO Sindh Forest Division emphasized the importance of the project for environmental balance and appealed to local residents for cooperation and constructive dialogue to ensure its peaceful completion.