

LFO-BHF celebrates International Women's Day with enthusiasm

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JAMMU: Live For Others - Being Helpful Foundation (LFO-BHF), in collaboration with Talla Jewellers & Govt. College Of Education, Jammu, celebrated International Women's Day at the Government College of Education, Canal Road, Jammu under the guidance of Vivek Parihar (Director & CEO) of LFO-BHF NGO.

The event featured a symposium competition on the theme "Unleashing Potential: Women's Leadership and Participation in Decision-Making," where more than 60 students participated.

It was followed by a certificate distribution ceremony for the "Save River Tawi Campaign", recognizing efforts of NSS volunteers in



NGO members and others during the event.

environmental conservation. The program was honoured by Chief Guests Dr. Hema Gandotra, NSS Coordinator, University of Jammu, and Dr. Amitpal Kour, NSS Coordinator, Cluster University of Jammu, also Dr. Jyoti

Parihar, Principal of GCOE, serving as the special guest. Other dignitaries in attendance included Prof. Sarita Dogra, Dr. Atiya Syed, Prof. Anuradha Kalsi, Prof. Lukesha Dubgotra, and Dr. Deep Shikha Sharma NSS Programme Officers of vari-

ous colleges. Special thanks were extended to Dr. Shubhra Janwal for her continuous support.

The symposium competition awarded first prize to Taranpreet Kour (SPMR College), 2nd prize to Aseersabiyot Kour (GCW

Parade), and 3rd prize to Aayushvi (GOOE).

During the event, Dr. Hema Gandotra emphasized the importance of women's leadership in decision-making, while Dr. Amitpal Kour stressed that greater participation of women is vital for an inclusive future.

Ritik (Domain Incharge & Secretary Jammu Province) said, "Through this initiative, LFO-BHF reaffirmed its commitment to empowering women and fostering youth leadership to make a lasting impact on society."

Active participation from LFO-BHF members including Sahil Kumar, Kashish Katoch, Kashish, Kangan, Kaashvi, Manvi, Radhika, Navya, and Stuti Abrol and many more.

DC reviews progress under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

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KISHTWAR: A review meeting to assess the progress of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana was chaired on Tuesday here by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

At the outset, engineers from the Jammu Power Development Corporation Limited (JPDC) informed that over 8,000 consumers have registered for the scheme, with 2,550 applications already received. Additionally, it was reported that 180 applicants have successfully availed bank loans to install solar setup for electricity.

Expressing concern over the slow installation and insufficient manpower deployed by the Vendors, the Deputy Commissioner directed the JPDC authorities to



DC Rajesh Kumar Shavan chairing a meeting.

organize seven-day training program at ITI to train the students for the task.

"The initiative aims to engage the youth, providing them with skills that will make them self-reliant and earn a livelihood, while also contributing to the success of the scheme," he added.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer

(CPO) Kishtwar; Shahnawaz Bali, Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) of the Power Development Department (PDD), Electric Division JPDC Kishtwar, along with registered empanelled vendors, including M/s Mallik Solar; AD Agency, M/s Nehru Solar Solutions, M/s Sanjeet Sharma, M/s Adil Butt and M/s Aditya.

SWD Reasi organises capacity building programme under NMBA



DSWO Sachin Sharma addressing the AWWs and ASHAs.

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REASI: Social Welfare Department (SWD) Reasi organised a capacity building programme under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) at conference hall, Mini Secretariat, here on Tuesday aiming to educate Anganwadi Workers and ASHA Workers about harmful effects of substance abuse and to disseminate informa-

tion to promote healthy lifestyle among the community members.

The programme was organised under the supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Reasi, Sachin Sharma.

The field functionaries were motivated to adopt healthy lifestyle and stay away from drug abuse. They were also encouraged to engage com-

munity towards healthy nutrition and in sports activities.

Resource persons from the Social Welfare Department highlighted the importance of prevention and early intervention, stressing the need for masses to be aware of the risks associated with substance abuse.

Participants were elaborated on the role of Anganwadi

Centres, educational Institutions, families, peer groups and communities in combating addiction and supporting individuals who may be struggling with it.

DSWO Sachin Sharma addressed the AWWs and ASHAs and shared valuable insights on the dangerous of substances abuse.

The posters were distributed among participants and instructed to plaster pamphlets of NMBA were pasted in and around Anganwadi Centres and Sub centres. The pledge on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan was also taken. The event was part of the ongoing efforts by the Social Welfare Department to create a drug free society and to educate the younger generation about the benefits of living free from drug addiction.

GDC Akhnoor organises lecture on 'Gender Equality' on International Women's Day

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AKHNOOR: As part of the International Women's Day celebrations, Government Degree College (GDC) Akhnoor, under the aegis of the Women's Studies Centre, organized a special lecture on Gender Equality. The event aimed to encourage discussions on creating a fair world where everyone has equal rights and opportunities, regardless of gender.

Dr. Anju Bala, Convener of the Women's Studies Centre, welcomed the guests. In her address, she stressed the importance of valuing the aspirations, needs, and desires of both women and men equally. She also pointed out the importance of learning more about women's issues at both national and global per-



Faculty members along with students during the event.

spectives. Dr. Aishwarya Wazir, Medical Officer, Akhnoor, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In her address, Dr. Wazir explored key issues such as workplace equity, healthcare disparities, and societal norms that impact gender dynamics.

She remarked, "We have

made significant progress, but true equality remains a challenge in many sectors." Her insightful discussion provided an opportunity to celebrate women's achievements, address ongoing challenges, and inspire action toward a more just and equitable society.

Prof. (Dr.) Romilla Malla

Bhat, Principal of the College, commended the Women's Studies Centre for successfully organizing a series of activities on the occasion of International Women's Day 2025. She emphasized. She shared valuable insights on women's roles in leadership, education, and community development.

The event was attended by faculty and a large number of students, with Dr. Gopal Singh, Assistant Professor in Dogri, presented the vote of thanks. The proceedings were conducted by Komal Sharma.

The International Women's Day celebration concluded with a thought-provoking discussion that inspired change and reaffirmed a shared commitment to gender equality and inclusivity.

DC Samba reviews implementation of HADP

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SAMBA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajesh Sharma on Tuesday chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district. The meeting was held in the conference hall of the DC office complex.

At the beginning, Chief Agriculture Officer S Madan Gopal Singh, presented a detailed update on the progress across various sectors, highlighting key initiatives such as the promotion of vegetables and exotic vegetables under open and hi-tech protected cultivation, beekeeping, and the development of rainfed areas. He also emphasized efforts to encourage the cultivation of medicinal and aromatic plants, alongside promoting millets, mushrooms, com-



mercial floriculture, and oilseed production to diversify farmers' income sources.

The DDC reviewed the list of eligible beneficiaries under HADP from the Agriculture and Allied Departments who had applied through the HADP portal. A total of 676 beneficiaries have been approved under various programmes aimed at strengthening the agricultural sector.

The DDC urged all stakeholders to work collaboratively towards fostering sustainable agriculture and rural

development in Samba. He also directed banks to prioritize loan cases under HADP, ensuring proper support and guidance to the beneficiaries.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Smt. Champa Devi, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, and General Manager DIC, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, and other concerned officers.

Seminar on procurement, marketing support scheme for artisans held

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UDHAMPUR: To raise awareness among artisans about government schemes aimed at supporting micro-enterprises, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises Development and Facilitation Office, Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Udhampur and Directorate of Handicraft & Handloom Jammu organised a One-day seminar-cum-awareness programme on procurement and marketing support scheme here in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex on Tuesday.

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai was the chief guest at the Seminar attended by GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Director; Handloom & Handicrafts, Ujwal Singh;



Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai during a programme at Udhampur.

Assistant Director IEDS Rajesh Kumar; A.D IEDS Devender Kumar Tyagi and FM DIC Radhika.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner emphasized the government's commitment to uplifting the artisan and farming communities through various flagship schemes such as PM Vishwakarma, PMEGP, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, JK Samadhan, and MSME initiatives. She encouraged artisans and

farmers to actively participate in these schemes and avail themselves of their benefits for economic empowerment.

She also commended the Handloom & Handicrafts Department and MSME - DFO office for organizing the seminar and creating awareness about opportunities available to the artisan community. She assured full support from the District Administration in facilitating access to these schemes and

urged artisans to register with the concerned department to maximize their benefits.

At the onset, Assistant Director, Handloom & Handicrafts, Ujwal Singh welcomed the chief guest and Dignitaries.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting various schemes available for artisans and micro-entrepreneurs by MSME-DFO team including ADS Rajesh Kumar and Devendra Tyagi.

He expressed gratitude to the participants for their enthusiastic involvement and reiterated that the primary objective of the seminar was to inform and empower artisans through government welfare programs.

Meanwhile experts from various departments MSME, DIC, Handicrafts, Gem, NSIC provided valuable insights into modern techniques, marketing strategies, and business growth opportunities.

DC Ramban reviews performance of banks



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RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary on Tuesday chaired a District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to assess the performance of banks and implementation of credit linked government schemes.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal; GM DIC Ravinder Kumar; RBI representative Anil Kumar; LDM Khurshid Ahmed Malik; Director RSETI, CAO, CHO,

CAHO, DSHO, DDM NABARD, BDOs, Bankers, and other senior officers.

During the review, it was informed that the Credit Deposit (CD) ratio in the district has increased by 3%, reaching 68.76% as of December 31, 2024, compared to the previous year (March 2024). An expenditure of ₹283.93 crore was recorded in the priority sector; achieving 51% of the ₹551.38 crore Annual Credit Plan (ACP) target, while the non-priority sector performance stood at ₹345.27 crore.

The DC directed Bankers to prioritize financial inclusion of women by effectively implementing female-oriented schemes and ensuring hand-holding support to help them in achieving financial self-reliance. He also emphasized effective implementation of youth-centric employment schemes. She called upon stakeholder departments to put in extra efforts for effective implementation of employment generation schemes, while instructing banks to pro-

vide a detailed scheme-wise report. He called for swift action on loan cases under MUMKIN, TEJASWANI, PMEGP, PM VISHWAKARMA and KCC schemes to benefit local youth, along with reviewing the implementation of Prime Minister's Social Security Schemes (PMMY, PMSBY, PMJJBY, and APY) in the district.

To enhance transparency and efficiency, the DC directed the GM DIC and concerned officers to verify and submit a report on the status of sponsored, sanctioned, and disbursed cases under priority and social sector schemes. He also instructed them to identify and address reasons for the rejection of loan cases by various banks.

Taking serious note of misplaced sponsored loan cases, the DC directed the Cluster Head of J&K Bank to conduct verification and submit a report within the prescribed time frame.

The DC also released the Annual Credit Plan for 2025-26 formulated for the district.

Workshop on 'One Nation, One Election' held

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DODA: A workshop was organized in District Doda and District Kishtwar to raise awareness and gather support for the 'One Nation, One Election' initiative.

Former Deputy Mayor of Jammu, Baldev Singh Billawaria, who is actively leading the campaign, was present as the main speaker at the event.

The workshop aimed to educate and connect people with the campaign while emphasizing the importance of synchronized elections in India.

Several distinguished personalities attended the event. From District Doda, District Council Chairman Dhanantar Singh Kotwal, Vice-Chairman Sangeeta Bhagat, and council members Babu Ram and Gajey Singh Rana were present. From District Kishtwar, District Council members, Kishtwar Municipal Council members Chuni Lal Shan and Suresh Kumar Sharma participated in the discussions.

During his address, Baldev Singh Billawaria elaborated on the objectives and benefits of the 'One Nation, One Election' concept. He emphasized that frequent elections disrupt governance, increase finan-

cial burden, and lead to the misuse of resources. He explained that holding simultaneous elections across all levels would not only streamline governance but also contribute to economic progress and stability.

Billawaria further stated that conducting elections in a phased manner incurs massive costs, which could otherwise be redirected towards the development of infrastructure, healthcare, and education. He highlighted that synchronizing elections would also reduce voter fatigue and encourage greater participation by making the electoral process more predictable and manageable.

Expressing their support, Doda District Council Chairman Dhanantar Singh Kotwal and his members endorsed the campaign, affirming that 'One Nation, One Election' is in the best interest of the country. All prominent attendees at the workshop unanimously passed a resolution supporting the initiative.

The event concluded on a patriotic note with the national anthem, marking a collective commitment towards strengthening democracy and governance through electoral reforms.

DC reviews social welfare initiatives in Poonch

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POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal on Tuesday reviewed the functioning of the Social Welfare Department here at meeting, focusing on the execution of key schemes aimed at enhancing community welfare.

At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer Wakeel Ahmed Bhat presented a comprehensive overview of the Government's welfare initiatives including National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), Integrated Social Security

Scheme (ISSS), Sukanya Samridhi, Scholarship Scheme, Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS) etc.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed the overall status of social welfare schemes, taking stock of the number of beneficiaries. He urged the Social Welfare Department to promote these schemes actively to ensure that all eligible individuals can benefit.

He sought special focus on protection of Child rights and close check on child abuse. Calling for holding awareness camps

regarding women-centric schemes and the One Stop Centre, he emphasized the need to share helpline numbers with the public for better outreach.

The DC called for a thorough evaluation of the total number of pensioners receiving Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, and Disability allowances.

The meeting was attended by District Social Welfare Officer, Chairperson CWC, TSWO, Administrator one Stop Centre, District Coordinator DHEW, District Coordinator besides other concerned.

SANKALP HEW provides school bags, stationery to girl students

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KISHTWAR: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan,

SANKALP: Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) on Tuesday provided school bags and stationery items to girl students, here at Government Primary School Phagumarh, reinforcing its commitment to supporting education and women empowerment.

Under the guidance of District Social Welfare

Officer Zubair Ahmad Lone, the initiative aimed to encourage young girls to pursue their studies without financial hurdles.

Addressing the gathering, representatives from SANKALP HEW highlighted the importance of education in empowering women and breaking socio-economic barriers. The school staff and local community members expressed gratitude for the support, acknowledging the positive impact of such efforts on the stu-

dents' academic journey. The team members of SANKALP commended the initiative and emphasized the role of education in shaping a brighter future for young girls. They encouraged students to focus on their studies and take advantage of the available opportunities.

The event concluded with interactive sessions where students shared their aspirations and the organizers assured continued support for their educational growth.

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