

Digital push to Agriculture: DC Pankaj gives away CSC IT material to 55 Krishi Udhayamis

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KISHTWAR: Agriculture Department Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Common Service Centre (CSC), Friday organized a comprehensive training programme for Krishi Udhayamis associated with Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs).

The participants were also provided - CSC IT material at the event held in the Conference Hall, DC Complex. Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma attended as the Chief Guest.

The programme was organized with the primary objective of strengthening the operational capacity, digital outreach and service delivery mechanism of Kisan Khidmat Ghars in the district. The training programme was conducted under the supervision of Chief Agriculture Officer Kushal Chandel and District Manager CSC Suman Kapoor.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of Krishi Udhayamis, who are instrumental in providing modern agricultural services



at the grassroots level.

During the programme, CSC IT materials were distributed among 55 Krishi Udhayamis to equip them with the necessary infrastructure for delivering digital and advisory services efficiently. The initiative is expected to significantly enhance the functioning of KKGs and enable them to serve as effective hubs for farmer-

centric services.

The training sessions covered a wide range of relevant and emerging topics aimed at empowering the participants with digital tools and knowledge. These included introduction to AI-based solutions for youth empowerment and service delivery, enabling Krishi Udhayamis to adopt innovative approaches in

agriculture and allied sectors and awareness regarding legal assistance services available through digital platforms, facilitating easy access to legal aid for rural communities. Further, the sessions included detailed orientation on Government-to-Citizen, Government-to-Business and Business-to-Citizen services being delivered

through CSCs, enhancing service accessibility at the village level and use of tele-consultation services for obtaining expert agricultural advice from Krishi Vigyan Kendras, thereby improving decision-making and productivity among farmers. The programme emphasized the importance of leveraging digital platforms and modern technologies to improve transparency, efficiency and accessibility of services in the agriculture sector. The Krishi Udhayamis were encouraged to actively utilize the provided tools and knowledge to benefit the farming community.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the urgency of strengthening Kisan Khidmat Ghars. "It is a key step towards ensuring last-mile delivery of services and empowering farmers through timely information, advisory support and access to government schemes," he added. The event was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; DIO NIC Faizal Khan; Incharge KVK, besides other officers and concerned staff.

Census 2027: Udhampur admin hosts 3-day training for designated staff



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UDHAMPUR: District administration Udhampur has organized a three-day district-level training programme for District/Sub Divisional/charge level officers in preparation for the upcoming Census of India 2027.

The training is being conducted under the chairmanship of Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner), Minga Sherpa.

The inaugural programme was attended by District Census Officer (ADC) Prem Singh; Additional District Census Officer (DSEO) Darshan Kumar; Sub Divisional

Census Officers (SDMs), Charge Census Officers (Tehsildars and CEO/EO MCs) and other officials.

Addressing the participants, the DC highlighted the significance of the census exercise and emphasized the need for effective coordination among Charge Level Officers and census field functionaries to ensure its smooth and successful conduct. He urged all officers and field staff to perform their duties with sincerity, dedication and a strong sense of responsibility. He further stressed that trainers should focus on providing practical, hands-on training to

enhance participants' understanding of field-level operations.

Earlier, the Additional District Census Officer (DSEO) delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation. He highlighted that the upcoming census will witness a significant shift towards digital operations aimed at improving efficiency and transparency. It was also informed that the Census 2027 exercise shall be conducted in two phases.

The officers from Directorate of Census Operations, J&K headed by Deputy Director Manmeet Loomba are imparting training to the participants.

DC Sherpa discusses formulation of NMBA Action Plan in Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa Friday chaired a meeting of officers from line departments to discuss the formulation of the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) Action Plan for the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, along with other senior officers.

The DC reviewed the status of activities being undertaken by stakeholder departments under the Abhiyan. He directed all concerned officers to formulate Panchayat- and habitation-wise action plan for an intensive three-month campaign under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

Emphasizing the importance of grassroots level outreach, the DC instructed departments to activate the field staff and conduct widespread awareness programmes to sensitize the public about the harmful effects of drug abuse in their respective jurisdictions.

He stressed organizing such programmes with active participation of local communities and ensuring dissemination of information about various government welfare schemes.

DYSSO was also directed to organize mega sports events focusing on anti-drug awareness, with the objective of positively engaging youth across the district.

Awareness programme held for Senior Citizens at Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH: The Social Welfare Department on Friday organized an Awareness-cum-Interaction Programme for senior citizens at Bhaderwah. The initiative aimed to strengthen outreach and enhance awareness among elderly citizens regarding various welfare schemes and services meant for their well-being.

The programme witnessed active participation, providing a meaningful platform for interaction and engagement with the senior citizens from across the region.

At the outset, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO) Shah Nawaz Ahmad warmly welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of such programmes.

During the interaction, emphasis was laid on the invaluable role of senior citizens in nation-building, recognizing their experience and wisdom as guiding forces for society. The speakers stressed the need to ensure dignity, respect and social inclusion of the elderly. The programme also served as an interactive forum where participants shared their concerns, feedback and suggestions for improving service delivery and accessibility.

The programme concluded on a compassionate note with the distribution of shawls and hot water bottles among the senior citizens as a token of care and gratitude for their lifelong contributions.

GDC Billawar hosts awareness event on Health- Hygiene, hazards of drug abuse

KATHUA: In connection with the celebration of Vande Mataram @150, the NCORD Committee of Government Degree College Billawar today organised an awareness program on hazards of Drug Abuse and importance of Health & Hygiene here in collaboration with the Health Department.

The event was held under the patronage of the College Principal Dr. Alka Sharma and conducted under the aegis of the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC).

The program witnessed active participation from faculty members, non-teaching staff and around 150 students, reflecting the college's commitment to addressing important social and health issues.

The resource persons, Dr Abhimanyu Singh and Ajay Sharma delivered detailed and informative lectures. They discussed the causes leading to drug addiction, its serious consequences and preventive measures. They also guided the students on adopting a healthy lifestyle and making informed choices to stay away from substance abuse.

The proceedings of the program were conducted by Prof. Sheetal, while Dr Nisar Ahmed Wani, Convener of the NCORD Committee, presented the vote of thanks.

DLRC-DCC meeting reviews performance of banks, financial inclusion initiatives in Doda

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DODA: A meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) was held Friday in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

District Development Commissioner Krishan Lal chaired the meeting, witnessing detailed deliberations on key banking and financial inclusion initiatives, including sector-wise credit achievements under the Annual Credit Plan 2025-26, Credit-Deposit (CD) ratio, flow of credit to priority sectors and progress under the Government-sponsored self-employment schemes.



The Lead District Manager (LDM) presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the performance of banks and achievements under various credit-linked schemes, followed by in-depth discussions.

The Chair reviewed the performance of banks in deposits and advances, stressing the need to enhance the CD ratio of the district. Special emphasis was laid on increasing credit flow to priority sectors and weaker sections to

ensure inclusive economic growth.

Progress under schemes such as Kisan Credit Card (KCC), Self Help Groups (SHGs), PMFME, Stand-Up India, Mudra and the social security initiatives was also reviewed.

Furthermore, special focus was laid on Mission YUVA, which aims to generate employment opportunities for youth in the Union Territory, along with strengthening credit support for agriculture and initiatives of KVIB.

Discussions were held on financial inclusion measures, including Aadhaar seeding for Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), financial literacy initiatives and

the role of banks in expanding outreach.

The meeting also assessed promotion of education loan schemes, support to Joint Liability Groups (JLGs) and progress under PM Kisan, including Aadhaar seeding and recovery in ineligible accounts. Performance of SBI RSETI and implementation of financial inclusion and social security campaigns were also reviewed. The DCC directed the officers and banking institutions to work in close coordination, ensure timely disposal of cases, improve credit flow and achieve targets under various schemes for the overall development of the district.

Demonstration on Lantana Camara Eradication held at Balode Nursery

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KATHUA: A training and demonstration programme on Lantana Eradication was organized Friday at Balode Nursery by the Forest Department in coordination with Kathua and Samba Forest Divisions.

The programme was graced by Conservator of Forests East Circle Pradeepchandra Wahule. He gave a demonstration on scientific techniques for lantana eradication. The programme was organized under the supervision of Divisional Forest Officer Kathua Ankit Sinha along with Officer Trainee Anusha Koli.

The programme commenced with an introduction on the objectives of the training,



followed by a lecture session on identification, spread patterns and ecological characteristics of Lantana Camara. The adverse impacts of lantana on forest ecosystems, including suppression of natural regeneration, loss of biodiversity and degradation of wildlife habitats, were highlighted.

A key focus of the training was the cut rootstock method of

lantana eradication, wherein the rootstock is cut below ground level and the tap root is severed to prevent re-growth. The removed plants are then placed upside down to ensure drying and to inhibit re-sprouting. Emphasis was also laid on post-removal restoration through immediate plantation of grasses, bamboo, or other native species in cleared areas.

Jammu University's Kishtwar Campus hosts plantation and cleanliness drive

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KISHTWAR: On the initiative and directions of Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu, the Kishtwar Campus organized a Mega Plantation Drive along with a Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (Cleanliness Drive) with the objective of promoting environmental conservation and fostering a culture of cleanliness on the campus.

The program was conducted under the leadership of Prof Jasbir Singh, Director, Kishtwar Campus, who joined the event in virtual mode and addressed the participants.

In his address, he underscored the critical importance of afforestation and emphasized the urgent need to plant more trees



to mitigate environmental degradation and combat the growing threats of global warming.

He also elaborated on the causes and consequences of climate change and urged the campus community to act as responsible stewards of the environment.

The event successfully integrated two key themes—promotion of ecological sustainability through plantation

and reinforcement of cleanliness practices in line with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Participants took a pledge to maintain cleanliness on the campus and to nurture and protect the newly planted saplings.

The initiative was spearheaded by Dr Hilal Sufi of the Department of Kashmiri under the guidance of the campus administration.

Capacity building programme for PM SHRI Schools begins from GHS Atholi DC inaugurates TLM Workshop at DIET Kishtwar

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KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma Friday inaugurated a one-day Teaching Learning Material (TLM) workshop for PM SHRI Schools here at District Institute of Educational Training (DIET).

During the workshop, around 100 innovative TLMs were developed by expert teachers from the Education Department, in collaboration with the ICDS Department, aimed at enhancing classroom engagement and improving learning outcomes.

The TLMs were prepared under the overall supervision of the DIET, which continues to play a key role in strengthening school education through teacher training, academic guidance and implementation of reforms.



Notably, the capacity-building programme for PM SHRI Schools in the district has been formally kick-started from High School Atholi (Padder).

The initiative covers five PM SHRI Schools—GHSS Sarthal, GHSS Mugalmaldan, High School Atholi (Padder), Government High School Drubel (Inderwal) and Government Middle School Pakalan—and focuses on

equipping teachers with modern pedagogical skills, competency-based learning approaches and innovative use of TLMs.

Aligned with the vision of the National Education Policy 2020, the DIET Kishtwar is actively conducting structured training programmes, workshops and mentoring sessions to build the capacity of teachers and Heads of Institutions.

On the occasion, the

Deputy Commissioner and Principal DIET Tirath Lal handed over essential educational resources including printers, first aid kits, green saplings, TLMs and math and science kits to the Heads of Institutions (HOIs) of PM SHRI Schools.

The event witnessed the presence of senior education functionaries including the Dy. CEO Masood Ahmed Qazi, Principal GHSS Boys Kishtwar Ashok Kumar, Principal GHSS Mugalmaldan, besides faculty members and participating teachers.

The initiative marks a progressive step towards transforming the educational landscape of Kishtwar by fostering innovation, strengthening teacher capacity and ensuring quality education in line with national priorities.

Adequate stocks of essential commodities available: DC

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KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Friday said that there is no shortage of fuel and food grains in the district and appealed to the public not to panic.

Clarifying the stock position, the DC informed that the current LPG stock in the district exceeds 1,000 cylinders, which is sufficient for four to five days. "This stock level is part of the normal routine and aligns with the standard storage capacity maintained across the six LPG agencies operating in the district," he said.

The DC further stated that LPG distribution is OTP-based, ensuring that no cylinder is issued without proper OTP verification. Additionally, all agencies have been instructed to provide home delivery services to facilitate smooth distribution.

He emphasized that the concerns regarding

the exhaustion of LPG cylinders is unfounded. In fact, the current stock position is better than routine supply levels.

Regarding commercial cylinders, the DC assured that even in cases of earlier shortages, adequate supply has been ensured to hydroelectric power projects as required.

On fuel availability, the DC confirmed that sufficient stocks of petrol and diesel are available for the next four to five days. "Given the limited number of fuel outlets in the district, such stocking levels are standard practice and do not indicate any disruption in supply," he informed.

The public is advised not to engage in panic buying or hoarding and to purchase only as per their genuine requirements. Since the distribution system is OTP-based, supplies will continue to be provided smoothly as consumers complete their e-KYC formalities.