

Stop Diarrhea campaign gains momentum in J&K

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SRINAGAR: The Stop Diarrhea campaign is making significant strides, with numerous awareness drives conducted in various districts of Jammu & Kashmir. These efforts are part of the ongoing campaign under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G), aiming to reduce diarrhea cases, improve public health, and alleviate the financial burden of medical bills on families. The campaign, spearheaded by the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj J&K, under the supervision of Secretary RD&PR, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary has involved special awareness and Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) drives. These initiatives have engaged school-going children, senior citizens, social workers, SHGs, former PRI members, Block Development Officers (BDOs), and field staff, ensuring the widespread dissemination of crucial



health information. Interactive sessions were held in schools to educate children about the importance of hand washing, safe drinking water, and proper sanitation practices. BDOs and field staff have been instrumental in mobilizing communities, conducting door-to-door awareness drives, distributing educational materials, and engaging with residents on preventive measures. Director General Rural Sanitation,

Anoo Malhotra remarked, "The Stop Diarrhea Campaign is essential in our mission to protect public health. By involving school children, senior citizens, social workers, SHGs and our dedicated field staff, we are making sure that the message of hygiene and prevention reaches every household. This collaborative effort is vital in reducing diarrhea cases and improving the overall health of our communities." The awareness drives have also includ-

ed sanitation drives and highlighted the importance of timely medical intervention. The public response to the campaign has been overwhelmingly positive, with communities expressing their gratitude for the valuable information and support provided. As the Stop Diarrhea Campaign continues to expand, the focus remains on sustaining these efforts to ensure every child and family in Jammu & Kashmir has the knowledge and resources to prevent and manage diarrhea effectively. This initiative not only aims to reduce the incidence of diarrhea but also to improve the overall health of people and save families from the financial strain of medical bills. Pertinently, Stop Diarrhea campaign is to create awareness towards the use and promotion of 'Safe Water and Sanitation' at village/ panchayat level. The 8 weeks of campaign started from 1st July to 31st August 2024 to address root-cause of diarrheal and its associated diseases.

KU organises 2-day orientation programme on digital content development

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SRINAGAR: To enhance the digital pedagogical skills of the university faculty members and encouraging a culture of innovation in education, the Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMRC), University of Kashmir (KU), in collaboration with the Department of Communication and Journalism (DCJ), Central University of Kashmir (CUK), Thursday inaugurated a two-day orientation programme here.

Titled, 'Orientation Programme on the Development of Massive Open Online Courses/Digital Content', the programme focuses on the development of Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) and digital content for the faculty of Central University of Kashmir. Nearly 70 faculty members from CUK are attending the programme that will be equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop and deliver effective digital content, ultimately enhancing the quality of education provided to students. In her message, KU Vice-Chancellor, Prof Nilofar Khan said while the essence of education lies in the human connection between teacher and student, integrating technology-based learning is essential. "We must harness the power of digital tools to enhance pedagogical practices, making education more accessible, flexible and effective," she reiterated. KU Registrar, Prof Naseer Iqbal, emphasised the importance of integrating digital content in higher education to meet the evolving needs of students.



"Nothing can replace traditional teaching, however, as educators and academicians, we have to encourage people and promote technology-based learning at all academic levels to stay relevant in today's rapidly-changing dynamics of education system," he said. Dean, Academic Affairs, CUK, Prof Shahid Rasool, highlighted the pivotal role of digital and open learning in democratising education like the online and blended modes of teaching-learning. "The role of a teacher is constantly changing and is becoming more challenging as today's teacher has to deal with the 'digital natives'." However, COVID was a game-changer in introducing technology into education that gave our teacher a wider reach," he said adding that technology allows flexibility of time and convenience in academic pursuits. Director, EMRC, Dr Salima Jan, outlined the genesis of platforms like SWAYAM and noted the objectives of such learning modes and models. "We are living in a world where knowledge is no longer confined to the pages of

DC Kupwara chairs Rent Assessment Committee meeting

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KUPWARA: In order to finalize the various Rent Assessment Cases of the buildings under-utilization of different Government Departments, a meeting of the District Rent Assessment Committee (DRAC) was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan here. During the DRAC meeting, as many as 37 rent cases of buildings presently used by Government Departments including School Education, Handicraft & Handloom, Social Welfare, Food Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Health, Skill development, Ayush, R&B,



Department of Libraries and Research, Medical College and Police Department were put forth before the Committee for fixing of monthly rent. The Committee deliberated on all the rent assessment cases in detail and

each case was examined thoroughly keeping in view various administrative and other necessities. On the occasion, out of the total 37 cases, 27 cases were approved while 10 other cases were scheduled to be put up again due to

some technical deficiencies. The Chairperson DRAC meticulously reviewed the functioning of GMC boys and Girls hostels from rented accommodations and took stock of facilities being provided.

She also took the appraisal of the availability of food store buildings for dumping of winter stocks at far-off areas of Karnah, Keran, Machil, Jungund, Kamkadi and Budnambal. The DC impressed upon the Officers to ensure that vacant govt. buildings are occupied for official purposes and rented accommodation remains the last option. She emphasized that government buildings should be constructed by concerned departments on priority. Meeting was attended by Principal GMC Handwara, Dr. Khurshid, CPO Kupwara, Parvaiz Ahmed, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

No Tents will be allowed in Gulmarg without permission: GDA

SRINAGAR: Citing environmental concerns and illegal activities, the Gulmarg Development Authority (GDA) on Thursday informed that no tents will be allowed in Gulmarg without proper permission. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Gulmarg Development Authority, Waseem Raja. In a communique said that to protect the eco-fragile zone of Gulmarg and maintain its status as a world-famous tourist destination, the installation of tents will now require prior permission from the GDA. The directive comes in response to the increasing number of tents being set up without proper authorization, leading to issues such as littering, illegal parking on green slopes, lighting fires on greens, and law and order problems. Visitors wishing to install tents in Gulmarg must apply for permission via email at gulmarggda@gmail.com or through WhatsApp at 8803993001. No tents will be allowed without prior approval from the GDA, the communique added.

ADC Kupwara stresses for timely completion of projects

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KUPWARA: On the instructions of the Deputy Commissioner, Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, the Additional Deputy Commissioner ADC Kupwara, M Rouf Rahman today had an extensive tour to the border area of Keran to take stock of the situation, efficient delivery of public services and review the functioning of Tehsil Level offices at Mini Secretariat Keran. The ADC took an extensive review of achievements of different departments and emphasized on focusing on efficient public service delivery. During the visit, the ADC held an interactive meeting with the people including Senior citizens, Market Association, Tourist Players, Lumberdars, Chowkidars and other stakeholders of Keran who appraised the ADC about the issues being faced by people of Keran and Tourists visiting the area. Key issues raised in-



cluded the mobile network connectivity, parking area, road connectivity, macadamisation and cleanliness. The ADC gave a patient hearing to the grievances of the public and assured early action on all the genuine demands in a time bound manner. He emphasized the importance of inter-departmental coordination and stressed the need for timely completion of ongoing developmental projects in the area.

The ADC impressed upon the Officers and field functionaries to work with zeal and added dedication to facilitate the people of this border area with efficient public services delivery so that people and tourists do not face any inconvenience. The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Keran, SHO Keran, Principal, HSS Keran, NT, Health, R&B, RDD, Forest, Food, Education & Revenue officials.

DC Athar asks officers to ensure timely completion of JJM work

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KULGAM: To evaluate the progress of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today chaired a meeting with concerned officers of the Jal Shakti Department at mini-secretariat, here. During the meeting, the DC reviewed both the physical and financial progress of the works being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission in the district. The Executive Engineer gave a detailed brief of all works to the chair. It was also informed that under the JJM, the district has a total of 143 schemes encompassing 213 works, with several works already completed. Emphasizing the importance of JJM as a flagship program aimed at covering all households, officers were instructed to work in coordination to ensure the smooth execution of JJM works in their respective



areas by the DC. Various issues and bottlenecks were comprehensively discussed during the meeting impeding the speedy completion of few projects. The DC instructed the concerned to ensure timely completion and target achievement under Jal Jee-

van Mission. He instructed for strict measures like penalties and blacklisting of contractors/firms failing to meet project conditions and deadlines. The meeting was attended by JDP-Zahid Sajjad; Executive Engineers, AEEs and other officers.

License of medical establishment suspended in Anantnag

ANANTNAG: In a joint operation, the Drug Control Authority Anantnag and local police conducted inspections of over 20 medical establishments in the Achabal area. During the inspection, most of the establishments were found to be compliant, while GM Medicate Achabal was found violating license conditions and dispensing expired medication to a patient as such action was taken against the erring. The license of the erring has been suspended for a period of 10 days, and the authorities have issued a stern warning, indicating that further violations could lead to permanent license cancellation. Following the inspections, an awareness program was conducted at the Achabal town hall to educate pharmacists about Good Pharmacy Practices, medication handling, storage, and legal regulations under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act. The local police also participated in the event. This action highlights the authorities' commitment to ensuring the quality and safety of medication.

DLSA reviews cases of 41 under trial prisoners

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SRINAGAR: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the aegis of J&K Legal Services Authority, successfully convened the inaugural 2nd quarterly meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) in the office chamber of the Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar. The meeting, chaired by Jawad Ahmed, Principal District & Session Judge (Chairman DLSA) Srinagar, witnessed active participation from key stakeholders, including senior officials from the judiciary, police, administration, and medical fraternity. The committee reviewed the cases of 41 under trial prisoners, engaging in thorough discussions and deliberations to ensure fair



and expedited trials. Each case was meticulously examined, and after thoughtful consideration, the committee formulated suitable recommendations tailored to the specific circumstances of each individual. The meeting aimed

to streamline the criminal justice system and uphold the principles of equity and justice. Chairman of the meeting, emphasized the paramount importance of UTRC gatherings in ensuring fair and expedited trials for under

trial prisoners. He underscored the need for regular initiatives such as these to strengthen the criminal justice system and protect the rights of under trial prisoners. The meeting was attended by Ashish Mishra, S.S.P Srinagar; Syed Ahmad Kataria, ADC Srinagar; Sheikh Zulfikar Azad, SSP, Central Jail Srinagar; Jahangir Ahmad Bakshi, Secretary DLSA Srinagar; Meena Gowhar, Public Prosecuting Officer, Srinagar; Dr. Sheikh Athar Senior Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar; Saad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel and Zulfi Tasneem, Deputy Legal Aid Counsel. DLSA Srinagar is committed to ensuring that the rights of under trial prisoners are protected, and that they receive fair and speedy trials. The UTRC meetings are a crucial step towards achieving this goal.

Indian Army's Skill Development Center Along LOC Empowers Women in Gurez Valley

Tauseef Ahmad

BANDIPORA: In a commendable initiative aimed at empowering the women of Gurez Valley, along the Line of Control (LOC) the Indian Army, in collaboration with the Healing Touch Foundation, an NGO dedicated to improving the quality of life in the remote areas of the valley, has established a skill development center. This center focuses on providing vocational training, enabling the women of Kanzalwan area in Bandipora district to live a livelihood through detergent making. One of the beneficiaries of this one-of-its-kind initiative shared her experience: "Previously, we were confined to household chores, but now, with the Indian Army-sponsored center, we are not only earning for our families but also acquiring new skills. These skills empower us to



teach other girls in our community as well." She further explained, "The detergent we produce under the brand name 'Harmukh Sheen' is distributed to various areas in the Gurez Valley, where it has received positive feedback. We aim to expand our sales to other parts of the district and the entire valley in the future." Another young participant expressed her gratitude, saying, "We are thankful to

36 Rashtriya Rifles for creating such opportunities for us to earn our livelihood. We hope that more opportunities like this will be created in the future, allowing us to learn and master various other skills. Our detergent is chemical-free, gentle on clothes, and competitively priced compared to other products in the market." This initiative by 36 Rashtriya Rifles and Healing Touch Foundation not only

provides financial independence to these girls but also instills confidence and a sense of purpose. By empowering these young women with practical skills, the program fosters a culture of self-reliance and community development in the Gurez Valley. The skill development center stands as a beacon of hope, promising a brighter and more prosperous future for the women of this region.