

Cooperative, Sheep Husbandry Departments Join hands to revitalize wool sector in J&K



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAR 26

In a significant step towards strengthening the wool sector and promoting sheep and wool-related cooperative societies in Jammu and Kashmir, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed today between the Department of Cooperatives and the Department of Sheep Husbandry here at the Registrar Cooperative Societies Complex, Bantialab.

The MoU was formally signed by Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies Jammu, Bal Krishan and Joint Director Extension,

Sheep Husbandry Department, Jammu, Dr. Tara Chand in presence of Priyanka Bhatt Joint Registrar (Audit), Cooperative Societies, Deputy Director Sheep Husbandry Jammu, Deputy Registrar (HQ) Cooperative Societies Jammu, Assistant Registrar (HQ) Cooperative Societies Jammu, and other officials from both departments.

This agreement aims to revitalize the wool sector in Jammu Division by leveraging cooperative enterprises. The focus will be on facilitating the registration of Village Cooperative Societies (VCS), providing infrastructure and financial

support, streamlining wool collection and marketing, and creating a structured three-tier cooperative system at village, district, and divisional levels.

Additional Registrar Cooperative Societies, Jammu, emphasized the synergy between the two departments, with Cooperatives providing an institutional framework and Sheep Husbandry offering technical expertise. He also spoke about the role of women cooperatives in traditional wool-based activities, referencing the Charkha as a symbol of self-reliance and economic empowerment. Addition-

ally, he underlined the value addition opportunities in the wool sector, stressing that wool products, unlike perishable goods, have longevity and market sustainability. He further elaborated on how cooperatives can leverage their extensive social base and align with schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Sheep Husbandry Department to boost rural economies and unlock the sector's untapped potential.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Tara Chand, Joint Director Extension, Sheep Husbandry Department, highlighted the current status of the sheep and wool sector in J&K, the challenges posed by competition from synthetic fibers, and the potential of value addition and technical support to rejuvenate the industry, especially in far-flung areas.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Deputy Registrar (HQ), Cooperative Societies Jammu.

Pashmina Lab receives major boost for testing of GI products

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Brand promotion of genuine hand-made products from Kashmir today received a significant boost with the addition of the state-of-the-art testing equipment in Handicrafts and Handloom Department's Pashmina Testing and Quality Certification Centre (PTQCC), at Craft Development Institute, here.

This upgraded HR Digital Microscope System will greatly enhance PTQCC's ability to test and certify Pashmina fibres for the prestigious Geographical Indication (GI) Label, which certifies Pashmina fibre as a mark of distinction in the global niche markets.

In a press statement issued here today, a spokesperson from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that the new equipment shall facilitate precise and efficient testing, thereby guaranteeing that only authentic Pashmina products are certi-



fied. "This will not only bolster the Pashmina industry but also provide a major fillip to the entire handicraft and handloom sector in J&K, helping artisans and craft businesses access new markets and better opportunities," he added.

The spokesperson further added that training was provided to the staff of PTQCC by the original equipment manufacturer

(OEM) for efficient handling of the equipment. "As local artisans gain more recognition for their high-quality products, the entire handicraft industry stands to benefit, fostering long-term growth, innovation and cultural preservation," he stated.

In order to cater to the anticipated rush of products at PTQCC for testing and QR labelling, the

Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, has also submitted a proposal worth ₹1.35 Cr for procurement of SEM (Scanning Electron Microscope) under the Upgradation and Technology Support component of the National Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP), of the Union Ministry of Commerce, for the FY 2025-26.

GCW Parade organises student's visit to premier research institutes in Delhi

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In a first-of-its-kind initiative in the recent past, the Department of Biotechnology of Government College for Women (GCW) Parade Ground, in collaboration with CSIR-Institute of Genomics and Integrative Biology (CSIR-IGIB), New Delhi, successfully organized a three-day educational visit for students. The visit aimed to expose students to cutting-edge research and innovation at some of the top institutes in the country, including CSIR-IGIB, the North and South Campuses of the University of Delhi, and the School of Life Sciences, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

A group of 21 students, accompanied by Assistant Professors Kaurab Singh and Tishu Devi, participated in this transformative experience. The visit was facilitated under the outreach program of CSIR-IGIB and coordinated by Dr. Beena Pillai, Chief Scientist and Dr. Arya Sidharthan, Science Outreach Team from IGIB.

The students had the unique opportunity to explore state-of-the-art research labs at CSIR-IGIB and other prestigious institutions. They were introduced to key model organisms used in biological research, including Arabidopsis thaliana, C. elegans, Zebrafish, and mice models. At CSIR-IGIB, students gained insights into



high-tech zebrafish maintenance and its use in groundbreaking research on pigmentation, vascular development, and other biological processes at one of the best zebrafish facility in the country.

In addition, they engaged in interactive discussions with leading scientists; for instance, Dr. Sheetal Gandotra, Principal Scientist at CSIR-IGIB, elaborated on the intricate cellular battle between Mycobacterium tuberculosis and host macrophages, while Dr. Arpan Parichha led an insightful session on confocal microscopy, further enhanced by practical exposure to fluorescence microscopy techniques.

At the Department of Genetics, DU South Campus, students explored various research facilities, including Plant Tissue Culture Lab and witnessed how Arabidopsis thaliana is being used as a model system to understand the genetic

basis of infection resistance. In the Drosophila Lab students observed how Drosophila melanogaster is used to study neurodegenerative diseases. They also visited Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi as part of their visit to learn how innovative project based learning is being imparted to students at the centre.

At JNU's School of Life Sciences, students interacted with Dr. Ashis Nandi and visited the Central Instrumentation Facility, where they were introduced to high-end research instruments such as: Confocal Microscope, Flow Cytometer and Cell Sorter, Fast Protein Liquid Chromatography (FPLC).

The visit was initiated by Mr. Kaurab Singh, Assistant Professor at GCW Parade Ground who is also an alumnus of CSIR-IGIB, in collaboration with Dr. Beena Pillai, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IGIB. Under the

able leadership of Dr. Ravender Tickoo, Principal, GCW Parade Ground, and the unwavering support of Dr. Beena Pillai, the educational visit proved to be highly successful and fruitful.

The following students from GCW Parade Ground actively participated in the visit: Urvashi Pawar, Sania Younis, Riya Shakdhar, Prakriti Kohli, Palak Thappa, Osheen Puri, Mehak Kundal, Lakshmi Chouhan, Komal Parihar, Isha Gupta, Himani Verma, Divyanshi Sharma, Nisha Lakhotra, Janvi Kohli, Ananya Sharma, Tanisha Gupta, Sonalika Sharma, Prinkle Kour, Munaza Sabahat, Sanaha Sharma, and Pranvi Gupta. This pioneering initiative has laid the foundation for future collaborations and learning experiences, strengthening the academic and research exposure of students at GCW Parade Ground.

DC conducts On-Site inspection of Infrastructure Projects in village Sanai-Poonch

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Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today visited Village Sanai in the Sub Division of Surankote and inspected progress of work on infrastructure projects aimed at fostering road connectivity.

Accompanied by local SDM Farooq Khan, Xen PWD, Manoj Gupta, along with concerned AEEs, JES, and other officials, the Deputy Commissioner inspected crucial infrastructure developments in the area.

During the visit, he assessed the progress of the under-construction Bailey type 22-meter span motorable bridge at Bela Sanai Mohalla Drogian on Shah Kareem Ziarat under UT Capex, which is vital for connecting Mohalla Drogian.

Additionally, the Deputy



Commissioner reviewed progress of work on the 152-meter motorable bridge, which includes an additional span and the approach road from the main road to Ziarat Sayeed Kareem Shah at Sanai, funded under the NABARD RIDF scheme. This bridge is es-

essential for connecting Kattal, Nadyali, Marhote and Pamrote.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned executing agencies to expedite the work, ensuring that local residents enjoy improved accessibil-

ity and convenience. Moreover, the Deputy Commissioner took the opportunity to engage with the locals, inquiring about essential services such as ration distribution and other facilities provided during the holy month of Ramzan.

Operations of 40 Drugs Sales Establishments suspended in Jammu division

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To restrict the supply of habit-forming drugs, a special drive was conducted in Jammu Province by the enforcement staff to ensure that medicinal preparations which are prone to addiction are sold strictly for licit use and due diligence is secured by the traders to ensure that there is no divergence of such formulations to encourage drug abuse.

The Empowered Authorities encouraged the stakeholders to adopt ut-

most care and caution while dealing with the supply and sale of medicinal preparations which have the potential to encourage drug abuse in the society.

During the said drive, Operations of Forty Drugs Sales Establishments (08 in Jammu, 06 in Reasi, 04 in Kathua, 07 in Samba, 05 in Rajouri, 05 in Poonch, 05 in Udhampur) were disallowed on spot under section 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 by the empowered Authorities for non-maintenance of sales records of medicinal preparations containing habit forming ingredients

viz pregabalin-300 as mandated under the said Act. Show Cause Notices have been served upon erring drug sales establishments for indulging in unethical trade practices intentionally & contravening the provisions of the Act.

Moreover, in order to keep strict vigil on the movement of Psychotropic Drugs viz a viz without any prejudice to the rights of end users requiring such pharmaceutical preparations for medicinal purposes, the Department has issued Circular wherein specific restrictions have

been imposed on Pharma trade fraternity to stock/sell drugs comprising of habit-forming ingredients thereof have been imposed with immediate effect.

Drugs Controller, Lotika Khajuria reiterated that in case any violation is reported by the erring firm, the defaulters shall be dealt strictly in accordance with zero-tolerance policy adopted by Union Territory of J&K against persons involved in promoting drug abuse which warrants the cancellation of such licenses as also legal mandate.

Special event hosted at GCW Parade to celebrate Eid-ul-Fitr

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Students of Government College for Women Parade Ground Jammu under the aegis of Student Welfare Cell of the College today organized a special event to mark the importance of Ramadan and celebrations of Eid-ul-Fitr in advance on 26th March 2025.

The event started with a formal welcome address by Dean Student Welfare Cell of the College, Dr. Rajesh Kant.

Students from different semesters presented their views articulately on the importance of Ramadan, beautiful Naats and Hamads were also recited by the stu-



dents. The event was made more fun by the Adbi Mushaira themed as Mehfil-e-jashn-e-Eid, in which talented students presented their beautiful shayaris.

Principal of the College Dr. Ravinder Kumar Tickoo was the chief guest of the event, congratulated all the staff members and students for organising such a relevant and marvelous programme and emphasized upon the importance of the Ramadan month and wished a Happy and Mubarak EID to all in advance. He appreciated the Students Welfare Committee for organising such events which promote mutual understanding and communal harmony among the students.

Brigadier Pandey concludes 2-day visit to 10 JK NCC Battalion Bhandarwah

BHANDARWAH, MARCH 26: Group Commander Jammu Brigadier DN Pandey concluded his two-day visit to 10 JK NCC Battalion Bhandarwah. He had an insightful engagement with NCC officials and cadets. Brig Pandey emphasized the importance of leadership, discipline, and national service, encouraging cadets to become a source of motivation for societal development.

As part of his tour, Brig Pandey visited Govern-



ment Degree Colleges (GDC) in Bhandarwah and Doda, where he interacted with Dr. Attar Singh Kotwal and Dr. Javed Iqbal Zargar, the Principals of the institutions. Addressing the students, he delivered a motivational talk, urging them to take an active role in nation-building and contribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047.

The Group Commander also met Deputy Commis-

sioner Doda Harvinder Singh to discuss an upcoming mega medical camp in the Chenab Valley being organized by Rotary Club J&K.

The initiative aims to provide specialized medical care to rural communities, addressing their healthcare needs.

As a gesture of appreciation, Brig Pandey presented mementos to the Deputy Commissioner and college principals and awarded medallions to outstanding NCC cadets.