

International Labour Day celebrated with enthusiasm in Kishtwar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 01

International Labour Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm across district Kishtwar today, acknowledging the invaluable contribution of workers in nation-building and local development.

Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Mamta Sudershan visited various project sites in the district and interacted with workers, listened to their grievances and reviewed their working conditions.

The ALC also conducted awareness sessions on newly introduced labour laws and highlighted workers' rights under the revised legal framework.

To commemorate the day, sports activities, including volleyball and table tennis contests were organized at various project sites, encouraging and boosting the morale of workers.

While addressing the workers, the ALC appreciated their dedication and stated that the timely execution of developmental projects in the district is largely due to their hard work and commitment.

She further directed all project authorities to strictly adhere to labour



laws and ensure that workers' rights are fully protected, with no scope for violations.

Emphasizing the administration's commitment, she reiterated that safeguarding the dignity

and welfare of workers remains a top priority.

During the interaction, labourers expressed satisfaction over the prompt redressal of their grievances and appreciated the proactive role of the ad-

ministration. The ALC extended greetings to all labourers on the occasion and lauded their tireless efforts in contributing to the growth and progress of the district and the nation.

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The Labour Department Kathua today observed International Labour Day with a series of awareness-cum-outreach programmes across the district, including a major event at a local factory, aimed at honouring the invaluable contribution of workers and promoting awareness about labour rights, welfare measures and social well-being.

The programme witnessed active participation of workers from both organized and unorganized sectors and focused on sensitizing them about recent labour law reforms and various welfare provisions available for their benefit.

Workers were provided detailed awareness regarding the newly introduced labour codes, including the Code on Wages, Industrial Relations Code, Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code and the Code on Social Security. The participants were apprised of the key provisions, benefits and legal safeguards aimed at ensuring better wages, improved workplace safety, social security coverage and protection of workers' rights.

Assistant Labour Commissioner Kathua, Piyusha Khajuria, while addressing the gathering, highlighted the historical significance of International Labour Day and reiterated the department's unwavering commitment towards safeguarding the rights, dignity and welfare of the labour force. She stressed the im-



portance of awareness and active participation of workers for effective implementation of labour laws and welfare schemes.

As part of the observance, an awareness session under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan was also conducted, during which workers were sensitized about the harmful effects of substance abuse and its adverse impact on individuals, families and society. A collective pledge was administered to all participants to work together for building a drug-free and healthy society.

Recognizing the dedication and contribution of the workforce, workers from different sectors were felicitated with Certificates of Appreciation for their com-

mendable services. A legal literacy session was also organized by the officials of the Labour Department, wherein workers were informed about important labour laws, their rights and responsibilities and the legal remedies and safeguards available to them, thereby empowering them through enhanced legal awareness.

Additionally, a free medical camp was also organized at the venue by the Health Department in collaboration with the Directorate of AYUSH. The camp provided basic health check-ups, medical consultations and wellness guidance to the workers present. Meanwhile, similar programmes were also held in other parts of the dis-

trict. At one such event organized in collaboration with Bhawan Nirman Kamgar Union, a large number of workers from the unorganized sector participated and were sensitized about their rights, responsibilities and welfare entitlements.

Union members, along with Labour Department officials, addressed the gathering and emphasized the need for safeguarding the interests of workers engaged in the unorganized sector, while also strengthening their access to welfare schemes and institutional support.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from workers across sectors and reinforced the spirit of dignity of labour.

Anti-Drug awareness programme held at Doda

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An awareness programme on disastrous consequences of drug abuse organized today at Doda under the directions of the Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bhaderwah.

The programme was conducted by Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of Tehsil Legal Services Committee Doda.

The initiative aimed at sensitizing the public to the harmful effects of drug abuse, its severe impact on individuals, families and society and the legal implications associated with drug-related offences under the NDPS Act.

Participants were also educated about preventive measures, the importance of early intervention and



the availability of rehabilitation facilities for those affected by substance abuse.

LADC Advocate Tahir Hussain Dar, along with Advocate Abhi Kumar actively participated in the programme and addressed the gathering.

They highlighted the alarming rise in drug abuse, particularly among youth and emphasized the urgent need for collective and sustained efforts to curb this growing menace.

The speakers also engaged with the participants, ad-

dressing their queries and providing valuable insights into the legal framework and preventive strategies.

Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) played a vital role in mobilizing the community and spreading awareness during the programme.

ARTO Doda suspends 31 Permits, 14 RCs for pending challans, repeated violations

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The Office of the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Doda has suspended 31 permits and 14 RCs of different vehicles with pending challans and involved in repeated traffic violations.

The vehicles have been

identified through the VAHAN portal for multiple violations and pending challans under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

Two orders issued in this regard stated that such habitual violations pose a serious threat to public safety and reflect continuous disregard for traffic laws. Exercising powers under Section 86 of the Motor

Vehicles Act, 1988, the Transport Authority has suspended the route permits and RCs of the identified vehicles for a period of three months with immediate effect, or until all pending challans are cleared and necessary legal compliances are fulfilled.

The ARTO Office has directed all concerned vehicle owners and operators to

immediately settle pending challans and strictly adhere to the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and rules framed there under. It has been clearly warned that failure to comply with these directions shall invite further legal action as warranted under law, reinforcing the administration's commitment to road safety and lawful conduct.

Warm send off to DHSJ Dr Hamid Zargar



JAMMU, MAY 01: Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, Director Health Services Jammu (DHSJ) was today accorded a warm farewell on his superannuation after rendering 34 years of dedicated and meritorious service in the Health Department. Officers and officials of the Directorate

of Health Services Jammu acknowledged his exemplary service, professionalism and administrative acumen and conveyed their best wishes for his good health and a fulfilling post-retirement life.

Dr. Zargar served in various capacities during his distinguished career, including extensive postings in peripheral and remote areas under challenging conditions. His commitment to duty in such tough and underserved regions reflects his dedication towards strengthening public healthcare services. As Director Health Services Jammu, he played a pivotal role in improving healthcare delivery, upgrading infrastructure and ensuring effective implementation of various national and UT-level health programmes across Jammu Division. Dr. Zargar expressed sincere gratitude to all officers and staff members for their cooperation and support throughout his service tenure.

UFM Sub Committee meeting on May 4: JKBOSE

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The Unfair Means (UFM) Sub Committee of J&K BOSE is holding meeting on 4th May, 2026 to examine the nature of irregularities resorted to by certain candidates of Secondary School Examination (Class 10) and Higher Secondary Part-I Examination (Class 11th) Annual/ Regular, 2026 of Summer zone areas of Jammu Division to dispose of the cases in accordance with the relevant regulations.

ADDC reviews progress of HADP in Udhampur

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Additional District Development Commissioner Udhampur Jugal Kishore today chaired a meeting to review the progress and implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme in the agriculture and allied sectors in the district.

At the outset, the concerned officers presented detailed updates on both physical and financial progress, highlighting key achievements, existing challenges and proposed action plans for effective implementation.

The ADDC reviewed the Progress of activities under different components of the project. Chief agriculture officer Harbans Singh presented a detailed overview of the agriculture sector. Allied Department heads also presented detailed reports on the progress and achievements of their respective sectors.

The ADDC stressed on



crop diversification by growing millets, oilseed Area expansion under niche crops and cultivation of exotic vegetables. He also reviewed the status of farmer registrations under the programme and directed the concerned departments to ensure 100 percent registration within a stipulated timeline.

Emphasizing the importance of digital connectivity, he instructed officers to ensure full internet facilities at all Kisan Khidmat

Ghar (KKGs) to facilitate seamless service delivery.

He further urged all KKGs to obtain the necessary licenses for the sale and distribution of seeds and fertilizers, aiming to strengthen agricultural support services at the grassroots level.

The ADDC stressed the need for coordinated efforts among all departments to achieve the objectives of HADP and to enhance the overall productivity and sustainability

of the agriculture sector in the district.

Chief Horticulture Officer Brij Vallabh Gupta; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Shweta Khajuria; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Farhat Bashir; Sectoral heads of sericulture, Fisheries, Horticulture planning and marketing, District agriculture officer, Agriculture Development Officer, Sub-Division Agriculture officer Ramnagar and others attended the meeting.

JKAACL pays musical tribute to SK Premi

JAMMU, MAY 01: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organized a literary-cum-musical programme today here at KL Saigal Hall to commemorate the thirty-sixth death anniversary of noted scholar and poet Sarvanand Koul Premi.

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (Migrants) J&K Dr. Arvind Karwani was the Chief Guest, while eminent historian Dr. Ratan Lal Hangloo presided over the function. The distinguished gathering also included Padma Shri awardee B. L. Bhat and Rajinder Premi, who shared the daiz.

In his address, Dr. Karwani lauded the sustained efforts of Rajinder Premi in preserving and promoting the rich literary and cultural legacy of Sarvanand



Koul Premi. He highlighted Premi's invaluable contribution to Kashmiri literature and his role in fostering cultural harmony, describing him as a beacon of intellectual and artistic excellence.

Presiding over the function, Dr. Hangloo underscored the enduring relevance of Sarvanand Koul Premi's works, stating that his writings continue to inspire generations and reflect the composite cultural

ethos of Jammu and Kashmir.

Scholarly papers on the life and legacy of the late litterateur were presented by Dr. Sohan Lal Koul and Er. Vinod Kumar. They offered deep insights into his literary contributions and philosophical outlook.

On the occasion, Piare Hatash, Prof. Rattan Talashi and Bal Mukand Sanyasi were honoured for their significant literary and social contributions.

A musical tribute added a vibrant dimension to the programme, with compositions by Kuldeep Sapru and soulful renditions by artists including Harshita Pandita, Shivani Joshi, Gandharv Kaloo, Shriya Gurtoo, Simran Gurtoo and Akash Kaul.

The accompanying musicians included Ashish Gill on tabla, Rakesh Jasotra on flute, Rajeev on dholak, Chandan Kumar on keyboard and Sahil Jasotra on octapad.

The event also featured a Mushaira, where prominent poets Santosh Shah Nadan, Bal Mukand Sanyasi, Chaman Lal, Piare Hatash, Maharaj Krishan Bhat, Kundan Paras, Kusum Dhar, Ashok Kumar Dhar, Rajinder Aagosh and Ramesh Kumar Bhat recited their verses, entralling the audience.