

Labour Deptt marks Labour Day with outreach, awareness, workers' felicitation



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 01

On the occasion of Labour Day, the Labour Department J&K organized a series of impactful programmes in Jammu, reaffirming its commitment towards the welfare, dignity, and empowerment of workers.

This year's observance was aligned with the theme "Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment," emphasizing the importance of mental well-being, safe and supportive workplaces, and the need to address emerging challenges affecting workers' overall health and productivity.

Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh joined workers at Labour Chowk, Gangyal, where he

interacted with them and highlighted various labour welfare schemes aimed at improving their socio-economic conditions. Workers were sensitized about government initiatives, refreshments were distributed, and it was assured that a special outreach camp would soon be organized to enhance access to these schemes.

As part of the celebrations, a webinar on the theme "Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment" was organized, bringing together officers, experts, and stakeholders from across the Union Territory. The session commenced with a welcome address by Deputy Labour Commissioner, Jammu, Sukhpal Singh, followed by opening remarks by the Labour Commissioner.

The webinar featured insightful deliberations by eminent speakers including Prof. Renu Nanda, Prof. Hema Gandotra, Ms. Nimisha Rajput, and Dr. Ritika, who discussed critical issues such as child labour prevention, gender pay disparities, and the working conditions of women employees. The session concluded with remarks by the Labour Commissioner, while the vote of thanks was presented by ALC Central Roopali Gandotra. In another programme held at Shram Bhawan, Jammu, workers were felicitated for their invaluable contribution to society. The event was attended by FA/CAO Nimisha Anand, Inspector of Factories Ravinder Krundoo, AMO JKESIS Dr Jyoti Jolly, and Dr Neeru

Khajuria, among others.

Similar programmes were organized across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir, where officers of the Labour Department actively engaged with workers and stakeholders. These events focused on awareness generation, facilitation of welfare schemes, and strengthening coordination with stakeholders to ensure maximum outreach and benefit to the labour community.

The day-long programmes reflected the Department's sustained efforts to promote inclusive growth, ensure safe and healthy working conditions, and strengthen outreach of welfare schemes for the labour community across Jammu and Kashmir.

DM Reasi chairs NCORD meeting; Calls for intensifying anti-drug campaign

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District Magistrate Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination Centre to review enforcement measures and ongoing initiatives aimed at curbing drug abuse in the district.

During the meeting, the District Magistrate reviewed cases registered under the NDPS Act and directed the Police Department to furnish detailed inputs on identified hotspots in the district for the installation of CCTV cameras to strengthen surveillance and deterrence.

The District Magistrate also called for strict vigilance against illegal cultivation of poppy or cannabis in the district. The concerned departments were directed to take stringent action against offenders. He further emphasized conducting regular tests of vulnerable sections by using drug detection kits. The Motor Vehicles Department, Police and Health Departments were asked to carry out such tests and conduct enforcement drives.

A comprehensive review of Information, Education



and Communication (IEC) activities being conducted under the Nasha Mukht Jammu Kashmir campaign was also undertaken.

The District Magistrate directed the ACD to provide detailed reports on panchayats where awareness programmes have already been conducted and to ensure coverage of the remaining villages under the campaign. He further instructed the BDOs to actively sensitize the public about the ill effects of drug abuse during Gram Sabha

meetings and to mobilize community participation in the campaign.

Emphasizing the role of educational institutions, the District Magistrate directed the School Education Department to organize Parent-Teacher Meetings in all schools to raise awareness about the dangers of substance abuse among students and parents. The educational institutions were also instructed to ensure that at least one official from each institution is trained in counselling to effectively

guide and support individuals vulnerable to substance abuse.

The DM further directed all SDMs and Tehsildars to sensitize members of Mahila Nigrani Samitis regarding their responsibilities at the grassroots level and to encourage their active involvement in local outreach efforts under anti-drug campaigns.

Senior Superintendent of Police Mukund Tibrewal, ADC Rakesh Kumar, Additional SP, ACD and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

DAJ launches Digital platform -KrishiSamvad FTC-Jammu, Inaugurates Recording Studio

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In a significant step towards strengthening digital communication and outreach in the agriculture sector, Director Agriculture Jammu (DAJ) Anil Gupta today inaugurated a state-of-the-art recording studio and launched "KrishiSamvad FTC-Jammu", a dedicated YouTube-based digital platform for the farming community.

The initiative was launched in the presence of Joint Director (Farms/SLUB) Amanjyoti Sharma; Deputy Director Agriculture Training KarunaNidhi and other officers and staff members.

Addressing the gathering, the Director said that the newly launched platform shall act as a dynamic interface between the department and farmers by facilitating timely dissemination of expert knowledge, innovative practices and modern agricultural technologies.

He emphasized that such initiatives are crucial for enhancing farmers' awareness, capacity building and overall productivity. He also appreciated the proac-



tive efforts of the FTC Jammu team for conceptualizing and establishing the facility within a short span of time and with minimal resources.

The Joint Director (Farms/SLUB) underlined the importance of social media for sharing knowledge and ideas.

"It has emerged as a powerful and transformative tool for sharing ideas, innovations and best practices in agriculture, thereby ef-

fectively bridging the gap between research and field-level implementation", she noted.

Deputy Director Trainings informed that the platform would feature a wide spectrum of content, including expert interactions, documentary films and success stories of progressive farmers. She added that these initiatives are aimed at inspiring the farming community to adopt improved, sustain-

able and income-enhancing agricultural practices.

The inaugural episode of KrishiSamvad was hosted by Neeraj Rajwal, FMS FTC Jammu.

Among others present on the occasion included Dr. Dolly John, Training Officer; Guldev Raj, Information Officer; Anurag Verma, Training Officer; Upvan Koul, SMS-SDL along with other staff members of the department.

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Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today felicitated the top performers and achievers of ALOHA GAT-2025 at SCERT Bemina here, organized to recognize and celebrate academic excellence and competitive spirit among students.

Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani; Director, Centre for Good Governance, IUST, Dr. G.N Itoo; Joint Director School Education (Central), CEO Srinagar, senior management of ALOHA Srinagar, large number of students and parents were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that this unique test is not only about intelligence but it also depicts various instincts of a student's life. "This exam does not only show your capabilities, but it sheds light on various extents of a child or student. It strengthens mental arithmetic, analytical thinking, concentration and overall cognitive development among students," the Minister stated.

The Minister further said



that there is a lot of talent in Jammu and Kashmir among children. "For one and a half years, I am looking after education department and I would not hesitate to say that the level of talent in our children is unprecedented. They need to be given a chance and way to move forward, they will create opportunities", she said.

Congratulating the achievers, the Minister emphasized on the importance of such competitive platforms in nurturing talent at an early stage and preparing students for future academic challenges. "Activities like ALOHA GAT not only enhance numerical ability but also instil confidence, speed and accuracy, which are prime

qualities essential for success in modern education systems," she said.

The Minister further said that students who in one way or other remain little behind in these kind of exams need to equally felicitated like toppers, as it is also an achievement to be able to attend an exam and be part of it.

Sakeena Itoo reiterated the government's commitment to promoting innovative learning methods and co-curricular activities that complement formal education.

She noted that the integration of skill-based assessments aligned with national and international competitive standards plays a crucial role in shaping well-rounded individu-

als.

The Minister further said that Government is working to make better future for our students. "There is a lot of effort from government level so that the way in which the children move forward, we can make it easier for them", she stated.

The Minister also appreciated the role of teachers, trainer and parents in guiding and motivating students to achieve excellence. She encouraged students to continue striving for higher goals and make productive use of such platforms to sharpen their abilities.

During the event, the Minister distributed certificates and mementos among meritorious students for their achievements.

Satish Sharma calls for Youth-Led Transformation, Reiterates Commitment to Nasha Mukht J&K, IT-Driven Growth and World-Class Sports Ecosystem

JAMMU, MAY 1: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, IT, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the pivotal role of youth in shaping a progressive and prosperous Jammu & Kashmir, calling for collective action to build a drug-free society, accelerate digital growth, and position the region as one of India's premier sports destinations.

Addressing a gathering of students at the India's International Movement to Unite Nations (IIMUN) Jammu Conference, the Minister underscored that the future of Jammu & Kashmir lies in the energy, discipline, and vision of its young population. He highlighted that youth engagement remains central to the government's

policy framework, with focused investments in skill development, digital empowerment, and entrepreneurship.

Reiterating the government's firm resolve to make Jammu & Kashmir Nasha Mukht, Satish Sharma said that drug abuse poses a serious threat to the social fabric and aspirations of the younger generation. He noted that while enforcement and policy measures are being strengthened, the real change must come from within society.

"Every young individual who chooses to stay away from drugs and guides others towards a healthier path is contributing to nation-building," he said, urging students to act as ambassadors of a drug-free movement.

The Minister further outlined a



comprehensive strategy involving awareness campaigns, improved access to counselling, strengthening rehabilitation infrastructure, and coordi-

inating action with law enforcement agencies to curb drug supply chains across Jammu and Kashmir. Highlighting the role of technology

in shaping a modern Jammu & Kashmir, the Minister said the government is actively working to build a robust digital ecosystem across the region. He noted that investments are being made in IT infrastructure, innovation hubs, and startup incubation centres to empower youth with future-ready skills.

Emphasizing digital inclusion, he said efforts are underway to expand internet connectivity, promote e-governance, and create employment opportunities in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and data analytics. "Our aim is to make Jammu & Kashmir not just a consumer of technology, but a creator of innovation," he added.

Highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's immense sporting potential, Satish

Sharma reiterated the government's vision to transform the region into a premier sports destination of the country.

He said that with its unique geography and climate, J&K is ideally positioned to emerge as a hub for both winter and adventure sports, alongside nurturing excellence in mainstream disciplines.

"We are committed to developing world-class sports infrastructure, promoting grassroots participation, and creating pathways for our youth to compete at national and international levels," he added.

The Minister also stressed the importance of integrating rural and border areas into the sports development framework to ensure inclusive growth.