

JAMMU & KASHMIR

3-day training on Vaccine Preventable Diseases Surveillance concludes at GGNH

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management, outbreak response and field-level implementation.

Technical sessions were conducted by experts from the WHO and the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), National Centre for Disease Control, New Delhi.

The training marks an important milestone in the transition of VPD surveil-

lance into the General Health System in the Jammu Division, thus ensuring sustainability, improved data integration and timely public health response.

Earlier, the training was inaugurated by Director Family Welfare, Jammu Dr. Poonam Sethi and Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar in

presence of Dr. Narinder Bhutiyal, Medical Superintendent, Gandhi Nagar Hospital Jammu, Dr. Ramesh Khullar, State Epidemiologist/SSO Jammu Division and Dr. Shahid Hussain, State Immunization Officer, Jammu Division, who emphasized the importance of strengthening integrated disease surveillance systems.

DM chairs NCORD meeting at Doda

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drug related issues and contribute to the anti-drug campaign. He issued string of directions to stakeholder departments to reinforce control measures.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) was directed to constitute Nasha Mukta Committees in each Panchayat to encourage community participation, strengthen awareness and facilitate counseling in educational institutions.

The Police and Education Departments were instructed to strictly enforce the ban on the sale of tobacco products within the 100-meter radius of schools, declare

all institutions as Tobacco-Free Zones and ensure regular awareness campaigns during morning assemblies.

The heads of Government Degree Colleges were directed to activate Anti-Substance Abuse Cells to conduct sustained awareness drives and enforce adherence to tobacco-free norms around the College premises.

The Drug Control Department was instructed to conduct regular inspections of medical stores to verify CCTV footage and billing records.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrates were asked to rope in

religious scholars and local stakeholders to promote awareness against substance abuse and strengthen the concept of "Nasha-Mukt Panchayats."

The meeting was attended by ACR Ashraf Parvez; CPO Manesh Kumar; PO ICDS Akhter Qazi; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohammad Afaqi; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Mushraf Haff; Principal GDC Doda Dr. Javed Iqbal; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; CEO Bhushan Kumar; EO Municipal Committee, Nodal Officer ATF and officers from various departments and NGOs.

J&K Bank bids farewell to GM Nishikant Sharma

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Nishikant Sharma held several key positions across Jammu & Kashmir and outside, and in his last assignment at the Corporate

Headquarters, he headed important departments including Corporate & International Banking, Forex, Digital Channels, Credit

Monitoring and Asset Centralization.

Speaking on the occasion, Amitava Chatterjee appreciated Sharma's vast experience and contribution, extending best wishes for his post-retirement life. Sharma, in his address, expressed gratitude to the Bank's leadership and colleagues for their support throughout his career.

Senior officials also lauded his professionalism and significant role in strengthening the Bank's operations.

BIS holds consumer awareness programme for SHGs in Jalandhar

JALANDHAR, MAR 31: Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Jammu & Kashmir Branch Office, conducted its first tailor-made Consumer Awareness Programme under the SHINE initiative for Self Help Groups (SHGs) here on Tuesday.

Over 50 women participants attended the programme aimed at promoting awareness about quality standards and consumer rights. Director & Head Tilak Raj highlighted the importance of standardization and the objectives of the SHINE initiative, while officials and resource persons provided guidance on identifying quality products, of jecting ISI marks and hallmarking of jewellery.

The programme was well received and aimed at empowering women consumers through informed decision-making.



Omar govt putting Women at Heart of J&K's Growth Story: Sheikh Bashir

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The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference Provincial Secretary, Jammu, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad, on Tuesday reiterated that the cornerstone of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference government led by Omar Abdullah is to place women at the forefront of development and progress in the region. He made these remarks while addressing a meeting of the Women's Wing functionaries, chaired by former MLA and State Women's Wing Vice President Bimla Luthra.

In his address, Sheikh Bashir Ahmad highlighted the significance of the "Zero-Ticket Travel" initiative, describing it as a transformative step that enhances women's access to education, employment, and public participation. He noted that the initiative strengthens women's dignity, safety, and empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering Vijay Lochan Chairman SC

Cell emphasized that the government is actively promoting women's empowerment through key initiatives such as Lakhpati Didi, aimed at enabling financial independence among women. He also underscored the importance of the Youth Mission, which encourages entrepreneurship among young women, particularly in digital and e-commerce sectors. These efforts, he said, reflect a strong commitment to inclusive growth by empowering women to become self-reliant and active contributors to the economy.

Highlighting the ongoing

initiatives of the NC Women's Wing, Bimla Luthra stated that the organization remains deeply engaged with the public through continuous and purpose-driven outreach. "Through door-to-door consultations, public meetings, and targeted outreach programmes, we are listening to women from all walks of life, understanding their challenges, and ensuring that their voices translate into actionable policies," she said.

She added that the Women's Wing is not only creating opportunities but also nurturing leadership that is informed, responsive,

and transformative. She emphasized the women cadre of the party to get ready of forthcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies elections and strengthen the party at gross root level to ensure glorious victory in these elections.

Among those who were present in the meeting included: Pardeep Bali Provincial Secretary Jammu, Laxmi Datta Senior leader, Rakesh Singh Raka Vice President Central Zone, Priyanka Sharma, Meenakshi Raina, Sonia Sharma, Ruchita Gupta, Satvir Kour, Arti Suri and others.

CRPF Organises Nasha Mukti Abhiyan in Udhampur, Hundreds Participate

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As part of its Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2025-26, the 137 Battalion of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) organised a Nasha Mukti Abhiyan at SIKS Government Model Higher Secondary School (Boys), Udhampur, on Tuesday, drawing participation from hundreds of students, teachers, and community members.

The anti-drug awareness programme aimed at sensitising youth and the general public about the harmful effects of drug abuse and promoting a drug-free society.

Senior officials and dignitaries present on the occasion included Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh Chib (JKAS), Colonel Sumit Rana of 6th Battalion NCC, Commandant 137 Bn CRPF M.K. Sicon, Additional SP Udhampur Sandeep Bhatt (JKPS), SDPO Sadar Abhijit Sirohi (IPS), along with other police and CRPF officers, school authorities, and civil society members.

During the event, awareness sessions were conducted highlighting the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of community participation in combating the menace. Mementos and shawls were presented to dignitaries, while around 110 awareness T-shirts carrying anti-drug messages were distributed among participants.

According to officials, a total of around 650 participants attended the programme, including 360 students, 150 parents, 70 teachers, 50 NCC cadets, 20

media personnel, and 50 civilians from various educational institutions in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, CRPF officials reiterated their commitment to youth welfare and community engagement in Jammu and Kashmir. They stressed that such initiatives are essential in building resilient communities and steering young minds away from drug abuse.

The programme was organised in line with the nationwide campaign for a "Nasha Mukti Bharat"

(Drug-Free India) and reflects CRPF's continued efforts beyond security duties to promote social awareness and public welfare.

Local residents and media persons appreciated the initiative and urged the CRPF to continue organising such awareness programmes in the future, terming them highly beneficial for society.

Officials added that similar anti-drug campaigns have been conducted by the unit in previous years and will continue as part of their ongoing outreach activities.

Varuna Anand appointed as National Initiative Head - Textiles, Handlooms & Handicrafts

NEW DELHI, MAR 31: Varuna Anand has been appointed as the National Initiative Head for Textiles, Handlooms & Handicrafts

and a National Governing Body (GB) Member of FICCI FLO for the term 2026-2027, under the dynamic and visionary leadership of the 43rd National President, Ms. Puja Garg.

This prestigious appointment underscores Varuna Anand's continued commitment to advancing India's rich textile heritage while fostering sustainable livelihoods and strengthening women-led enterprises. A textile designer by profession, her work has been deeply rooted in reviving and promoting the Art of Shawl making from Kashmir.

In her new role, she will work to carry forward the President's vision by building a strong and inclusive ecosystem for textiles, handlooms, and handicrafts. Her focus will be on



preserving traditional crafts while enabling innovation, enhancing market access, and creating meaningful linkages at both national and global levels. A key priority will also be to strengthen the capabilities within the FLO network, alongside driving impactful engagement with grassroots artisans, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and craft communities across the country.

With five years of experience as a GB member through her association

with the FLO JKL Chapter, Varuna Anand has consistently contributed to high-impact initiatives. She also served as Chairperson of FLO JKL (2023-24) & National Initiative Head Partnership & Collaborations FICCI FLO (2025-26).

Expressing her gratitude, Varuna Anand thanked Ms. Puja Garg for her trust and confidence, and reaffirmed her commitment to strengthening India's textile and handicrafts sector—an enduring cultural legacy and a vital driver of inclu-

sive economic growth. She emphasized taking pride in our traditional textiles and crafts leads to creating sustainable opportunities for the artisan communities.

FICCI FLO, one of South East Asia's leading women-led chambers of commerce, has a strong membership base of over 15,000 women across 21 chapters and 4 YFLO chapters. Through its extensive network, it continues to champion women's leadership, enterprise, and economic empowerment.