

# House Committee on Environment holds review meeting in Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 03

The House Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a review meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to discuss critical environmental issues and challenges, particularly those related to the Geology and Mining Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and attended by members including Peerzada Mohammad Syed, Rajiv Jasrotia, Dr. Sajjad Shafi, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Zafar Ali Khatana, Khurshid Ahmed, Mushtaq Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar and Yudhvir Sethi.

Referring to the fragile ecological balance of Jammu and Kashmir, the Chairman stated that development must not come at the cost of the environment.

"Any development activity must be aligned with protection of the local flora and fauna," he emphasized.

The Chairman called for strict monitoring and vigilance against the illegal



mining activities, highlighting the detrimental impact of unregulated mining on water levels, agriculture and the broader ecosystem. He assured the Committee would conduct on-ground inspection of various mining sites to verify compliance with environmental regulations.

"Mining of natural resources is directly linked to our environmental health. Illegal mining has led to a decline in groundwater levels, adversely affecting our agriculture sector," Tarigami observed.

He further directed the department to undertake routine inspections of min-

ing sites and ensure no environmental degradation occurs.

The Chairman called for strict action against the violators of mining regulations. He also emphasized the need to mitigate impacts on riverbanks and beds, which disrupt irrigation and harm agriculture and horticulture.

Officers were instructed to collaborate with the environmental experts, NGOs, scientists and activists to strengthen the environmental protection efforts across J&K.

During the meeting, the Committee members raised several environ-

ment-related concerns and unanimously demanded tougher measures to curb illegal mining.

Principal Secretary, Geology and Mining, Anil Kumar Singh, briefed the Committee on the department's ongoing initiatives to eliminate illegal mining. He stated that technology-driven monitoring systems are being used to enhance vigilance and prevent violations across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was also attended by Director, Geology and Mining, S.P. Rukwal, Chairman, Pollution Control Committee, Vasu Yadav and other senior officials.

# SDM Paddar conducts whirlwind tour of Machail to inspect ongoing developmental works

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 03

Under the Directions of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, the Sub Divisional Magistrate Paddar, Dr. Amit Kumar conducted a whirlwind tour of Machail to inspect the ongoing developmental works in the area.

During this tour, he paid particular attention to the laying of tiles from the Helipad towards Bhawan.

The construction of sanitary complexes was initiated and he oversaw the progress of the Parisar Bhawan construction project.

The contractor in charge of the Parisar Bhawan was instructed to complete the slab laying before the 20th of July to



ensure the smooth conduct of the annual Shree Machail Mata Yatra 2025.

Additionally, SDM Paddar inspected other developmental works, such as the construction of Yatra Sarai and dormitory by the PWD department.

He directed the RDD

department to ensure the proper functioning of the Yatra Sarai and to maintain sanitation in and around the Parisar area.

The Sub-Divisional Magistrate emphasized the importance of completing these projects in a timely manner to facili-

tate the upcoming Shree Machail Mata Yatra and to provide essential facilities for the residents and pilgrims.

The SDM was accompanied by Tehsildar Atholi Vijay Gupta, besides senior officers of the concerned departments.

# Food Safety Team inspects langars at Base Camp Nunwan, Transit Camp Chandanwari, Pahalgam

PAHALGAM, JULY 3 : Aiming at ensuring the safety and well-being of pilgrims during the Shri Amarnath Yatra, the Food Safety team Kashmir, under the directions of Commissioner Food and Drugs Administration, Smita Sethi, conducted a comprehensive inspection of Langars operating at the Base Camp Nunwan and Transit Camp Chandanwari, Pahalgam. The inspections were conducted under the supervision of Joint Commissioner Food Safety, Sanjeev Kumar.

The team was comprised of Deputy Commissioner Food Safety, Kashmir, State Nodal Officer, Food Safety Officer HQ Kashmir and Food Safety Officers from Anantnag district.

The inspection aimed to ensure that all Langars adhere to the highest standards of food safety and hygiene, thereby safeguarding the health of pilgrims. On the occasion, a sensitisation meeting was also convened by the Joint Commissioner, in which Sachin Sharma, Additional Camp Director and repre-

sentatives of Langars authorized to operate at the Base Camp Nunwan participated.

It was informed that 12 Langars are currently operating at the Base Camp, Nunwan and 08 at the Transit Camp Chandanwari.

During the meeting, State Nodal Officer FDA sensitized the representatives of the Langars on the importance of maintaining high standards of health hygiene and food safety.

The Langar representatives and food handlers

were emphasized for compliance with the Advisory issued by the department, focusing on key areas like sanitary and hygienic requirements, proper storage conditions, regular checking of expiry dates of raw materials, use of potable water for food preparation, disposal of food waste, pest and rodent control measures, prohibition of unpermitted food colors, ensuring health certificates for food handlers, registration of Langars under the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

# EPFO organises seminar on ELI

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 03

The Office of the Regional Provident Fund Commissioner-I (RPFC-I), Employees' Provident Fund Organization (EPFO), today successfully organized three seminars at EPFO Bhavishya Nidhi Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Railway Road, Jammu. The seminars were conducted with the objective of disseminating information and creating awareness among establishments regarding the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme.

Objective and Significance:

The ELI Scheme is a significant initiative aimed at supporting employment generation, enhancing employability, and promoting social security across all sectors, with a special focus on the manufacturing sector. These seminars provided a platform for establishments to gain a deeper understanding of the scheme's benefits, features, and implementation.

Key Highlights:

The seminars featured comprehensive presentation by RPFC-I, highlighting the key aspects of the ELI Scheme. The discus-

sions covered various topics, including:

- Overview of the ELI Scheme and its objectives
- Benefits and features of the scheme
- Implementation and operational aspects
- Role of establishments in promoting employment generation and social security

The seminars received an overwhelming response from establishments, and the feedback was highly positive. The participants appreciated the efforts of the EPFO in organizing the seminars and expressed their gratitude for the valuable information and in-

sights provided.

Key stakeholders, Sh. G.S. Sachdev, Regional Head, M/s CIBS Services Private Limited, Sh. Narinder Verma, ABN Personnel Network, Ms. Anshika Gupta, HR, M/s Radisson Blu among others were present in the seminars.

EPFO is committed to continuing such initiatives to promote awareness and facilitate the implementation of its schemes.

The organization believes that such efforts will contribute significantly to achieving its objectives and promoting the welfare of employees and establishments.

# DDC Rajouri chairs DLRC meeting, emphasizes timely disposal of pending cases

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 03

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to review the performance of banks and line departments under various government-sponsored schemes.

During the meeting, the DDC took a detailed review of the branch-wise list of pending cases under schemes such as PMEGP, KVIB, HADP and other self employment schemes of different departments. The DDC was asked to provide detailed data regarding cases returned under each scheme from all banks to the concerned departments, along with reasons, to ensure transparency and corrective measures.

The DDC issued strict instructions that departments clearing the cases must communicate promptly with the concerned officers. He emphasized that no ap-



plicant should be harassed or made to run unnecessarily for follow-ups. He further directed the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) to ensure timely disposal of all pending applications.

The Handloom Department was instructed to plan and propose a District Export Plan to boost the district's economic activities and promote local artisans and weavers.

The State Bank of India (SBI) was directed to submit a separate Action Taken Report (ATR) regarding

scheme implementation. The DDC also stressed that bank branches should be selected carefully, ensuring that the proposed unit or beneficiary falls within the service area of the concerned branch to avoid operational bottlenecks.

In addition, the DDC directed RSETI to provide quality training under the Mission YUVA initiative, ensuring that the youth are trained in market-relevant skills and are made job-ready or self-employment ready. The banks were

asked to ensure timely disbursement of sanctioned cases under various governmental schemes.

The meeting was attended by key officials including the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Director Employment, Functional Manager DIC, Lead District Manager, DDM NABARD, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, DDM NABARD, district-level officers of line departments and representatives from KVIB, Handloom and other concerned agencies.

# DC Doda reviews JJM, JSJB 2.0 progress, stresses timely completion, water sustainability

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 03

A detailed review meeting was convened today at the Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda, to assess the implementation status of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and Jal Shakti Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) 2.0 initiatives in the district.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, who also serves as the Chairman of DJJM Doda, along with Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Doda. Among the attendees were Chief Planning Officer, Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Doda, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Divisions, Assistant Executive Engineers from Doda and Bhandarwal and members of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) team.

The Superintending Engineer, Hydraulic Circle Doda, delivered a compre-



hensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting the district's progress under both missions. Key indicators such as the number of Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), completion of rapid sand filtration plants, bore wells and other critical infrastructure were presented. The performance of three major divisions Jal Shakti

PHE Division Doda, PWD (R&B) Sub-Division Gandoh and Hydraulic Divisions of Kishtwar and Thathri was also reviewed.

During the discussions, the Deputy Commissioner directed all executing agencies to expedite pending works within the stipulated timelines and to conduct regular field inspections to monitor real-time progress.

They underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination, timely resolution of bottlenecks at the field level and quality assurance in the execution of projects. The officers were also instructed to prepare a clear roadmap for addressing gaps in water quality testing and to enhance public awareness about water conservation and judicious usage.

In addition, the DC stressed the need for certifying all completed Functional Household Tap Connections promptly and ensuring that every household is covered under the mission. He also suggested exploring innovative solutions for water resource sustainability, such as rainwater harvesting and rejuvenation of traditional water bodies. The meeting concluded with a call for renewed commitment from all departments to achieve the targets set under JJM and JSJB 2.0, ensuring reliable and safe drinking water for every household in the district.

# Justice Sanjeev inaugurates Legal Aid Clinic & Free Medical Camp for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris at Pahalgam

ANANTANG JULY 03: In a momentous step towards strengthening access to justice and healthcare, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Judge, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Executive Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, inaugurated a Legal Aid Clinic and Free Medical Camp at the Court Complex, Pahalgam, for the benefit of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris and the local population.

Addressing the gathering, Justice Sanjeev Kumar underlined the dual commitment of the Legal Services Authorities towards legal empowerment and humanitarian service. He interacted with aggrieved persons seeking legal assistance, encouraging them to

utilize the free services available through the Legal Services Institutions.

"Legal aid is not charity; it is the constitutional mandate of a welfare state. Every person, regardless of their economic or social status, has the right to access justice. The Legal Services Authorities have been working tirelessly to bridge the gap between law and the people. This Legal Aid Clinic at Pahalgam is another step in that direction—bringing justice to the very doorstep of the needy, especially during the holy Amarnath Yatra when thousands converge here," he said.

He stated that Free Medical Camp established here is equally significant, as pilgrims undertake a physically and



spiritually intense journey. He added, "It is our duty to ensure that no one is left without basic healthcare. I commend the Health Department and the Legal Services Authority for this collaborative effort which merges legal aid with health care—two pillars of human dignity."

"It is heartening to see today's program combine awareness with cultural expression. The skit and folk song by students beautifully highlighted the importance of knowing one's rights. And more importantly, today's distribution of mobility aids—scooters, wheelchairs, and hearing aids—reiterates our commitment to empower those who have been historically neglected" Justice

Sanjeev Kumar underlined.

"Let us continue to work together—judiciary, civil society, health officials, and the public—to build a more inclusive and accessible justice system. Legal aid is not just about courts—it is about compassion, care, and commitment to the last person in the line."

The program featured a welcome address by Tahir Khurshid Raina, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Anantnag.

A cultural folk song and an impactful skit presentation by the students of Government Higher Secondary School, Pahalgam, enriched the event and conveyed the legal aid message through artistic expression.