

# CS calls for people's participation to preserve manuscripts under Mission Gyan Bharatam



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today impressed upon the Culture Department to actively involve people and encourage them to come forward for the identification, digitization, and preservation of rare manuscripts for posterity under the Government of India's flagship programme Mission Gyan Bharatam.

Chairing a high-level review meeting on the implementation of the Mission in the Union Territory, the Chief Secretary emphasized that public participation is critical for safeguarding India's rich manuscript heritage, much of which is privately held or housed in religious and traditional institutions.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Director General, Libraries; Secretary in Culture Department;

Director, Colleges; Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, besides other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary underlined the need for intensive awareness programmes, to be conducted with the support of professionals and individuals who have already contributed to manuscript preservation efforts. He also called for active involvement of religious heads and civil society organisations and SHGs noting that a significant number of valuable manuscripts are preserved at religious places across the UT.

Highlighting the significance of the task, the Chief Secretary stressed the importance of capacity building of field officers engaged in survey and monitoring. He directed that a designated supervisory officer be appointed in each block to oversee the process.

Drawing parallels with the successful Mission YUVA initiative, he advised adopting a similar technology-driven approach to ensure a UT-wide household survey through an online platform.

He further instructed the Deputy Commissioners to identify competent personnel to carry out this delicate assignment.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, informed that Mission Gyan Bharatam aims to digitize one crore manuscripts nationwide to establish a National Digital Repository of Indian Knowledge Systems, ensuring seamless knowledge sharing and long-term preservation of India's intellectual legacy.

He explained that the Mission is anchored on achieving the three 'Ds' namely Digitization, Deciphering, and Democratization through a '4S' strategy, which includes searching for manuscripts, saving them, scanning them, and ultimately sharing them on the public domain in an accessible and lucid form.

The Principal Secretary further stated that for effective implementation of the Mission in J&K, MoUs have been signed by the concerned Ministry with States, Union Territories, and institutions for setting up Cluster Centres and

State Nodal Agencies, ensuring precision, synergy, and unity under a national collaborative framework.

Outlining the progress so far, Director, Archives, Archaeology & Museums, K.K. Sidha, apprised the meeting that 33,858 manuscripts have already been identified from government and semi-government institutions, religious establishments, and individual custodians. He added that a special household survey titled 'Har Ghar Dastak' is being planned to trace and digitize manuscripts with the consent of their owners, following the goal of 'Har Din-Ek Gin', targeting coverage of at least one panchayat per day.

The Head, Department of Persian, University of Kashmir, Jehangir Ahmad, whose department has been designated as a Cluster Centre for digitization, informed the meeting that around 5,000 manuscript pages have already been scanned at the lab established at the University, primarily from government institutions and bodies. He also announced that a separate digitization laboratory will be set up at the Archives in Jammu, ensuring smooth and timely execution of the Mission in the Jammu region as well.

The Chief Secretary concluded by reiterating that the Mission is not merely a technological exercise but a collective cultural responsibility, requiring cooperation between government, institutions, and the people to preserve invaluable knowledge for future generations.

# Govt prioritizes resource utilisation, enrolment boost aiming for academic excellence:Sakeena

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

Minister for Education Sakeena Itoo today said that the government is presently prioritizing enhancement of overall enrolment, strengthening of academic offerings and improving utilization of existing institutional resources for the benefit of students in Government Degree Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said this while replying to a question of Legislator Nizam-ud-Din Bhat regarding H.K Government Degree College (GDC) Bandipora in the House.

The Education Minister informed the House that at present Science-cum-Administrative Block equipped with laboratories, 12 Room Lecture Hall



and three Pre-fabricated Huts are under execution, while tendering process for playground is also underway.

The Minister also informed the house that the government is prioritizing enhancement of overall enrolment in colleges across

Jammu and Kashmir. As such, establishment of a separate Degree College for Women in district Bandipora may not be viable at this stage, as the same shall further fragment the enrolment in the existing college, she added.

# Budget Session 2026: Discussion on Motion of Thanks continues for second day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

The discussion on Motion of Thanks on Lieutenant Governor's Address continued for the second day with Legislators raising issues and concerns of their respective constituencies besides Jammu and Kashmir's overall development.

Legislator Shamim Firdous raised the issue of students and youth imprisoned in Central jails of other states. She urged the government to take up the matter with the Union Government for their early release or transfer from outside jails to Srinagar Central Jail.

While participating in the debate, Sajjad Shaheen said that LGs address is the continuity of government's development vision of J&K which includes robust power system, regular water supply, better road infrastructure, improved health facilities, education and tourism.

Irfan Hafiz Lone, in his address raised the issue of Kashmiri students and workers being harassed in other parts of the country. He urged that government should take up the matter with the Union Government for their safety.

Surjit Singh Slathia, while participating in the debate, raised the issue of daily wagers. He drew attention towards increasing unemployment and closing of industrial units in J&K. He urged the government for revival of SIDCO

and SICOP.

Balwant Singh Mankotia urged the government to conduct Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies election. He also raised the issue of unscheduled power cuts creating inconvenience for the people in these harsh winter conditions.

Speaking in support of Motion of Thanks, Legislator Reyaz Ahmad Khan said that the government has taken several initiatives for overall development of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that power, health, education and other sectors have witnessed significant improvement since the past 14 months. He added that the path of development and progress has begun since the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah took over the charge.

Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, while speaking during the debate, said that there has been tremendous improvement in the power and Jal Shakti and road connectivity sectors but there is need to do more in various areas of his Constituency.

He said an impactful change is being witnessed on the ground particularly in education, health and water supply facilities being provided to the people. He also spoke on restoration of statehood and safeguarding the land and employment rights of the people. Legislator, Waheed ur Rehman Parra, during the debate spoke about various issues, particularly related to youth of

J&K. He raised issues regarding reservation, merit, special assistance schemes and also demanded early resolution of reservation issue.

Legislator Dr. Narinder Singh Raina said that development of country depends on the development of States and UTs. He raised issues including electricity charge, encroachments and demanded opening of veterinary hospital and industrial estates in his Constituency.

Mubarik Gul, while speaking in favour of Motion of Thanks, highlighted various initiatives started by the government for overall development of Jammu and Kashmir.

In his address, Legislator Satish Kumar Sharma spoke about the issue of daily wagers, Asha Workers and others. He also spoke about the damage being caused to agriculture produce by the wild animals in his constituency and sought due compensation for the same.

Participating in the debate, Legislator Iftikar Ahmed appreciated the step of government, particularly Education Ministry, for regularising CPWs in J&K. He raised the issue of regularisation of daily wagers and casual labourers in the house. He also demanded recruitment policy for all newly established GMCs for plugging the gaps of staff deficiency.

Speaking in support of Motion, Legislator Qaysar Jamshaid Lone appreciated the Chief Minister

and his Council of Ministers for initiating a new dawn of development since the past 15 months. He also appreciated the government and particularly Education Minister for change of academic session in schools.

Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat, while participating in the debate, raised various constituency specific issues of public importance.

Legislator, Abdul Majeed Larmi, while speaking in support of Motion highlighted various initiatives launched by the government for development of Jammu and Kashmir. He demanded compensation for the farmers whose fruit produce was affected by highway closure. He also demanded creation of a stop for Vande Bharat Train at Anantnag Railway Station. Participating in the debate, Legislator Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi raised the issue of political prisoners and other issues concerning his constituency.

Speaking during the debate, Legislator Darshan Kumar raised constituency specific issues, including upgradation of schools and shortage of staff in educational institutions.

Speaking in favour of Motion, Legislator Khurshid Ahmed commended the efficient performance of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. He also lauded the government for restoration of Darbar Move, increase in marriage assistance scheme as well as removal of educational bar in the scheme.

# Satish highlights Cinema's role in preserving Kashmiri culture at "Batt Koch" event in Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today lauded the efforts of local filmmakers and cultural practitioners for promoting the Kashmiri language, traditions and lived realities through cinema at Batt Koch, a special cinematic gathering held at Movie Time Cinema (Indra Theatre), Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister said that regional cinema plays a vital role in preserving the cultural identity and passing on the rich heritage of Jammu and Kashmir to future generations. He emphasized that initiatives like Batt Koch provide an important platform for showcasing authentic Kashmiri narratives rooted in the region's history, emotions, and social fabric.

Satish Sharma reiterated the government's commitment towards supporting youth, artists and creative professionals, noting that cinema and digital storytelling hold immense potential in empowering young talent and strengthening cultural expression.

He added that the integration of technology with creative industries can further amplify local voices and take regional stories to wider audiences.

The event was also attended by eminent dignitaries including DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shiv Kumar, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner, Arvind Karvani., Former Judge, Human Rights Commission J&K, Chander Mohan Sharma, prominent artists and intellectuals.

Through Batt Koch, the organizers aim to revive the pride in Kashmiri cinema and reinforce its role as a powerful medium for cultural preservation and meaningful social dialogue.

While participating in the debate, Sajjad Shaheen said that LGs address is the continuity of government's development vision of J&K which includes robust power system, regular water supply, better road infrastructure, improved health facilities, education and tourism.

Irfan Hafiz Lone, in his address raised the issue of Kashmiri students and workers being harassed in other parts of the country. He urged that government should take up the matter with the Union Government for their safety.

Surjit Singh Slathia, while participating in the debate, raised the issue of daily wagers. He drew attention towards increasing unemployment and closing of industrial units in J&K. He urged the government for revival of SIDCO

# DC Budgam reviews Power Infrastructure works under RDSS with KPDCCL

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of power infrastructure strengthening works being executed by the Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDCCL) in the district under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) of the Government of India.

The meeting focused on physical progress achieved under key RDSS components aimed at modernising and augmenting the power distribution network to ensure reliable, efficient and quality power supply to consumers across Budgam.

The DC was apprised that under the Pole Erection component, against a total



approved scope of 37,820 poles, a total of 22,863 poles have been erected so far, significantly strengthening the distribution backbone.

With regard to 11 KV Line Installation, the total approved scope stands at 158 kilometres, out of which 43 kilometres have been completed. The DC emphasized that completion of 11 KV lines is critical for load balancing, feeder segregation and reducing outages.

Regarding under LT Line (LTAB Cabling), the meet-

ing was informed that against an approved scope of 1,571 kilometres, a length of 850.44 kilometres has been completed.

The DC directed for further acceleration of LT cabling to minimise line losses, improve safety and enhance service reliability.

Similarly, for Distribution Transformer (DTR) Installation, against a total target of 271 transformers, 92 DTRs have been installed so far.

The DC stressed that timely commissioning of

DTRs is vital to reduce overloading, improve voltage profile and cater to growing demand in both urban and rural pockets.

The DC conducted a detailed review of field-level challenges including right-of-way issues, site constraints, material availability and manpower deployment.

He directed KPDCCL department Budgam to strengthen coordination with the district administration, revenue and police departments to resolve bottlenecks and facilitate smooth execution of works.

He instructed KPDCCL to prepare a subdivision-wise and feeder-wise action plan for expediting the balance works.

The DC also stressed adherence to quality standards, safety norms and technical specifications under RDSS to ensure long-term sustainability of the infrastructure.

# DC Srinagar reviews progress in saturation under key social security, welfare schemes

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 04

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today reviewed the progress on the saturation of various Government flagship schemes in the Rural Blocks of the district in a meeting held at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Development, Tariq Ahmad Reshi; District Social Welfare Officer, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, all Block Development Officers, Zonal Medical Officers, District Agriculture Officer, LDM(Banks), District Co-ordinator CSC and other Officer.

The meeting focused on ensuring coverage of every eligible beneficiary under various beneficiary-oriented government schemes related to social welfare, livelihood, agriculture and farmer welfare, housing, employment generation, and other public welfare initiatives.

The DC also reviewed Block wise progress



achieved under the saturation of schemes including PM-KUSUM, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, ABHA registration, PM Shram Yojana, Vay Vandana, ISSS, NSAP, and other flagship schemes.

During the meeting, the DC was apprised of block-wise achievements made under the saturation campaign across various Rural Development Blocks of Srinagar district, including Harwan, Khonmoh, Srinagar, and Qamarwari. Detailed discussion was held to enhance the efforts undertaken to ensure maximum outreach and enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under different government-sponsored schemes.

On the Occasion, the DC emphasised the need to intensify grassroots-level

outreach through door-to-door surveys and proactive service delivery to bridge existing gaps in coverage.

All Block Development Officers were directed to ensure efficient and effective implementation of all Government flagship and citizen-centric schemes so that every eligible household and individual is covered under the respective welfare schemes, leaving no beneficiary behind.

The DC laid special emphasis on organising effective awareness camps in all Panchayat blocks of the district, particularly for schemes like Vay Vandana and PM Shram Yogi Maandhan scheme. He stressed upon BDOs to conduct regular field visits in their respective areas, interact with the people and sensitise them about the benefits of these schemes.

The DC also underscored the importance of strengthened coordination among line departments and Block-level officers.

He instructed all concerned Officers to work with renewed focus, dedication and accountability to achieve saturation targets within the stipulated time frame.