

Satish emphasises child safeguarding, psychosocial support at Teachers' Training program

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today emphasised the pivotal role of teachers and school management committees in ensuring children's psychosocial well-being and safeguarding.

The Minister was addressing at a training programme held for the Teachers and School Management Committees on Psychosocial Support and Child Safeguarding, at Government Higher Secondary School, Dhakhar in Chamb Constituency.

He highlighted the importance of creating a supportive environment for the students to thrive. He stressed that teachers are key to shape young minds and urged them to be vigilant about students' mental health.

The programme was organised by the National Development Foundation (NDF), Jammu, in collaboration with the School Education Department, under



the Parivartan Small Grants Programme 2025-26, supported by HDFC Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that schools are not merely centres of academic learning but also safe spaces where children's emotional, psychological and social development must be nurtured. He stressed that teachers play a pivotal role in identifying early signs of stress, trauma or vulnerability among the students and responding with sensitivity and responsibility.

The Minister highlighted the government's commitment towards creating a secure and inclusive environment for the children, particularly those in difficult circumstances. He added that capacity-building initiatives like this training programme strengthen the institutional framework for child protection and promote a culture of care, empathy and vigilance within schools.

Satish Sharma also appreciated the efforts of the National Development Foundation and partner organisations for working

closely with the School Education Department to empower educators and community stakeholders. He called for sustained collaboration between the government departments, civil society organisations and financial institutions to ensure holistic child welfare.

Officials from the School Education Department, representatives of NDF, teachers, members of School Management Committees and other stakeholders were present on the occasion.

The programme focused on equipping the participants with practical tools and knowledge to address psychosocial challenges faced by the children and implement effective child safeguarding mechanisms at the school level.

On the occasion, the Minister also distributed interactive learning panels (Smart Classrooms) among four schools and provided sports material to four schools located in the border areas of Chamb constituency. The initiative was aimed at strengthening the educational infrastructure and promoting physical fitness among the students in remote regions.

SKUAST-K holds 1-day food processing conclave

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Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir held a one day food processing conclave at Shalimar to deliberate on growth opportunities, policy support, and industry modernisation in the sector.

The conclave titled, 'Jammu and Kashmir Produce and Processing Conclave' was organised by SKUAST-K's Division of Food Science & Technology in collaboration with Knowledge Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India.

The program brought together policymakers, industry leaders, financial institutions, and food processing stakeholders to deliberate on the issues and way forward for the processing industry in J&K.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest on the occasion, emphasised the critical role of research, innovation, and academia-industry collaboration in unlocking



the horticulture and food processing potential of the region.

Guest of Honour, Dr JP Dongare, Deputy Agricultural Marketing Advisor, Ministry of Food Processing Industries (MoFPI), Government of India, highlighted key government initiatives, policy convergence, and schemes aimed at promoting value addition, infrastructure development, and entrepreneurship in food processing.

Prof Haroon Rashid Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-Kashmir, spoke about the university's research-driven approach to strengthening the food processing sector and role of MoFPI support in boosting this sunrise industry.

Prof Rihana Habib Kant,

Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, underlined the vast untapped potential of Jammu & Kashmir in horticulture-based food processing and need to develop fortified foods.

Industry perspectives were presented by Basheer Ahmed Naik, President, Jammu & Kashmir Fruits & Vegetables Processing & Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA), and Ishaq Chowdhary, President, Kashmir Food Processors Association (KFP), who emphasised the need for robust cold chain infrastructure, market access, and policy support to enhance competitiveness of local processors.

The technical sessions featured lectures by Mohammad Shafi, associated

with PMFME Scheme (J&K), Dr Azra Mufti from APEDA, and Mufti Umar Intiyaz, Food Safety Officer.

A panel discussion on "Insights and Opportunities: Modernizing Jammu & Kashmir's Food Processing Sector" was moderated by Dr Sajad Mohd Wani, Head, Division of Food Science & Technology, SKUAST-K. The panel included Dr. Jameel Khan, CEO, RBIC, SKUAST-K; Basit Hussain Khan, MD, BST Organics and Shahjahan Khan, MD, Hyacinth Agro Products Pvt. Ltd.

The discussion focused on entrepreneurship, incubation support, private investment, and scaling of food processing ventures in the region.

ADC Reasi reviews arrangements for Mahashivratri Mela-2026 at Ransoox

REASI, FEBRUARY 07: Additional Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Rakesh Kumar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness for the upcoming Mahashivratri Mela-2026, scheduled to be held from February 14 to 16, 2026 at Shiv Shakti Bhawan, Ransoox.

The meeting focused on ensuring seamless arrangements related to security, traffic management, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, health services, fire safety, cultural programmes and crowd management.

The ADC directed the Food Safety and Legal Metrology Departments to conduct market inspections, test food samples and enforce strict price control.

The Tehsildar Pouni was instructed to earmark designated locations for hawk-



ers and prevent any encroachments on roads.

The Tourism Department was directed to arrange waterproof tents, adequate lighting and sound systems and cultural programmes to ensure a well-organised and vibrant

inauguration of the mela.

The Motor Vehicles Department was instructed to restrict the movement of heavy vehicles at Kanda, deploy 20 matadors for ferrying pilgrims from Kanda to Ransoox Bus Stand and ensure that no overcharg-

ers take place during the mela period.

The Jal Shakti Department, in coordination with the Police Department, was directed to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water, deploy water tankers as required and install necessary barricading at the venue.

The ADC further directed

Budget Session 2026 General discussion on Budget begins in Assembly

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Budget, Legislator Nizamud-Din Bhat said that the budget is balanced budget. He appreciated the announcement of cultural Centre for Bandipora and crop insurance for the farmers. He suggested that pro-active steps be taken to protect the environment.

Initiating the debate on the Budget, Legislator, Javid Hassan Baig described Budget 2026-27 as a pro-people document that addresses and fulfils the aspirations and needs of the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

He stated that despite challenges, consistent efforts are being made to ensure better governance and public welfare.

Legislator, Devyani Rana in her maiden speech submitted that local feedback must be welcomed with the intent of institutionalisation, not treated as a mere formality.

She stated that the legislators have collective responsibility to do better and merely repackaging central schemes will not address the ground realities.

She raised the issue of the dearth of staff in power development department. She asked for facilities like ramps for disabled persons in the proposed free bus service.

Joining the debate on

the budget discussion, said that there are ample challenges but the budget presented is people-friendly and seeks to address the needs of all sections of society despite limited resources.

MLA Kuldeep Raj Dubey said that the House should devote more time to discuss issues affecting the people and work collectively to find solutions.

Choudhary Mohammad Akram said that people are watching the proceedings and we should make judicious use of time. He said that Omar Abdullah is a dynamic Chief Minister who takes care of all sections of society, emphasising inclusive governance without indulging in divisive or sectarian politics.

MLA Hilal Akbar Lone while speaking stated that the budget has addressed all key sections, including daily wagers, filling of government vacancies, provision of free gas cylinders to Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AY) families among other things.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi said that the central Government has been more than generous in providing funds to UT of Jammu and Kashmir for development works and other related activities, contributing to its overall progress.

MLA Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, while participating

2nd Batch of Refresher Training Programme concludes at ZPHQ Jammu

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Zonal Police Headquarters (ZPHQ), Jammu successfully conducted the second batch of a one-week refresher training programme for police personnel who have been transferred or adjusted from different wings to the Jammu Zone.

The programme was organised at the Conference Hall, ZPHQ Jammu, with the aim of updating the participating personnel on key operational, legal, procedural and technological aspects relevant to policing in the Zone.

The refresher training was structured to orient the participants with prevailing policing practices, operational SOPs and recent legal developments, thereby facilitating their effective deployment in both field and office assignments.

Emphasis was laid on building professional efficiency, ensuring procedural uniformity and enhancing readiness to address evolving law and order and security challenges in the region.

The second batch of the programme witnessed participation of 42 police personnel, ranging in rank upto Inspector. The curriculum encompassed a broad range of subjects such as new criminal laws, special enactments, police station management, CCTNS operations, forensic processes, cybercrime investigation, digital policing tools and counter-terrorism-related inputs.

The training methodology included interactive sessions and open discussions, enabling personnel to gain hands-on exposure to systems, procedures and real-time problem-solving approaches. The sessions

were conducted by officers and experts who shared practical perspectives based on field experience and contemporary best practices.

At the conclusion of the training programme, the participants were addressed by Bhim Sen Tuti, Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, along with Shiv Kumar Sharma, DIG JSK Range; Shamshir Hussain, Staff Officer to IGP Jammu Zone and Sanjay Sharma, Staff Officer to DIG JSK Range.

The IGP underlined the importance of professionalism, discipline and strict compliance with established procedures while

Integration of migrant ration cards on NFSA database reviewed

JAMMU, FEBRUARY 07:

A comprehensive meeting was today held under the chairmanship of Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K, Dr. Arvind Karwani, to review the progress of integration of migrant ration cards on the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database and extension of benefits of social sector schemes to migrant beneficiaries.

Vijay Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner (Relief), Sanjeev Kumar Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Tej Krishan, Assistant Commissioner (Relief), Haroon Naik, Assistant Director, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, Zonal Officers/Camp Commandants and other senior officers of the Relief Organization, NFSA Cell and Food

Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department attended the meeting.

The concerned Tehsildars of Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar districts of Jammu Province also attended meeting through online mode.

The Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) highlighted the importance of time bound completion of integration of migrant ration cards of Kashmiri and Jammu Migrants, in terms of the Government notifications issued vide S.O. 392 and S.O. 393, both dated 13.08.2024, wherein the necessary amendments in the Jammu and Kashmir Food Security Rules, 2021 and Targeted Public Distribution (Control) Order 2023, have been done to enable migrants to avail the

benefit of various Government Schemes.

Further, in terms of the Government Order No 27-JK(DMRR) of 2025 dated 16.05.2025, issued by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation, it has also been explicitly clarified that the existing scale of ration distribution to the migrants registered under the Relief Category and extant norms/procedures for Inclusion, Deletion, Bifurcation, Conversion, Corrections of Ration Cards shall continue.

After the launching of the new PDS portal in August 2025, by the Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, the process of integration of about 50,000 migrant families into the national database

has been initiated.

Pertinent to mention that the migrant beneficiaries were not able to avail benefit of various social sector schemes like old age pension, widow pension, disability pension, marriage assistance and scholarships etc due to the fact that their ration cards were non-digitized and not integrated with the national database.

More than 3000 families have been identified for the benefits of various social sector schemes and have already benefited from social sector schemes in the past one month.

The migrants were also facing difficulties in availing benefits under Ayushman Bharat Scheme, which will also be redressed after transition into the NFSA database.



ing takes place during the mela period.

The Jal Shakti Department, in coordination with the Police Department, was directed to ensure uninterrupted supply of safe drinking water, deploy water tankers as required and install necessary barricading at the venue.

The ADC further directed the concerned departments to identify suitable locations for pit and mobile toilets and ensure proper sanitation arrangements throughout the mela days.

The Pollution Control Department was directed to make public announcements regarding the ban on use of polythene bags and take strict action against violators.

The ADC also reviewed

arrangements for the setting up of Langer stalls and held detailed discussions on the organisation of the Dangal scheduled on February 16, 2026.

The Motor Vehicles Department was instructed to restrict the movement of heavy vehicles at Kanda, deploy 20 matadors for ferrying pilgrims from Kanda to Ransoox Bus Stand and ensure that no overcharg-