

CS chairs 2nd UTLSMC to clear 879 housing units under PMAY-U across J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired the 2nd meeting of the Union Territory Level Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee (UTLSMC) under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban (PMAY–U) 2.0. The meeting reviewed major implementation milestones, approved key project proposals, and deliberated on quality monitoring, social audit compliance, and capacity building initiatives aimed at accelerating affordable housing delivery across the Union Territory.

The meeting besides ACS, APD and PDD was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; DG, Budget; Commissioner, JMC/SMC; Representative from J&K Bank and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need to extend proactive support to economically weaker sections to enable them to complete construction of their dwelling units within a stipulated time-frame. He directed the Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) and Municipal Corporations to reach out to all eligible beneficiaries who were previously surveyed for coverage under the Interest Subsidy Scheme for Self Construction/Enhancement (ISSS) vertical of PMAY–Urban. He observed that reaching out to nearly 80,000 households is achievable through coordinated efforts between ULBs and banking institutions.

The Chief Secretary further instructed the department to develop a dedicated digital tool to facilitate seamless beneficiary outreach and application processing, minimizing manual intervention. He also stressed the importance of organizing special camps



across all ULBs and municipal wards to ensure maximum enrolment of eligible beneficiaries under the scheme.

The Committee approved 47 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by various Urban Local Bodies under the Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) vertical. These DPRs cover 879 dwelling units, further strengthening the affordable housing ecosystem in the Union Territory and enabling eligible beneficiaries to construct or upgrade their own houses.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur, highlighted the significance of PMAY–Urban 2.0 in ensuring housing for all urban poor. She elaborated on the different scheme verticals including BLC, Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), and ISSS, stating that the combined implementation of these components would help in saturating the housing needs of all eligible urban households in the UT.

Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Shahbaz Ahmed Mirza, briefed the Committee on the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) submitted in response to observations made by Third Party Quality Monitoring (TPQM) agencies during their second and third inspection visits to BLC houses.

He informed that TPQM agencies were engaged as per PMAY–Urban guide-

lines to ensure construction quality across projects sanctioned in multiple Central Sanctioning & Monitoring Committee (CSMC) meetings, covering 463 BLC projects across Jammu & Kashmir.

Moreover he added that all mandated inspections have been completed and submission of duly approved ATRs to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) is mandatory for release of final instalments under BLC projects.

The UTLSMC reviewed and approved the Social Audit Report for BLC projects conducted in accordance with PMAY–Urban guidelines. The audit assessed transparency, beneficiary satisfaction, beneficiary selection processes, and adherence to approved norms.

The Social Audit was conducted by the Directorate of Social Audit, Department of Rural Development, J&K, across nine cities and towns of the Union Territory. The approved report will be submitted to MoHUA to facilitate release of final instalments under the BLC component.

The Committee also approved the Annual Capacity Building Plan under PMAY–Urban 2.0 for the financial year 2025–26. The plan aims to strengthen institutional capacity, enhance technical skills of implementing agencies, and improve monitoring and execution efficiency across the housing mission.

The meeting also re-

viewed physical and financial progress under PMAY–Urban 1.0. It was given out that in Jammu & Kashmir, 6,368 houses are currently under construction which are targeted for completion by 30 September 2026 before the set deadline.

On the financial front, it was revealed that mother sanctions have been received for BLC and salary components. Utilization Certificates amounting to ₹3,730.52 lakh are being prepared for submission. The Committee was further informed that 103 bills amounting to ₹25.67 crore, covering 2,501 beneficiaries, are going to be cleared soon after availability of UT share.

The meeting was apprised that under the BLC vertical of PMAY–Urban 2.0, financial assistance of ₹2.50 lakh per house is provided for houses with a carpet area of 30–45 sq. m., comprising ₹2.25 lakh Central Assistance and ₹0.25 lakh UT share. The Central Assistance is released in three construction-linked instalments of 40% in first instance, 40% as second instalment, and 20% as final instalment.

The Chief Secretary emphasized timely submission of mandatory compliance reports to MoHUA, early resolution of fund flow issues, and strengthening of monitoring mechanisms to ensure timely completion of houses and seamless benefit delivery to eligible beneficiaries.

The meeting also reviewed the status of mineral extraction, crushing and transportation, besides taking stock of Environmental Clearances (ECs) and Consent to Operate granted to various units. The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for ensuring that all mining and allied activities strictly adhere to statutory and environmental norms.

Among others present in the meeting included SSP Gaurav Sikarwar; ADC, Chander Prakash; ACR Mohd Jahangir Khan; Executive Engineers of the I&FC Department (Rajouri and Nowshera), Divisional Forest Officers (Rajouri and Nowshera) and the Divisional Officer, PCC Rajouri.

DIET Poonch hosts felicitation ceremony to celebrate success of INSPIRE-MANAK Scheme

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District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Poonch organized a grand felicitation ceremony to celebrate the remarkable success of the district under the prestigious INSPIRE–MANAK Scheme, which witnessed an impressive participation of around 1700 students from across the district.

Under the INSPIRE–MANAK scheme, an initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, students from classes VI to X submit innovative ideas and projects aimed at addressing societal and environmental challenges. Selected ideas are supported financially and evaluated at district, state and national levels, thereby providing a platform for young innovators to showcase their creativity and scientific aptitude.

The programme was held to acknowledge and honour the dedicated efforts of Zonal Nodal Officers (ZNOs), school heads and teachers whose consistent motivation and guidance encouraged students to actively participate in the innovation-driven initiative.



The event was graced by Chief Education Officer (CEO), Mukhtar Manhas as the Chief Guest. In his address, he congratulated the District Nodal Officer (DNO) INSPIRE, Imtiaz Bandey (HOD DIET), along with all Zonal Nodal Officers and the teaching fraternity for their outstanding contribution in promoting scientific thinking and creativity among students.

Speaking on the occasion, District Education and Planning Officer, Neelam Sharma underscored the need for sustained and collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including teachers, parents and education officials, to further strengthen the implementation of the INSPIRE–MANAK programme. Muzaffar Hussain conducted the proceedings of the programme and elaborated on the objectives and significance of the INSPIRE–MANAK scheme.

Harish Sharma and Darshan Kumar (DRG Members) also spoke on the occasion and appreciated the collective efforts of teachers, school heads and nodal officers in ensuring the enthusiastic participation of students in the scheme.

Maiden NSS Special Winter Camp concludes at GDC Ramkote with Valedictory function

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The NSS Special Winter Camp concluded today at Government Degree College Ramkote with a grand valedictory function. Principal Government Degree College Hiranagar Dr. Pragma Khanna was the Chief Guest. She was accompanied by faculty members from her college Prof. Rakesh Sharma and Dr. Shapia Shamim.

The formal session opened with a welcome address by the NSS Convener, Dr. Suresh. He expressed gratitude to the guests and commended the volunteers for their dedication throughout the camp.

Prof. Pankaj Nandan, IQAC Convener congratulated the volunteers for successfully completing seven day special winter camp.

The Camp Report, highlighting the week-long activities, was presented by NSS volunteers Hritika and Neha Devi.

Prof. Anu Sharma, NSS PO, congratulated the volunteers for their dedication and summarized the achievements that the vol-



unteers undertook as a part of social responsibility.

A poignant moment of the ceremony was the personal reflections and experiences of the camp shared by volunteers Hritika and Neha Devi.

The atmosphere was further energized by a spirited group presentation of the NSS Song by Tania, Reeta, Seema Devi, Reenu Devi and Priya Devi.

The Chief Guest lauded the GDC Ramkote and emphasized the role of youth in nation-building, urging volunteers to carry the camp's lessons into their daily lives.

To recognize the excellence, awards were given to the high achievers of the camp. The ceremony transitioned into a vibrant cultural segment, showcasing the artistic talent of the volunteers. A soulful Dogri

song titled "Jammu Diya Kandyan Bar Khilagi" was performed by Tania Sharma.

The host college Principal hailed the successful execution of the winter camp. The college presidium members were given their title badges by the Chief Guest. As a token of appreciation and memory, the college honored the Chief Guest with a memento.

DC reviews regulation of mining activities in Rajouri

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Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a district-level meeting of the Multi-Departmental District Level Task Force Cell (MDDLT-FCC) to review the regulation of mining activities in the district.

The meeting focused on strengthening inter-departmental coordination for effective monitoring, control and regulation of mining operations.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of GPS installation on vehicles engaged in mining activities and their integration



with BISAG for real-time tracking. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that all vehicles involved in extraction, transportation and related activities are brought under GPS surveillance without delay. Emphasising zero toler-

ance towards illegal mining, the DC instructed the enforcement agencies to strictly carry out seizures and impose penalties on vehicles found involved in unauthorised mining, transportation or related violations.

Saras AAJEEVIKA Mela concludes: Grand Celebration of craft, culture & cuisine with 'Umeed Ka Zaika' take center stage

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Saras AAJEEVIKA Mela 2026 organised by Jammu Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), the initiative is designed as an intervention to upgrade food-based livelihoods into structured, market-ready enterprises, improving presentation, quality standards and commercial viability.

Under a strategic partnership with Swiggy, "Umeed Ka Zaika" was introduced at the SARAS food court to strengthen sales and widen market access for participating groups. The platform brought together culinary practitioners to present traditional dishes, offering visitors insight into regional food practices and heritage.

Addressing the closing ceremony, Mission Director,

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Addressing the closing ceremony, Mission Director,



JKRLM Kashmir Dr Shubhra Sharma emphasized the significance of the event.

She remarked, "The Saras Aajeevika Mela is not just a fair; it's a crucial platform that empowers women artisans, promotes their craftsmanship and offers them opportunities to thrive in a competitive marketplace. This Mela plays a vital role in boosting the confidence and economic independence of rural women, contributing to the holistic development of the region," she added.

Referring to "Umeed Ka Zaika", Dr Shubhra Sharma said the initiative was a labor of love that highlighted not just the food we cherish, but

the stories behind every dish. It encapsulated the spirit of our community."

Events like the SARAS Aajeevika Mela provide a physical space for this community spirit to flourish, fostering unity through cultural exchange and shared entrepreneurship. She said the mela contributed to strengthening confidence and economic independence among rural women, while also supporting broader regional development.

The event concluded in the presence of Additional Mission Director, JKRLM, Manpreet Kaur, along with State Project Managers, District and Block Programme Managers and officials from various line departments.