

Satish reviews border infrastructure development with BRO Chief

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 14

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology, ARI and Trainings, Satish Sharma, today met R K Mishra, Chief of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), and held comprehensive discussion on key developmental priorities in border regions, with particular focus on Chhamb Constituency.

The meeting centred on strengthening the infrastructure and improving connectivity in strategically important border belts to accelerate socio-economic growth and enhance public service delivery.

The Minister underscored the need for sustained and coordinated efforts to ensure timely execution of road construction, upgradation and maintenance works in remote and sensitive areas. Emphasising the strate-



gic and developmental importance of border constituencies, the Minister said that robust road infrastructure plays a critical role not only in ensuring mobility but also in improving access to essential services such as healthcare, education, emergency response and supply of essential commodities. He highlighted that better connectivity is fundamental to empower the local communities, promote economic opportunities and strengthening overall re-

gional resilience. During the interaction, detailed deliberation was held on the status of ongoing projects, identification of priority stretches requiring immediate attention and formulation of a time-bound roadmap for future infrastructure initiatives. The Minister stressed the importance of adopting modern engineering practices, maintaining quality standards and expediting project timelines to deliver tangible benefits to the people at the earliest.

The BRO Chief briefed the Minister on the progress of various infrastructure works currently underway in the region. He also outlined the ongoing plans aimed at further strengthening the connectivity and enhancing the durability of road networks in border areas. He reiterated the organisation's commitment towards supporting the developmental initiatives and assured full cooperation in fast-tracking priority projects.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to balanced and inclusive development, the Minister stated that special focus will continue to be accorded to border constituencies to bridge infrastructure gaps and improve the quality of life of residents living in far-flung areas. He emphasised that coordinated institutional efforts and regular monitoring will remain key to ensuring efficient implementation of development initiatives.

DC Ganderbal chairs meeting of DLTC, reviews Telecom Infrastructure & public grievances

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, who is also chairman of District Level Telecom Committee (DLTC) convened a meeting here today to review the progress of telecom infrastructure projects and address issues related to mobile connectivity and public grievances in the district.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on BSNL 4G saturation and its physical status, pending Right of Way (RoW) cases, and progress under BharatNet and other connectivity initiatives. The meeting was informed that out of total Tower installation sites, most of the towers are on air while work on remaining is ongoing and ex-



pected to be completed soon. It was informed that several RoW applications have been received, and the concerned departments were directed to ensure that No Objection Certificates (NOCs) are issued within the stipulated timeframe to avoid any delays.

The DC emphasized the need for close coordination among line departments for early resolution of pending cases. The Committee also re-

viewed the progress of BharatNet projects. It was further informed that works at few locations have been completed, while the remaining are at various stages of execution.

The DC directed the executing agencies to accelerate the pace of work, especially in areas where tendering formalities have already been completed.

The DC stressed that strengthening telecom infrastructure is vital for public service delivery,

emergency response, and overall socio-economic development of the district. All stakeholders were directed to work in synergy to ensure seamless mobile connectivity across Ganderbal. Among others, the meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Superintending Engineer PWD, Assistant Commissioner Development, other officers and officials besides representatives from BSNL, Jio and other operators.

DC Anantnag chairs Gram Diwas at Sheikhgund

ANANTNAG, FEBRUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, SF Hamid, today conducted a Gram Diwas and public grievance redressal programme at Government Middle School, Sheikhgund, Shangus.

Addressing the gathering, the DC congratulated the residents and noted with pride that Sheikhgund was recently mentioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister in the 130th episode of 'Mann Ki Baat' on 25th January, acknowledging the village's collective resolve against drug abuse and tobacco consumption. The recognition at the national level, he observed, has infused renewed motivation among residents and has encouraged other areas of the district to undertake similar grassroots initiatives.

He further congratulated social activists of Sheikhgund for their exemplary efforts under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBBA). He stated



that the village has set a benchmark in community-led social reform and is now inspiring other villages and panchayats to initiate similar movements towards a drug-free society. On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner also inaugurated the Social Reform Movement Kashmir and felicitated social activists, teachers, and local youth for their outstanding

contributions towards social reform and community service, particularly in the fight against drug abuse.

Responding to the suggestion about community development, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the commitment of the district administration towards time-bound and transparent resolution of all genuine public demands.

Emphasising youth empowerment, the DC directed the concerned departments to organise a Mission YUVA camp in the village next week, with participation from departments such as Horticulture, Agriculture, and Banking institutions to ensure that eligible youth are facilitated under self-employment and livelihood schemes. He further stated that the proposal for establishing a handicraft/handloom training centre for female artisans would be explored in consultation with the competent authorities. The programme was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Block Development Officer (BDO), Child Development Project Officer (CDPO), Assistant Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer (TSWO), and officers and officials from various line departments, besides residents and representatives of social organisations.

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Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting at the Administrative Complex Pulwama to review and finalise arrangements aimed at facilitating the smooth observance of the Holy month of Ramadan.

Addressing the meeting, the DC highlighted the need for coordinated and comprehensive measures to ensure public convenience throughout the holy month. He stated that it is the responsibility of all officers to ensure seamless delivery of essential services and prompt grievance redressal during Ramadan.

During the meeting, The DC laid special emphasis on ensuring uninterrupted power supply during the peak hours of Sehri and If-tar. He sought a detailed action plan from the KPDCCL to ensure zero curtailment during these hours and directed that distribution transformers, in

case of any damage, be replaced on the same day to avoid inconvenience to the public.

Dr. Qayoom also reviewed the status of water supply schemes across the district. He was informed that all schemes are fully functional and that water tankers have been kept in readiness to meet any exigency. The DC directed the Jal Shakti Department to ensure regular monitoring of supply and immediate response to any disruption.

Calling market inspections critical during the holy month, he directed that joint teams comprising Revenue, Food Safety, Municipality, CAPD, Legal Metrology and Police shall carry out daily inspections in major markets with focus on quality adherence, prevention of overpricing and safeguarding consumer rights. He further directed the concerned authorities to submit daily reports regarding the status of inspection drives conducted.

Taking note of traffic congestion during peak

hours, the DC directed the concerned authorities to put in place a comprehensive traffic management plan to ensure smooth vehicular movement, particularly around busy markets and mosques. He also directed the ARTO to prepare a roster to ensure availability of sufficient public transport in critical areas, especially during peak hours.

The DC also sought details regarding the availability of essential commodities including food grains, LPG, mutton and poultry. He directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate stocking and timely replenishment of supplies so that no shortage is reported from any part of the district.

Dr. Qayoom also stressed the importance of maintaining cleanliness around major mosques and shrines. He directed the Municipal authorities and RDD to intensify sanitation drives in and around religious places and ensure proper lighting and immediate repair of any defunct

street lights to facilitate devotees during evening prayers and night congregations.

Reviewing the preparedness of the Health Department, the Chief Medical Officer apprised the chair that sufficient medicines are available across healthcare institutions. The DC directed him to issue a roster ensuring availability of adequate doctors and paramedical staff at the District Hospital and Sub-District Hospitals so that people do not face any inconvenience.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed all officers to work in close coordination, remain accessible to the public, and ensure that all arrangements are put in place well in advance for hassle-free observance of the holy month.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tral; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Pulwama; Assistant Commissioner Development, Pulwama; and officers from Police and Civil Administration.

DC Bandipora reviews District CAPEX Budget

BANDIPORA, FEBRUARY 14: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the financial and physical progress under the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 (UT Component) and other key funding components, including SASCI, CDF, MPLADS, DDC/BDC Grants, PRI Grants, Aspirational Block Development Programme, and Flood Relief Works.

During the meeting, the DC undertook a detailed review of the Financial and Physical Progress Report under the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 and examined department-wise expenditure and progress achieved so far. She emphasized the need for timely completion of works, optimal utilization of funds, and strict adherence to quality standards in all ongoing and upcoming projects.

A comprehensive assessment was conducted of works and expenditure under the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26, including Constituency Development Fund (CDF) allocations for Sonawari, Bandipora, and Gurez; MPLADS; DDC Grants; BDC Grants; PRI Grants; the Aspirational Block Development Programme; and Flood Relief Works. The DC stressed that public funds must translate into tangible and



visible developmental outcomes on the ground.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed sectors where progress requires further acceleration and directed the concerned departments to take proactive measures to expedite implementation. She emphasized that timely completion of works remains a priority and instructed officers to address bottlenecks through effective planning and close monitoring.

The DC also noted that certain works, including concrete laying in Gurez, had been impacted due to prevailing weather conditions and advised departments to plan in advance to ensure smooth and timely execution once conditions improve. During the review, it was observed that expenditure under certain departments required improvement.

The Deputy Commissioner strictly directed JAKEDA and Ground Water Department (GWD) to ensure the desired level of expenditure within the stipulated timeframe, as progress under these departments was found to be lagging. She instructed the concerned officers to take immediate corrective steps and expedite implementation to meet targets.

Highlighting the importance of financial discipline, the DC directed officers to hold regular review meetings at their respective levels to improve expenditure and accelerate the pace of works. She underlined that continuous follow-up and close monitoring are essential to achieve targets within stipulated timelines. The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the need for enhanced inter-departmental coordina-

tion, particularly in the implementation of replacement plans and execution of works under DDC and BDC Grants. She directed that coordination meetings be convened to ensure smooth implementation of development plans.

During the review, the performance of various departments was assessed. The DC sought improvement in areas where progress was found below expectations and directed immediate corrective measures.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed officers to conduct regular site visits to ensure quality, transparency, and accountability in the execution of works.

The meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer R&B Circle Bandipora; Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora; Chief Planning Officer Bandipora; Chief Education Officer Bandipora; Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora; District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora; Executive Engineers; District Youth Services and Sports Officer Bandipora; Assistant Director Handicrafts Bandipora; Block Development Officers; and Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Committee Bandipora, besides other concerned officers.

DC Bandipora chairs meeting on Solid Waste Management under Swachh Bharat Mission

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Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a meeting to review and deliberate upon the implementation of Solid Waste Management under the Swachh Bharat Mission Abhiyan.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on strengthening waste management mechanisms across the district in both urban and rural areas. It was observed that while rural areas face relatively loose infrastructure, urban areas comprise a higher concentration of households, requiring a more structured and intensive approach.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the basic objective of solid waste management is environmental protection and sustainable development. She underlined that primary source segregation remains the core focus and must be ensured at the household level. The meeting discussed the complete cycle of waste management, including waste generation, transportation, and processing.

It was informed that a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) and a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) have been established in the district to facilitate scientific processing and disposal of waste. The policy framework and relevant legal provisions governing solid waste management were also discussed in detail. The roles and responsibilities of waste generators, Municipal Councils, and other stakeholders were also discussed, and it was noted that strict action shall be taken in cases of non-compliance.

The Deputy Commissioner further expressed that the administration intends to commence a comprehensive initiative from April, aimed at



intensifying public participation in solid waste management. She directed all concerned departments to make necessary preparations in advance, including the formulation of structured action plans and awareness modules, so that the initiative is launched in a systematic and result-oriented manner across both urban and rural areas of the district.

The Deputy Commissioner directed strict enforcement of a complete ban on polythene bags and stressed the need to ensure the use of cloth bags as an environmentally responsible alternative.

The Deputy Commissioner called for coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure effective imple-

mentation of the Swachh Bharat Mission in letter and spirit, reiterating the administration's commitment to achieving sustainable waste management practices across the district.

The meeting was attended by Regional Director Kashmir, JKPCB; Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora; Chief Planning Officer; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora; Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora; Assistant Controller, Legal Metrology Bandipora; District Officer, Pollution Control Board Bandipora; EO MC Hajin and Sumbal; Representative of ULB Kashmir, besides other concerned officers.