

CS Chairs 4th SEC meeting of DMRR&R



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, FEB 16

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today underscored the need for timely and effective relief to disaster-affected families while chairing the 4th meeting of the State Executive Committee (SEC) of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R).

Emphasizing the vulnerability of disaster-hit communities in Jammu & Kashmir, the Chief Secretary observed that families impacted by natural calamities often have no recourse except the support extended by the government. He stressed that relief assistance must reach the affected households without any delay and directed officers to always ensure prompt disbursement of assistance to the affected populations.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home; Special Director General, Coordination; Special Secretary, Finance;

senior representatives from concerned departments; and officers of DMRR&R.

Taking serious note of pending relief claims, the Chief Secretary unequivocally directed the immediate clearance of outstanding amounts in favour of Deputy Commissioners of districts affected by last year's flash floods. He sought a detailed compliance report to ensure that funds had been released strictly as per the assessed requirements of each district.

Highlighting the unpredictable nature of disasters, the Chief Secretary called for establishing a robust and clearly defined mechanism to respond to such emergencies. He directed the departments to strengthen preparedness measures, undertake mitigation efforts in advance, and institutionalize a standardized framework delineating roles and responsibilities of officers to ensure swift, coordinated, and effective action on the ground.

Earlier, Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti, briefed the Committee on the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) following previous SEC meetings. He informed that the process for constituting Urban Disaster Management Authorities for both Jammu and Srinagar is currently underway. He further disclosed that engagement of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) as a technical partner for Disaster Risk Management in J&K is in progress to facilitate formulation of a comprehensive and forward-looking disaster mitigation plan for the Union Territory.

The Principal Secretary also provided details regarding the release of approximately 796 crore to districts under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in the wake of recent disasters. He highlighted various capacity-building initiatives undertaken by the department to enhance preparedness and response capabilities across districts.

He further apprised the

Committee about the Post Disaster Needs Assessments (PDNA) carried out in the Union Territory with the support of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), in accordance with guidelines of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The assessments aim to comprehensively evaluate losses and damages and formulate a structured reconstruction and recovery strategy.

To strengthen disaster response at the divisional and district levels and operationalize the Incident Response System (IRS) at the grassroots, the Committee approved a standardized IRS notification for both divisions and districts. This step is expected to ensure a coordinated, coherent, and prompt response during emergencies.

The meeting also deliberated on further strengthening the District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs). It was informed that the Finance Department will provide necessary funds for hiring consultants to enhance the technical and institutional capacity of DDMAs across the Union Territory.

Reiterating the government's commitment to safeguarding lives and livelihoods, the Chief Secretary directed the departments to work for building a resilient and responsive disaster management framework for Jammu & Kashmir for the times to come.

State-of-the-Art Laparoscopic Technology installed at Govt Hospital Ghagwal



SAMBA, FEBRUARY 16: In a moment that eloquently captures the promise of purposeful public-private partnership, Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, today inaugurated a state-of-the-art laparoscopic machine at Government Hospital, Ghagwal - a transformative addition to the district's public healthcare infrastructure that brings the precision and safety of minimally invasive surgical technology within reach of citizens availing government facilities for their medical needs. The equipment, generously contributed by Sun Pharma under its Corporate Social Responsibility initiative and implemented by ELFA International, stands as an inspiring testament to what governance, corporate conscience and community commitment can achieve in concert.

The introduction of laparoscopic technology at Government Hospital Ghagwal marks a significant qualitative leap in the standard of surgical care available to the people of the region.

Laparoscopic procedures, known for their minimally invasive nature, offer patients substantially reduced surgical risk, shorter recovery periods, lesser post-operative pain and lower chances of complications compared to conventional

open surgeries. By making this advanced technology accessible at a government facility, the initiative ensures that the benefits of modern medical science are no longer the exclusive privilege of those who can afford private healthcare - a defining principle of equitable and inclusive governance.

Deputy Commissioner Ms. Ayushi Sudan, in her address, underscored that the mere availability of infrastructure is insufficient unless it is matched by the competence and preparedness of those who operate it. She called upon the medical and technical staff of the hospital to pursue rigorous skill upgradation and more intensive, focused training, so that the facility's enhanced capabilities are translated into the best possible outcomes for every patient who walks through its doors. Her emphasis on maximising the utility of existing resources through human capital development reflects a vision of governance that is as attentive to institutional capacity as it is to physical infrastructure.

In a demonstration of her administration's deeply participatory and people-first approach to governance, Deputy Commissioner Sudan engaged in a wide-ranging and candid interaction with doctors, medical staff, ASHA workers and Primary Health Centre personnel - patiently listening to their on-ground challenges, requirements and experiences. Special focus was accorded to the critical issue of tuberculosis treatment, with the Deputy Commissioner taking

stock of progress and gaps in TB care delivery across the district. This direct and empathetic engagement with frontline healthcare workers exemplifies an administrative ethos that values the voices of those at the grassroots as indispensable to effective policymaking and service delivery.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by SDM Ghagwal, Mr. KJS Bali, Chief Medical Officer Samba, Dr. Vidhi Bhatial, Mr. Nawab Mehran Malik representing ELFA International and representatives of Sun Pharma Ms. Priyanka Talwar and Mr. Ajay Kaul - a gathering that embodied the collaborative spirit of administration, healthcare and corporate citizenship working in unison toward a shared goal.

Director Health Services Jammu conducts a comprehensive visit to CHC Thathri

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Director, Health Services Jammu (DHSJ), Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar conducted a comprehensive visit to Community Health Centre (CHC) Thathri in District Doda to review healthcare delivery and assess infrastructure facilities.

During the visit, DHSJ inspected various sections of the hospital including OPD, IPD wards, Labour Room, Newborn Care Corner, Emergency Unit, Operation Theatre, Laboratory, Pharmacy and registration counters. He reviewed patient attendance registers, drug availability records, duty rosters and biomedical waste management practices.

DHSJ interacted with patients and attendants to obtain first-hand feedback regarding quality of services, behavior of staff, waiting time and availability of medicines. He stressed



maintaining punctuality, discipline and patient-friendly services within the institution.

The Director also reviewed the status of manpower and directed the concerned authorities to address gaps wherever required.

He instructed the Medical Officer Incharge to conduct regular internal reviews and ensure accountability at all

levels.

The hospital administration briefed the Director about ongoing health initiatives, challenges faced due to geographical constraints and steps taken to improve service delivery in the region.

The Director appreciated the dedication of doctors, paramedics and support staff working in difficult terrain conditions and reiterated

the commitment of the Directorate of Health Services Jammu to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in remote and underserved areas.

The visit concluded with directions for sustained monitoring and improved coordination to provide accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to the people of Thathri and adjoining areas.

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A one-day Capacity Building Training-cum-Sensitization Programme for intersectoral departments under the One Health Programme on the National Rabies Control Programme (NRCPC) was held today at Government Nursing College Doda.

The programme was organized by the District Surveillance Unit (IDSP) Doda under the banner of the District Health Society, Doda, attended by participants from the Health Department, Animal Husbandry Department and Municipal Committees of the district, reflecting a co-ordinated interdepartmental approach under the One Health framework.

The primary objective of the programme was to strengthen coordination among various stakeholders and ensure the effective implementation of the National Rabies Control Programme across the district.

The event was graced by the presence of Assistant Commissioner Revenue Doda, Ashraf Parveez, In-



charge Principal Govt Medical College Doda, Dr. Garima Charak and Dy Chief Medical Officer Doda, Dr. Sat Lal Manhas Rather.

Addressing the gathering, ACR Doda, Ashraf Parveez, appreciated the initiative of the Health Department in bringing all stakeholders on a common platform under the One Health approach.

He emphasized that rabies prevention is not solely the responsibility of the Health Department but requires co-ordinated efforts from the Revenue, Animal Husbandry, Municipal authorities and community representatives. He stressed the

importance of effective field-level implementation, timely reporting of animal bite cases, proper waste management to control stray dog populations and enhanced public awareness to achieve the goal of a rabies-free district.

Incharge Principal, GMC Doda, Dr. Garima Charak, highlighted the clinical and public health significance of rabies prevention and underscored the need for strengthening Anti-Rabies Clinics.

Dy CMO Doda, Dr. Sat Lal Manhas Rather, emphasized the importance of collective efforts in preventing and

controlling rabies through awareness, timely reporting, vaccination and robust intersectoral collaboration.

The technical sessions were conducted by Mr. Umar Anayat (Epidemiologist), Dr. Anzar Majeed (Incharge Anti-Rabies Clinic, GMC Doda), Dr. Naveed Anjum (Animal Husbandry Department Doda) and Mr. Sajid Malik from MC Baderwah.

The resource persons delivered detailed presentations on various components of NRCPC including surveillance, case management, prevention strategies, community awareness initiatives and the specific roles of their respective departments.

The proceedings of the programme were conducted by Mr. Faizan A. Trambao, who served as Stage Secretary.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. Tahir Muneeb Zargar and a renewed commitment from all participating departments to work collectively towards effective rabies prevention and control in the district.

GDC Kakryal Katra organizes awareness programme on drug abuse, HIV/AIDS

REASI, FEBRUARY 16: Government Degree College Kakryal Katra successfully organized an awareness programme on Drug Abuse, HIV/AIDS and Basic Life Support (BLS) in collaboration with National Service Scheme (NSS) and Red Ribbon Club and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Dr. Rajni Bhagat, Principal, to sensitize students to the growing challenges of substance abuse and communicable diseases while simultaneously equipping them with essential life-saving skills.

A distinguished medical team from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence delivered expert lectures and conducted practical demon-



strations. Dr. Yashpaul Sharma, Executive Director, SMVDIME underscored the critical importance of timely intervention in medical emergencies and emphasized that the ability to administer Basic Life Support can significantly enhance survival outcomes. He urged students to cultivate a humanitarian outlook and develop competence in life-saving techniques as responsible citizens.

DDC Member of Panthal, Rajinder Mengi addressed the gathering on the transformative role of youth in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He highlighted that an informed, healthy and socially responsible youth population forms the cornerstone of national development. Dr. Anuj Kapoor, Assistant Professor conducted a detailed practical session on Basic Life Support including Cardiopulmonary Resuscita-

tion (CPR) and First Aid techniques. The hands-on demonstration enabled students to gain experiential learning and confidence in responding to emergency situations.

Further enriching the programme, Dr. Abhimanyu Sharma, Associate Professor, Pathology elaborated on the medical dimensions of anemia and thalassemia, stressing early detection, preventive strategies and community awareness. As part of the outreach initiative, CPR practice sessions were conducted for students, followed by blood testing of students and faculty members. Free medicines were distributed to individuals diagnosed with anemia, reflecting the programme's commitment to preventive and promotive healthcare.

DC Kathua reviews progress under Capex, MLA-CDS and SASCI schemes

KATHUA, FEBRUARY 16: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of works being executed across the district under the District Capex Budget (DCB) 2025-26, MLA-CDS and SASCI.

The Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed department-wise assessment of the ongoing projects and directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work to ensure completion within stipulated timelines. He stressed that emphasis must be laid on creation of durable and quality assets for larger public benefit.



During the meeting, the DC instructed the officers to refrain from taking up any new physical and financial liabilities at the fag end of the financial year. He fixed March 15 as the cut-off date so that sufficient time re-

mains available for processing of bills and to avoid any last-minute rush in treasuries.

The Deputy Commissioner further made it clear that any liability carried forward to the next financial

year on account of delay or non-adherence to instructions shall be borne by the concerned officers. He directed all departments to plan expenditure prudently, ensure timely completion of works and strictly avoid commitments beyond the prescribed timelines.

Rajesh Sharma also called for intensified field visits by the officers to monitor progress on the ground, remove bottlenecks and flag issues requiring timely intervention.

He asked the departments to keep close watch on the performance of contractors and ensure strict adherence to prescribed quality parameters.