

## CCF tours Nowshera Forest Division

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 21

A tour programme was conducted today by the Jammu and Kashmir Forest Department in Nowshera Forest Division under the leadership of the Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Dr. V. S. Senthil Kumar. He was accompanied by the Conservator of Forests, West Circle, Rajouri, Sat Paul.

The visit was undertaken in connection with the Khair Awareness and assessment Programme for formulation of the next ten-year Khair Management Plan with the proposed felling cycle from 2027-28 to 2036-37.

In Nowshera Forest Division, the Chief Conservator of Forests visited Sunderbani Range along with the Divisional Forest Officer, Nowshera, Shweta Deonia, DCF accompanied with field functionaries and staff of the department.



ment.

An interactive session was held with local farmers of 35 Villages and other stakeholders like Ex-PRI Members, prominent villagers regarding the forthcoming ten-year Khair Management Plan wherein farmers are at the centre

stage for Khair trees assessment in their private land holdings and the data proposed by them will be used for formulation of Khair Management Plan to be implemented from 2027-28 to 2036-37.

ADC Sunderbani, Ramkesh Sharma along-

with other revenue officers/officials was also present on the occasion. The field staff distributed Khair Assessment Forms among the farmers to facilitate systematic data collection and ensure participatory planning.

On the occasion, Dr. V. S. Senthil planted a sapling in Nagar Van Charnote, symbolizing the department's commitment towards environmental conservation and promotion of indigenous species. The Chief Conservator of Forests emphasized the importance of scientific assessment, transparency in management practices and active community participation to ensure sustainable management of Khair resources and long-term ecological balance.

The programme concluded with directions to the field functionaries for timely completion of the assessment process and effective coordination with local stakeholders.

## DC Kathua reviews progress of RDD schemes; stresses timely completion with data accuracy

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress of various schemes being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD) in the district.

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Akhil Sadotra briefed the chair on the status of works under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). It was informed that 82.96 percent of e-KYC verification has been completed so far. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure 100 percent completion of e-KYC at the earliest and emphasized proper updation and purification of uploaded data to maintain transparency and accuracy.

The progress achieved in terms of persondays generation, timely payment of wages, conduct of social audits and geo-tagging of assets was also reviewed threadbare. The DC stressed on expediting



works and maintaining strict adherence to guidelines.

Reviewing the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G), it was informed that the scheme has achieved 95 percent progress in the district. The Deputy Commissioner directed the officers to ensure saturation of targets within the stipulated time frame.

ACP, Ajit Kumar apprised the meeting about

the progress under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), informing that 44 additional rooms have been completed against the target of 49. The DC called for timely completion of the remaining works. The meeting also reviewed the implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM), Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) and Natural Resource Management (NRM) works. The Deputy

Commissioner underscored the need for close coordination among departments to achieve desired results and ensure holistic development and welfare of the rural population. The DC called for focused efforts, effective monitoring and inter-departmental synergy to achieve tangible outcomes on the ground. CPO Kathua Ranjeet Thakur, BDOs besides other concerned were also present.

## JKBOSE concludes 5-day workshop on Strengthening Assessment Systems

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The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with PARAKH, NCERT, today successfully concluded its five-day intensive workshop held from February 17 to 21, 2026.

The workshop marks a significant step towards modernizing evaluation practices in alignment with the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP 2020). It focused on two major objectives: the implementation of the Holistic Progress Card (HPC) at the secondary stage and the standardization of question paper templates to ensure competency-based, student-centric assessments.

Earlier, the inaugural session was chaired by Chairman JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh, who highlighted the transformative intent of NEP 2020 in ensuring equitable and comprehensive assessment of students' cognitive, emotional and skill-based competencies.

The valedictory was graced by Dr. Parveen



Singh, Director Academics, JKBOSE, who addressed the participants and emphasized the importance of creativity, analytical thinking and problem-solving skills in question paper design. He underscored the need to align classroom teaching methodologies with reformed assessment frameworks to nurture holistic learning outcomes among students.

Resource persons from PARAKH, NCERT delivered detailed technical sessions on the concept and design of standardized Question Paper Templates and the session on implementation of Holistic Progress Card was delivered by Dr. Romesh Kumar Sharma, HOD DIET Jammu.

More than 130 educators from the School Education Department, SCERT, DIETs and from private schools actively participated in the workshop. Officers of the Academic Division, JKBOSE, were also present and contributed to the proceedings.

The deliberations over the five days included hands-on training, collaborative discussions and practical exercises aimed at building a cadre of professionally trained paper setters and assessment experts.

The enthusiastic and overwhelmingly positive feedback received from participants has further motivated JKBOSE to continue organizing such impactful capacity-building pro-

grammes in the future. Dr. Yasir Hamid Sirwal, along with Dr. Arif Jan, Dy. Director Academics-JD and KD, reaffirmed their commitment to institutionalizing similar workshops on a regular basis to strengthen assessment practices and enhance professional competencies among educators across the Union Territory.

Sugandh, Academic Officer, anchored the valedictory, ensuring smooth proceedings. The officers of the Academic Division, JKBOSE Iftikhar Imran, Academic Officer-KD, Syed Kashif Hashmi and Chander Kumar Academic Officers-JD were also present, demonstrating their commitment to the workshop's objectives.

## DC Rajouri chairs digitised jamabandi reading, grievance redressal camp at Thanamandi

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Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a public outreach programme at Village Thana, where digitised Jamabandi records were read out and grievances of the general public were received and addressed on the spot.

During the programme, the Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to issues projected by the residents, mainly pertaining to revenue matters, land records and related services. He directed the concerned revenue officers to ensure prompt and time-bound redressal of all genuine grievances, emphasizing transparency and accountability in the functioning of the Revenue Department.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the alignment of the Rajouri-Thanamandi-Surankote road near Government Degree College Thanamandi. He directed the executing agency to strictly adhere to the alignment already finalised and avoid any deviation, ensur-



ing that the project progresses smoothly and in accordance with approved plans.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner also visited Village Saaj and instructed the revenue au-

thorities to resolve the pending partition suit of the widow on priority in accordance with the provisions of law.

Additional District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Malikzada

Sheraz-ul-Haq; SDM Thanamandi Abid Husain; Tehsildar Thanamandi Mazhar Ali; Executive Engineer PWD and other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

## External Assessment conducted at District Hospital Kishtwar, SDH Atholi in Padder

**KISHTWAR, FEBRUARY 21:** Under the directions of Mission Director NHM J&K, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary and the guidance of Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar, a three-member team of assessors visited District Hospital Kishtwar and SDH Atholi (Padder) to conduct the External Assessment under the Kayakalp Programme for the financial year 2025-26.

The team was headed by Dr. Arun Sharma (External Assessor) and comprised Jahangir Mehta and Faizan A. Tramboo as Internal Assessors. The team carried out a comprehensive evaluation of various sections of the hospitals as per Kayakalp guidelines, focusing on sanitation, hygiene, infection control practices, waste management and overall quality of healthcare services.

At District Hospital Kishtwar, the Medical Superintendent, Dr. Yudhvir Singh Kotwal was present on the occasion. He wel-



comed and facilitated the visiting team and briefed them about the functioning of the hospital and the range of healthcare services being provided to patients.

The team also visited SDH Atholi (Padder) where BMO Padder, Dr. Krishan Singh Katoch wel-

comed the assessors and apprised them of the services and overall functioning of the hospital.

During the visits, the assessors inspected various departments, reviewed records and interacted with staff members to assess compliance with the pre-

scribed standards under the Kayakalp initiative.

The assessment aims to promote cleanliness, strengthen infection control practices and encourage healthy competition among public health facilities to improve the overall patient care environment.

## DC Kishtwar reviews strategy for implementation of Mission Gyan Bharatam in the district

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Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of district officers to discuss the implementation plan for Mission Gyan Bharatam in the district.

Mission Gyan Bharatam is a national initiative launched by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India with the goal of preserving, documenting, digitizing and promoting India's valuable manuscripts and traditional knowledge systems.

Highlighting the cultural and spiritual significance of district Kishtwar, the Deputy Commissioner mentioned historic sites such as the Ziyarat of Shah Farid-ud-Din Sahib (RA), Ziyarat of Shah Asrar-ud-Din Sahib (RA), Shri Sarthal Devi Mata Temple, Shri Machali Mata Temple, Shri Trisandhiya Hudh Mata, the Buddhist heritage site at Nagseni and other historically significant areas.

During the meeting, the



DC emphasized the importance of the mission and directed all departments to work in close coordination.

The DC constituted a dedicated committee on the spot, headed by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) as the Nodal Officer.

The committee will include the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) for rural areas, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council for urban areas and other relevant officers.

Furthermore, a designated supervisory officer will be appointed in each

block to oversee the survey process and monitor field officers.

The chair directed the concerned officers to deploy their existing workforce, including Village Level Workers (VLWs), Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), Lambardars, Chowkidars and other concerned, to conduct a special household survey titled "Har Ghar Dastak."

This initiative is designed to trace and digitize manuscripts, strictly with the prior consent of their owners.

To ensure timely comple-

tion, the field teams must adhere to the operational goal of "Har Din-Ek Gin," targeting the coverage of at least one Panchayat per day.

He also constituted teams for each subdivision, with Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) as Nodal Officers, along with other concerned officers for different areas.

The team consisting of Booth Level Officers (BLOs), Panchayat Secretaries, SHGs and other officials will generate awareness about the benefits of these initiatives.

These teams will conduct village-level visits across approximately 65,000 households in Kishtwar district to identify, verify and document rare manuscripts and traditional knowledge resources held by individuals, families and institutions.

The DC further explained that the mission focuses on identifying rare manuscripts, ensuring their proper scientific preservation and digitizing them with the help of modern technology, including Artificial Intelligence.