

## J&K Kisan Khidmat Ghar Ecosystem garners praise at Maharashtra Govt's AI4Agri 2026 Summit

**MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 24:** The Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG) ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir garnered significant praise at the Government of Maharashtra's Global Conference on AI in Agriculture and Investor Summit (AI4Agri 2026).

Presented as a model for inclusive, AI-enabled agricultural service delivery, KKG impressed organisers and panelists with its innovative approach.

Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, participated as a panelist in the plenary session on "AI Across the Value Chain: Unlocking Inclusivity, Sustainability and Efficiency". He highlighted how Jammu and Kashmir has embedded digital intelligence into a structured public delivery architecture, rather than treating AI as a standalone pilot.

At the centre of the presentation was the KKG ecosystem, an entrepreneur-enabled, IT-driven network of physical single-window centres at the panchayat level, designed to convert the digital services into walk-in, assisted public support for farmers. These centres provide assisted applications, advisory access, execution support and handholding, ensuring that the farmers who are not digitally fluent are not excluded from modern agri-services.



The Mission Director explained that HADP's inclusion pathway is built as a full institutional stack, starting with Kisan Sampark Abhiyan for field mobilisation and assisted onboarding, moving through the Kisan Sathi portal as the digital backbone for registration, applications and tracking, supported by Daksh Kisan for structured skilling and stabilised through KKG handholding on the ground. This is reinforced by OTA tracking for geo- and time-stamped field verification and by Kisan Sathi 360 for a unified farmer-level view of services accessed, skilling received, advisories issued and outcomes tracked.

The panelists and delegates particularly noted the value of linking the physical facilitation centres with digital advisory and moni-

toring systems. They described the model as a practical pathway to ensure inclusivity while scaling technology across dispersed rural geographies.

On the technology front, the presentation also outlined how AI/ML is being positioned within this delivery stack to reduce risk and improve efficiency across the value chain. Predictive models for apple disease risks such as scab and alternaria and pest forecasting modules under validation, are integrated into the KKG digital ecosystem so that early warnings and advisories translate into preventive field action. The Mission Director also referred to sensor-based Smart Agriculture pilots under HADP, including LoRa-enabled monitoring frameworks across agro-climatic zones

and the extension of digital decision-support beyond horticulture into wider crop and livestock contexts.

The AI4Agri 2026 summit—designed to advance responsible AI adoption in agriculture and catalyse collaboration among governments, institutions and investors—provided a national and global platform for showcasing such field-grounded models.

The officials noted that the summit's appreciation underscores the growing relevance of HADP's "assisted digital governance" approach, where AI tools are delivered through physical service points, backed by skilling and verified through outcome tracking. This approach ensures technology enhances farmer decisions rather than remaining confined to dashboards.

## Secy RDD reviews draft DPR for 'Viksit Village' initiative in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 25

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, chaired a meeting to review the Draft Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the proposed 'Viksit Village' initiative, envisaging holistic development of one village in each Assembly constituency across Jammu and Kashmir.

With a proposed allocation of ₹2 crore per village and an outlay of ₹1,800 lakh under the 2026-27 capital expenditure budget, the programme aims to transform 90 villages into model growth centres.

The initiative seeks to create self-reliant, economically productive and envi-



ronmentally sustainable villages through comprehensive development covering infrastructure, digital smart libraries, modern crèche facilities, well-equipped youth gymnasiums, dedicated recreation centres for senior citizens, advanced solar power infrastructure facilities, skill empowerment & career de-

velopment facilities, community sports excellence hubs, solid and liquid waste management and livelihood generation opportunities.

Emphasising alignment with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Secretary stressed scientific planning, community participation, convergence across

departments and adherence to technical standards. He directed that DPRs incorporate sustainability components such as solar lighting, rainwater harvesting, DEWATS and Plastic Waste Management Units, while ensuring geotagging, third-party inspections and ODF Plus standards.

He directed that villages be identified in coordination with elected representatives, with DPRs to be finalised within two days of identification. Implementation is to be planned over two years, with the selection process to be completed by March.

Senior officers, including Directors of RDD Jammu and Kashmir, Director Finance and Joint Director Planning attended the meeting.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 25

District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the 3rd quarter ending December 2025 was held virtually under the chairpersonship of Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, to review the performance of banks and line departments under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) 2025-26 and other flagship schemes.

As per the data presented, the district recorded an overall achievement of 63 percent under ACP (Priority + Non-Priority Sector), with disbursement of ₹1003.69 crore against a target of ₹1603.66 crore. The Priority Sector registered 58 percent achievement (₹494.03 crore against ₹850.93 crore), while the Non-Priority Sector achieved 68 percent (₹509.66 crore)



against ₹752.73 crore). The Deputy Commissioner expressed concern over the dismal performance of PNB and SBI and directed the concerned banks to improve their performance in the ensuing quarter. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed that reporting be shifted to a weekly review mechanism for closer monitoring. She urged the Chief Agriculture

Officer (CAO) to forward cases of Krishi Udyamis to the LDM for facilitation of timely credit linkage.

She directed NRLM to furnish detailed lists of Bank Sakhis to all banks within two days to strengthen financial inclusion. She further urged the LDM and Chief Planning Officer (CPO) to jointly conduct meetings to resolve banking and credit-related issues in remote ar-

reas of the district. Banks were also asked to organize regular awareness camps to enhance public outreach and improve uptake under various schemes.

On the occasion, she reiterated that bankers must be sincere and dedicated towards their responsibilities and ensure timely data reporting, clearance of pendency, and proactive sponsorship of cases under government schemes.

The meeting also reviewed progress under Social Security Schemes (SSS), status of unclaimed deposits, R-KYC pendency in Jan Dhan accounts, PMEGP (KVIB/KVIC/DIC), NRLM, PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, Mission YUVA, PMFME, KCC (Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Agriculture & Horticulture), Artisan Credit Cards (Handicrafts/Handloom), and progress of JKB RSETI Bandipora.

## Shopian gears up for Swachh Survekshan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Shishir Gupta today interacted with sanitation workers of MC Shopian at Town Hall Shopian and lauded their relentless dedication and invaluable contribution towards maintaining cleanliness and hygiene across the district.

He emphasized that sanitation workers are the backbone of urban management and play a pivotal role in shaping the district's performance in the upcoming Swachh Survekshan rankings.

While appreciating their tireless efforts, the Deputy Commissioner stated that the success of cleanliness initiatives and improved civic standards largely depends on the commitment



and discipline of frontline sanitation staff and urged them to continue working with the same zeal and sense of responsibility to ensure that Shopian secures a commendable position in the national cleanliness survey, Swachh

Survekshan. On the occasion, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and uniforms were distributed among the sanitation workers to ensure their safety, dignity, and professional identity.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Shopian, Shakoore Ahmad Dar, CEO Municipal Council Shopian, Suhail Ahmad Malik, officials of Municipal Council Shopian were also present on the occasion.

## SWD Srinagar conducts Nukad Natak to promote valuing of Girl Child under BBBP

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 25

Social Welfare Department (SWD) Srinagar, SANKALP-Hub for Empowerment of Women (Mission Shakti), successfully organized a theme based Nukad Natak/Street Play at General Bus Stand Parimpora as part of its ongoing awareness and outreach initiatives under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP).

The street play served as a powerful medium to address pressing social concerns, including the declining child sex ratio, gender discrimination, the importance of educating the girl child, prevention of child marriage, and the elimination of gender-based violence and discrimination. The performance emphasized the need to ensure equal rights, dignity, and opportunities for women and girls in all spheres of life.

Through impactful dialogues, emotionally compelling storytelling, and engaging performances, the



artists effectively communicated the message of building a safe, inclusive, and gender-equitable society. The dramatization portrayed real-life challenges faced by girls and highlighted the collective responsibility of families, communities, and institu-

tions in safeguarding their rights and promoting their well-being. The event attracted significant public attention, with passersby, shopkeepers, commuters, and local residents gathering in large numbers to witness the awareness campaign. The

interactive format of the Nukad Natak encouraged active audience participation, prompting discussions and reflections on deeply rooted social norms and attitudes. Many members of the public appreciated the initiative and expressed support for promoting girl child education and ending discriminatory practices.

Officials from the department reiterated their commitment to spreading awareness at the grassroots level through innovative community-based platforms. They emphasized that such outreach programmes play a crucial role in sensitizing society, strengthening community engagement, and fostering a culture of respect, equality, and empowerment for women and girls.

The programme concluded with an appeal to the public to actively support initiatives aimed at protecting the rights of the girl child and to contribute towards building a more just and progressive society.

## SKUAST-K organises Agrithon 1.0 under JKCIP

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 25

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) organised Seed Capital Fund Challenge (Agrithon 1.0) under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project for Jammu & Kashmir (JKCIP), funded by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) at Shalimar campus.

The Seed Capital Fund Challenge was conducted with the objective of identifying, supporting, and



nurturing innovative and viable startups across the agriculture and allied sectors in the Kashmir Valley. The initiative aimed to provide critical seed grant support to budding entrepre-

neers, enabling them to transform their ideas into scalable and sustainable business ventures.

The challenge witnessed enthusiastic pitching by over 40 emerging startups,

agripreneurs, and young innovators who presented their business models before an expert evaluation committee comprising domain specialists, incubation experts, and financial professionals.

The proposals were rigorously assessed based on innovation, feasibility, scalability, market potential, and socio-economic impact.

Through this initiative, selected startups will receive seed funding support of Rs 5 Lakh each along with mentorship and incubation assistance to strengthen their business operations and market readiness.

## DC Srinagar visits Shahr-e-Khaas areas

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, FEB 25

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday undertook an extensive onsite visit to various areas of Shahr-e-Khaas (Old City) to review the progress of ongoing developmental works and inspected the fencing works & allied strengthening works along the sides of historic Old City Bridges.

The visit was aimed at assessing the works being undertaken to enhance public safety and local infrastructure in old City areas of Srinagar district while ensuring that the heritage value

of the Shahr-e-Khaas is preserved.

The DC also inspected the progress of ongoing works of the key connecting road and inner lanes at Bulbul Lanker.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Superintendent Engineer R&B Shabir Ahmad, Executive Engineer R&B, Arif Hazari, Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool Shah, Tehsildar Khanyar, Syed Shahid and other con-

cerned.

At Bulbul Lanker, the DC assessed ongoing developmental works undertaken to improve civic infrastructure and public amenities in the historic Shahr-e-Khaas area. He also inspected progress of upgradation of inner lanes being executed by the R&B department under District Capex plan.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) have been formulated for fencing the sides of these bridges. He was briefed on the status of the works, project timelines, and measures being under-

taken to ensure public safety. While reviewing the plan of fencing of the bridges, the DC emphasized quality execution, durability and timely completion of the projects. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that the fencing not only enhances public safety but also preserves the heritage character of these historic structures.

He instructed executing agencies to incorporate all required safety measures in the project and complete the works within stipulated timelines while minimizing inconvenience to commuters and local residents.