

Labourers key to economy growth; Govt committed to their welfare, social security: Dy CM

Distributes Rs. 84 lakh among beneficiaries in Samba

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today described labourers as the backbone of the economy, reiterating that the government is committed to ensure their economic welfare and social security across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Deputy Chief Minister was addressing a Workers' Conference organised by the Labour and Employment Department at Ambedkar Bhawan, Bari-Brahmana in Samba district, where he was the chief guest.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the government is committed towards safeguarding the rights and welfare of the workforce through effective implementation of labour laws and welfare schemes.

"Our workers are the driving force behind economic development. The government is committed to ensure safe working conditions, fair wages, social security and dignity of labour for every worker across Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the ongoing transformation in labour legislation through introduction of four Labour Codes which consolidate 29 existing central labour laws into four comprehensive codes covering wages, industrial relations, occupational safety and social security.

"The new Labour Codes are a landmark reform that simplify labour laws while strengthening protection and welfare of workers. These reforms aim to ensure universal minimum wages, improved workplace safety, enhanced social security and better mechanisms for dispute resolution," he said.

He said that the Code on Wages ensures uniform wage regulation and timely payment of wages while promoting gender equality. The Industrial Relations Code strengthens dispute resolution



mechanisms and facilitates better engagement between employers and workers, he added.

He further said that the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code provides a comprehensive framework for workplace safety and health standards, while the Code on Social Security expands coverage of welfare benefits to workers in organised, unorganised and sectors.

"The Labour Department is working towards implementing these reforms effectively in Jammu and Kashmir to create a fair, transparent and worker-friendly labour ecosystem," he added.

Highlighting the department's achievements, the Deputy Chief Minister said, "In the current financial year, 493 cases related to labour welfare have been settled and compensation amounting Rs.14.27 crore has been disbursed to aggrieved labourers under different labour laws," he said.

Stressing the need for extensive awareness campaigns, the Deputy Chief Minister called for ensuring registration of all eligible workers so that they can avail the benefits of various Central and UT level welfare schemes.

He further informed that the department has significantly expanded digital governance by providing 23 services online through the Single Window System. During the current financial year, more than

14,000 registrations and over 11,000 renewals have been processed through the online platform.

The Deputy Chief Minister also highlighted the launch of Shramik Warta, an initiative introduced by the Labour Department to directly address workers' grievances. "Sixteen Shramik Warta sessions have been conducted so far in which 358 grievances were received, most of which have already been resolved," he said.

He also mentioned the 24x7 toll-free helpline "Shram Mitra", has been established to provide timely assistance and effective grievance redressal to labourers.

He appreciated the Department for holding such events, facilitating the Government outreach Workers at their work places and listen to their issues directly. "We will hold this event in all other districts to meet our Workers at their doorsteps. Moreover, exclusive conferences shall be conducted for women workers as our Government has already taken measures and reforms for their safe and secure work conditions in J&K," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister also spoke about ongoing infrastructure initiatives such as the construction of Labour Sarais across Jammu and Kashmir to provide safe and dignified accommodation to labourers, particularly those coming from distant areas in search of

livelihood.

During the programme, the Deputy Chief Minister distributed financial assistance amounting Rs. 84,07,071 among the beneficiaries under various welfare schemes of the Jammu and Kashmir Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JK-BOCWBB), Employees Compensation Act and ESI schemes. Earlier, Labour Commissioner Charandeep emphasised the importance of registration of eligible workers under the JKBOCWBB so that they can avail various welfare schemes provided by the Board.

The programme also provided an open platform for workers to share their experiences and feedback regarding benefits available under different welfare initiatives. To further enhance awareness, a Nukkad Natak (street play) highlighting the benefits of Building and Other Construction Workers welfare schemes and key provisions of labour laws was also presented during the programme.

Among others present on the occasion were Deputy Labour Commissioner Jammu Sukhpal Singh, Inspector of Factories, Assistant Labour Commissioners of Samba and Jammu, IMO Samba, Lalit Mahajan, President of Bari Brahmana Industries Association (BBIA), Assistant Labour Commissioner Samba Himani Jerath besides a large number of workers and stakeholders.

Sat chairs BJP organizational meeting, calls for stronger grassroots connect

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) J&K President and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Sat Sharma (CA) chaired an important organizational meeting of senior party leaders at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The meeting focused on strengthening the party structure, enhancing grassroots outreach, and effectively communicating the achievements of the Narendra Modi-led government to the masses.

The meeting was attended by senior party leaders including J&K BJP Vice-President Rekha Mahajan, General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, Secretary Arun Sharma, former MLA Rajeev Sharma, Purnima Sharma, Balbir Ram Rattan, Vinay Mahajan, Padubey Singh, Rohit Dubey, Bawa Sharma and others.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma emphasized that BJP leaders and activists must further intensify their outreach among the masses and work with renewed dedication to strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

He said that the ongoing Prashikshan Mahabhayan workshops are a vital initiative aimed at equipping party workers with ideological clarity, political aware-



ness, and organizational discipline.

"Every BJP activist must strive to become an institution in himself, reflecting the ideology, discipline, and commitment of the party in public life. Our workers must remain politically aware, ideologically strong, and socially sensitive so that they can effectively serve society," Sat Sharma said.

He stressed that the ultimate objective of the party is to reach out to those sections of society that have remained neglected or isolated for decades and ensure that government policies and welfare initiatives reach them effectively. "Our organizational strength must translate into service to the last person in society," he added.

Sat Sharma also highlighted the recent achievements of the Modi govern-

ment in strengthening the nation's security and self-reliance. Referring to the approval of a 75,083 crore indigenous maritime defence programme, he said the initiative will significantly enhance India's naval capabilities through indigenous manufacturing, including advanced systems like ALH Mk-III helicopters and Shtil missile systems. He noted that the programme will generate over 65 lakh man-hours of employment and integrate more than 200 Indian MSMEs into the defence supply chain.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, India is steadily building a strong and self-reliant defence ecosystem. From securing our 7,500 km coastline to strengthening national security and promoting indigenous

manufacturing, the nation is moving forward with confidence. Jammu & Kashmir too is witnessing unprecedented development and stability after 2019, and it is our duty as party leaders to take these achievements and transformative initiatives to the people," Sharma said.

Rekha Mahajan also addressed the meeting and stressed the importance of disciplined organizational functioning and active participation of party workers in social and political activities to strengthen the BJP's connect with society.

Baldev Singh Billawaria briefed the leaders about the ongoing organizational programmes and activities being conducted across Jammu & Kashmir and called for greater coordination and participation from party cadres at every level.

Sanjita discusses ongoing programmes of BJP

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

Jammu Kashmir BJP General Secretary and Headquarters Incharge Sanjita Dogra discussed the ongoing programmes of the party in the Union Territory during a meeting held at the party headquarters in Jammu.

The meeting was attended by BJP Secretary Arun Sharma and other leaders. The discussion focused on the various organizational and public outreach programmes being carried out by the party at different levels across the Union Territory.

Sanjita Dogra said that the BJP has a healthy tradition of remaining connected with the public through a series of programmes conducted at the state, district, mandal and booth levels. She said that these programmes serve a



dual purpose of strengthening the party organization at the grassroots level and maintaining continuous interaction with the people to understand their concerns and aspirations.

She emphasized that through such initiatives, the party workers remain actively engaged with the public and ensure that the policies and welfare schemes of the government reach every section of society. Dogra added that these programmes also provide an opportunity for party

leaders and workers to receive feedback from the people and address their issues effectively.

Sanjita Dogra further said that the BJP leadership has always encouraged regular interaction between party workers and the public, which helps in strengthening democratic values and building trust among the masses. She urged party workers to actively participate in all organizational programmes and continue working with dedication for the welfare

of the people.

BJP Secretary Arun Sharma also shared his views during the meeting and stressed the importance of coordinated efforts at all levels of the organization. He said that well-planned programmes help in enhancing the party's outreach and ensure that the message of development and good governance reaches every household.

He also appreciated the dedication of party workers who are consistently working at the grassroots level and contributing to the success of various party initiatives across the Union Territory.

Among others who participated in the discussion included BJP Spokesperson Balbir Ram Rattan, Art and Culture Cell Co-Convenor Raman Singh Slathia, and party leader Mukerjit Sharma.

CTF delegation meets Controller LMD J&K; Discusses protection of consumer interests

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

A delegation of the Chamber of Traders Federation (CTF), led by its President Neeraj Anand, today called on the Controller, Legal Metrology Department J&K, Shiv Kumar Gupta during an interaction with representatives of the trader community.

The delegation placed several suggestions and issues before the Controller regarding the challenges faced by traders in complying with Legal Metrology regulations. The traders emphasized the need for stronger coordination between the department and the trader fraternity to ensure smooth implementation of the law.

The delegation stressed the need for holding regular verification and awareness camps to enable traders to conveniently get their weighing and measuring instruments verified and stay informed about compliance requirements.

Responding to the suggestions, the Controller informed the delegation that the department has already increased the frequency and periodicity of verification and awareness camps during the past few months. He stated that these initiatives have significantly improved awareness and compliance among traders across various markets.

He further informed that the department has also been facilitating traders by conducting verification of weighing and measuring instruments directly in market areas after proper inspection. These outreach activities are being expanded contin-



uously, which has helped create a more positive and cooperative environment between the department, traders, and the public. The Controller also highlighted that the department is regularly organising training programmes for Legal Metrology Inspectors to strengthen

enforcement and ensure effective implementation of the law. He emphasized that while enforcement drives and market inspections will continue as part of the department's statutory mandate, the department is equally focused on awareness and guidance for traders.

Women's Week campaign Livelihood, Entrepreneurship Promotion Day observed at Kathua

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 06

As part of the ongoing Women's Week campaign, the District Administration Kathua on Friday organised the Livelihood and Entrepreneurship promotion Day here at the office premises of the Chief Agriculture Officer to encourage women led enterprises.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from over 80 members of Self Help Groups (SHGs), besides potential agripreneurs from different parts of the district. Government departments, Self Help Groups and women entrepreneurs put up stalls showcasing their products and initiatives.

Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan Sharma interacted with the participants. Certificates of registration under Farmer Producer Organisation (FPO) were distributed among beneficiaries along with fi-



financial assistance of Rs 10,000 each to support their entrepreneurial initiatives.

Two women Krishi Udhayamis were also provided Micro-ATM and biometric machines to facilitate fi-

nanacial transactions and strengthen their agri-business activities.

Earlier, CAO Jatinder Khajuria and experts from the Agriculture and allied departments convened interactive sessions

with farmers and participants, apprising them of the government schemes being implemented by the department to promote agriculture-based livelihoods and entrepreneurship.