Dr Singla reviews MeghRaj Cloud Services rollout in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAR 10

In a significant step towards modernizing Jammu and Kashmir's IT ecosystem, Secretary Information Technology Department (ITD) Dr.Piyush Singla today chaired a high level meeting to review the hiring process and operationalization of MeghRaj Cloud Services.

This flagship initiative, part of the National Informatics Centre Services Incorporated (NICSI)'s MeghRaj Cloud framework, is designed to provide scalable, secure and cost-effective cloud infrastructure, enabling seamless digital governance, data management and service delivery across government departments.

The meeting saw participation from key stakeholders including the CEO, Jammu and Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA); Special Secretary, IT Department; Deputy Secretary, IT Department; representatives from NIC and NICSI and other officers.

Discussions focused on the project's current status, timelines and challenges in implementation.

Secretary IT emphasized the importance of holding regular meetings of the cloud committee to maintain momentum. He stressed proper utilization of allocated resources, ensuring smooth onboarding of cloud services for all eligible departments and prioritizing cybersecurity and data security measures. "MeghRaj will be a game-changer for J&K, reducing dependency on legacy systems and fostering innovation in public service delivery," Dr.Singla stated.

The successful execution of the MoU represents a pivotal milestone, paving the way for departments to migrate workloads to the cloud, enhancing data security, disaster recovery and real-time analytics. Future phases will prioritize capacity building and robust cybersecurity protocols.

The IT Department remains committed to drive J&K's digital transformation, aligning with national goals under the Digital India initiative.

Javid Dar meets public delegations in Jammu, assures priority redress of Border area issues

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Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Javid Ahmad Dar, today met several public delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and listened to their issues and demands concerning development and community welfare.

During the interaction, a delegation led by former Sarpanch Naresh Kumar Bittu apprised the Minister of various pressing concerns related to development works in the border areas of Suchetgarh, Arnia and R.S. Pura. The delegation highlighted the urgent need for improvement of road infrastructure, augmentation of animal husbandry facilities, Agriculture and strengthening of other essential public services in these areas.

The members of the delegation also stressed that border villages require focused attention in terms of infrastructure development and better access to government services, given their strategic importance and unique challenges.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues raised by the delegation and appreciated their proactive role in highlighting the concerns of the local population. He assured them that all genuine demands would be examined and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner, with priority being accorded to issues affecting basic infrastructure and livelihood.

CS takes stock of migrant rehabilitation measures, stresses improved grievance redressal mechanism

JAMMU, MARCH 10: Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today in a high-level review meeting assessed the progress achieved in implementation of key welfare measures for the rehabilitation and resettlement of migrant populations of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting, convened by the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DMRR&R), reviewed multiple initiatives aimed at strengthening relief, housing and social security support for various categories of displaced persons in the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti; ACS, Power Development, ACS, Finance and ACS, Public Works and Principal Secretary, DMRR&R was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Commissioner Secretary, Law Department; Secretary IT; Secretary Revenue; Development Commissioner (Works); Relief Commissioner; Director FCS&CA, Jammu; and other senior officers. The Divisional Commissioner Kashmir and concerned Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive review of the range of measures undertaken by the government from time to time for the rehabilitation of different migrant categories including Kashmiri Pandits, West Pakistani Refugees and displaced persons who migrated from PoJK.

A detailed assessment was also made regarding the implementation of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP-2015) and the steps being taken to improve delivery of services to Kashmiri migrants, Jammu migrants and other displaced persons residing in the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the status of construction of transit accommodation being developed across various districts of the Kashmir Valley for migrant employees recruited under the relief package. Taking a location-wise appraisal from the executing agencies, he directed them to ensure completion of these projects within the stipulated timelines and with all required facilities in place.

He also reviewed the status of Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) in respect of employees appointed under the relief package. He observed that necessary clarifications and directions have already been issued to address procedural bottlenecks faced by departments and stressed that there should be no further delay in granting employees their rightful benefits as per the rules in force.

The meeting also assessed the progress achieved in implementing key welfare decisions including inclusion of migrant families in the National Food Security Act database, extension of Ayushman Bharat Golden Card benefits to eligible beneficiaries and the provision of funds for repair and maintenance of dwelling units allotted to migrants at different locations in Jammu.

Issues relating to allotment of accommodation to migrant employees posted in different districts of the Kashmir Valley, delegation of powers to officers in the Relief Organisation for issuance of required certificates and the need for construction of additional flats for migrant families in Jammu were also deliberated upon.

Emphasizing the importance of responsive grievance redressal, the Chief Secretary directed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure quality disposal of complaints registered by migrants on the dedicated portal regarding their immovable properties and assets left behind in the Valley. He instructed the Relief Commissioner to depute officers to districts to monitor the grievance disposal process and stressed that affected individuals should be taken into confidence while resolving such issues on merit.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti informed the meeting that a final timeline has been fixed for completion of the remaining blocks of transit accommodation across the Valley. Out of a total of 6,000 flats planned under the project, 4,128 flats have already been completed, while the remaining 1,872 flats have been phased for completion in stages with 584 flats to be completed by the end of March, 832 by June and 456 by September this year.

JKTPO showcases J&K's Agro, Food excellence at 40th edition of AAHAR 2026

NEW DELHI, MARCH 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries and Commerce Department, government of Jammu and Kashmir, is showcasing the region's rich agro and food processing potential at the 40th edition of AAHAR 2026.

Pertinently, AAHAR is Asia's largest Food & Beverage and Hospitality exhibition, being held from 10 to 14 March, 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Programme (RAMP)

The event is being organised by the India Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO) in association with the Ministry of Food Processing Industries. It is being attended by the leading food and beverage companies, hospitality industry stakeholders, exporters, buyers, policymakers and trade professionals from across the globe.

The exhibition aims to further consolidate India's position as a trusted and competitive partner in global food supply chains by providing valuable platform for the entrepreneurs from Jammu & Kashmir to gain market exposure, engage with industry stakeholders and explore new business opportunities. The region's distinctive products and culinary traditions received encouraging response from the visitors and buyers, further contributing to the success of AAHAR 2026 as a key platform for showcasing India's vibrant food and beverage sector globally.

The exhibition is expected to feature over 1,800 exhibitors and 155 international participants from 17 countries, alongside thousands of verified global buyers and several high-level international trade delegations.

The mega event was inaugurated by the Union Commerce & Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. It reflects the Government's strong commitment towards strengthening India's food processing ecosystem, enhancing export competitiveness and expanding global market access for Indian food products.

The Jammu and Kashmir Pavilion, located at Hall No. 1, First Floor IF-23, provides a vibrant platform for MSMEs, FPOs and women entrepreneurs to showcase their premium offerings. The Pavilion highlights Jammu and Kashmir's world-renowned Geographical Indication (GI)-tagged products such as Saffron, Garlic, Rajmah, Basmati Rice, Sulai (Acacia) and multifloral honey, Millets, along with organic honey, essential oils, herbs, grounded spices, pulses, dry fruits, dehydrated fruits and vegetables.

The Jammu & Kashmir Pavilion will serve as a focused platform for the exporters and entrepreneurs from the UT to showcase their high-quality products, explore new trade partnerships and enhance the visibility of J&K's agri-based value chains in national and international markets.

Participation in AAHAR 2026 is expected to generate valuable B2B interactions, business leads and potential trade partnerships for the entrepreneurs from Jammu and Kashmir, further strengthening the region's presence in the evolving global food market.

Speaking on the occasion, Managing Director, JKTPO, stated that the participation at AAHAR 2026 demonstrates the organisation's continued commitment towards promoting MSMEs, food processors and agri-entrepreneurs from Jammu and Kashmir by connecting them with major trade platforms. He emphasized that such initiatives play a crucial role in enhancing market access, product visibility and export potential of the region's unique agri and food products. The participation of JKTPO at AAHAR 2026 reaffirms Jammu & Kashmir's position as an emerging hub for premium agri, horticulture and value-added food products, while contributing to the broader vision of strengthening India's food processing and agri-export ecosystem.

Government aims to transform AWCs into vibrant early learning spaces: Itoo

JAMMU, MARCH 10: Minister for Social Welfare, Education , Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to discuss various proposals focusing on enhanced convergence of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) framework with Education, Health, and other allied departments to further strengthen the early learning ecosystem at Anganwadi Centres across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare department (SWD), Sarmad Hafeez; Mission Director POSHAN, Sajad Hussain Ganai; Director Finance and Director Planning SWD, Child Development Project Officers (CDPOs) of Jammu and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Social Welfare Minister took detailed assessment of various interventions proposed by the SWD for upgrading existing framework for ECCE and strengthening its convergence with Anganwadi Centres.

The meeting focused on enhancing foundational learning, improving nutritional outcomes, and ensuring holistic development of children in the 3–6 years age group through coordinated implementation of ECCE policies across the Union Territory.

During the review, the Minister underscored the critical importance of early childhood education as the cornerstone of lifelong learning and cognitive development. She directed the officers to prepare a time-bound action plan for proper implementation of these initiatives, ensuring quality standards and achieving measurable outcomes in child development indicators across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the pivotal role of Anganwadi Centres, the Minister directed officials to transform these centres into vibrant early learning spaces equipped with child-friendly infrastructure, activity-based learning materials and trained human resource. "Anganwadi workers serve as first educators for children, they must be empowered through continuous capacity-building programmes and modern pedagogical tools", she asserted.

Calling for stronger inter-departmental coordination, the Minister stressed convergence between the Social Welfare, School Education, Health & Medical Education Department and Rural development departments to ensure seamless delivery of services to young children and mothers.

"Early childhood care is not merely a welfare initiative but a long-term investment in human capital. A child who receives proper nutrition, care and early education grows into a confident and capable citizen," the Minister observed.

She further instructed officers to strengthen parental awareness campaigns focusing on nutrition, early stimulation and pre-school readiness, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

The Minister also reviewed plans for digital monitoring mechanisms, improved infrastructure support and enhanced learning assessment tools to track developmental milestones among children enrolled at Anganwadi Centres.

During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary SWD gave a detailed presentation on proposed initiatives for strengthening of ECCE in J&K and its convergence with other allied departments. He informed the Minister that through these initiatives Universal access and equity in early learning will be boosted which will lead to holistic development of child.

The Commissioner Secretary also apprised the Minister that strategies like mentorship programme in which Teachers from nearby primary schools will mentor Anganwadi Workers, ensuring seamless transition from preschool to Grade-I and improving pedagogical quality through monthly on-site visits. He also said that University and college students will be made stakeholders who will participate as interns under Mission POSHAN, acting as Poshan Mitras and supporting nutrition awareness, growth monitoring, and learning activities.

The Commissioner Secretary also informed that Officer Adoption Programme is proposed by which Government officers will adopt Anganwadi Centres, providing mentorship, monitoring implementation, and strengthening community engagement with monthly visits and structured reporting.

He also apprised the Minister that Anganwadi Centres are being positioned as community hubs of integrated services.

The Commissioner also outlined other initiatives like a four-tier training ecosystem involving DIETs, NIPCCD, MLTCs and mentor teachers for Capacity Building, Digital Transformation of Anganwadi Services like QR-enabled Anganwadi Centres, One Child One Card digital identity system, APAAR ID integration for preschool children, Poshan Tracker digital monitoring as well as Real-time service visibility for communities.

Owner/Printed/Published by: Sahil Mahajan and Published from Plot No. 783, Main Road Digiana, Jammu-180010 and Printed from The Himalayan Mail Printing Press, Jeevan Nagar/Deeli, Jammu
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