

## DC Rajouri reviews progress of BRO road projects; stresses timely completion, quality execution

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting in his office chamber to review the progress of key road projects being executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of the status of major road stretches including the Akhnoor–Poonch NH-144A road, Budhal–Mohar–Gool road, Beripattan–Challas road and Rajouri–Thanamandi–Surankote road.

He assessed the pace of execution, quality parameters and bottlenecks, if any, affecting the progress of these strategically important projects.

Emphasizing the critical role of road connectivity in boosting economic growth



and improving public access to essential services, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to expedite the pace of work while strictly adhering to quality standards. He also stressed the need for close coordination among departments to re-

solve on-ground issues in a time-bound manner.

The concerned officers provided detailed updates on the progress achieved so far and highlighted key challenges requiring immediate intervention.

Senior officers including the ACR Rajouri Mohd Ja-

hangir Khan, SDM Thanamandi, Abid Hussain, Additional SP Bikram Kumar, Officer Commanding 57/58 & 110 RCC (GREF), District Mining Officer Rajouri and Executive magistrates of Rajouri and Thanamandi attended the meeting.

## Kissan Goshti on commercial floriculture held at Pallanwala

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

The Department of Floriculture, Parks & Gardens Jammu organized a one-day Kissan Goshti on Commercial Floriculture at village Pallanwala, Tehsil Khour, District Jammu under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ATMA.

The programme, conducted under the overall guidance of Director Floriculture Vivek Modi, witnessed enthusiastic

participation from a large number of farmers, reflecting a growing interest in floriculture as a viable and sustainable income-generating avenue.

The event was attended by Sunil Singh, Deputy Director/Nodal Officer CSS; Angrez Singh, Agriculture Extension Officer Pallanwala; Lakshmi, Assistant Floriculture Officer Jammu.

Addressing the gathering, Sunil Singh reaffirmed the Department's commitment supporting farmers through technical

guidance and financial assistance under various Government schemes. He urged farmers to adopt high-yielding varieties and modern cultivation practices to enhance productivity and profitability.

Angrez Singh delivered an insightful lecture on mushroom cultivation, bee keeping, scientific cropping patterns and emerging technologies in the agriculture sector. He also emphasized the importance of post-harvest management and effec-

tive marketing strategies to maximize returns.

Lakshmi provided detailed guidance on marigold cultivation, covering key aspects such as nursery management, soil health, spacing, fertilization, and disease control. She also highlighted various government initiatives aimed at promoting floriculture in the region.

Farmers appreciated the initiative and expressed their demand for more such awareness and training programmes in the future.

## Art & Welfare Converge at Nirmal Chhaya as MSCBMC Trust showcases talent at Nari Utsav

NEW DELHI, MAR 20:

A blend of social welfare and cultural expression was witnessed at Nirmal Chhaya during the Nari Utsav programme, where the Master Sansar Chand Baru Memorial Charitable Trust showcased its artistic work, drawing attention to traditional art and craftsmanship.

The event was attended by Delhi Chief Minister Rekha Gupta, who inspected facilities at the campus and reviewed initiatives related to women and child welfare. Senior bureaucrat Dr Rashmi Singh also played a key role in the organisation, continuing her association with promoting art and cultural initiatives alongside welfare programmes.

A highlight of the event was a live art demonstration by noted artist Sharmila Sharma, representing the trust. The artwork reflected themes of



empowerment and cultural heritage, attracting appreciation from attendees.

The trust's participation added a cultural dimension to the welfare-focused event, reinforcing the role of art in community engagement and empowerment.

Notably, Dr Rashmi Singh has earlier been associated with promoting art and handicrafts in

Jammu & Kashmir, including programmes at Prithviraj Road that supported local artists and organisations. Her continued efforts at the central level have helped provide wider platforms for cultural groups. Speaking on the occasion, President of Trust Anuradha Rishi said the trust has been encouraged by initiatives led by Dr Rashmi Singh, which have

enabled artists to showcase their work at larger forums. She emphasised that such platforms play a crucial role in promoting creativity and empowering women through art.

The event underlined a broader approach of integrating welfare with cultural outreach, ensuring that art becomes a tool for awareness, participation, and social empowerment.

## NHPC Declares Commercial Operation of its third unit (Unit # 1 of 250 MW) of India's Largest Hydropower Project

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

NHPC Limited, a 'Navratna' PSU under the Ministry of Power, Government of India, has declared the successful commercial operation of the third unit (Unit #1 of 250 MW) of its 2000 MW (8x250 MW) Subansiri Lower Hydroelectric Project located in Arunachal Pradesh/Assam. The unit commenced commercial operation at 00:00 hrs on March 20, 2026, adding 250 MW of clean hydropower to the National Grid.

With the commissioning of this unit, Subansiri Lower Project has now achieved a total operational capacity of 750 MW out of its planned 2000 MW, further strengthening hydropower's role in ensuring grid stability, providing peak power support and facilitating the integration of renewable energy into the national grid.

Prior to commercial operation, the trial run of the unit was successfully completed on February 27,



2026, marking a significant milestone in the project's progress.

On this momentous occasion, Shri Bhupender Gupta, CMD, NHPC expressed his sincere gratitude to the Ministry of Power, Government of India and the Governments of Arunachal Pradesh and Assam for their continued support. He commended

the dedicated efforts of the Subansiri Lower Project team under the leadership of Shri Rajendra Prasad, Executive Director, along with the valuable contributions of various departments at NHPC's Corporate Office.

He further stated that the successful commissioning reflects NHPC's strong technical expertise and ex-

cellent capability and reinforces its pivotal role in enhancing national energy resilience in line with the Government of India's vision of a sustainable and self-reliant power sector.

He also expressed confidence that this achievement will facilitate the timely commissioning of the remaining units of the project.

## DC Kishtwar reviews UT Capex 2025-26 works, sets March 31 deadline for completion of all pending works

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting held virtually to assess the progress of various developmental works being executed under the UT Capex Plan 2025-26 across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the ongoing infrastructure projects aimed at strengthening administrative functioning and improving

public service delivery across the district.

The projects discussed included the construction of Tehsil Office Machail, Tehsil Office Mughal Maidan, SDM Office Marwah, Tehsil Office Drabshalla and Naibat Offices at Palmar, Dool, Dedpeth and Saroor along with several other important developmental initiatives.

While reviewing the progress of these works, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Sub-Divisional Magistrates and Tehsildars to pull up the executing agencies and

ensure that all the works are completed by March 31, 2026.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all the concerned departments to achieve physical and financial targets under CAPEX works and submit the bills in respective treasuries before March 28 following the circular issued by the Finance Department UT of J&K.

He emphasized the importance of timely execution of works, adherence to quality standards and optimal utilization of allocated funds.

He also stressed that the allocated funds must be utilized properly and should not lapse under any circumstances.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that all projects must be implemented efficiently, with transparency and accountability, so that the people of the district receive real and timely benefits from these developmental initiatives.

The meeting was attended by all concerned SDMs, Tehsildars, Accounts Officer, DC Office Kishtwar, Satender Singh and other officers.

## ADC reviews preparedness for 3-day divisional-level awareness programme in Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

To ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the upcoming three-day Divisional-level awareness programme, the Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Prem Singh, today chaired a meeting of officers from various line departments at Mini Conference Hall, DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The School Education Department is set to organize the three-day awareness programme commencing from March 24, 2026. The programme will focus on key social issues such as mental health, drug de-addiction, career counselling, traffic awareness and environmental protection—areas that directly impact students and society at large.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director School Education Udhampur—Reasi, Dr. Jagdish Chander Mehra, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan, Chief



Medical Officer, Dr. Anil Manhas, District Information Officer, Neeraj Bhargav and other district officers.

The programme aims to sensitize students, teachers and stakeholders, while promoting responsible citizenship and overall well-being among the youth.

At the outset, the Chief Education Officer delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the structure and execution plan of the three-day Divisional-level awareness programme. He informed that a series of awareness activities will be conducted across all schools of the Ed-

ucation Department in the district during the programme.

While addressing the meeting, the ADC emphasized the importance of

close coordination among all departments and directed the concerned officers to ensure the smooth and successful conduct of the three-day event.

### Power shutdown

JAMMU, MARCH 20: Chief Engineer, (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Rahyal, Patti, Rajinderpura, Gurah, Nagrota, Utterbehni and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 22 from 8 am to 3 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Nagrota, Sainik School, Kattal, Battal, IIT, Thanda Pani, Bamyal and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 23 from 10 am to 2 pm.

Likewise, the power supply to Sangaldan, Thatarka, Gool, Afcon, Banihal, Hospital, Old Nowgam, Bankoot, Gund, Hinjal, Sherbibi and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 23 and 24 from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Kalta, Chak, Mansar, Kalka, Sunari and adjoining areas will remain affected on March 23 from 10 am to 4 pm.

## DC Kupwara reviews road safety measures, traffic management

KUPWARA, MARCH 20:

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, chaired the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) meeting here in his office chamber to review road safety measures and traffic management across the district.

On the occasion, the DC directed enforcement agencies to ramp up on-ground checks and take stringent action against violators, particularly targeting underage and teenage driving, overloading, and overspeeding.

Traffic police was instructed to increase surprise inspections, deploy more personnel at critical junctions and market areas, while municipal councils and the revenue department conduct frequent anti-encroachment drives to alleviate congestion.

Extensive awareness campaigns were called for in schools and colleges, aimed at students, youth, and commercial drivers, to be carried out by the ARTO, Traffic Police, and Chief Education Officer.

The meeting also covered progress on school bus audits, driving school inspections by ARTO, road safety audits on hilly roads and highways by PWD/PMGSY and BEACON, black spot



identification and rectification, curve improvements, timely road repairs, signage at blind curves, and full safety compliance.

For emergency response, the DC emphasized strategic ambulance deployment at accident-prone spots and readiness of health institutions. Detailed discussions held on proposals sent by various departments under the Road Safety Action Plan to enhance infrastructure and medical care, with a focus on iRAD portal-listed hotspots.

Discussions also held regarding PM-Road Accident Victims Hospitalization and Assured Treatment (PM-RAHAT) Scheme, aiming to provide timely medical aid to the road accident victims. Scheme ensures cashless treatment up to Rs 1.5 lakh per victim in designated hospitals during the critical "Golden

Hour", covering up to 7 days from the accident date, thereby ensuring immediate medical care and significantly improving the chances of survival.

SSP Kupwara, SSP Handwara, SE R&B, ACD, CEO, CMO, ARTO Kupwara, Executive Engineers (PWD), EO MC, and other officials attended the meeting.

## TAC to vet classroom digital board project

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, MAR 20

The government today constituted a Technical Appraisal Committee (TAC) to examine and vet the specifications for the proposed "Classroom Digital Board" project.

According to a GAD order, the chief executive officer, JaKeGA, will head the committee, while members include the state informatics officer, NIC J&K, and representatives from IIT Jammu and NIT Srinagar, with the under secretary, information technology department, acting as member-convenor.

The additional secretary, school education department, has been designated as the single point of con-

tact. The committee has been tasked with thoroughly examining the Detailed Project Report (DPR), including technical, financial, administrative and legal aspects, and assessing whether the project's objectives, timelines and deliverables are clearly defined and aligned with government policy.

It will also scrutinise the technical design, standards, scalability, security and sustainability features of the project to ensure compliance with government norms.

The panel has been directed to submit its report to the information technology department within 45 days of the issuance of the order.