

DC Budgam reviews issues of Persons with Special Abilities

BUDGAM, APRIL 04: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess sector-wise issues, concerns, and welfare measures pertaining to persons with special abilities, with special focus on specially-abled children across the district.

A comprehensive memorandum outlining department-wise demands and challenges was presented during the meeting, highlighting gaps in implementation, accessibility constraints, and the need for strengthened institutional support.

Taking note of the issues raised, the DC issued detailed, time-bound directions to all concerned departments for prompt redressal and effective implementation on the ground.

It was informed that persons with special abilities are facing difficulties in accessing benefits under existing schemes. Stakeholders demanded immediate implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016, provision of assistive devices including wheelchairs, tricycles/scooters, hearing aids, elbow sticks, laptops, and distribution of essential items to needy beneficia-



ries. The DC directed the Social Welfare Department to ensure saturation of all eligible beneficiaries, streamline distribution of assistive devices, enhance financial assistance, and facilitate livelihood opportunities through vendor carts, pre-fabricated stalls, and designated vending spaces at key public locations.

Issues related to certification, lack of proper verification, and non-availability of specialists were highlighted. Concerns were also raised regarding rejection of railway concession forms due to improper stamping.

The DC directed the Chief Medical Officer to standardize certification strictly through specialists, ensure proper stamping with name, registration number, and place of posting, conduct medical boards at accessible locations (preferably ground floor), and

strengthen monitoring mechanisms to prevent misuse. He further instructed to explore provision of special health insurance, free diagnostics, and availability of specialized medical professionals.

Demand for development of dedicated sports infrastructure, including indoor and mini stadiums, along with provision of sports kits and exposure opportunities was also raised.

The DC directed the Sports Department to promote sports activities among persons with special abilities, organize regular tournaments, and prepare a phased plan for creation of inclusive sports infrastructure.

Concerns regarding lack of accessibility in schools, absence of special educators, and limited educational support were highlighted. Stakeholders demanded free admission,

scholarships, Braille books, sign language interpreters, vocational training, and home-based education.

The DC directed the Chief Education Officer to ensure barrier-free access in all schools, appointment of special educators, and provision of scholarships, study material, and exam concessions. He also stressed capacity building of teachers in special education.

The memorandum highlighted inadequate inclusion of persons with special abilities under MGNREGA and other schemes.

The DC directed the Rural Development Department to ensure their inclusion with due reservation, provide housing support, and facilitate sustainable livelihood opportunities.

It was demanded that all eligible persons with special abilities from economically weaker sections be covered under AAY ration cards.

The DC directed the concerned department to ensure identification and coverage of all such beneficiaries under NFSA provisions without delay.

Issues regarding implementation of fare concessions and facilitation in issuance of driving licenses were also raised.

DPEO Bandipora flags off awareness Vehicle for Panchayat Electoral Roll Revision

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 04

District Panchayat Election Officer (DPEO) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today flagged off an awareness vehicle to mobilize public participation in the Summary Revision of the Panchayat Electoral Roll across the district.

The initiative is being carried out under the Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation (SVEEP) campaign.

The awareness vehicle, equipped with banners, public address systems, and informational material, will traverse various parts of the district to disseminate key information regarding the electoral roll revision process, eligibility criteria, and the importance of voter registration.

As part of the revision exercise, Block Development Officers (BDOs) have been designated as Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs), while Village Level Entrepreneurs



(VLEs), Multipurpose Workers (MPWs), and Gram Rozgar Sevaks (GRSs) will function as Polling Booth Level Officers (PEBOs) to facilitate grassroots-level outreach and assistance. To ensure maximum public participation, eight special camps will be organized on Saturdays and Sundays at each polling station across the

district. Additionally, Panchayat Electoral Rolls (PERs) will be made available at every Panchayat for public inspection, and citizens can file claims and objections up to April 29, 2026. Adequate quantities of PER forms have been made available at all polling stations to facilitate easy access for the general public.

Speaking on the occasion, the DPEO underscored the significance of the SVEEP campaign in ensuring an inclusive, accurate, and error-free electoral roll. She emphasized that the initiative aims to ensure that no eligible voter is left out of the democratic process. Highlighting April 1, 2026, as the qualifying date, she urged all eligible citizens to verify their details and enroll themselves if not already registered.

The campaign places special emphasis on encouraging first-time voters to participate actively, thereby strengthening electoral inclusion across the district.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by the Deputy District Election Officer, Deputy Chief Education Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Roll Observers, and other concerned officers. offi-

Judicial Academy Srinagar hosts Training on Fair and Speedy Trial under Article 21 for Judicial Officers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 04

Under the patronage of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of the Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy, a one-day training programme on "Role and Responsibilities of Trial Judges in Ensuring Just, Fair and Speedy Trial (as guaranteed under Article 21 of the Constitution of India)" was successfully conducted today at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar, for Judicial Officers of the Kashmir Province.

Justice Shahzad Azeem, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, in his inaugural address, highlighted the pivotal role of trial courts in the justice delivery system, observing that they serve as the first point of interaction between citizens and the judiciary, where facts are established, evidence is tested, and rights are ultimately adjudicated. He emphasized that while the maxim "justice delayed is justice denied" remains significant, equal caution must be exercised to ensure that "justice hurried is justice buried." He stressed that the real challenge before trial judges lies in maintaining a delicate balance between expedition and fairness.

Describing the role of judicial officers as a "sacred



trusteeship." He called upon them to act as reformers by embracing technology, minimizing delays, and upholding the principles of fairness, efficiency, and human dignity in the administration of justice.

Naseer Ahmad Dar, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, in his introductory address, underscored that the theme of the programme lies at the very core of the constitutional guarantee under Article 21 of the Constitution of India. He highlighted that trial courts form the foundation of the justice delivery system and that trial judges play a crucial role in ensuring that the promise of a just, fair, and speedy trial is meaningfully realized in every courtroom. He further informed that the programme had been specifically designed in light of the guidance of Justice Rahul

Bharti, with particular focus on judicial officers who have joined service without prior practice at the Bar.

The first technical session on "Constitutional Mandate and Foundations (Fair Trial under Article 21 of the Constitution of India)" was delivered by Dr. Syed Asima Refai, Faculty Member, Department of Law, University of Kashmir.

In her address, she traced the historical evolution of the right to a fair trial, emphasizing its deep roots in ancient legal traditions, including Roman, Greek, and various religious legal systems. She highlighted that the principle of fair trial has long been recognized as a foundational element of justice across civilizations and was later institutionalized through landmark developments such as the Magna

Carta, which laid the foundation for limiting arbitrary state power and establishing early human rights protections. She also discussed the transformative constitutional journey from A.K. Gopalan v. State of Madras to Maneka Gandhi v. Union of India, highlighting how the judiciary expanded the scope of "procedure established by law" to mean a procedure that is just, fair, and reasonable.

The second session, conducted by Abdul Rashid Malik, Former District & Sessions Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, focused on "Practical Challenges before Trial Courts." He deliberated on critical issues such as delays in trials, effective case management, handling adjournments and hostile witnesses, and the use of technology in trial courts.

He emphasized the importance of judicial diligence and systematic court management, stressing that judges must carefully examine jurisdiction, applicability of law, and relevant materials before issuing orders. In the context of criminal trials, he highlighted the necessity of ensuring that charge sheets are complete, all relevant documents and witness statements are available, and that the accused is provided with adequate legal representation. The session offered valuable practical insights into enhancing efficiency while maintaining fairness in trial proceedings.

DC Budgam reviews developmental scenario of Sub-Division Khansahib

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 04

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired an extensive review meeting to assess the overall developmental scenario, sectoral progress, and implementation status of key government schemes in Sub-Division Khansahib.

At the outset, the SDM Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri presented a detailed overview covering key sectors including health, education, public works, power, irrigation, rural development, and urban development.

The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under flagship programmes and UT/centrally sponsored schemes.

A comprehensive review of the health sector was conducted, wherein the DC took note of the ongoing Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, including screening of vulnerable populations and progress under Nikshay Mitra initiative. He emphasized strengthening healthcare delivery at grassroots level, ensuring optimal utilization



of health facilities, and improving bed capacity and patient care services in sub-district hospitals and primary health centres.

Reviewing the Public Works Department, the DC was apprised of road connectivity status, sub-division-wise road mileage, and progress under ongoing pothole-free road initiatives.

He directed concerned to ensure time-bound completion of road works, adherence to quality standards, and prioritization of critical connectivity gaps, especially in rural and far-flung areas.

The meeting also discussed works executed under NABARD RIDF, UT sector schemes, and other

infrastructure development programmes. The DC stressed expediting pending works and removing bottlenecks hindering progress.

In the education sector, the DC reviewed the functioning of education zones including Khansahib, Dreygam, and Hardupan-zoo. He directed officers to focus on improving learning outcomes, strengthening school infrastructure, and ensuring regular monitoring of attendance and academic performance.

The progress under PMAY (G) 2.0 and Awaas Plus Survey 2024 was also reviewed in detail. The DC instructed officials to ensure transparency in beneficiary selection and timely

completion of sanctioned houses, so that eligible beneficiaries receive the intended benefits without delay.

In power sector, the DC assessed the status of works under various schemes including CDF and other electrification initiatives. He emphasized ensuring uninterrupted power supply, prompt grievance redressal, and timely completion of ongoing works.

In the water and irrigation sector, the DC reviewed the implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and irrigation projects in the sub-division. He directed officers to ensure 100% household tap water coverage, proper maintenance of assets, and efficient execution of irrigation works to support agricultural productivity.

The DC also took stock of development works under urban development and tourism-related initiatives, including activities linked to Doodhpathri Development Authority. He stressed promoting sustainable tourism while ensuring environmental protection and local economic benefits.

Poonch DC reviews arrangements for smooth conduct of Baisakhi Festival

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 04

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office to review and finalize arrangements for the Baisakhi Festival.

Religious heads projected various issues and emphasized the need for proper arrangements to ensure the smooth celebration of the festival.

They appealed for uninterrupted supply of electricity and potable water, adequate sanitation measures, proper vehicle parking facilities, availability of ambulance services and other essential arrangements. Stress was laid on ensuring robust security arrangements for the Baisakhi Mela.

Responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner issued necessary directions to the concerned departments. The PDD and PHE departments were instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply and adequate provision of safe



drinking water. The Executive Officer of the Municipality was directed to maintain cleanliness in and around places of worship and congregation sites. Police authorities were asked to put in place foolproof security arrangements during the festivities.

Additionally, the meeting also discussed the arrange-

ments for Nagar Kirtan scheduled on April 12, which will commence from Gurudwara Baithak Mahant Mohar Singh and culminate at Dera Santpura Nangali Sahib. Directions were issued to ensure proper arrangements for security, uninterrupted water and electricity supply, ambulance services and

sanitation during the event. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; Dyp Hq. along with other concerned officers, executive engineers, religious heads and prominent citizens.

DC Samba reviews LPG e-KYC progress Emphasizes 100% coverage, zero tolerance against irregularities

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, APR 04

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan convened a meeting today to review the status of LPG e-KYC and availability of cooking gas in the district.

The meeting was attended by the District Nodal Officer (LPG), all Tehsil Supply Officers and representatives from Gas agencies operating in the district.

At the outset, Assistant Director, FCS&CA Rahul Gupta presented a detailed briefing on the current status of e-KYC implementation, highlighting progress achieved so far, existing gaps and areas requiring immediate intervention.

It was informed that sustained efforts are being made to ensure e-KYC of all LPG consumers. During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on expediting the e-KYC process to ensure

transparency, elimination of duplication and strengthen accountability in LPG distribution.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and gas agency dealers to ensure time-bound completion, with special focus on pending and left-out cases.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to achieve 100% e-KYC coverage within stipulated timelines. She warned

that no instances of hoarding, black marketing, diversion or misuse of LPG cylinders shall be tolerated under any circumstances.

The concerned officials were instructed to adopt a proactive approach and ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left out. All stakeholders were directed to ensure strict compliance with the instructions and to work in close coordination for achieving the desired targets in a time-bound manner.