

# Omar govt Fast Tracking development in Chenab region: Javed Rana

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Unveils a “ground-up governance push” powered by tourism, water security and tribal inclusion; Rattan Lal Gupta, Shaheen, Arjun and Dr. Shamsad Shan pitch unity as the growth engine, flagging divisive narratives as development roadblocks\*

Jammu, April 23: Senior leader of the Jammu and Kashmir National Conference and Hon'ble Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest & Tribal Affairs, Javed Rana, asserted that the Chenab region is witnessing a transformative infrastructural push under the Omar-led government. He emphasized that this development surge is strategically anchored in boosting tourism, strengthening potable water access, and advancing tribal welfare—signaling what he described as a “holistic and people-centric governance model” for the region.

He was addressing a massive meeting of General Public / Party functionaries at Batote during the first leg of his five-day tour of the Chenab region. Rattan Lal Gupta Provincial President Jammu Start tour programme 1st Day at Batote. The meeting was organized and chaired by Abid Magray District President Ramban. Among others, party legislators Sajjad Shaheen Hon'ble MLA Banihal and Arjun Singh Raju Hon'ble MLA Ramban, along with senior leaders, Dr. Shamsad Shan former DDC Chairperson Ramban, Abdul Gani Teli Chairman OBC Cell and Arif Mir Provincial Secretary Jammu were present



on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Rana said the Omar-led government has brought a renewed and results-driven focus on the Chenab region, prioritizing the upgradation of tourism infrastructure and ensuring the delivery of essential civic amenities, particularly potable water. He noted that the administration has decisively moved beyond “symbolic tokenism” in tribal affairs to a framework of tangible development and meaningful outreach.

“Our government is working on a multi-pronged strategy to unlock the development and tourism potential of the Chenab region. Eco-parks are being conceptualized across key locations, while long-pending potable water schemes stalled during the previous regime have been revived—many are already functional and others nearing completion,” he said.

Highlighting tribal wel-

fare, Rana added that communities in the region are once again at the center of policymaking. “The biggest achievement of the Omar government is restoring a sense of belonging among the people of Chenab. They feel heard, seen, and prioritized by an elected government that believes in delivery, not rhetoric,” he remarked.

He urged party workers to amplify the government’s achievements at the grassroots level and counter what he termed as “misleading narratives.” “The opposition is working overtime to distort facts because the pace and scale of our governance have unsettled them. Our workers must take the truth to every doorstep,” he added.

Speaking on the occasion, Rattan Lal Gupta underscored that good governance under Omar Abdullah has laid the foundation for inclusive growth in the Chenab region. “Development cannot take root without trust and trans-

parency, and this government has ensured both while strengthening communal harmony, which remains the bedrock of progress in this region,” he said.

Legislator Sajjad Shaheen, in his address, emphasized the need for unity and vigilance against divisive narratives. “The Omar-led government stands for inclusive development and social cohesion. The people of Chenab have always upheld communal harmony, and any propaganda aimed at disrupting this fabric must be defeated collectively,” he said.

Legislator Arjun Singh Raju echoed similar sentiments, stating that the administration’s focus on equitable development has bridged long-standing gaps. “The Chenab region is a living example of how good governance and communal harmony go hand in hand. Attempts to divide people for political gains must be firmly rejected,” he cautioned.

# RT distributes financial aid to underprivileged

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Ram Trust, a charitable organisation based in Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, has intensified its welfare activities by launching a large-scale humanitarian outreach programme in April 2026 to support underprivileged sections of society.

Under the initiative, the Trust is distributing pen-

sions and financial assistance of Rs. 2,000 each to widows, senior citizens above 60 years, differently-abled persons, BPL families and domestic workers. The drive will continue until all registered beneficiaries are covered.

Chairman Trustee C.P. Gupta, along with trustees Virender Mahajan and Anjali Mahajan, General Secretary Raghav Gupta, and patrons Rajni Gupta, Sakshi Gupta and Jyoti La-

chotra, have been actively involved in the programme. The team has also been visiting the homes of bed-ridden elderly and disabled persons to ensure doorstep delivery of assistance.

In addition to individual support, the Trust has extended donations to various social organisations, including Home for Aged and Infirm (Vridh Ashram), Gau Raksha Samiti and Ved Mandir Bal

Niketan, Jammu. It also contributes annually to Jammu Central Mahajan Sabha for organising langar during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra.

Earlier, on March 31, the Trust organised a stationary distribution camp, providing study kits to over 100 needy students to promote education. The organisation continues to work towards the welfare and upliftment of the needy with sustained dedication.

# BJP gears up for District training camps after successful Mandal training camps

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Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP and MP (Rajya Sabha), along with BJP J&K General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, and BJP Abhiyan Prabhari for Northern Zone and MLA Dr. Devender Manyal, addressed over a review and planning meeting of the district level training camps under the ‘Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Prashikshan Mahabhiyan 2026’ at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

BJP J&K General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan, and Abhiyan Convenor Parneesh Mahajan were also present during the meeting. District Prabhari, District Presidents, District Seh-Prabhari, and District Abhiyan Convenors, and Co-convenors participated in the meeting.

The meeting witnessed detailed deliberations on the framework of the Abhiyan, organizational strengthening, and the roadmap for upcoming district-level training camps under the second phase of



the Prashikshan Mahabhiyan. It was highlighted that the first phase of the Abhiyan witnessed the successful conduct of Mandal-level training camps across the Union Territory, laying a strong foundation for the next phase.

Sat Sharma, while addressing the meeting, emphasized that the core vision of the training initiative is to develop well-trained, ideologically sound, and mature leaders capable of serving the nation, Jammu & Kashmir, and society effectively. He stressed the importance of blending the experience of senior leaders with the enthusiasm and energy of the youth cadre to build a sturdy and dynamic orga-

nization. He also called for ensuring a plastic-free environment in all training camps and reiterated BJP’s commitment to sustainable practices. He asserted that BJP remains dedicated to strengthening grassroots democracy and empowering every section of society, while criticizing opposition parties for lacking ideological clarity and commitment to nation-building.

Ashok Koul conducted a detailed review of the Mandal-level training camps through reports from Prabhari, Presidents, and Abhiyan Convenors of District. He called for maximum participation of both senior and youth cadre in the upcoming district-level training camps

and stressed the importance of consistent attendance, engagement and organizational discipline to further strengthen the party at the grassroots level.

Dr. Devinder Manyal delivered a comprehensive presentation reviewing the recently concluded training camps and outlining plans for the upcoming sessions. He underscored the need for maintaining high standards of quality, discipline, and structured learning during the camps. He also emphasized organizing exhibitions during the training camps, showcasing the party’s rich history, developmental achievements, and visionary leadership to inspire party cadre.

# CUJ Students and Scholars Excel at National Conference, Win Multiple Awards

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The Centre for Molecular Biology, Central University of Jammu, Students and Research Scholars have brought laurels to the institution by securing prestigious awards at the National Conference held at Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST), Jammu. M.Sc Biotechnology student Ms. Ritika Sharma and Research Scholar Ms. Tania was awarded the Best Poster Presentation Award, while Research Scholars Ms. Shreya Mangotra and Ms. Preeti Rani received the Best Paper Award, reflecting the strong research culture and academic excellence nurtured at the University.

The three-day conference, held from April 15–17, 2026, was themed “Integrating Indian Knowledge Systems and Modern Science for Viksit Bharat.” The event brought together scientists, academicians, and scholars from across the country to deliberate on the integration of India’s traditional knowledge systems with



modern scientific approaches for sustainable and inclusive national development.

The award-winning research presentations focused on the application of multidisciplinary approaches that combine indigenous knowledge frameworks with advanced scientific tools to address contemporary challenges in health and life sciences. The work was widely appreciated by the conference jury for its novelty, scientific rigor, and potential societal impact, aligning with the broader vision of Viksit Bharat. These recognitions

highlight the students’ and scholars’ academic excellence, innovative thinking, and research capabilities. They also underscore the robust academic environment and rigorous research training imparted by the Centre for Molecular Biology, which continues to promote interdisciplinary learning and cutting-edge research.

Congratulating the awardees, Director of the Centre for Molecular Biology, Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Dean of the School of Life Sciences, Prof. Sunil Dhar, and faculty members commended their dedication, perseverance, and commitment to scientific inquiry. They expressed confidence that such achievements will inspire fellow students to pursue high-quality research and contribute meaningfully to the scientific community.

Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, also lauded the accomplishment, stating that such awards reflect the University’s commitment to excellence in research and innovation. He extended his best wishes to the awardees for their continued success in future academic and research endeavors.

# 100-Day Nasha Mukta Push in Udhampur

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Administrative Secretary to the Labour and Employment Department Kumar Rajeev Ranjan, who is designated as District Mentor for Udhampur, chaired a meeting today to review the implementation of the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan in the district.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Minga Sherpa; Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, General Manager DIC; Chief Planning Officer; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat and other district and sectoral officers, including representatives from the Police Department.

At the outset, the Additional Deputy Commissioner delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the proposed District Action Plan for the 100-day Nasha Mukta Abhiyan. The Deputy Commissioner also provided key inputs and suggestions to strengthen the strategy.

While reviewing the action plan, the District Men-



tor emphasized the need to devise a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for systematic follow-ups. He directed for appointing nodal officers at Panchayat, village and ward levels to ensure continuous monitoring and accountability.

Ranjan stressed the importance of focusing on quantifiable outcomes and called for the activation of youth clubs to function as grassroots-level support systems. These clubs, he noted, should act as “eyes and ears” of the administration by providing feedback and identifying individuals vulnerable to drug abuse.

He further highlighted the need for convergence between the Youth Engagement and Empowerment

Plan and the Nasha Mukta Abhiyan to ensure a coordinated and impactful approach.

Emphasizing capacity building, the Mentor directed all departments to achieve saturation in online awareness and training programs, supplemented by regular follow-ups. He also underscored the importance of developing preventive IEC (Information, Education and Communication) material, including “Do’s and Don’ts” related to drug use and motivational content targeting youth.

District Mentor called for the involvement of religious leaders and successful entrepreneurs as ambassadors for youth clubs and also suggested the constitution of

Mahila Nigrani Samitis to strengthen community-level vigilance.

Additionally, he proposed the development of a dedicated mobile application to provide easy access to IEC materials, helpline numbers and information on the nearest medical facilities. He also emphasized wide publicity of toll-free helpline numbers at district, block and Panchayat levels.

Special focus was laid on targeting the 14–18 age group, identified as the most vulnerable segment. The Mentor further recommended the development of psychometric tools to identify at-risk individuals and the creation of a Google-based feedback mechanism for public participation.

# Water released in Kathua Canal after completion of permanent restoration works

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Water was today released in the Kathua Canal from Chakunder Feeder following the successful completion of permanent restoration works by the Jal Shakti (Irrigation & Flood Control) Department Jammu.

The Kathua Canal, which off-takes from the Kashmir Canal at Chakunder Feeder, Jagatpur, irrigates a culturable command area (CCA) of 8463 hectares. The canal had suffered extensive damage due to unprecedented floods in Sahar Khad and subsequent flooding in River Ravi. Earlier, temporary restoration works were completed on October 7, 2025, enabling supply of irrigation water for the last watering of standing Kharif crops and meeting requirements during the subsequent Rabi season, thereby providing immediate relief to the farming community.

Subsequently, the department undertook comprehensive measures for permanent restoration, including strengthening



of damaged embankments and protection works of the siphon during the canal closure period to ensure long-term stability of the canal system. With the completion of these works, the canal has been made fully operational and is expected to ensure assured and uninterrupted irrigation supply to the command area, particularly during the upcoming Kharif season when water demand is at its peak. The achievement has been made possible through the sustained efforts of the Jal Shakti (I&FC) Department, Jammu under the guidance of Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana and Financial Com-

missioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Shaleen Kabra. The timely restoration is expected to safeguard agricultural ac-

tivities in the region, enabling farmers to undertake Kharif cultivation with greater confidence and certainty.

## Power shutdown

JAMMU, APRIL 23: Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCJ Jammu has informed that the power supply to Ramsoo and Banihal will remain affected on April 24 and 25 from 9 am to 6 pm.

Similarly, the power supply to Chakroi, Pindi, Flora, BOP, Kirpind and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 25 from 8 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to 132/33 KV Jhajjar Kotli Grid, Janipur, New Sectt., Subash Nagar, Muthi, Rajinder Nagar, Roop Nagar, Sheethi (PHE) and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 25 from 7 am to 12 noon.

Similarly, the power supply to the areas fed from Grid Station-Sidhra, Janipur, Jhajjar Kotli, Gandhi Nagar, Nanak Nagar, Trikuta Nagar, Channi Himmat, Transport Nagar, Sainik Colony, Bathindi, Residency Road, Dhouthly Bazar, Karan Nagar, Kachi Chawani and adjoining areas will remain affected on April 25 from 6 am to 1 pm.