

# JAMMU & KASHMIR

## Anganwadi Workers, Helpers backbone of child welfare, community development: Itoo

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 24



Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo today said that Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and Helpers are the backbone of grassroots child welfare and community development, adding that their role extends far beyond service delivery.

The Minister was speaking at the concluding ceremony of 8th Poshan Pakhwada celebrations held at Government Polytechnic College, Jammu.

Mission Director ICDS, Sajad Hussain Ganie; Secretary in Social Welfare department, Bashir Ahmad Khan; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Ranjeet Singh; Director Health Services Jammu, Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar; Programme officers, CDPOs, Supervisors and large number of Anganwadi workers and Helpers were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister appreciated the dedication and tireless efforts of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers, describing them as the backbone of grassroots child welfare and nutrition services. She said that their role extends far beyond service delivery, as they serve as the first point of contact for mothers, children and families in rural as well as urban areas.

"Anganwadi Workers are the real change-makers at the grassroots. Their commitment towards early childhood care, nutrition, pre-school education and child welfare is laying the

foundation for a healthier and empowered future generation," the Minister stated.

She highlighted that ICDS sector is very big sector and more than 28,000 of our sisters work in this sector. "As far as the ICDS or social welfare sector is concerned, some other departments are connected to this sector like education, health and others. Our Anganwadi workers and Helpers perform duties in these departments during awareness programmes or other events, apart from their parent department", she said.

The Minister stressed the need for collective efforts from all stakeholders, including families, communities, and government departments, to ensure that every child receives proper nutrition and every mother has access to essential healthcare and support. She underscored the importance of Poshan Pakhwada as a people-centric initiative focusing on combating malnutrition, improving health outcomes for women and children, and creating awareness about balanced nutrition and early childhood care.

Giving background of ICDS sector, Sakeena Itoo said that in the year 1996,

the then Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah brought this project into Jammu and Kashmir and implemented it.

Sakeena Itoo stressed the importance of integrating hygiene awareness with child development initiatives and urged field functionaries to continue educating families about sanitation, nutrition and preventive healthcare. She noted that a clean environment plays a significant role in reducing disease burden and improving the quality of life for children and women.

Highlighting various achievements of the Government, the Minister said that the Government led by Omar Abdullah increased the Marriage Assistance from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 75,000, besides the qualification bar for availing the scheme has been removed.

The Minister also underlined the government's commitment towards strengthening the Anganwadi ecosystem by improving infrastructure, ensuring better service delivery and providing necessary support to frontline workers. She assured that the concerns and welfare of Anganwadi Workers and Helpers remain a priority for the

government, adding that Chief Minister is very keen about their welfare.

The Minister also announced that the department has already been asked to make a policy regarding appointment of dependents of Anganwadi workers and Helpers who die while in service.

In his welcome address, Mission Director ICDS spoke about the large scale of activities carried during the Poshan Pakhwada. He informed that around 7,32,000 events were held and uploaded on Jan Andolan portal by the department. He also expressed gratitude to Minister for increasing the Capex Budget of the department, adding that new Anganwadi centres will be made functional.

Earlier, the Social Welfare Minister also distributed appointment orders among newly recruited Anganwadi Workers and Helpers. She also distributed Vid-yarambh certificates among children who completed pre-schooling at Anganwadi centres.

During the programme, Anganwadi Workers and Helpers also presented different cultural programmes highlighting importance of nutrition in children and mothers.

## Australian High Commissioner calls on CM Omar; discusses cooperation in agriculture, allied sectors

**NEW DELHI, APRIL 24:** The Australian High Commissioner to India, Mr. Philip Green, today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, and discussed avenues for enhanced cooperation in agriculture and allied sectors.

During the discussions, both the sides explored opportunities for collaboration in agriculture and allied areas, particularly horticulture and animal husbandry. Emphasis was laid on knowledge sharing,



adoption of best practices, and capacity building to improve productivity and sustainability.

The interaction also touched upon prospects for institutional linkages and technical cooperation to

support ongoing developmental initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir, within the broader framework of India-Australia engagement. The engagement remained forward-looking, with a shared intent to deepen cooperation through appropriate channels.

Mr. Orson Passi, Second Secretary, and Ms. Vandana Seth, Political Lead, from the Australian High Commission were also present during the meeting.

## Javed Rana reviews development scenario in Doda; Stresses accountability and grassroots impact

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 24

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana today chaired a high-level review meeting at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, here, to evaluate the progress of key developmental initiatives across the district.

Legislators Shakti Raj Parihar, Daleep Singh Parihar, Deputy Commissioner, Krishan Lal, Chief Engineer, I&FC Jammu Manoj Gupta, Chief Engineer PHE, Hanief Choudhary and all District level Officers participated in the meeting.

While reviewing the progress across key sectors, Javed Rana underscored the need for strict adherence to timelines, enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure that development effectively reaches the grassroots with transparency and efficiency.

The Minister reviewed the progress under AMRUT 2.0, CAPEX, irrigation, flood control and rural development works. He stressed expediting these initiatives to boost agricultural productivity and strengthen irrigation infrastructure for farmers.

While emphasising the need for timely resolution of forest-related issues, the



Minister called for strict verification processes before project execution and decisive action against obstructions affecting development works.

He also called for strengthening monitoring process through the PARIVESH portal and promoting projects related to ecological conservation, check dams, and public recreation.

Special attention was given to improving water supply and irrigation potential in Assar and adjoining areas to boost vegetable cultivation and local livelihoods.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on tribal welfare initiatives, Forest Rights Act (FRA), development of tribal hostels, implementation of Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, and provision of mobile medical services in remote areas.

The Minister instructed concerned departments to prepare detailed project reports (DPRs) focusing on road connectivity, lift irrigation, power supply, and water infrastructure in tribal regions. He further emphasized timely completion and effective utilization of funds allocated for tribal hostels.

The Chief Medical Officer Doda was directed to operationalize mobile medical units in tribal belts at the earliest.

Javed Rana emphasised upon the officers to gear up their efforts for timely completion of important projects and improving public service delivery in the district.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation outlining sector-wise physical and financial achievements under CAPEX, NABARD and other key programmes in the district.

## Legislators, deputations call on CM Omar highlight constituency issues

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, APR 24



Several legislators and deputations today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah here and apprised him of a range of issues concerning their respective constituencies, seeking timely intervention and resolution.

MLA Ramnagar Sunil Bharadwaj, MLA Habakadal Shamim Firdous, MLA Budhal Javid Iqbal, MLA Kokernag Zaffar Ali Khatana, MLA Thanamandi Muzaffar Iqbal Khan and former minister Yash-paul Kundal were among those who met the Chief Minister.

During the interactions, the representatives raised

various development-related concerns, including

augmentation of basic infrastructure, improvement in road connectivity, strengthening of healthcare and educational facilities, and addressing public service delivery issues in their

areas.

They also highlighted constituency-specific demands and sought focused attention to ensure balanced and inclusive development.

The Chief Minister gave a

patient hearing to the visiting legislators and deputations and assured them that all genuine concerns would be examined on priority.

He reiterated the government's commitment to responsive governance and equitable development across all regions.

## Div Com Kashmir reviews various Revenue Matters, Development Initiatives

**SRINAGAR, APRIL 24:** Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, today chaired a meeting to review a range of revenue-related matters, including migrant properties, construction of houses for terror victims, digitization of land records, Digital Crop Survey, and development of urban revenue-generating assets.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners, the Additional Commissioner Central, and the Officer on Special Duty to the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

While reviewing progress on the construction of houses for terror victims, the Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to ensure



that all eligible beneficiaries possess the requisite land, with a minimum of five marlas, to facilitate timely assistance.

Regarding the updation of Girdawari records of religious and heritage sites, he instructed the Deputy Commissioners to ensure that all structures of cultural and historical importance are properly documented and their records duly updated

and certified.

The Divisional Commissioner also assessed the status of migrant properties, including the quantum of land, district-wise progress in removal of encroachments, and the disposal of grievances submitted by migrants.

Reviewing progress under the SVAMITA Scheme and Digital Crop Survey, he urged Deputy Commission-

ers to intensify efforts to achieve timely implementation and broader coverage.

Further, the Divisional Commissioner directed Deputy Commissioners to prepare Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) under the Urban Challenge Fund in consultation with Municipal Executive Officers to focus on the development of public utility and revenue-generating infrastructure in urban areas, including parking facilities, bus stands, and other convenience assets.

Also, he called for ensuring active participation of public representatives and citizens in the ongoing Pad Yatra organized under the Nasha Mukht Campaign, aimed at promoting a drug-free society.

## Rana holds convention in Doda, assures swift redress of public grievances

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JAMMU, APR 24

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, on Friday convened a convention during which the people apprised him the issues concerning their respective areas.

During the interactive session, the Minister engaged extensively with the general public, who raised a wide range of pressing issues and developmental concerns affecting different parts of the Chenab Valley.

The participants high-

lighted the grievances such as lack of compensation for the flood-affected families, drinking water shortage in Doda town, delay in regularisation and wage disbursement of daily wage workers, need for repair and desilting of irrigation khuls, delay in forest clearances for development works and slow pace of implementation of water supply schemes under the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The participants stressed that timely intervention in these areas is essential for improving the quality of life in the district.

Responding to the con-

cerns, Rana assured that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is committed towards addressing the genuine public issues with urgency and accountability. He said that all the matters raised during the convention would be taken up for prompt and time-bound resolution in coordination with the concerned departments.

It is pertinent to mention that the Minister is currently on an extensive tour of the Chenab Valley and, as part of the outreach, will hold public meetings, interact directly with the citizens and chair the district-level

review meetings to monitor the developmental works and ensure effective implementation of key government schemes.

The Minister further underscored the importance of responsive governance and said efforts are being made to bridge the developmental gaps across the regions and sub-regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling upon the stakeholders to play a proactive role at the grassroots level, Rana urged them to maintain close contact with the public and act as a vital link between the government and the people.

## Mega Yoga event held at Anantnag, Participants Pledge to promote Healthy, Drug Free Society

**ANANTNAG, APRIL 24:** In connection with the ongoing Nasha Mukht

J&K Abhiyan, the Department of AYUSH Anantnag today organized a Mega Yoga event at Shaheed Hiyayun Muzamil Memorial Government Boys Degree College, Khanabal.

The event was conducted with the objective of promoting a healthy lifestyle and spreading awareness regarding the ill effects of drug abuse among the youth. The pro-

gramme witnessed active participation from officials of various departments including Youth Services & Sports, Information, Education besides faculty and students of the College.

In his address, District AYUSH Officer, Dr. Abdul Rehman Rather emphasized the critical role of yoga and the AYUSH system in overall well-being, urging the youth to denounce substance abuse and adopt healthy and

productive practices for a brighter future. He expressed his appreciation for the coordinated efforts of all participating departments in promoting the message for a fit and drug free society.

By highlighting the importance of physical fitness and mental well-being, the yoga session served as a powerful demonstration of how meditation and outdoor activities can act as an effective tool in combating

substance abuse and encouraging a disciplined way of life.

Throughout the session, the students and participants engaged in yoga asanas and awareness activities, demonstrating a firm commitment to the message of "Say No to Drugs, Yes to Life."

Participants pledged to disseminate the message of the campaign and contribute positively toward building a healthy and drug free society.