

Chief Secy reviews implementation of PM-JAY SEHAT in J&K

Emphasizes on efficient healthcare delivery, long-term financial sustainability of scheme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 12



Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo today chaired the Governing Council Meeting of the State Health Agency (SHA), during which a comprehensive review of the implementation of the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) and AB PM-JAY SEHAT scheme across Jammu and Kashmir was undertaken.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Secretary, Information Technology; Director, SKIMS; Principal, Government Medical College, Srinagar/Jammu besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency, Ananth Dwivedi, delivered a detailed presentation highlighting the achievements registered under the scheme, its financial performance during the current policy period and the proposed modalities for ensuring its continued and sustainable implementation across the Union Territory in the months to come.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary observed that Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as one of the leading regions in extending universal healthcare coverage under the PM-JAY SEHAT scheme, significantly improving access to quality and cashless healthcare

services for the people.

He remarked that the scheme has enabled lakhs of beneficiaries, particularly from economically weaker and vulnerable sections of society, to avail specialized treatment free of cost in both public and empanelled private healthcare institutions, thereby providing substantial economic relief along with quality medical care.

Emphasizing the importance of the scheme in protecting households against catastrophic healthcare expenditure, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for maintaining transparency, ensuring timely settlement of claims and strengthening monitoring mechanisms.

He called for sustained efforts to further reinforce public healthcare institutions, improve beneficiary outreach and ensure seamless delivery of healthcare services under the PM-JAY SEHAT framework.

The presentation revealed that during the current Policy Period-8, spanning from April 17, 2025 to April 16, 2026, more than 4.08 lakh pre-authorizations were approved under the scheme involving a financial outgo of nearly Rs

775 Cr. It was informed that over 3.86 lakh claims were submitted under the programme, reflecting the extensive utilization of healthcare services by beneficiaries across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Governing Council was also apprised that public sector hospitals continue to play a dominant role in implementation of the scheme, accounting for a major share of treatments and financial transactions. It was added that more than Rs 515 Cr worth of pre-authorizations were approved in public hospitals during the ongoing policy period, demonstrating the growing capacity and strengthening of government healthcare institutions in delivering advanced treatment under the flagship healthcare programme.

While reviewing the future roadmap, the Chief Secretary was informed about various reforms and financial restructuring measures being contemplated for the upcoming Policy Period-9 to ensure long-term sustainability of the scheme without compromising the quality of healthcare services being extended to the people.

The presentation further outlined comparative projections between Insurance Mode and Trust Mode for implementation of the scheme. It was informed that under the Trust Mode, based on present expenditure trends, the expected annual expenditure is projected to remain substantially manageable while ensuring uninterrupted healthcare coverage to all eligible beneficiaries.

The Governing Council was also informed that certain changes approved in the Health Benefit Package by the competent authority are expected to rationalize expenditure and improve operational efficiency during the next policy cycle. The proposed measures include optimization of package rates in select specialties while safeguarding critical and high-end healthcare services.

The meeting concluded with detailed deliberations on future strategies aimed at preserving the gains achieved under PM-JAY SEHAT while making the scheme financially sustainable, more efficient and increasingly responsive to the healthcare needs of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

JJM House Committee visits Charar-i-Sharief constituency; reviews implementation schemes

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JAMMU, MAY 12

The House Committee on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) today conducted an extensive visit to various areas of Charar-i-Sharief Constituency to review and monitor the implementation of the Mission.

The committee was led by its Chairman Justice Hasnain Masoodi and accompanied by MLA Chadoora Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Tral Rafiq Ahmad Naik, MLA Pattan Javid Riyaz Bedar, MLA Poonch Ajaz Ahmed Jan along with senior officers and officials of the Jal Jeevan Mission Department.

During the visit, the committee inspected ongoing works at Dadompura, Nagam, Zaloosa, various water supply schemes and pipeline installations across the Charar-i-Sharief Constituency. The purpose of the visit was to assess whether the ongoing works are being executed in accordance with the prescribed norms, standards



and regulations of the Jal Jeevan Mission.

The committee reviewed the functioning, quality standards and progress of various schemes and interacted with the concerned officials regarding on-

ground implementation. The committee emphasized transparency, accountability and strict adherence to JJM guidelines to ensure the effective and timely completion of water supply projects for the

benefit of the public. Necessary directions were issued to the concerned departments to maintain quality standards and proper regulation in all works under execution.

DDC Reasi reviews progress of development works at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 12

District Development Commissioner Reasi Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of development works being executed by the Tourism Department at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rakesh Kumar; CPO Narinder Kumar; Deputy Director Tourism (E&S), Executive Engineers of PWD and JPDCL, besides other officers associated with the developmental projects in the Shiv Khori area.

The DDC reviewed the ongoing works aimed at strengthening tourism infrastructure and improving facilities for pilgrims visiting the shrine. Discussions were held regarding completion of the building and toilet complex at Bus Stand Ransoo, construction of the road at the taxi stand, repair and renovation of Gouri Bhawan, upgradation of Shiv Shakti Bhawan buildings and re-



pair and blacktopping of the roads in bus stand area, besides other facilities being developed for the convenience of devotees.

The concerned officers apprised the chair of the progress achieved under the ongoing developmental projects and works in

the area. The DDC further directed the officers to shift the office of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board to the newly constructed building at Bus Stand Ransoo and establish a registration counter there for the convenience of pilgrims visit-

ing the shrine. Emphasising cleanliness and environmental management in the pilgrimage area, the DDC instructed the officers to identify suitable state land for disposal of solid waste and mule dung generated along the track and adjoining areas.

Saurabh Bhagat reviews development works, SANJY-2026 preparedness at Pahalgam

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 12

Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurabh Bhagat, today conducted an extensive tour of Anantnag to review development activities and preparedness of the department for the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2026.

He was accompanied by the former officials of FCS&CA, TSOs and field staff.

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary inspected the ongoing works related to augmentation of storage infrastructure, repair/renovation of departmental

assets and other logistical arrangements being put in place for ensuring seamless supply of foodgrains and other essential commodities during SANJY-2026. He carried out a surprise inspection of the Chandanwari and Pahalgam Granaries, which function as the main dumping sites for storage and dispatch of foodgrains for Yatra Langars, service providers and government establishments enroute the holy Cave.

Saurabh Bhagat also enquired about the stock position, quality control measures, fire-safety equipments and security of the premises. He emphasized strict adherence to quality norms, round-

the-clock monitoring of stocks and maintaining adequate buffer stock to meet any exigency.

Expressing satisfaction over the arrangements, the Commissioner Secretary directed the officers to ensure 100 percent dumping of requisite foodgrains and petroleum products well before the commencement of Yatra. He instructed the field functionaries to work in close coordination with district administration, and other agencies to ensure hassle-free services for the pilgrims as well as the local population.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary carried out inspection of various sale outlets in Pahalgam

and also visited the office of Assistant Director FCS&CA. He directed the Assistant Director to identify land for establishing Research Institute which will function as a capacity building centre to enhance the skills and professional competence of the employees and workforce of department in the district.

"The institute will serve as a center of excellence for in-service training of employees on modern supply chain management, foodgrain quality control, e-PoS operations, end-to-end computerization of PDS, grievance redressal mechanisms and best practices in public distribution," he remarked.

FADA Chairperson urges citizens to PM Modi's Call for Reduced Petrol & Diesel Consumption

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Mr Aggarwal said that the statement gains significance in light of the recent appeal by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi urging citizens to minimize petrol and diesel consumption and adopt sustainable mobility solutions including electric vehicles and public transport. The Prime Minister emphasized the need to reduce dependence on fossil fuels in the interest of environmental protection, energy security, and economic sustainability.

Mr Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson of Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations (FADA) has strongly urged the authorities of Jammu and Kashmir Limited to prioritize the es-

establishment of Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir under the Smart City Mission and the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

While appreciating the remarkable transformation brought about under the Smart City initiative in J&K, the Mr Aggarwal stated that the absence of adequate EV charging stations remains a major gap in the city's sustainable urban mobility framework. With electric vehicles witnessing increasing acceptance across India, Jammu must also develop the necessary infrastructure to support the transition toward clean and green transportation.

Mr Aggarwal said that, it is pertinent to note that the Government has already introduced several incentives to encourage EV adoption,

including exemption from registration charges and other policy benefits for electric vehicles. These measures clearly reflect the Government's intent to promote clean mobility and reduce vehicular emissions. However, the absence of adequate EV charging infrastructure in Jammu & Kashmir contradicts the spirit and effectiveness of these progressive policies. Without accessible charging stations, citizens remain hesitant to shift toward electric vehicles despite the incentives being offered.

FADA has demanded the immediate installation of strategically located EV charging stations at public parking spaces, commercial centres, government offices, transport hubs, fuel stations, and major road corridors within Jammu and Kashmir. Such infra-

structure would significantly encourage EV adoption, reduce vehicular pollution, improve urban air quality, and strengthen Jammu's position as a modern and environmentally responsible Smart City.

Mr Aggarwal emphasized that EV charging infrastructure is no longer an optional urban amenity but an essential component of future-ready city planning. J&K must keep pace with other Indian cities that are rapidly expanding EV ecosystems in line with national sustainability goals.

Mr Aggarwal has urged the concerned authorities to take immediate policy and implementation measures for the timely execution of a comprehensive EV charging network under the Smart City Mission and NCAP in the larger public and environmental interest.

NC Govt stands Guarantee for development, welfare, justice of ST, SC classes : RL Gupta

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Rattan Lal Gupta, Provincial President Jammu, Jammu and Kashmir National Conference said that the Government led by Omar Abdullah is fully committed to ensuring an inclusive and balanced development process across Jammu and Kashmir with special emphasis on the welfare, upliftment and empowerment of Scheduled Tribes (STs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and other weaker and depressed sections of society.

Addressing the ST functionaries of Block Mathwar in Nagrota Assembly Constituency at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu today, Charied by Mrs Shamim Begum former DDC Member Dansal. Mr Rattan Lal Gupta emphasized the National Conference Government firmly believes that real progress can only be achieved when the fruits of development reach the poorest, marginalized and socially neglected sections. Social justice, equal opportunities and economic empowerment remain the core pillars of the present



Government's policy and governance framework.

The Omar-led Government is making sincere efforts to strengthen education, healthcare, employment opportunities, housing facilities, road connectivity, drinking water supply and social welfare schemes in far-flung tribal and backward areas. Special attention is being paid to Gujjar, Bakerwal, SC and other underprivileged communities who have suffered due to decades of neglect and discrimination.

The Government is also committed to ensuring proper implementation of reservation laws, scholarship schemes, skill development programmes and financial assistance initia-

tives for youth, students, women and economically weaker families belonging to ST, SC and backward classes. Efforts are being intensified to improve representation of these communities in administration, education and employment sectors. The National Conference has always stood for secularism, equality and dignity of every citizen irrespective of caste, creed or region. Unlike divisive forces that exploit weaker sections merely for electoral gains, the Omar Abdullah Government is working with sincerity and commitment to provide justice and equitable development to all sections of society. Mr Gupta.

Addressing the meeting Sheikh Bashir Ahmad Provincial Secretary Jammu said that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have great expectations from the elected Government, and despite several administrative and financial constraints being created by the Centre and the L.G. administration, the Omar-led Government remains determined to fulfill the aspirations of the common people. The Government assures the people that no section of society shall be ignored and every possible step shall be taken to build a prosperous, progressive and socially just Jammu and Kashmir where every citizen gets equal rights, opportunities and dignity.