

Satish calls upon youth to lead fight against drug abuse at Aarohan 2026

Urges young minds to "Rise, Shine and Conquer" through innovation, discipline, purpose



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 13

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Youth Services & Sports, Information Technology, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today called upon the youth of the nation to become torchbearers of a drug-free, progressive and empowered India.

He was speaking at the closing ceremony of Aarohan 2026.

Addressing the participants, dignitaries and youth delegates from across the country, the Minister lauded the Department of Youth Services & Sports for organising the national-level event which brought together more than 300 young participants from nine States and Union Territories in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking on the theme

of the festival, "Rise, Shine and Conquer", the Minister said that Aarohan 2026 had emerged as a vibrant platform showcasing the energy, innovation and leadership potential of India's youth. He highlighted that through initiatives like the Young Leaders Dialogue, Cultural Track and Hackathon, the festival successfully channelised the creativity and aspirations of young minds towards nation-building.

Satish Sharma expressed deep concern over the growing menace of drug abuse, describing it as one of the greatest challenges confronting the society today.

He said that substance abuse was no longer a distant issue but a harsh reality affecting the schools, colleges and neighbourhoods across Jammu and Kashmir and the country.

"Drugs do not offer escape; they offer destruction. One moment of cu-

rosity or peer pressure can derail a lifetime of promise," the Minister remarked, while urging the youth to safeguard their lives, ambitions and talents from the trap of addiction.

The Minister appreciated the inclusion of drug de-addiction as a key theme in the Aarohan 2026 Hackathon. He said that innovative youth-led solutions and awareness campaigns can play a transformative role in combating the crisis. He appealed to young people to become ambassadors of awareness in their homes and communities and to support those struggling with addiction by guiding them towards help and rehabilitation.

Emphasising the importance of sports and constructive engagement, Satish Sharma described sports as the most powerful weapon against addiction. He said sports instill discipline, resilience, self-

confidence and teamwork among youth. He reaffirmed the government's commitment towards strengthening sports infrastructure across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir to ensure that every young person has access to opportunities for growth and healthy living.

The Minister further stated that the government of Jammu and Kashmir is actively expanding de-addiction centres, promoting awareness programmes in educational institutions and taking firm action against drug networks. However, he maintained that the fight against addiction can only be won through collective societal participation.

"Real victory will come when families, teachers, communities and youth themselves unite against this menace," he said.

Calling youth the true strength of Jammu and Kashmir and the nation, Satish Sharma said that the future of India rests in the creativity, energy and determination of its young generation. Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, he urged the participants to dedicate themselves to innovation, service and nation-building.

The Minister encouraged the youth to rise above every temptation, shine through their talents and conquer every challenge life presents, while reiterating that Jammu & Kashmir today stands defined not by its past but by the brilliance and aspirations of its youth.

Javed Rana reviews development works, annual action plan for Poonch

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 13

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting with the senior officers of PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control and PWD departments of Poonch at Civil Secretariat here to review the development works and issues concerning the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussion was held on sector-wise priorities, ongoing projects and proposed new works under the plan.

The Minister stressed the need for realistic planning, timely execution and optimal utilisation of resources. He directed the officers to ensure that the Annual Action Plan reflects the actual needs of the people, with a focus on improving the basic infrastructure, drinking water supply, road connectivity, health-care facilities and education services.



Emphasising transparency and accountability, Javed Rana asked the departments to maintain close coordination and adhere strictly to the set timelines for projects completion. He also underscored the importance of involving the elected representatives in the planning process to ensure inclusive and need-based development.

The Minister called for prioritising the works that have maximum public impact, particularly in remote and under served areas of the district. He further di-

rected the officers to closely monitor the progress on key projects and resolve the existing bottlenecks in a time-bound manner.

He emphasised that focus should be laid on remote and border areas of the district that have historically remained underserved.

He underlined that no segment of the population should be left behind in the development process, and that field-level execution must match the intent of policy.

During the meeting, the

departments presented their proposed outlays and highlighted the achievements and challenges.

The Minister reviewed the proposals in detail and issued necessary directions for refining and consolidating the plan.

Reiterating the government's commitment to balanced and equitable development, Javed Rana said that the annual action plan should serve as a road map for accelerating the development and improving the quality of life of the people of the district.

CS reviews progress under PM-SYM scheme in J&K

Over 99,000 unorganised workers enrolled under pension scheme

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) scheme across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir, with emphasis on expanding social security coverage for unorganised workers through sustained awareness and registration drives.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh and other concerned officers, while Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary directed the Labour Department to make dedicated efforts for reaching out to all eligible unorganised workers for their registration under the scheme so that they are able to avail the benefits envisaged under it. He asked the Labour Commissioner to furnish weekly progress reports indicating district-wise registrations and the incremental achievements made from today onwards.

Highlighting the significance of the scheme, the Chief Secretary observed that the benefits enshrined under PM-SYM are highly attractive for workers engaged in the unorganised sector. He said that the scheme, along with other



social security initiatives such as PM Kisan Maandhan and the National Pension Scheme for Traders and Self-Employed Persons, guarantees old-age financial security to vulnerable sections of society.

He also called upon the Finance Department to closely monitor the implementation of these schemes and directed the Deputy Commissioners to assist in increasing registrations in their respective districts to ensure saturation of benefits.

Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, on the occasion, stated that Jammu and Kashmir possesses immense scope for the successful implementation of such schemes as a large section of the population is associated with the unorganised sector. He stressed the need for widespread awareness regarding the benefits of these schemes so that more eligible workers are encouraged to enrol themselves.

Labour Commissioner, Charandeep Singh, while apprising the meeting about the scheme, informed that PM-SYM is a flagship pension scheme of the Government of India launched in 2019 to provide old-age social security to workers in the unorganised sector, including street vendors, construction workers, domestic workers, agricultural labourers, ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, hotel industry workers and other vulnerable categories earning up to Rs 15,000 per month. He further informed that a total of 99,722 unorganised workers have so far been registered under the scheme across all the 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, reflecting significant expansion in pension coverage among vulnerable sections of society.

Srinagar district recorded the highest number of registrations with 10,312 beneficiaries, followed by Poonch with 9,251 and Pulwama with 7,180 registrations.

The meeting was informed that 23,119 fresh registrations were achieved during the special enrolment drive launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, in January 2026, resulting in nearly 30 per cent growth in registrations within a short period.

As part of the intensified outreach campaign, 637 special registration camps were organised in coordination with Urban Local Bodies, Panchayati Raj Institutions and Common Service Centres across the Union Territory, the meeting was apprised.

Highlighting the benefits of the scheme, it was informed that PM-SYM ensures a guaranteed minimum monthly pension of Rs 3,000 after the age of 60 years, with an equal contribution by the Central Government matching the subscriber's contribution. In case of the subscriber's death, the spouse is entitled to receive 50 per cent of the pension as family pension.

Shaleen Kabra reviews Jal Jeevan Mission works in Kupwara

SRINAGAR, MAY 13: Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Department J&K, Shaleen Kabra, today conducted an extensive inspection of various Water Supply Schemes in Kupwara to review the progress, functioning and quality of drinking water supply infrastructure being developed under Jal Jeevan Mission in the district.

During the visit, the Additional Chief Secretary inspected the ongoing and completed works. He appreciated the work done under the scheme and directed to complete and commission the same as soon as the funds are released by the government.

The officers and engineers from the Jal Shakti Department briefed the Additional Chief Secretary on the status of execution, water supply position, challenges faced



and measures being taken to improve services. Emphasis was laid on maintaining quality standards, ensuring timely completion of works and adhering to a proper

timeframe, as funds are expected to be released in the coming months. The Additional Chief Secretary directed the concerned officers to expedite pending

works, strengthen monitoring mechanisms and ensure optimum utilization of resources. Emphasis was also laid on public welfare, transparency and adherence to technical specifications in all development works.

The Additional Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of the field staff and Engineers working for augmentation of drinking water facilities in the district. He reiterated the government's commitment towards providing safe and sustainable drinking water to every household.

Senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department including Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir, Director Planning Jal Shakti Department and Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Kupwara accompanied the Additional Chief Secretary during the inspection.

Nasha Mukht J&K

Drug Free J&K - 100 Days Campaign

Nasha Khatam, Zindagi Shuru

DRUGS SEIZED

3.97 Kg
HEROIN SEIZED

33.97Kg
CHARAS SEIZED

230 Kg
GANJA SEIZED

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