

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Rana hands over engagement orders to Anganwadi Workers in Mendhar, Balakote



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAY 18
Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today handed over engagement orders to newly selected Anganwadi Workers and Helpers from Mendhar and Balakote under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) scheme, reaffirming the government's commitment towards strengthening the grassroots welfare and public health services in rural and border areas.

The event marked an important step towards enhancing the delivery of early childhood care, nutrition,

maternal healthcare and community welfare services in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister underscored the significant contribution of Anganwadi Workers in promoting child welfare, women empowerment and community health awareness.

The Minister said that the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is firmly committed to fulfil its promises in the sectors of health, education and social welfare and is taking concrete measures to strengthen grassroots institutions across Jammu and Kashmir. He said the administration is working

with dedication to ensure that welfare schemes reach every deserving household, especially in rural and tribal regions.

Highlighting the objectives of the ICDS scheme, the Minister said that Anganwadi centres play a vital role in improving the nutritional and health status of children, while also creating awareness among mothers regarding healthcare, balanced nutrition, immunisation and child development. He noted that the scheme aims to provide a strong foundation for the psychological, physical and social development of children besides helping reduce malnutrition, morbidity and

mortality among women and children.

Emphasising the need for further strengthening Anganwadi services, the Minister called for sustained efforts to improve their effective functioning and outreach. He assured continued government support for enhancing infrastructure, ensuring timely availability of resources and creating better working conditions for Anganwadi Workers and Helpers so that they can discharge their responsibilities efficiently.

Congratulating the newly selected workers and helpers, Javed Rana urged them to serve the people with dedication, sincerity and compassion. He encouraged them to work actively for the welfare of women and children and contribute meaningfully towards building a healthier and more aware society in their respective areas.

The programme was attended by officials of the concerned departments, local representatives and the public, who appreciated the government's efforts towards strengthening grassroots welfare institutions and expanding employment opportunities in the region.

Railway Division intensifies 'Harit & Swachh Rail' drive ahead of World Environment Day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAY 18

In the run-up to World Environment Day, the Jammu Railway Division of Northern Railway has launched a special environmental awareness campaign from May 15 to June 5, 2026, aimed at promoting sustainable development and eco-friendly railway operations.

As part of the campaign, special workshops were organized on Sunday across various railway stations of the Division, where railway officials and employees participated enthusiastically. The workshops focused on creating awareness about climate change, scientific waste management, energy conservation, and environmentally responsible practices within railway premises.

During the sessions, railway environment experts highlighted various initiatives being adopted to reduce the carbon footprint in day-to-day railway operations.

Special emphasis was laid on the use of modern waste disposal systems, elimina-



tion of single-use plastic, and adoption of energy-efficient measures to transform railway stations into fully environment-friendly zones.

In a significant move towards digitization and environmental conservation, ticket checking staff across the Division also encouraged passengers to adopt paperless travel by booking tickets online through the 'RailOne' App, 'UTS' App, IRCTC, and other authorized digital platforms. Officials informed passengers that digital tickets, QR codes, and official SMS confirmations on smartphones

are fully valid during ticket inspections, eliminating the need for printed tickets and reducing paper consumption.

The Jammu Railway Division has set an ambitious target of achieving 100 per cent digitization in the near future to ensure greater convenience, transparency, and environmental sustainability. Further strengthening its green initiatives, the Division has completely digitized MSP (Management and Service Procurement) and QSP (Quality System Process), a move expected to make railway operations faster, safer, more

transparent, and virtually paperless.

The 'Harit & Swachh Rail' campaign is aligned with the national Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) initiative and is expected to contribute significantly towards reducing carbon emissions, conserving natural resources, and combating climate change. The Jammu Railway Division has appealed to passengers and the public to actively participate in the green movement and contribute towards making every railway journey cleaner, greener, and more sustainable.

Dy CM completes Self-Enumeration for Census 2027, urges public participation

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAY 18

In a major push towards promotion of Self-Enumeration under Census 2027, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today successfully completed his Self-Enumeration exercise at Civil Secretariat in Srinagar.

The exercise was done under the guidance of Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director Census Operations & Citizen Registration, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

Ministers including Sakeena Itoo, Javid Ahmad Dar and Satish Sharma also undertook the Self-Enumeration for Census-2027.

The Self-Enumeration exercise was also undertaken by several legislators including MLAs including Tanvir Sadiq, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Hasnain Masoodi and Iftikhar Ahmad.

During the exercise, Amit Sharma guided the dignitaries regarding various features of the Self-Enumeration process and assisted them in successfully completing their digital Census submissions through the



online platform. The Deputy Chief Minister appreciated the simple, citizen-friendly and technology-driven nature of the Self-Enumeration system and expressed satisfaction over the ease and efficiency with which the Census details were submitted digitally. He described the initiative as an important step towards transparent, modern and participatory governance.

The Deputy Chief Minister called upon all citizens and residents of Jammu & Kashmir to actively join in the Self-Enumeration process at se.census.gov.in and complete their Census submission by 31st May 2026. He stated that Census is an exercise of national importance and accurate

demographic data plays a crucial role in planning, governance and implementation of welfare and developmental programmes.

He further appealed to youth, students, government employees, urban households and digitally aware citizens to come forward and actively participate in the Self-Enumeration initiative and also motivate their families and communities to undertake the exercise.

The Ministers and legislators also appreciated the efforts of the Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, for introducing citizen-friendly digital initiatives and carrying out extensive awareness campaigns regarding Census 2027 and Self-Enumera-

tion across Jammu and Kashmir.

While interacting with the participants, Amit Sharma highlighted that Census 2027 is going to be India's first fully digital and paperless Census exercise and will incorporate several technology-driven features including Self-Enumeration, mobile-based digital data collection, geo-referenced mapping and real-time monitoring systems.

He informed that under the Self-Enumeration facility, the citizens can voluntarily submit their Census details online during the notified self-enumeration period before household visits by Enumerators.

He stated that the initiative has been introduced to enhance convenience, transparency, citizen participation and accuracy in Census operations.

Sharma also informed the dignitaries that the Self-Enumeration portal has been designed as a secure and user-friendly digital platform with built-in validation systems and multi-lingual support to facilitate smooth participation by citizens across different regions.

Advisor Nasir Aslam reviews summer, Yatra and Eid preparedness in Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAY 18

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today chaired a high-level meeting with senior officers to review summer preparedness, arrangements for upcoming pilgrimages, availability of food and essential supplies, and preparedness for Eid-ul-Adha celebrations across Jammu division.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar, IGP Jammu Bhimsen Tuti, DIG Traffic J&K Dr Haseeb Mughal, Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation Devansh Yadav, Managing Director JPDCL Gurpal Singh, Deputy Commissioner Jammu Rakesh Minhas, heads of various departments and other senior officers.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner Jammu briefed the meeting about the overall summer preparedness across the division, including measures being taken by various departments to ensure uninterrupted public services during the peak summer season.

He also presented an overview of major developmental works underway in the region, including roads,



highways, bridges and other key infrastructure projects aimed at improving connectivity and public convenience.

The meeting was informed that, in view of the prevailing crisis in West Asia, sufficient stocks of essential commodities, including food grains and fuel, are available across Jammu division and supplies are being continuously replenished to avoid any disruption. The officers assured that adequate buffer stocks are being maintained to meet any eventuality during the summer and pilgrimage season.

The Divisional Commissioner further briefed the meeting about arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, Machail Mata Yatra and Budha Amarnath Yatra in Jammu division. He informed that comprehensive preparations are underway to ensure smooth conduct of the pilgrimages,

particularly in view of the monsoon season. Measures relating to road connectivity, sanitation, health facilities, traffic regulation and emergency response systems are being strengthened to facilitate hassle-free movement of pilgrims.

The meeting also reviewed the present power supply scenario in Jammu region. The Managing Director, JPDCL, briefed the meeting regarding ongoing measures to improve power supply infrastructure and ensure uninterrupted electricity supply to consumers during the summer months.

He informed that steps are being taken for advance maintenance of transformers and strengthening of distribution networks to minimize disruptions.

The meeting also discussed arrangements being made for the smooth celebration of the upcoming Eid-ul-Adha in Jammu region.

The Divisional Commissioner informed that market checking teams would be constituted to prevent black marketing, hoarding and profiteering during the festival period. He said all departments are working in coordination to ensure availability of essential commodities and smooth civic services during the festival.

During the meeting, the IGP Jammu and DIG Traffic J&K briefed the chair about the security and traffic management plans being formulated for the upcoming Eid festival and major Yatras in Jammu and Kashmir. They informed that foolproof security arrangements and comprehensive traffic regulation plans are being put in place to facilitate smooth movement of pilgrims and the general public.

Speaking during the meeting, the Advisor directed the Power Development Department and Jal Shakti Department to ensure uninterrupted electricity and drinking water supply during the peak summer season.

He stressed the need for advance maintenance of transformers, rational deployment of water tankers and establishment of 24x7 grievance redressal mechanisms to address public complaints promptly.

Secretary Transport reviews Vibrant Villages Programme at Suchetgarh

JAMMU, MAY 18: Secretary, Transport Department, Avny Lavasa, today visited Block Suchetgarh to conduct a comprehensive review of the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP) for border villages Kushalpur and Nai Basti Gulabgarh.

During the review meeting, the Secretary emphasised the need to identify and bridge development gaps in a planned and measurable manner.

She directed all line departments to carry out a detailed gap assessment based on baseline data in both villages, so that the impact of developmental interventions can be effectively evaluated after a period of one to



two years.

Avny Lavasa underlined that public expenditure, particularly on construction and built infrastructure, must be prudent and outcome-oriented, ensuring optimal utilisation of resources and elimination of waste. She reiterated the importance of

inter-departmental convergence and active community participation as essential prerequisites for the inclusive and sustainable development of border villages, so that the mandate of the Vibrant Villages Programme is realised on the ground to the tangible benefit of border

residents.

The meeting was attended by Special Secretary, Transport Department, Musheer Ahmad Mirza; Tehsildar Suchetgarh, Block Development Officer and Block Medical Officer, RS Pura besides the farmers, former Panchayati Raj Institution members, prominent citizens and officers of the Border Security Force. Representatives of key line departments including Agriculture, Power Development Department, Public Health Engineering, School Education, ICDS, J&K NRLM, Youth Services and Sports, Public Works Department and Irrigation and Flood Control were also present.

Javid Dar completes Self-Enumeration for Census 2027, calls it a milestone in digital governance

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS JAMMU, MAY 18

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today completed the Self-Enumeration process for Census 2027, marking participation in what is being described as India's first fully digital and paperless Census exercise.

The Minister termed the initiative a significant milestone in the country's digital governance framework. He stated that the Census integrates advanced digital technologies, mobile-based data collection systems and



mechanisms to ensure greater efficiency, transparency, accuracy and real-time monitoring of operations.

Javid Dar said that the digital Census exercise reflects the government of India's commitment towards leveraging the technology for improved governance

and data-driven policy planning. He urged the citizens to actively participate in the self-enumeration process within the stipulated timeline to facilitate comprehensive and accurate data collection.

The Self-Enumeration phase, being conducted from May 17 to May 31,

2026, will gather information on several critical aspects relating to housing and building conditions. The questionnaire covers key parameters including housing conditions, household assets, amenities and facilities, access to sanitation and drinking water, type of construction, communication and transport facilities as well as the availability of electricity and internet connectivity.

The Minister observed that reliable census data is essential for effective planning and implementation of developmental schemes, enabling the governments to formulate targeted policies for socio-economic progress and public welfare.