

CS reviews implementation roadmap of mega Youth Empowerment Programme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 19

In a major initiative aimed at harnessing the potential of the youth and creating a unified ecosystem for their engagement, empowerment and development an ambitious Youth Empowerment Programme (YEP) is set to be rolled out soon by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department (PD&MD) across the districts of J&K.

The implementation of the programme was today reviewed by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo in a meeting attended by Principal Secretary, Home; Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretary, Planning; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Commissioner Secretary, School and Higher Education Departments; Commissioner Secretary, YS&S; Secretary, RDD; Secretary, SDD; Secretary, Floriculture; MD, HADP; Director, EDI and Special Secretary, Planning (Nodal Officer YEP) along with other concerned officers.

Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir and Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the presentation, Chief Secretary took a first-hand appraisal of the YEP portal presently under development and reviewed in detail the range of services proposed to be offered to the registered youth through the platform. He appreciated the department for first time creating a robust and interactive platform for the youth of the UT.

He also reviewed the dedicated interface developed for departments and Deputy Commissioners, including the workflow mechanism for creation of action plans, approval processes, uploading of events and documentation of activities through photographs and videos on the portal.



The initiative, as elucidated by Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD, R. Alice Vaz is first-of-its-kind integrated digital platform designed to connect the youth of this region with different career opportunities, services, counselling, skill development and participatory governance for their empowerment irrespective of their social, economic or geographical background.

She further added that the programme envisions creating a comprehensive framework for empowering youth in the age group of 15 to 35 years across all the 20 districts of Jammu & Kashmir by integrating the schemes and services of more than 18 government departments onto a single platform to ensure convergence, transparency, efficiency and targeted outreach during the tenure of this mega orientation programme.

In the presentation by Nodal Officer, Dr Owais Ahmad it was highlighted that once registered on the portal, the youth would gain access to a tailored list of dozens of government schemes, programmes and opportunities based on the outcome of their psychometric assessment tests. The system has been designed to map the aptitude, interests and aspirations of the youth and accordingly recommend suitable interventions, career pathways and developmental programmes.

It was further highlighted

that the programme would channelise the energies of youth towards constructive nation-building and community-development activities by encouraging their active participation in social service campaigns, awareness drives and community participation initiatives including the Nasha Mukh J&K Abhiyaan.

The initiative aims to create socially responsible youth leadership committed towards uplifting society and improving the quality of life in urban as well as rural areas across Jammu & Kashmir.

Additionally, the platform would provide AI-enabled chatbot support through the YEP Assistant, an intelligent guidance and counselling mechanism designed to assist youth in addressing specific issues and challenges faced by them. The AI-based assistant would provide guidance, counselling, mentoring and handholding support system in multiple languages to youth while helping them access appropriate schemes, services, career opportunities and wellbeing interventions.

The meeting was further informed that Application Programming Interface (API) integration with multiple schemes and services has already been incorporated into the YEP portal, enabling eligible youth to apply online for various schemes and programmes directly through the plat-

form without the need for separate registrations on different departmental portals.

The programme also includes the development of a dedicated mobile application for both Android and iOS platforms, enabling youth and officials alike to access services, events, counselling, certificates and dashboards on the go. The mobile application is being developed with offline functionality and feature parity with the main portal to facilitate seamless field operations and youth participation even in remote areas.

The immediate roadmap for implementation includes completion of security audits, OTP integration, onboarding of departments and districts, creation of a Programme Management Unit (PMU), capacity building of stakeholders and phased rollout of pending modules. Future phases of the programme would focus on DigiLocker integration, onboarding of additional departmental databases, advanced analytics, predictive modelling and AI-driven enhancements.

The meeting emphasized that the Youth Empowerment Programme would emerge as a landmark initiative in shaping a unified, technology-driven and inclusive youth development framework for Jammu & Kashmir by creating "One Platform, One Generation, One State" for the youth of the Union Territory.

Chairperson National Commission for Women holds Mahila Jan Sunwai in Srinagar

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Chairperson National Commission for Women, Vijaya K. Rahatkar today presided over a Mahila Jan Sunwai sessions at Banquet Hall Conference Complex Srinagar as a part of its flagship outreach programme "Rashtriya Mahila Aayog Aapke Dwar" aimed at hearing women's grievances and ensuring their prompt redressal.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar Akshay Labro, SSP Srinagar, Dr. G.V. Sundeeep Chakravarthy, Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadi Fareed, DySP Headquarters, Syed Sleet Shah and other senior Officers were present on the occasion.

During the proceedings, the Commission heard 14



registered and other walk-in cases concerning women's grievances.

Vijaya K. Rahatkar also held an interaction with senior Officers of District Administration Srinagar and

District Police present on the occasion.

The Chairperson emphasized the crucial role of One Stop Centres (OSCs) in addressing crimes against women and ensuring timely

support to victims. She further stressed the need for a more sensitive, empathetic, and responsive approach by the police while handling cases related to crimes against women.

SDM Gool inspects facilities at Tattapani Hot Spring

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 19

Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gool Imtiaz Ahmed conducted an extensive inspection of the famous Tattapani Hot Spring at Sangaldan to review the facilities available for the visitors.

Tattapani, known for its naturally heated geothermal water and therapeutic properties, has emerged as a major health tourism attraction in the region.

Visitors from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and neighbouring states visit the hot spring for its reputed medicinal and healing benefits.

During the visit, the SDM interacted with the visitors and local stakeholders to obtain first-hand feedback regarding sanitation, accessibility and public amenities. He inspected bathing points, changing rooms, sanitation facilities, approach roads and pathways leading to the spring. He directed officials of the Public Works Department (PWD) and Rural Development Department (RDD) to immediately undertake necessary



improvements in infrastructure, sanitation units and public convenience facilities to enhance the overall visitor experience.

The SDM also emphasized coordinated efforts

among all concerned departments to ensure sustainable tourism development at Tattapani. He instructed officials to conduct regular cleanliness drives and ensure proper waste management around the

tourist spot. Local residents and service providers appreciated the administration's initiative and expressed hope for further development of the renowned tourist destination.

Sangaldan Road Mishap: DC inquires about condition of injured at DH Ramban

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 19

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alys Khan today visited District Hospital to enquire about the condition of persons injured in a tragic road accident involving a bus that turned turtle at Sangaldan in Gool Subdivision.

The Deputy Commissioner, accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Varunjeet Singh Charak and other officers, rushed to the District Hospital and personally monitored the healthcare arrangements being provided to the injured.

Immediately after receiving information about the accident, the District Administration in coordination with the Police Department, local residents and emergency responders, launched a prompt rescue and evacuation operation under the supervision. The



injured were initially shifted to Primary Health Centre Sangaldan for first aid and were subsequently referred to District Hospital Ramban for further treatment. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with the injured persons and reviewed the medical care being provided to them. He directed

the Chief Medical Officer and the medical staff to provide best possible treatment and all necessary support to injured.

Describing the incident as deeply unfortunate and distressing, the Deputy Commissioner expressed profound grief over the loss of a precious life and concern for those injured in the

accident. He assured that the District Administration is closely monitoring the situation and extending all possible assistance to the affected individuals and their families. He informed that one person lost his life in the accident, while 26 others are undergoing treatment at District Hospital Ramban.

Chairman DDMA reviews monsoon preparedness, emergency equipment procurement

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Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, who is also the Chairman of the District Disaster Management Authority, today chaired a meeting to review preparedness of stakeholder departments for monsoon and the procurement of emergency equipment.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the overall preparedness, including availability of manpower and machinery, emergency response teams, dewatering pumps, excavators and restoration arrangements.

Discussions were also held regarding evacuation and rescue arrangements



and deployment plans for rescue teams and emergency services.

The Deputy Commissioner further reviewed measures related to public awareness and early warning dissemination, IEC activities, public advi-

sories and timely dissemination of information to the public. The procurement of emergency equipment was also discussed in detail.

Directing the concerned officers to complete preparedness well in ad-

vance, the Chairman stressed coordinated disaster response and holding of regular mock drills to strengthen inter-departmental coordination and ensure a robust and effective disaster management mechanism.

Massive awareness activities organised across Budgam under Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, NCORD programme

BUDGAM, MAY 19: A series of awareness programmes, rallies, debates, plantation drives and counselling sessions were organised across district Budgam under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote a healthy, drug-free society.

Government Degree College (GDC) Magam organised a debate competition under NMBA in which students actively participated and expressed their views on the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of collective efforts in eradicating the drug menace from society.

Various awareness activities under

NMBA were also conducted across Block Narbal with enthusiastic participation of students, volunteers and community members.

The programmes included rallies, pledge ceremonies and awareness sessions aimed at sensitizing the public regarding the ill effects of drug abuse.

Meanwhile, Raithan Forest Range of Pir Panjal Forest Division Budgam organised collaborative events including a pledge ceremony, awareness programme and plantation drive at Government Middle School Basantwooder Khansahaib under the banner of Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.



Participants highlighted the importance of environmental protection and a drug-free society.

Similarly, Excise Department Budgam carried out a survey and awareness drive at village Kaisarmulla in Tehsil Chadoora regarding illicit poppy and bhung cultivation. During the drive, posters were pasted at prominent locations and locals were sensitized about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

As part of the programme, District Employment & Counseling Centre Budgam in collaboration with Model Degree College Charar-i-Sharief organised an awareness programme for students. During the programme,

participants were sensitized about Mission YUVA and counselled regarding the harmful effects of drug addiction and the importance of adopting healthy lifestyles.

The programmes witnessed active participation from students, officials, teachers and members of the local community, reflecting a collective commitment towards building a safer and addiction-free society.

The district administration Budgam continues its sustained awareness campaigns and coordinated efforts under Nasha Mukh Bharat abhiyan to eliminate the menace of drug abuse and safeguard the future of youth.