

Ito meets various delegations from Anantnag, Kulgam during Public Darbar at Khanabal

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 20



Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito today met several public delegations from different areas of Anantnag and Kulgam districts during Public Darbar held at Dak Bungalow Khanabal here and listened patiently to a wide range of public issues and developmental demands.

MLA Pahalgam, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo); MLA Anantnag-West, Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi); MLA Shangus-Anantnag East, Reyaz Ahmad Khan; Programme Officer, CEO, CMO DSWO, Executive Engineers of different departments and other concerned officers of Kulgam and Anantnag districts were also present on the occasion.

During the Public Darbar, the delegations comprising local residents, social activists and community members apprised the Minister of various issues concerning healthcare, education and public welfare sectors in their respective areas. They sought augmentation and strengthening of healthcare facilities in hospitals and primary health institutions, besides deployment of additional medical and paramedical staff to address the shortage of healthcare professionals.

The delegations also highlighted the urgent need for installation of modern diagnostic and medical equipment including X-Ray

plants, ECG machines and USG facilities in various hospitals to improve patient care and ensure better medical services at the grassroots level. They further demanded availability of specialist doctors including ENT specialists and pediatricians in peripheral hospitals to cater to the growing healthcare needs of the people.

Several delegations raised issues related to upgradation of infrastructure in schools and hospitals and demanded construction of new school buildings, hospital blocks and improvement of basic facilities in educational and healthcare institutions. They also projected demands for strengthening educational infrastructure to provide better learning environments for students in rural and far-flung areas.

While interacting with the delegations, the Minister gave a patient hearing to all grievances and demands and assured the public that the Government remains committed towards equitable development and strengthening of healthcare and education sectors

across Jammu and Kashmir. She said that genuine issues and developmental concerns projected by the people would be examined on priority for appropriate redressal.

The Minister emphasized that the Government is making sustained efforts to improve healthcare delivery and educational infrastructure in underserved areas so that people receive quality services closer to their homes. She reiterated that public outreach programmes provide an important platform for direct interaction with citizens and help the Government understand the pressing issues faced by the people at the grassroots level.

The delegations appreciated the Minister for personally hearing their grievances and expressed hope that their genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Minister held a detailed meeting with Programme Officer, CEO, CMO DSWO, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers of Kulgam and

Anantnag districts and reviewed progress on implementation of various public welfare policies and projects.

Interacting with the officers, the Minister directed them to take immediate cognizance of the issues raised during the meeting and ensure timely follow-up on priority matters for the convenience and welfare of the public.

She also asked them to organise Public Darbar every month in the district so that the demands of previous public meetings can be followed up and evaluated for redressal.

The Minister also directed the officers to consult local MLAs before initiating any developmental plans in their respective areas, emphasizing that public representatives are central to driving grassroots development. While reviewing the health care and education scenario, the Minister directed the concerned CMOs and CEOs to rationalize the staff so that the public institutions are adequately staffed for better public facilitation.

47th District-Level NCORD Meeting held in Budgam

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47th District-Level Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) Committee Meeting was today convened at the DC Office Budgam under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, along with SSP Budgam Hari Prasad KK, to review ongoing anti-drug measures and strengthen strategies for a drug-free Budgam.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, Mehraj-ud-din Shah; all SDMs, ACP, CMO, DIO, DSWO, Medical Superintendent DH Budgam, Principals of Government Degree Colleges, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, officers from Excise, Police, Health, Education, Rural Development Departments and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the DC reviewed action taken on decisions made during previous meetings and assessed progress achieved under the ongoing 100-Day Intensive Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan being implemented across the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that drug abuse is not merely a law enforcement issue but a serious social challenge affecting families, youth, and the overall social fabric.

He said that the administration shall continue to adopt a zero-tolerance approach against drug peddlers, traffickers, and cultivators, while simultaneously ensuring proper treatment, counselling, and rehabilitation facilities for victims of substance abuse.

The DC emphasised that a multi-dimensional strategy involving strict enforcement, preventive awareness, community participation, counselling, and rehabilitation is essential for eliminating the menace of drugs from society. He highlighted the extensive awareness activities being carried out under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan, including massive IEC campaigns, awareness programmes in schools and colleges, counselling ses-

sions, Gram Sabhas, and community outreach initiatives across villages and urban areas of the district.

The meeting was informed that intensified drives against narcotics cultivation are being conducted in coordination with Police, Excise, Revenue, and Agriculture Departments. The DC stressed that roadsides, embankments, and Panchayat areas must remain free from illicit cannabis and poppy cultivation and directed concerned departments to continue destruction drives and ensure registration of FIRs wherever required.

Regarding regulation of pharmacies and drug sale monitoring, the DC directed that all chemist shops shall ensure proper CCTV coverage and Computerized Billing Systems

(CBS) for maintaining transparency and accountability. He instructed the Drug Inspector to continue regular inspections and ensure strict action against violations, including cancellation of licences wherever necessary.

The DC further stated that the Drug De-Addiction Centre Budgam should provide effective treatment, counselling, and rehabilitation support to affected individuals.

He directed the Health Department to ensure uninterrupted round-the-clock services at DDAC and also strengthened OPD facilities at Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at District Hospital.

To strengthen preventive monitoring, the DC directed all Government Degree Colleges in the district to continue massive awareness programmes among students regarding the harmful effects of substance abuse.

The DC also directed SDMs to hold consultations with religious scholars, community elders, and civil society members to encourage awareness through sermons and community participation for promoting "Nasha-Mukta Panchayats and ULBs. He further directed them to closely monitor all the Nasha Mukta Bharat programmes in their sub-divisions.

IASOWA conducts donation drive at Govt Middle School, Dodhi Gujjar Colony

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IAS Officer Wives Association (IASOWA) organized a meaningful donation drive at Government Middle School, Dodhi Gujjar Colony, Jammu, with the objective of supporting the students and improving the educational environment for the children in the area.

During the drive, several useful items, including sitting tables, floor mats, shoes, notebooks, stationery items and refreshments, were distributed among the students.

In addition to the donated items, important developmental works in the school have also been undertaken with support from the government schemes. These included waterproofing and other

infrastructure-related improvements, helping create a safer and more comfortable environment for the students. The programme was conducted under the leadership of Monika Dulo, wife of Chief Secretary Atal Dulo. Members present on the occasion included CA Geetanjali Singla, wife of Dr. Piyush Singla, Rekha Jain, wife of Parmod Jain, Neeru

Goswami, wife of Anil Goswami and Kavaljeet Kaur, wife of Harvinder Singh. Chief Education Officer Jammu, Ajeet Sharma, expressed his gratitude to the IASOWA members for their valuable support in strengthening the education system for the underprivileged children. He hoped that at least one High School and one Higher Secondary

School from Jammu city would be mentored by the organization in the future.

The members interacted with the students and school staff and appreciated the enthusiasm and spirit of the children. The initiative reflected the collective commitment of IASOWA towards social welfare, educational upliftment and community development.

JKEDI commences 4th Batch of ESDP at Govt Women ITI

JAMMU, MAY 20: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI)-District Centre Jammu, today commenced the 4th batch of the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) at Government Women ITI Jammu, reaffirming its commitment to fostering entrepreneurship and promoting self-employment opportunities among women in the region.



Addressing the participants, the officials underscored the importance of entrepreneurship as a sustainable and empowering career pathway for women. They encouraged the trainees to make optimum use of the training, mentor-

ing and support mechanisms being provided under the programme.

The Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme is designed to equip aspiring entrepreneurs with essential entrepreneurial competencies

and practical knowledge required to establish and manage successful enterprises.

The training curriculum includes business opportunity identification, project report preparation, financial literacy, credit linkages, awareness of government schemes, marketing strategies, digital tools and legal compliances. The programme also facilitates access to financial institutions and incubation support to help participants transform their business ideas into viable ventures. JKEDI continues to organise Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programmes across various districts of Jammu & Kashmir with the objective of strengthening the entrepreneurial ecosystem, encouraging enterprise creation and generating sustainable employment opportunities.

Govt committed to develop rural areas at par with urban areas: Dy Chief Minister

URI, MAY 20: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today said that the government has accelerated facility creation and is committed to develop rural areas at par with urban areas and cities of Jammu and Kashmir. The Deputy Chief Minister said this while addressing at a public outreach programme at Bagna during daylong tour to border Constituency Uri of Baramulla district.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected various R&B works at Zehampora Uri, including construction of additional classrooms and library facilities at Government High School. He directed the concerned officers to ensure speedy completion of the projects and emphasized the need for strengthening educational infrastructure for the benefit of students.

Reviewing the ongoing developmental activities in the mining sector, the Deputy Chief Minister inspected the Gypsum mining block at Bagna Dara Gudliyan Uri. He stressed transparency, proper regulation and strict adherence to safety and environmental norms in mining operations. He further directed the officials to submit com-

plete details of all mining blocks so that effective measures can be taken to ensure welfare and socio-economic benefits for local communities associated with mining activities.

"Any mining operations should benefit the local population and enhance means of their livelihood first," he said. As part of the infrastructure development initiatives, the Deputy Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the Kushamarg PMGSY Road project at Bagna Uri.

He said that several important road projects have already been undertaken in Uri while many others are in the pipeline for the current year to ensure smooth and seamless connectivity across the border region.

He also laid the foundation stone for construction of the PMGSY Nambal-Rustom-Bilalabad road project in Uri and remarked that the project would significantly improve mobility and connectivity for residents living in border

areas.

During the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the PWD Rest House at Lagama Uri and called for its complete renovation. He directed the concerned departments to prepare plans for construction of a conference hall, development of parking facilities and landscaping of the lawn area so that the facility can serve as a better accommodation and meeting venue for official visitors and government engagements.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also addressed a public outreach programme at Officer's Club and listened to their issues and demands.

He assured robust development and prompt grievance redress as priority for the present government.

During the tour, the Deputy Chief Minister met various public delegations including land losers of NHPC power project and assured them that their genuine issues shall be addressed on priority basis.

Ramban admin organises mega padyatra at Banihal; Commissioner Secy leads events

RAMBAN, MAY 20:

Continuing the ongoing Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, the district administration Ramban today organised a mega awareness padyatra and awareness programme at Banihal to intensify the campaign against the drug abuse and spread awareness among the youth and general public regarding the harmful effects of narcotics.

The programme was presided over by Commissioner Secretary Science and Technology, Babila Rakwal, who is also the Mentor Secretary for implementation of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in Ramban. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, youth, civil society members, teachers, officials and local residents from all walks of life.

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Aiyas Khan, SSP Ramban Arun Gupta, ADC Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan, SDM Ramsoo Syed Mazahir Hussain Shah and other district officers were pre-



sent on the occasion.

During the event held at the Government Model Higher Secondary School Boys Banihal the Commissioner Secretary administered Nasha Mukta pledge to the participants. He also inaugurated a Volleyball Match organised as part of the campaign to promote sports and a healthy lifestyle among youth as an alternative to drug addiction.

Meanwhile, the Commissioner Secretary flagged off a Bike Rally and Mega Padyatra from Govern-

ment Model Higher Secondary School Boys Banihal, spreading the message against drug abuse. The rally passed through the main market and culminated at Dak Bungalow Banihal.

Addressing the gathering, Babila Rakwal said that the fight against drug abuse is a collective responsibility of society, administration, educational institutions and parents. She appreciated the active participation of students and highlighted that the district's children are highly

talented and such awareness activities provide them a constructive platform to showcase their abilities and spread social awareness.

The Commissioner Secretary stressed that cultural activities, plays, songs and presentations are effective tools to create awareness among people, especially youth. She said that the campaign aims not only to identify the problem of drug addiction but also to ensure treatment, counselling and rehabilitation of affected individuals.