

Govt developing off-beat tourist destinations, promoting adventure tourism activities: Itoo

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 25

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated a Tourism Capacity Building Camp at Panchanpatri Kulgam and also flagged off an All-Terrain Rally (ATR), trekkers' expedition, cycle rally and other tourism promotion activities.

on the occasion, the Minister said that the Government is committed to strengthening the tourism sector in Jammu & Kashmir by developing offbeat destinations and promoting adventure tourism activities across Jammu and Kashmir. She said that such programmes provide a valuable platform to inform and aware youth about various government schemes and programmes related to tourism, employment generation and self-



employment opportunities. The Minister emphasized that the promotion of unexplored tourist destinations will not only attract visitors but also create sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities. She highlighted the importance of involving youth and local stakeholders in tourism-related initiatives for the overall economic develop-

ment of the region.

The programme was organized with an aim to promote tourism awareness, adventure tourism and enhance the participation of youth in the tourism sector across the district.

Tourism stakeholders, tour and travel operators, local representatives, district officers and large number of youth partici-

pated in the camp. They appreciated the efforts being made to boost tourism infrastructure and adventure activities in the area.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation in trekking, cycling and other adventure activities aimed at showcasing the tourism potential of Panchanpatri and adjoining areas.

Deputy Chief Minister assesses rescue operation following Gondola technical snag at Gulmarg

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JAMMU, MAY 25

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today visited Gulmarg to assess the rescue operations launched after a technical snag disrupted the functioning of the Gondola service.

Despite difficult terrain and slippery conditions caused by continuous movement along steep slopes, the Deputy Chief Minister personally visited the rescue sites and appreciated the dedication and professionalism displayed by the rescue teams under the challenging circumstances.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister reviewed the on-ground situation and inspected the Gondola base station, cabins and related infrastructure. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure that all necessary safety protocols are strictly adhered to and stressed the need for early restoration of services for the convenience of tourists and locals. Interacting with the tourists and officials on the



spot, the Deputy Chief Minister lauded the coordinated efforts of the Civil Administration, Police, Army, Disaster Response Force (DRF), local guides and other agencies involved in the rescue operation. "On the directions of the Chief Minister, I personally supervised the ongoing rescue operation and I am happy to say that all the stranded tourists have been rescued safely," he said.

The Deputy Chief Minister said that the prompt response and close coordination among all agencies ensured the safe evacuation of every passenger. He reiterated that the safety and well-being of tourists remains the government's top priority. "Tourists are our valued guests and every possible effort was made to ensure their safe rescue. I am thankful that all the passengers are safe and the rescue operation has con-

cluded successfully," he added.

The Deputy Chief Minister further assured that a detailed report regarding the incident would be submitted to the Chief Minister, following which appropriate measures would be taken to ascertain the cause of the technical snag and prevent recurrence of such incidents in future.

Senior officers from Civil, police and army were also present.

CS reviews implementation of PM's reform agenda

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, MAY 25

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting with Administrative Secretaries of all departments to assess the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) on implementation of actionable points emerging from the Prime Minister's interaction with Secretaries to the Government of India, with special emphasis on strengthening the "Whole of Government" approach, enhancing Ease of Living through end-to-end digitization of public services and undertaking comprehensive process reforms across the country.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary reiterated that the core objective of these reforms is to establish integrated governance, citizen-centric administration and technology-driven systems aimed at ensuring efficient, transparent and accountable delivery of services. He emphasized that departments must move beyond conventional silo-based functioning and work in close coordination to achieve larger developmental goals envisioned under Viksit Bharat @2047.

A detailed presentation on the Action Taken Reports pertaining to various reform initiatives was given by the Planning Development & Monitoring Department.

The meeting was informed that several departments including Finance, School Education, Skill Development, Health & Medical Education, Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture Production, Social Welfare, Public Works, Tourism and Higher Education Departments have already adopted convergence-based governance models involving inter-depart-



mental coordination, digital integration and collaborative implementation mechanisms.

Regarding the points of School Education Department it was revealed that vocational education has been expanded to more than 1,350 schools across Jammu & Kashmir with enrolment of over 1.41 lakh students, besides integration of digital platforms, ICT laboratories and smart classrooms under the framework of NEP-2020.

Similarly with respect to the Skill Development Department it was highlighted that flagship initiatives including Mission YUVA and PM Vishwakarma are being implemented through coordinated institutional mechanisms involving multiple departments, financial institutions and academic organisations.

The Health & Medical Education Department proposed integrated planning with allied departments for convergence of health, sanitation, nutrition, education and livelihood initiatives, while the Housing & Urban Development Department highlighted its focus on technology-driven governance, sustainable urban planning and citizen-centric reforms for improving urban living standards.

The meeting was further informed that depart-

ments including Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, ARI & Trainings, Disaster Management, Labour & Employment and Information Department have introduced integrated digital governance systems, interoperable platforms and real-time monitoring mechanisms aimed at improving transparency, accountability and ease of access to public services.

Reviewing reforms aimed at enhancing Ease of Living, the meeting was apprised that under the J&K Jan Vishwas reforms, around 32 criminal provisions across 20 Acts have been decriminalized to reduce compliance burden and improve citizen convenience, while 19 obsolete laws have been repealed for simplification of the statutory framework and promotion of ease of doing business.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the proposal for achieving 100 percent end-to-end digitization of Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services across the Union Territory. The meeting was informed that 1,548 G2C services have already been digitized under the E-Unnat platform, while nearly 300 additional services are presently under development.

The meeting was informed that in the first phase, 302 services across

key departments including Agriculture, Higher Education, Housing & Urban Development, Revenue, Health and Power Development Departments have been identified for elimination of off-line processes and full digital transformation.

The implementation roadmap includes phased execution covering policy notification, digitization audit, workflow re-engineering, system integration, capacity building, real-time monitoring and third-party audits.

Stressing upon departments to undertake comprehensive process re-engineering before digitization, the Chief Secretary directed all departments to simplify existing G2G, G2B and G2C procedures in order to eliminate bottlenecks and promote faster, simpler and citizen-friendly governance mechanisms.

The meeting also reviewed progress achieved under Vision 2030 and Vision 2047 targets. It was informed that several departments have already submitted quantifiable targets, achievements, gap analysis and timelines for bridging developmental gaps, while the remaining departments have been asked to furnish their inputs for preparation of a comprehensive Vision document for Jammu & Kashmir.

LG Ladakh launches integrated Ease of Doing Business Portal to transform Citizen Services

LEH, MAY 25: In a transformative step towards strengthening digital governance and promoting a business-friendly ecosystem in Ladakh, Lt. Governor, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today launched an integrated 'Ease of Doing Business Portal' in Ladakh. The portal, <https://eodb.ladakh.gov.in>, launched for the first time in Ladakh, is aimed at ushering in a major reform, by simplifying citizen services, reducing manual procedures, paperwork and inordinate delays in available multiple government services.

The unified portal will provide businesses, entrepreneurs, investors, startups, MSMEs, and other stakeholders with a unified and seamless online mechanism to access various government services and approvals through a single online interface. Aligned with Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi's dictum of "Ease of Doing Business" and "Minimum Government, Maximum Governance", this initiative will also enhance transparency, efficiency and accountability, while accelerating economic growth, enterprise development and investment promotion in Ladakh.

As part of the current rollout, 13 departments have been incorporated with the portal, with 23 online services already made live. The Administration aims to progressively expand the platform by onboarding additional departments and services in a phased manner. The portal



provides access to online services from departments, including Tourism, Public Health Engineering, Industries and Commerce, along with information regarding schemes, incentives, policies, Acts, Rules, Notifications and procedures of the UT Administration. Key features of the portal include a Common Application Form (CAF), Single Sign-On access, PAN authentication, SMS and e-mail notifications, live application tracking, integrated payment gateway, grievance redressal mechanism and workflow-based approvals. Applicants can also monitor approval timelines, pendency and grievance status through an interactive dashboard.

"The Ease of Doing Business Portal marks a major milestone in Ladakh's journey towards digital governance and administrative reforms. By integrating services of multiple departments onto a single transparent and technology-driven platform, we are ensuring faster approvals, reducing procedural delays and creating a more business-friendly environment in Ladakh. This initiative will strengthen investor confi-

dence, promote entrepreneurship and contribute towards economic growth and employment generation in the Union Territory," LG, Shri Saxena said.

The key features of the EoDB Portal include the following:

- Common Application Form (CAF): Applicants can submit core information once, enabling reuse across multiple departmental applications and reducing repetitive documentation.
- SMS & e-Mail Authentication and notifications: A unified service platform with Single Sign-on to access multiple services with SMS and e-Mail notifications at every stage of application processes.
- PAN Authentication: Real-time identity verification integrated with CBDDT databases for seamless applicant authentication.
- Unified Digital Services Framework: A centralised digital interface for availing approvals, registrations, clearances, renewals, and certificates from multiple departments through a single platform.
- Integrated Payment Architecture: Provision has been made for seamless online payment integration for departmental services

through a unified digital payment mechanism.

- Grievance Redressal Mechanism: An in-built digital grievance module enabling applicants to raise concerns, monitor status, and facilitate timely resolution of issues.
- Interactive Dashboard & Application Tracking: Applicants can monitor application status, approval stages, timelines, pendency, service history, and grievance resolution through a real-time interactive dashboard.
- Timeline-Based Approvals: The platform supports digitally monitored service timelines aimed at improving efficiency, ensuring timely disposal of applications, and reducing procedural delays.
- Transparent Approval Mechanism: The system enables transparent processing of applications with clearly defined workflows, digital movement of files, and real-time status visibility for applicants.
- Auto Appeal System: The portal incorporates automated escalation and appeal mechanisms to facilitate the timely resolution of pending applications and grievances.
- Delay Accountability Framework: The system enables monitoring of delays and pendency at various stages, thereby strengthening institutional accountability and service delivery efficiency.
- Cross-Departmental Service Delivery: The portal facilitates integrated access to multiple departmental services through a common governance framework.

DC Ganderbal reviews Implementation of HADP & JKCIP schemes

GANDERBAL, MAY 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP) in the district.

During the meeting, the DC undertook a comprehensive department-wise review of progress achieved under various components of HADP and JKCIP.

A detailed assessment of progress under Kisan Khidmat Ghar (KKG), particularly concerning L2 and L3 registration of farmers was also carried out. Stressing the need for timely achievement of goals, the DC issued strict directions to all concerned departments to accomplish the assigned targets within the stipulated timeframe.

He emphasized that regular sharing and review of progress reports must be undertaken so that the targets are achieved at the earliest.

The meeting also reviewed the status of credit linked cases under HADP and JKCIP. It was observed



that the disposal rate of cases at the bank level has remained slow.

Taking serious note of the delays, the DC directed the Lead District Manager (LDM) and all Agriculture and allied departments to maintain close coordination with banking institutions and expedite the clearance of all pending cases.

Progress under the Prime Minister Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) Scheme was also reviewed. Banks were instructed to expedite disposal of nearly 60 pending cases lying at different branches to facilitate timely benefits to eligible beneficiaries.

Besides, the meeting reviewed implementation of the PM-Krishi Maan Dhaan Yojana. The DC directed all Agriculture and allied departments to ensure wider outreach, improved coverage and effective achievement of the scheme objectives.

The DC reiterated the importance of coordinated efforts, regular monitoring and proactive follow-up by all stakeholders for successful implementation of flagship schemes aimed at strengthening the agriculture and allied sectors in the district.

Later, the DC chaired District Level Implementation Committee to review and finalize beneficiaries

under Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP).

The committee discussed sector-wise proposals received from various agriculture and allied departments including agriculture, animal husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and fisheries sectors.

The Committee discussed the submitted proposals in detail and approved 987 beneficiaries aimed at boosting farm productivity, strengthening value chains and improving livelihood opportunities for farmers and allied sector stakeholders in the district.