

Chief Secretary reviews progress in solarisation of Govt buildings

Seeks Action Plan for Renewable Energy Growth

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting of the Science & Technology Department to assess the initiatives undertaken for promotion of clean energy and the progress achieved in solarisation of government buildings across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology; Chief Executive Officer, JAKEDA; Director, Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC); and other senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary undertook a comprehensive review of the solarisation programme being implemented across government establishments and emphasized the need for close coordination among the Science & Technology Department, Power Development Department (PDD) and district administrations to ensure smooth and timely installation of smart meters.

He observed that effective metering is essential for realizing the full benefits of solar energy generation and optimizing energy savings.

Dulloo further directed the department to extend necessary assistance to government departments in finalizing Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs), enabling efficient utilization and management of the energy generated through solar installations.

He remarked that large-scale solarisation, coupled with the development of small and medium hydropower projects, has the potential to transform the energy landscape of Jammu and Kashmir, given the immense renewable energy potential available across the Union Territory.

Highlighting the need for inclusive and sustainable energy solutions, the Chief Secretary called for exploring alternative cooking energy options for people residing in remote and far-flung areas who continue to depend on conventional fuel sources. He also stressed the importance of expediting efforts towards formulation and implementation of the Renewable Energy (RE) Policy and promotion of Compressed Biogas (CBG) initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir.

Reviewing the functioning of the Jammu and Kashmir Science, Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), the Chief Secretary urged the council to devise a focused and actionable strategy in collaboration with institutions such as the Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST) for promoting food processing, skill development and other innovation-driven entrepreneurial ventures. He emphasized that stronger linkages between academic institutions and government agencies can play a significant role in fostering innovation-led economic growth and employment generation in the region.

Giving an overview of the department's activities, the Commissioner Secretary, S&T, Babila Rakwal informed the meeting that JAKEDA is spearheading a range of initiatives including solarisation of government buildings, solar-powered agriculture pumps

under PM-KUSUM, establishment of model solar villages, development of solar parks, promotion of rooftop solar systems, decentralized renewable energy devices and small hydroelectric projects across the Union Territory.

She further divulged that significant progress has been achieved under the flagship programme for solarisation of government buildings. Under the CAPEX mode, rooftop solar projects covering around 8,000 government buildings with a target capacity of 70 MW are being implemented, while another 175 MW capacity is being developed under the RESCO model adding that 3,000 government buildings have already been solarised and work is progressing rapidly on the remaining identified structures.

Reviewing the achievements recorded during the previous financial year, the CEO, JAKEDA, PN Dhar informed that over 2,200 solar agriculture pumps were installed, nearly 9,000 solar home lighting systems distributed in remote and tribal areas, 140 solar high mast lights established, around 8,000 solar street lights installed and more than 16,000 biomass cook stoves provided to households in underserved regions. These interventions have substantially improved access to clean energy while reducing dependence on conventional fuels.

The meeting further noted that under the PM-

KUSUM scheme, 4,841 solar agriculture pumps have been installed and made operational against 5,000 sanctioned pumps, registering a completion rate of about 99 percent. The initiative is helping farmers reduce diesel consumption and lower irrigation costs while ensuring reliable access to water for agriculture.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the progress on the Model Solar Village programme under which one village in each district has been identified for development as a renewable energy model. On the hydro power front, the meeting was informed that seven small hydroelectric projects with a cumulative capacity of 35.25 MW have already been commissioned in the Union Territory.

Additionally, a robust pipeline of hydro projects is under various stages of allotment, development and execution, with over 115 MW capacity expected to be added in the coming years.

The department also apprised the Chief Secretary about proposals for establishment of solar parks at identified locations in Jammu, development of a pilot solar-wind hybrid power project, installation of solar-powered electric vehicle charging stations and a proposed 100 MW Solar Power Park coupled with a 20 MW Battery Energy Storage System (BESS), which would be the first project of its kind in Jammu & Kashmir.

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JAMMU, JUNE 01

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today formally launched the House Enumeration Phase of Census 2027 here from Dak Bungalow, marking the commencement of the door-to-door survey across the district.

Additionally, the Deputy Commissioner flagged off an awareness rally aimed at sensitizing citizens about the significance of the Census and encouraging their active participation in the nationwide exercise.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag and District Statistical & Evaluation Officer Sandeep Sharma were also present at the event.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner informed that around 62,000 residents of Rajouri district successfully completed self-enumeration from May 17 to May 31, 2026. He appreciated the enthusiastic response of the public and termed it a positive indicator of growing awareness and trust in the digital census process.

"From today (June 1)



trained enumerators have started visiting households across the district to undertake the field enumeration exercise. The survey will ensure comprehensive coverage of the entire population through a systematic village-wise and ward-wise approach," he said.

Highlighting the importance of the Census, the Deputy Commissioner said that accurate population data forms the foundation for evidence-based planning, policy formulation and effective delivery of the public services. He urged

residents to provide correct and complete information to the enumerators for ensuring the success of the exercise.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that Census 2027 is being conducted through digital platforms, which will enhance accuracy, transparency and efficiency in data collection and processing.

"Special emphasis is being laid on ensuring the enumeration of nomadic and migratory populations. In this regard, a detailed

action plan has been devised in coordination with the Forest Department, Sheep Husbandry Department and other concerned agencies. Chowkidars, enumerators and field functionaries have been imparted necessary training to facilitate smooth coverage of these communities," he informed.

He added that specialized teams have been deployed along migration routes and seasonal habitation areas to ensure that no eligible individual is left out of the Census process.

ADC flags off Mindhal Chandi Mata Yatra at Bhadarwah

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today flagged off the holy Mindhal Chandi Mata Yatra here from Panchayat Drudhu-Bhaderwah.

The sacred pilgrimage, which attracts hundreds of devotees from different parts of the region, marks a deep spiritual journey to the revered shrine of Mata Chandi located in Mindhal, Chamba.

The event witnessed a vibrant display of devotion as pilgrims, adorned in traditional attire, carried the Mata's Palki amidst chants of "Jai Mata Di" and soul-stirring bhajans.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC highlighted the spiritual and cultural importance of the yatra, stating that such pilgrimages not only strengthen spiritual connection but also bind people in the rich cultural fabric of brotherhood and unity.

The trust Vishal Dharmik Sanstha organized a langar on the occasion. Pilgrims were served with warm



meals and refreshments, reflecting the spirit of service, compassion and shared devotion.

The local administration ensured seamless arrangements, including transport,

medical aid and basic amenities for the yatrias.

The flag-off ceremony was attended by Ex, Sarpanch Panchayat Dradhu Ashok Kumar Sharma, President of

Sansta Vineet Kumar Sharma and members Joginder Pal, Manoj Kumar, Pawan Gupta, Kailash Kotwal, Manjeet Kumar from Dradhu and other panchayats.

DC Bandipora reviews developmental works, Public Issues in Gurez

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired a review meeting with district and sectoral officers at Dak Bungalow Dawar to assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and implementation of various government schemes in Sub-Division Gurez.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner particularly reviewed ongoing health sector projects and healthcare facilities in the sub-division and stressed the timely completion of all works for im-

proved public service delivery.

The meeting also reviewed fire and emergency preparedness measures and the functioning of recently constituted fire safety audit committees. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure proper preparedness, availability of necessary equipment and manpower, and strengthened coordination among departments for effective implementation of fire safety measures and developmental programmes across Gurez.

Various public issues and developmental con-

cerns were also discussed, including matters related to Irrigation and Flood Control. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to take timely measures for ensuring smooth irrigation facilities and prompt redressal of public grievances.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed waste management measures, particularly plastic waste management in Gurez, including the progress of the segregation shed being established in the sub-division. She issued strict directions for clearance of all legacy waste and directed

all BDOs to enforce effective cleanliness measures across Gurez. The DC further stressed the early operationalisation of the segregation shed to ensure proper waste disposal and sanitation management in the area.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Bandipora, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gurez, District Information Officer Bandipora, Executive Engineers, Block Development Officers, Tehsildars, Block Medical Officer and other concerned officers and officials.

DLTFC approves 45 JKREGP Scheme cases at Jammu

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The Jammu District Office of the Jammu and Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) today convened a meeting of the District Level Task Force Committee (DLTFC) under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Employment Generation Programme (JKREGP) to scrutinize and recommend applications seeking financial assistance for establishment of self-employment ventures.

The meeting was chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Vidhu Shekhar and attended by Lead District Manager (LDM) SBI Ajay Thapa; Re-



gional Officer JK Grameen Bank Abhishek Gupta; Cluster Head J&K Bank Neena Gupta; representative from the District Industries Centre (DIC) Amit Kumar and the Principal ITI Jammu, besides officials from KVIB.

A total of 55 applications were placed before the Committee for consideration. After detailed scrutiny and deliberations, the Committee approved 45

cases for financial assistance under the JKREGP scheme. One case was deferred for want of requisite documents and further clarification, while one application was declared overage as per the prescribed eligibility criteria.

Eight applicants remained absent during the interview process.

The ADC emphasized the importance of self-employment initiatives in generat-

ing sustainable livelihood opportunities and strengthening the local economy.

The JKREGP scheme continues to play a pivotal role in encouraging establishment of micro and small enterprises by providing financial support to eligible unemployed youth, thereby contributing to economic growth and employment creation across Jammu and Kashmir.

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In a major enforcement drive against illegal poppy cultivation in District Shopian, a multi-departmental team comprising officials from the Excise Department, Shopian Police, Revenue Department, Agriculture Department, and the Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) today carried out a comprehensive destruction operation in Gatipora village of Tehsil Keller.

During the operation, a significant area under illicit poppy cultivation was identified and destroyed on the spot.

The coordinated action forms part of the ongoing efforts of the district administration and law enforcement agencies to curb the cultivation of narcotic crops and com-



bat the menace of drug abuse at its source.

Following the successful destruction of the illegal crop, First Information Report (FIR) has been registered against the accused under the relevant provisions of

law, and further investigation has been initiated to identify all persons involved in the unlawful activity.

The authorities have reiterated their commitment to maintaining a zero-tolerance approach

towards narcotics-related offences and warned that strict legal action will be taken against individuals found involved in the cultivation, production, or trafficking of narcotic substances.