

Javid Dar reviews functioning of Mandis, Kissan Ghars within, outside J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the functioning of Mandis and Kissan Ghars established within and outside Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister took a detailed appraisal of the facilities, occupancy, services extended to the farmers and issues faced in the operation of these Kissan Ghars. He emphasized that Kissan Ghars are vital infrastructure for providing affordable accommodation and support services to the farming community visiting for official work, training or market linkage activities.

Stressing the need for improved infrastructure, Dar directed the concerned officers to undertake immediate renovation and upgradation of Kissan Ghars located in New Delhi and Kolkata to ensure better accommodation and essential facilities for the farmers visiting these centres for trade-related activities.



The Minister observed that Kissan Ghar serves as an important support system for the farming community by providing affordable lodging and logistical assistance during the marketing of crops and horticultural produce. He emphasized that strengthening these facilities would contribute significantly towards enhancing farmers' access to national markets and improving their overall trading experience.

Reviewing the functioning of agricultural mandis, Javid Dar instructed the officials to conduct a thorough verification of shop allotments to ensure that the allottees are utilizing the premises strictly in accordance with the prescribed norms and guidelines.

He stressed that any misuse of public assets or deviation from the intended purpose of allotments must be identified and addressed promptly.

Reiterating the government's commitment towards strengthening the agricultural marketing infrastructure, the Minister said that sustained efforts are being made to develop and modernize the mandis across Jammu and Kashmir, particularly in Poonch, Akhnoor and Jammu, with the objective of providing farmers with better market access and enhanced trading opportunities.

Calling for protection and optimal utilization of public assets, Javid Dar directed the concerned departments to put in place an effective monitoring mechanism to safeguard the government properties and ensure that these assets are used for welfare of the farming community.

He also sought a comprehensive and long-term plan for decongestion and modernization of the Sopore Fruit Mandi, aimed at improving the operational efficiency, streamlining trade activities and creating better facilities for the growers and traders.

The Minister underscored the need for coordinated efforts among all the stakeholder departments to strengthen the agricultural marketing infrastructure and create a robust ecosystem that supports the farmers from production to marketing.

Among others present in the meeting were Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing), Jammu and Kashmir, Ghulam Jeelani Zargar, Managing Director, J&K Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation, Mohammad Farooq Ahmad, President of Fruit Growers Mandi Sopore besides other senior officers of the concerned departments.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

District Administration Pulwama today commenced the House Listing & Housing Census (HLO) Phase of Census 2027 across the district.

The month-long exercise shall continue from 01 June to 30 June 2026, during which enumerators will undertake door-to-door visits to collect information. Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom who is also the Principal Census Officer, informed that all necessary preparations for the smooth conduct of the Census operations have been completed. He said that a total of 1089 House Listing Blocks (HLBs) have been constituted across urban and rural areas of the district to facilitate systematic and comprehensive coverage of all households.

The Deputy Commissioner further informed that 13 Charge Officers have been designated for supervision of the Census operations. Besides, 1158 Enumerators and 210 Supervisors have been deployed across the district and provided with all requisite Census material for carrying out the field exercise. He said that the enumerators shall visit every household during the notified period to undertake house listing activities and collect information in the prescribed formats.



To ensure hassle-free implementation of the Census operations, the district administration has also deployed Field Trainers and a Master Trainer who shall

provide technical support and on-ground guidance to Enumerators and Supervisors and address any issues arising during the course of field work.

Dr. Qayoom emphasized that Census is a vital national exercise and accurate information provided by citizens plays a significant role in planning for infrastructure, education, healthcare, housing and other public services.

Appealing to the residents of the district, the Deputy Commissioner urged them to extend full cooperation to the Census staff and provide accurate information to facilitate successful completion of the exercise.

Meanwhile, the district has witnessed enthusiastic participation in the Self-Enumeration process under Census 2027, with over 66,000 households having completed Self-Enumeration which is among the highest in the UT.

Essay Writing Competitions, Awareness Programmes held across Bandipora under NMBA

BANDIPORA, JUNE 01: Various educational institutions across district Bandipora on Monday organised essay writing competitions, pledge ceremonies and awareness programmes under the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) to spread awareness against drug abuse and promote healthy lifestyles among students.

Activities under NMBA were conducted at High School Panar, High School Koragbal and H/S Ketson, where different awareness and pledge programmes were organised to educate students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and the importance of leading a healthy and responsible life.

An Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Youth Responsibility" was organised at PM SHRI High School Odina under the banner of NMBA. Students enthusiastically participated and expressed their views on the role of youth in building a drug-free, healthy and progressive society.

Similar essay writing competitions were organised at HSS Nowgam, HSS Quilmuqam, HSS Gadakhud, HS Kanzalwan, HSS Sumbal, GHS Nadihal and BHSS Aloosa under the NMBA campaign. Students actively participated and highlighted the importance of youth engagement, awareness and preventive action in controlling drug abuse and promoting a healthy society.

GDCs of Bandipora, Ajas organize Anti-Drug, Anti-Tobacco Awareness Programmes under NMBA

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

Under the banner of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), the NSS Youth Club of HKM Degree College Bandipora organized an Anti-Drug Pledge Taking Ceremony under the convenership of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, Convener, NCORD Cell.

Students and NSS volunteers participated enthusiastically and took a pledge to remain free from drugs and to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse in society.

The programme aimed to strengthen the commitment of youth towards a drug-free lifestyle and encourage them to play an active role in combating the menace of drug addiction. The event successfully conveyed the message of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and inspired students to become responsible citizens dedicated to building a healthy and drug-free society.

Under the banner of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, the Red Ribbon Youth Club in collaboration with the Literary Youth Club organized an Essay Writing Competition on the theme "Role of Social Institutions in Curbing Drug Menace."

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of students, who expressed their views on the crucial role played by educational institutions, families, religious organizations, community groups, civil society, and government agencies in preventing substance abuse and promoting healthy lifestyles among the youth.

Through their essays, the participants critically examined the social, psychological, and economic factors contributing to drug addiction and suggested various preventive measures based on awareness, counselling, community engagement, and policy interventions. The competition provided students with an opportunity to reflect on one of the most pressing social challenges of contemporary society and encouraged them to think creatively and responsibly about solutions.

The event successfully promoted awareness, critical thinking, and social responsibility among students while reinforcing the collective commitment to building a healthy, informed, and drug-free society.

Government Degree College Ajas observed World No Tobacco Day under the banner of 100 Days Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) campaign. The programme was organised with the objective of creating awareness among students regarding the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle.

The event witnessed the participation of students, faculty members, and volunteers of the college. On the occasion, the Coordinator, Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) highlighted the serious health, social, and economic consequences of tobacco use and emphasized the importance of collective efforts in building a tobacco-free society.

As part of the programme, the Coordinator administered a pledge against tobacco use, wherein students and faculty members resolved to refrain from tobacco consumption and to spread awareness about its harmful effects among their families, friends, and communities.

The pledge was joined by other faculty members of the college, who encouraged students to adopt healthy habits and become ambassadors of positive social change.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the institution's commitment to the objectives of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and to fostering a healthy, responsible, and aware student community.

DLSA Reasi organises legal awareness programs

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 01

Under the visionary leadership of Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Reasi (also Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary and the guidance of Secretary Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on Lok Adalat and the Negotiable Instruments (NI) Act was organised by the Para Legal Volunteers here today.

The participants were sensitized to the benefits of Lok Adalat as an effective, speedy, cost-effective and amicable mechanism for settlement of disputes. Awareness regarding the provisions of the Negotiable Instruments Act-1881 was also imparted, particularly those related to cheque dishonour cases under Section 138 of the NI Act. The participants were apprised of the legal consequences of issuing cheques without sufficient funds and the remedies available under law.



Another awareness programme on "Say No to Drugs" was organized at Government Middle School Karua by the Panel Lawyers/Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Katra. The PLVs sensitized students, teachers and locals about the harmful effects of drug abuse on physical health, mental well-being, family life and society.

Information regarding the legal consequences of drug-related offences and the role of legal services institutions in generating awareness and providing assistance was also shared. The participants actively interacted with the resource persons and pledged to spread the message of a drug-free society among their peers, families and communities.

The role of legal services institutions in generating awareness and providing assistance was also shared. The participants actively interacted with the resource persons and pledged to spread the message of a drug-free society among their peers, families and communities.

CM Omar engages with public representatives, stakeholders on constituency and sectoral issues

SRINAGAR, JUNE 1:

Several public representatives and delegations today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his Public Services and Outreach Office (Raabita) here and discussed a range of constituency-specific and sectoral issues.

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Ladakh, Haji Mohammad Hanifa, called on the Chief Minister along with delegations representing employees of the Power Development Department serving in Ladakh and members of the Private School Association of Kargil. The delegations raised issues concerning their respective sectors. The Chief Minister assured them that their concerns would be taken up with the relevant authorities for appropriate action.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam Ud Din Bhat, also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental and public welfare issues concerning his constituency. The Chief Minister gave a patient



hearing to the issues raised and assured appropriate consideration.

MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, called on the Chief Minister along with a delegation of civil society members from Hazratbal. The delegation expressed gratitude for resolving the long-pending issue of the construction of the Sub-District Hospital at Habak, Hazratbal. They also discussed other developmental concerns and sought continued support

for ongoing initiatives in the area. The Chief Minister appreciated their feedback and reaffirmed the Government's commitment to strengthening public services and infrastructure.

Also, MLA Hazratbal, Salman Sagar, also led a delegation of the Jal Jeevan Mission Contractors' Association, who met the Chief Minister and sought resolution of its pending issues. The Chief Minister assured the delegation that their

concerns would be examined and addressed in accordance with established procedures.

MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, met the Chief Minister and discussed various developmental requirements and public issues pertaining to his constituency. The Chief Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to ensuring equitable development across all regions of Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K govt rebuts report on Samagra Shiksha fund release, cites 100% utilisation of central grants

SRINAGAR, JUNE 01:

The School Education Department, government of Jammu and Kashmir has rebutted the news item titled "MoE released only 20% Samagra grants to SED" published in Greater Kashmir dated 30th May, 2026.

The Department, in an official communique, has clarified that the report presents only a partial picture of the financial position under Samagra Shiksha in J&K and may create an impression that educational activities in the Union Territory have been adversely affected due to non-release of funds. The factual position, however, needs to be viewed in a broader financial and administrative context.

The Department stated that the Project Approval Board (PAB) approves Rs. 1593.60 Cr (fresh) under the Annual Work Plan and Budget (AWP&B) 2025-26, which only sets the ceiling or outlay for implementation of activities during the year. The PAB approval is

not equivalent to immediate fund release.

As per Government of India norms, the Ministry of Education releases funds in phased instalments based on utilisation certificates, expenditure pattern, available balances and compliance. During 2025-26, the MoE, GoI released Rs. 1102.00 crore to J&K under Samagra Shiksha. The released funds have been utilised in full with 100% achievement of targets. Therefore, comparing the total approved outlay with the first instalment released during the year does not reflect the complete financial position.

Highlighting the UT's performance, the Department said that Jammu and Kashmir has consistently implemented major interventions under Samagra Shiksha, including PM SHRI Schools, Foundational Literacy and Numeracy, ICT and Smart Classrooms, Inclusive Education, Girls' Education and Vocational Education and Civil Works and Infra-

structure Development. The Ministry of Education has acknowledged the progress achieved by J&K during recent review meetings and during the visit of the Secretary, Government of India, Department of School Education & Literacy to J&K UT. The PAB has also appreciated the academic improvements and implementation progress in the Union Territory.

The Department further underlined that J&K has demonstrated strong utilisation capacity. The Ministry has specifically appreciated the UT's academic improvements and implementation efficiency, which establishes that the School Education Department possesses the capacity to utilise funds effectively whenever releases are made. As an example, under PM SHRI Schools, J&K utilised approximately Rs. 194.53 crore out of Rs. 200.11 crore available funds, demonstrating strong financial and physical progress, in addition to

other key components and interventions.

The Department told that the inference drawn in the news report, based on a percentage comparison of a single instalment against the total PAB approval, does not present the complete picture. Fund releases under Samagra Shiksha are governed by a structured, norms-based mechanism linked to utilisation and compliance. The J&K UT has fully utilised the funds released so far and has met 100% of its targets while the educational activities across the Union Territory have continued without disruption.

The School Education Department reiterated its commitment to the effective implementation of all components under Samagra Shiksha as per the approved plan with full financial prudence and efficiency. It clarified that the progress of educational initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir has not been hampered due to any funding constraints.