

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Div Com reviews flood preparedness, heatwave management in Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 04

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today reviewed department- and district-wise flood preparedness and heatwave management across Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by Managing Director JPDCL, Commissioner JMC, Deputy Commissioners from Jammu Division, Director ULB, Director Food Civil Supplies, Director Health, Chief Engineers of JPDCL, Jal Shakti, PWD, UEED and PMGSY, Joint Director Information (Jammu), Regional Officer NHA and concerned officers from NHIDCL and Fire and Emergency Services.

During the meeting, the Divisional Commissioner sought details of steps taken by district administrations and heads of departments regarding flood preparedness ahead of the forthcoming monsoon.

He directed Deputy Commissioners to establish district-level control rooms for quick response, restoration of essential services and flood mitigation. He asked them to constantly monitor water levels in rivers and other water bodies in their respective districts. The Deputy Commissioners of hilly districts were directed to deploy expert teams to assess slope stability in vul-



nerable areas and take necessary precautionary measures in advance.

Reviewing department-wise preparations, the Divisional Commissioner directed Commissioner JMC to complete the desilting and cleaning of nullahs and the drainage system in Jammu city. He directed that men and machinery be designated for vulnerable and low-lying areas to mitigate waterlogging and prevent flood-related damage.

Necessary directions were issued to the Mechanical Department, PMGSY, BRO, NHA and NHIDCL to keep roads and bridges open for smooth connectivity.

Director Health Services informed the Divisional Commissioner that suffi-

cient medical supplies have been dispatched to district hospitals, PHCs and CHCs to prevent the spread of waterborne and vector-borne diseases.

The Divisional Commissioner also reviewed heatwave management and directed the Health Department to regularly issue advisories on heatwave precautions and dos and don'ts for the general public.

Chief Engineer JPDCL informed that an adequate number of transformers, poles and conductors have been stocked at key locations and Quick Response Teams have been deployed to ensure immediate power restoration in the event of floods or heavy rains.

All Deputy Commission-

ers were directed to identify landslide- and flood-prone areas in their districts and prepare mitigation plans accordingly. They were also directed to conduct training for Civil Defence volunteers and organise mock drills with the participation of local communities.

Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs informed that adequate stocks of ration and essential commodities are being maintained across all districts of Jammu Division.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all heads of departments to prepare a detailed flood preparedness plan and keep their men and machinery ready to undertake mitigation measures and restore public services at the earliest.

Acting on a tip, Jammu administration seals illegal arms dealership

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JAMMU, JUNE 04

Acting swiftly on a credible tip received by the district administration, a surprise inspection team led by Tehsildar Bahu, Raju Sambyal and Tehsildar HQ, Mona Chalotra, today raided the premises of Aman Arms Company at Railhead Shopping Complex and unearthed a series of serious violations flagged as of immediate concern to public safety and firearms regulation.

The inspection, carried out under the direct directions of District Magistrate Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, revealed that the establishment had been operating entirely without a valid arms dealership licence. The dealership licence application of Aman Shop had been rejected in the year 2024, rendering all commercial activity conducted by the shop in the capacity of an arms dealer not only unauthorised, but a direct violation of the Arms Act, 1959 and the Arms Rules, 2016.

More alarmingly, the in-



spection team recovered multiple Gun Licences from the premises which were last renewed from other districts including Poonch, Kishtwar, Ganderbal, Pulwama.

A number of personal documents belong to licence holders were also retrieved. Complaints had also been received by the district administration that the establishment was refusing to return firearms licences to their rightful holders; a practice strongly suggestive of exploitation of licence holders under the

pretext of offering renewal or allied facilitation services through unauthorised, illegal means.

The District Magistrate, Dr. Rakesh Minhas, while taking serious cognisance of the violations, has directed that appropriate legal action be initiated against those responsible.

He further reiterated that the district administration will continue to conduct inspections of arms dealerships and enforce full compliance with applicable laws and Home Department directives without exception.

The District Administration, Jammu, once again calls upon all arms licence holders and members of the public to exercise extreme caution and vigilance. No middleman, agent or unlicensed shop has any authority whatsoever to assist, facilitate, expedite, or accept any payment in connection with the renewal, application or surrender of firearms licences.

All services related to arms licences, including renewal of existing licences, application for fresh licences and surrender of weapons etc, can be accessed conveniently, transparently and without any intermediary through the National Database of Arms Licences — Arms Licensing and Information System (NDAL-ALIS), the official Government of India portal, accessible at <https://ndal-alis.gov.in>

Citizens are strongly urged to report any individual or establishment soliciting money, licences or documents on the pretext of facilitating arms licence services to the office of the District Magistrate, Jammu.

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As a major initiative to strengthen Kashmir's traditional carpet weaving sector and enhance artisans' skills, Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir, through its state-of-the-art Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), has launched a skill upgradation training programme under the Ministry of Textiles-sponsored SAMARTH Scheme.

SAMARTH (Scheme for Capacity Building in Textile Sector) is a flagship Ministry of Textiles initiative aimed at providing demand-driven and industry-oriented training to improve employability and promote sustainable livelihoods in the handicrafts sector. The programme is aligned with the National Skills Qualifications Framework (NSQF), ensuring nationally recognized training and certification standards.

In a press handout issued here today, a spokesperson of the Handicrafts 7 Handloom Department stated that under the programme, 180 women beneficiaries from eight districts of Kashmir are scheduled to receive training in Silk Carpet



Weaving on Modern Steel Carpet Looms over a period of two months. "Twenty trainees have been enrolled from 8 districts, while Srinagar, a major carpet weaving hub, will accommodate 40 trainees," the spokesperson said. Speaking on the occasion, Zubair Ahmad, Director, IICT, said that trainees maintaining at least 80 percent attendance will be eligible for a stipend of ₹5,000 per course, providing both skill enhancement as well as financial support. "The experienced Master Trainers engaged to impart specialized training under the programme will receive an honorarium of

₹20,000 per month, with a total training facilitation cost of approximately ₹3.60 lakh," he added.

Highlighting the scheme's robust monitoring framework, Director IICT further stated that the programme will undergo third-party audit and verification by auditors appointed by the Ministry of Textiles to assess compliance, training quality, attendance records and implementation outcomes. "To ensure transparency and effective monitoring, the programme incorporates an Aadhaar-based biometric attendance system" he added.

Department of Handi-

crafts & Handloom Kashmir continues to undertake focused interventions for the revival, preservation and promotion of the world-renowned Kashmir Carpet Craft. Through modernization of weaving infrastructure, skill upgradation, artisan welfare initiatives, market linkages, GI protection and capacity-building programmes such as SAMARTH, the Department remains committed to safeguarding this centuries-old heritage craft while creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, particularly for women artisans across the Valley.

DC Samba chairs Block Diwas at Palli, emphasises public grievance redressal, drug-free society

SAMBA, JUNE 04: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Ayushi Sudan today chaired a Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Palli, Block Bari Brahmana, aimed at addressing public grievances, assessing developmental needs and ensuring effective delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

The programme commenced with a pledge under the 100-Day Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan, reaffirming the collective commitment towards building a drug-free society. The Deputy Commissioner also conveyed a strong message for a drug-free Samba, urging all stakeholders, particularly the youth, to actively participate in the campaign.

During the public outreach, the Deputy Commis-



sioner interacted with residents and heard various issues raised by the public. The grievances mainly pertained to water scarcity, renovation and maintenance of ponds, power supply, healthcare facilities, road connectivity, playground infrastructure and other civic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the public that all genuine concerns

would be addressed in a time-bound manner and directed the concerned departments to take immediate action on the issues highlighted. She stressed the importance of prompt action, inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring to ensure efficient delivery of public services.

Special emphasis was laid on water and power supply

in view of the prevailing summer season. Concerned departments were directed to ensure uninterrupted provision of essential services and take proactive measures to address public concerns.

The programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Devi Thakur, Chief Planning Officer Samba Kasturi Lal, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Vijaypur, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer Samba, Chief Education Officer Samba, Executive Engineers of various departments, Tehsildar Bari Brahmana, Block Development Officer Bari Brahmana, district officers and other stakeholders, besides public representatives and local residents.

Udhampur hosts Khet Bachao Abhiyan programmes

UDHAMPUR, JUNE 04: Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Jammu, Sanjay Anand today led awareness programmes at Kallar Sub-Division Udhampur and Sub-Division Ramnagar in District Udhampur under the ongoing Khet Bachao Abhiyan, to promote sustainable agricultural practices and raise awareness among farmers regarding the conservation and protection of agricultural land.

Sanjay Anand was accompanied by the District Agriculture Officer (Ex-

tension) Udhampur, Mushroom Development Officer Udhampur, district- and sub-divisional-level subject matter specialists, field officers and staff of the Agriculture Department.

The awareness programmes at both sub-divisions were well attended by farmers, members of district- and sub-divisional-level committees constituted for the Khet Bachao Abhiyan, public representatives, Agriculture Department officers and officials, field functionaries and other stakeholders.

Addressing the gatherings, Sanjay

Anand highlighted the objectives of the month-long campaign, with focus on Kisan Credit Card (KCC) coverage, PM-KISAN saturation, Soil Health Card generation and utilisation and Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).

He emphasised the importance of maintaining soil health, adopting balanced use of fertilisers, promoting sustainable and climate-resilient farming and ensuring that all eligible farmers avail themselves of the benefits of government schemes.

CS reviews impediments, steers measures to accelerate solarisation across J&K

SRINAGAR, JUNE 04: Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo, today chaired a high-level meeting of all the concerned Government stakeholders to review the progress of large-scale solarization initiatives being undertaken in Jammu and Kashmir and to resolve the bottlenecks identified by the Science & Technology Department in advancing these efforts across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment Department; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology Department; Managing Director, JPDCL/KPDCL, besides representatives of several

other concerned departments.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for sustained and result-oriented follow-up by the Science & Technology Department on the issues deliberated upon, observing that a clear roadmap for addressing the challenges had emerged through collective consultations with all stakeholders.

He underscored that the department should fully leverage the support being extended by the Finance Department and other agencies to achieve the solarization targets within defined timelines.

Emphasizing the immense potential of renewable energy in Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary advised the department to undertake a comprehensive review of the land



parcels identified on the PM Gati Shakti Portal and assess their suitability for establishment of mega solar parks under Government of India-supported programmes.

He called for a focused and mission-mode approach, directing the department to set measurable targets for the next six months, one year and

two years, and ensure visible progress on the ground at each stage.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on a range of issues critical to the successful implementation of solar projects, including land acquisition and transfer, obtaining statutory clearances from various departments, execution of Power Purchase

Agreements (PPAs) with distribution companies for evacuation of power generated from solarized buildings, and measures required to maintain grid stability for optimal utilization of solar energy assets.

Discussions also centred on the installation of Virtual Net Metering systems in Government buildings, adoption of a Unified Billing System for departments in place of separate billing for individual buildings, and provision of fresh power connections wherever required to facilitate seamless implementation of solar projects.

The stakeholders further deliberated upon the need for rationalization and levelization of rates for projects being implemented under the Renewable Energy Service Company (RESCO) model to ensure greater efficiency of solar energy solutions

across departments.

The meeting also reviewed the long-term roadmap for development of mega-scale solar power infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir. Detailed discussions were held on issues relating to land transfer, execution of PPAs and feeder segregation, which are considered essential for efficient integration and utilization of future solar power assets in the Union Territory.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment towards clean and sustainable energy, the Chief Secretary called upon these departments to work in close coordination and expedite action on the decisions taken during the meeting so that Jammu and Kashmir catches up with other leading renewable energy developing regions of the country.