

Amit visits Budgam, chairs review meeting on ongoing Census Operations with DC Budgam

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 05

Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Shri Amit Sharma, along with Deputy Commissioner-cum-Principal Census Officer Budgam, Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah, briefed the Chair CPCO Shri Amit Sharma on the district's geographical profile, preparedness for Census 2027 and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations (HLO) being conducted from June 1 to June 30, 2026, as part of the Census exercise.

At the outset, the District Census Officer and Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Mehraj-Ud-Din Shah, briefed the Chair CPCO Shri Amit Sharma on the district's geographical profile, preparedness for Census 2027 and the arrangements put in place for the smooth conduct of the ongoing House Listing Operations. He also highlighted the training programmes being conducted for census personnel across the district and apprised the Chair of the district administration's readiness for the Census exercise.

Afterwards, Deputy Commissioner and Principal Census Officer Budgam, Shri Athar Aamir Khan, informed in the meeting that all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements have been made to ensure the smooth conduct of Census-related activities across the district.

He emphasized the importance of co-ordinated



efforts among all stakeholders and reiterated the district administration's commitment to ensuring comprehensive coverage and high-quality data collection during the enumeration process.

He also directed all field-level officers to extend full support to census personnel and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines.

During the Meeting led by CPCO Amit Sharma, detailed discussions were held on ensuring comprehensive coverage of all households, including migratory populations, and strengthening field-level census operations across the district.

Addressing the officers, CPCO Shri Amit Sharma appreciated the dedicated efforts of the field staff and encouraged enumerators and supervisors to discharge their responsibilities with utmost commit-

ment and professionalism.

He emphasized the importance of effective coordination among census functionaries, quality and timely data collection, and strict adherence to census guidelines to ensure accuracy and completeness of the enumeration process.

Shri Amit Sharma directed all concerned officers to extend full support to census personnel and take necessary measures to facilitate the smooth conduct of House Listing and Housing Census activities throughout the district.

CPCO Shri Amit Sharma further informed that for any query or clarification related to Census 2027 in the district, citizens can contact the dedicated toll-free helpline number 1855.

He appealed to the public to remain vigilant against fraudulent calls, messages, or individuals claiming to be associated with the Census exercise

and cautioned people against sharing personal, financial, banking, or OTP-related information with anyone in the name of Census.

CPCO also clarified that the Census process is simple and transparent, and citizens are only required to answer the prescribed 33 Census questions during the enumeration process. He urged residents to cooperate with authorized Census personnel and provide accurate information to ensure the success of this important national exercise.

The Meeting also reviewed field-level preparedness and discussed various operational aspects related to the Census exercise.

CPCO Shri Amit Sharma reiterated that the Census is a crucial national exercise that serves as the foundation for evidence-based planning and development initiatives.

Govt focused on identifying, developing offbeat destinations to diversify tourism: Sakeena

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 05

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the tourism potential of the picturesque Panchanpatri area in Kulgam district.

During the meeting, the Minister took detailed assessment of various measures to be taken for bringing the Panchanpatri area of Kulgam on tourism map of Jammu and Kashmir. She directed the officers to establish all kind basic amenities in this picturesque area so that maximum visitors are attracted towards it.

The Minister directed the Tourism department to assess the scope for strengthening tourism infrastructure in the area for visitors. "Panchanpatri possesses immense natural beauty



and holds tremendous potential to emerge as a major attraction for nature lovers, trekkers and adventure tourists", she stated.

Sakeena Itoo highlighted that the Government is focused on identifying and developing offbeat destinations to diversify the tourism landscape of Jammu and Kashmir and generate new livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"Promotion of unex-

plored tourist spots not only enhances visitor experiences but also contributes significantly to rural economic growth through employment generation and entrepreneurship", she stated.

Reaffirming the Government's vision for inclusive tourism development, Sakeena Itoo said that emerging destinations like Panchanpatri will play a vital role in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's po-

sition as a premier tourist destination and creating long-term economic benefits for local residents.

During the meeting, Joint Director Tourism Kashmir briefed the Minister about ongoing and proposed tourism initiatives in the Panchanpatri.

The meeting, among others, was attended by Joint Director Tourism Kashmir; senior officers of Tourism and other concerned departments.

Dr Jitendra convenes public outreach camp at Malhori; reviews development works

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 05

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister for State in the Prime Minister's Office, Dr. Jitendra Singh, today convened a public outreach camp at Malhori, Kalotha in Doda district.

The Union MoS held an extensive interaction with the public representatives, district officers and local residents to review the developmental issues and address the public grievances.

The camp was attended by MLA Doda west Shakti Raj Parihar, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Krishan Lal, concerned officials, EXPRI members and others.

A large gathering of people from Malhori, Kalotha and adjoining areas participated in the camp, making it a significant public outreach programme aimed at strengthening the citizen-government engagement.

During the event, several deputations representing different villages, youth groups, women's organizations, farmers, traders and social activists met the Union Minister and projected their demands and grievances.

The deputations highlighted issues pertaining to upgradation of roads, augmentation of drinking water schemes, improvement of healthcare and educational facilities, strengthening of power infrastructure, expansion of mobile and internet connectivity, pro-



motion of tourism potential, employment generation and timely implementation of welfare schemes. The deputations sought immediate intervention for resolution of long-pending public issues and requested inclusion of additional developmental projects to improve the quality of life in the region.

The Union Minister assured the deputations that their genuine demands would be examined and addressed in a phased and time-bound manner through the concerned departments.

During the programme, the Union Minister reviewed the developmental scenario of the area and sought suggestions from the public.

Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the government's commitment towards holistic development of remote and rural areas. He

emphasized that the aspirations of the people must be addressed through responsive governance and effective implementation of developmental programmes.

The Minister directed the concerned departments to ensure time-bound execution of ongoing projects, speedy redressal of public grievances and better coordination among the departments for improving service delivery. He stressed the need for strengthening healthcare and educational infrastructure, improving road connectivity, ensuring uninterrupted power and water supply and accelerating the developmental works in underserved areas.

He also instructed the officers to maintain regular public contact, conduct field visits, monitor progress of projects on a routine basis and ensure

that benefits of the government schemes reach every eligible beneficiary without delay.

The Union Minister reviewed the status of key development projects and sought updates from the district administration and departmental officers regarding their implementation.

Senior officers from various departments, including Police, Revenue, Rural Development, Health, Education, Forest, Jal Shakti, PWD, Power Development, Irrigation, PMGSY, NHIDCL and other line departments, attended the outreach programme and provided feedback on departmental initiatives and ongoing works.

The Union Minister assured the people that all their genuine issues highlighted during the camp would be taken up for redress on priority.

LG Saxena launches major plantation drive in Leh on World Environment Day

LEH, JUNE 5: On the occasion of World Environment Day 2026, Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena, today launched a mass plantation drive under the Indus River Green Corridor Initiative on land donated by Thiksey Monastery. The plantation drive was organised in line with this year's World Environment Day theme: "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future."

On this occasion, 5000 saplings of species which included Salix (Willow), Poplar, Robinia, Russian Olive, Cherry, Apple, Apricot, Pear, Black Currant, Chinara and Kashmiri Juniper were planted over 7.50 hectares of land provided by Thiksey Monastery. The initiative aims at enhancing Ladakh's green cover, strengthening ecological resilience and promoting sustainable development in the fragile high-altitude ecosystem of the region. A large number of people, including ITBP personnel, NCC cadets, monks of Thiksey Monastery and students of Druk Padma



Karpo School and Mahabodhi Residential School, had assembled to carry out the plantation drive.

A major highlight of the programme was the establishment of a High-Altitude Experimental Plantation Plot spread over approximately 0.12 hectares (about 1,400 sq. ft.) to study the adaptability and growth performance of selected tropical and subtropical species under Ladakh's unique climatic conditions.

The species introduced in the experimental plot include Juniper, Russian Olive, Black Currant,

Grapes, Tea Plants, Papaya and selected fruit trees. Additionally, ten Asafoetida (Hing) plants have also been introduced on a pilot basis to assess their suitability for cultivation in Ladakh. The initiative aims to evaluate growth and survival rates, assess environmental impacts, support climate adaptation strategies, promote sustainable horticulture and generate valuable knowledge for future plantation programmes in the region.

Speaking on the occasion, L-G Shri Saxena appreciated the contribution

of Thiksey Monastery towards environmental conservation and said that such a large-scale plantation would help enrich biodiversity, improve ecological stability, and contribute to the creation of a green and sustainable corridor along the Indus River for future generations.

L-G Shri Saxena also highlighted the potential of Asafoetida cultivation in Ladakh, observing that the region's high-altitude cold desert conditions are suitable for the crop, which requires relatively less water and can provide significant economic returns to farmers.

He stated that if the pilot experiment proves successful, farmers in Ladakh would be trained in Hing cultivation in the future, thereby ensuring their financial sustainability.

Since assuming office as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, Shri Saxena has spearheaded extensive greening initiatives across the region and has personally led the plantation of more than 35,000 saplings in different parts of the Union Territory.

DC Bandipora chairs DLRC, DCC meeting

BANDIPORA, JUNE 05: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Friday chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2026 at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

The meeting reviewed the performance of banks operating in the district during the financial year 2025-26, with discussions focusing on credit flow, financial inclusion, implementation of social security schemes, digital banking, and progress under the Annual Credit Plan.

During the meeting, Lead District Manager Bandipora presented a detailed overview of the banking sector's

performance in the district. He informed the chair that banks had organised around 317 awareness camps during the year to promote various government schemes and improve financial literacy among the public.

The progress achieved under social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY), was also reviewed.

The meeting was informed that J&K Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI), Bandipora, achieved 105 percent of its training target and recorded 116 percent achievement in credit linkage during FY 2025-26.

It was further informed that banks in the district achieved a Credit-Deposit Ratio (CDR) of 96 percent, with deposits amounting to Rs 2,124.49 crore and advances reaching Rs 2,032.50 crore up to the quarter ending March 2026.

Regarding credit flow, banks registered an overall achievement of 84 percent during FY 2025-26, including 79 percent achievement under the priority sector and 88 percent under the non-priority sector, with total credit disbursement of Rs 1,348.71 crore.

The meeting also held detailed discussions on the implementation of PMEGP and other credit-linked schemes being implemented by various departments.

World Environment Day celebrated across Pulwama with enthusiastic Public Participation

PULWAMA, JUNE 05:

World Environment Day was celebrated across Pulwama today with a series of awareness, plantation and community outreach activities organised by various departments, educational institutions and Panchayati Raj Institutions under the theme "Inspired by Nature: For Climate, For Our Future."

The programmes were aimed at promoting environmental conservation, sustainable development and collective responsibility towards protecting natural resources and combating climate change.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports organised a range of activities across the district, including plantation drives, awareness rallies and nature walks. Students, youth and



officials actively participated in sapling plantation campaigns and awareness marches to spread the message of environmental protection and encourage eco-friendly practices among the public.

The main function of the

Department of Youth Services and Sports was organised at CB Nath, where students, officials and members of civil society participated in a plantation drive and environmental awareness activities. Participants planted saplings and

organised an awareness march/padyatra, spreading the message of environmental conservation, ecological sustainability and the need to preserve natural resources for future generations.

Meanwhile, Educational institutions across the district observed the day with great enthusiasm by organising environmental awareness programmes, pledge-taking ceremonies, seminars, debates, essay writing and drawing competitions, quizzes, cleanliness drives and plantation activities. Students highlighted the importance of environmental conservation, biodiversity protection, waste management, sustainable lifestyles and climate action through speeches, creative presentations and awareness campaigns.