

Satish advocates affordable healthcare, world-class facilities, holistic cancer research

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 06

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Transport, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today emphasized the need for affordable healthcare, strengthened medical research so that people get medical facilities at par with global standards.

The Minister was speaking during the National Cancer Survivors Day at the American Oncology Institute, Batra Hospital, where he interacted with the cancer survivors, healthcare professionals, researchers and medical experts.

Commending the courage and resilience of cancer survivors, Satish Sharma said their journey serve as an inspiration for the society. He underlined the importance of strengthening the healthcare systems capable of providing timely and effective treatment.

The Minister stressed the need to make quality healthcare and advanced medical facilities more affordable and accessible to the people from all sections of society. He observed that rising healthcare costs often place significant financial burdens on families and called for sustained efforts to ensure that modern treatment facilities reach every citizen without economic hardship.

Satish Sharma also advocated for a more holistic approach to medical research,



particularly in the field of cancer care, emphasizing the integration of scientific innovation, preventive healthcare, early diagnosis, nutrition, mental well-being and community awareness.

The Minister said that advancements in science and technology must be effectively leveraged to improve patient outcomes and strengthen healthcare delivery systems across the region.

Later, Satish Sharma attended a public meeting at Chowki Choura, where he highlighted the immense developmental potential of the region. He underscored the government's commitment to ensure balanced growth across rural and border areas. He emphasized that strengthening in-

rastructure, improving connectivity, expanding educational opportunities and creating employment avenues remain key priorities for accelerating socio-economic progress in the area.

The Minister said that enhanced road and railway connectivity can act as a catalyst for economic transformation by facilitating trade, boosting tourism, improving access to markets and attracting investment.

He reiterated the importance of developing railway infrastructure in the Akhnoor-Kaleeth-Dori Dager belt, stating that such projects would open new avenues for growth and significantly improve the quality of life for local residents.

Satish Sharma further stressed the need to harness

the region's human resource potential through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, digital empowerment and sports-related initiatives. He said that sustained investments in infrastructure, technology, education, healthcare and youth development would help create a vibrant and self-reliant economy while ensuring that the benefits of development reach every household.

The Minister also called for continued collaboration between the government, local communities and other stakeholders to realize the vision of a prosperous, connected and progressive Jammu and Kashmir capable of meeting the aspirations of future generations.

JU Marks World Environment Day with Plantation Drive and Biodiversity Conservation Initiative

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The Department of Journalism and Media Studies, in collaboration with the Department of Zoology, University of Jammu, organized a plantation drive and biodiversity conservation activities at the University's Zoological Park to commemorate World Environment Day. The initiative was undertaken to promote environmental stewardship, community engagement, and experiential learning in line with the vision of the University's Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Umesh Rai who himself is a distinguished academic from the discipline of Zoology, has always emphasized that the role of higher educational institutions should extend beyond the dissemination of knowledge and focus on nurturing social consciousness, environmental responsibility, and the values of responsible citizenship among students.

The programme witnessed the enthusiastic participation of nearly 200 students from PSPS Government Degree College, Gandhi Nagar, and GGM Science College, Jammu. The students are currently undergoing training under the Summer Internship Programme being conducted by the Department of Journalism and Media Studies in accordance with the University Grants Commission (UGC) Internship Guidelines. As part of the initiative, the interns planted saplings across the Zoological Park and installed artificial bird nests, demonstrating their commitment to biodiversity



conservation and environmental sustainability.

To further encourage environmental awareness, the Department of Zoology also organized a quiz competition and a slogan-writing competition focusing on environmental conservation and environmental journalism. These activities provided students with an opportunity to engage critically with contemporary environmental challenges, conservation strategies, and the role of media in promoting public awareness.

Addressing the participants, Head of the Department of Zoology, Prof. Seema Langer, highlighted that environmental conservation is a shared societal responsibility. She observed that plantation drives, biodiversity conservation measures, and wildlife-friendly initiatives play a vital role in strengthening ecological balance while fostering environmental awareness among the younger generation.

Head of the Department of Journalism and Media

Studies, Prof. Dushyant Kumar Rai, stated that the Summer Internship Programme aims to expose students to meaningful real-world experiences beyond the classroom. He noted that participation in environmental and community-based initiatives enables students to develop a deeper understanding of responsible communication, social engagement, and public-interest journalism. He further emphasized that such activities help students establish a meaningful connection with nature while cultivating a socially responsive outlook.

Appreciating the efforts of the student interns, Prof. Pankaj Kumar from the Department of Zoology remarked that even small collective actions can act as catalysts for long-term positive environmental change and inspire communities to adopt sustainable practices. Dr. Sarabjeet Kour encouraged the students to embrace environmentally responsible lifestyles and remain committed to the

principles of sustainable development in their personal and professional lives. Dr. Arti Sharma highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation and urged students to actively participate in environmental protection initiatives, emphasizing that youth engagement is essential for building a greener and more sustainable future.

Among those present on the occasion were faculty members from the Department of Zoology, including, Dr. Parvinder Kumar, Dr. Amit Gupta, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Ripu Daman Parihar, Dr. Shash Pal, Dr. Pankaj Chibber, Dr. Nidhi Slathia, along with faculty members from the Department of Journalism and Media Studies, Dr. Pardeep Singh, Dr. Raviya Gupta, Dr. Kumerjit Chajgotra, and Dr. Ramiyan Bhardwaj. The faculty members encouraged students to actively contribute to environmental conservation, biodiversity enhancement, and community service initiatives.

Director Agriculture reviews Seed Recovery, Farm Production & Strengthening Measures

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Director Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare, Jammu Anil Gupta today convened a meeting of Area Development Officers (ADOs) and District Agriculture Officers (DAOs) here at the Directorate of Agriculture to review departmental activities, seed distribution, revenue realization and the implementation of ongoing agricultural programmes across the Division.

The Director reviewed the action taken on decisions of the previous meeting and progress made in pending seed recovery cases, submission of Treasury Challans and Revenue Realization Statements for the month of May 2026, verification of deposits made into official accounts and reconciliation statements pertaining to Rabi 2025-26 and Kharif 2025. District-wise progress of seed distribution under different departmental schemes was also reviewed.

Expressing concern over pending seed recoveries in certain districts, Anil Gupta directed the respective Dis-



trict Agriculture Officers and Area Development Officers to complete the task within one week. He instructed them to deposit and submit Challans of the recovered amount to the office of the Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) without any delay. The Director further directed officers to initiate strict action against defaulters who fail to deposit recoverable dues despite repeated notices and follow-up.

The Director emphasized the critical role of field-level functionaries in ensuring timely recovery and accountability. He instructed all district officers to issue clear directions to Input Assistants to personally visit seasonal stores on a regular basis, physically

verify seed stocks, monitor stock positions and ensure timely recovery of seed costs. He categorically directed that all recoveries should be made only through proper Government Receipts and that no deviations from prescribed procedures would be tolerated.

Anil Gupta also conducted a comprehensive review of the production performance of departmental farms across the division. He directed all concerned officers to prepare farm-specific action plans aimed at increasing productivity and improving the quality of seed production.

Highlighting the importance of farmer exposure and knowledge dissemina-

tion, the Director instructed the districts to organize regular farmer visits and exposure programmes at departmental farms so that farmers can directly observe improved technologies, quality seed production practices and successful crop demonstrations. He stated that such initiatives would help bridge the gap between research and field-level adoption.

The Director further directed that crop-cutting exercises and production assessments on departmental farms should be conducted in the presence of the concerned Area Development Officers to ensure transparency, accurate yield estimation and proper documentation.

ADC reviews arrangements for Shri Amarnath Yatra 2026 in Udhampur

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Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh today chaired a meeting of officers from the line departments to review arrangements being made in the district for smooth, safe and successful conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2026.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Om Parkash; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Dr. Ashwani Hansa and other district officers from the concerned departments.

A detailed review was undertaken of the arrangements along the Yatra route from Tikri to Chenani. Assessment focused on security measures, provision of safe drinking water, first-aid and medical facilities, sanitation and cleanliness, identification of accommodation sites, installation of temporary toilets, lodging facilities, appointment of



nodal officers for lodgement centres, arrangements for langars and traffic management.

The ADC issued necessary directions to the district heads of various departments to ensure foolproof arrangements well in advance. He emphasized the need for close inter-departmental coordination to finalize and implement all required measures in a timely and efficient manner.

During the meeting, JPDCL was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply along the Yatra route, while the Jal Shakti Department was asked to deploy water tankers round the clock for the convenience of the pilgrims.

The Traffic Department was instructed to ensure smooth vehicular movement throughout the Yatra period.

Stressing the importance of sanitation and cleanli-

ness at langar sites and lodgement centres, the ADC directed the Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council to install adequate dustbins and deploy vehicles for the proper collection and disposal of waste.

Chief Medical Officer was also instructed to ensure round the clock medical services, emergency response mechanisms and adequate healthcare facilities for the pilgrims during the Yatra period.

DC Ramban reviews progress under MPLADS, RDD Sector Schemes; Assesses Yatra sanitation preparedness

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting of officers to review the physical and financial progress of works being executed under the Member Parliament Local Area Development Scheme (MPLADS) and other Rural Development Department (RDD) schemes in the district.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Sheraz Ahmed; Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather; Ex-

ecutive Engineer PWD Ranjeet Singh; Executive Engineer REW, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed review of the status of ongoing works and expenditure under the schemes. He directed the engineering wings of RDD and PWD to initiate the pre-estimation exercise for works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 to ensure timely planning and execution.

Reviewing the progress under PMAY-G, the Deputy Commissioner directed all BDOs to actively guide beneficiaries and motivate them to



commence construction of their sanctioned houses. He emphasized the need for intensified field-level outreach to achieve the targets within the stipulated time frame. The ACD was directed to organize special awareness and facilitation camps across all blocks to support beneficiaries and expedite implementation of the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the sanitation plan prepared by the Rural Development Department for areas falling along the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra route from Nashri to Banihal. Stressing the importance of cleanliness and public convenience

during the Yatra period, he directed the ACD to ensure special sanitation and cleanliness drives at all designated locations.

Particular focus was laid on maintaining hygiene and sanitation at Langar sites, Yatri Niwas Chanderkote, Yatra Camp Lamber and other important locations along the route to provide a clean and welcoming environment for pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed on coordinated efforts among all departments to ensure effective implementation of developmental schemes and smooth conduct of the forthcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2026.