

Dy CM inspects Jeevan Nagar project, restoration works at Mubarak Mandi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 06

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing Digiana-Jeevan Nagar Bridge project from Sabzi Mandi Lane, Satwari Jammu and reviewed the pace and quality of work being executed on the vital infrastructural project.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the progress achieved on the ground. He directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of the bridge while maintaining the highest standards of quality. He emphasized that the project holds significant importance in improving the connectivity and easing public movement in the area.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the historic Mubarak Mandi Heritage Complex and took on-the-spot stock of the ongoing restoration and development works being carried out at the heritage site.

He reviewed the restora-



tion of the affected lawns and walls of the historic Gadadhar Temple.

He stressed the need for preserving the heritage character and cultural significance of the complex while ensuring quality execution of the restoration works.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister also took on spot stock of the availability of essential civic amenities for the local residents residing in and

around the heritage complex.

Taking note of the public concerns, he directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted drinking water supply to the residents of Andheri Gali Mohalla, Panjirthi, Mubarak Mandi and adjoining areas.

The Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards strengthening the infrastructure, preserving

heritage assets and ensuring efficient delivery of public services. He instructed the officers to work in close coordination and address the public issues in a time-bound manner.

Senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department, Public Works (R&B) Department, district administration and other concerned departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the inspections.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani

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Ahead of the annual Mela Mata Kheer Bhawani, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Saturday chaired a high-level review meeting to assess preparedness and ensure seamless arrangements for devotees visiting the revered shrine at Tulmulla, Ganderbal, as well as other prominent temple sites at Tikker (Kupwara), Manzagam and Devsar (Kulgam), and Logripora (Anantnag).

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioners of Ganderbal, Srinagar, Kupwara, Kulgam and Anantnag, along with senior officers from the Health Department, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC), Public Health Engineering (PHE), Tourism, Transport, Fire & Emergency Services, Srinagar Municipal

Corporation (SMC), Jammu & Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKSRTC), Relief and Rehabilitation Department, and Police.

Representatives of various Kashmiri Pandit organizations, including Soan Kashmir Front and Mata Kheer Bhawani Ji Yatra Welfare Society, also participated in the meeting and shared their suggestions regarding the conduct of the annual festival.

During the meeting, representatives briefed the Divisional Commissioner about the schedule of religious events and highlighted requirements relating to transportation, accommodation, tentage, mobile toilet facilities, blankets, uninterrupted power supply, drinking water, sanitation and illumination of temple premises.

Reviewing the preparedness of all departments, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to ensure uninterrupted availability of essential services, including safe drinking water, reliable

electricity, adequate transport facilities and medical aid for devotees.

He emphasized the importance of special cleanliness drives and directed the concerned departments to undertake desiltation of the canal flowing through the Tulmulla temple complex to enhance the overall ambience and provide a clean, aesthetically pleasing and spiritually enriching environment for devotees.

The Divisional Commissioner instructed Srinagar Municipal Corporation to deploy adequate mobile toilet facilities at the shrine and directed the executing agencies to expedite all ongoing works at Tulmulla well before the commencement of the mela.

Highlighting the expected influx of devotees from Jammu, Delhi and other parts of the country, he stressed the need for close coordination among all departments to facilitate smooth movement of buses and ensure timely arrival of pilgrims at their destinations.

J&K Judicial Academy begins Pre-Appointment Induction Training for newly selected Civil Judges

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JAMMU, JUNE 06

The Jammu and Kashmir Judicial Academy today commenced the Pre-Appointment Induction Training Programme for 39 newly selected Civil Judges (Junior Division) at its Srinagar campus.

The programme was inaugurated by Justice Arun Palli, Judge, Supreme Court of India, in presence of Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh; Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Governing Committee for J&K Judicial Academy and other companion Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

Delivering the inaugural address, Justice Arun Palli described the judicial service as a public trust and emphasized that trial court judges represent the face of the judiciary for most citizens.

Justice Arun Palli urged the newly selected officers to uphold the highest standards of integrity, humility and fairness, remain committed to continuous learning and strive to strengthen public confidence in the justice delivery system through their conduct and decisions.

In his special address, Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh congratulated



the newly selected officers and emphasized that judicial service demands integrity, impartiality, discipline and compassion.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar advised the participants to remain lifelong learners, maintain the highest ethical standards, embrace technology responsibly, avoid overdependence on artificial intelligence and discharge their duties fearlessly and fairly in accordance with law.

In his introductory remarks, Justice Rajnesh Oswal highlighted the significance of the transition from the Bar to the Bench and described it as a momentous milestone requiring a shift from partisan advocacy to impartial adjudication.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal reminded the participants that a judge's foremost allegiance is to the Constitution and the rule of law. He emphasized the virtues of patience, restraint, inde-

pendence and continuous learning as essential attributes of a judicial officer.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Naseer Ahmad Dar, highlighted the importance of judicial education in strengthening the justice delivery system. He informed that the induction programme has been designed to equip the newly selected officers with the knowledge, skills and ethical foundations necessary for judicial service.

Following the inaugural ceremony, the academic proceedings commenced with Session-I on "Introduction to the Training Programme Module - Background", jointly conducted by Justice Rajnesh Oswal and Justice Sanjay Parihar, Judges of the High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The session familiarized the participants with the objectives, structure and expected outcomes of the induction training pro-

gramme. It provided an overview of the professional journey that lies ahead for the newly appointed judicial officers.

Session-II of the programme was conducted by Director, J&K Judicial Academy, on "Role and Ethical Expectations of a Civil Judge (Junior Division)". The session deliberated upon the ethical responsibilities of trial court judges, courtroom discipline, judicial temperament and the need to maintain dignity, impartiality and professionalism in judicial proceedings.

In the post-lunch session, Justice Bashir Ahmad Kirmani conducted the last session of the day on "Foundations of Judicial Ethics". During the session, he highlighted the significance of ethics as the foundation of both personal and professional life, emphasizing that judicial ethics constitutes the cornerstone of a judge's conduct.

Stressing the vital importance of judicial independence, Justice Bashir Kirmani observed that true independence emanates from an individual's conscience and moral integrity, enabling judges to discharge their duties impartially and without external influence. The session underscored that judicial independence is not merely a matter of personal freedom but a solemn responsibility to uphold ethical values, fairness and the rule of law in the administration of justice.

DDC Bandipora reviews CSR Projects

BANDIPORA, JUNE 06: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of works approved under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26.

Emphasizing the timely implementation of development projects, the DDC directed all concerned departments to expedite expenditure, maintain the pace of execution, and ensure that all approved works are completed within the stipulated timelines. She stressed the need for regular monitoring and inter-departmental coordination so that the benefits of

these projects reach the public at the earliest. During the meeting, it was informed that 15 works amounting to ₹2.72 crore have been approved under the CSR Action Plan for the financial year 2025-26. Of these, eight works pertain to the Health Department, two to the Education Department, one to the Youth Services & Sports Department, two to the R&B Department, one to the PHE Department, and one to the Disaster Management Department.

Taking a department-wise review of the projects, Indu Kanwal Chib underscored the importance of timely utilization of funds and directed officers to avoid delays in execution.

Reviewing the education sector works, the Chief Education Officer informed the meeting that tenders for the approved projects have already been issued and that work is expected to commence shortly. The DDC directed the concerned executing agency to complete the construction of the toilet block at Government Boys Middle School, Lonpora Mantrigam, by 20 June. She also instructed the Education Department to complete the auction process of the old school building of Government Middle School, Mantrigam, by 15 June, ensuring that all formalities are finalized within the prescribed time-frame.

CS reviews progress of health sector reforms in J&K

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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress achieved under the Health Sector Reforms being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir over the past couple of years.

The meeting examined reforms aimed at strengthening tertiary and secondary healthcare services, expanding medical education, enhancing digital health infrastructure and improving access to specialized treatment facilities across the healthcare facilities of the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Health & Medical Education was attended by Director, SKIMS; MD, NHM; CEO, SHA; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu representatives from AIIMS Jammu, SMVDIME and other senior officers associated with the healthcare sector.

During the review, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the significant strides made in establishing collaborative institutional frameworks among Government Medical Colleges, SKIMS, AIIMS Jammu and other healthcare institutions for strengthening specialty and super-specialty services, capacity building, academic collaboration, research initiatives and

digital healthcare delivery.

While reviewing the progress achieved under the health sector reforms programme, the Chief Secretary emphasized that every tertiary care institution in Jammu and Kashmir should strive towards establishing and strengthening critical care, trauma care and emergency medicine services, observing that these areas are among the most significant determinants of quality patient care and healthcare outcomes.

He further directed that the benefits of the reform process should not remain confined to the newly established Government Medical Colleges alone. He called for inclusion of District Hospitals and Sub-District Hospitals, particularly in those areas where no Government Medical College exists, so that healthcare upgradation reaches all regions of the Union Territory in a balanced and equitable manner. He observed that future interventions should be planned according to the strengths, requirements and service potential of each healthcare institution.

The Chief Secretary assured the department of full administrative and financial support for viable and impactful healthcare initiatives and encouraged the officers to proactively formulate innovative proposals aimed at improving patient care, medical education and healthcare delivery across Jammu and Kashmir.

Highlighting the growing role



of technology in healthcare, he directed the department to expand the ambit of Virtual Medical Boards to cover more specialties and institutions. He also called for the introduction of Grand Rounds, virtual academic sessions and online teaching platforms in peripheral healthcare institutions to facilitate continuous professional development, strengthen specialist support and improve clinical outcomes.

The Chief Secretary further advised the department to establish a clearly defined Roles, Responsibilities and Accountability Framework across healthcare institutions so that responsibilities at every level are well delineated and measurable. He stressed the need for instituting a robust Monitoring, Evaluation and Review Mechanism supported by information technology platforms to facilitate real-time assessment of healthcare services, patient utilization patterns and institu-

tional performance across the Union Territory.

Calling for a forward-looking approach, the Chief Secretary directed the Health & Medical Education Department to identify measurable milestones and targets for the next six months, one year and two years in the areas of healthcare services, medical education and research.

He also emphasized the need for making concerted efforts towards enhancement of MBBS, postgraduate and super-specialty seats across medical colleges to ensure optimal utilization of the infrastructure and human resources created under the health sector reforms programme.

Regarding the expansion of undergraduate and postgraduate medical education the Commissioner Secretary, H&ME, M.Raju revealed that proposals have been submitted for enhancement of 300 MBBS seats, 243 MD/MS seats, 64



DM/MCh super-specialty seats and additional DNB seats across various medical institutions. He added that several proposals have already undergone inspection and approval processes with the National Medical Commission and other regulatory bodies.

The Commissioner Secretary further apprised that Tele-MANAS and tele-psychiatry services have been made operational in major institutions, while de-addiction and mental health facilities have been significantly expanded.

He divulged that a comprehensive three-tier Substance Use Disorder (SUD) service delivery framework has also been devised to strengthen prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and community-based support systems throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

It was given out by the Director, SKIMS, Dr Ashraf Ganai that the constitution of the J&K Research Consortium has been

constituted at the Institute aimed at promoting collaborative research among SKIMS, Government Medical Colleges and AIIMS Jammu. The consortium is expected to strengthen medical research, innovation and evidence-based policy formulation in the healthcare sector in the days to come, he informed.

Earlier on Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) gave a detailed presentation about several reforms executed across the healthcare facilities of the UT.

He gave out that multiple Virtual Medical Boards have already been conducted in disciplines such as Neurology, Psychiatry, Obstetrics & Gynaecology, Anaesthesiology, Surgery and Community Medicine.

Moreover he apprised the meeting that the Tele-ICU facilities are proposed to be established in seven new Government Medical Colleges under a hybrid hub-and-spoke model to strengthen critical care services across the UT.

Similarly, he made out that the process for establishing Tele-Radiology services is underway to ensure timely specialist radiological support to healthcare institutions in remote and underserved areas, he added.

The Head IMHANS Srinagar, Dr Arshid Dada threw light on the roadmap for expansion and

augmentation of drug de-addiction services and the efforts made towards training over 3,200 grassroots-level workers under the proposed "Circle of Care" programme. He elaborated that the initiative aims to create a community-based support network for early identification, counselling, referral and rehabilitation of individuals affected by substance use disorders.

Reviewing the initiatives undertaken in the field of food safety, the Chief Secretary was informed about strengthening of regulatory and enforcement mechanisms, expansion of laboratory infrastructure, capacity building of field staff and enhanced public awareness campaigns.

He was apprised that more than 1,700 food safety cases were adjudicated during the last financial year, resulting in penalties exceeding Rs 1.67 Cr, while significant progress has been achieved towards laboratory modernization and expansion of testing capabilities.

The meeting further deliberated upon upcoming initiatives in the areas of mental health, liver transplant services and strengthening of dental healthcare services. It was informed that collaboration with premier institutions has been initiated to establish advanced liver and biliary care services in Jammu and Kashmir and to further augment specialty healthcare delivery here in the health facilities of the UT.