

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Ensure quality, timely execution of projects: Dy Chief Minister to officers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 10

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today conducted an extensive tour of Bandipora district to inspect and review the progress of several key developmental projects being executed in the district.

The Deputy Chief Minister was accompanied by MLA Bandipora, Nizamud-Din Bhat and MLA Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone.

During the visit, the Deputy Chief Minister emphasized the need for timely and speedy execution of works while maintaining quality standards to ensure that the projects are completed within stipulated timelines and dedicated to the people at the earliest.

The Deputy Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction work on the 1x20-metre double-lane composite bridge at Naninara, Sumbal and reviewed the pace of progress on the ground. He directed the exe-

cuting agencies to ensure strict adherence to the set quality parameters and expedite work for its timely completion.

During the tour, he also visited the Sumbal Foot Bridge near the Shrine of Ahmad Sahib Naninara. He assured the local residents that the long-pending project would be taken up on priority in view of its importance for the public convenience and connectivity.

At Garoora Bridge, the Deputy Chief Minister assessed the status of ongoing works. He instructed the concerned officials to accelerate construction activities while maintaining the quality standards so that the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Reviewing the progress of the car parking facility at Gulshan Chowk, Main Market Bandipora, he observed that the project would significantly help in easing traffic congestion and improving parking management in the busy market area, benefiting the traders

and visitors alike.

The Deputy Chief Minister also inspected the Girls Hostel and Composite Building at Nadim Memorial Higher Secondary School, Kaloosa. He stressed the importance of creating quality educational infrastructure to provide students with a conducive learning environment.

While inspecting the Sopore-Bandipora Road, he reviewed the condition of the stretch and directed officials to expedite the ongoing works to improve road connectivity, commuter safety and overall travel convenience.

Addressing a public gathering at a Stone Quarry site at Gund Saderkote, Surinder Choudhary assured the people that all their genuine demands and grievances would be taken up with the concerned authorities for appropriate action.

He reiterated the government's commitment to safeguarding public interests while ensuring balanced

and sustainable development.

The Deputy Chief Minister also met a deputation at Kaloosa Bridge, patiently listened to their concerns and developmental demands. He assured them that all their genuine issues would be pursued with the concerned departments for prompt redress.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister issued directions for construction of new Bridge on Bandipora-Sopore road and released funds of Rs 1.2 crore for the project.

"All executing agencies and concerned departments should ensure speedy work execution, maintain quality standards and complete the projects in a time-bound manner so that their benefits reach the people without delay," he said.

Senior Officers from the district administration Bandipora, Engineering Wings and other departments accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister.

Arrangements for Sudhmahadev Mela reviewed at Udhampur

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Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh today convened a meeting of officers of various departments at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex Udhampur, to discuss arrangements for the smooth conduct of the three-day Sudhmahadev Mela.

Among those present were Assistant Commis-

sioner Revenue Dr Umesh Shan, other senior officers and representatives of the mela committee.

Detailed discussions were held on security, sanitation, healthcare, transport, traffic management, drinking water, power supply, installation of departmental stalls, road maintenance and rate checking.

Addressing the meeting, the ADC directed all district officers to work in coordination to finalise necessary arrangements well before

the commencement of the mela. He urged local mela committee members to actively contribute to its success, noting that public participation is vital for promoting tourism and the local economy.

Tehsildar Chenani was appointed as Mela Officer and directed to take stock of all arrangements.

Executive Engineer PHE was directed to make adequate arrangements for drinking water supply at the mela site, while Executive

Engineer PDD was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the mela.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to deploy a medical team for first aid services. District Police will deploy adequate security personnel and ARTO will deploy sufficient buses from different locations.

Officers were also directed to install departmental stalls to generate awareness about government schemes.

DC Kathua chairs review meeting of revenue officers on Digitized Jamabandi-2026, Water Census and other assignments

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a review meeting of revenue officers to assess the progress of various assignments being implemented by the Revenue Department, including Digitized Jamabandi-2026, Irrigation Census and Water Census.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahima Madan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Vishav Par-tap Singh, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Tehsildars and other officers concerned.

At the outset, the Assistant Commissioner Rev-

enue presented a detailed overview of the status of ongoing assignments entrusted to the Revenue Department. He apprised the Deputy Commissioner of progress under the Water Census, including the enumeration and documentation of water bodies, assessment of groundwater resources and updation of related records. He further briefed the meeting on the progress of finalisation of Digitized Jamabandi-2026, verification of mutation entries and the corrective measures being undertaken to ensure accuracy and updation of revenue records across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed tehsil-wise progress of all assignments

and took stock of surveys, field verification and record updation being carried out by revenue functionaries. He stressed the need for accuracy, transparency and consistency in data compiled under various surveys and census-related activities.

Emphasising the importance of modernisation of land records and reliable database management, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers to expedite digitisation and ensure timely completion of all pending tasks. He underscored that accurate and updated records are essential for efficient public service delivery and effective governance.

He also instructed officers

to intensify field-level monitoring and complete all surveys and verification exercises within the stipulated timelines, directing them to strictly adhere to guidelines and deadlines prescribed by higher authorities and ensure that no target remains unattended.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all revenue officers to work with dedication and accountability to achieve the objectives of assigned tasks within the prescribed timeframe.

The meeting concluded with a discussion on the roadmap for timely completion of ongoing assignments and strategies for improving the quality and accuracy of revenue records in the district.

Agriculture Production Department holds "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" at Kathua

KATHUA, JUNE 10: The Agriculture Production Department Kathua today organised the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" awareness campaign to promote sustainable agricultural practices, protect soil health, enhance farm productivity and encourage the judicious use of agricultural inputs among the farming community.

Secretary Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department J&K Nitu Gupta inaugurated the programme as Chief Guest in the presence of Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma. The event saw participation from officers of Agriculture and allied departments, scientists from Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), progressive farmers and other stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, the Secretary underscored the importance of protecting agricultural lands and preserving soil fertility for future generations. She stressed the need to adopt scientific, climate-resilient and resource-efficient farm-

ing practices and urged farmers to actively participate in government initiatives aimed at improving agricultural productivity and sustainability. She also highlighted the government's commitment to promoting sustainable agriculture through farmer-centric policies.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised the collective responsibility of all stakeholders towards conservation of natural resources, sustainable agricultural development and long-term food security. He called upon farmers to make optimum use of departmental schemes, scientific advancements and modern technologies to enhance productivity, improve farm incomes and promote environmentally sustainable farming.

During the technical session, KVK Kathua Head Dr Vishal Mahajan highlighted the role of scientific interventions and innovative technologies in improving farm productivity and prof-

itability. He stressed the importance of integrated crop management, efficient resource utilisation and climate-smart agriculture in addressing emerging challenges in the sector.

Joint Director Soil and Land Use Survey and Planning (SLUB) Jammu Aman Jyoti elaborated on the objectives and significance of the "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" and called for coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to safeguard soil health and strengthen agricultural ecosystems.

Chief Agriculture Officer Kathua Jatinder Kumar Khajuria highlighted the significance of the campaign in ensuring long-term agricultural sustainability. He elaborated on the importance of Good Agricultural Practices (GAPs), balanced use of fertilisers, integrated disease and pest management, soil health management and the adoption of smart agricultural technologies.

He also sensitised partici-

pants about the National Mission on Natural Farming and emphasised the need to reduce dependency on chemical inputs while promoting eco-friendly farming.

Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Kathua Dr Jugal Kishore apprised participants of various schemes and initiatives being implemented by the department for farmer welfare and the promotion of integrated farming systems. He emphasised the importance of livestock-based interventions in strengthening rural livelihoods and enhancing farmers' income.

An interactive session was also held during which farmers raised queries related to soil health management, crop protection, natural farming and modern agricultural practices. Experts and scientists addressed the queries and provided practical guidance.

District Agriculture Officer (Extension) Kathua Raj Singh presented the vote of thanks.

Capacity Building Programme for J&K Accounts Service Probationary Officers concludes at NZATI Jammu

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JAMMU, JUNE 10

A two-day Capacity Building Programme for Probationary Officers of the J&K Accounts Service, jointly organised by The Business School University of Jammu and the Northern Zonal Accountancy Training Institute (NZATI) Jammu, concluded today at NZATI Jammu.

The second day commenced with a session on Organisational Behaviour

and Human Resource Dynamics by Prof. Jaya Bhasin, who emphasised effective leadership, team building, motivation and people-centric management practices in public administration. The second session, on Artificial Intelligence in Governance and Administration, was delivered by AI Educator and Branding Consultant Sumit Khajuria, who introduced participants to emerging AI tools and demonstrated their applications in en-

hancing administrative efficiency, decision-making, data analysis and citizen-centric service delivery. Jasleen Kour of Branding Elves conducted an interactive session on Professional Communication and Presentation Skills, focusing on public speaking, presentation techniques, stakeholder engagement and professional conduct.

The programme concluded with a Valedictory Session and Certificate Distribution Ceremony during

which participants reflected on key learnings and received certificates for successful completion of the training.

On the occasion, Director Finance and Principal NZATI Rajesh Talwar presented a token of appreciation to the team from The Business School University of Jammu, represented by Director Prof. Amisha Gupta and Associate Professor Dr Farah Choudhary, in recognition of their contribution to the programme.

CS gives shape to a Comprehensive Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Framework for Drug Abuse Victims

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10: In a major step towards strengthening the fight against substance abuse and ensuring long-term recovery of affected individuals, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo gave shape to a comprehensive Rehabilitation and Socio-Economic Reintegration Framework for victims of drug abuse, aimed at facilitating their successful reintegration into society through a structured rehabilitation cycle.

The proposed framework was discussed in detail during a high-level meeting attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Commissioner Secretary, School Education Department; Secretary, Skill Development Department; Director Colleges; Head of IMHANS Srinagar; SIO, NIC and other concerned officers.

The proposed framework seeks to move beyond conventional detoxification and treatment by adopting a holistic approach that combines medical care, psychosocial support, education, skill development, employment opportunities and sustained monitoring to prevent relapse and promote social sta-

bility.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary outlined the comprehensive strategy envisioned by the Government to address the growing challenge of substance abuse through a coordinated, treatment-to-reintegration approach based upon the Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) for each of the victim as per his customized requirements.

He emphasized that the framework should be adopted forthwith on a pilot basis through IMHANS Srinagar and one additional district to identify operational challenges and fine-tune the model before its large-scale implementation across the Union Territory.

Elaborating on the proposed mechanism, the Chief Secretary observed that each Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) should function through a collaborative support system comprising trained Counsellors and Psychiatrists from the Health Department an ASHA Worker, and a Social Worker designated by the Social Welfare Department.

He stated that the ASHA Worker would play a vital role in ensuring adherence to treatment protocols by assisting beneficiaries in taking prescribed medicines regularly and facili-

tating timely follow-up consultations making home visits.

The Chief Secretary further stressed that the Social Worker would serve as the critical link between treatment and rehabilitation by motivating recovering individuals towards stabilization, rehabilitation and their eventual reintegration into the socio-economic mainstream.

He noted that beneficiaries could be linked with self-employment initiatives, livelihood-generation programmes and various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, besides being encouraged to resume their education for those who had left these midway, thereby ensuring long-term recovery and self-reliance under continuous monitoring and support.

Highlighting the need for community participation, the Chief Secretary also advocated the creation of an additional support network comprising trained counsellors drawn from Self Help Groups (SHGs), educational institutions and health centres to strengthen outreach, counselling and follow-up mechanisms and transform the initiative into a sustainable and successful model of rehabilitation.

Speaking on the occasion, Ad-

ditional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, assured full support from the Finance Department for successful implementation of the initiative.

He advised the Social Welfare Department to further refine the framework to make it more realistic, outcome-oriented and beneficial for the affected individuals, ensuring tangible socio-economic gains for those undergoing rehabilitation.

The scheme as elaborated by the Principal Secretary, Home, Chandraker Bharti is designed around six key objectives, including institutionalizing a structured rehabilitation cycle, ensuring seamless transition from detoxification to socio-economic stabilization, reducing relapse rates through continuous care and monitoring, establishing mentor-led handholding for beneficiaries, promoting inter-departmental convergence and preventing premature exit before certified stabilization.

Elaborating it further the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez revealed that under the framework, rehabilitation shall be undertaken through three distinct phases spanning over a period of time.

He divulged that the first phase, Treatment and Stabilization focuses on centralized intake, assessment, detoxification, clinical evaluation and risk categorization of beneficiaries. Cases referred from government-recognized de-addiction centres will undergo comprehensive assessment by authorized psychiatric professionals.

Additionally based on risk levels, beneficiaries will receive appropriate supervision and support. The Department shall prepare preliminary Individual Reintegration Plans (IRPs) covering educational, social and economic rehabilitation needs. The District Task Force will review these plans and assign dedicated mentors to each beneficiary.

The second phase, as elucidated includes Reintegration and Livelihood Activation, which focuses on socio-economic activation and implementation of approved Individual Reintegration Plans. Beneficiaries will be connected with education, skill development programmes, apprenticeships, employment opportunities and livelihood interventions.

The third phase, Sustained Monitoring and Social Inclusion, will concentrate on long-

term retention, community acceptance and sustained socio-economic stability. Beneficiaries will continue receiving support to maintain educational pursuits, employment, entrepreneurship initiatives, family relationships and mental well-being.

A key feature of the proposed framework is the institution of mentor-led handholding, whereby each beneficiary will be assigned a dedicated mentor responsible for continuous guidance, coordination with departments, monitoring of progress and facilitating access to opportunities and support systems.

Moreover these designated mentors will conduct periodic physical, telephonic and digital follow-ups to verify progress and provide continued guidance.

The framework also emphasizes strong interdepartmental convergence, bringing together multiple departments and stakeholders to ensure seamless delivery of services and benefits required for the rehabilitation process.

During the meeting, Head, IMHANS Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Arshid Hussain, presented the proposed treatment and rehabilitation framework, highlighting evidence-based protocols and

best practices required for ensuring the success of the initiative.

He elaborated on the institution's three-tier "Circle of Care" model, detailing the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders involved in the rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration process as per the IRP model.

Prof. Hussain also outlined a comprehensive capacity-building roadmap for the personnel associated with the programme and informed the meeting about the series of training programmes proposed to be conducted by IMHANS Srinagar.

These trainings, he noted, would equip the concerned functionaries with the requisite skills and knowledge for effective implementation of the framework and facilitate the timely operationalization of all components of the strategy.

By integrating treatment, livelihood generation, social inclusion and continuous monitoring into a single structured framework, the Government aims to significantly reduce relapse rates, enhance recovery outcomes and empower recovering individuals to lead productive, dignified and self-reliant lives.