

## DC Shopian Presides over Block Diwas at Methwani Behak, Sarbal Devpora

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 10

In a major push towards responsive governance and redressal of issues and concerns raised by members of the tribal community during a public interaction programme at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today presided over a Block Diwas programme at Methwani Behak, an alpine meadows on the upper reaches of Sarbal Devpora area.

An appreciable number of members of the tribal community comprising

also the nomadic people attended the block diwas. The DC interacted with the community members and listened to public issues.

The issues raised by the local public of the area include matters related to the Forest Rights Act (FRA) including community rights on grazing, animal vaccination and healthcare services, school infrastructure and rural development works at Devpora and Shadab Karewa, social welfare and pension schemes entitlements and other issues relating to the benefit of local tribal, pastoral community.

Besides, the core issues raised during the interac-

tion centered around the augmentation of water supply, uninterrupted electricity supply, health-care facilities and coverage of local population under various Welfare and employment schemes.

To ensure swift action, senior sectoral district heads were present to respond directly to public concerns and note the demands for action.

Addressing the gathering, the DC emphasized the importance of block diwas as an effective platform for direct engagement and grievance redressal, enabling citizens to bring their concerns before the district

administration.

He directed concerned officers to ensure timely resolution of genuine issues and maintain close coordination with the public.

He assured the public about the on-time resolution of highlighted issues.

ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik; ACD, Muzafar Ahmad; Dy.CEO, DIO, LDM, Exen KPDC, Tehsildar Shopian, BDO Shopian and Keller, other senior officers of the district administration, ex PRI members, public representatives and a large number of local residents attended the programme.

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Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal today chaired a Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Ghar Kari Ghuraka, Panchayat Kari Chatra, Block Bhalla, providing a platform for direct interaction between the administration and the public. The programme saw active participation from PRI representatives, prominent citizens, women, youth and officials from various departments.

During the programme, the public raised several demands and grievances pertaining to basic infrastructure and public services. Key issues included drinking water scarcity, damaged electricity poles in Kari and surrounding areas, construction of the Chatra-Kari road, completion of the Drana-Ghuraka road, pending work on the Cheka-Ghuraka road, shortage of teachers in Government High School Chatra, Higher Secondary School Ghuraka, UPS Charota and Middle School Kari, absence of a Headmaster at Government High School Chatra, fencing of schools to protect them from stray animals, repair of school washrooms and sanitation facilities, MGNREGA-related issues, water supply problems in Santhapani Ghuraka and Sengoi Panchayat, shortage of healthcare staff including a Staff Nurse at Health Centre Ghuraka and the need for awareness camps on government welfare

schemes.

The public also demanded the establishment of a J&K Bank branch in the area and sought regular outreach by the Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Social Welfare Departments to educate people about welfare and subsidy schemes.

Taking serious note of the issues, the Deputy Commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to the departments concerned. He directed the Public Works Department (PWD) to expedite all ongoing road projects and take strict action against non-performing contractors, instructing that contractors who have abandoned works be black-listed, their contracts terminated and such contractors barred from future government works.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to immediately repair the damaged Santhapani water pipeline and ensure timely completion of all ongoing water supply projects, with priority resolution of water supply issues in affected villages.

The Education Department was directed to address the shortage of teachers, repair school washrooms and kitchens and improve educational infrastructure. The Deputy Commissioner also emphasised the adoption of online teaching methods to address academic challenges in remote areas. The Assistant Commissioner (Development) was directed to address issues related to

school fencing and playground facilities, particularly at UPS Charota.

The Power Development Department (PDD) was instructed to survey damaged electricity poles in Kari Chatra and adjoining areas, submit a detailed report and undertake immediate repair and replacement works.

The Social Welfare Department was directed to organise awareness camps on welfare schemes and identify all eligible beneficiaries for pension schemes to ensure that benefits reach deserving citizens.

The Agriculture Department was instructed to conduct regular awareness programmes on government-sponsored schemes. The Animal Husbandry Department was directed to educate farmers about subsidy and livestock development schemes and prepare a schedule for regular panchayat visits. The Sheep Husbandry Department was directed to ensure roster-based availability of officials and conduct field visits at least twice a week to provide services and guidance to livestock rearers.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to organise regular health and awareness camps, ensure roster-based deployment of doctors, address the shortage of healthcare staff including the requirement of a Staff Nurse at Ghuraka and prepare a schedule for mobile medical units to extend healthcare services to remote areas.

The Health Department

was also directed to undertake health screening drives and strengthen efforts under the TB Mukh Bharat Campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner urged the public to register grievances on the JK Samadhan Portal for prompt and transparent redressal. He also sensitised the gathering about the Nasha Mukh Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan and called upon people to actively support the campaign by spreading awareness against drug abuse and encouraging affected individuals to seek rehabilitation and counselling services.

The Deputy Commissioner later inspected Government Higher Secondary School Ghuraka, where he reviewed educational infrastructure, availability of teaching staff, sanitation facilities and other basic amenities, directing officers concerned to address deficiencies on priority and ensure a conducive learning environment for students.

He reiterated the administration's commitment to responsive governance and assured the public that all genuine issues raised during the programme would be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Among those present were ADC Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, PO ICDS Doda Akhtar Hussain Qazi, CPO Doda Manesh Kumar Manhas, district officers, public representatives, PRI members, former Sarpanches and a large gathering of local residents.

## MLA Shagun hails Rs 2.47 cr administrative approval for Restoration of Raghunath temple at Kishtwar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 10

MLA Kishtwar Shagun Parihar has warmly welcomed the accord of Administrative Approval amounting to ₹2.47 crore for the revival and restoration of the historic Raghunath Ji Temple, Kishtwar, by the Directorate of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, Jammu & Kashmir.

Shagun Parihar while expressing gratitude to the government and concerned department for sanctioning the project, described the approval as a landmark step towards preserving Kishtwar's rich cultural, religious and architectural heritage. She stated that the restoration of the centuries-old temple will not only help to conserve an important heritage structure but will also promote religious tourism and enhance awareness about the re-



gion's glorious historical legacy.

MLA congratulated the people of Kishtwar on the approval of this long-pending demand and said that the restoration of Raghunath Ji Temple will strengthen the cultural identity of the region. She expressed hope that the restoration work would be undertaken and completed in a time-bound manner while preserving the temple's original heritage character and architectural significance.

Reaffirming her commitment towards the development of Kishtwar,

Shagun Parihar stated that alongside infrastructure and developmental initiatives, the preservation of historical and religious landmarks remains equally important. She said that heritage conservation plays a vital role in connecting future generations with their roots, traditions and cultural values.

Meanwhile, local residents, devotees and members of civil society have expressed heartfelt gratitude to the MLA Shagun Parihar for their persistent efforts in securing the approval for the restoration of the revered shrine.

The people described the decision as a historic milestone for Kishtwar and observed that the revival of Raghunath Ji Temple would restore the grandeur of one of the region's most revered religious landmarks.

## Pakal Dul HE Project 1000 MW achieves TBM-I breakthrough

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 10

In a major step towards completion, CVPPL's prestigious, 1000 MW, Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Project, achieved first breakthrough of Head Race Tunnel-I being constructed by Tunnel Boring Machine. The Circular shaped, 7.2 meters' diameter, approx. 7.35 kilometres of underground tunnel, with 2 km of overburden (rock cover), has been successfully completed with Hard Rock Double Shield Tunnel Boring Machine in Indian Himalayas.

The historic daylighting was achieved today in the virtual presence of CMD NHPC, Shri Bhupendra Gupta, along with all Directors & Senior Officers of NHPC connected online from Corporate Office Faridabad. Managing Director-CVPPL, Shri Ramesh Mukhiya and other Senior Officers had joined online from CVPPL Corporate Office Jammu. Meanwhile, HoP- Pakal



Dul HE Project, Shri Vishal Anand and senior project officials were present on the site at Drangdhuran to witness this important milestone. Major portions of the two HRTs, from Dool to Drangdhuran, are being constructed by TBMs engaged by M/s Larsen & Tubro and a minor portion has been constructed through traditional Drilling-Blasting Method by M/s JP Associates. Notwithstanding the geological challenges in the

Chenab valley region, this largescale hydropower project is fast progressing towards its early commissioning. On this occasion, CMD-NHPC, Chairman-CVPPL & MD-CVPPL expressed their immense gratitude towards the Government of India, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for the special support provided to Pakal Dul HE Project and the Government of J&K for their continued support & cooperation in building the

Project of national importance. He added that the project will play a decisive role in establishing the CVPPL, strengthening energy security, enhancing grid stability and contributing to the socio-economic development of UT of J&K.

It may be noted that CVPPL is a Joint Venture company of NHPC Limited (A Navratna enterprise of Govt. of India with 51% share) & JKSPDC (A public sector enterprise of Govt. of J&K with 49% share).

## SKUAST-K's "Khet Bachao Abhiyan" gains momentum through doorstep Farmer Outreach in Srinagar villages

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10:

In a sustained effort to strengthen grassroots agricultural extension and promote sustainable farming practices, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Srinagar under Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) today intensified its village-level outreach under the nationwide "Khet Bachao Abhiyan", taking scientific advisories, soil health awareness, and institutional support mechanisms directly to farmers' doorsteps in the villages of Malikpora, Sheikhpura, Khanpora and Patipora of Panzina-B block Qamarwari.

The programme witnessed active participation of farmers, agricultural ex-

perts, officials from Grameen Bank, and representatives from the National Innovation Foundation (NIF), reflecting a collaborative effort to encourage environmentally sustainable farming practices and enhance farmers' access to institutional support systems.

During the programme, Dr. Shamim A. Simnani, Head, KVK Srinagar, highlighted the need for sustainable and regenerative farming practices to restore soil health and ensure long-term agricultural sustainability. He noted that excessive use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides over the years has adversely affected soil fertility and ecological balance.

The farmers were also sensitized about the bene-

fits of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme and encouraged to avail institutional credit facilities for agricultural and allied activities.

Experts interacted with farmers on balanced nutrient management, soil conservation, and eco-friendly agricultural practices.

### VC SKUAST-K holds SAC meeting of KVK Ganderbal

GANDERBAL, JUNE 10: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir's Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Ganderbal on Wednesday convened its 22nd Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting at the Kendra campus Shuhama.

The meeting was chaired by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai and was attended by Director Extension, SKUAST-K, Prof Raihana Habib Kanth, KVK scientists, district heads of line departments, agri-entrepreneurs, and progressive farmers to deliberate on scientific interventions and future strategies for strengthening the agricultural sector in the district.

Prof Ganai highlighted the Kendra's growing role in promoting region-specific agricultural innovation and entrepreneurship. Interacting with progressive farmers and agripreneurs, he urged them to dive into agriculture, agri-preneurship, and post-harvest value as there are end number of opportunities.

## Day 7 of Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament: volleyball and wrestling competitions held in Doda

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 10

The seventh day of the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament 2026 featured competitions in Volleyball (U-19 Boys) and Wrestling (U-17 and U-19) categories, bringing together student-athletes from across District Doda.

The tournament saw participation from the zones of Assar, Ghat, Gundna, Bha-

lessa, Bhagwah, Doda, Bhalla, Bhaderwah, Bhatyas and Thathri. Athletes displayed determination, discipline and sporting skill throughout the day's events.

The tournament is being organised under the guidance of Director General Youth Services and Sports J&K Anuradha Gupta and Joint Director Youth Services and Sports Jammu Inderjeet Singh Parihar and is being conducted un-

der the overall supervision of DYSSO Doda Ashok Kumar.

The Volleyball U-19 Boys matches were highly competitive, with teams demonstrating teamwork, coordination and resilience. The Wrestling competitions in the U-17 and U-19 categories highlighted the strength, technique and perseverance of young wrestlers representing different zones of the district.

The organising committee congratulated all medal winners and participants for their performances in the Wrestling Boys U-19 competition.

The competitions were officiated by technical officials from the Department of Youth Services and Sports, including PELs, PEMs, PETs, REK teachers and NYK coordinators, ensuring fair play and the smooth conduct of all events.

## Director JKEDI chairs review meeting with DNOs, ROs, In-charge officers

SRINAGAR, JUNE 10:

Director, Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Mohammad Younis Malik, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Sempora campus of the Institute to assess the progress of various entrepreneurship development and youth engagement initiatives being implemented across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Range Officers (ROs), District Nodal Officers (DNOs), and other officials, both physically and through virtual mode, from different districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, Joint Director JKEDI, Chand Kishor Sharma, presented a detailed overview of the various programmes and initiatives being implemented by the Institute, along with the achievements registered under different schemes and interventions.

A thorough review of key government initiatives, including the J&K

Start-up Policy 2024-27, Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Scheme, Mission YUVA, and various other programmes, was undertaken during the session. The progress made in loan repayment and recovery under different schemes was also discussed in detail.

Addressing the officers, the Director emphasized the need to intensify efforts towards achieving JKEDI's core objective of empowering youth through entrepreneurship awareness, orientation, and capacity building. He called upon the District Nodal Officers to further strengthen grassroots outreach and ensure greater mobilisation of aspiring entrepreneurs from all regions of the Union Territory to foster a vibrant and inclusive entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Director, JKEDI stressed the importance of enhanced coordination with allied departments, including the District Industries Centres (DICs), Handloom and Handicrafts Department,

Employment Department, Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), and other stakeholder agencies for wider outreach and effective implementation of entrepreneurship initiatives.

The Director also advised the District Nodal Officers to design Entrepreneurship Orientation Programmes (EOPs) in close alignment with district-level allied departments to help entrepreneurs effectively address real-time business challenges and sector-specific issues.

Highlighting the significance of internship programmes being conducted by the Institute, he directed that such programmes be closely monitored to ensure that interns receive structured learning experiences and meaningful industry exposure.

He further urged all officers and employees of the Institute to work in close coordination and with renewed commitment towards realizing JKEDI's vision of creating a self-reliant, innovative

## Plantation drive held at Trauma Hospital Khellani

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 10

A plantation drive was organised at Trauma Hospital Khellani under Medical Block Assar, District Doda, under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer Doda Dr Vinod Sharma and the supervision of Block Medical Officer Assar Dr Syed Mohd Ismail, with the objective of

promoting environmental conservation and creating a greener and healthier ecosystem.

Medical staff and officials planted various saplings during the drive, reaffirming their commitment to environmental protection and sustainable development. The participants also pledged to nurture and protect the saplings to ensure their healthy growth.

Speaking on the occasion, BMO Assar Dr Syed Mohd Ismail emphasised that trees are the lifeline of the environment and play a vital role in maintaining ecological balance. He stated that plantation drives are a collective responsibility towards future generations, not merely symbolic activities. He urged all healthcare workers and members of the public to actively partic-

ipate in afforestation initiatives and adopt environmentally friendly practices and highlighted that a healthy environment is essential for a healthy society.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by participants to continue supporting environmental conservation initiatives and spread awareness about the importance of tree plantation.