

CM chairs 84th Board of Directors meeting of Srinagar Development Authority



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 16

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 84th meeting of the Board of Directors of the Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting reviewed the implementation status of decisions taken in the previous Board meeting and considered a range of issues relating to urban infrastructure development, housing, organizational reforms, land management and progress in execution of various projects by the Authority.

The Board took note of the action taken report on decisions of the previous meeting, including identification of land for public infrastructure projects, progress in development initiatives, engagement of key technical personnel and other administrative measures undertaken by

strengthening institutional mechanisms and improving delivery of civic and urban services to meet the growing needs of the city. Chief Minister exhorted SDA to focus on large scale housing projects to address the housing needs of Srinagar city and also improve parking facilities in busy areas of Srinagar.

The board underlined the need for planned development of Batmaloo area and making Sangarmal Shopping Centre fully functional. The board also gave directions to develop the vacant land parcels near Sangarmal by taking up key projects at the site.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Anil Kumar Singh, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shaileendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department Mandeeep Kaur, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority and other senior officers.

Vice Chairman, Srinagar Development Authority, Shabir Hussain Bhat, presented the agenda items before the Board.

the Authority.

The meeting reviewed the status of major urban development projects being undertaken by SDA, including the proposed Satellite Township at Rakhi Gund Aksha, Bemina, development of commercial assets, housing projects and other infrastructure initiatives aimed at improving urban facilities in Srinagar.

Referring to the proposed Satellite Township at Rakhi Gund Aksha and other upcoming housing projects, the Chief Minister underscored the importance of creating well-planned, aesthetically appealing and livable urban spaces. He stressed that housing development should incorporate adequate civic and social infrastructure, including schools, parks, playgrounds, shopping facilities and other essential amenities, while ensuring quality landscaping and attractive surroundings that

enhance the overall urban environment.

The Board also discussed measures for strengthening institutional capacity of the Authority, formulation of recruitment rules, implementation of welfare measures for employees and steps for improving planning and development activities.

The proposal relating to revision and implementation of Srinagar Master Plan, preparation of zonal development plans, management of commercial assets, development of public infrastructure and budget estimates of the Authority were reviewed during the meeting.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the need for transparent, efficient and sustainable urban development, directing that all projects be implemented in a time-bound manner while ensuring adherence to planning norms and public interest. He stressed the importance of

PM SVANidhi Mahotsav held at Samba

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The District Administration Samba organised a district-level PM SVANidhi Mahotsav under the PM SVANidhi Scheme at Community Hall New Bus Stand Samba to promote financial inclusion, self-employment and welfare of street vendors.

Member of Legislative Assembly Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia attended as chief guest and underscored the government's commitment to the socio-economic upliftment of street vendors through various welfare and livelihood schemes.

The event was organised by Municipal Council Samba under the supervision of Executive Officer MC Samba Yodhranj, with participation of various departments.

A number of rehri own-



ers and street vendors participated and shared their experiences of benefits received under the scheme. Many beneficiaries expressed gratitude to the Government for financial assistance and opportunities to strengthen their livelihoods.

Several street vendors and beneficiaries were felicitated for successfully availing benefits under the

PM SVANidhi Scheme and contributing to self-employment and local economic activity.

Departmental stalls were set up by Handicrafts, Agriculture, AYUSH, Animal Husbandry and other line departments to disseminate information about government schemes, services and welfare programmes.

The event also featured a

Nukkad Natak by local artists, which generated awareness among participants about various government schemes and citizen welfare initiatives.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Samba Champa Devi Thakur, representatives of Municipal Council Samba and officers from various line departments.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates Blood Donation Camp at Jammu

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Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today inaugurated a multispecialty Health check up and Blood Donation camp at Talab Khatikan here today, reaffirming the Government's commitment towards strengthening preventive healthcare and promoting voluntary blood donation.

The Health cum Blood Donation camp was organised by Health department in collaboration with GMC Jammu. The camp provided medical examinations, health consultations and voluntary blood donation facilities, witnessing active participation from members of the public and healthcare personnel.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the significance of regular health screenings and voluntary blood donation in ensuring better health outcomes and meeting the critical requirement of safe blood for patients in need. She appreciated the efforts of the organisers, healthcare professionals and volunteers for conducting the camp and creating awareness about the importance of timely med-



ical check-ups and blood donation.

The Minister observed that such initiatives serve as an effective platform for encouraging community participation in public health programmes while fostering a spirit of social responsibility and humanitarian service. She urged citizens, particularly the youth, to come forward and actively participate in blood donation drives and adopt preventive healthcare practices.

On the occasion, Sakeena Itoo also interacted with doctors, medical staff,

blood donors and beneficiaries and reviewed the facilities put in place for health examinations and blood collection. She stressed the need for maintaining the highest standards of safety, hygiene and quality in all healthcare interventions.

Reiterating the Government's resolve to make quality healthcare accessible to all, the Minister called for sustained collaborative efforts among healthcare institutions and voluntary organisations.

Principal Govt. Medical College, Jammu,

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Director Health Services, Jammu, Dr. Poonam Sethi, Chief Medical Officer Jammu, Dr. Harbaksh Singh and other officers of health department were also present on the occasion.

During the camp ample residents and patients were provided consultation by the specialists from Health Department including Physician, Paediatrician, Dental surgeon, Medical officers along with paramedical staff and the volunteers donated blood for a noble cause.

Bandipora Admin organizes Anti-Drug Awareness Activities across Educational Institutions

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Various educational institutions across Bandipora district organized a series of awareness and creative activities under the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) campaign to sensitize students about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote a drug-free society.

At HSS Gadakhud, a morning assembly was conducted, followed by a Creative Writing Event. Students composed articles and letters highlighting the dangers of substance abuse, preventive measures, and its adverse impact on individuals and society.

Similar NMBA activities were organized at HS Panar, HS Koragbal, and HS Ketson, where students actively participated in awareness programmes designed to strengthen anti-drug messaging and encourage healthy lifestyles.

At HSS Quilmuqam, a Creative Writing Activity (Letters and Articles) along with an Anti-Drug Pledge was conducted under the



100-Day Nasha Mukta Campaign. At PM SHRI GHS Odina, a Creative Writing Activity was organized under the theme "Words Have the Power to Inspire Change." The programme was followed by the anti-drug pledge, reinforcing the campaign's message

among students.

Likewise, BHSS Alooosa organized a Creative Letter Writing Activity under the banner of NMBA, providing students with an opportunity to articulate their thoughts on the importance of staying away from drugs and promoting social

responsibility.

Meanwhile, the NCORD Cell of HKM Degree College Bandipora, under the convenership of Prof. Irfan Ahmad Wagay, organized a Poster Campaign titled "Say No to Drugs" under the banner of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

J&K Bank, DoPPW Sign MoU to Enhance Pension Services

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J&K Bank and the Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Government of India, on Tuesday signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen and expand pension-related services for Central Civil Government pensioners across Jammu and Kashmir.

The MoU was signed by J&K Bank Managing Director and CEO Amitava Chatterjee and DoPPW Joint Secretary Dhruvajyoti Sen-gupta during the 59th Pre-



Retirement Counselling Workshop and 13th Bankers' Awareness Programme at SKICC Srinagar. Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Dr. Jitendra Singh witnessed the

signing ceremony. The collaboration aims to integrate J&K Bank's pensioners' platform with DoPPW's Integrated Pensioners' Portal, enabling seamless access to pension

services through a single-window digital interface. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Jitendra Singh said the partnership would improve service delivery and help pensioners benefit from ongoing reforms with greater convenience.

J&K Bank MD & CEO Amitava Chatterjee reaffirmed the Bank's commitment to serving pensioners through technology-driven, accessible and efficient services. The workshop also focused on pension reforms, grievance redressal, digital services and financial awareness for pensioners and prospective retirees.

Director Agriculture leads Awareness Campaign under Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Srinagar

SRINAGAR, JUNE

16: Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today led an awareness campaign under the Khet Bachao Abhiyan at the Directorate Park, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

The programme, organized by Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar, Ajaz Hus-sain Dar, witnessed enthusiastic participation from officers and officials of the Agriculture Department, progressive farmers, and students, who were sensitized about the objectives of the campaign and the importance of safeguarding agricultural land for future generations.

As part of the programme, a plantation drive was also organized during which the Director Agriculture, along with officers, farmers, and students, planted saplings in the Directorate premises, reaffirming the department's commitment towards environmental conservation, ecological sustainability, and a greener future.

Addressing the gather-



ing, the Director Agriculture emphasized the need for the effective implementation of all objectives of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan. He highlighted the importance of judicious and balanced use of fertilizers to maintain soil health and ensure sustainable agricultural production. He advocated for the increased adoption of liquid fertilizers, organic manures, and natural farming practices to improve soil fertility, re-

duce dependence on chemical inputs, and promote climate-resilient agriculture.

The Director further stressed the need to create widespread awareness among farmers regarding various flagship initiatives of the Government, including the PM-KISAN Scheme and the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) programme, so that eligible farmers can avail themselves of the benefits provided under these

schemes. He urged the field functionaries to intensify outreach activities and strengthen farmer engagement at the grassroots level.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to protect agricultural land, promote sustainable farming practices, conserve natural resources, and work towards the holistic development of the agriculture sector in Kashmir.