

# Ministers conduct on-the-spot inspection of irrigation facilities across Ganderbal

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JUNE 19

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, along with Minister for Agriculture Production Department and Rural Development Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today conducted an extensive on-the-spot inspection of various areas of Ganderbal district to assess the availability of irrigation water and review the functioning of irrigation facilities across the district.

The objective of the visit was to ensure adequate water supply to the agricultural lands and addressing the concerns of farmers, particularly in tail-end areas.

The areas covered during the inspection included Warpora, Wapura, Nowbugh, Tulmulla, Waskura, Safapora, Shuhama, Buserbugh and several other localities across the district.

During the inspection, the Ministers interacted with the farmers and local residents to obtain first-hand feedback regarding irrigation facilities and water availability. Accompanied by the Chief Engineer and other senior officers of the Jal Shakti and other allied departments, they reviewed the ground situation and directed the concerned officials to immediately address all bottlenecks affecting the smooth supply of irrigation water.

Interacting with the farmers, Javed Rana emphasized that agriculture remains the backbone of



Jammu and Kashmir's economy and the primary source of livelihood for a vast section of the population. "Agriculture is the mainstay of the people across the Kashmir Valley and the welfare of our farmers remains of utmost importance for the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah. Safeguarding farmers' interests and ensuring the timely availability of irrigation water are among our foremost priorities and are committed to extend every possible support to the farming community," Rana assured.

The Minister instructed the officers to remain in the field, intensify monitoring and ensure prompt resolution of all irrigation-related issues. He emphasized that any complaint regarding water scarcity or irrigation facilities should be brought directly to his office for immediate redressal.

Rana stressed the need to optimize water-use efficiency through improved irrigation management,

enhanced monitoring of irrigation infrastructure and timely maintenance of canals and water channels. He added that while Jammu and Kashmir has immense agricultural potential, realizing higher productivity requires a co-ordinated approach involving efficient water management, better infrastructure and responsive governance. He called upon the concerned officers to remain proactive in addressing the field-level issues.

Javid Ahmad Dar, during his interaction with the farmers, observed that water is the most critical resource for agriculture and that its efficient management is essential for sustaining farm productivity and ensuring long-term agricultural growth. He assured the farming community that the government is closely monitoring the situation and that all necessary measures will be taken to ensure uninterrupted irrigation facilities and address genuine grievances without delay.

The Ministers reiterated that the welfare of farmers remains central to the government's development agenda and affirmed that all possible steps would be taken to strengthen irrigation infrastructure, improve water-use efficiency and support sustainable agricultural growth across the Valley.

Later, the Ministers also held a review meeting with the officers of the Jal Shakti, Forest department, Agriculture Production Department and other allied departments at the DFO Office, Ganderbal.

During the meeting, they took stock of the ongoing works and schemes being implemented by the departments in the district and directed the officers to ensure timely completion of all pending projects. They emphasized the need for better coordination between the departments for effective implementation of developmental works and instructed the officers to address field-level issues on priority.

# Yoga is India's timeless gift to humanity, must reach every household: Sat

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JAMMU, JUNE 19

BJP J&K President and Rajya Sabha MP, CA Sat Sharma, addressed a meeting of the BJP Mahila Morcha led by its President, Adv. Neha Mahajan, at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu. The meeting was attended by State Office Bearers and State Executive Members of the Mahila Morcha and focused on organizational strengthening and preparations for the upcoming International Day of Yoga on June 21.

Reviewing the arrangements for Yoga Day programmes across Jammu & Kashmir, Sat Sharma called upon the Mahila Morcha to play a leading role in ensuring the successful conduct of Yoga



events at every level, from districts and mandals to booths and local communities. He stressed that maximum public participation, particularly of women and youth, should be encouraged to spread awareness about the importance of a healthy and disciplined lifestyle.

Describing Yoga as India's priceless gift to the world, Sat Sharma said that Yoga is not merely a physi-

cal exercise but a complete way of life rooted in India's ancient wisdom, culture, and spiritual heritage. He highlighted that modern scientific research has increasingly validated the benefits of Yoga in improving physical fitness, mental well-being, emotional balance, and stress management. In today's fast-paced and technology-driven world, Yoga offers an effective solution for maintain-

ing holistic health and inner harmony.

Sat Sharma said that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Yoga has emerged as a global movement, with the United Nations recognizing the International Day of Yoga and millions across the world embracing this ancient Indian practice. He urged party workers to take the message of Yoga to every household and motivate people to adopt it as a daily habit for a healthier and happier society.

Adv. Neha Mahajan assured that the Mahila Morcha would work with full enthusiasm and dedication to ensure the successful execution of Yoga Day programmes and other organizational initiatives across Jammu & Kashmir.

# DC Ganderbal takes stock of preparations made for Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela at Tulmulla

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today visited the Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple at Tulmulla to take stock of the arrangements being put in place for the forthcoming annual Mata Kheer Bhawani Mela.

During the visit, the DC conducted a comprehensive inspection of the temple premises and reviewed the preparedness of various departments with regard to facilities being provided for the convenience and comfort of devotees expected to participate in the annual mela.

The DC inspected accommodation facilities established for pilgrims, including the Yatri Niwas and temporary tented accommodation being arranged to cater to the anticipated influx of devotees. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that all lodging facilities are clean, well-maintained and equipped with essential amenities for a comfortable stay.

arrangements for community kitchens (langars), the DC instructed the concerned agencies to ensure adequate space, proper sanitation and uninterrupted supply of water and electricity at all designated langar sites. He emphasized that all facilities should be made available in a coordinated manner to facilitate smooth functioning of langars during the mela period.

The DC also inspected healthcare arrangements and reviewed the preparedness of the medical team being deployed at the tem-



ple. He directed the Health Department to ensure availability of doctors, paramedical staff, ambulances, emergency medicines and first-aid facilities so that devotees receive prompt medical assistance whenever required.

Special emphasis was laid on the provision of safe drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation facilities and cleanliness around the temple premises. The concerned departments were directed to ensure regular maintenance of toilets, proper waste disposal mechanisms and round-the-clock availability of essential services during the mela.

Later, the DC also visited

the Central University of Kashmir campus at Tulmulla to review the accommodation arrangements being made for devotees. During the visit, he inspected lodging facilities, langar sites, parking spaces and other amenities being put in place for the convenience of pilgrims.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure proper cleanliness, adequate drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation facilities and clear signage within the campus.

Interacting with officers on the spot, the DC stressed that every effort should be made to provide a safe, comfortable and spiritually

enriching experience to devotees visiting the shrine.

He directed all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination and remain available on the ground to address any issue that may arise during the mela period.

Among others, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner, Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Ganderbal, Executive Engineers of KPDC, Jal Shakti, and PMGSY besides Chief Medical Officer and other officers and officials accompanied the DC during the inspection.

# DDAC Bandipora urges early action against Drug Abuse

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As part of the ongoing 100-Day J&K Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, District De-addiction Centre (DDAC) Bandipora (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, Govt of India) in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora today organized a District-Level Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Programme at Govt High School Mukdamyari, Hajin, aimed at strengthening awareness among students and educators regarding the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of early intervention.

The programme witnessed the participation of students from Classes 8th to 10th and members of the teaching and non-teaching faculty.

Project Coordinator, DDAC Bandipora, served



as the Resource Person for the awareness session and delivered an informative lecture on the theme "Nasha Se Azadi - Choice Aapki, Zindagi Aapki."

During his address, the Project Coordinator introduced the innovative "SHARE Code" to help students, teachers and parents identify early warning signs

of substance abuse. He explained that S stands for Sleep Disturbance, H for Poor Hygiene, A for Anger/Irritability, R for Result Decline in Academics, and E for Evasive Eyes/Behaviour can often indicate the onset of drug dependence. He further clarified the distinction between observable signs no-

ticed by others and symptoms experienced by the affected individual, emphasizing that addiction is a medical condition requiring treatment and support rather than stigma or judgment.

Highlighting the critical role of teachers and parents in prevention, he described them as the "first line of defence" against substance abuse. He urged teachers to remain vigilant regarding absenteeism, sudden behavioural changes and declining academic performance, while encouraging parents to maintain open communication with their children and be alert to signs such as secrecy, unexplained demands for money and social withdrawal.

"Don't judge, don't delay—report early to save a life," he remarked while stressing the importance of timely intervention.

The session also provided detailed information

# CS pushes undertaking of disaster reconstruction projects worth Rs 3000 cr across J&K

**SRINAGAR, JUNE 19:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of all the concerned to assess the progress achieved in identification, approval and execution of infrastructure restoration and reconstruction projects being undertaken under the Disaster Component of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) and the Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA)-based Recovery and Reconstruction package sanctioned by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) in the aftermath of the devastating floods and landslides of 2025.

The meeting besides the ACS, Finance and ACS, PWD was attended by Principal Secretary, DMRR&R; Commissioner Secretary, YS&S; MD, JKPCD; DG, A&T; DG, Resources; DG, Budget and other concerned officers from the relevant Departments.

While reviewing the implementation progress, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for

timely completion of all restoration works and directed the departments to significantly expedite execution so that expenditure under SASCI is fully incurred within the prescribed timelines. He emphasized that all departments must adhere to the sunset provisions of the scheme and ensure completion of works within the stipulated period.

The Chief Secretary directed the departments to immediately finalize and submit all pending permanent restoration projects proposed under the PDNA framework. He also asked the departments to submit additional restoration proposals amounting to approximately Rs 232 Cr to the Finance Department for further consideration.

To ensure transparency and prevent duplication of expenditure, the Chief Secretary instructed all departments to furnish certificates confirming that the projects proposed under SASCI and PDNA are not being fund-



ed through any other scheme or source. He made it clear that no financial claim shall be processed without such certification.

The Chief Secretary further directed the Public Works Department, Power Development Department and Housing & Urban Development Department to expedite submission of additional infrastructure projects for consideration under the SASCI Disaster Component for 2026-27.

During the meeting, the ACS Finance Department, Shailendra Kumar presented a com-

prehensive overview of the financial assistance received, departmental allocations, project portfolios and implementation status under both the funding frameworks aimed at rebuilding damaged public infrastructure and enhancing resilience against future disasters.

The ACS divulged that J&K has been allocated an additional assistance of Rs 1,431 Cr under the Disaster Component of SASCI, specifically meant for restoration and reconstruction of infrastructure damaged dur-

ing natural calamities as well as for undertaking mitigation measures to reduce future disaster risks.

Based on the recommendations of the high level committee constituted here, it was revealed that the highest allocation of Rs 860 Cr was earmarked for the Public Works Department, followed by Rs 315 Cr for the Jal Shakti Department, Rs 173 Cr for the Power Development Department, Rs 51 crore for the Agriculture Production Depart-

ment and Rs 32 Cr for the Youth Services and Sports Department.

The meeting was further informed that the Sub-Committee of the National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) of the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved Rs 1,579.09 Cr for Recovery and Reconstruction activities based on the PDNA report prepared after the floods and landslides of 2025. Out of the approved assistance, the Central share amounts to Rs 1,421.12 Cr, while the UT share is Rs 157.91 crore.

It was informed that the approved assistance spans multiple sectors including housing, education, health, public infrastructure, roads, drinking water supply, sanitation, power, irrigation, agriculture, tourism, horticulture and environmental restoration. The largest share of assistance has been earmarked for infrastructure sectors, particularly roads, buildings, power systems and water supply networks, which

suffered extensive damage during the disasters.

Reviewing the departmental proposals, the Chief Secretary was informed that following reconciliation with the PDNA framework and elimination of overlapping works, project proposals amounting to nearly Rs 1,196 Cr have been finalized under SASCI, while work plans worth more than Rs 1,025 Cr have already been uploaded on the BEAMS platform. The Finance Department has released over Rs 429 Cr to various departments for execution of approved works.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards resilient reconstruction and disaster preparedness, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the restoration initiatives should not only rebuild damaged assets but also strengthen public infrastructure to withstand future disasters, thereby safeguarding lives, livelihoods and essential services across Jammu and Kashmir.