

Itoo reviews functioning of SMHS, Super Speciality Hospital Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 23

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today chaired a meeting and took comprehensive review of the functioning of SMHS Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital, Srinagar, assessing patient care facilities, healthcare delivery mechanisms and overall hospital management.

The meeting was attended by Principal GMC Srinagar, Medical Superintendents of SMHS Hospital and Super Speciality Hospital, HoDs of various super specialities and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed assessment of diagnostic facilities and other critical services available at these facilities.

She also held deliberations on quality of medical services, availability of medicines, sanitation and staff responsiveness.

Reviewing the overall functioning of these prestigious medical institutions, the Minister stressed the need to ensure that pa-



tients receive timely, efficient and compassionate healthcare. She directed the hospital administration to maintain the highest standards of cleanliness and hygiene across all wards, corridors and public spaces, emphasizing that a clean hospital environment is fundamental to quality healthcare and infection prevention.

Sakeena Itoo instructed officials to strengthen sanitation protocols through regular monitoring, prompt waste disposal and periodic inspections to ensure that hygiene standards are consistently maintained. She also called for special attention to patient waiting areas, washrooms and common facilities so that visitors and attendants experience a

safe and dignified environment.

The Minister underscored the importance of coordinated teamwork among doctors, nursing staff, paramedics and support personnel in delivering seamless healthcare services. She urged hospital authorities to remain responsive to patients' concerns and address operational challenges without delay.

Reviewing infrastructure and service delivery, the Minister directed the concerned officers to identify gaps requiring immediate intervention and expedite measures aimed at improving efficiency, reducing inconvenience to patients and enhancing the overall healthcare experience.

She reiterated the Government's commitment to strengthening tertiary healthcare institutions across Jammu and Kashmir through improved infrastructure, modern medical facilities and patient-centric governance.

The Minister emphasized on continuous monitoring and accountability to ensure public health institutions meet the expectations of the people.

During the meeting, Hospital administrators and senior officers briefed the Minister on the functioning of various departments, patient inflow, availability of medical equipment, manpower position and ongoing initiatives to improve healthcare services.

Reserve Bank of India hosts awareness camp for MSME Entrepreneurs at Jammu

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Reserve Bank of India today organized an awareness camp for MSME Entrepreneurs at Jammu. As many as 160 MSME entrepreneurs participated in the awareness camp.

The event had thematic sessions covering key aspects of MSME development and financing including sessions on Unified Lending Interface; CBDC; TReDS; MSME Financing Landscape in UTs of J&K & Ladakh; Access to Credit - Challenges and innovative solutions; Government initiatives including MSME Health Clinic; Accessing formal credit, documentation, application processes etc.

The event was presided over by Regional Director, RBI, UTs of J&K and Ladakh and attended among others by MD & CEO, J&K Bank Amitava Chatterjee as 'Special Guest'; Joint Director, MSME-Development & Facilitation Office Jammu; Joint Director, DIC Jammu; DGM, NABARD; GM, J&K Bank; GM, UTLCB (J&K); Chairman, Jammu & Kashmir Grameen Bank; AGM, SBI; AGM, Canara Bank; Regional Heads from HDFC Bank, Axis Bank and ICICI Bank.



In his keynote address, the Regional Director stated that the MSME sector remains the backbone of the Indian economy despite the recent West Asia crisis, contributing significantly to GDP, employment generation and exports. "There has been impressive growth in terms of the number of MSMEs registered on Udyam Dashboard over the past five year in UT of J&K," he highlighted. He further emphasized upon

RBI's recent regulatory initiatives namely enhancement in collateral-free lending limit for micro and small enterprises from ₹10 lakh to ₹20 lakh and dispensing with the requirement of due diligence while on-boarding MSMEs on TReDS platforms. He encouraged MSMEs entrepreneurs to leverage upon the opportunities created by the evolving policy and financial ecosystem, scale up their enterprises and expand their market reach.

The MD & CEO-J&K Bank, while addressing the participants, highlighted the role of MSMEs as engines of livelihood, innovation and social mobility in the region. He also emphasized the importance of Udyam Registration and Udyam Assist Platform in formalization of MSMEs. He noted that thousands of enterprises, particularly nano-enterprises have benefitted with the recently launched Mission Yuva scheme of UT of J&K.

Deputations, legislators call on Satish Sharma; highlight public issues, development concerns



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Several deputations, public representatives and legislators today called on Satish Sharma and apprised him of various public issues, developmental requirements and sector-specific concerns from their respective constituencies.

Among those who met the Minister was a deputation from Kulingam, Kupwara, which projected several issues concerning the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department, aug-

mentation of sports infrastructure, improvement of transport facilities and execution of various developmental works in the area. The deputation sought early intervention to ensure better public service delivery and accelerated development.

A deputation of Rehbar-e-Khel also called on the Minister and raised issues related to their regularization, service conditions and other long-pending service matters. The members urged the government to take a sympathetic view of their

genuine demands and ensure an early resolution.

Another deputation representing the J&K Wholesale Meat Dealers Association highlighted issues concerning the inter-state transportation of meat, including logistical and regulatory challenges affecting the smooth movement and supply of meat into Jammu and Kashmir. They requested for appropriate measures to streamline the process and safeguard the interests of traders while ensuring uninterrupted supplies to consumers.

Legislators who called on the Minister included the MLAs from Kupwara, Langate, Beerwah, Lal Chowk, Chadoora, Khansahib, Rajpura and Sonawari. They projected a wide range of constituency-specific issues. They sought the Minister's intervention for early completion of key infrastructure projects, strengthening of essential public services, augmentation of transport facilities, improvement of sports infrastructure and effective implementation of welfare and development schemes. They also stressed the need for coordinated efforts among various departments to address the aspirations of the people.

Giving a patient hearing to all the deputations and legislators, Satish Sharma assured them that every genuine issue would be examined on priority and appropriate directions would be issued to the concerned departments for prompt action.

He reiterated that the government is committed to transparent, responsive and people-centric governance, with special emphasis on timely grievance redressal and equitable development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena reviews admissions in Govt Degree Colleges across J&K



SRINAGAR, JUNE 23: Maintaining that student welfare should remain the top priority, Minister for Higher Education, Sakeena Itoo, today said that sustained reforms in the higher education sector are essential to make colleges more accessible, inclusive and responsive to the aspirations of students.

The Minister made these remarks while addressing a comprehensive review meeting held to assess the ongoing admission process in the Government Degree Colleges across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, Sakeena Itoo had a comprehensive review of the admis-

sion status across Government Degree Colleges. She directed the Higher Education Department and college authorities to strengthen awareness and outreach initiatives in the institutions with comparatively low enrolment to ensure wider access to higher education.

The Minister emphasised that Principals and faculty members should actively engage with the students and parents to enhance awareness about the academic programmes, scholarship opportunities and career pathways available in Government Degree Colleges.

Reviewing the admission

figures, Sakeena Itoo was informed that colleges have recorded a significant rise in student admissions this year after the government introduced several measures to simplify and ease the admission process.

Sakeena Itoo, who has been closely monitoring the admission process, reiterated her commitment towards strengthening the higher education sector in Jammu and Kashmir. She said that it is the prime concern of the present dispensation to ensure that every eligible student gets access to quality higher education.

"The new reforms have helped reverse the declining trend in college admissions

witnessed over the past few years and we hope that the admission figures would exceed 50,000 after the completion of next two rounds of admissions," asserted the Minister.

She said that legacy colleges continue to witness higher demand, which is encouraging but stressed the need to further strengthen the higher education system by expanding the choice of courses and enhancing student welfare measures to make colleges more attractive for the aspiring students. She added that walk-in admissions have been facilitated through an in-house online portal to ensure that no eligible student is denied access to higher education. She informed that the Principals have been given flexibility in the admission process to take student-centric decisions in the best interest of students.

She stressed the need to rationalise course offerings, upgrade infrastructure and create academic opportunities that respond to the changing needs and aspirations of the students.

DC Kupwara chairs DLRC Meeting

KUPWARA, JUNE 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today chaired the 4th Quarter (2025-26) meeting of the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Level Consultative Committee (DCC) to review the performance of banks and line departments under the District Credit Plan (DCP).

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of bank-wise and sector-wise achievements under the District Credit Plan and assessed the progress made in the implementation of various government-sponsored credit-linked schemes. The overall performance of financial institutions in extending credit to agriculture, allied activities, education, self-employment and other priority sectors was also reviewed.

Emphasizing the importance of inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for creating mass awareness about government welfare and credit-linked schemes so that eligible beneficiaries can avail themselves of institutional financial support. He directed banks and line departments to strengthen public outreach through awareness camps and coordinated field-level initiatives.

Expressing concern over the unsatisfactory performance of some banks in achieving their District Credit Plan targets, the Deputy Commissioner instructed them to improve credit flow and accord greater priority to lending under key sectors. He emphasized that enhanced priority sector lending is essential for promoting entrepreneurship, employment generation and overall socio-economic development in the district.

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