

CM Omar Abdullah meets legislators, public delegations at Raabita

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 29

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several legislators, public delegations, the healthcare sector among other delegations at Raabita here, during which a wide range of public welfare, developmental and issues were discussed.

A public delegation led by MLA Beerwah Shafi Ahmad Wani, comprising senior citizens, youth representatives, members of the Shia community from Magam and representatives of the Beerwah Traders Federation. The delegation projected various developmental requirements, public welfare concerns and constituency-specific issues. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured that all genuine concerns would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner.

The Chief Minister also met MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani and MLA Shangus-Anantnag East Reyaz Ahmad Khan, who represented several delegations to flag their issues before the Chief Minister.

A delegation from Seer Hamdan, representatives of the Jammu and Kashmir Nomadic Cooperative



(JKNC), members of the Migrant Kashmiri Pandit community, the Taxi Stand Association, and a delegation from Ashmuqam-Tulhad. The delegations apprised the Chief Minister of various developmental requirements, infrastructure needs and public issues concerning their respective areas.

Earlier, MLA Rajpora Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir called on the Chief Minister and discussed developmental priorities and public welfare issues pertaining to his constituency.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone also met the Chief Minister and raised several constituency-related mat-

ters requiring government intervention. The Chief Minister assured all the visiting deputations that the government remains committed to addressing the aspirations of the people through sustained developmental initiatives.

During the day, the Chief Minister also interacted with a delegation from Warner Bros. Discovery led by Creative Director Pia Somiah Alva, along with senior company officials. The Chief Minister appreciated the interest shown by the organisation and said the government welcomes meaningful partnerships that can promote Jammu and Kashmir's creative po-

tential and generate new opportunities.

A delegation of senior doctors from Government Medical College Srinagar, comprising Dr. Altaf Kawoosa, Dr. Iqbal Saleem, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah, Dr. Manzoor Latoor and Dr. Syed Imran, also called on the Chief Minister.

The delegation discussed various issues concerning the healthcare sector and the functioning of the institution. The Chief Minister assured them that the government remains committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure and improving medical services across Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish Sharma flags off pilgrimage to Somnath Ji from Jammu

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Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Science & Technology, ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today flagged off the Somnath Ji Pilgrimage from Jammu Railway Station, marking commencement of the sacred journey for the devotees travelling to the revered Somnath Temple in Gujarat.

The event was organised by the Department of Culture as part of the ongoing initiatives to promote India's rich cultural and spiritual heritage while strengthening the bonds of national unity through pilgrim and cultural exchanges.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that pilgrimage holds immense spiritual significance and also serves as a powerful medium for promoting na-



tional integration, cultural awareness and mutual respect among the people from different regions of the country. He expressed hope that the devotees would undertake the sacred journey with devotion and return with blessings, enriching their spiritual experience.

The Minister extended his best wishes to all pilgrims for a safe, comfortable and fulfilling yatra. He also appreciated the efforts of the Department of Culture and all

associated agencies for making necessary arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the pilgrimage.

"Somnath is not merely a place of worship but a timeless symbol of India's faith, resilience and glorious civilizational heritage. Such initiatives help strengthen our cultural roots and inspire future generations to remain connected with our rich traditions," the Minister said.

Satish Sharma also highlighted the importance of

preserving and promoting the diverse cultural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir while encouraging greater participation in initiatives that celebrate India's shared spiritual and cultural legacy.

Principal Secretary, Culture, Secretary, Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, along with other senior officers of the Culture Department and civil administration, were present on the occasion

Ito convenes public outreach camp at Laisoo; assesses public grievances, development needs

KULGAM, JUNE 29:

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, today visited Laisoo village in Kulgam district and held an extensive public outreach camp to directly engage with the people and listen to their grievances and developmental concerns.

During the interaction, people from the area projected several developmental demands besides raising their grievances.

The Minister assured the public that all genuine demands would be addressed in a phased and time-bound manner. She said that the administration is well abreast with the area specific development needs and public issues. Every effort is being initiated to satiate the public aspirations through a well knit strategy, she asserted.

On the occasion, the Minister laid the foundation stone for a Flood Protection



Bund aimed at safeguarding the area from flood threats and mitigating damage to eagricultural land and public infrastructure. She also inaugurated a Water Supply Scheme (WSS), which is expected to provide improved access to safe drinking water

for the local population and significantly enhance the quality of life of the residents.

Addressing the gathering, Sakeena Ito emphasized that the public outreach programmes and direct interactions with the people remain

central to the government's approach in ensuring responsive and accountable governance. She appealed the people to ensure maximum participation in such outreach camps so that their issues and concerns are resolved at the earliest.

Directorate of Economics & Statistics observes 20th National Statistics Day



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The Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Jammu and Kashmir, celebrated the 20th National Statistics Day at its Bemina office today as part of the nationwide programme held by the Union Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

The day marks the birth anniversary of Professor P. C. Mahalanobis, father of

Indian statistics. Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, inaugurated the programme.

In her address, she highlighted the role of statistics in planning, governance and sustainable development. She stressed the critical importance of robust statistical systems for evidence-based policymaking, improving service delivery and enabling targeted de-

velopment interventions. The Commissioner Secretary called upon the officers and field staff to ensure timely, accurate and reliable data collection, stressing that quality statistics form the backbone of effective monitoring and evaluation. She said the department is committed to adopt modern tools and technology to strengthen the statistical framework across Jammu and Kashmir and make data accessi-

ble for the planners, researchers and the citizens. On the occasion, Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, Riyaz Ahmad Romshoo, emphasized the vital role of young statisticians and new entrants to the service in strengthening the department.

During the celebration, messages from the Lieutenant Governor, Chief Minister and Chief Secretary were also read out to the gathering, underscoring the importance of statistics in evidence-based governance and inclusive development. Regional Director, Evaluation & Statistics, Jammu, Ashu Gupta; Regional Director, Evaluation & Statistics, Kashmir, Sheikh Shavaiz Ahmad and former Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, G A Qureshi also addressed the event.

The technical sessions of the programme featured insightful presentations by the departmental officers, trainees from the School of Applied Economics & Statistics (SAES) and post-graduate research scholars. These deliberations focused on "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data" and highlighted the evolving role of official statistics in strengthening the evidence based policymaking and governance.

Javed Rana inaugurates ICICI bank branch

MENDHAR, JUNE 26:

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated an ICICI Bank branch along with a 24x7 ATM facility at Mendhar, marking a significant step towards extending the modern banking services to the remote and border areas of Pir Panjal region.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister underscored the government's unwavering commitment to ensure the financial inclusion for every citizen, regardless of their geographic location. He said that the



residents of far-flung and border areas deserve the same access to banking facilities as those living in urban centres.

"The government is ensuring that no citizen is left behind merely because of

where they live. Whether it is a remote village or a border belt, banking services must reach every doorstep," asserted the Minister.

Rana said that the opening of the branch would di-

rectly address the long-standing hardship faced by the people of Mendhar and adjoining areas who were earlier compelled to travel to distant towns for even basic banking needs. He said the new branch, equipped with a full suite of banking services and round-the-clock ATM access, would save precious time and resources for local traders, farmers, pensioners, students and the general public alike.

"This branch is not just a banking outlet, it is a gateway to economic empowerment for the people of this region.

Mandeep reviews Vibrant Villages Programme-II in border villages

RS PURA, JUNE 29: Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today conducted a comprehensive field visit to the border villages of Abdullian and Badyal Brahmana in block RS Pura to review implementation of the Vibrant Villages Programme-II (VVP-II). Among those present were Member Legislative Assembly Suchetgarh Prof Gharu Ram Bhagat besides other sectoral officers.

The review focussed on assessing the development plans prepared under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II and ensuring their timely and effective implementation through coordinated efforts of all stakeholder departments.

During the visit, a detailed sector-wise review of the proposed development plans was undertaken. It was informed that development works amounting approximately ₹6 crore have been proposed for

Village Badyal Brahmana while projects worth around ₹2.50 crore have been planned for Village Abdullian under the programme. The Commissioner Secretary reviewed the proposals in detail and directed all the concerned departments to ensure timely execution of the approved works with regular monitoring and effective inter-departmental coordination.

Interactive Gram Sabhas were also held at Amisha Palace, Badyal Brahmana and the Community Hall, Abdullian, where Mandeep Kaur interacted with the public representatives, former Sarpanches and local residents. She encouraged the people to participate actively in the planning process. She directed that all genuine pending developmental requirements be projected through the line departments concerned so that they may be incorporated under the Vibrant Villages Programme-II for consideration.

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