

## Itoo reviews development issues of 5 constituencies of Kashmir

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 01

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and School Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess development issues and public service delivery in the Khansahib, Hazratbal, Pampore, Sopore and Zainpora Assembly constituencies.

The meeting was attended by the MLAs including Haseen Masoodi, Salman Ali Sagar, Showkat Hussain, Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Irshad Rasool Kar, who highlighted key issues and development priorities pertaining to their respective areas.

Senior officers from the concerned departments were also present.

During the meeting, the Minister conducted a detailed review of issues related to health infrastructure, school education, social welfare and ongoing developmental works. She directed the concerned departments to ensure prompt redressal of public grievances and timely implementation of all approved projects.

Reviewing the Health and Medical Education sec-



tor, the Minister stressed the need for strengthening healthcare facilities across the constituencies. She directed officials to expedite the operationalisation of identified Primary Health Centres as 24x7 facilities, complete pending infrastructure works, improve ambulance services, undertake mapping of medical blocks and ensure accountability in project execution.

The Minister also called for enhanced diagnostic facilities, including CT scan services at the Trauma Centre, besides taking up the reconstruction of unsafe health buildings on priority.

The Minister also directed that necessary action be initiated against any officer found responsible for unauthorized changes in Detailed Project Reports (DPRs). She emphasized transparency in tendering

processes and instructed officials to discourage below-estimate tendering while ensuring contractors adhere to quality standards and timelines.

Reviewing the School Education sector, Sakeena Itoo directed officials to accelerate the upgradation of schools, address infrastructure gaps and ensure equitable distribution of resources across institutions.

In the Social Welfare sector, the Minister stressed the need to expand outreach under various Central and UT-sponsored schemes. She directed officials to organize awareness camps to maximize public awareness and ensure that benefits reach all eligible beneficiaries. She also called for intensified ICDS outreach in uncovered and left-out areas.

The Minister also reviewed constituency-spe-

cific development issues, including the completion of Government Degree Colleges, Schools and hospitals buildings and regulation of unauthorized constructions and identification of unsafe buildings for appropriate action.

Interacting with the MLAs, Sakeena Itoo assured them that all genuine issues raised during the meeting would be examined on priority. She directed the concerned departments to maintain close coordination with the elected representatives to ensure timely resolution of public issues and effective implementation of developmental initiatives.

The Minister emphasized that strengthening public services and accelerating development across all constituencies remain the top priorities of the government.

## Javid Dar reviews CAPEX, CSS Implementation; Stresses Timely Execution, Better Inter-Departmental Coordination

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Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a high-level review meeting of senior officers of the Rural Development, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Cooperatives Departments to assess the progress of ongoing developmental programmes and key flagship schemes.

The meeting primarily reviewed the implementation of Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) works and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) across the departments.

While reviewing the progress, the Minister directed the concerned officers to ensure close monitoring of all developmental works for optimum utilisation of funds and timely completion of infrastructure projects. He stressed that every department must adhere to prescribed timelines, maintain quality standards and adopt a result-oriented approach in project execution to ensure tangible benefits reach the people.

Reviewing the Animal and Sheep Husbandry sectors, Javid Ahmad Dar instructed the officers to intensify efforts for bringing the maximum number of livestock under the livestock insurance scheme, thereby providing greater financial security to farmers and livestock rearers.

The Minister also directed the Enforcement Wing of the Agriculture Department to strictly enforce



the prescribed guidelines and strengthen field inspections to ensure transparency, accountability and adherence to quality standards.

While reviewing the Horticulture Department, the Minister instructed officers to optimally utilise the existing canning centres by converging them with Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to promote value addition, generate employment opportunities and enhance farmers' income. He further directed the department to establish a robust monitoring mechanism for registered nurseries supplying planting material, ensuring that only quality-certified and disease-free planting stock is distributed among growers while eliminating the supply of substandard material.

Taking stock of the Rural Development Department, the Minister directed officers to ensure that the survey of beneficiaries under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) is com-

pleted in a transparent, fair and time-bound manner, with no eligible beneficiary left out or rejected without due justification.

He further instructed the department to compile and submit all requisite documents relating to pending liabilities prior to the transition to the G-RAM-G regime so that the demand for release of the remaining funds could be effectively pursued with the Government of India. He also asked the department to furnish complete details of the pending 14th Finance Commission (14FC) liabilities without delay.

Reviewing the Cooperative sector, Javid Ahmad Dar emphasised the need to strengthen the dairy co-operative movement across Jammu and Kashmir to improve farmers' incomes and enhance rural livelihoods. He also directed the department to expedite the audit of cooperative societies and ensure strict compliance with statutory regulations for transparent and

efficient functioning.

The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment towards strengthening rural infrastructure, improving governance and ensuring effective implementation of welfare and development programmes. He called upon all departments to work in close coordination, maintain regular monitoring and adopt a proactive approach to achieve the desired outcomes within the stipulated timelines.

Later, several public delegations from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir called on the Minister and apprised him of various developmental and public welfare issues concerning their respective areas. The Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegations and assured them that all genuine demands and grievances would be examined on priority and addressed in a time-bound manner in coordination with the concerned departments.

## Speaker reviews PWD works in Charar-i-Sharief, Stresses timely completion, quality execution

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 01

Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the progress of development works being executed by the Public Works (R&B) Department in district Budgam, with special focus in his constituency, Charar-i-Sharief.

During the meeting, the department made a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the works completed during the previous financial year under various components, including Roads & Buildings (R&B), Connectivity, pothole repairs and the UT Capex Budget. The meeting also reviewed the new works proposed and approved for execution during the current financial year.

The Speaker took stock of the physical and finan-



cial progress of the ongoing projects and emphasized the need for their timely completion to ensure that the benefits of development reach the people without delay.

He stressed that the benefits of developmental works must reach the people at the grassroots level and that every project should translate into improved public infrastructure and better civic amenities. Drawing the attention of the engineers to several critical issues pertaining to his constituency,

Charar-i-Sharief, the Speaker directed them to address and resolve these issues at the earliest in the larger interest of public welfare. The Speaker directed the department to expedite the pace of execution of all ongoing works and ensure that they are completed within the stipulated timeframe.

Abdul Rahim Rather underscored that there should be no compromise on the quality of works and instructed the officers to maintain the highest standards in execution.

He emphasized that all developmental initiatives should translate into tangible benefits and improved public facilities for the people of Charar-i-Sharief.

CE R&B Central Kashmir, SE R&B Circle Budgam, Director Finance (PWD), Joint Director Planning (PWD), CPO Budgam, XENs Chadoora, Charar-i-Sharief, Budgam division besides other senior officers of the Public Works (R&B) Department were present during the meeting.

## SKUAST-K hosts DHR-ICMR National Workshop on Regenerative Medicine, focuses on Next-Generation Stem Cell Therapeutics

**GANDERBAL, JULY 01:** Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Tuesday inaugurated a 10-day DHR-ICMR-sponsored national workshop on "Next-Generation Biomaterial Scaffolds for Stem Cell Therapeutics in Regenerative Medicine" at the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry (FVSc & AH), Shuhama, Ganderbal.

The national-level workshop aims to strengthen capacity building in regenerative medicine by integrating fundamental science, translational research, biomaterial technologies, and clinical applications.

The inaugural session was presided over by Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai; Dean, School of Life Sciences, Central University of Kashmir, Prof. Abid Hamid; Head, CD Hospital, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah; Scientist and Consultant (Cell & Gene Therapy), ICMR, New Delhi, Dr. Sangram K. Samal. Senior university officials, faculty members, scientists, clinicians, researchers, and students were also present.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai described the workshop as a significant initiative bringing together academia, medicine, industry, and government on a common platform. He commended the faculty for organizing a program of national importance and emphasized the need for institutional collab-

oration, innovation-driven research, and affordable therapeutic solutions. He also stressed the importance of launching short skill-based programs to expand certification opportunities and support continuous professional development.

Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, FVSc & AH, highlighted the transformative potential of regenerative medicine in both human and veterinary health care.

Prof. Abid Hamid termed the workshop a timely intervention for developing skilled human resources in the emerging field of regenerative medicine. Building on this, Dr. Naveed Nazir Shah underscored the importance of translational research in bridging laboratory discoveries with clinical applications and stressed the need for stronger multidisciplinary collaborations.

Dr. Sangram K. Samal highlighted the importance of One Health approaches, interdisciplinary research, and structured capacity-building initiatives to accelerate progress in regenerative medicine.

The inaugural session also witnessed the release of a documentary showcasing SKUAST-K's milestones, infrastructure, academic excellence, research achievements, and future vision. A book on evidence-based research and practical guidance in stem cell therapeutics was also released, along with a compendium documenting the university's academic, re-

search, and outreach achievements.

Organizing secretary, Dr. Mudassir Bashir Gugjoo reported an overwhelming response to the workshop, with 120 applications received for just 20 seats, including participation from an international candidate from Grenada.

Over the next 10 days, participants will undergo intensive expert lectures and hands-on training in stem cell and exosome isolation, biomaterial fabrication through 3D printing and electrospinning, preclinical evaluation, regulatory frameworks, and clinical applications.

A major highlight of the workshop will be an industry-academia-policy dialogue focusing on opportunities, challenges, and the regulatory roadmap for veterinary stem cell therapeutics in India.

The workshop features an impressive lineup of international experts from the Harvard Stem Cell Institute, University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), University of Michigan, and Queen Mary University of London, as well as leading Indian institutions, including IITs, AIIMS, IVRI, ICMR, SKIMS, and NIT Srinagar.

Concluding the inaugural session, Prof. Amatul Muhee, Head, Division of Veterinary Clinical Complex, FVSc & AH, reaffirmed the university's commitment to strengthening regenerative medicine through research excellence, innovation, and strategic collaborations.

## Slathia chairs PAC meeting, examine C&AG's audit paras pertaining to Jal Shakti Department

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 01

Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts, Surjeet Singh Slathia, today chaired a meeting of the Committee at the Assembly Secretariat here to examine the C&AG's audit paras pertaining to the Jal Shakti Department including PHE and I&FC.

The meeting was attended by the Legislators Mubarak Gul, Shamim Firdous, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), Abdul Majeed Bhat (Larmi), Ranbir Singh Pathania, Ch Mohammad Akram, Vikram Randhawa along with Additional Chief Secretary (ACS) Jal Shakti Department Shaleen Kabra, Secretary JKLA



Manoj Kumar Pandit and senior officers of the Jal Shakti Department, including the Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control wings.

During the meeting, the Committee held detailed deliberations on the audit observations and examined the issues raised in the audit

paras.

After detailed discussions, the Committee, upon the assurance of the Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, directed the concerned officers to furnish a comprehensive report on the audit paras discussed during the meeting within the 15 days

for further examination by the Committee.

The members of the Committee actively participated in the deliberations and offered valuable suggestions and constructive inputs aimed at improving the functioning, transparency and accountability of the department.

## DLSA Ganderbal convenes meeting of LSUM to review implementation of NALSA Scheme

**GANDERBAL, JULY 01:** District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal convened a meeting of the Legal Services Unit for Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities (LSUM), under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, to review and strengthen the effective implementation of the NALSA (Legal Services to Persons with Mental Illness and Persons with Intellectual Disabilities) Scheme, 2024, in compliance with the directions issued by the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority.



tended by Mehraj Din, Senior Prosecution Officer, representing the Department of Police, Ganderbal; Mohd. Amin, Sub-Inspector, representing Subsidiary Jail, Dignibal; Shabana Hamid, Chairperson,

Child Welfare Committee, representing the Department of Social Welfare; Members of the LSUM Unit; Panel Lawyers; and Para Legal Volunteers of DLSA Ganderbal.

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, emphasized the need for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure effective implementation of the Scheme and directed all concerned departments to strengthen institutional coordination, facilitate timely identification and referral of beneficiaries, ensure access to free legal aid, undertake regular awareness and outreach programmes, and strictly comply with the guidelines issued by NALSA and J&K Legal Services Authority.

The stakeholders were further instructed to work in close coordination for safeguarding the legal rights of persons with mental illness and persons with intellectual disabilities, ensuring that legal services remain accessible, inclusive, and responsive in accordance with the provisions of the Scheme.