

CM Omar meets travel, tourism, business stakeholders; assures support for sector's growth

SRINAGAR, JULY 07: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met delegations representing the travel, tourism and business sectors here at the Civil Secretariat and held detailed discussions on issues concerning tourism promotion, business facilitation and the overall growth of the economy in Jammu and Kashmir.

A delegation comprising representatives of leading travel and tourism associations, including Irshad Ahmad (TAAI), Zahoor Qari, President SKAL International Kashmir; Burhan Misgar, Chairman Travel Agents Federation of India (TAFI), and Waseem Goosani, President TASK, called on the Chief Minister and apprised him of various matters relating to the travel and tourism sector. The delegation high-



lighted issues concerning the tourism industry, measures to further strengthen tourist inflow, ease of travel, and initiatives required to sustain the momentum of tourism in J&K. They also shared suggestions aimed at improving visitor experience and enhancing Jammu and Kashmir's position as a preferred tourist destination.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the delegation and reiterated his government's commitment to creating an enabling environment for the tourism sector, recognising it as one of the key drivers of economic growth and employment in Jammu and Kashmir. He assured the representatives that the concerns raised by them

would be examined sympathetically and addressed in a time-bound manner in coordination with the concerned departments.

Later, Tariq Ghani, Secretary General, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed a range of issues pertaining to business, trade and tourism.

MVD, DLSA organise Road Safety Awareness Camp

RAMBAN, JULY 7: The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Ramban, in collaboration with the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ramban, today organised a Road Safety Awareness Camp at the Trial Ground near Government Polytechnic College, Ramban, to promote safe driving practices and enhance awareness about road safety.

The programme was attended by Secretary DLSA, Sub Judge Ramban, Ms. Priyanka Mahajan and Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Ramban, Varun Bhasin.

Addressing the participants, the speakers high-



lighted the importance of adhering to traffic rules, responsible driving, the use of helmets and seat belts, avoiding speeding and drunken driving and following other road safety measures to prevent accidents. They also sensitised drivers, commuters and

members of the public about their legal responsibilities while using roads. The ARTO Ramban urged motorists to strictly follow traffic regulations, carry valid driving documents and adopt safe driving habits to ensure their own safety as well as that of

other road users. The awareness camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from drivers, students and members of the public, who were encouraged to become responsible road users and contribute towards making roads safer for everyone.

Army Chief General Dhiraj Seth calls on CM Omar Abdullah in Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 07

Chief of Army Staff, General Dhiraj Seth, today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at his residence here.

General Seth was accompanied by General Officer Commanding (GOC), Chinari Corps, Lieutenant General Balbir Singh,



along with other senior Army officers.

The meeting was held as a courtesy call following General Seth's assumption of charge as the Chief of the Army Staff on June 30. The Chief Minister extended his best wishes to General Seth on taking over the prestigious appointment and wished him success in his new responsibilities.

Chief Secretary assesses Infra projects to be taken-up under Urban Challenge Fund

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 07

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to review the progress made in identification and shortlisting of urban infrastructure projects proposed to be taken up under the Urban Challenge Fund (UCF) of the Government of India.

The meeting attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Municipal Commissioners and other HoDs deliberated upon the strategy for positioning Jammu and Kashmir to effectively leverage the transformative funding mechanism aimed at accelerating sustainable urban development and regional economic growth.

Emphasizing the importance of preparing high-quality and financially viable proposals, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to ensure that all shortlisted projects are aligned with the guidelines of the Urban Challenge Fund and are



supported by robust feasibility studies, sustainable financing models and clear implementation strategies. He stressed that the projects should not only address the immediate infrastructure needs of urban centres but also create long-term economic opportunities, strengthen urban resilience, improve the quality of life for citizens and promote environmentally sustainable growth.

The Chief Secretary further underscored the need for coordination with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs to facilitate timely appraisal and approval of the proposed projects. He called upon all stakeholders to expedite

the preparation of detailed project reports and complete all requisite formalities so that Jammu and Kashmir is able to effectively leverage the opportunities offered under the Urban Challenge Fund.

During this meeting the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur informed that the Urban Challenge Fund has been conceived by the Government of India as a paradigm shift in urban financing by encouraging cities and Union Territories to undertake bankable, revenue-generating infrastructure projects through a combination of Central assistance, market-based financing and contribu-

tions from the States and UTs. She further apprised the meeting that, following the first round of discussions with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Jammu and Kashmir has shortlisted four major urban development projects having an aggregate estimated cost of ₹1,990.37 Cr. Against this, the proposed Central assistance amounts to ₹495.86 Cr, the UT share to ₹486.12 Cr, while nearly ₹1,008.38 Cr are proposed to be mobilized through market-based financing.

The concerned Municipal Commissioners divulged the details of the shortlisted projects from their respective areas.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 07

In a strategic move to foster sustainable development and urban ecological balance, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur, today visited the Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) to evaluate the University's pioneering Green Campus initiatives.

The Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb. The delegation conducted an on-site inspection of the university's comprehensive sustainability ecosystem. The visit highlighted SKUAST-K's successful implementation of a zero-waste campus model, which included advanced rainwater harvesting systems, Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) and plastic waste manage-



ment protocols.

Following the tour, an exclusive meeting was convened by Commissioner Secretary with Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Professor Nazir Ahmad Ganai, alongside senior officers from the university. The discussions centered on finalizing a comprehensive roadmap to further strengthen and scale these green campus objectives, ensuring that the integration of nature, resource conservation and technology remains at the forefront of the institution's growth.

During the session, Mandeep Kaur appreciated university's proactive

approach towards environmental stewardship. She highlighted the intent to replicate the successful green models, particularly water conservation and waste recycling mechanisms, established at SKUAST-K across various other government initiatives and public sector projects.

"The work being done here at SKUAST-K serves as a vital, replicable blueprint for our future urban planning. By integrating these scalable green practices such as effective STP management and comprehensive plastic waste reduction into wider government projects, we aim to

create more resilient, energy-efficient and environmentally conscious public spaces across the region", maintained the Commissioner Secretary.

The University leadership reaffirmed its commitment towards providing technical expertise and knowledge support to the Urban Development Department, ensuring a collaborative effort in achieving long-term sustainability goals. The roadmap discussed today marks a significant step towards institutionalizing green governance and promoting sustainable development as a core pillar of public infrastructure.

SKUAST-K brings Scientific Farming Solutions to Tribal Communities

GANDERBAL, JULY 07: The Division of Silviculture & Agroforestry,

Faculty of Forestry, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Regional Fodder Station, Shuhama, organized an awareness-cum-distribution program at Wangath, Ganderbal under the Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) project aimed at promoting sustainable livelihoods among Scheduled Tribe communities.

The program, held under the project "Outreach of Technologies and Distribution of Agriculture Implementations for Economic Uplift-



ment of Low-Income ST Groups," focused on raising awareness of improved agricultural technologies and providing essential farm inputs to tribal households to enhance productivity and income.

Chairing the program,

Dr. Vaishnu Dutt, Head, Division of Silviculture & Agroforestry, Faculty of Forestry, underscored the importance of taking scientific knowledge and technology-driven interventions to tribal communities for sustainable socio-economic development.

Principal Investigator, TSP Project, Dr. Meraj-Udin Dar, said the initiative goes beyond distributing agricultural implements by promoting technology dissemination, raising awareness, and building capacity among tribal farmers. He noted that adopting improved farming practices and more efficient use of resources can significantly enhance livelihood security and income for low-income Scheduled Tribe families.

Ashish Verma, In-charge Head, Regional Fodder Station, Shuhama, interacted with farmers and demonstrated practical technologies suited to local conditions.

Industrial Issues Raised with J&K BJP President Nitin Nabin

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 07

A delegation representing the industrial fraternity met Nitin Nabin and submitted a memorandum seeking urgent government support for the survival and sustainability of existing industries in Jammu & Kashmir.

The memorandum called for a dedicated support package, including uncapped turnover incentives, interest subvention, freight subsidy, continuation of SGST reimbursement, and other policy measures aimed at safeguarding existing industrial units. The delegation expressed hope that the Government would give due consideration to these demands and take positive steps to strengthen the industrial sector in the Union Territory.



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