

Satish reaffirms commitment to people-centric governance; assures swift redress of public issues

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 13

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today met several deputations from different districts of the Jammu division and held detailed interactions on a wide range of public issues concerning infrastructure, civic amenities, public services and developmental requirements.

The deputations, comprising representatives of social organisations, trade bodies, youth groups and local residents, apprised the Minister of issues pertaining to road connectivity, drinking water supply, power infrastructure, sports facilities, ration distribution, digital services, employment opportunities and other development-related matters. They also put forth several area-specific demands aimed at improving the quality of life of the people.

Giving a patient hearing to each deputation, Satish Sharma reiterated the Jammu and Kashmir Government's unwavering commitment to ensure transparent, accountable and people-centric governance. He said the present dispensation is working with the sole objective of taking governance to the grassroots and ensuring



that every citizen has access to quality public services and modern infrastructure. "The government is committed to deliver state-of-the-art facilities across Jammu and Kashmir. Our focus is not merely on creating infrastructure but on ensuring that every development initiative directly benefits the people and improves their quality of life," the Minister said.

He emphasized that public participation remains the cornerstone of effective governance and said regular interaction with citizens

helps the government understand ground realities and formulate policies that are responsive to people's aspirations. He assured the deputations that all genuine issues raised during the meeting would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for early resolution.

The Minister further stated that under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the government is making sustained efforts to strengthen the public infrastructure, improve service

delivery, promote digital governance and create greater opportunities for youth through enhanced sports infrastructure, technology-driven initiatives and inclusive development programmes. Satish Sharma also stressed that every department has been directed to adopt a responsive and citizen-friendly approach while implementing welfare and development schemes. He said timely redress of public grievances remains one of the government's foremost priorities.

FCS&CA intensifies market surveillance to prevent overcharging of fruits

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The Department of Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) has intensified market surveillance to ensure availability of fruits to consumers at fair prices, on the directions of Director FCS&CA, J&K Rajesh Kumar Shavan.

A team of department officers led by Deputy Director, Food & Ration, Jammu Sham Lal Abrol held a second round of meetings with representatives of the Fruit Mandi Association, wholesalers and other stakeholders, with emphasis on maintaining a transparent supply chain and ensuring reasonable wholesale prices are passed on to consumers without unjustified escalation at the retail level.



The department also coordinated with the Horticulture Department on the daily fixation and dissemination of indicative fruit prices, so consumers remain aware of market rates and are protected against overcharging.

Enforcement teams subsequently carried out inspections across various city circles in Jammu, detecting violations under consumer protection and market regulation laws, including overcharging and non-display of price lists. A

total penalty of ₹70,000 was imposed on erring traders under different provisions of the law. Consumers have been advised to report cases of overcharging or other unfair trade practices to the department for prompt action.

DC Kathua chairs maiden District Level Committee meeting on MY Bharat initiative

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired the maiden meeting of the District Level Committee (DLC) on the MY Bharat initiative to review the roadmap for its implementation and ensure wider outreach among youth in the district.

Deputy Director, MY Bharat, Kathua and Member Secretary of the DLC, Jigmat Spaldon briefed the meeting on the objectives, scope and significance of the initiative. The registration drive on the MY Bharat Portal is open from July 1 to August 15, 2026, she informed, and urged stakeholders to work in coordination to ensure maximum participation; youth aged 15 to 29 years are eligible to register and avail opportunities under the initiative.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on implementation of the initiative, with emphasis on convergence among departments to disseminate awareness and encourage youth registration, and discussed strategies for expanding outreach through educational institutions and departmental networks.



The Deputy Commissioner called for a coordinated, mission-mode approach to achieve the initiative's objectives, and asked Heads of government and private schools, colleges, Industrial Train-

ing Institutes (ITIs) and Polytechnics to facilitate registration of eligible students in the 15-29 years age bracket. He directed all line departments to mobilise and enrol eligible youth associated with their institutions and programmes, and urged stakeholders to leverage institutional platforms and public outreach mechanisms to

encourage youth participation in nation-building, volunteerism, leadership development and community engagement. Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahima Madan, Chief Planning Officer Ranjeet Thakur, members of the District Level Committee and departments concerned.

Div Com Kashmir visits SKIMS Soura, Reviews Medical Care of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris

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Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg, on Monday visited the Sher-i-Kashmir Institute of Medical Sciences (SKIMS), Soura, to review the medical care and treatment being provided to Shri Amarnath Ji Yatris admitted to the hospital with various health issues.

During the visit, the Divisional Commissioner interacted with the yatris undergoing treatment and enquired about their health, well-being, and the quality of medical care being provided.

He assured them of the administration's full support and commitment to ensuring the best possible healthcare and assistance throughout their stay.



Reviewing the arrangements, Garg instructed

the hospital administration and senior doctors to closely monitor treatment protocols and ensure the availability of all essential medical facilities.

He directed the concerned officials to provide prompt, comprehensive, and quality healthcare to every admitted yatri.

Director SKIMS, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Ashraf Ganie, informed the Divisional Commissioner that the hospital has earmarked a dedicated ward with exclusive medical and support staff to provide specialized care to the pilgrims.

He further stated that SKIMS has received 44 yatris for treatment so far, out of which, 28 have been discharged after recovery. The visit was attended by the Medical Superintendent, SKIMS, the Assistant Commissioner Central, and other senior medical officials and staff.

Rajouri Admin foils attempt to raise illegal commercial structures on waterbody land

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The District Administration Rajouri has ordered immediate stoppage of construction on land falling under Khasra No 124, Village Rampur, near Bella Bus Stand/Bella Nallah, Rajouri, following prima facie findings of unauthorised commercial construction and suspected manipulation of revenue records.

The action follows complaints of construction activity at the site and an enquiry conducted by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Rajouri, along with a report submitted by the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Rajouri.

The land was originally recorded in revenue records as "Gair Mumkin Rohar", indicating its character as a waterbody or natural drainage channel. The land classification was subsequently changed to "Mang Nehri", the legality and circumstances of which are under detailed

examination.

The enquiry also found that though four building permissions were issued in 2023, construction at the site was, prima facie, in excess of and in deviation from the sanctioned plans, indicating an attempt to develop unauthorised commercial structures.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Council Rajouri to ensure immediate and complete stoppage of all construction activities at the site: with no masonry work, shuttering, concreting, roofing, excavation, earth filling, installation of shutters or transportation of construction material to be permitted until further orders, and to strictly enforce the stop-work notice already issued under the Jammu and Kashmir Control of Building Operations Act, 1988, sealing the unauthorised construction wherever required; the Senior Superintendent of Police, Rajouri to provide adequate police assistance,

prevent entry of construction material, remove labour from the site wherever necessary and maintain law and order during enforcement and the Tehsildar, Rajouri to personally inspect the site along with revenue officials concerned, maintain status quo of the land's physical character and boundaries, prevent further reclamation, excavation or alteration, prepare a detailed inspection report supported with geo-tagged photographs and videography and deploy field staff for continuous monitoring.

The Deputy Commissioner further ordered immediate preservation of all original revenue records relating to Khasra No 124 including the Record of Rights, Jamabandis, Khasra Girdawaris, mutation registers, Musavi, Latha, Tatima Shajras, field books, revenue NOCs and other connected records. No alteration, mutation, correction, digitisation change, attestation or fresh revenue certification con-

cerning the land shall be made without prior written permission of the Deputy Commissioner.

Deputy Commissioner said the District Administration follows a policy of zero tolerance towards illegal conversion of waterbodies, manipulation of revenue records and unauthorised commercial construction, and that any attempt to alter the character of a waterbody or natural drainage area for commercial exploitation in violation of law would be dealt with firmly, with accountability fixed not only upon officials found responsible for negligence, misconduct or collusion. He said proprietary ownership of land does not confer any right to alter its legally recorded character or undertake construction in violation of revenue, municipal and building control laws and warned that continuation of construction despite the order would invite strict legal action against officers and individuals concerned.

DC chairs DLC meeting on Change of Land Use

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A meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use (CLU) was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, in his office chamber to review the status of Change of Land Use (CLU) cases across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD Sheraz Ahmed, GM DIC Ravinder Anand; DFOs, CHO, Executive Engineers of PMGSY, PWD, Jal Shakti and JPDCL; officials from



NHAI and BRO along with other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed 15 applications for land use change, deliberating on each case with thorough

scrutiny of documents and verification for compliance with existing rules. Decisions were taken after confirming adherence to land conversion regulations. The meeting also re-

viewed revenue records, status of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) and overall progress in disposal of CLU cases.

He also directed the officers to ensure that no construction work should be undertaken without proper approval of the committee.

Emphasizing transparency, efficiency and accountability, the Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to strictly follow provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act and relevant guidelines.

He further stressed the need to expedite the processing of NOC and adopting a proactive approach to ensure timely disposal of cases and improved public service delivery across the district.

Labour Department organises awareness camps on the New Four Labour Codes at Samba

SAMBA, JULY 13: The Labour Department, Samba organised two awareness camps today on the New Four Labour Codes to create awareness among organised and unorganised workers about the provisions and benefits of the new legislation.

The first camp was held at Naturis Cosmetic Industry, EPIP Kartholi, SIDCO, Bari Brahmana for organised sector workers. The second was held at Veer Bhoomi Park, Samba for unorganised workers.



In all, 950 participants attended the two camps, including 650 contract workers, 150 on-roll employees, HR personnel and

other representatives from Naturis Cosmetic Industry and 100 unorganised workers. Assistant Labour Com-

missioner Samba Himani Jerath informed participants about salient features of the New Four Labour Codes and highlighted key reforms introduced over previous labour laws. She explained the objectives of the new codes, including simplification of labour laws, enhanced social security, improved compliance mechanisms, protection of workers' rights and ease of doing business, while ensuring better welfare measures for workers.