

DDC Doda hears public grievances at Gundna, directs prompt action on key development issues

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 15

District Administration Doda today organised a Block Diwas-cum-Public Outreach Programme at Gundna, Block Gundana, providing residents a platform to interact with the administration on development and public welfare issues.

District Development Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal chaired the programme, which was attended by senior district and sectoral officers, PRI representatives and a large gathering of local residents.

During the interaction, residents raised concerns spanning road connectivity and safety, school infrastructure and staffing, electricity supply, health facilities, drinking water and irrigation, MGNREGA and labour welfare, sanitation, agriculture support and pending welfare cases.

Responding to the grievances, the DDC directed the PMGSY Department to expedite road repair and drainage works and the Health Department to improve hygiene, ensure availability of medicines and prioritise healthcare in far-flung areas. The School Education Department in-



formed that additional classrooms and school upgradation proposals were under process. The Power Development Department said new electricity lines and pole-replacement works were already under way, with the DDC directing early completion.

The Agriculture Department, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Tehsil Supply Officer and Labour Department were directed to step up awareness programmes, survey welfare beneficiaries, ensure regular functioning of Fair Price

Shops and expedite renewal of labour cards respectively, while pending marriage assistance cases were ordered to be cleared on priority.

Assistant Commissioner Development Doda urged the public to participate actively in MGNREGA by submitting genuine demands for development works. Addressing the gathering, the District Development Commissioner reaffirmed the administration's commitment to development through public participation and said regu-

lar review meetings are being held to address electricity and other service-related issues, with priority for remote areas.

Calling drug abuse one of the biggest challenges facing society, he urged citizens to support the Nasha Mukta Campaign and reiterated the administration's commitment to making Doda a TB-Mukt District. He also appealed to the people to promote communal harmony and bring genuine grievances to the notice of the administration.

Secretary RDD chairs Steering Committee on Lakhpati Didi Initiative

2.40 Lakh SHG Women Achieve Lakhpati Didi Status; 3.64 Lakh Target Set for J&K by 2029

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Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired the meeting of the Union Territory Level Steering Committee on the Lakhpati Didi Initiative under the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM-UMED), directing all stakeholder departments to adopt a mission-mode approach for transforming women Self-Help Group (SHG) members into sustainable entrepreneurs through effective convergence, skill development and financial inclusion.

The meeting was attended by Mission Director, JKRLM, Dr. Shubhra Sharma; Director, Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, J&K; Directors, Animal Husbandry, Jammu and Kashmir; Directors, Social Welfare, Jammu and Kashmir; Chief Operating Officer, Himayat (DDU-GKY), J&K; Additional Secretary RDD, Waseem Raja, Deputy Director, Fisheries, Kashmir; and other senior officers.

Addressing the meeting, the Secretary said the Government is accelerating implementation of its flagship Lakhpati Didi Initiative with a renewed focus on enabling rural women to establish sustainable micro-enterprises and achieve annual household incomes exceeding ₹1 lakh.

Aijaz Asad informed that 2.40 lakh women in Jammu & Kashmir have already attained Lakhpati Didi status, while the overall target for the Union Territory has been fixed at 3.64 lakh women by 2029, requiring focused efforts to cover an additional 1.24 lakh beneficiaries through convergence, enterprise development, access to credit and skill enhancement.

Emphasising convergence as the cornerstone of the initiative, Secretary directed all stakeholder departments to integrate their flagship schemes with JKRLM and prioritise eligible SHG households un-



der their respective programmes.

He stressed the need for preparing household-level enterprise plans, ensuring timely institutional credit, providing continuous handholding support, and facilitating market linkages for women entrepreneurs. He called upon every department to identify convergence opportunities under its schemes and communicate clear beneficiary targets and implementation strategies.

The Secretary instructed all line departments to prepare a comprehensive convergence blueprint indicating the number of beneficiaries they can support in sectors such as agriculture, horticulture, livestock, dairy, poultry, fisheries and other allied activities, ensuring coordinated implementation down to the village level.

Highlighting the importance of quality skill development, he directed the Mission to strengthen partnerships with reputed national institutions and specialised training organisations while studying and adopting best practices from leading States. He also advised organising exposure visits for officials and stakeholders to replicate successful livelihood models in Jammu & Kashmir.

Aijaz Asad further directed the Mission to engage with leading private apparel brands and manufacturers to explore outsourcing opportunities for women-led enterprises, observing that such partnerships could create sustainable employment and significantly enhance household incomes. He emphasised the need to upgrade the existing skill ecosystem to meet industry standards and improve market competitiveness.

He stressed that capacity building should go beyond classroom-based training and focus on practical, market-oriented skills that enable women to establish viable enterprises. Departments including Agriculture and Horticulture were directed to provide hands-on technical training in scientific farming, apple cultivation, vegetable cultivation, protected cultivation and other high-value agricultural activities capable of generating sustainable incomes.

The Secretary also called for expanding convergence beyond traditional sectors by involving institutions working in digital services, handicrafts, handloom, apparel manufacturing, food processing and other emerging livelihood sectors, observing that a diversified livelihood portfolio

would create greater economic resilience for rural women.

The meeting was informed that the Digital Aajeevika Register (DAR) is being utilised for household identification, beneficiary tracking and progress monitoring, while the Enterprise Planning Digital Tool (EPDT) is facilitating preparation of customised enterprise plans, investment assessment and income forecasting for individual households, thereby strengthening evidence-based planning and monitoring.

Reviewing financial inclusion measures, the Secretary was informed that under the SHG Bank Linkage Programme, institutional credit worth ₹1,200 crore is targeted for potential Lakhpati Didis. Additionally, 4,200 women will be supported during the current financial year under the Lal Ded Stree Shakti Scheme, implemented in collaboration with J&K Bank, through individual micro-loans amounting to ₹42 crore.

The meeting further reviewed banking outreach initiatives under which 372 Bank Mitras and 710 Banking Correspondents are providing doorstep banking services across rural areas. Financial literacy camps and enrolment drives under various social security schemes are also being organised across all blocks to strengthen the financial security and resilience of SHG members.

Concluding the meeting, Aijaz Asad reiterated that the Lakhpati Didi Initiative is not merely an income enhancement programme but a transformative movement aimed at empowering rural women through entrepreneurship, financial independence and sustainable livelihoods.

He directed all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination with JKRLM, adopt a results-oriented approach, and ensure timely achievement of the Union Territory's targets through measurable outcomes, strong institutional convergence and sustained field-level support.

Rajouri admin marks Brigadier Mohammad Usman's 114th birth anniversary

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As part of events marking the 114th birth anniversary of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, MVC, the "Lion of Nowshera," District Administration Rajouri, in collaboration with the Indian Army and My Bharat Rajouri, today organised an Awareness-cum-Registration Camp at the Usman Memorial, Jhanger, to promote awareness of and facilitate access to government welfare schemes.

The programme saw participation from local residents, youth, students, ex-servicemen, public representatives and officials from various government departments. Departments including Skill Development, Health, Education, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, JK Bank, Centre for Financial Literacy and My Bharat Rajouri set up information and registration counters, guiding beneficiaries on eligibility, documentation and online registration for schemes related to employment generation, skill development, self-employment and social welfare. Special emphasis



was laid on the Viksit Vibrant Village Programme and My Bharat, encouraging young people to register as volunteers for nation-building and community service.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Dr

Pritam Lal Thapa said the programme was organised to pay homage to Brigadier Mohammad Usman and to ensure the benefits of government welfare schemes reach every eligible citizen, particularly in border and remote areas.

Participants paid tribute to Brigadier Mohammad Usman for his leadership and sacrifice while defending the nation during the 1947-48 Indo-Pak War, describing him as a symbol of bravery, integrity and selfless service.

ADDC Shopian chairs Block Diwas at Chitragam

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JAMMU, JULY 15

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone today presided over the Block Diwas programme at Block Chitragam, where an extensive public outreach programme was conducted to hear and address the grievances and developmental concerns of local residents.

At the outset, a Nasha Mukta Jammu and Kashmir Abhiyan pledge was administered to all participants, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free society. The attendees pledged to abstain from the use of drugs and intoxicants, spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and actively support the vision of a healthy and drug-free India.

During the programme, people from different panchayats projected demands relating to road connectivity in Chitragam, drinking water, power supply, healthcare, education, irrigation, sanitation, widening and macadamization of roads, shifting of electric poles, resolving of pipeline leakage issues, illegal mining, seizing of vehicles operating without number plates, removal of encroachments,



establishment of dumping sites, desilting of streams and other essential public services. The ADDC gave a patient hearing to every issue and directed the concerned officers to ensure prompt redressal within stipulated timelines.

He directed the concerned officers present on the occasion to take immediate action for on the spot redressal of the issues needing urgent attention, while instructing that other matters be taken up on priority and resolved at the earliest.

Interacting with the gathering, the ADDC reaffirmed the District Admin-

istration's commitment to transparent, accountable and people-centric governance. He emphasized that Block Diwas serves as an effective platform for strengthening public participation, ensuring doorstep governance and accelerating development at the grassroots level.

The ADDC also reviewed the implementation and progress of various flagship government schemes and developmental projects in the block. He instructed officers to maintain close coordination, improve service delivery and ensure that the benefits of welfare schemes reach every eligi-

ble beneficiary without delay.

District and sectoral officers briefed the ADDC about the status of ongoing development works and public welfare initiatives in their respective sectors.

Necessary directions were issued for expeditious disposal of public grievances and timely completion of all ongoing projects.

The programme was attended by GM, DIC, Shurjil Naik; SDM Zianapora, Bilal Ahmad; Tehsildar, Chitragam, district and sectoral officers, Exens, local representatives and a large number of residents from the area.

DC Kulgam presides over Public Outreach Programme at Frisal

KULGAM, JULY 15: Under the Public Outreach Initiative aimed at taking governance to the doorsteps of the people, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited Frisal and presided over a Public Outreach Programme to hear the grievances and developmental demands of the local population.

During the programme, residents of Frisal and adjoining areas projected several public issues and developmental demands. These included upgradation of the Primary Health Centre (PHC), proper solid waste management, repair and restoration of street lights in the market, establishment of Fire & Emergency Services Station, desilting of Lakti Kul, construction of a footbridge over Badi Kul to fa-



cilitate farmers' access to their agricultural land, strengthening of flood protection bunds, construction and macadamization of link roads, enhancement of PHH/BPL ration quota, ensuring adequate and un-

interrupted irrigation water through canals, provision of filtered drinking water, and deployment of doctors at Kujjar Hospital and other developmental requirements of the area.

During the interaction,

officers of the concerned departments also briefed the gathering on the issues raised and informed them about the measures being taken for their resolution.

The Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to all the grievances and demands and assured the public that every genuine issue would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for timely redressal.

He directed the officers to address issues falling within their jurisdiction on priority and ensure prompt follow-up and effective implementation of decisions.

Emphasizing the importance of sanitation, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the concerned authorities to ensure proper collection and scientific disposal of solid waste.