

CS reviews implementation of new Labour Codes



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
BANDIPORA, JULY 15

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness of the Labour & Employment Department for implementation of the Four Labour Codes enacted by the Government of India.

The meeting besides Secretary, Labour & Employment was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Law; DG, Codes; Labour Commissioner; and other senior officers.

During the meeting, the Department made a comprehensive presentation highlighting the status of rule-making, institutional preparedness, digital integration, awareness initiatives and the roadmap for operationalising the new labour law regime across the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary observed that the Labour Codes represent a transformative reform capable of improving labour welfare, strengthening social security, promoting industrial harmony and enhancing ease of doing business.

He expressed confidence that their effective implementation would contribute significantly towards inclusive economic growth, formalisation of employment, improved working conditions and transparent labour governance in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts made

by the Labour & Employment Department in advancing implementation of the Labour Codes and emphasised the need to complete the remaining procedural formalities within the stipulated timeframe.

He directed the Department to expedite final notification of the remaining Rules, strengthen coordination with the Government of India for operationalisation of digital platforms, complete constitution of the statutory Boards and continue intensive awareness programmes so that workers, employers and all stakeholders are fully prepared for seamless implementation of the new labour law framework.

The Secretary L&E, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan while speaking highlighted that the Labour Codes constitute one of the most significant labour reforms undertaken in independent India, replacing 29 Central Labour Laws with four comprehensive Codes, namely the Code on Wages, 2019, Industrial Relations Code, 2020, Code on Social Security, 2020, and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020. The reforms aim to create a simplified, transparent, technology-driven and worker-centric labour governance framework while simultaneously enhancing the Ease of Doing Business.

Giving the progress made by the Department, the Secretary further in-

formated that extensive awareness and outreach programmes have already been undertaken across the Union Territory. As many as 617 Information, Education and Communication (IEC) camps have been organised across all twenty districts, sensitising nearly five lakh workers, employers and stakeholders regarding the provisions and benefits of the new Labour Codes.

Simultaneously, it was added that 283 capacity-building programmes have been conducted, benefiting

over 7,200 officers, employers, trade unions and other stakeholders, besides specialised training programmes conducted in collaboration with the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

During the presentation, the Department highlighted several transformational reforms introduced under the Labour Codes. These include universal minimum wage protection for all employees irrespective of occupation, introduction of a National Floor Wage, a common definition of wages across all four Codes for ensuring higher Provident Fund, gratuity and other social security benefits to the workers.

The Chief Secretary was informed that implementation of the Labour Codes would require constitution of four statutory bodies, namely the State Social Security Board for Unorganised Workers, Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, State Advisory Board on Wages and Industrial Relations, and the Occupational Safety and Health Advisory Board, which shall provide policy guidance and oversee implementation of various welfare measures envisaged under the Codes.

The Labour & Employment Department also presented a comprehensive implementation strategy involving establishment of a dedicated Project Management Unit, deployment of block-level Shram Sahayiks, strengthening of IT infrastructure, integration with national labour portals, extensive awareness campaigns and institutional capacity building. A proposal amounting to Rs. 10.44 crore has already been submitted to the Finance Department to facilitate mission-mode implementation of the Labour Codes across Jammu & Kashmir.

Chandraker Bharti inspects proposed site for NDRF Battalion Headquarters at Bela Manohar, Samba

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 15

Principal Secretary, Home and Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction (DDMRRR), Chandraker Bharti, today visited Village Bela Manohar, Samba, to inspect the land identified for establishment of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Battalion Headquarters.

During the visit, Chandraker Bharti undertook a detailed inspection of the proposed site and reviewed the status of land availability, connectivity and other infrastructure requirements essential for establishment of the Battalion Headquarters. He stressed the importance of timely completion of all requisite formalities to facilitate early commencement of the project.

Deputy Commissioner, Samba, Senior Superintendent of Police, Samba, Commandant, NDRF, officials of the National Highways Authority of India



(NHAI), the concerned Executive Engineer (XEN) and other senior officers of the district administration were present on the occasion.

The concerned officers briefed the Principal Secretary on the present status of the project, land-related issues, road connectivity and other infrastructure re-

quirements.

The Principal Secretary emphasized close coordination among all stakeholder departments. He directed the concerned officers to resolve all pending issues in a time-bound manner to ensure expeditious establishment of the NDRF Battalion Headquarters.

The proposed NDRF Battalion Headquarters at Village Bela Manohar, Samba, is expected to significantly strengthen the disaster preparedness and emergency response capabilities in the Jammu region, enabling a more efficient and coordinated response to natural and man-made disasters.

DDC Reasi holds public grievance redressal camp

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JAMMU, JULY 15

District Development Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek today conducted a Public Grievance Redressal Camp at the PWD Dak Bungalow, Pouni, to hear grievances and review developmental issues in the area.

A large number of residents from Pouni and ad-

joining areas participated and raised demands relating to road connectivity, drinking water supply, electricity, healthcare, education, irrigation, tourism development and other civic amenities, highlighting the poor condition of the Dispensary Building at Kherlaid and the lack of electricity and other essential facilities.

The DDC heard the griev-

ances and assured the people that every genuine issue would be taken up with the departments concerned for prompt redressal, directing officers present to resolve issues in a time-bound manner and ensure effective delivery of government services at the grassroots level.

He directed the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti to prepare and implement a

permanent solution for adequate drinking water supply, the department concerned to upgrade the Dispensary Building at Kherlaid and provide basic amenities including electricity and the department concerned to prepare a comprehensive transport management plan for Ransoo town to facilitate smooth vehicular movement.

J&K Bank signs Corporate Salary Package MoU with IA MultiVentures Pvt Ltd

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 15

J&K Bank on Tuesday signed a Corporate Salary Package (CSP) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd., further strengthening its institutional partnerships and expanding its Corporate Salary Package portfolio.

The MoU was signed at the Bank's Zonal Office Srinagar in the presence of Divisional Head (Kashmir) Arshad Qadri. The agreement was signed by Zonal Head (Srinagar) Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar on behalf of J&K Bank and Managing Director of IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd. Irfan Ahmad. Senior officials from both organisations attended the signing ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, Arshad Qadri said the



agreement builds upon the longstanding relationship of trust between the two organisations and reflects the Bank's commitment to providing innovative and customer-centric banking solutions to institutional clients and their employees.

Zonal Head Sheikh Mohammad Muzaffar said that under the agreement, around 550 employees of IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd. will

benefit from J&K Bank's comprehensive Corporate Salary Package, which offers customised banking products, digital banking services and concessional credit facilities to meet their financial needs.

Managing Director of IA MultiVentures Pvt. Ltd. Irfan Ahmad appreciated the partnership and expressed confidence that the collaboration with J&K Bank would

provide enhanced banking convenience and financial benefits to the company's employees.

Earlier, Cluster Head Zahoor Ahmad Qanoongo gave a detailed presentation on the features and benefits of the Bank's Corporate Salary Package, highlighting its special offerings, digital banking facilities and attractive loan benefits for salaried employees.

Lieutenant Governor Delivered Keynote Address at Dr Suresh Awasthi Memorial Lecture Series

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 15

Dr. Suresh Awasthi Smriti Nyas in Varanasi today organized a commemorative event to observe his 20th Purnima Smriti Diwas. Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha delivered the keynote address on "AI: Effects and Side Effects".

The Lieutenant Governor paid his heartfelt tribute to Dr. Awasthi, a remarkable personality who embodied knowledge and humility. He said Dr. Awasthi was a distinguished scholar and a visionary who saw political science as a powerful instrument for shaping society and strengthening the nation.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that Dr. Awasthi inspired independent thinking and his ideals remain timeless, and it is imperative that the younger generation emulate his thoughts and values, channeling them into the noble task of nation building.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor said that AI has changed the way we educate and hire the workforce and it has fundamentally reshaped the job market, defining the economic landscape of our era. He said there are moments in history when human civilization enters a new age.

"The invention of the wheel, the development of printing, the steam engine, the discovery of electricity, the spread of computers and the internet, each of these changed the world. Today we stand on the threshold of a similar new era, and AI has already reached our homes, schools, hospitals, industries, farms



and government systems. It has become part of our lives. Even in far flung villages, AI is changing lives. A local health worker can now run medical checkups, farmers get instant weather and crop advice, and students get top-quality lessons in their own language," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that a mature society should use modern and new technology like AI with sensitivity and keeping future requirements in mind. He said India has for centuries been the bearer of a shared heritage of knowledge, innovation and humanity and our country taught the world that science and ethics are not opposites but complements.

"So when AI brings new opportunities before us, our duty is not only to adopt it but also to guide it in the right direction. I firmly believe that when technology is used for human welfare, it democratizes opportunity. It brings possibilities to people who were previously deprived of them. That is why we should welcome this

change. The need today is not to compare humans and machines. Rather, we must ensure that machines extend human capabilities, not replace them.

History reminds us that every great leap forward brings a moment of friction. Just as society evolved past the scriptorium after the printing press and abandoned the hand-plow for the tractor, we cannot turn back the clock on Artificial Intelligence. AI represents our best path forward, not as a replacement for human potential, but as a force multiplier. By absorbing the friction of routine and repetitive tasks, AI would elevate our uniquely human strengths. The future belongs to a symbiotic partnership where technology handles the mechanics, allowing the human work force to focus on what truly matters," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that we must build a future where science becomes the means of progress and humanity determines its direction.

DC Kishtwar holds Block Diwas at Bounjwah, directs time-bound redressal of public grievances

KISHTWAR, JULY 15: The weekly Block Diwas programme was held today at Block Bounjwah under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

Local residents gathered in large numbers and raised grievances regarding roads, health services, water supply, school staffing and infrastructure and delays in MGNREGA payments, among other issues. The Deputy Commissioner issued on-the-spot directions to the departments concerned for early redressal.

Various departments set up stalls to share details of



government schemes and encouraged residents to avail welfare benefits.

Addressing the partici-

pants, the DC said almost all grievances have been resolved and pending issues will be redressed on a pri-

ority basis. He directed officers to submit project reports for pending infrastructure works, said all applications received would be dis- arised for disposal by the departments concerned and informed that pending demands requiring funding including a Government Degree College for Bounjwah, had been projected to higher authorities.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner visited Shri Jwala Mata Temple, Devigol, inspected ongoing MPLAD work and interacted with the Devsthan Raksha Committee, assuring them of support.