

DC Srinagar inspects key ongoing development works at Children's Hospital Bemina

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, on Tuesday conducted an extensive inspection of the ongoing development works on the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) near Children's Hospital Bemina and the Attendant Sarai/Accommodation being constructed within the hospital premises.

He also took onsite review of the works on construction of Revenue Complex Shalteng.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the progress of these key public infrastructure projects and ensuring their timely completion.

At Children Hospital Bemina, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the ongoing construction of the Foot Over Bridge (FOB) near the hospital. He reviewed the physical progress of the project and stressed the need to expedite the works so that the bridge can be made operational at the earliest. He noted that the FOB, equipped with escalators, will provide a safe and convenient passage for pedestrians, particularly patients, attendants and local residents, while also helping regulate traffic movement in the busy hospital area.

The DC also inspected the construction site of the Attendant Sarai at Children's Hospital Bemina and reviewed the status of the facility being developed to provide comfortable accommodation and essential amenities for attendants accompanying patients from different parts of the Kashmir Valley. He directed the executing agency to ensure the timely completion of the



project so that the facility can be dedicated to the public at the earliest.

Earlier, at the Revenue Complex, Shalteng, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the construction of the new Tehsil Office and the Office building of the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) West. He assessed the quality of construction works and the pace of work being carried out by the executing agency.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that the upcoming Tehsil Office will house key functional spaces, including the

Tehsildar's Room, Tehsildar's Courtroom, Waiting Area, Naib Tehsildar's Room, Staff Room, Meeting Room, Computer Room, Establishment Section, and Record Room, among other facilities. He was informed that the building is nearing completion and will soon be ready for official use. The DC also inspected the proposed construction site for construction of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) West, being constructed adjacent to the new Tehsil Office.

The DC emphasized the importance of expediting

the construction works and directed the executing agency to accelerate the pace of work while ensuring strict adherence to quality standards. He underscored that the project is vital for enhancing public service delivery and strengthening the revenue administration in the area. He observed that the new Revenue Complex will significantly strengthen the administrative infrastructure by providing modern office space and improved facilities for Government Officials as well as the general public.

Awareness progmm held on Dowry Prohibition Act at Dewal

REASI, JULY 15: Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of Legal Aid Clinic (LAC) Dewal, TLSC Mahore, today organised an awareness programme on the Dowry Prohibition Act at Dewal, under the guidance of District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi Chairman Khalil Choudhary (also Principal District and Sessions Judge, Reasi) and DLSA Reasi Secretary

Pooja Gupta.

The programme aimed to create awareness among local residents about the harmful social practice of dowry and the legal provisions enacted to prohibit it. The PLVs sensitised participants about the provisions of the Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961, highlighting that the giving, taking or demanding of dowry is a punishable offence. Participants

were informed about the legal rights and remedies available to women facing dowry-related harassment and domestic violence. The PLVs emphasised the importance of promoting gender equality, dignity of women and marriages free from the practice of dowry.

Attendees were also made aware of the free legal aid services available

through DLSA and TLSC and the functioning of Legal Aid Clinics and were encouraged to approach Legal Services Institutions for assistance whenever required. The programme saw active participation from the local community, who appreciated the efforts of the Legal Services Authorities in spreading legal awareness on this important social issue.

DDC Kulgam chairs comprehensive review meeting of District Capex Budget 2026-27

KULGAM, JULY 15: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Executive Engineers, District Officers, and representatives of the concerned executing agencies.

At the outset, the Chief Planning Officer, Kulgam briefed the Chair about the status of the District Capex Budget and informed that around 1,500 new works have been taken up during the current financial year across various sectors aimed at strengthening public infrastructure and improving service delivery in the district.

Reviewing the progress, the District Development Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure that the estimation process for all the new works is completed within one week's time without any delay. He stressed that timely preparation and approval of estimates is essential for the early commencement of



developmental works. He further instructed all executing agencies to immediately initiate execution of works after the completion of the estimation process and make every effort to complete the works within one month. He emphasized that no laxity or unnecessary delay would be tolerated in the implementation of development projects.

Highlighting the importance of close monitoring

and accountability, the DDC informed the officers that work-wise weekly review meetings will be conducted to assess the physical and financial progress of each project. He directed all executing agencies to maintain regular coordination with the Chief Planning Officer's office and ensure timely updating of progress so that bottlenecks, if any, are resolved promptly.

The DDC underscored the need to maintain the highest standards of quality in execution while strictly adhering to the approved specifications and timelines. He urged all departments to work in close coordination and ensure that the benefits of the District Capex Budget reach the people without delay through the timely completion of all developmental works.

DC Srinagar reviews preparations for upcoming Chinara Book Festival 2026

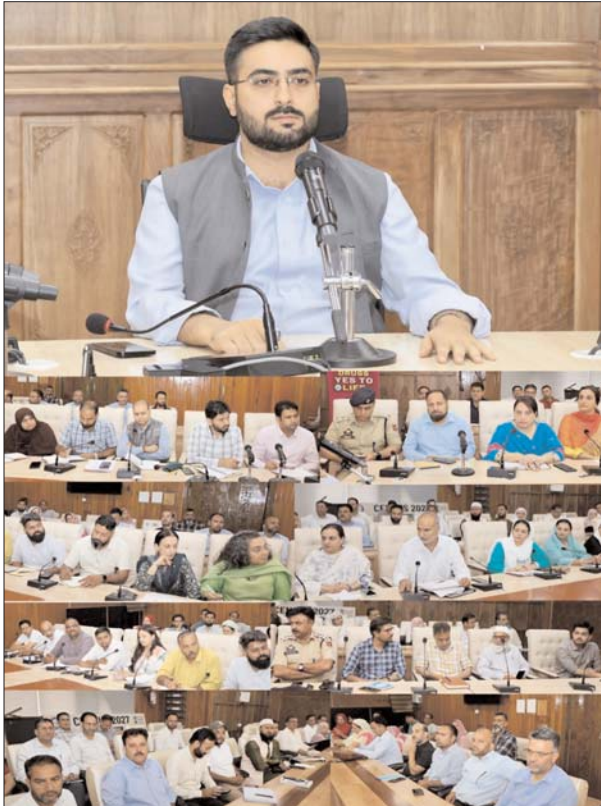
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To ensure successful conduct of 3rd edition of upcoming "Chinar Book Festival" scheduled from July 18 to July 26, 2026, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo chaired a comprehensive meeting here today at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The nine-day event is organized jointly by the National Book Trust (NBT) and the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL).

The Book Festival is being organized through the collaborative efforts of the National Book Trust, India (Ministry of Education, Govt of India), National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) and the District Administration Srinagar at Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC).

At the outset, the DC reviewed the detailed arrangements and preparations being put in place for the literary festival ensuring that the literary festival is organized in a well coordinated manner and provide an engaging platform for



readers, authors, publishers, artists, and students from across the country, while promoting a vibrant reading culture and encouraging greater participation among literary enthusiasts.

On the occasion, the DC stressed timely coordination among line departments, particularly regarding participant mobilization, transporta-

tion, sanitation, etc to ensure the seamless and smooth conduct of the literary festival. He highlighted the festival's potential to inspire youth towards reading, writing, and cultural engagement, while also promoting Jammu & Kashmir's rich literary heritage on a global stage.

During the meeting, it was informed that the 2026

edition of the Chinar Book festival is expected to offer a rich tapestry of book launches, author meet-and-greets, panel discussions, poetry recitations and storytelling sessions. In addition, the festival will showcase local literary talent, children's activities, cultural performances and workshops aimed at promoting reading and writing among youth.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Additional Secretary Culture Academy, Adeel Saleem, Joint commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Additional CEO SCCL, Suhail ul Islam, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Programme Officer ICDS, Bureeda Majid, Officers from Higher Education, School Education, Principles of Government Polytechnic Colleges & Industrial Training Institutes, Medical Superintendents, Executive Engineers, concerned District Officers and others.

Chief Convenor Chinar Book Festival, Amit Wanchoo, Coordinator National Book Trust, Shobha Kapoor and other concerned also participated in the meeting.

Celebrating 150 Years of Vande Mataram, Natrang Stages Patriotic Play Aazadi Ki Gaatha

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Marking the historic 150th anniversary of Vande Mataram, Natrang today presented its new Hindi theatrical production Aazadi Ki Gaatha at Abhinav Theatre, Jammu. The production has been supported by the Sangeet Natak Akademi, New Delhi, as part of the nationwide celebrations commemorating the iconic patriotic song, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The play has been written and directed by Pawan Verma.

Aazadi Ki Gaatha is a stirring theatrical tribute to India's freedom struggle, portraying the extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and patriotism of the nation's immortal freedom fighters. Conceived as a series of powerful dramatic episodes interconnected through the presence of a Sutradhar (Narrator) and the symbolic figure of Bharat Mata, the play takes audiences on an inspiring journey from the First War of Independence in 1857 to the historic dawn of freedom on 15 August 1947.

The narrative opens with the emotional appeal of Bharat Mata, who mourns the suffering of her children under British colonial rule.

Answering her call, Mangal Pandey emerges as the first spark of rebellion, refusing to compromise his faith and dignity in the face of oppression. His supreme sacrifice ignites the spirit of resistance across the coun-



try.

The play then shifts to the legendary Rani Lakshmi Bai of Jhansi, whose fearless opposition to the Doctrine of Lapse stands as an enduring symbol of courage, honour, and unwavering patriotism. It also recreates the birth and evolution of Vande Mataram, illustrating how the song became the heartbeat of India's freedom movement, inspiring millions despite repeated attempts by the British to suppress it.

The production further celebrates the inspiring leadership of Sarojini Naidu, whose powerful speeches awakened the national conscience and encouraged women and youth to actively participate in the struggle for independence. The revolutionary movement reaches its emotional peak with the unforgettable sacrifices of Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev, whose fearless commitment to the nation demonstrated that true freedom demands the highest form of courage.

The concluding chapters portray Mahatma Gandhi's

philosophy of truth, non-violence, self-reliance, and mass civil resistance, culminating in the achievement of India's Independence on 15 August 1947. The finale celebrates the triumph of freedom while reminding audiences that independence is not merely a historical milestone but a continuing responsibility to uphold unity, equality, justice, secular values, and national integrity.

Enriched with emotionally charged performances, patriotic songs, powerful dialogues, and visually engaging dramatic sequences, Aazadi Ki Gaatha is more than a historical presentation—it is a heartfelt homage to the countless known and unknown freedom fighters whose sacrifices laid the foundation of modern India.

Designed to resonate with audiences of all generations, the production rekindles the spirit of patriotism while reinforcing the timeless ideals of courage, sacrifice, communal harmony, and unconditional love for the nation.

The play featured Suhana

Gorka/Mehak Chib as Bharat Mata, Neeraj Kant Sharma as the Narrator, Kushal Bhat as Mahatma Gandhi, Kananpreet Kaur as Sarojini Naidu, Aakash Wadhwani as Mangal Pandey, Vrinda Gujral as Rani Lakshmi Bai, Mahikshit Singh as Bhagat Singh, Aryan Sharma as Rajguru, Nikshay Mahajan as Sukhdev, Aadesh Dhar as the British Officer, and Krishay Bhatia as the Sipahi. The chorus comprised Mohd. Yaseen, Vishal Sharma, Priyal Ashok Gupta, Mehak Chib, Supriya Gorka, Sheetal Sen, Krishna, Narinder, Musrat Bano, Suhani, Vipashu, and Namrita.

The presentations were done by Gauri Thakur whereas the backstage responsibilities were efficiently handled by Pankaj Sharma (Lights), Kartik Kumar (Music Operation), Mohd. Yaseen and Aryan Sharma (Costumes & Properties), Kananpreet Kaur (Make-up), Ayn Bhola stage Manager and Sunny Mujoo (Choreography). The production was presented by Natrang Jammu.

DDC Kupwara, MD Mission Yuva review status of implementation of Mission Yuva in district

KUPWARA, JULY 15: District Development Commissioner (DDC), Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, and the Mission Director, Mission YUVA, Harvinder Singh, jointly chaired a review meeting today with concerned officers and stakeholders to assess the progress under Mission YUVA and to review its implementation across Kupwara district.

It was informed during the meeting that the dis-

trict has received 6,405 applications under Mission YUVA, of which 4,794 applications have been approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

The meeting reviewed the programme's overall performance for both the previous and the current financial years. Detailed deliberations were held on key components, including sanction and disbursement rates; action taken

on pending credit applications; monitoring of unit establishments; recruitment of personnel for Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs); Udyam Jagriti activities; outreach to Lakhpati Didis; and capacity-building initiatives.

The DDC emphasised the importance of effective inter-departmental coordination and timely disposal of applications at

bank level to ensure that eligible youth derive maximum benefit from Mission YUVA. He urged all implementing agencies to work proactively for the successful implementation of the Mission across the district.

Mission Director underscored the need for coordinated, results-oriented efforts by all stakeholders to achieve the desired outcomes within the stipulated timeframe.