

CS for emulating national best practices for enhancing Ease of Doing Business in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 17

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the best practices adopted by leading States in promoting Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Ease of Living, with a view to examining their suitability for implementation in Jammu & Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by various Administrative Secretaries and senior officers of the concerned departments.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary was given detailed presentations on the governance and regulatory reforms undertaken by the States of Maharashtra and Gujarat, highlighting their initiatives aimed at creating a business-friendly ecosystem through simplification of procedures, digital governance, regulatory reforms and citizen-centric service delivery.

The presentations outlined a wide range of initiatives adopted by the two States, including reduction in regulatory compliances, elimination of redundant procedures, end-to-end digitization of government services, strengthening of single-window systems, rationalization of inspections, decriminalization of minor regulatory offences, investor facilitation mechanisms, time-bound service delivery, simplification of land and construction-related approvals and adoption of technology-driven governance models.

The reforms implemented under the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP), District BRAP, deregulation initiatives and Jan Vishwas framework



were also highlighted during the meeting.

Reviewing the reforms presented during the meeting, the Chief Secretary observed that Jammu & Kashmir has already undertaken several governance reforms over the past few years and now needs to further accelerate the pace of administrative transformation by adopting proven national best practices suited to the Union Territory's governance framework.

He stressed that reforms aimed at improving Ease of Living should complement economic reforms by ensuring hassle-free access to government services, minimizing procedural delays and enhancing public satisfaction.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that immediate focus should be laid on rationalization and whitelisting of services, further simplification of regulatory processes, decriminalization of minor offences and undertaking the necessary amendments in the relevant Acts, Rules and regulations to create a more enabling and investor-friendly ecosystem.

Addressing the officers, the Chief Secretary observed that sustained and well-directed reforms invariably translate into greater investor confidence and increased investments.

He said that several States and UTs have emerged as frontrunners in governance reforms and service delivery, and Jammu & Kashmir should proactively emulate such proven best practices rather than reinventing the wheel.

He remarked that there are numerous success stories across the country that offer valuable learning opportunities for the UT. By adopting these tested models and adapting them to local requirements, J&K can accelerate its reform agenda while avoiding duplication of effort and ensuring faster outcomes.

He directed the Centre for Innovation, Transformation and Governance (CITaG) to undertake a comprehensive assessment of the reforms already implemented in the Union Territory vis-à-vis those adopted by leading States, and accordingly prepare a roadmap outlining the future course of action. He stressed that such an assessment should clearly identify the existing gaps and prioritize reforms that can be implemented in the days to come.

Underscoring the importance of adopting an investor-centric approach, the Chief Secretary said that all reforms must be viewed from the perspective of entrepreneurs and investors

rather than from the standpoint of government departments. He maintained that governance systems should be designed to make compliance simpler, approvals faster and service delivery more efficient and transparent.

He further impressed upon CITaG to formulate a comprehensive, well-defined and time-bound action plan with clearly identifiable milestones and measurable outcomes for implementation of these reforms in Jammu & Kashmir. He also directed the organisation to maintain close coordination with the concerned authorities in Maharashtra and Gujarat to gain a deeper understanding of their reform processes, implementation strategies and institutional mechanisms so that the best practices can be effectively adapted to the needs of the Union Territory.

The meeting concluded with a consensus that the adoption of proven governance models from across the country, suitably customized to local requirements, would significantly strengthen institutional efficiency, enhance investor confidence and further the Government's vision of achieving higher standards of Ease of Doing Business and Ease of Living in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Samba reviews preparations for Independence Day 2026 celebrations

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JAMMU, JULY 17

Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting with district officers to review the arrangements for the smooth, dignified and successful celebration of Independence Day 2026 across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a comprehensive review of preparations for the main function to be held at Rani Suchet Singh Sports Stadium, Samba. She directed all concerned departments to complete their assigned works well in advance and ensure seamless coordination for the successful conduct of the national event.

The DC instructed the concerned departments to ensure proper sanitation and cleanliness at the venue and its surrounding areas. She also directed the Power Development Department to ensure uninterrupted power supply and illumination of all important Government buildings, bridges and the main venue.

The Jal Shakti Department



was asked to make adequate arrangements for safe drinking water, while the concerned department was directed to install a robust Public Address System for the smooth conduct of the programme.

The Education and Youth Services & Sports Department were instructed to co-ordinate cultural programmes, march past rehearsals and other ceremonial activities reflecting the patriotic spirit and cultural diversity of the district. The Deputy Commissioner also stressed strict adherence to the Flag Code of India while displaying the National Flag at all government offices and public institutions.

The DC asked the Police

Department to put in place comprehensive security, traffic regulation and parking plans to facilitate smooth movement of participants and the public. She further reviewed the arrangements for the felicitation of distinguished individuals and presentation of awards during the function.

The Chief Medical Officer was directed to ensure adequate medical facilities, including deployment of medical teams, ambulances and emergency healthcare services at the venue.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the concerned departments to make proper arrangements for seating, stage decoration, barricading, refresh-

ments, fire safety, lighting and other essential services to ensure the celebrations are conducted in a befitting manner.

Emphasising timely completion of all assigned responsibilities, the Deputy Commissioner called upon all departments to work in close coordination and ensure that the Independence Day celebrations are organised with utmost efficiency, discipline and patriotic fervour. The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, General Manager DIC, Chief Education Officer and officers of the concerned departments.

DC Samba reviews anti-drug measures at NCORD meeting; calls for stronger enforcement

SAMBA, JULY 17: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) framework at the Conference Hall, DC Office, Samba to review the implementation of anti-narcotics initiatives and strengthen the district's strategy to combat drug abuse under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken in previous NCORD meetings and assessed the progress achieved by various departments in the areas of enforcement, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and awareness.

Emphasising the need for a coordinated and result-oriented approach, the DC directed all stakeholder departments to intensify action against drug trafficking while simultaneously strengthening preventive interventions and public awareness initiatives. She stressed that protecting youth from the menace of narcotics must remain a collective responsibility of all departments and institutions.

The DC directed all departments to ensure effective implementation of the



action points assigned to them and instructed officers to sensitise their employees about the harmful effects of drug abuse through regular awareness and counselling programmes. She called upon every government office to actively contribute towards creating a drug-free society.

Reviewing healthcare interventions, Ayushi Sudan instructed the Health Department to further strengthen the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) at the District Hospital by ensuring quality treatment, counselling and rehabilitation services for individuals affected by substance abuse.

She also directed the Education Department to enhance the capacity of teachers and educational institutions through regular awareness and counselling programmes so that vulnerable students can be identified at an early stage and guided towards a healthy and drug-free lifestyle.

Highlighting the importance of community participation, the DC directed the concerned departments to organise intensive awareness campaigns across schools, colleges, Panchayats and other public institutions. She also called for the organisation of inter-departmental awareness programmes and mega camps under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, besides promoting sports, cultural, educational and youth engagement activities to encourage positive social participation among young people.

The DC further emphasised the need to widely publicize the MANAS National Narcotics Helpline (1933) to encourage citizens to anonymously report drug-related activities and support law enforcement agencies in curbing the menace.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to sustainable rehabilitation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to facilitate employment, skill development and livelihood opportunities for recovering individuals through suitable government schemes, stating that lasting rehabilitation must be supported by economic empowerment and social reintegration.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Deputy Superintendent of Police, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, District Social Welfare Officer, Principals of Government Degree Colleges and senior officers from various departments.

Kishtwar admin in collaboration with Hans Foundation extends medical services across Paddar Sub-Division

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 17

In an initiative towards strengthening healthcare access in remote and difficult-to-reach areas, the district administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with The Hans Foundation, successfully concluded mega health camps across Paddar Sub-Division, benefiting more than 2,000 people.

While briefing the media, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma said that the health camps covered more than 100 hamlets of Paddar Sub-Division and reached nearly 90 percent of the panchayats of the Sub-Division.

The DC informed that free general health check-ups, eye examinations, es-



sential medicines and spectacles were provided to the beneficiaries during the camp. He further highlighted that around 78 patients underwent successful cataract surgeries under the initiative and regained their vision. Lauding the over-

whelming response from the public, the DC said that the people of Paddar highly appreciated the dedicated and mission-oriented approach of The Hans Foundation in providing healthcare services at their doorstep. He added that the

district administration urged the Foundation to organize another such camp so that those who could not benefit during the present camp are also covered.

The DC expressed gratitude to The Hans Foundation, led by Shri Bhole-nath Ji and Mata Mangala Ji for their valuable contribution towards improving healthcare accessibility in remote areas.

He also appreciated the efforts of ADC Pawan Kotwal and officers from the Health Department, including CMO Dr. Sanjay Kumar Bhat, BMO Paddar Dr. Krishan Singh Katoch, medical officers, paramedical staff and all officials involved in the successful conduct of the camp.

MD JPDCL reviews progress of Grid Connectivity, Rural Electrification Works in Marwah, Warwan

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In a significant step towards ensuring reliable and quality electricity supply to the remote and hitherto grid-isolated areas of Kishtwar district, the Managing Director Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) Gurpal Singh today undertook an extensive tour of the Marwah and Warwan valleys to review the on-ground progress of the Grid Connectivity Project and the electrification of left-out unelectrified households being executed under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme

(RDSS).

During the visit, the MD inspected various project sites, including Kayward, Dasbal and Inshan in Warwan Block, besides Astan Gam, Qaderna and Yourdoo in Marwah Block, where he reviewed the progress of the ongoing works and interacted with field engineers, executing agencies and local residents. The Managing Director was accompanied by Chief Engineer (Distribution), Er. Arshad Hussain Reshi, Chief Engineer (Projects), Er. Ravi Kant Kalsotra and other senior officers of JPDCL along with representatives of the executing agencies.

Reviewing the progress of material mobilization, transportation and line construction works, the Managing Director observed that the project is of immense significance for the socio-economic development of these remote regions, as it will connect Marwah and Warwan to the main power grid for the first time, replacing the existing dependence on standalone power systems and ensuring reliable, quality and uninterrupted power supply to the people.

The works are being executed by the Projects Wing of JPDCL under RDSS through executing agency M/s Pir Panchal Construc-



tions (P) Ltd, JV at a total awarded cost of ₹78.16 crore for establishment of receiving stations, construction of transmission infrastructure and electrification of left-out unelectrified

households. As part of the Grid Connectivity Project, JPDCL is establishing a 33/11 kV, 2×6.3 MVA Receiving Station at Marwah, a 33/11 kV, 1×6.3 MVA Receiving Station at Warwan,

besides laying approximately 95 Circuit Kms of 33 kV transmission line on steel tubular poles to integrate these remote valleys with the existing electricity grid. The Managing Director also reviewed the progress of the household electrification component under RDSS, which envisages providing grid-based electricity connectivity to 6,175 left-out households spread across 56 unelectrified habitations in 22 villages of Marwah and Warwan blocks. The project includes installation of 134 Distribution Transformers of 63 kVA, 67 Distribution Transformers of 100 kVA, construction of 178.37 kms

of new 11 kV lines, 19.40 kilometres of LT ABC 70 sq.mm line and 101.90 kms of LT ABC 120 sq.mm line, thereby ensuring last-mile electricity connectivity to every eligible household.

The Managing Director was informed that substantial progress has already been achieved in mobilization of project materials despite the extremely difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions and limited accessibility. Around 1,000 steel tubular poles of 9-metre length and 500 steel tubular poles of 8-metre length have already reached the Marwah and Warwan areas for household electrification works. Similarly, 500

steel tubular poles of 11-metre length required for the 33 kV transmission line have also been received, out of which 248 poles have already been erected on the Dangdaroo-Suid stretch, while the remaining material is being transported to various work fronts through the challenging mountainous terrain. Interacting with the executing agencies and field engineers, the Managing Director directed them to maintain the highest standards of quality while ensuring timely completion of the works. He stressed that all construction activities should be meticulously planned in view of the limited working season.