

Chief Secretary assess the preliminary draft for Public-Private Partnership Policy

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 17

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to deliberate upon the broad contours of the preliminary document of the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Policy being formulated by the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department through the Centre for Innovation, Technology and Governance (CITA-G), with the objective of creating an enabling ecosystem for attracting private investment and accelerating infrastructure and public service development across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, APD; ACS, Finance; ACS, PWD; Director, IIM-Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, PD&MD; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Industries; Secretary, Transport; Chief Executive Officer, CITA-G; and other senior officers.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of building institutional capacity for successful implementation of the proposed policy. He stressed the need for systematic capacity building of officers and officials at different levels so that they are adequately equipped to operationalise the policy in an effective and time-bound manner.

Emphasising the need for delivering tangible outcomes on the ground, Dulloo observed that the Government must lead by example in implementing the policy to instil confidence among investors as well as the general public. He directed the Industries Department to take lead in formulation of the policy by suitably refined it and incorporating the suggestions received during the



meeting so that a comprehensive and well-structured policy document is finalised within the next month.

Referring to global best practices, the Chief Secretary cited the World Bank's well-established STEP model, describing it as a dynamic and self-evolving framework that enables efficient project execution with minimal procedural hurdles. He called for developing a similar institutional model tailored to the unique requirements, administrative structure and developmental priorities of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Secretary further directed CITA-G to proactively identify a pipeline of viable PPP projects across sectors and simultaneously establish a robust institutional mechanism and implementation framework to facilitate their timely execution once the policy is notified.

Speaking during the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, observed that the overarching objective of the proposed policy is to leverage private investment for creating public assets and delivering quality public services for the welfare of the people. He emphasised that while drawing from national and international best practices, the policy should remain rooted in the local context, addressing Jammu and Kashmir's unique developmental priorities, challenges and op-

portunities.

Earlier the Chief Executive Officer, CITA-G, gave a detailed presentation on the proposed policy framework, highlighting the prevailing PPP landscape across the country and the existing scenario in Jammu and Kashmir. The presentation outlined the need for a comprehensive, transparent and investor-friendly policy to position the Union Territory as a preferred destination for private investment in key sectors.

The presentation proposed a streamlined regulatory framework aimed at reducing procedural bottlenecks by facilitating timely statutory approvals, including No Objection Certificates (NOCs), environmental clearances and other mandatory permissions, thereby making the investment process more efficient, predictable and less cumbersome for prospective investors.

It further envisaged a multi-sectoral institutional mechanism with clearly defined roles and responsibilities to facilitate appraisal, approval, monitoring and implementation of PPP projects through a coordinated government setup, ensuring time-bound decision-making and seamless project execution.

The proposed policy identified several high-potential sectors for PPP interventions in Jammu and Kashmir, including urban infrastructure, solid waste management, agriculture, food processing, energy,

power, tourism, hospitality and healthcare, where private participation can significantly enhance service delivery, infrastructure creation and economic growth.

The presentation also elaborated upon the proposed framework for identification and prioritisation of projects, transaction structuring, operational modalities, legal architecture, governance safeguards, grievance redressal mechanism and a well-defined institutional hierarchy with clearly delineated powers and responsibilities to ensure transparency, accountability and effective implementation.

During the deliberations, the Administrative Secretaries and Heads of Departments offered valuable suggestions and sector-specific feedback for further strengthening the proposed policy framework, with emphasis on making it practical, implementation-oriented and aligned with the developmental aspirations of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting concluded with a consensus to further refine the draft policy by incorporating the suggestions received from various departments and to evolve a comprehensive, transparent and investor-friendly PPP framework capable of unlocking private investment, accelerating infrastructure development and fostering sustainable economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir.

Satish inaugurates, launches development projects worth over Rs10 crore in Chhamb

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 17

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today inaugurated and laid foundation stones for a series of landmark developmental projects across the Chhamb Constituency.

These development initiatives reaffirm the Jammu and Kashmir government's unwavering commitment to accelerate infrastructure development, strengthen the public service delivery and ensuring equitable growth across rural and border areas.

The extensive programme witnessed the inauguration and foundation stone laying of projects collectively valued at over ₹10 crore, encompassing roads, bridges, administrative infrastructure, sports facilities, healthcare and veterinary services. The initiatives are expected to significantly enhance connectivity, improve access to essential public services, strengthen the rural infrastructure and create new opportunities for socio-economic development.

The Minister inaugurated the Thandi Choi-Sainth Road, developed at a cost of ₹1.50 crore. He described road connectivity as the backbone of economic growth saying that well-developed road infrastructure not only shortens the travel time but also facilitates trade, education, healthcare access and overall regional development.

"The government is committed to ensure that even the remotest villages are connected with quality infrastructure. Better roads



translate into better opportunities, improved livelihoods and enhanced quality of life for our people," he remarked.

At Kharah Balli, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the new Tehsil Office Building, to be constructed at an estimated cost of ₹76.74 lakh. He said the modern administrative complex will bring government services closer to the people, improve administrative efficiency and provide a more citizen-friendly environment for the delivery of public services.

On the occasion, Satish Sharma also inaugurated the Bridge at Kharah, constructed at a cost of ₹3.45 crore. The bridge is expected to provide reliable all-weather connectivity to several adjoining villages, facilitating easier movement of residents, students, farmers and emergency services.

Continuing the developmental programme, the Minister laid the foundation stone for the Chap-

rial-Bardoh Road, a major connectivity project worth ₹2.50 crore. He said the project would improve transportation facilities, strengthen rural connectivity and provide a much-needed boost to agriculture, trade, tourism and other economic activities in the area.

Recognising the pivotal role of sports in youth empowerment and nation-building, Satish Sharma inaugurated the newly constructed Volleyball Court at Pallanwala, built at a cost of ₹20.99 lakh.

"J&K youth possess immense talent. It is our responsibility to provide them with the best possible infrastructure and opportunities so they can excel at the national and international level. Sports not only produce champions but also promote discipline, confidence, fitness and social harmony," he said.

The Minister also distributed medical equipment aimed at strengthening healthcare facilities in the

area and improving the quality of healthcare services available to the local population. He said the Government continues to invest in health infrastructure to ensure accessible and affordable healthcare for every citizen.

Later, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for the Veterinary Hospital at Khour, a project estimated to cost ₹2.07 crore. He observed that livestock forms the backbone of the rural economy in many parts of Jammu and Kashmir and strengthening veterinary infrastructure would directly benefit the farmers by improving animal healthcare, productivity, and income generation.

Addressing public gatherings during the programme, the Minister said that the government is working tirelessly to ensure that developmental benefits reach every village, every household and every citizen through sustained investment in infrastructure and public welfare.

JKTPO showcases J&K's textile heritage at Bharat Tex 2026; NZ Minister visits J&K pavilion

NEW DELHI, JULY 17: The Jammu & Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, government of Jammu and Kashmir, successfully showcased the region's rich handloom, handicraft and textile heritage at Bharat Tex 2026, held from 14-17 July 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. The event provided a premier international platform for the manufacturers, exporters, buyers, designers and sourcing agencies from across the globe.

Approximately 20 exhibitors from across Jammu and Kashmir participated under the J&K Pavilion (Hall No. 11, Ground Floor), presenting an impressive collection of traditional and contemporary textile products before thousands of domestic and international buyers, exporters, retailers, sourcing agencies, designers and industry stakeholders.

The pavilion showcased an extensive range of premium handmade products, including GI-tagged Pashmina shawls, GI-tagged Kani shawls, GI-tagged Kashmiri carpets, hand-made GI Pashmina rugs, fine wool stoles, shawls, scarves, chain stitch rugs, handcrafted bags and several other authentic products representing the unparalleled craftsmanship and cultural richness of Jammu and Kashmir. The participation enabled the local artisans, weavers, co-operatives and MSMEs to showcase their products, establish valuable business linkages and explore new



domestic and international market opportunities.

A major highlight of the exhibition was the visit of Hon. Mark Patterson, New Zealand's Minister for Rural Communities and Associate Minister for Agriculture and Regional Development, to the J&K Pavilion. The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Mathew Ayers, Deputy High Commissioner of New Zealand, Mr. Andy Caughey of Wool Impact Limited, Aotearoa New Zealand; Dr. Romesh Khajuria, Chairman, (JK-WDMA), Mr. R.C. Khanna, Chairman, WWPCC; Mr. H.S. Bhalla, Vice Chairman, WWPCC and Mr. Sanjay Chawla, Executive Director, WWPCC.

During the visit, the delegation interacted with the exhibitors and appreciated the exquisite craftsmanship, rich handloom traditions and exceptional quality of the products displayed by the artisans of

Jammu & Kashmir. The delegation was briefed on the Jammu and Kashmir's rich heritage in wool, pashmina, handloom and handicrafts and textile products, promoting sustainable value chains, technology exchange and enhancing trade and investment opportunities between India and New Zealand.

Speaking on the successful participation, Managing Director, JKTPO, stated that participation in such events reflects JKTPO's continued commitment to provide global market exposure to the artisans, weavers and entrepreneurs of the Union Territory. The overwhelming response received at the J&K Pavilion demonstrates the growing appreciation for our GI-tagged products and traditional crafts. Such national and international platforms play a vital role in connecting our producers with buyers, promoting exports,

strengthening sustainable livelihoods and positioning Jammu and Kashmir as a leading destination for premium handloom and handicraft products.

Throughout the four-day exhibition, the J&K Pavilion witnessed encouraging footfall from buyers, exporters, retailers, designers, sourcing agencies and textile professionals from India and overseas, generating significant business enquiries and opening new avenues for market expansion for participating enterprises.

The visit of the New Zealand delegation further highlighted the growing scope for international collaboration in the wool and textile sector. This reaffirmed the shared commitment of both sides to explore mutually beneficial partnerships supporting innovation, sustainability, value addition and market development.

IFA, Home Department reviews CapEx expenditure; stresses GeM procurement, budget discipline, zero creation of liabilities

SRINAGAR, JULY 17: The office of the Internal Financial Advisor (IFA), Home Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir, today conducted a meeting, held in two sessions, with the Drawing & Disbursing Officers (DDOs) of the Home Department at the Police Headquarters.

The meeting was initiated by the Additional Director General of Police (Headquarters), J&K Police, while both the sessions were chaired by Shakeel Maqbool, IFA, Home Department.

The meeting focused on two key agenda points. The first was a detailed

review of the Home Department's Capital Expenditure with directions to expedite the fund disbursement and clear pending payments without delay. The second was to ensure strict compliance with the General Financial Rules, 2017, to maintain financial discipline and prevent creation of any new liabilities.

In his address, the IFA laid strong emphasis on financial discipline and said that all supply orders must be placed through the Government e-Marketplace wherever items are available on the portal. He directed that budget should invariably be

blocked at the time of placing any supply order and no order shall be issued without ensuring budget availability.

The IFA further stated that payments for received supplies shall be made exclusively through GeM-PFMS integration and creation of liabilities without budgetary provision must be scrupulously avoided. He also stressed that all sanctions should be accorded strictly within the competence of the sanctioning authority as per the Delegation of Financial Powers and within the allocated budget.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA)

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 17

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today convened a meeting of district officers to review and finalize the necessary arrangements for the upcoming Urs Mubarak of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA) to be held in Ganderbal.

Representatives of Qamaria Auqaf Trust informed during the meeting that the week-long Urs Mubarak will commence from the 21st of July while the main Urs day shall be observed on 25th. The main congregation is expected to witness a significant gathering of devotees at the revered shrine of Hazrat Qamar-Ud-Din Bukhari (RA) in Reshipora Saloor. A detailed discussion was held regarding the various arrangements required for the smooth and successful conduct of the religious event.

The meeting finalized comprehensive plans related to uninterrupted



power supply, safe drinking water, medical facilities, fire safety, transport and parking, sanitation, security, and traffic regulation.

The DC directed all concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are put in place well before the commencement of the Urs to provide a smooth, safe, and comfortable experience for the devotees.

The Fire & Emergency Services Department was instructed to deploy fire tender at the venue, while the Health Department was asked to station an ambulance with adequate emergency medicines and medical staff.

The Municipal Council Ganderbal was directed to maintain cleanliness in and around the shrine premises, including the approach roads.

To ensure safety and order during the large gatherings, the Police and Traffic Departments were tasked with maintaining security and managing traffic regulations effectively. The ARTO was asked to ensure proper transport and parking arrangements for the devotees. The Executive Engineer KPDC was directed to ensure uninterrupted power supply during the Urs days and to keep a gen-

erator set ready as backup.

DC assured the representatives of Qamaria Auqaf Trust that the district administration is committed to ensuring that all necessary facilities are in place to facilitate a peaceful and spiritually enriching experience for the devotees participating in the Urs Mubarak.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Assistant Commissioner, Tehsildar Ganderbal, DySP Headquarters, representatives of KPDC, PHE, R&B, ARTO, and other concerned officers.