

Javid Dar chairs 45th AGM of JKHPMC; reviews Corporation's performance, future roadmap

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 27

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired the 45th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce, Marketing and Processing Corporation (JKHPMC) at the Civil Secretariat, here.

The Annual General Meeting unanimously adopted the audited accounts of the Corporation for the financial years 2019-20 to 2023-24.

Addressing the meeting, the Minister underscored the pivotal role of JKHPMC in strengthening the horticulture value chain and creating better marketing opportunities for the growers. He directed the Managing Director to institutionalize biannual review meetings to regularly assess the Corporation's performance, monitor implementation of decisions and formulate a forward-looking strategy for sustainable growth.

Javid Dar stressed the need to identify new areas of expansion and innovation in agricultural and horticultural marketing, processing and value addition so that the farmers receive better returns for their produce. He called upon the Corporation to adopt a result-oriented ap-



proach and align its activities with the evolving needs of the farming community.

The Minister directed the officers to undertake a comprehensive assessment of all Corporation assets and ensure their proper maintenance, effective monitoring and optimum utilisation.

He said that efficient asset management and timely execution of development projects would significantly enhance the Corporation's operational capacity and financial sustainability.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to the holistic development of the agriculture and horticulture sectors, the Minister said that JKHPMC has a vital role in promoting post-

harvest management, value addition, market linkages and processing infrastructure. This would immensely contribute towards higher farm incomes and sustainable rural economic growth in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma; Managing Director, JKHPMC, Mohammad Farooq Dar; Shareholders of the Corporation; members of the Board of Directors and senior officers of JKHPMC.

Earlier, the Managing Director made a detailed presentation highlighting the Corporation's performance, achievements, financial position and key

initiatives undertaken during the review meeting. He also apprised the meeting of the status of statutory audits, progress made in clearing the backlog of audited accounts and the roadmap for completing the remaining audit process within the stipulated timeline.

The meeting held comprehensive deliberations on a wide range of issues, including the Corporation's financial management, operational performance, implementation of projects under CAPEX and NABARD, infrastructure development, marketing initiatives and strategies to strengthen the Corporation's role in supporting the horticulture sector across Jammu and Kashmir.

Chief Secy inaugurates 'CSC Digital Excellence Centres' across districts

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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today in a review meeting assessed the performance of Common Services Centres (CSCs) across Jammu and Kashmir and discussed measures for leveraging the extensive CSC network to strengthen citizen-centric governance by taking public services to the doorsteps of the people.

Besides the ACS Finance and Commissioner Secretary, IT the meeting was also attended by the concerned Administrative Secretaries; CEO, JaKeGA and many senior officers of the IT Department. Deputy Commissioners attended the meeting through video conferencing.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary e-inaugurated 12 CSC Digital Excellence Centres for e-Governance established in Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Pulwama, Shopian, Srinagar, Kathua, Jammu, Reasi, Kulgam, Ramban and Samba districts.

These centres have been conceived as dedicated hubs for promoting digital governance, enhancing the capacity of Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), improving digital literacy and facilitating seamless delivery of Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services.

The centres are expected to serve as focal points for awareness generation, adoption of emerging digital platforms and effective implementation of flagship Government programmes, thereby strengthening last-mile governance across the UT. Emphasising the transformative role of CSCs in public service delivery, the Chief Secretary observed that the vast network of over 15,500 active CSCs has the potential to become the backbone of grassroots digital governance in Jammu and Kashmir. He stressed that this network should be optimally leveraged to ensure that every citizen, irrespective of geographical location, has timely access to Government services at or near their doorstep.

The Chief Secretary took this occasion to direct the Revenue Department,



Deputy Commissioners and the CSC SPV to jointly work out an acceptable operational framework for undertaking the digital crop survey through CSCs. He observed that the extensive CSC network could ensure completion of the exercise in a time-bound manner and advised them to keep September deadline in focus for achieving this milestone.

He maintained that timely completion of the exercise would be a major step towards making Jammu and Kashmir eligible for the incentives under the AgriStack programme.

The Chief Secretary further instructed the Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, Revenue Department to prepare a detailed roadmap for completion of the creation of Farmer IDs under AgriStack by 15 August, asking the district administrations to accord the highest priority to these initiatives.

He also directed that CSCs should assume the responsibility of BharatNet Udyamis at the Panchayat level under the amended BharatNet Programme to further strengthen digital connectivity and service delivery in rural areas.

Calling for expansion of services being delivered through CSCs, the Chief Secretary instructed the Information Technology Department and CSC SPV to integrate additional Government services over and above the existing 350 services already available on the platform.

He laid particular emphasis on expediting integration of the Labour Department services, Single Window System, YUVA initiative, JKICIP, SEHAT, be-

sides ensuring seamless onboarding of all pending citizen-centric services.

The Chief Secretary also directed the concerned departments to integrate key digital platforms and initiatives including Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), SEHAT, Unified Lending Interface (ULI), DigiLocker, and GST Return Filing with the CSC ecosystem so that citizens can access a comprehensive bouquet of public services from a single digital interface.

Highlighting the potential of CSCs in strengthening financial inclusion, the Chief Secretary asked the stakeholders to explore their engagement as Direct Selling Agents (DSAs) for J&K Bank and utilise the network for expanding services under the Unified Lending Interface (ULI).

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology Department, Saurabh Bhagat, presented an overview of the objectives, functioning and achievements of CSCs across the Union Territory. He informed the meeting that CSCs have significantly strengthened the digital service delivery ecosystem through a network of more than 15,500 active centres, facilitating lakhs of citizen-centric transactions during FY 2025-26 under Aadhaar services, AEPS, G2C and B2C services, banking, insurance, education, telelaw, doorstep delivery and digital payment services, thereby ensuring last-mile access to Government services even in remote areas.

He further informed that CSCs have played a pivotal role in implementing flagship welfare schemes by facilitating enrolments under

Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan, PM Vishwakarma, PM Surya Ghar, e-Shram, Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM), PM Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), National Scholarship Portal (NSP) and several other Central Government initiatives, enabling timely delivery of benefits to eligible beneficiaries across the Union Territory.

The J&K Head, CSC SPV, Faizan Manzoor presented the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken during the previous review meeting. He informed that several action points had been successfully implemented, including capacity building programmes for Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs), promotion of DigiLocker, operationalisation of the CSC grievance redressal mechanism, integration of Jansugam services and streamlining of Ayushman Bharat registrations.

About the status of remaining Digital Excellence Centres, it was assured that strict timelines had been fixed for making the centres fully operational. It was revealed that the centres at Baramulla, Budgam, Bandipora, Doda, Kishtwar, Udhampur and Poonch are going to be made functional within the next month. The meeting was further informed that work is underway for integration of additional Government services with the CSC platform, onboarding of electricity bill payment services, expansion of CSC touch points, integration of JKBOCW services, implementation of the Single Window System, farmer registration and several other citizen-centric initiatives.

Preparations for Independence Day Celebrations 2026 reviewed at Sumbal

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Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad Sheikh, on Monday chaired a meeting of officers to review preparations for the smooth and successful celebration of the forthcoming Independence Day 2026 across the Sub-Division.

The meeting held a comprehensive review of the arrangements to be put in place for the national event. Detailed discussions were held regarding the venue, seating arrangements, invitation of dignitaries, flag hoisting ceremony, participation of contingents, band performances, cultural programmes, illumination of government buildings, medical facilities, fire and emergency services, floral decorations, sanitation, drinking water supply, Electricity supply and



transportation facilities.

The SDM directed the concerned departments to ensure that all arrangements are completed well in advance and in a coordinated manner. He stressed the importance of maintaining the dignity and solemnity of the national

celebrations while ensuring the convenience and safety of participants and the general public.

Regarding cultural programmes, the SDM instructed the concerned committee to closely monitor rehearsals and ensure quality performances re-

flecting the spirit of patriotism and national integration. He also directed the Education Department and other concerned agencies to introduce more students in contingents, bands and cultural items so as to encourage wider participation of youth in the celebrations.

The meeting also reviewed arrangements for parade contingents and directed the concerned departments to ensure timely rehearsals and proper coordination among all participating teams.

The meeting was attended by Tehsildar Sumbal, Syed Shabbar Sarwar; Block Development Officers, Executive Engineers, officers of various line departments, who briefed the chair regarding the status of preparations and assured timely completion of all assigned responsibilities.

DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a meeting of officers of district administration, Kulgam to review the arrangements for the smooth and successful celebration of 79th Independence Day 2026 across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of all preparations and finalized the District Police Lines (DPL), Kulgam, as the main venue for the district-level function. The National Flag will be hoisted by the Chief Guest, followed by march past.

A detailed deliberation was held on all aspects of the event, including secu-



rity arrangements, traffic management, seating plans, Full Dress Rehearsal, venue decoration & branding, cultural programmes, public address

system, uninterrupted power and drinking water supply, transportation, sanitation, illumination, medical facilities, parking management, and other lo-

gistical arrangements to ensure the successful conduct of the celebrations.

The Deputy Commissioner assigned specific responsibilities to the departments and directed them to put in place comprehensive, foolproof, and well-coordinated arrangements well in advance. He emphasized the importance of close inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of all assigned tasks to ensure that the national celebration is conducted in a befitting, dignified, and grand manner.

Besides the district level function, the sub divisional, block and institutional level functions shall also be held across the district to mark the celebration of 79th Independence Day.

CM Omar meets public representatives, industry leaders at Raabita

SRINAGAR, JULY 27:

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met public representatives, entrepreneurs and industry leaders at Raabita here, holding discussions on a range of issues concerning public welfare, economic growth, entrepreneurship, trade and skill development.

Former MLA Dr. Chaman Lal Bhagat called on the Chief Minister and discussed key issues pertaining to his area.

Founder and CEO of YourStory and The Bharat Project, Shraddha Sharma, met the Chief Minister to deliberate on Jammu and Kashmir's startup and entrepreneurship ecosystem, innovation-driven initiatives and the Government's efforts to promote inclusive economic growth.

President, Jammu Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Arun Gupta, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed issues concerning trade, commerce



and industrial development in Jammu and Kashmir.

Managing Director and CEO, Infinitech Services and Solutions, Saiyed Owais Ahmad, met the Chief Minister and discussed proposals for implementing industry-led skill development and higher

education initiatives in Jammu and Kashmir through partnerships with leading global technology companies.

The Chief Minister assured the visiting public representatives and industry leaders that the Government remains committed to

fostering inclusive development, strengthening entrepreneurship and industry, promoting trade and commerce, and expanding employment and skill development opportunities for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir through collaborative partnerships.

SHOPIAN, JULY 27: The Court of adjudication under the Food Safety and Standards Act was convened today by the Adjudicating Officer (Additional Deputy Commissioner) Shopian, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz during which 12 cases related to violations of food safety norms were dis-

posed of.

During the proceedings, a total penalty of Rs 62,000 was imposed on food business operators found selling substandard milk and edible oil, besides committing other violations under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

The ADC emphasized that there will be zero tolerance for the sale of substan-

dard and unsafe food items, warning that strict legal action, including hefty penalties, will be taken against anyone found violating food safety regulations. The Court directed the Food Safety Department to continue intensive market inspections across the district to ensure the availability of safe and quality food products for

consumers. Food business operators were instructed to strictly adhere to prescribed food safety standards, failing which stringent action will follow.

The District Administration reiterated its commitment for safeguarding public health through regular market checking drives and strict enforcement of food safety laws.