

Itoo visits GDC Women Zakura Srinagar



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 27

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today announced the construction of Academic Block with Library at GDC (Women) Zakura at an approximate cost of Rs. 529.02 lakhs.

The Minister made this announcement during her visit to Government Degree College (GDC) Women Zakura here today.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar; Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz

focused on upgrading educational infrastructure and ensuring that higher educational institutions are equipped with modern facilities to meet contemporary academic standards.

She said that investment in education is an investment in the future and remains among the Government's highest priorities.

MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar appreciated the efforts of the college administration in promoting quality education and expressed confidence that the new Academic-cum-Library Block would further strengthen the institution's academic ecosystem. Director Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Sheikh Ajaz Bashir, also highlighted the importance of continuously improving educational infrastructure and assured all possible support for the overall development of the college.

Principal of the college, along with the faculty and staff, expressed gratitude to the Minister for sanctioning the new Academic-cum-Library Block and for her continued support towards the growth of higher education.

Bashir and other senior officers of Higher Education Department and other line departments during the visit.

During the visit, the Minister reviewed the academic and infrastructural requirements of the college and held detailed discussions with the college administration regarding its future developmental needs. She said that the newly sanctioned Academic-cum-Library Block would significantly augment the institution's infrastructure, provide improved learning facilities and cater to the growing academic requirements of students.

Interacting with students from various departments, Sakeena Itoo encouraged them to pursue academic excellence with dedication and discipline. She urged them to embrace innovation, strengthen their skills and contribute meaningfully towards the progress of society and the nation. The Minister also listened to the students' aspirations and suggestions, assuring them that the Government remains committed to creating a conducive environment for quality higher education. Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reiterated that the Omar Abdullah-led Government is

J&K hosts South Goa Zilla Panchayat delegation for Panchayati Raj knowledge exchange

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The Department of Rural Development & Panchayati Raj (RDD&PR), Jammu & Kashmir, today hosted a high-level delegation from the South Goa Zilla Panchayat at Panchayat Bhawan, Budgam, as part of an inter-state knowledge exchange programme aimed at strengthening Panchayati Raj Institutions through mutual learning and the sharing of best practices.

The delegation was led by Siddharth Dessai, Chairperson, South Goa Zilla Panchayat, Vikas Kamble, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Agostinho Fernandes, Chief Accounts Officer, along with 19 elected members of the South Goa Zilla Panchayat.

The visiting delegation was welcomed by Director, Rural Development Department & Panchayati Raj Riyaz Ahmad Wani, Joint Director (Administration) RDD Kashmir, Nasir Mahmood Khan along with senior officers of the department, members of the State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), and representatives of award-winning Panchayats from Jammu & Kashmir.

The technical session commenced with a detailed presentation by experts from the State Panchayat Resource Centre (SPRC), highlighting the structure, functioning, achievements, innovations and best practices of the Panchayati Raj



system in Jammu & Kashmir. The presentation showcased the UT's initiatives in strengthening grassroots governance, improving rural service delivery, promoting transparency and encouraging community participation.

The programme also featured an inspiring experience-sharing session by award-winning Panchayat representatives who shared successful initiatives and innovative governance practices implemented at the grassroots level.

Members of the South Goa Zilla Panchayat delegation interacted with officers and Panchayat representatives during an open discussion, exchanging ex-

periences, ideas and practical approaches to strengthening local self-governance.

The interactive session provided a valuable platform for cross-learning and exploring opportunities for adopting best practices across states.

Addressing the gathering, Director RDD, Riyaz Ahmad Wani, emphasized the importance of collaborative learning among Panchayati Raj Institutions and underscored the role of such exposure visits in enhancing governance, capacity building and rural development.

He highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's commitment to empowering Panchayats

and promoting inclusive, participatory and transparent rural governance.

"The District Development Council has played a significant role in strengthening grassroots democracy. Although the elected bodies have recently completed their tenure and we are in the process of fresh elections, these institutions have contributed immensely to deepening democratic values, promoting transparency, and accelerating rural development," he said.

Wani said that such interactions provide an invaluable opportunity for mutual learning, exchange of experiences, and adoption of best practices.

DC Ramban inspects Pernote subsidence site, directs faster restoration of Ramban-Gool road

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today visited the landslide and subsidence-affected area at Pernote on the Ramban-Gool road to assess the damage caused by recent heavy rainfall and review the ongoing restoration operations.

The Deputy Commissioner inspected the restoration works being carried out by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) on the nearly 300-metre stretch of the Ramban-Gool road that has suffered major subsidence. He was informed that operations are under way with adequate manpower and heavy machinery to clear debris and restore the damaged stretch.

The DC directed the exe-



cuting agency to accelerate the works by deploying additional machinery and manpower to ensure early restoration of traffic.

The Deputy Commissioner appealed to resi-

dents and commuters to avoid the subsidence-affected area, as the ground remains unstable and vulnerable to further sliding.

Senior Superintendent of Police Ramban Arun

Gupta, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Tehsildar Deep Kumar and other officers concerned accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

Natyapal Singh assumes charge as District Information Officer Ramban

RAMBAN, JULY 27: Natyapal Singh today assumed charge as District Information Officer Ramban.

The DIO interacted with the officials of the District Information Centre and reviewed the functioning of the office.

The District Information Officer emphasised the timely and accurate dissemination of information on government policies, developmental ini-



tiatives and public welfare programmes to ensure greater public awareness and participation. He called upon the staff to highlight the developmental activities and achievements of the district administration while ensuring effective coordination with all government departments.

The officials of the District Information Centre welcomed the DIO and assured him of their full cooperation.

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Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir, through its Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship Centre (SKIIE), joined hands with the IIM Calcutta Innovation Park (IIMCIP) to organise 'Spark Social', a high-impact outreach seminar under the 14th Tata Social Enterprise Challenge (TSEC) 2026.

The event, held at SKUAST-K Shalimar campus, aimed to inspire and guide students, researchers, and early-stage innovators towards building scalable, impact-driven social enterprises.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the occasion, emphasised that innovation and entrepreneurship



are now essential pillars of higher education.

He called on young innovators to leverage their creative potential to address real-world societal problems while driving socioeconomic growth across Jammu & Kashmir. He reaffirmed the university's dedication to supporting startups through robust incubation, expert mentor-

ship, and strategic industry linkages.

During the event, Assistant Vice President of Incubation at IIMCIP, Soujit Das, delivered a detailed overview of the Tata Social Enterprise Challenge—India's premier platform for social impact ventures. He briefed participants about the application process,

detailing available incubation support, mentorship, investor connections, and funding channels.

The seminar also featured insightful technical sessions, including a presentation on sustainable, impact-led business models by Social Entrepreneur and CEO of Pietbillo Solutions Pvt Ltd, Dr Shuvendu Prasad Roy.

DC Srinagar, SSP review intensified anti-drugs enforcement measures in district

SRINAGAR JULY 27: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Monday chaired a comprehensive meeting of the District-Level NCORD Committee here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review the progress of the intensified anti-drug enforcement drive launched under the 100-Day Jammu & Kashmir Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan in the District.

Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Srinagar, Dr. Sundeeep Chakravarthy, also attended the meeting, which assessed the impact of coordinated enforcement measures against drug trafficking and substance abuse.

The meeting was attended by Regional Transport Officer Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, SP Headquarter, Umar Shah, Joint Commissioner SMC, Nuzhat Khurshid, IAS Probationer, Alfred Thomas, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM East Zubair Ahmad, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Din, DSWO, Mohammad Yousuf and Officers from

Excise, Drug Control Organisation, DYS&S, heads of ATFs and Officers of other concerned departments.

At the outset, the meeting undertook a comprehensive assessment of the District's anti-drug strategy, focusing on enforcement measures, preventive interventions, rehabilitation measures and the outcomes of the recently concluded 100-day Jammu and Kashmir Nasha Mukta Abhiyan.

During the meeting, it was informed that the intensified enforcement operations, coupled with coordinated efforts by the Police, Civil Administration, and other stakeholder departments, have yielded significant outcomes across Srinagar district.

The multi-pronged action has focused on dismantling drug trafficking networks, disrupting the financial ecosystem supporting illicit activities, and ensuring strict legal action against those involved in the illegal trade of narcotics.

The NCORD Committee was informed that the ongoing crackdown



has resulted in the registration of 169 FIRs and the arrest of 238 alleged

drug peddlers. In addition, illegal movable and immovable properties

worth about Rs 103 crore linked to drug traffickers have been attached, while 89 bank accounts have been frozen as part of financial investigations.

The Committee was further informed that 101 driving licences, 59 vehicle registration certificates (RCs) and 70 chemist licences have been suspended for violations related to narcotics.

The enforcement agencies also reviewed action taken to dismantle drug supply networks through coordinated legal, financial and administrative measures.

Further more, authorities have recommended suspension of passport and Aadhaar numbers of various accused under relevant laws.

Reviewing the progress of the campaign, the Deputy Commissioner and SSP appreciated the coordinated efforts of the Civil Administration, Police and allied Departments and stressed the need for sustained, intelligence-driven enforcement to eliminate the drug menace and ensure lasting outcomes under the on-

going campaign.

On the occasion, the DC directed all concerned departments to further strengthen inter-departmental coordination and intensify action against drug peddlers and trafficking networks to ensure a drug-free and safer environment in the District. He emphasised renewed focus and coordinated efforts to curb drug abuse and dismantle the ecosystem supporting narcotics trafficking in Srinagar District.

The DC further stressed the importance of a multi-pronged strategy combining strict law enforcement with awareness generation, counselling and rehabilitation measures to effectively tackle the menace of drug abuse, particularly among youth.

The SSP reiterated the commitment of the Police in collaboration with civil authorities towards sustained action against narcotics-related activities and called for active support from the public in identifying and reporting drug-related offences.