

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for I-Day-2026 celebrations

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 28

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti today held a high level meeting of senior officers to review the arrangements for Independence Day, 2026 celebrations at the meeting Hall of the Divisional Commissioner's Office.

DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua, DCs/SSPs from Jammu Division, Commissioner JMC; MD JPDCL, Director School Education Jammu, SSP Traffic attended the meeting in person and virtual mode. Besides, officers from Health, PWD, Jal Shakti, JPDCL, Information, Transport and other concerned departments also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, a detailed discussion was held on various aspects to ensure that Independence Day 2026 is celebrated in a grand, organized and befitting manner. Key areas reviewed included security arrangements, traffic management, parade, cultural programs, stage setup,



lighting, drinking water, medical facilities, sanitation and other essential arrangements at the main venue and other district headquarters.

The Divisional Commissioner directed all concerned departments to complete their assigned responsibilities well in time and to maintain close coordination among themselves. He stressed that the convenience and safety of the general public shall be the top priority during the celebrations. He also emphasized punctuality, discipline and proper protocol during the events at M.A Stadium Jammu and other venues across the Jammu division.

Briefing on security arrangements, the IGP

Jammu said that foolproof security arrangements will be put in place at the main venue and in the surrounding areas. He added that a comprehensive traffic management plan will be prepared to ensure smooth flow of traffic and hassle-free movement of the public, invitees and participants on the day of the function.

The Divisional Commissioner asked the senior officers of the Education and Information Department to coordinate for participation of school children, NCC, NSS and Cultural groups and to give wide publicity to the program schedule and ensure media coverage. He also directed the Deputy Commissioners to convene meetings at the district level and finalise all arrange-

ments within the stipulated timeframe. He further directed that attendance at the Independence Day celebrations shall be compulsory for all government employees.

The JPDCL, Jal Shakti, Health and Fire & Emergency Services departments were directed to ensure adequate arrangements for drinking water, power supply, sanitation, medical teams and fire safety at the rehearsal and main event venues. The PWD was further instructed to ensure cleaning of the grounds and cutting of grass at all identified venues.

Departments were directed to submit their final preparedness reports within the stipulated time-frame.

MY Bharat Kendra Doda organises 'Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat' Programme

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MY Bharat Kendra Doda, under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India today organised the "Nasha Mukht Yuva for Viksit Bharat" programme at the Community Hall Doda to spread awareness among youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse and encourage their active participation in building a healthy, empowered and developed India.

District Youth Officer, MY Bharat Doda Sandeep welcomed the chief guest, district officers and participants. He highlighted the initiatives being undertaken under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and urged young people to become ambassadors against drug abuse by contributing towards the creation of a drug-free society.

Chief Education Officer emphasized that a drug-free society forms the foundation of a developed nation. He called upon educational institutions, parents and society to work together to protect the younger generation from the menace of drugs.

He also highlighted the initiatives taken by the School Education Department to generate awareness and eradicate the drug menace among youth.



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The Chief Guest, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal, while addressing the gathering underscored the important role of youth in building a developed India. He said that drug abuse is a serious threat to the future of the younger generation and stressed that youth are the backbone of the nation.

He called upon all sections of society to join hands in eliminating the drug menace and reiterated the district administration's commitment to preventing substance abuse, rehabilitating affected individuals and making Doda a drug-free district.

To engage youth creatively and spread the anti-drug message, a series of competitions were organised including Debate, Reel

Making, Nukkad Natak, Solo Song, Group Dance, Slogan Writing, Slam Poetry and Painting competitions. Participants conveyed powerful messages against drug abuse through their performances and creative expressions.

The winners and participants were felicitated with awards and certificates in recognition of their outstanding performances and active participation.

ADC Bhaderwah inspects SDH Bhaderwah, Reviews healthcare services, JK Sehat App implementation

BHADERWAH, JULY 28: Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today conducted a detailed visit to Sub-District Hospital Bhaderwah and inspected various sections of the hospital to assess the functioning of healthcare services and the facilities being provided to the general public.

During the visit, the ADC also chaired a Jan Bhagidari meeting in the presence of Block Medical Officer Bhaderwah Dr. Versha Sharma. Discussions focused on enhancing public participation, improving the quality and accessibility of healthcare services and reviewing the implementation of various health schemes and initiatives.

The ADC further presided over a training and sensitization session on the JK Sehat App, wherein representatives from different departments, including ASHA workers, Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and other field-level functionaries participated.

The participants were sensitized about the key features and benefits of the application, and the app was installed on their mobile devices. Practical guidance was also provided on its effective utilization to ensure its successful implementation at the grass-



roots level.

The ADC appreciated the efforts of the Health Department and stressed the need for greater inter-departmental coordination, effective use of digital

health initiatives and active community participation to further strengthen healthcare delivery and ensure that government health services reach the people effectively.

DC Kathua reviews implementation of Biometric Attendance System

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, today chaired a meeting of District Officers and Sub-Divisional Heads to review the implementation of the Aadhaar-enabled Biometric Attendance System (BAS) in government offices across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the department-wise status of biometric attendance and directed all District Officers and Sub-Divisional Heads to strictly implement the Biometric Attendance System (BAS) and ensure that all employees adhere to the government instructions and the circular issued in this regard.

He informed that detailed instructions have already been issued through a circular, mandating all departments to furnish a monthly certificate of compliance regarding biometric attendance. He said that the drawal of salary shall be allowed only after the concerned Drawing and Dis-



bursing Officer (DDO) furnishes the prescribed monthly certificate of compliance. He stressed that strict compliance with the instructions is essential to promote punctuality, transparency and accountability in government offices.

DC State Taxes Joginder Singh Jasrotia, ADC Mahima Madan, GM DIC Mushtaq Chaudhary, CPO Ranjeet Thakur and other District and Sectoral officers attended the meeting.

CM Omar directs departments to accelerate CAPEX expenditure, ensure timely utilization of funds

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JAMMU, JULY 28

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level review meeting on Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) at the Civil Secretariat here and directed all departments to significantly accelerate the pace of expenditure, emphasizing that timely utilization of available funds is critical for infrastructure development, public service delivery and sustained economic growth.

The Chief Minister underscored the need for focused attention on departments lagging in expenditure and cautioned against the practice of delaying spending until the closing months of the financial year.

"To have money and not spend it is incompetence. This is very difficult to justify. Not having money is easier to explain, but it is impossible to explain when funds are available and remain unutilized," the Chief Minister said while addressing the meeting.

He said the review was intentionally convened at the beginning of the financial cycle rather than towards the end of the year so that corrective measures

could be taken in time and departments could utilize the remaining working season effectively.

"There is still ample working season available in both the Kashmir Valley and the Jammu plains. There should be no reason why funds already released are not spent appropriately. Every department must give this focused attention," he said.

The meeting was attended by Ministers Sakina Itoo, Javed Ahmed Rana, Javid Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma.

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism, Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, all Administrative Secretaries, Director General Budget, Director General Codes, Heads of Departments and other senior officers attended the meeting. Outstation officers participated through video conferencing.

Reviewing the implementation of the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI), the Chief Minister directed departments to ensure full utilization of allocations under the scheme, warning that any unspent amount during the current financial year would reduce Jammu and Kashmir's allocation in the next fiscal.



He stressed that every rupee available under SASCI Part-I must be utilized and instructed departments to identify eligible projects without delay. He also directed ministers to personally review reform-linked targets under the scheme on a fortnightly basis so that Jammu and Kashmir could qualify for additional financial assistance under the reform component of SASCI.

"The earlier we implement the specified reforms, the sooner we receive additional funds and the more time we will have to utilize them productively," he observed.

The Chief Minister asked departments to immediately begin work on projects where administrative approvals and tendering had already been completed, stating that such projects could initially be funded through the CAPEX budget and later shifted to the reform-linked component of SASCI once additional funds become available.

He further directed departments to prepare a robust pipeline of projects for the next financial year instead of waiting for funding before identifying development works.

Expressing concern over the inability of some departments to identify projects despite the availability of financial resources, the Chief Minister remarked that the government's challenge had shifted from shortage of funds to inadequate project preparedness.

He advised departments to revisit the development priorities submitted by Members of the Legislative Assembly during the Budget consultations and utilize proposals, particularly projects exceeding the ₹2 crore threshold, for inclusion under future SASCI funding.

The Chief Minister also instructed departments to initiate administrative approvals and other statutory formalities well in advance so that projects for the 2027-28 financial year remain implementation-ready as soon as funds are sanctioned.

Highlighting the need to improve expenditure under Centrally Sponsored Schemes, the Chief Minister directed departments to closely monitor utilization levels and ensure that funds released under all development programmes are spent efficiently and within stipulated timelines. He also took note of suggestions made by ministers regarding simplification and streamlining of the tendering process and directed the concerned departments to evolve an appropriate mechanism to make procurement procedures more efficient while maintaining transparency and accountability. Expressing confidence that departments would respond with urgency, the Chief Minister said the next review would assess tangible improvements in expenditure performance across sectors.

Earlier, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, gave a detailed presentation on the Capital Expenditure position for the financial year 2026-27, covering expenditure under UT sector, District CAPEX and Centrally Sponsored Schemes. He also highlighted departments where expenditure remained below expected levels and outlined the factors contributing to slow utilization of funds.