

DC Rajouri inspects Government Nursing College Building for shifting of DC Office



RAJOURI, JULY 28: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, today visited the Government Nursing College building to inspect the arrangements being made for the shifting of the Office of the Deputy Commissioner.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by

Additional Deputy Commissioner Ravi Kumar Sihag and Superintending Engineer, PWD (R&B), Manzoor Ahmed during the inspection.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the ongoing renovation and modification works being carried out to

make the building ready for office functioning. He inspected various sections of the premises and took stock of the progress of the works.

The DC directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and ensure its timely completion so that the office can be

shifted at the earliest. He stressed the importance of maintaining quality standards while executing the works and instructed the concerned officers to ensure that all essential facilities, including power, water supply, sanitation, internet connectivity and office infrastructure are put in place well before the shifting.

The SE PWD (R&B) briefed the Deputy Commissioner about the status of the ongoing works and informed him that all efforts are being made to complete the remaining work within the stipulated timeline.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that all necessary arrangements should be completed in a time-bound manner to ensure the smooth functioning of administrative offices and uninterrupted public service delivery.

NCORD meeting reviews anti-drug measures in Doda

DODA, JULY 28: District Magistrate Doda Krishan Lal and Senior Superintendent of Police Kartik Shrotriya today chaired a meeting of the District Level Narcotics Coordination (NCORD) Committee to review measures for preventing drug abuse and strengthening rehabilitation efforts in the district.

The meeting reviewed the functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre, including the status of helpline calls,

response to cases and the availability of counsellors. The District Magistrate directed the officers concerned to strengthen counselling and rehabilitation services.

He directed the departments concerned to identify and destroy illegal poppy cultivation in coordination with law enforcement agencies and instructed the officers to ensure that no tobacco shops operate within 500 metres of educational institutions,

with strict action against violators. He also directed the installation of CCTV cameras at identified drug hotspots and other vulnerable locations, with regular monitoring to deter illegal activities.

The District Magistrate reviewed the rehabilitation of recovering addicts and directed the departments concerned to facilitate their employment and livelihood through government schemes.

Javid Dar meets delegations; assures early redress of public grievances

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 28

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today met several delegations and individuals from different parts of the Union Territory and listened to their grievances and developmental concerns.

During the interaction, the Minister heard a wide range of issues raised by the visiting delegations and individuals, including the blacktopping and upgradation of roads, improvement of civic amenities, augmentation of basic infrastructure, service-related matters, pension cases, employment issues and other public welfare concerns.



The Minister directed the concerned officers to take immediate cognisance of the genuine grievances and ensure their timely redress

in accordance with the established rules and procedures.

A deputation of the Junior Rural Stewards (JRS) also called on the Minister and apprised him of issues concerning their service conditions. The deputation particularly urged the Minister to consider enhancing their monthly stipend in view of their increasing responsibilities in the implementation of various Rural Development programmes across the Union Territory.

Giving a patient hearing to the deputation, Javid Dar appreciated the significant role being played by the Junior Rural Stewards in strengthening the rural governance and ensuring effective implementation of flagship development programmes. <

He assured the deputation that their genuine demand would be examined

AIIMS Jammu Restores Function in Burn-Deformed Hand with Advanced Reconstructive Surgery

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 28

The Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery at AIIMS Jammu has successfully reconstructed a severely burn-deformed hand using advanced plastic surgery techniques, restoring function and improving the patient's quality of life.

The patient had suffered from severe post-burn contractures in the right hand, resulting in significant deformity, restricted finger movement, and difficulty performing routine daily activities. After a detailed clinical assessment, the surgical team designed a customised single-stage treatment plan to achieve maximum functional recovery while avoiding multiple surgeries.

The complex procedure involved extensive contracture release, K-wire fixation of finger joints, split-thickness skin grafting, application of an artificial dermal substitute, and Negative Pressure Wound Therapy (NPWT) in a single operation. This inte-



grated approach ensured durable wound coverage, enhanced graft uptake, accelerated tissue healing, and reduced the overall treatment period.

Following surgery, the patient has shown satisfactory recovery with healthy graft acceptance and stable wound healing. A structured rehabilitation programme, including physiotherapy, splinting, and specialised hand therapy, has been initiated to maximise functional recovery and help the patient regain independence in daily activities.

Dr. Rahul Gorka, Associate Professor and Officiating Head, Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery, AIIMS Jammu, said that

treating complex post-burn hand deformities requires meticulous planning, precise surgical execution, and coordinated rehabilitation. He noted that combining multiple reconstructive procedures in a single stage not only corrects the deformity but also restores hand function, improves independence, and enhances the patient's quality of life. He emphasised that early and structured rehabilitation remains crucial for achieving the best long-term outcomes.

Prof. (Dr.) D. N. Sharma, Executive Director and CEO, AIIMS Jammu, congratulated the department on the successful outcome, stating that the achievement reflects the institute's

commitment to delivering advanced, patient-centred super-specialty healthcare through clinical excellence, innovation, and compassionate care. He said the expertise of the medical team enables AIIMS Jammu to provide sophisticated reconstructive services within the region, ensuring that people of Jammu and Kashmir have access to world-class specialised treatment and comprehensive rehabilitation closer to home.

The Department of Burns and Plastic Surgery at AIIMS Jammu offers comprehensive care for patients with burns, traumatic injuries, congenital anomalies, chronic wounds, and complex soft-tissue defects. Equipped with modern reconstructive techniques and supported by a multidisciplinary team, the department continues to expand advanced plastic and reconstructive surgical services, focusing on restoring function, improving quality of life, and making specialised healthcare accessible across the region.

2-day seminar on Makhana cultivation launched at Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 28

The Directorate of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, Jammu under the guidance of Director Agriculture Jammu and Nodal Officer for Makhana Cultivation in Jammu and Kashmir Anil Gupta, today organised a two-day seminar on Makhana cultivation at Baba Jitto Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo, Jammu.

The seminar aimed to promote Makhana as a high-value crop and create awareness among officers, experts and farmers on its scientific cultivation, production technologies, value addition and income-generation potential.

The keynote technical session was delivered by Principal Scientist and Head, ICAR-Research Centre for Makhana (RCM), Darbhanga, Bihar, Dr Indu Shekhar Singh, the main resource person. He gave an extensive presentation on the scientific cultivation of Makhana, cover-



ing its agro-climatic and soil requirements, water and nutrient management, crop establishment, harvesting and post-harvest handling.

Dr Singh informed participants that about 85 per cent of India's Makhana cultivation is presently concentrated in Bihar, while Jammu Division possesses favourable agro-climatic conditions for expanding cultivation in suitable pockets. He stated that India's Makhana industry is currently valued at around ₹3,000 crore and the global market at nearly USD 138 million, indicating significant opportuni-

ties for production, value addition and exports. He also addressed farmers' and officers' queries on cultivation techniques, economics and marketing during an interactive session.

The seminar, being held on July 28-29, 2026, comprises technical sessions on sustainable cultivation practices, quality seed production, scientific crop management, value addition, processing and marketing strategies.

Among those present at the inaugural session were Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Sanjay Anand, Joint Director Agriculture (SLUB/Farms) Aman Jyoti

Sharma, Joint Director Agriculture (Extension) Idrees Bashir Ahmed, Chief Agriculture Officer Jammu Manohar Lal Sharma, Agriculture Economist Tilak Raj Sharma, Deputy Directors, Sectoral Heads, Subject Matter Specialists at regional, district and sub-divisional levels, Agricultural Extension Officers (AEOs), Junior Agricultural Extension Officers (JAEOs), Agricultural Extension Assistants (AEAs), agripreneurs, progressive farmers and scientists and faculty members from SKUAST-Jammu. SMS-DL Rajeev Katoch conducted the proceedings.

Satish reviews progress of Science & Technology initiatives, reaffirms commitment to renewable energy, innovation led development in J&K

SRINAGAR, JULY 28: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today reviewed the progress of key renewable energy, science and technology initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir, reiterating the Government's commitment to accelerate sustainable development, clean energy adoption and scientific innovation across the Union Territory.

The Minister had a comprehensive review of the flagship programmes being executed by the Department of Science & Technology, Jammu and Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC). These included rooftop solarisation of government buildings, small hydro power projects, PM-KUSUM implementation, biotechnology infrastructure and science outreach initiatives.

Commissioner Secretary Science and Technology Babila Rakwal, CEO JAKEDA P.R.Dhar and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Reviewing the progress under the flagship Solarization of Government Buildings Programme, Satish Sharma expressed satisfaction over the remarkable achievement registered under the CAPEX and RESCO

models.

He was informed that 8,181 government buildings have already been solarized with a cumulative installed capacity of 85.8 MW, placing Jammu and Kashmir 3rd among 31 States and Union Territories in the country in terms of the number of government buildings solarized.

The Minister was informed that under the CAPEX mode, 65 MW capacity has been allocated for 5,600 government buildings, of which 3,388 buildings have already been solarized with an installed capacity of 46.8 MW. In addition, material for 1,462 buildings has already been supplied while installations in another 800 buildings are in transit. Under the RESCO mode, implementation is progressing with a target capacity of 175 MW covering nearly 8,000 government buildings, with work orders already issued for 1,360 buildings.

Describing the achievement as a significant milestone in Jammu and Kashmir's clean energy journey, Satish Sharma said that expanding renewable energy infrastructure is vital for reducing carbon emissions, lowering electricity costs and making government institutions energy efficient.

"The remarkable progress achieved in rooftop solarisation demonstrates the commitment of the government



towards sustainable development. Jammu and Kashmir is steadily emerging as a frontrunner in renewable energy adoption and we will continue to strengthen these initiatives with greater speed and transparency," the Minister said.

Reviewing the implementation of PM-KUSUM Component-B, the Minister was informed that against the sanctioned target of 5,000 solar-powered agricultural pumps, applications have been received for 4,891 pumps, while 4,876 pumps have already been installed and commissioned, with only 15 installations remaining under implementation. He said the initiative is transforming agriculture by providing farmers with reliable, environment-friendly and affordable irrigation facilities.

The Minister also reviewed the status of renewable energy infrastructure across the Union Territory. He

was informed that around 250 MW rooftop solar capacity has either been installed or is under installation across government buildings, while 125 MW of grid-connected solar power has been added by JAKEDA. Besides, 33 MW rooftop solar systems have been installed under the MNRE scheme across nearly 5,500 households, over 70,000 solar street lights and 15,000 solar home lights have been installed during the last three years and 2,214 government schools have been solarized with an installed capacity of approximately 8 MW. The department has also commissioned seven small hydro projects with a cumulative capacity of 35.25 MW.

Reviewing the small hydro power programme, Satish Sharma was informed that 58 hydro power projects with a cumulative potential of 323.90 MW have already been identified

through finalized DPRs across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He was further informed that 32 hydro project sites with a capacity of 62 MW have already been awarded during 2025, while additional projects are planned for implementation during 2026-2030.

The Minister emphasized that Jammu and Kashmir possesses enormous hydro power potential. He directed the concerned agencies to expedite execution of the identified projects so that remote and hilly regions receive reliable, locally generated clean energy.

Satish Sharma also reviewed the progress of infrastructure projects being implemented by the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC).

The Minister was informed that construction of the Sub-Regional Science Centre at Lal Mandi, Srinagar has reached nearly 85 per cent completion, while work is also progressing on the Science Innovation Dissemination Centre (SIDC), which is being developed to provide world-class facilities for innovators, researchers and entrepreneurs.

Reviewing the biotechnology infrastructure, the Minister was informed that the Industrial Biotechnology Park at Kathua has been completed and operationalization has com-

menced in collaboration with IIIM Jammu, while construction of the Industrial Biotechnology Park at Handwara has reached around 85 per cent completion. He directed the concerned authorities to resolve pending issues so that the project is completed and dedicated to the youth and scientific community at the earliest.

The Minister also reviewed initiatives relating the science popularization, sponsored research programmes, science talent promotion, bio-farms and other innovation-driven schemes being implemented by JKSTIC.

"Our vision is to build a technologically advanced, environmentally sustainable and innovation-driven Jammu and Kashmir. Investments in renewable energy, scientific research, biotechnology and innovation infrastructure will not only strengthen the public service delivery but also generate employment opportunities, promote entrepreneurship and contribute significantly towards economic growth," the Minister said.

The Minister directed the officers to maintain strict timelines for all ongoing projects, ensure effective utilization of public resources and continuously monitor implementation so that the benefit of these initiatives reach the people in a timely and efficient manner.