

CM Omar reviews key development projects, public issues in Ganderbal



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today undertook an extensive tour of Ganderbal district, holding a series of public engagements and chairing a review meeting to assess the progress of key developmental projects and obtain a first-hand account of issues affecting the district.

Beginning his visit, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the New Bus Adda Road, a vital infrastructure project expected to significantly ease traffic congestion in the area. Stressing the importance of timely completion, he directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work so that the road could be dedicated to the public at the earliest.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister was accompanied by his Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, Chief Engineer, Roads & Buildings Department, and other senior engineers and officials associated with the execution of the project.

Later, the Chief Minister chaired a review meeting to take stock of the progress of major development initia-

tives and deliberate on long-pending public issues in the district. The meeting focused on road connectivity, irrigation infrastructure, flood protection measures, sewerage facilities, solid waste management, land acquisition and other critical projects aimed at improving public service delivery.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department Mandeep Kaur, Managing Director, J&K State Power Development Corporation, Deputy Commissioners of Srinagar, Ganderbal and Bandipora, Director Tourism Kashmir, Chief Engineer R&B, Chief Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control, Secretary J&K Sports Council, district officers and other senior officials. The outstation officers attended the meeting via video conferencing.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal presented a detailed overview of the district's priority development issues requiring urgent government intervention. He highlighted the need to expedite land acquisition for several road widening projects and the approach road

to the Paribal–Takanwari bridge, to strengthen irrigation canals and power canal embankments, improving road connectivity to the Central University of Kashmir, development of tourism infrastructure and a Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Manasbal.

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal also raised issues relating to the rehabilitation of shopkeepers displaced due to the widening of Ring Road Phase-II, construction of strategic link roads, establishment of an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plant, besides several other people-centric initiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure and public services across the district.

After reviewing the projects in detail, the Chief Minister directed all concerned departments to work in close coordination to remove bottlenecks, expedite pending approvals and ensure the time-bound completion of all ongoing and proposed developmental works.

He emphasized that delays in execution should be minimized and directed the departments to maintain close inter-departmental coordination so that the benefits of development reach the people without

unnecessary delay. The Chief Minister reiterated that the government remains committed to balanced and inclusive development across Jammu and Kashmir, with a focus on strengthening infrastructure, improving civic amenities and addressing genuine public concerns through efficient governance and coordinated action.

During his visit, the Chief Minister also met several public deputations and individuals at Dak Bungalow Ganderbal, and patiently heard their grievances and development-related demands.

The deputations represented various areas of the district, including Safapora, Nuner, Manigam, Lar, Sherpathri, Shalabugh, Waskura, Wakura, Manasbal, Gutlibagh, Beehama, Rangil, Saloor, Wayil, Batwina and other villages.

The deputations raised a wide range of issues concerning drinking water supply, irrigation facilities, desilting of canals, upgradation of educational and healthcare institutions, availability of adequate staff in health centres, development of playgrounds and new playfields, sports infrastructure, tourism-related facilities and other local development concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all the deputations and directed the concerned officers to examine the issues raised and take appropriate action in a time-bound manner. He assured the people that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority and reiterated his government's commitment to responsive, transparent and people-centric governance.

Chief Secy takes stock of PMAY-U housing schemes for Urban Poor

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JAMMU, JULY 30

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, took a comprehensive review meeting of the Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to evaluate the implementation of housing schemes for the urban poor under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Urban (PMAY-U) in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioners of Jammu and Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Director General, Codes; Chief Town Planners of Jammu and Kashmir; representatives of J&K Bank and other senior officers.

While speaking the Chief Secretary observed that access to affordable housing is one of the most fundamental aspirations and essential needs of every family, particularly those belonging to the urban poor. He noted that for economically weaker households, a significant share of their income is often consumed in meeting housing-related expenses, leaving limited resources for other basic necessities.

He said that the PMAY–Urban serves as a transformative social welfare initiative by providing secure and dignified housing to eligible beneficiaries, thereby substantially reducing their financial burden. This, he added, enables such families to redirect their hard-earned income towards other critical needs such as educa-



tion, healthcare, nutrition and improving their overall quality of life, ultimately contributing to their long-term socio-economic empowerment.

The Chief Secretary directed all Deputy Commissioners, Commissioners of Municipal Corporations to further mobilise field functionaries to expedite verification of applications, preparation and submission of DPRs, and timely release of eligible instalments to beneficiaries strictly in accordance with the guidelines of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

He emphasized that every eligible urban poor household should be covered under the scheme, while ensuring complete transparency, accountability and adherence to the standards specified in the scheme. He instructed officers to strengthen field-level monitoring through regular inspections and effective use of digital platforms for real-time tracking of progress.

The Chief Secretary further impressed upon the officers to resolve all pending issues proactively, enhance public awareness regarding the benefits of the

scheme and facilitate eligible beneficiaries in completing all procedural formalities so that no deserving household is left out.

During the meeting, the Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur presented an overview of the implementation of PMAY-U 1.0 and PMAY-U 2.0, highlighting the physical and financial progress achieved across all districts of the Union Territory.

Highlighting the progress under PMAY-U 1.0, the Commissioner Secretary revealed that against the revised sanctioned target of 36,412 dwelling units, 31,663 houses have already been completed, registering an impressive completion rate of nearly 87 per cent, while the remaining houses are at various stages of construction and nearing completion.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of PMAY-U 2.0, particularly under the Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) component. It was divulged that 92 Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) involving 2,120 houses have been approved so far, with 1,379 houses already grounded and construction progress-

ing steadily across different stages.

Taking stock of beneficiary verification, the meeting was apprised by the MD, Housing Board, Smita Sethi that under the BLC vertical, 23,256 applications have been received, of which 20,154 applications have already been verified, while the process of scrutiny of the remaining applications is underway.

The meeting further reviewed progress under the Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) and Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS) verticals of PMAY-U 2.0. It was informed that verification of applications under these components is being carried out on priority to ensure timely approval of eligible beneficiaries and seamless implementation of the scheme.

The meeting concluded with a detailed district-wise review of implementation, during which the Chief Secretary issued specific directions to the concerned officers for accelerating the pace of execution, improving coordination among stakeholders and ensuring timely completion of all sanctioned housing projects under PMAY-U across Jammu and Kashmir.

DLSA Ganderbal concludes 2-Day Training Programme for Legal Aid Functionaries

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JAMMU, JULY 30

Under the guidance of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, and under the supervision of Sheikh Babar Husain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, the second and concluding day of the Two-Day Training-cum-Orientation Programme for Mediators, Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), Supporting Staff, and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) was successfully conducted today at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal, appreciated the active participation of all stakeholders and emphasized that such capacity-building initiatives are essential for strengthening the legal services delivery system and ensuring effective, accessible and quality legal aid to every deserving citizen.

Secretary, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, gave a brief recap of the deliberations of the previous day and reiterated the significance of continuous capacity building and coordinated efforts in strengthening the legal aid delivery system.

The first technical session on "NALSA Schemes, Role of Para Legal Volunteers in Legal Awareness and Community Outreach, and Grassroots Access to Justice for all" was delivered by Adv. Burjeena, Assistant Legal Aid Defence



Counsel. The session highlighted the pivotal role of Para Legal Volunteers in disseminating legal awareness by conducting outreach activities, facilitating access to legal aid and bridging the gap between legal services institutions and the community, especially the marginalized and vulnerable sections of society including women and children.

The second technical session on "Professional Ethics, Courtroom Conduct, Effective Communication Skills and Best Prac-

tices for Legal Services Functionaries" was conducted by Adv. Ghulam Rasool Rather, who emphasized the importance of professional integrity, ethical standards, effective communication and courtroom etiquettes in ensuring efficient and quality legal services.

An interactive Group Discussion and Experience Sharing Session was also held, wherein Mediators, Panel Lawyers, Legal Aid Defence Counsels, Supporting Staff, and Para Legal Volunteers shared their

experiences, deliberated on practical challenges encountered in the discharge of their duties especially in far flung and inaccessible areas and exchanged best practices for enhancing coordination and effective implementation of legal aid programmes to every nook & corner of district.

Adv. Tanveer Ashraf, Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsel, expressed gratitude to all participants for their valuable contributions towards the successful conduct of the two-day training programme.

DC Jammu reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebrations

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Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas today chaired a meeting to review arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations in the district and take stock of preparations for the event.

The DC reviewed venue preparations and directed the departments concerned to expedite work at the main function venue to ensure it is ready well in time. He also directed officers to ensure proper decoration and illumination of government offices and other places across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the functioning of committees formed to oversee different aspects of the event, directing committee heads to co-



ordinate closely and complete assigned tasks within the stipulated timeframe. Responsibilities for seating arrangements, cultural programmes and other logistical matters are to be discharged in a time-bound and coordinated manner.

The DC directed the police and civil administra-

tion to work in tandem for barricading, crowd management and security at the venue; Jammu Municipal Corporation to ensure cleanliness at the venue and surrounding areas besides making arrangements for drinking water and mobile toilets and the departments concerned to

make proper refreshment arrangements.

Among those present were ADC Vidhu Shekhar, SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh, ASP Traffic Jammu City Arvin Singh and senior officers from various line departments.

Drugs & Food Control Organisation J&K intensifies Market Surveillance

SRINAGAR, JULY 30:

In a major initiative to strengthen post-market surveillance of medicines, the Drugs & Food Control Organisation, J&K conducted a special sampling drive across the districts of Srinagar, Baramulla and Kupwara to ensure that only safe, efficacious and quality medicines are available to patients.

The special drive with more than 30 inspections in medical sale establishments was carried out by teams of Drugs Control Officers from the three districts, with a focused strategy of lifting statutory drug samples of medicines manufactured by various lesser-known pharmaceutical companies.

13 samples have been drawn for detailed quality testing and dispatched to notified Government Drug Testing Laboratories to ascertain their compliance with the prescribed quality standards under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and the Rules.

During the drive, operation of one chemist M/s Aleena Medicate, near Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital, Rainawari, was suspended for one day, for absence of qualified person.

The drive forms part of the Department's intensified market surveillance programme aimed at proactively monitoring the quality of medicines available in the supply chain. By targeting products manu-

factured by lesser-known companies, the department seeks to strengthen regulatory oversight and ensure that medicines reaching the public conform to established standards of safety, efficacy and quality.

Khalid Jahangeer, Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, reiterated that the Department remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring that every patient in the Union Territory has access to safe, effective and quality medicines.

He said that surveillance and enforcement activities will continue to be intensified across Jammu and Kashmir and warned that stringent action under the provisions of the Drugs and

Cosmetics Act will be taken against any manufacturer, distributor or retailer found dealing in drugs that fail to meet prescribed quality standards.

The special drive was conducted under the overall supervision of Rajesh Kumar, State Drugs Controller, J&K, who stated that the Department has adopted a robust risk-based surveillance mechanism to safeguard public health. He emphasized that regular statutory sampling, rigorous quality testing and continuous market monitoring are essential to maintain the integrity of the pharmaceutical supply chain and protect patients from sub-standard or non-compliant medicines.