

DIET Doda conducts orientation on assessment reforms, Holistic Progress Card for school leaders

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JULY 30

The District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Doda, in collaboration with the Piramal Foundation, organised a one-day orientation programme on assessment reforms and implementation of the Holistic Progress Card (HPC) for 90 government heads of educational institutions and Zonal Education Officers of the district.

The programme forms part of the district's sustained efforts to promote competency-based assessment and implement the HPC in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the PARAKH (NCERT) framework.

Inaugurating the orientation, the Principal DIET Doda Rajesh Kumar highlighted the pivotal role of school leaders in transforming assessment practices and fostering learner-centred environments. He noted with pride that Doda has emerged as the first pilot district in Jammu Division for HPC implementation, expressing optimism that it would serve as a model for other districts.

The workshop focussed on strengthening participants' understanding of competency-based and formative assessment, improving classroom practices and ensuring effective implementation of the HPC framework, through interactive sessions that encouraged dialogue among educational leaders. Zahid Ahmed coordinated the programme,



while Piramal Foundation Programme Leader for Doda and Kishtwar Irfan Ahmed facilitated coordination with DIET Doda and the Chief Education Officer Doda.

Technical sessions were conducted by the Piramal Foundation Assessment Team, comprising Senior Program Director Vana

dana Sharma, Senior Program Manager Rashmi Singh, Senior Program Leader Aryamaan Banerjee and Program Leader Aishi Chowdhary, who demonstrated practical strategies for implementing competency-based assessment and the HPC through activity-based learning.

DC Reasi reviews development works, pilgrim facilities at Shiv Khori ahead of annual Shrawan Mahotsav

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Deputy Commissioner Reasi and Vice Chairman of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board (SSKSB) Kumar Abhishek, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Mukund Tibrewal today conducted an extensive inspection of Shiv Khori Shrine to review ongoing developmental works and assess preparedness for the forthcoming Shrawan Mahotsav-2026.

The inspection covered the Taxi Stand, Shiv Khori, Gouri Bhawan, Helipad and other key pilgrimage locations. The DC took stock of the pace and quality of the infrastructure works and stressed their timely completion to improve facilities, convenience and safety for devotees.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the approach road connecting Shiv Khori Bhawan to the Helipad and directed the executing agencies to expedite the work. He inspected the proposed frisking points and instructed the



departments concerned to complete all security infrastructure. The DC also directed the authorities concerned to undertake cutting of vulnerable hill portions near the Helipad and complete the chain-link fencing and a wind sock for the safe operation of helicopter services.

The DC inspected the pilgrimage track from Ram Mandir to the Shrine

Bhawan and directed its repair and strengthening on priority. He reviewed the condition of Gouri Bhawan and instructed officers to complete its repair and renovation and inspected the upgradation of Shiv Shakti Bhawan.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed traffic management arrangements and directed the Assistant Regional Transport

Officer to resolve issues in the operation and regulation of e-rickshaws and auto-rickshaws in the shrine area to ensure smooth movement for pilgrims.

Among those present were ADC Rakesh Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, Additional SP Iftekhhar Ahmed and XENs of JPDCL and Jal Shakti, besides other officers concerned.

DC Ramban reviews progress under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a review meeting on the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan to assess progress and strengthen ongoing efforts towards tuberculosis elimination.

The District Tuberculosis Officer appraised the chair of the current status of TB notification, treatment success rate, Nikshay Poshan Yojana coverage and other key indicators. Challenges and strategies for improving contact tracing, treatment adherence and private-sector engagement were also discussed.

The DC reviewed the district's performance under the NTEP and emphasised 100% screening, timely di-



agnosis and effective treatment to achieve the goal of TB Mukht Bharat. He directed the officers concerned to ensure active case finding, strengthen community participation and intensify awareness campaigns at the grassroots level, particularly in vulnerable and remote areas.

Khan stressed inter-departmental coordination and directed SDMs and BMOs to monitor the campaign at block and Panchayat levels, made TB awareness an integral part of all public outreach programmes and directed doctors to personally monitor patients' medicine regularity. The Medical Superin-

tendent District Hospital Ramban and all BMOs were directed to ensure diagnostic facilities and an uninterrupted supply of medicines at all health institutions.

The DC called upon all officers to work in mission mode to make District Ramban TB-free, adopting a proactive approach to identifying presumptive cases and ensuring their timely diagnosis, treatment, care and support.

Among those present were ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Chief Medical Officer Dr Kamal Jee Zadoo, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Dr Surdeshan Katoch, all Block Medical Officers and other officials and staff of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). SDMs and Tehsildars participated virtually.

SKUAST-K flags off first batch of BTech Artificial Intelligence students to IIT Mandi

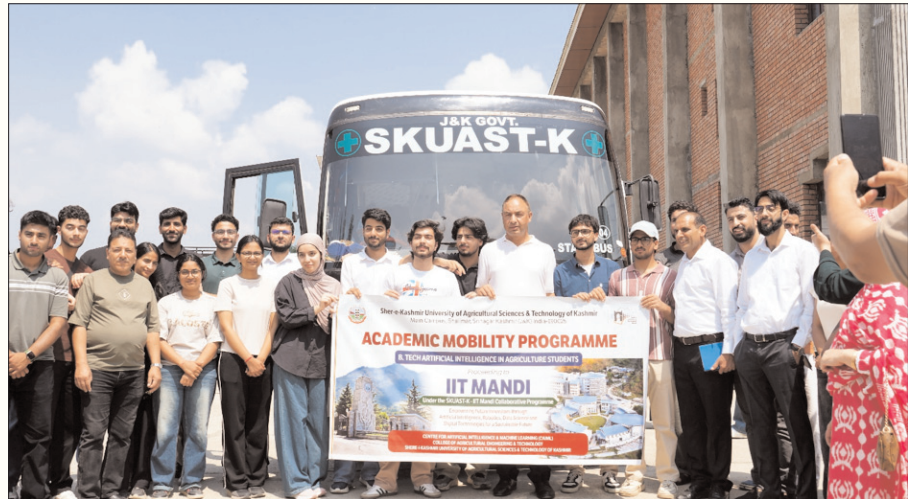
HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) today marked a significant milestone in its academic journey as the Vice Chancellor, Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, flagged off the first batch of students of BTech Artificial Intelligence in Agriculture Programme proceeding to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mandi for their third year (Semester V and VI) studies under the collaborative academic arrangement between the two institutions.

The BTech Artificial Intelligence programme was conceived through a strategic collaboration between SKUAST-K and IIT Mandi with the objective of creating a new generation of professionals equipped with expertise in Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Data Science, IoT, Digital Agriculture, Climate Intelligence, and other emerging technologies. The programme represents one of the first such initiatives in the country aimed at integrating advanced computing technologies with agriculture and allied sectors.

The outgoing students have successfully completed their first two years at SKUAST-K, where they underwent rigorous training in foundational engineering sciences, computer programming, mathematics, artificial intelligence fundamentals, deep learning, data science, IoT systems, and agricultural sciences.

During their one-year stay at IIT Mandi, the students will be exposed to advanced courses in Artificial Intelligence, Computer Networks, Programming



Paradigms, Robotics and Automation, Vision and Learning-Based Control Systems, Design Practicum, Drones and Automation Technologies, along with specialized electives offered by IIT Mandi. The students will also gain access to the institute's world-class laboratories, innovation ecosystem, startup culture, research facilities, industry-linked projects, and multidisciplinary academic environment.

The collaboration further envisages joint mentorship of students by faculty members from SKUAST-K and IIT Mandi, industry-linked capstone projects, internships, innovation-driven research, and exposure to national and international technology ecosystems. Through this model, students will have opportunities to work on real-world challenges related to agriculture, climate resilience, environmental sustainability, robotics, precision farming, and digital transformation.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice Chancellor congratulated the students on becoming the first cohort of the program and described the occasion as a historic milestone in the evolution of agricultural education in the country. He emphasized that the fu-

ture of agriculture lies at the intersection of technology, data, automation, and artificial intelligence and urged the students to take full advantage of the opportunities available at IIT Mandi. He encouraged them to serve as ambassadors of SKUAST-K and contribute towards developing innovative solutions for sustainable agriculture, climate adaptation, food security, and rural transformation. He also welcomed the newly admitted batch of students and reaffirmed the University's commitment to providing globally relevant, industry-oriented education through collaborations with premier institutions.

Prof Rohitashw Kumar, Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, highlighted the unique features of the programme and the collaborative efforts undertaken by SKUAST-K and IIT Mandi in designing a future-ready curriculum aligned with the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP-2020), India AI Mission, Digital Agriculture Mission, and Viksit Bharat 2047. He emphasized that the programme has been structured to prepare students for leadership roles in emerging technology sectors by combining strong foundations

in engineering and artificial intelligence with domain expertise in agriculture, thereby creating professionals capable of addressing real-world challenges through innovation, research, entrepreneurship, and technology-driven solutions.

The event concluded with the formal flag-off of the student contingent proceeding to IIT Mandi, marking the beginning of an important academic phase for the pioneering batch.

The initiative reinforces SKUAST-K's vision of creating globally competent professionals capable of harnessing artificial intelligence and emerging technologies to address the challenges of agriculture, climate change, sustainability, and rural development while contributing to the nation's technological advancement.

The programme was attended by Director Education, Prof. Mohammad Altaf Bhat; Registrar, Prof. Azmat Alam Khan; Associate Dean, College of Agricultural Engineering & Technology, Prof. Rohitashw Kumar; In-charge, Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning (CAIML), Dr. Showkat Rasool; faculty members, staff, students, and parents.

DDC Baramulla chairs 3rd Distt Level Review Meeting

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District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Dr. S.F. Hamid, today chaired the 3rd District Level Review Meeting at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla to undertake a comprehensive review of the functioning of various departments, assess the progress of ongoing developmental works and evaluate the implementation of key government schemes and flagship programmes across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Sopore, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Uri, Pattan and Gulmarg, Assistant Commissioner Development Baramulla, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Baramulla, Superintending Engineers of R&B, Power Development Department (PDD), Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments, besides other district and sectoral officers.

At the outset, the DDC reviewed the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the decisions taken during the previous District Level Review Meeting. He directed all departments to ensure prompt compliance with the directions already issued and instructed officers to closely monitor the progress of pending issues so that targets are achieved within the prescribed timelines.

A detailed sector-wise review of departmental performance was conducted



during the meeting. The DDC reviewed the functioning of the Health, Education, Jal Shakti, Public Works (R&B), Power Development Department, Rural Development, Agriculture and Allied Sectors, Horticulture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Social Welfare, Revenue, Industries & Commerce, Employment, Skill Development and other line departments. Department-wise progress was assessed with regard to implementation of developmental projects, expenditure under various components, achievement of physical targets, service delivery mechanisms and public grievance redressal.

During the review, Dr. S.F. Hamid directed all departments to intensify field monitoring, conduct regular inspections of ongoing works and ensure that developmental projects are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising quality. He stressed the importance of maintaining transparency, improving inter-departmental coordination and resolving bottlenecks promptly to avoid delays in

execution. He also instructed officers to ensure optimum utilisation of available resources and focus on achieving tangible outcomes for the benefit of the public.

The meeting also reviewed the implementation of District Capex, UT Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) besides assessing the progress under RDSS, PM Surya Ghar, NABARD-funded projects, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), Catch the Rain, Financial Inclusion initiatives, Mission YUVA, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), JKCIP, PMGSY, AMRUT, PMAY (Urban & Rural), Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban & Rural), MGNREGA, District Skill Development Programmes, District Mineral Fund and various Self Employment Schemes.

The DDC directed the concerned departments to expedite implementation, ensure effective utilisation of funds and extend the benefits of these schemes to all eligible beneficiaries in a transparent and time-bound manner.

Reviewing the progress under the AMRUT

Scheme, the concerned engineers informed the meeting that suitable locations have been identified for the construction of Overhead Tanks (OHTs) at various places in Sopore. The DDC directed the executing agencies to complete all statutory and procedural formalities on priority and ensure that construction works are taken up at the earliest to strengthen drinking water infrastructure and improve water supply in the town.

The DDC also stressed the importance of ensuring the quality and safety of drinking water supplied to the public. He directed the concerned departments to conduct periodic sampling and testing of all drinking water sources across the district. He further instructed the Chief Medical Officer, Baramulla, to examine the water quality test reports on a regular basis and, wherever contamination is detected, ensure immediate public health interventions in coordination with the concerned departments so that any potential health risks are addressed without delay.

The meeting further reviewed the progress under the Aspirational District Programme, PMDDKY, PM SHRI, Government Medical College Baramulla, Social Security Schemes, ICDS, Tribal UT Capex, DAJGUA, Vibrant Village Programme, National Highway works under SBU RKCTC Packages I, II, III and IV, and JK Samadhan. The DDC emphasized that all departments should work in close coordination to achieve the prescribed targets and ensure effective implementation of all developmental and welfare initiatives.