

# Chief Secretary launches 162 new online citizen services on eUNNAT

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 31

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a meeting of all the concerned Administrative Secretaries to assess Jammu and Kashmir's performance on the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA) and reviewed the progress made by the Information Technology Department towards expanding the digital governance ecosystem across the Union Territory.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary launched 162 district-level online citizen services, developed by the Information Technology Department, which have now been integrated with the eUNNAT Portal, taking the total number of online Government-to-Citizen (G2C) services available on the platform from 1,548 to 1,710.

The newly added services, developed for 18 districts of the Union Territory, encompass a wide range of regulatory permissions and public services, including permissions for fairs and exhibitions, cultural programmes, political and religious gatherings, processions, drone operations and several other district-level services.

These services are now



available through a completely digital, paperless and workflow-based platform, enabling citizens to apply online, monitor the status of their applications and receive digitally signed approvals without visiting Government offices.

Emphasising continuous improvement, the Chief Secretary directed all Administrative Departments to ensure timely compliance with all mandatory NeSDA parameters and work in close coordination with the Information Technology Department for digitisation of additional public services.

The Chief Secretary also directed the Information Technology Department to work in close coordination with the Law Department to undertake a comprehensive review of all online citizen services with a view to identifying those that have become redundant or obsolete in view of subsequent

policy and legislative reforms.

He observed that, under the Government's Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) and Reducing Compliance Burden (RCB) initiatives, several certificates, permissions and No Objection Certificates (NOCs) had already been abolished. Such services, he said, should no longer remain active on digital platforms, as their continued availability may lead to avoidable inconvenience for citizens.

Dulloo further maintained that the objective of digital governance is not merely to place services online but also to simplify governance by eliminating outdated and unnecessary compliances.

He remarked that citizens, in no way, should be compelled to apply for certificates or permissions that are no longer required under the prevailing policy framework.

He advised that such services be appropriately categorised as 'No Longer Required' on the eUNNAT Portal after due legal validation. He expressed that our objective is not merely to improve rankings but to build an ecosystem where digital governance must translate into better governance at the grassroots level.

Emphasising greater accessibility and inclusive service delivery, the Chief Secretary further instructed the IT Department to identify at least 100 high-volume citizen services for integration with WhatsApp and the Single Sign-On (SSO) platform. He said that priority should be accorded to services frequently availed by farmers, tribal communities, women, children and other vulnerable sections to make Government services more accessible through widely used digital channels.

# Deputy Chief Minister reviews industrial development, restoration works in Kathua

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 31

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today visited Bhagthali Industrial Estate in Kathua district to inspect the progress of infrastructure development and flood protection works being executed in the area.

During the inspection, the Deputy Chief Minister took serious note of the delay in execution of development works worth around ₹60 crore being undertaken by IRCON, including creation of industrial infrastructure, civic amenities and flood protection measures.

Expressing concern over the delay, he directed the concerned authorities to issue notices to the executing agency for failing to adhere to the original completion timelines fixed for 2025. He also called for third-party scrutiny of the works executed so far and fixed October 2026 as the deadline for completion of all pending works.

The Deputy Chief Minister also visited M/s Kanadhari Beverages, M/s Chiripal Poly Films Limited at Bhagthali Industrial Estate. He reviewed their operations and interacted with the management of the industrial units to obtain



feedback on infrastructure, industrial facilitation and other issues.

Reviewing the local employment scenario, the Deputy Chief Minister called upon the industrial units to provide greater employment opportunities to local youth through skill development and placement camps. He stressed the need to involve local elected representatives while identifying skilled and unskilled manpower requirements so that employment opportunities reach deserving candidates in the area.

Later, Surinder Choudhary chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the functioning of industrial estates and progress of various development and

restoration works in the district.

During the meeting, it was informed that 14 industrial estates are being established across Kathua district.

Reviewing the status of roads damaged due to recent rains and floods, the Deputy Chief Minister was informed that out of 48 affected PWD roads, temporary connectivity has been restored on 46 roads, including the Old Kathua-Samba Road. He directed the Executive Engineers to ensure restoration of connectivity on all remaining roads without delay and submit proposals for permanent restoration on priority.

While reviewing the

restoration works under the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, it was informed that 11 out of 15 restoration works have been completed while work on the remaining projects is in progress.

The Deputy Chief Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner Kathua to regularly review the functioning of industrial estates and submit a comprehensive report to the Government highlighting issues requiring intervention for improving industrial infrastructure and investor facilitation. He emphasized close coordination among the industrial associations and other stakeholders for effective resolution of issues.

# ADC Sopore visits cloudburst-affected area

**BARAMULLA, JULY 31:** Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Sopore, Dr. S.A. Raina, today conducted an extensive visit to Taki Khan Mohammad Mundji to assess the damage caused by a recent cloudburst that struck the area during a spell of heavy rainfall.

The ADC was accompanied by officers from the Revenue Department, Irrigation and Flood Control Department, and other concerned departments.

During the visit, Dr. Raina undertook an on-the-spot inspection of the affected sites to assess the extent of damage caused due to the overflowing of the nallah following the cloudburst.



Interacting with the local residents, the ADC listened to their concerns and assured them that the administration is committed to extending all possible assistance and taking timely measures to mitigate the impact of such natural calamities.

Dr. Raina directed the of-

ficers of the Agriculture and Horticulture Department to undertake a detailed assessment of the losses incurred by the local population so that appropriate relief measures can be initiated without delay.

Taking serious note of the obstruction in the natural flow of the nallah, the

ADC instructed the officers of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department and Revenue Department, to identify and remove all encroachments along the banks of the nallah.

He stressed that the water channel must be restored to its original width and condition to facilitate the smooth flow of water and prevent overflow during future spells of heavy rain. Furthermore, the ADC also directed the concerned department to expedite the repair and restoration of the road that sustained damage due to the overflowing of the nallah, ensuring that connectivity is restored at the earliest and inconvenience to the public is minimized.

# JKAACL organises 'Kavi Darbar' to Commemorate 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 31

The Jammu & Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture & Languages (JKAACL) today organised a Punjabi Kavi Darbar dedicated to the 350th Martyrdom Day of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji at Gurdwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh Sabha, Hutmurrah, District Anantnag.

The programme commenced with the soulful rendition of Shabad Gurbani of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji by Bhai Popinder Singh and his group, creating a spiritually enriching atmosphere.

Speaking on the occasion, Popinder Singh, Senior Editor, Sheeraza Punjabi, JKAACL, reiterated the Academy's commitment to preserving and promoting the rich cultural, literary and religious heritage of the region. He stated that JKAACL has been organising seminars, lectures, conferences and Kavi Darbars on a priority basis to connect the younger generation with their cultural and spiritual roots.

He further emphasised that the Academy is mak-



ing sustained efforts to organise such programmes in far-flung Punjabi-speaking areas so that local talent is encouraged and the community remains actively engaged in literary and cultural activities.

Delivering the keynote lecture, Jathedar Ranjit Singh eloquently highlighted the divine teachings (Bani), philosophy and noble ideals of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. He inspired the gathering to

imbibe the values of truth, tolerance, compassion and selfless service as exemplified by the great Guru.

On the occasion, two eminent scholars from the village threw light on the life, philosophy and unparalleled sacrifices of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji. Young children from the village also presented a moving poetic tribute depicting the life and martyrdom of the great Guru, which was highly appreciated by the audience.

S. Karan Singh, President, Gurdwara Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Singh Sabha, Hutmurrah, appreciated the initiatives of JKAACL for providing a meaningful platform to young and talented individuals to showcase their literary and oratory skills while promoting the Punjabi language and culture.

A large number of members of the Sangat attended the programme and paid their obeisance to the revered Guru.

# ICAR-NRC Makhana Scientist reviews Aquatic Crop Demonstrations at KVK Bandipora

**BANDIPORA, JULY 31:** Indu Shekhar, Principal Scientist from the ICAR-National Research Centre (NRC) for Makhana, Darbhanga, Bihar, visited Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Bandipora-I, SKUAST-Kashmir, to monitor the progress of Makhana (*Euryale ferox*) and Water Chestnut (*Trapa natans*) cultivation being undertaken at the KVK farm.

The visit aimed to assess the performance of these promising aquatic crops under the agro-climatic conditions of Kashmir and to review the progress made since the initiation of demonstrations under the collaborative efforts between ICAR-NRC Makhana and SKUAST-Kashmir.

Prof. Indu Shekhar inspected the Makhana and Water Chestnut demonstration plots, interacted with the scientific staff, and evaluated crop growth, establishment, and field management practices.

During the visit, Prof. Indu Shekhar expressed satisfaction with the encouraging growth and adaptation of both crops under the prevailing climatic conditions of the Kashmir Valley. He appreciated the efforts of KVK Bandipora in introducing



and promoting these high-value aquatic crops, highlighting their immense potential for diversification of farming systems, productive utilization of wetlands, and enhancement of farmers' income. He emphasized that Makhana and Water Chestnut could emerge as economically viable enterprises in suitable water bodies across the region.

The Principal Scientist also provided valuable technical guidance on crop management, nutrient ap-

plication, weed management, pest surveillance, and harvesting practices to ensure better productivity and successful commercialization. He stressed the importance of scientific monitoring, farmer capacity building, and collaborative research for scaling up the cultivation of aquatic crops in Jammu and Kashmir.

Dr. Tariq Sultan, Programme Coordinator, KVK Bandipora-I, briefed the visiting scientist about the ongoing initiatives of the

KVK in promoting aquatic crop cultivation. He informed that KVK has established demonstration units of Makhana and Water Chestnut to evaluate their adaptability and to create awareness among farmers regarding their economic potential. He reiterated KVK's commitment to disseminating suitable technologies that can improve livelihood opportunities for farming communities, particularly those residing around wetlands.

Dr. Tahir Saleem, Scientist (Vegetable Science), KVK Bandipora-I, accompanied Prof. Indu Shekhar during the field inspection and presented the progress of the Makhana and Water Chestnut demonstrations established at the KVK farm. He highlighted the crop management practices being followed, the encouraging establishment of both aquatic crops under local conditions, and the future plans for expanding demonstrations and conducting farmer training programmes.

Prof. Indu Shekhar appreciated the efforts of KVK team in successfully establishing these demonstrations and encouraged continued research and extension activities for the promotion of aquatic crop cultivation in Kashmir.

# NCC wing of PM SHRI Govt HSS Bhalra organises cyber awareness programme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
JAMMU, JULY 31

The NCC Wing of PM SHRI Government Higher Secondary School, Bhalra, under 10 J&K Battalion NCC Bhaderwah, organised a Cyber Awareness Programme on Friday to promote digital safety among students. A large number of NCC cadets and students took part.

Associate NCC Officer Dr Sanjeev Kumar Koul delivered the welcome address, flagging the rising threats of cybercrime. He apprised participants of the Cyber Security Awareness Initiative of IIT Jammu and stressed



the importance of cyber hygiene.

The keynote address

was delivered by Dr Nitin Singh Kotwal, PhD in Computer Science from

the University of Jammu. He spoke on advancements in computer technology, emerging cyber threats and online safety and shared practical strategies to safeguard personal information, use social media responsibly and prevent cyber fraud.

The programme was held under the guidance of Principal Asha Bhalwal and coordinated by Dr Koul, with support from Nirbhik Singh, Master and other teaching staff. Students engaged with the resource person during an interactive session and the programme concluded with refreshments.