

Master Trainers' training for Population Enumeration in snow-bound areas concludes

Census 2027 enters next phase of field preparedness

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 06

Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh today successfully concluded a three-day Master Trainers' Training Programme for Population Enumeration (Phase-II) of Census 2027 in the snow-bound areas of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, marking the beginning of the next stage of field preparedness for the Census operations scheduled to commence in September 2026.

The training programme was conducted from 4th August to 6th August, 2026 under the overall guidance of Shri Amit Sharma, IAS, Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director Census Operations (DCO), Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The programme brought together Master Trainers from sixteen districts of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and the two districts of the Union Territory of Ladakh, including Anantnag, Bandipora, Doda, Ganderbal, Kathua, Kishtwar, Kulgam, Kupwara, Poonch, Pulwama, Reasi, Shopian, Udhampur, Ramban, Baramulla and Rajouri, besides Leh and Kargil. These Master Trainers will now conduct the



next round of training for Field Trainers, who will subsequently train Enumerators and Supervisors for Population Enumeration in the notified snow-bound areas.

Addressing the participants, CPCO Shri Amit Sharma emphasised that Master Trainers form the foundation of the Census training architecture and will play a crucial role in ensuring uniformity, accuracy and quality during the forthcoming Population Enumeration exercise. He urged the participants to impart the same standard of training to Field Trainers in their respective districts so that every Enumerator and Supervisor is fully prepared for India's first Census to be conducted through digital means.

The training was imparted by Shri Arun Kumar, Joint Chief Principal Census Officer and National Trainer, and Shri Jatinder

Kumar, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officer and Master Trainer, through a structured combination of classroom sessions, demonstrations, practical exercises, quizzes, role plays and interactive discussions to ensure uniform understanding of Census concepts, digital applications and field procedures.

As shared by CPCO Shri Amit Sharma, this three-day programme comprehensively covered every aspect of Population Enumeration, beginning with an overview of Census 2027, operational timelines, digital tools and Population Enumeration schedules. Detailed sessions were conducted on Census concepts and definitions, demographic particulars, religion and caste, family composition, disability, language, education and literacy, economic activities, migration, fertility, other

population particulars, counting of houseless population, the Revisional Round, operation of the Population Enumeration Mobile Application, Self-Enumeration during Population Enumeration, interviewing techniques, role-play exercises and hands-on practice in digital data collection.

The Chief Principal Census Officer Shri Sharma observed that systematic and standardised training is essential for ensuring high-quality data collection and seamless use of digital Census applications in the field. He expressed confidence that the cascading training model would ensure complete preparedness of the Census machinery before the commencement of Population Enumeration in the snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in September 2026.

CPCO Shri Amit Sharma further disclosed that with the successful completion of the Master Trainers' programme, the Directorate of Census Operations will now commence district-level training of Field Trainers, which will be followed by the training of Enumerators and Supervisors across the notified snow-bound districts, completing the final stage of preparations for the forthcoming Population Enumeration phase of Census 2027.

Billawaria chairs review meetings of Pahari Kathua distts, asks to ensure booth-level execution of programmes

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 06

J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria concluded a three-day organizational tour of Pahari and Kathua Districts, during which he conducted a series of review meetings at Kuta, Jasrota, Lakhampur, Mahanpur, Dhar, Basohli, Sheetal Nagar, Bhanor, Sunera, Heerpur, Reni, and several other locations to strengthen the party organization and review the functioning of various organizational units.

The meetings were attended by the local MLA, district office bearers, Morcha Presidents, Mandal Presidents, their respective teams, and senior party leaders.

Baldev Singh Billawaria, while addressing the meetings, undertook a comprehensive review of the organizational structure at different levels and assessed the progress of programmes conducted during the previous month. Detailed discussions were held on strengthening the party



machinery from district to booth level, ensuring proper distribution of responsibilities among newly appointed as well as senior functionaries, and enhancing coordination among all organizational units and Morchas.

Billawaria said that the BJP's organizational strength depends upon an active booth-level structure and seamless coordination among all wings of the party. He directed every office bearer to ensure that each programme reaches the grassroots with the active participa-

tion of local workers and prominent citizens. He stressed that organizational discipline, regular reporting, teamwork, and timely execution of responsibilities are essential for further strengthening the party across Kathua district.

Billawaria also reviewed preparations for the upcoming Tiranga Yatra, Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, and Vibhajan Vibhishika Smriti Diwas, asking the cadre to organize these programmes with maximum public participation. He laid special emphasis

on the ongoing Sant Shromani Guru Ravidas Samrasta Sankalp Abhiyan being observed to commemorate the 650th birth anniversary of Guru Ravidas Ji, directing the party workers to take its message of social harmony and equality to every village and booth.

Baldev Singh Billawaria called for the commitment to public service and a strong organizational framework, which will continue to expand the party's reach and reinforce public confidence across the region.

RDD Doda organises District-Level Sammelan to promote Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 06

The Rural Development Department (RDD) Doda today organised a District-Level Sammelan 2026 here in the Community Hall to promote avenues under Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-GRAM-G).

The programme aimed to strengthen rural governance, promote sustainable livelihood opportunities and create awareness among the public about various flagship welfare schemes of the Government.

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Krishan Lal inaugurated as the Chief Guest. The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Anil Kumar Thakur; Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal; Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar; Programme Officer ICDS Akhter Qazi; Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohammad Afaqi; Additional Superintendent of Police Mohamad Aslam; District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed; SHO Tariq Ahmed; besides officers from various line departments.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from former Panchayati Raj Institution



(PRI) members, former Sarpanches, former Panches, members of Self Help Groups (SHG)s, government officials, beneficiaries, youth and civil society members.

At the outset, the participants took the Nasha Mukt Abhiyan pledge, reaffirming their commitment to building a drug-free society.

The DDC highlighted the vital role of former Sarpanches and Panches in ensuring the effective implementation of government welfare schemes at the grassroots level. He called upon officers and field functionaries to work

with honesty, dedication and accountability to achieve 100 percent saturation of eligible beneficiaries under all flagship programmes.

The ADC highlighted the flagship initiatives such as VB-GRAM-G, Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G), Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) and UMEED aimed at empowering grassroots institutions.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah emphasized the importance of flagship rural development programmes in generating sustainable employment

and strengthening rural livelihoods.

Programme Officer ICDS Akhter Qazi, Assistant Commissioner Development Din Mohammad Afaqi and officers from various other departments sensitized participants to different government welfare schemes, their eligibility criteria, benefits and implementation mechanisms.

Interactive sessions were also held to address the queries of former PRI members and beneficiaries, while encouraging greater public participation in developmental programmes.

NEW DELHI, AUG 06: J&K President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma (CA) strongly raised the issue of recurring flash floods, cloudbursts, landslides and other natural disasters in Jammu & Kashmir in the Rajya Sabha, urging the Central Government to provide a special financial and rehabilitation package for the affected families.

Highlighting the recent tragedy in Rajouri, Poonch and other parts of the Union Territory, Sat Sharma said that repeated natural calamities have claimed precious lives, destroyed homes, damaged vital infrastructure and devastated the livelihoods of thousands of families. He stressed that while rescue and immediate relief



are essential, the long-term rehabilitation of affected families deserves equal priority.

Sharma said, "Although immediate rescue and relief operations are carried out, affected families often face long-term hardships due to lack of resources for reconstruction and rehabilitation. Therefore, I urge the government to consider providing special central fi-

nancial assistance to Jammu and Kashmir to rehabilitate and rebuild homes, restore damaged public infrastructure, and restart livelihoods."

Sharma also requested the government to consider a special rehabilitation package for families who have lost their homes or earning members in such disasters, so that they can resume their lives with dig-

nity. Given the increasing frequency and intensity of such disasters in the hilly terrain, it is crucial to have a sustained and adequately funded central rehabilitation mechanism to ensure timely recovery and long-term resilience in Jammu and Kashmir, he said.

Sat Sharma said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Central Government has consistently adopted a people-first approach in responding to natural calamities by ensuring prompt relief, rehabilitation and infrastructure restoration. He expressed confidence that the Government will give due consideration to the genuine concerns of the affected people of Jammu & Kashmir.

Preparatory meetings held for 80th I-Day celebrations at District Court Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 06

As part of the preparations for the forthcoming 80th Independence Day celebrations at the District Court Complex, two preparatory meetings were held today under the chairmanship of Kalpana Revo, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Udhampur and under the overall supervision of Sumati Sharma, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA).

Principal District & Sessions Judge, Udhampur chaired the meeting in his Office Chamber, which was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner; Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters); Assistant Executive Engineer, Public Works (R&B) Department; Chief Executive Officer Municipal Council; Manager, J&K Bank, Main Branch.

The deliberations focused on the overall arrangements for the Independence Day celebrations, including venue preparedness, seating and power backup, sanitation, traffic management, security arrangements, ceremonial protocol and effective inter-departmental coordination to ensure the smooth and dignified con-



duct of the national event.

Addressing the officers, Chairman District Legal Services Authority, Kalpana Revo emphasized the importance of celebrating Independence Day with dignity, patriotism and a spirit of collective responsibility. She stressed the need for meticulous planning, strict adherence to safety protocols and the maintenance of law and order throughout the celebrations.

Thereafter, another coordination meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the District Court Complex with the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of the District Legal Services Authority. The meeting was organized to finalize the deployment and responsibilities of PLVs during the Independence Day celebrations and to strengthen public out-

reach and legal aid awareness initiatives.

The Para Legal Volunteers were briefed about their responsibilities, which include guiding visitors, assisting elderly and differently-abled attendees, facilitating orderly movement of the public, disseminating information regarding free legal aid services and supporting the implementation of safety measures at the venue. They were also encouraged to actively promote awareness about legal aid, legal literacy and the various welfare schemes available through the Legal Services Authority.

Appreciating the dedication and commitment of the Para Legal Volunteers, Kalpana Revo urged them to discharge their duties with discipline, courtesy and professionalism while

representing the District Legal Services Authority.

DLSA Secretary Sumati Sharma highlighted that the Independence Day celebrations provide an ideal platform to spread awareness about free legal services and grievance redressal mechanisms. She also assigned specific responsibilities to the volunteers and scheduled a mock rehearsal to ensure the smooth and efficient execution of their duties on the day of the event.

Both meetings concluded with a coordinated action plan, clear allocation of responsibilities and agreed timelines, reaffirming the commitment of all stakeholders to organize the Independence Day celebrations at the District Court Complex, Udhampur, in a befitting, well-coordinated and patriotic manner.

DIPR announces IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition-2026 to nurture local cinematic talent

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 06: In a significant initiative to encourage and promote emerging filmmaking talent from Jammu & Kashmir, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) has announced the IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition 2026, as part of the scheduled 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), with registrations for the competition commence from today 6th August, 2026. The competition is exclusively open to aspiring filmmakers from Jammu & Kashmir and aims to provide a prestigious platform for young storytellers to showcase their

creativity, cinematic vision and technical skills through original short films.

The aspiring and emerging filmmakers are invited to submit original short films with a maximum duration of five minutes and the last date for submission is August 26, 2026.

The applicants must be between 18 and 39 years of age as on September 1, 2026, and possess a valid Jammu & Kashmir domicile certificate.

The competition is being organised around the theme "Rang-e-Cinema: Frames of a New Jammu & Kashmir", reflecting the evolving cultural, social and creative narratives of the region

while encouraging youth to present compelling stories through the medium of cinema.

Interested filmmakers and cinematographers are advised to register by visiting the official IFFJK website www.iffjk.org and the detailed guidelines, eligibility criteria and the registration process are also available on this website for ease of aspirants.

DIPR urges aspiring filmmakers from across Jammu & Kashmir to seize this opportunity and contribute towards strengthening the Union Territory's growing film culture through innovative and impactful storytelling.