

RDD Secy calls for mission-mode push on VB-G RAM G implementation

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 18

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress on the Viksit Bharat—Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-G RAM G], calling for a renewed and focused push to strengthen the Person Days (PD) generation, activate work-sites, ensure timely wage payments and tighten field-level supervision across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Director, Rural Development, Kashmir, Riyaz Ahmad Wani; Director, Rural Development, Jammu, Shahnaz Akhtar; Director, Social Audit, Rajneesh Gupta; Additional Secretary, Waseem Raja; Superintending Engineers (REW), Jammu and Kashmir; Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) and Executive Engineers (REW).

Asad directed the Executive Engineers to process wage-component bills without delay, stressing that once the wage component is released, bills should be prepared simultaneously so that payments are not held up. He also asked to ensure that material payments be processed alongside wage payments.

The Secretary directed for immediate and focused intervention to ensure timely initiation of works at all worksites. He emphasised that all eligible Panchayats must be enabled to undertake works at the earliest, with a clear focus on strengthening employment generation and ensuring effective implementation of VB-G RAM G at the grassroots level.

Holding Assistant Commissioners Development (ACDs) responsible for effective leadership at the block level, Aijaz Asad observed that the districts



with proactive ACDs were delivering better results while few others were visibly lagging. He directed the ACDs to take ownership of field-level implementation and cautioned that continued underperformance on certain parameters could invite accountability measures. Supervisory gaps, he stressed, must be promptly identified and corrected rather than allowed to persist.

The Secretary also reviewed the e-KYC status of semi-skilled and skilled workers, whose payments will now be routed through the wage component. He directed the Executive Engineers to complete the process within the stipulated timeline.

He informed the meeting that MoRD is expected to issue a detailed Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) within the next few days regarding the proposed shift under which semi-skilled and skilled workers, currently often booked under the material component, will be reclassified under the wage component. He directed the field officials to ensure that the transition is properly captured and implemented at the ground level.

Acknowledging that certain villages in hilly, remote and snow-bound ar-

reas may naturally record comparatively lower figures during winters months, Aijaz Asad directed the officers to accord special attention to such parts so that the benefits of the scheme reach all sections of the rural population.

Reviewing wage-payment performance, the Secretary directed the district authorities to expedite generation of Fund Transfer Orders (FTOs) against wage claims under VB-G RAM G, stressing that timely FTO processing is essential for ensuring prompt payment of wages to workers.

Aijaz Asad emphasised the importance of Panch Sammelans as a platform for strengthening the grassroots participation, direct engagement and coordination among the elected representatives and field functionaries. He directed the concerned officers to ensure that the proceedings and outcomes of all Panch Sammelans are properly documented, with completion reports submitted promptly. The deliberations, he stressed, must translate into concrete follow-up action at the Panchayat level.

Reviewing Area Officer Monitoring Reports, the Secretary directed the ACDs to undertake regular field visits and improve the quality of monitoring. He described field monitoring as a routine yet critical responsibility that must be discharged with seriousness and purpose. He also directed the officials to expedite geo-tagging and complete e-KYC within the prescribed timeframe.

Regarding administrative discipline, Asad reiterated that no employee would be permitted to leave the place of duty without prior permission. He directed both the Directors to undertake random attendance checks, noting instances of employees remaining away from assigned duties without authorisation.

BJP is attempting to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of Jammu region: RL Gupta

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JAMMU, AUG 18

Senior Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) leader and Provincial President Jammu, Rattan Lal Gupta, today said that the local BJP leadership appears to be attempting to disturb the peaceful atmosphere of Jammu for narrow political gains by misleading people of Jammu through unwarranted protest against the popular Govt which is working for the benefit and welfare of the people hundreds of developmental projects have been started of Jal Shakti, Electricity, roads and buildings of Hospitals, Colleges and Schools by the Omar led Govt. Even Last week Hon'ble CM Omar Abdullah laid down the foundation stone of Jal Shakti Project of more than Rs 120 Crores at Udhampur.

Gupta said that the people of Jammu have traditionally valued peace, communal harmony and brotherhood, and any attempt to create unnecessary tension or division for political purposes must be



strongly opposed.

He further said that the BJP's central leadership has once again exposed its lack of confidence in the Jammu and Kashmir leadership by not giving any significant responsibility to J&K leaders in its new national team. "This clearly indicates that the central leadership does not consider the local BJP leaders competent enough to occupy important positions in the national organisation," he said.

The NC Provincial President asserted that the BJP is losing ground in Jammu because of its anti-people policies and failure to address the

genuine concerns of the people. Instead of concentrating on unemployment, development, rising prices, infrastructure, tourism and other pressing issues, the BJP is allegedly trying to divert public attention through political rhetoric and confrontation.

Gupta also questioned the role of the BJP during the period from 2014 to 2024, saying that its conduct and policies towards Jammu and Kashmir raised serious questions about its commitment to the interests of the people. He said that the people are now carefully assessing the promises made by the BJP against its actual performance.

He appealed to all political parties to maintain peace and communal harmony in Jammu and not indulge in politics that could disturb the peaceful environment of the region.

"The people of Jammu want development, employment, dignity, peace and democratic rights—not political confrontation. The BJP should introspect instead of blaming others for its declining support among the people," Gupta said.

Youth Unite Against Drug Abuse at ASCOMS' Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 18

With a strong focus on promoting awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and fostering a healthier, empowered, and drug-free society, ASCOMS College of Nursing Education, Sidhra, Jammu, organised the "Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan". The programme was organised in collaboration with Nations Development Association (NDA), MY Bharat J&K, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, Nursing Scholar Society, and J&K AIDS Control Society.

The event was graced by Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh and Former Minister for Health and Medical Education, J&K, as the Chief Guest, while Sh. Vivek Kumar, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat, was the Guest of Honour. Sh. Sushil Singh Charak, Chief Functionary, Nations Development Association (NDA) and Resource Person, MY Bharat J&K, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, and Sh. Rakesh Raman, Treasurer, ASCOMS & Hospital, attended as Special Guests. The programme was presided over by Prof. (Dr.) Indra Moza, Principal, ASCOMS College of Nursing Education.

The programme commenced with Vande Mataram, followed by the ceremonial inauguration and felicitation of the distinguished guests. A vibrant Rangoli and Poster Display by nursing students showcased powerful messages against drug abuse and highlighted the importance of making



healthy and responsible choices. The programme further featured cultural presentations and a thought-provoking short skit depicting the devastating impact of substance abuse on individuals, families and society. The performances effectively conveyed the message that prevention, awareness and timely intervention are crucial in combating the menace of drug abuse.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Indra Moza emphasised the crucial role of educational institutions and youth in combating substance abuse. She called upon students to become responsible ambassadors of a drug-free society and actively contribute towards spreading awareness among their peers and communities.

Sh. Vivek Kumar administered the Drug-Free India Pledge and urged the youth to inspire others to adopt healthy, productive and substance-free lifestyles.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Guest Dr.

Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA Ramgarh highlighted the commitment of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi towards building a drug-free India and stressed that the active participation of youth, educational institutions, families and communities is essential to effectively address the challenge of substance abuse. He appreciated the enthusiasm, creativity and talent displayed by the nursing students and encouraged them to become active partners in the national campaign against drugs.

Sh. Sushil Singh Charak highlighted the significance of the "Nasha Mukh Yuva for Viksit Bharat Sankalp Abhiyan", stating that a healthy, aware and drug-free youth population is fundamental to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. He emphasised the need for sustained awareness campaigns, meaningful youth engagement and coordinated efforts among educational institutions, civil society organisations

and government agencies to address substance abuse.

As part of the campaign, a walkathon was also organised by the college faculty from ASCOMS & Hospital towards the N.H. Bypass Road, Sidhra. Participants raised slogans and carried messages advocating a drug-free society, spreading awareness among the public about the harmful consequences of substance abuse. Students who actively participated in the various activities were felicitated in recognition of their enthusiasm, creativity and contribution towards the campaign.

The programme concluded with the National Anthem, reaffirming the collective commitment of the participating institutions and stakeholders towards nurturing a healthy, empowered and drug-free generation. The programme conveyed a strong message: "A Drug-Free Youth is the Foundation of a Viksit Bharat."

Martand calls on HP Governor in New Delhi

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 18: Director, Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative (ASSYI), J&K, and Trustee of Hari Tara Charitable Trust, Shri Martand Singh, called on the Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh, Shri Kavinder Gupta, in New Delhi today.

During the meeting, Shri Martand Singh briefed the Hon'ble Governor on the various activities and initiatives undertaken by the Amar Singh Sports & Youth Initiative for the promotion of sports, youth development and empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir. He also apprised the Governor of the initiatives being undertaken for the preservation, conservation and promotion of heritage at the



Amar Mahal Museum in Jammu, as well as the philanthropic and social initiatives of the Hari Tara Charitable Trust, both led by him in Jammu.

The meeting also provided an opportunity to discuss matters concerning youth engagement and development, besides the prevailing political landscape

of Jammu and Kashmir.

Governor Shri Kavinder Gupta shared his valuable insights and guidance on matters relating to sports, youth empowerment and their constructive engagement, drawing upon his extensive experience in public life and his long association with the regions of Himachal Pradesh and Ladakh. He appreciated Shri Martand Singh's initiatives aimed at promoting sports, nurturing young talent and preserving the rich cultural and heritage legacy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Hon'ble Governor also felicitated Shri Martand Singh with a traditional Himachali cap and shawl as a mark of warmth and goodwill.

GCW Udhampur hosts Udhya Jagriti 5.0 College campaign

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Government College for Women (GCW), Udhampur, today hosted the Udhya Jagriti 5.0 College Campaign under Mission YUVA, aimed at creating awareness among young women about entrepreneurship, innovation, self-employment opportunities and various initiatives offered under the campaign. More than 280 girl students actively participated in the awareness programme.

During the programme, students were sensitised about the Neo-Innovative Challenge, Hackathon and various entrepreneurship competitions, encouraging them to develop innovative ideas, identify opportunities and explore entrepreneurship as a viable career option.

An inspiring entrepreneurial talk was delivered by Ms. Anamika Sharma, Owner, Deepak Creations, a handicraft enterprise. Sharing her entrepreneurial journey, she motivated the students to harness their creativity, embrace innovation and transform their ideas into sustainable entrepreneurial ventures.

The programme was co-ordinated by the Institu-



tion's Innovation Council (IIC) Committee and members of Mission YUVA. Dr. Preeti Dubey, Convenor, IIC, and Ms. Neha Antal, representing the Placement Coordinator, played an active role in the successful conduct of the programme.

The awareness session was conducted by Mr. Paras Dubey, SBDU Coordinator, and Ms. Mahak Sharma, BHD Lead, Udhampur, who apprised the

students about the various opportunities, challenges and initiatives available under Mission YUVA.

The programme was organised under the guidance and direction of Ms. Priyanka Gupta, JKAS, Assistant Director Employment, and Prof. (Dr.) Nalini Pathania, Principal, Government College for Women, Udhampur.

The event provided an engaging platform for stu-

dents to understand the potential of entrepreneurship and innovation and encouraged them to actively participate in the opportunities offered under Mission YUVA.

The programme concluded with a renewed call for young women to become innovators, entrepreneurs and creators of employment rather than merely seekers of employment.

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A vibrant Tiranga Rally was organised by the NSS volunteers and NCC cadets of the College to commemorate the spirit of patriotism, national unity and pride in the Indian national flag.

The rally was flagged off by the college Principal, Dr. Nalini Pathania who appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the NSS volunteers and NCC cadets. Addressing the gathering, the Principal highlighted the importance of respecting the national flag and fostering the values of unity, discipline, responsibility and patriotism among students.

Carrying the Tricolour with pride, the NSS volun-



teers and NCC cadets marched through the designated route while raising patriotic slogans and spreading the message of national unity and harmony. The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation

from students NSS POs Dr. Ajay Kumar Sharma and Prof. Shama Rani, NCC ANO Dr. Kusha Sharma and staff members.

The event provided an opportunity for students to express their love for the

nation and reaffirm their commitment to the ideals represented by the Tiranga. The programme concluded with a message of collective responsibility toward building a strong, united and progressive India.