

Chief Secy reviews UNDP strategy for SDG-linked budgeting in J&K

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 19

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to assess the strategy proposed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for aligning the annual budget of Jammu & Kashmir with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with emphasis on outcome-based planning, convergence of schemes and evidence-based allocation of public resources.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Information Technology; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare; Secretary, Agriculture; Director Planning, besides senior officers and representatives of various departments.

The UNDP team made a detailed presentation to provide a preliminary roadmap for aligning public expenditure with the Sustainable Development Goals, outlining a structured approach for integrating SDGs into the budgeting and public financial management architecture of the Union Territory.

Taking note of the strategy presented by UNDP, the Chief Secretary directed the Planning Department to constitute a dedicated team to work in close coordination with the UNDP team and formulate a comprehensive roadmap identifying the interventions required under each SDG for achieving the desired targets over the coming years.

He emphasised the need to undertake a comprehensive mapping of Centrally Sponsored Schemes and UT Government schemes



against the respective SDGs so that the contribution of each scheme towards individual goals and targets is clearly established. He further called for identifying the additional interventions and resource requirements that may be necessary to bridge existing gaps and accelerate progress towards the identified targets.

The Chief Secretary stressed that achievement of the SDGs cannot be confined to individual departments or isolated schemes, as several goals require cross-cutting interventions and coordinated action across multiple sectors. He called for leveraging existing schemes and programmes while simultaneously assessing the requirement for additional funding under appropriate budgetary provisions.

He further directed that the exercise should identify the targeted population and beneficiaries for various interventions so as to facilitate focused implementation and measurable outcomes. He laid emphasis on convergence of schemes, coordinated implementation and outcome-based monitoring over a defined period of time.

The Chief Secretary's directions are aimed at moving the exercise beyond a simple tagging of budgetary allocations and towards preparation of a practical, time-bound and results-oriented

action plan for achieving SDG targets in Jammu & Kashmir.

On this occasion the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shaileendra Kumar, emphasised the need for assigning a clear role to every scheme in achieving the respective SDG targets.

He called for mapping each scheme against the relevant SDG and assessing its contribution towards the concerned goal, including the extent of contribution that can reasonably be achieved on the ground. Such an exercise, he observed, would provide greater clarity on what needs to be done, where the intervention is required and within what timeframe.

He also stressed the importance of capacity building of officers and departmental functionaries alongside preparation of the SDG-aligned budgeting framework to ensure that the proposed system is implemented effectively at the operational level.

The ACS Finance further called for initiating the exercise immediately so that its early benefits could be realised and the necessary framework incorporated into the next year's budgetary exercise by the concerned departments.

The UNDP proposal envisages a three-year programme aimed at integrating SDGs into the budgeting and public financial management

systems of Jammu & Kashmir. The proposed framework seeks to establish a direct linkage between budgetary inputs, departmental outputs, measurable outcomes and SDG targets, thereby enabling more informed decisions on allocation and utilisation of public resources.

The strategy involves three principal components including SDG Budget Tagging Framework; an integrated digital platform linked with IFMIS; and institutional capacity building through an Output–Outcome Monitoring Framework (OOMF).

Under the proposed SDG Budget Tagging Framework, departmental schemes and expenditure heads would be mapped against specific SDG goals and targets, with expenditure proposed to be classified as Directly Contributing or Neutral. The framework envisages coverage of all 20 departments as well as district budgets.

A web-based SDG-IFMIS portal has also been proposed for tracking, analysing and visualising budgetary allocations and expenditure against SDGs. The portal would be integrated with the existing IFMIS architecture and SDG dashboard and would provide a department-, goal- and district-wise view of SDG expenditure.

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Deputy Commissioner Poonch and Chairman Regional Transport Authority (RTA) Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Authority here in his office chamber.

The DC reviewed the issues pertaining to traffic management, regulation of passenger and commercial transport and enforcement of road safety measures across the district.

The meeting was attended by officers from the Police and Motor Vehicle Departments. Among those present were Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Nawaz Sharief, Dy SP DAR, Shashi Kant, Dy. SP Traffic, Tehsildar Headquarters and other concerned officials.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for coordinated efforts to ensure an efficient, safe and well-regulated transport system in the district. He directed the concerned officers to maintain strict enforcement of traffic rules



and ensure that vehicles operating on roads comply with all prescribed statutory requirements. He called for regular inspections and effective monitoring of passenger and commercial vehicles so that commuters are provided safe and reliable transportation facilities.

While reviewing traffic-related issues, the DC stressed the importance of preventing violations of traffic norms and ensuring disciplined movement of vehicles on busy roads and market areas. He directed the concerned enforcement agencies to take appropriate

action against violations in accordance with the rules and regulations in force.

The DC further directed the concerned officers to identify traffic bottlenecks and other issues affecting smooth vehicular movement and take timely corrective measures. He called for regular field inspections and close monitoring of traffic arrangements, particularly at locations experiencing congestion and increased vehicular movement.

The Motor Vehicle Department and Traffic Police were asked to work in close coordination and ensure

that transport operators strictly adhere to the prescribed rules and regulations. The concerned officers were directed to maintain regular coordination with the district administration and promptly bring important transport and traffic-related issues to its notice for timely resolution. The meeting concluded with directions to the concerned departments to maintain close coordination, intensify enforcement wherever required and undertake necessary measures for improving traffic management and road safety across the district.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress on AgriStack Farmer Registration

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved under AgriStack farmer registration in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the work completed so far and took stock of the progress in generation of farmer IDs and reg-

istration of eligible farmers. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the remaining work and ensure maximum coverage within the stipulated timeline. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to organise registration camps at the field level to facilitate generation of IDs and ensure wider coverage of eligible farmers. He stressed upon regular monitoring of the camps and the progress achieved through them.

He further emphasised dissemination of information among farmers regarding AgriStack registration and the benefits associated with the digital farmer database, so that eligible farmers are adequately informed and encouraged to complete the registration process.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to ensure time-bound completion of ID generation and registration, with proper verifica-

tion and accuracy of the data. He also called for regular monitoring of progress and effective coordination among the Revenue and Agriculture functionaries. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Assistant Commissioner Ganderbal, SDM Kangan, Chief Agriculture Officer Ganderbal, Assistant Commissioner, Panchayat, all Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

At first light, CM Omar Abdullah takes the pulse of Srinagar's development

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 19: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today undertook an extensive early-morning tour of Srinagar city, covering all eight Assembly constituencies, to take stock of ongoing development works, inspect key infrastructure projects and assess the delivery of public facilities and civic amenities on the ground.

Beginning the tour at around 6:30 am, the Chief Minister visited a number of important project sites covering road and traffic infrastructure, healthcare, heritage conservation, sports facilities and other urban development works. He reviewed the physical progress of the projects with officers and executing agencies and sought timely completion of works so that their intended benefits reach the people at the earliest.

At Barbar Shah in Habba Kadal, the Chief Minister inspected the site for the proposed multi-span bridge over Choont Khul, a project aimed at improving connectivity to Shehar-e-Khaas and easing traffic congestion in the area.

The bridge is being executed by the PW(R&B) Department, Srinagar Core Division, at an estimated cost of ₹32.50 crore. Designed as per IRC codal standards and MoRTH specifications and taking into account the requirements of Seismic Zone-V.

The Chief Minister was briefed that the bridge is expected to facilitate smoother movement of commuters heading towards Shehar-e-Khaas, streamline traffic flow, improve road safety and strengthen urban mobility in the historic core of the city.

The Chief Minister also inspected the newly constructed building of the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC), Maharaj Gunj. The upgraded facility, located in the historic heart of Shehar-e-Khaas, is intended to strengthen primary healthcare delivery and improve patient care through enhanced infrastructure.

The project has an estimated cost of ₹262.54 lakh under UT CAPEX and is being executed by the Public Works Department (R&B), Kashmir. Work commenced in November 2024 and is scheduled for completion by November 20, 2026.

During his inspection of the medical facility, the Chief Minister was informed that brickwork, internal plas-

tering, door and window framework, tile work on all three floors and window fixing have been completed. Electrical works are about 85 per cent complete, while the fire-fighting system has been completed. Roofing of the adjacent building (Structure-B) has also been completed and overhead water tanks installed.

At Mirza Kamil Sahib Chowk, Hawal, the Chief Minister laid the foundation stone for the beautification, upgradation and junction improvement project, aimed at improving traffic management, pedestrian movement and the overall appearance of the important urban junction.

The project, under the UT Sector, has a cost of ₹132.85 lakh. The proposed works include upgradation of the existing road pavement, development of pedestrian-friendly footpaths, new kerbs and drainage arrangements, road markings, traffic signage, bollards, delineators and glow studs. The project also provides for modern LED street lighting, decorative illuminated butterfly and tree sculptures, and solar traffic blinkers at pedestrian crossings to enhance pedestrian safety.

At Sub District Hospital (SDH) Habak, Hazratbal, the Chief Minister inspected the ongoing construction of the new hospital building and reviewed the progress of the long-pending project.

The project had remained stalled for a considerable period and was revived after the present Council of Ministers granted the required norm relaxations, paving the way for its resumption and eventual strengthening of medical services in the area.

The Chief Minister inspected the ongoing upgradation of SDH Habak, Hazratbal, which has a revised project cost of ₹54.49 crore and envisages a two-phase facility comprising two basements, four storeys and a 50-bed hospital. He directed the concerned authorities to maintain momentum and ensure that the upgraded facility is completed within the stipulated timelines.

The Chief Minister next inspected the ongoing conservation and restoration of the historic Aali Masjid at Eidgah, being undertaken by the Department of Culture.

Reaffirming the immense historical, architectural and spiritual importance



of the centuries-old monument, he directed the authorities to ensure meticulous conservation and timely completion of the project while maintaining the character and heritage value of the structure.

The first phase of the conservation and restoration project has a cost of ₹487.94 lakh and is being executed by the Public Works Department (R&B), Kashmir, under the Archives head. Work commenced in July 2025 and is expected to be completed by October 2026.

The scope of the project includes water-proof cement concrete works, wooden flooring, CGI sheets and painting, KhatamBand work, papier-mâché, chiselling of Devri, strengthening of roofing, ashlar stone work and Devri cornices. The Chief Minister was informed that roofing, wooden flooring inside the mosque and Khatam Band work have already been completed.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the major road-safety infrastructure project involving construction of flyovers at Parimpura and Shalteng Junctions on the Srinagar Bypass (NH-44).

The project, being executed under Road Safety Works on EPC mode, has an approximate total length of 2,000 metres, with elevated portions of 105 metres at Parimpura and 92 metres at Shalteng. The six-lane facility has a deck width of 14 metres for the specified carriageway arrangement and provides for approaches, service roads,

drainage and utility corridors.

The estimated cost of the project is ₹85 crore with a project duration of 48 months. The Chief Minister was also briefed that strengthening of the truss has been completed.

At SKIMS Medical College and Hospital, Bemina, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of two major institutional buildings—the 250-bedded IPD Block and the College/Laboratory Block.

The 250-bedded IPD Block has an approved cost of ₹83.94 crore. The project has achieved 80 per cent physical progress and is targeted for completion by December 2026.

The College/Laboratory Block has an approved cost of ₹88.23 crore. The project has achieved 66 per cent physical progress and is targeted for completion by December 2027.

The Chief Minister also inspected the site of the new High Court Complex at Rakh-i-Aksha, Bemina, a comprehensive project having an approved cost of ₹908.20 crore.

The main building, comprising two basements, ground floor and six upper floors, will house courtrooms, Judges' chambers and lounge, Bar rooms, meeting rooms and podium parking.

The proposed Western Block, comprising two basements, ground floor and five upper floors, will accommodate the judicial branch, Registrar chambers, library, lawyers' chambers, cafeteria, medical branch, archives and podium parking. The Eastern Block,

also comprising two basements, ground floor and five upper floors, will house the administration branch, Registrar chambers, meditation chamber, lawyers' chambers, cafeteria, archives and podium parking. These two blocks are yet to be tendered.

The project also envisages, in Phase-II, a police constabulary, judicial block, guest house, auditorium and residential quarters. The overall complex is planned to provide 1,600 car-parking spaces, including 265 spaces in Podium-1 and 115 spaces in Podium-2 of the main building.

The Chief Minister subsequently inspected the site for the proposed Mominabad Vehicle Underpass (VUP), intended to reduce traffic congestion and facilitate seamless movement along the National Highway.

The proposed four-lane RCC T-Beam Slab type underpass will have a 22.50-metre main carriageway, service roads with paved shoulders on both sides, a one-kilometre total main-carriageway approach length and drainage/utility corridors. The viaduct will have a vertical clearance of 5.5 metres.

The Chief Minister also reviewed associated traffic infrastructure proposals, including the underpass at Nowgam Railway Station and the Foot Over Bridge at Children Hospital, Bemina. The Nowgam underpass will have a 25-metre main carriageway, service roads on both sides and a 5.5-metre vertical clearance, besides a 270-metre railway approach road. The proposed FOB at Children Hospital, Bemina, will have a length of 48.5 metres and width of 3.19 metres, with steel fabrication and staircases on both sides. Lift provision has also been envisaged for persons with disabilities, senior citizens and women.

The combined sanctioned amount for these works is ₹31.52 crore.

At Gindun Sports Complex, Rajbagh, the Chief Minister inspected the recently completed main swimming pool, a state-of-the-art aquatic facility aimed at promoting competitive swimming, diving and other aquatic sports in Jammu and Kashmir.

The project, which was initiated in 2014 and had remained languishing during 2019–20 due to paucity of funds, was subsequently revived. Completed in November 2025 and com-

missioned in July 2026, the facility has been developed at a cost of ₹20.60 crore.

The international-standard swimming facility has a 50-metre by 25-metre pool with 10 lanes, a maximum depth of 3.88 metres and minimum depth of 1.40 metres, along with 1-metre, 3-metre and 5-metre diving platforms. It includes gender-based changing rooms and washrooms, 50 storage lockers, seating capacity for 300 spectators, modern filtration, circulation and disinfection systems, life-guard and pool management facilities, equipment storage, barrier-free access and fire-safety and emergency provisions.

The Chief Minister also reviewed the Training-cum-Toddler/All-Weather Heated Pool facility and inspected the newly completed Gymnastic Hall at Gindun, Rajbagh.

The gymnastic hall, measuring 110 feet by 70 feet and covering around 8,700 square feet, has been developed as a dedicated facility for gymnastics training and indoor sports activities. The project was initiated on June 19, 2023, at an advertised cost of ₹328.77 lakh, and was completed in July 2026.

Speaking after the tour, the Chief Minister described the extensive visit as a recognition of the importance of Srinagar and the need to give focused attention to both capital cities of Jammu and Kashmir.

“We are the only area in this country where there are two capitals—Srinagar in the summer and Jammu in the winter. It is obvious that both cities need to be given special attention. We left at 6:30 in the morning to inspect some important projects, and around 10–12 projects were reviewed in the city. Most of the projects are in good progress. We need to give a push to one or two of them,” he said.

He said that field visits provide an opportunity to assess the actual position of projects and compare it with the information available at the Secretariat. “The benefit of these tours is that we get a chance to compare what is told in the Secretariat and the ground reality. I assure the people of Srinagar that similar projects will be taken up. The big bottlenecks will be corrected. We need to decongest Srinagar from traffic jams, for which some important steps have to be taken.