

Dy Commissioner Poonch chairs meeting of Advisory Committee on Safe Food & Healthy Diet

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 20

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee on Safe Food and Healthy Diet at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex, Poonch, to review measures for ensuring food safety, quality and hygiene across the district.

Among those present were the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik; General Manager, District Industries Centre, Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; Chief Education Officer; Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Khalil Ahmed Bandy; Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Neeraj Sharma; District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Mohd Qasim; Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety, Tariq Mehmood; and other officers concerned.

The meeting held detailed discussions on food safety, hygiene standards, quality control and the availability of safe, healthy food in hotels, restaurants, eateries and other food establishments across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that ensuring the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food is a collective responsibility,



ability, and directed all departments concerned to maintain strict vigilance over food-related establishments. He stressed the need for regular inspections and effective enforcement of prescribed food safety standards to safeguard public health.

The DC directed the officers concerned to ensure that unsafe, stale, sub-standard or improperly stored frozen food is not supplied or served in hotels, restaurants and other eating establishments. He instructed the Food Safety Department and other agencies concerned to conduct regular inspections, particularly of hotels, restaurants, dhabas, bakeries, food outlets and other establishments dealing in food items.

He further directed the officers to check the quality, storage conditions, expiry dates, labelling and hygiene standards of food products and to take action against violations as per the prescribed rules. He also asked the officers to ensure that food items are stored under proper conditions and that cold-chain requirements are followed strictly wherever applicable.

The Deputy Commissioner called for greater awareness among food business operators regarding safe food handling, personal hygiene, cleanliness of kitchens and proper disposal of waste. He directed the departments concerned to undertake awareness activities so that consumers too are made aware of their rights and the importance of consuming safe, nutritious food.

The Deputy Commissioner also stressed the need for close coordination among the Health, Food Safety, Police, Agriculture, Education and Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs departments for effective implementation of food safety measures. He directed the officers to submit regular inspection reports and ensure prompt action wherever deficiencies or violations are noticed.

He underscored that no compromise should be made with public health, and directed the authorities concerned to remain proactive and vigilant, particularly in view of the increasing movement of tourists, pilgrims and visitors in the district.

The meeting concluded with the Deputy Commissioner reiterating the need for strict compliance with food safety norms and co-ordinated efforts to ensure that the people of Poonch have access to safe, hygienic, nutritious and quality food.

Amit Sharma reviews Census-2027 preparedness in Doda; emphasis accuracy, 100% coverage

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 20

Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today visited Doda and chaired a review meeting on Census-2027 at Doda, to assess the preparedness and progress of Population Enumeration in the district.

The meeting was attended by Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Doda, Krishan Lal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer) Anil Kumar Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Additional District Census Officer Vijay Kumar, Charge Officers, field trainers, supervisors, enumerators and other officials associated with the Census-2027 exercise.

During the meeting, CPCO Amit Sharma reviewed the overall progress of census preparations. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, completeness and reliability during data collection. He directed the enumerators and supervisors to ensure that every entry is correctly recorded, cross-checked and verified, stressing that accurate census data is vital for effective policy formulation, planning and delivery of public services.

The CPCO called for intensified awareness and publicity campaigns through newspapers, pamphlets, social media, local influencers, social activities and other available communication platforms.



He directed the District Census authorities to ensure that residents of snow-bound and difficult-to-reach areas are adequately informed about the Population Enumeration phase scheduled from September 1 to 30, 2026, so that complete coverage is achieved.

Amit Sharma also directed the Charge Officers and supervisors to undertake regular field visits, inspections and random quality checks.

He stressed strict adherence to census guidelines and called for special attention towards migratory populations, tribal communities, forest areas and other special categories, ensuring that no eligible household or individual is left out of the enumeration process.

The meeting also took up the technical challenges being faced by field functionaries. It was informed that mobile devices used for Population Enumeration are required to meet prescribed technical specifications, including minimum 8GB RAM and Android version above 13. The issue of enumerators and supervisors having devices below the required configuration was discussed for appropriate resolution.

Principal Census Officer Doda Krishan Lal assured full administrative support for the smooth conduct of Census-2027. He directed all concerned officers to closely monitor field activities and ensure timely completion of all census-related work in accordance with the prescribed timelines, guidelines and instructions issued by the Directorate of Census Operations.

Additional District Census Officer Vijay Kumar briefed the meeting on the district-wise preparations and progress. He apprised the CPCO of the Census-2027 schedule for J&K, including Phase-I and Phase-II, review of administrative units in District Doda and the progress of House Listing Operations conducted from June 1 to 30, 2026. The meeting also reviewed

charge-wise progress of HLO, the deployment of census functionaries, preparations for Population Enumeration, training of enumerators and supervisors and identification of snow-bound villages and blocks.

The CPCO directed the field functionaries to closely monitor migration routes and ensure enumeration of all eligible tribal populations and other mobile communities. He reiterated that coordinated field-level efforts are essential to achieve comprehensive, accurate and error-free census data.

The meeting also reviewed training programmes, awareness campaigns, supervision mechanisms, Self-Enumeration and field-level monitoring arrangements.

Amit Sharma called for coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to ensure that Census-2027 is conducted efficiently, transparently and with the highest degree of accuracy across Doda district.

DLIC Poonch approves 261 Mission YUVA cases as Dy Commissioner stresses timely processing

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 20

A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC), Poonch, was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma.

Among those present were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik; General Manager, District Industries Centre, Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; and other committee members.

The Committee reviewed the progress and implementation of Mission YUVA in the district. After detailed scrutiny and deliberation, it approved 261



cases under Mission YUVA for further processing as per the prescribed guidelines.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the overall progress of the scheme, including applications, approvals, bank sanctions and disbursements. He

stressed the need for timely disposal of pending cases and stronger coordination with banks and the departments concerned. He further emphasized that the maximum benefits of the scheme should reach eligible youth.

The DC directed all officers and stakeholders concerned to expedite the processing of the remaining cases. He called for effective implementation of Mission YUVA in the district to promote entrepreneurship and generate sustainable employment for the youth of Poonch.

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Satish Sharma meets delegations, MLAs at Civil Secretariat Srinagar

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20:

Minister for FS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today held a series of meetings with various delegations and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar. He took stock of issues concerning public services, development and welfare in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister met legislators of Budhal, Sonawari, Rajouri, Poonch and Uri besides interacting with various public delegations. During the meetings, the legislators and delegations apprised the Minister of issues and developmental concerns pertaining to their respective constituencies and areas.



The matters projected included infrastructure development, road connectivity, public transport, sports facilities, employment-related concerns, civic amenities, public services and other issues of public importance. The representatives also highlighted the need for timely intervention and coordinated efforts

for the concerned departments for addressing issues affecting the people at the grassroots level. Satish Sharma gave a patient hearing to the concerns and demands projected by the MLAs and delegations and assured them that the genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to examine the issues brought to his notice and take necessary action within the ambit of rules, with due regard to the availability of resources and prevailing government policies.

Itooinaugurateshealthcare facilities at PHCNehama, distributes Kits among girls

KULGAM, AUGUST 20: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itooinaugurated an extensive tour of villages of Kulgam to assess the damage caused to orchards due to adverse weather conditions during the current season.

The Minister visited several affected villages including Harvaith, Nihama, Samnoo, Gopalpora, Lakhdipora, Tengam, Bathipora and Chogalpora. She was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, SDM Noorabad Bashir ul Hassan, Tehsildar D.H. Pora Zahid Ahmad, Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam Mohd. Ramzan War and other officers of the Horticulture Department besides other officers and officials of the district administration.

During the visit, Sakeena Itooi interacted with the fruit growers, inspected the orchards and had detailed feedback regarding the



losses suffered by the farming community. The growers apprised her of the severity of damage to fruit crops, defoliation and damage to fruit-bearing trees following repeated spells of hailstorm and high-velocity winds.

The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister about the damage reported from different areas of the district and the measures undertaken by the district administration for damage assessment and relief.

The Chief Horticulture Officer informed the Minister that the preliminary

assessment of the damage has already been submitted to the concerned authorities. Besides, village-wise and asam-e-wise details of the losses are being compiled to facilitate further action as per the applicable norms under SDRF/UT norms, he added.

The Minister expressed solidarity with the affected growers and said that horticulture is the backbone of Kashmir's economy and the government fully understands the distress of the farming community. She assured the affected farmers that all possible assistance and relief would be extended to the eligible beneficiaries under the applicable rules and provisions. She informed that the matter has been taken up at the appropriate level for redress.

On long-term preventive measures, the Chief Horticulture Officer apprised the Minister of the importance of anti-hail nets in protecting the orchards from recurring weather-related damage. He urged the farmers to adopt anti-hail nets, for which the government is providing substantial subsidy under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other applicable schemes.

Emphasising the importance of horticulture to the region's economy, Sakeena Itooi said that the government remains committed to strengthen the horticulture sector, protect the livelihoods of fruit growers and extend all possible institutional support to the affected farming community.

Javed Rana reviews pending verification of PMGSY works in Mendhar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 20

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the status of pending joint verification of works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Sub-Division Mendhar.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Conservator of Forests, West, Divisional Forest Officer, Poonch and Range Officer, Mendhar.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the issues pertaining to joint verification of PMGSY works, particularly those requiring coordination between the concerned forest



authorities and executing agencies. He took detailed stock of the pending cases and sought a status report on the works requiring forest-related clearances and verification.

Javed Rana emphasised the need for close inter-departmental coordination and time-bound disposal of the pending cases so that procedural issues do not hamper the execution of important road connectivity projects in Mendhar.

He directed the concerned officers to undertake the pending joint verification exercises on priority and ensure that all requisite formalities are completed expeditiously in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures.

The Minister said that strengthening the rural road connectivity is essential for improving access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services, particularly in

remote and hilly areas. He stressed that all bottlenecks affecting the timely execution of PMGSY works should be identified and resolved through coordinated efforts.

He called for regular monitoring of the progress of pending cases and directed the officers to maintain close coordination at the field level to facilitate timely completion of the required verification process.