

J&K Census Operations organises awareness seminar on Census 2027

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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The Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, in collaboration with Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, today organised an awareness seminar on “Census 2027 – Counting Today, Shaping Tomorrow” at Bhaderwah Campus.

The seminar was aimed to sensitise the students, faculty members and other stakeholders about the significance of Census 2027, the importance of accurate and inclusive data and its vital role in informed policy-making, development planning and nation-building.

Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, was the chief guest on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the significance of Census 2027 and stressed the need for active public participation and accurate information for creating a reliable demographic database. He urged the students to become ambassadors of census aware-



ness and help disseminate the message of responsible participation among the wider community.

He emphasised that every citizen has an important role in ensuring that the census exercise is accurate, comprehensive and inclusive. He also appreciated Bhaderwah Campus for collaborating with the Directorate in organising the awareness seminar.

Professor Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, highlighted the importance of the Census as a vital source of demographic, social and economic information. He stated that accurate census data provides the foundation for effective governance, equitable re-

source allocation and evidence-based development planning.

Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Head, Department of English and Officiating Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, underlined the importance of Census data in understanding the societal changes and formulating development-oriented policies.

A detailed presentation on Census 2027 was delivered by Balbir Singh, Assistant Director, Census Operations, who explained the census process, its objectives and the importance of accurate and comprehensive data collection.

A debate competition was also organised as part of the programme, in which stu-

dents from different departments participated enthusiastically. The first three winners were felicitated, while certificates were presented to all participating students in recognition of their participation.

The programme was attended by Sunil Kumar Butyal Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, Kamal Preet Singh Tehsildar Bhaderwah, Vijay Kumar Assistant Director Census Operations, Professor Subash Chander Dr. Shayan Javed, Dr. Umesh Choudhary, Dr. Neeraj Sharma, faculty members from various departments, teaching and non-teaching staff and a large number of students.

Rana launches Rs 14.38 cr water supply projects for Upper Thathar, Sidhra under SASCI

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Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today laid the foundation for augmentation of Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) at Upper Thathar and Sidhra Gujjar Basti, marking a significant step towards strengthening the drinking water infrastructure in the areas.

The two projects are being taken up under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme and are aimed at ensuring reliable, adequate and safe drinking water supply to local residents.

Legislator Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma, legislator Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi and senior officers of the Jal Shakti department were present on the occasion.

The augmentation of WSS Upper Thathar in Bantalab area is being executed at an estimated cost of Rs 5.88 crore targeting 650 Functional Household Tap Connections, benefiting around 15,000 people. The project is scheduled for completion by December 2026.

Similarly, the augmentation of WSS Sidhra, Raghura Gujjar Basti is being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 8.50 crore and will target more than



500 Functional Household Tap Connections, benefiting nearly 20,000 citizens. This project is also targeted for completion by December 2026.

While laying the foundation stones for the schemes, Minister Javed Ahmed Rana said that the two Water Supply Schemes would significantly improve the quality of life of local residents by ensuring reliable and safe drinking water.

“These projects are not merely about augmenting water supply but they are about ensuring a healthier, safer and more dignified life for every resident of Jammu city,” Rana said. The projects envisage

creation of new sub-stations, laying and strengthening of distribution networks, augmentation of existing storage capacity and development of other allied infrastructure to enhance the efficiency, reliability and coverage of the water supply system. These interventions will help strengthen the overall drinking water infrastructure and ensure adequate, regular and sustainable water supply to the targeted households and localities. The Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, our government is committed to build a resilient and sustainable public infra-

structure. These projects reflect our resolve to ensure that the fruits of development reach every household, leaving no one behind, he added.

Javed Rana stated that the Jal Shakti Department has been directed to expedite similar augmentation works across the district on a priority basis, so that the benefits of piped water supply reach the maximum number of households at the earliest.

He directed the concerned departments to maintain close monitoring of the works and ensure their timely completion without compromising on quality.

DC Anantnag reviews AgriStack Progress, Directs Time-Bound completion

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Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, IAS, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of AgriStack implementation and other digital agriculture initiatives across the district.

The meeting was attended by both Additional Deputy Commissioners, ACR, SDMs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved in digitisation, AgriStack implementation and Farmer ID generation. He stressed the need for close coordination among revenue officials, field functionaries and agriculture officers to address bottlenecks and ensure the timely completion of pending work.

The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the process and set time-bound targets for achieving 100 per cent saturation of farmer profiles. He also called for intensified Farmer ID registration through village-level camps, along with daily monitoring to maintain the quality and accuracy of the data.



The meeting was informed that the implementation of AgriStack has been taken up in mission mode, with the district administration and field functionaries working in a coordinated manner to meet the assigned targets within the stipulated timelines.

Out of a total of 5,02,985 entries pertaining to the district, 3,04,720 entries have been completed so far, representing approximately 60.5 per cent progress. The completed entries are being

processed through the prescribed three-tier mechanism of submission, verification and approval.

The Deputy Commissioner placed particular emphasis on quality control, directing officials to ensure thorough verification and accuracy of records before their incorporation into the system. He stressed that reliable and accurate data is essential for the effective delivery of digital agriculture services.

Meanwhile, more than 84

Farmer ID registration camps are currently operational across the district, through which 2,830 registrations have been completed so far. Field teams are continuing their efforts to accelerate the registration process and facilitate greater farmer participation.

The district administration has also undertaken awareness and mobilisation activities in coordination with various departments and field functionaries. These efforts are aimed at sensitising farmers about the importance of Farmer IDs and encouraging them to complete their registration at the earliest.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to speed, accuracy and quality, the DC directed all concerned to maintain close monitoring and ensure that the assigned targets are achieved within the prescribed timelines.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Bhat said that AgriStack would serve as an important foundation for modernising the agricultural sector and would provide significant benefits to the farming community by enabling more efficient and targeted delivery of farmer-centric services.

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Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) to review the performance, functioning and developmental initiatives of Cooperative Credit Institutions across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Vikas Mittal, General Manager/Officer-in-Charge, NABARD; Ram Swaroop, Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI); Managing Director, J&K State Cooperative Bank (JKStCB); Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), J&K besides other senior officers of the Department.

During the meeting, Vikas Mittal made a detailed PowerPoint Presentation covering the financial and developmental performance of cooperative banks in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ram Swaroop, emphasized the importance of robust corporate governance, regulatory compliance and effective supervisory mechanisms. He called for expediting the constitution of the Boards of Directors of the J&K Central Cooperative Bank (JCCB) and the J&K State Cooperative Bank (JKStCB).

Yasha Mudgal emphasized that cooperative credit institutions have a critical role in promoting inclusive economic growth and strengthening rural livelihoods in Jammu and Kashmir. She stressed that cooperative banks should focus on expanding financial inclusion, improving customer service, ensuring institutional sustainability and making timely and affordable credit available to farmers, rural households, entrepreneurs and other eligible beneficiaries.

Taking a detailed review



of the PACS Computerization Project, the Commissioner Secretary directed all concerned to strictly adhere to the prescribed implementation timelines and ensure compliance with T-7 and T-1 requirements related to end-of-day processes and financial reconciliation. She directed that districts showing slower progress be accorded priority attention and instructed the system integrators to expedite reconciliation, provide effective handholding and training to PACS personnel and maintain continuous coordination with NABARD for resolving technical and implementation-related issues.

The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed the operational issues related to Sahakar Sarthi Private Limited. She directed the concerned cooperative banks and the Office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, to coordinate closely and resolve all pending issues in a time-bound manner. She made it clear that operational bottlenecks should not affect the delivery of services to members and beneficiaries.

Reviewing the progress of

newly established Multipurpose PACS, Yasha Mudgal directed the concerned institutions to make these entities fully functional and economically viable at the earliest. She emphasized the need to augment rural credit flow, increase agricultural term lending and diversify into suitable non-agricultural loan portfolios to ensure the long-term sustainability of M-PACS and enable them to serve as effective multipurpose institutions for rural communities.

The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed compliance with various supervisory and regulatory requirements. She directed for strict adherence to the provisions of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, and applicable guidelines. She called for expeditious disposal of non-banking assets, transfer of eligible unutilized funds to the Depositor Education and Awareness Fund (DEAF) and strict compliance with Know Your Customer (KYC) norms. She directed the concerned institutions to identify regulatory deficiencies and ensure their rectification within clearly defined timelines.

Emphasizing institutional accountability, Yasha Mudgal directed that future recapitalization of cooperative banks should be closely linked with measurable financial and performance indicators. She also directed the concerned authorities to expedite the convening of the Special General Meeting (SGM) and take necessary steps for the subsequent election of the Board of Directors of the J&K State Cooperative Bank in accordance with the applicable provisions.

The Commissioner Secretary called upon all cooperative banks to adopt a coordinated and outcome-oriented approach towards reducing Non-Performing Assets (NPAs), improving Credit-Deposit (CD) ratios, strengthening recovery mechanisms and enhancing the overall net worth of cooperative banking institutions. She stressed that improving asset quality, mobilizing deposits and expanding quality lending should remain key priorities.

Yasha Mudgal underscored that cooperative credit institutions must progressively transform into technologically enabled, member-centric and financially resilient institutions capable of responding effectively to the changing requirements of farmers, rural communities and entrepreneurs. She called for greater adoption of digital banking services, improved customer interface, strengthened internal systems and enhanced transparency and accountability in institutional functioning.

She emphasized that a robust and efficient cooperative banking network should serve as a strong instrument for expanding financial inclusion, strengthening rural livelihoods, promoting entrepreneurship and contributing to sustainable socio-economic development across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sahu reviews PM SHRI Schools, Health Centre

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Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, and Central Prabhari Officer for Baramulla District under the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block Programmes, PM SHRI Schools and PMDDKY, today undertook a comprehensive field visit to Tangmarg and Pattan to assess the progress of key development initiatives.

Sahu, accompanied by Pranjal J. Hazarika, Additional District Development Commissioner, Baramulla; Nissar Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer; SDM Gulmarg; State Coordinator PM SHRI Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz and other concerned officers, reviewed the implementation of various flagship programmes at the grassroots level.



During the visit, he inspected PM SHRI Schools at Dobhiwan, Tangmarg, and Gund Khwaja Qasim in Pattan. He took stock of the infrastructure, educational facilities and initiatives being implemented under the PM SHRI Scheme. He also interacted with students to understand their learning experiences, assess the availability of facilities and hear their aspirations.

The visit also focused on evaluating the implementation and impact of the Aspi-

ration District and Aspirational Block Programmes and PMDDKY, while identifying areas that require further attention and strengthening.

Later, Sahu visited Singhpora, Pattan, and inspected the newly established Health and Wellness Centre (Delivery Point). The facility has been constructed with award funds received under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Programme, aimed at strengthening local healthcare infrastructure

and ensuring improved access to essential health services.

During the field visit, Sahu stressed the need for effective implementation, judicious utilization of resources and continuous monitoring of development programmes. He emphasized that coordinated efforts should be made to ensure that the benefits of these flagship initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries efficiently and within the stipulated timelines.