

DC Kulgam reviews 'Class of Joy' programme across schools of Distt

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 21

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the 'Class of Joy' initiative across schools in District Kulgam.

The meeting focused on strengthening the implementation of the programme, addressing identified gaps, improving monitoring, and ensuring better learning outcomes for students.

During the meeting, representatives of Pratham NGO presented a detailed status report on the programme, covering various key indicators, including school awareness, monitoring status, implementation at the school level, regular conduct of Classes of Joy, availability and effective utilisation of TLMs, student grouping, and maintenance of assessment records.

It was informed that the Class of Joy programme is currently being implemented in eligible Primary, Middle and High Schools across District Kulgam for students of Classes 3rd, 4th and 5th.

While appreciating the efforts of the CEO Kulgam and the concerned teams, the DC directed that monitoring reports of schools should be formally shared with the concerned schools. He further directed that appropriate action must be taken on the obser-



variations recorded during monitoring.

Emphasising that education remains one of the top priorities of the district administration, the DC informed that 60 schools have been selected for renovation during the current year. He further stated that water coolers will be provided to 160 schools this year to improve basic facilities for students.

The DC stressed that proper planning is the cornerstone of development and directed the Education Department to prepare and submit school-related development projects for approval. He emphasised that the projects should be conceptualised in a manner that ensures maximum benefit to students.

He further highlighted the importance of a conducive school environment for effective teaching and

learning, stating that infrastructure development and quality education must go hand in hand. He informed that all 36 schools in Aspirational Block Manzgam will also be taken up for renovation.

While reviewing the performance indicators of the Class of Joy programme, the DC directed that performance should exceed 90 per cent across all indicators. He called for immediate identification and filling of gaps and directed that Zonal-level training programmes be organised wherever required to strengthen implementation.

The DC further informed that the endline assessment will be conducted on October 2, 2026. He directed that the performance of teachers responsible for 'Classes of Joy' be appropriately reflected in their An-

nual Performance Reports (APRs).

He also announced that the best-performing schools and teachers will be suitably rewarded in recognition of their commitment, performance and contribution towards improving learning outcomes.

While thanking the participating officers, coordinators and Pratham NGO representatives, the DC emphasised that the collective objective must be to prepare children for the future through quality education, effective teaching practices and a supportive learning environment.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, Malik Suheel, CEO Kulgam Fayaz Ahmad Mir, ZEOs of all six educational zones of Kulgam, District Coordinators, Zonal Coordinators, and representatives of Pratham NGO.

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In an effort to extend agricultural outreach to remote and tribal regions, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), in collaboration with the Regional Office of the Spices Board, Srinagar, organised a one-day training and awareness programme for spice growers in the tribal area of Khag Drung in Budgam district.

The programme was led by Ashutosh Gautam of the Spices Board and Dr. Ambreen Nabi of SKUAST-Kashmir, KVK Budgam, and focused on strengthening farmers' knowledge of spice production, post-harvest management, quality standards, sustainable production practices and market opportunities.

During the inaugural session, Dr. Iram Farooq provided the participants with an overview of the objectives of the programme and the activities of the Spices Board. She also highlighted the outcomes of previous collaborations between the Spices Board and Krishi Vigyan Kendras, particularly in facilitating improved market linkages and expanding opportunities for farmers.

In the technical session, Ashutosh Gautam elaborated on the various activities and support mecha-



nisms of the Spices Board. He apprised the participants about the existing schemes, eligibility criteria, application procedures, training opportunities and market linkage initiatives available to spice growers.

He also discussed improved production practices and post-harvest management of saffron and Kashmiri red chilli, besides sensitising farmers about organic production practices, the Participatory Guarantee System (PGS), and the 8th edition of the National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP).

Later, Dr. Ambreen Nabi provided comprehensive insights into the responsible and judicious use of insecticides, pesticides and synthetic crop nutrients. She highlighted the challenges arising from the indiscriminate application of synthetic crop protection and production supplements in agriculture and emphasised the need for adopting safer, need-based and scientifically recommended practices.

Dr. Nabi also discussed the importance of Maximum Residue Limits (MRLs) in spices and suggested appropriate measures to address residue-

related concerns, stressing that compliance with quality and food safety standards is essential for accessing better markets and ensuring consumer safety.

The programme provided an important platform for direct interaction between spice growers, scientists and officials of the Spices Board. The collaborative initiative aimed to equip farmers in the remote tribal region with updated scientific knowledge, promote sustainable and quality-oriented spice production, and strengthen their access to institutional support, training and market opportunities.

Ajeet Sahu reviews progress of ADP, PMDDKY and PM SHRI in Baramulla

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Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Union Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, who is also serving as the Central Prabhari Officer for the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) for Baramulla today presided a meeting to review the implementation and progress of ADP, Prime Minister Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) and PM SHRI School at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, Principal Government Medical College Baramulla, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) and sector officers from concerned departments.

At the outset, the CPO Baramulla presented a comprehensive overview of the district's performance

under 5 key indicators of the ADP, including Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development, and Infrastructure.

During the meeting, the Central Prabhari Officer undertook a detailed review of the progress achieved under the Aspirational District/Block Programme, with particular focus on key indicators, developmental outcomes and the interventions being undertaken to improve the socio-economic conditions of the identified areas.

Ajeet Kumar Sahu stressed the importance of outcome-oriented planning, inter-departmental convergence and regular monitoring to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach the intended beneficiaries in a timely and effective manner.

Meanwhile, the meeting reviewed the implementation of the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhanya Krishi Yojana, aimed at strengthen-

ing agricultural productivity, improving access to agricultural infrastructure and services, promoting diversification and enhancing the overall income farmers.

The Joint Secretary directed the concerned officers to promote the adoption of high-yielding and improved crop varieties, particularly in the horticulture sector and other high-value cash crops, to enhance productivity, farm incomes and overall agricultural output in the district.

Earlier, the Prabhari Officer reviewed the functioning of PM SHRI Schools where he assessed the progress of infrastructure development, availability of basic amenities, academic and co-curricular initiatives and other interventions aimed at transforming selected schools into model institutions.

During the review, the Head of the Institutions (HoIs) of PM SHRI Schools were directed to undertake a comprehensive analysis of

their respective institutions, including student enrolment trends, year-wise growth, retention and other relevant parameters.

Emphasising the importance of active parental participation in the education of children, the Prabhari Officer called upon the schools to ensure greater participation of parents in Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs).

During the meeting, DC Baramulla, S.F. Hamid, highlighted certain key gaps and bottlenecks affecting the effective implementation of various developmental initiatives in the district and brought them to the attention of the Joint Secretary for appropriate intervention at the central level.

He sought necessary support and facilitation to address the identified shortcomings, particularly those requiring coordination and action beyond the district administration, so as to ensure timely resolution and improve the overall outcomes of the concerned programmes.

ADDC Bandipora visits Ahamshareef; reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi(SAW) arrangements

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On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Additional District Development Commissioner Bandipora, Nazir Ahmad Mir, today conducted a thorough inspection of the Ahamshareef Shrine to review the arrangements and ensure adequate facilities for devotees ahead of the observance of Eid Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

During the visit, the ADDC assessed various aspects of the preparations



and facilities being put in place for the devotees. He emphasised the importance of coordinated efforts among all concerned departments to ensure a smooth, peaceful and serene observance of Eid

Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

The ADDC also stressed upon the concerned stakeholders to ensure that all necessary arrangements and essential amenities are put in place well in advance for the convenience, com-

fort and safety of the devotees.

The ADDC also interacted with members of the Aqaf Committee and discussed the arrangements for the auspicious occasion. He listened to their suggestions and assured that all necessary measures would be taken to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for the devotees.

The ADDC was accompanied by DySP Headquarters Bandipora, Executive Engineer PHE Bandipora, Executive Engineer, PDD Bandipora and other concerned officials.

DC Bandipora reviews progress of Swachhta 50-50 Campaign, stresses effective implementation, public participation

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Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress achieved so far under the district-wide Swachhta 50-50 campaign and reviewed measures for its effective implementation across the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the targets achieved under the campaign and took feedback from the concerned officers on the ongoing field-level activities. The meeting focused on strengthening implementation of the initiative, ensuring wider public participation and achieving the desired behavioural change with regard to cleanliness and scientific waste management.

The meeting discussed measures for ensuring that awareness and implementation activities reach every household. It was informed that information/awareness sheets would be pasted in all households to sensitise residents about proper waste management practices and their responsibilities under the Swachhta 50-50 initiative.



The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the concerned officers and field functionaries to intensify awareness activities, promote source segregation, home composting and responsible disposal of waste, and ensure effective monitoring at the grassroots level.

The role of Eco Clubs, teachers, Anganwadi Centres and other field-level functionaries in spreading awareness and encouraging community participation was also emphasised during the meeting.

The meeting further discussed enforcement measures under the campaign. The Deputy Commissioner directed that violations observed in the public domain would invite punish-

ment and fines under the relevant Acts and applicable sections, with enforcement measures to be intensified from September 15.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasised that Swachhta 50-50 is based on the principle of equal participation of the Government and the public and called for sustained efforts from all stakeholders to make cleanliness and scientific waste management a collective responsibility.

It was informed that, with effect from 01 September, wet waste shall not be collected and residents shall ensure its proper management at source.

Further, any person found polluting the environment or violating waste-management norms

shall be penalised as per the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Non-Biodegradable Material (Management, Handling & Disposal) Act, 2007. At the same time, individuals and groups making commendable contributions towards waste management and environmental protection shall be suitably recognised and awarded to encourage greater public participation.

The meeting was attended by Programme Officer ICDS, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, and other concerned officers. Block Development Officers, Child Development Project Officers and other field functionaries participated in the meeting virtually.



society.

He also instructed for strict vigil around educational institutions and other vulnerable areas and stringent action against those involved in drug peddling and trafficking.

He directed concerned departments to ensure timely identification, treatment, counselling, rehabilitation and follow-up care of

persons affected by drug abuse, with the objective of ensuring that no affected individual is left without necessary support.

He stressed on intensified action against the illegal cultivation of cannabis, poppy and other prohibited crops through coordinated efforts for their identification and destruction.

Reviewing the regulation

of chemist shops, the Deputy Commissioner directed strict monitoring and asked the concerned authorities to ensure 100 per cent CCTV coverage and computerised billing systems, besides taking action against violations as per law.

SSP Budgam, emphasised stronger coordination among departments and called for sustained enforcement against drug peddlers, traffickers and others involved in the illicit drug trade.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, Vivek Agarwal; ADC Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah; Deputy Director Employment Budgam; Chief Education Officer; Chief Agriculture Officer; District Social Welfare Officer; officers from the Health Department and other concerned departments.