

DC visit Fruit & Vegetable Market Kulgam

Takes stock of facilities, interacts with growers, traders

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today visited Fruit and Vegetable Market Kulgam with a view to take stock of its overall functioning and facilities available for growers and traders.

During his extensive tour of the Mandi, The DC interacted with the President and members of Fruit Growers and Traders Association Kulgam, transporters, and concerned stakeholders.

The growers and traders highlighted various issues including connectivity from Fruit Market Kulgam to NH-444 and further need for extension of truss to the auction platforms, macadamization of the left out work in mandi, adequate transport facility during peak season, regulation of freight charges, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, parking and security arrangements in the mandi.

The DC gave a patient hearing to their demands and assured action on all



flagged off demands and apprised that every step will be taken to resolve their genuine issues on priority. He directed the Horticulture Planning & Marketing, for ensuring smooth functioning of the mandi.

The DC also reviewed the status of allotments and functioning of allottees in the mandi and directed the concerned department to

maintain proper sanitation inside the premises of Mandi.

Later, the DC also visited Brazloo for establishing the Truck Terminal on the land under the control of the Horticulture (P&M) and also visited the land measuring about 300 kanals proposed/demarcated site at Adapora, Kulgam for establishment of Mega Fruit

Market Kulgam. He directed the Tehsildar Kulgam for removal of encroachment from the proposed site as soon as possible.

Tehsildar Kulgam, Nisar Ahmad Wani, Area Marketing Officer Kulgam, Ajeet Singh, Marketing Inspectors, Transport officials and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

ADDC Budgam Reviews Progress of Jal Jeevan Mission, Har Ghar Jal Certification

BUDGAM, AUGUST 24: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Budgam, Vivek Agarwal, today chaired a meeting to review the physical and financial progress under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district, besides taking stock of the status of Har Ghar Jal certification and the rollout of Sujalam Shakti.

During the meeting, a detailed review was conducted of the Action Taken Report (ATR) on directions issued in previous meetings. The ADDC reviewed the progress towards Har Ghar Jal certification at the Panchayat and village levels and directed the concerned officers to expedite the certification process wherever it remains pending.

The meeting was informed by the Project Manager, JJM Budgam, that the district has achieved 100 per cent coverage of functional tap-water connections in all Anganwadi Centres under the mission. Appreciating



the achievement, the ADDC stressed the need to ensure sustained functionality of the connections through regular monitoring and proper maintenance of the water supply infrastructure.

The ADDC also emphasised the importance of regular field inspections of JJM schemes to monitor the quality and pace of ongoing works and ensure their timely completion in accordance with prescribed standards. The concerned officers were directed to maintain close field-level supervision and address bottlenecks promptly to avoid delays in implementation.

The issue of unauthorised mining activities in the vicinity of JJM schemes also came under discussion. Taking serious note of the matter, the ADDC directed the concerned officers to immediately bring instances of unauthorised mining to the notice of the District Administration, Budgam, for appropriate action. He stressed that water sources and JJM infrastructure must be adequately protected from activities that could adversely affect their sustainability and functionality.

The meeting further deliberated on the operationalisation and rollout of

Sujalam Shakti, with emphasis on coordinated efforts among all concerned departments for its effective implementation and achievement of the intended objectives.

Calling for greater inter-departmental coordination, the ADDC directed the concerned officers to ensure effective monitoring of all ongoing schemes and resolve field-level issues without delay.

He reiterated that the benefits of the Jal Jeevan Mission must reach every household and public institution in the district in a timely, sustainable and efficient manner.

The meeting was attended, among others, by the SE, Hydraulics Circle Budgam; Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Budgam; Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Chadoora; and Executive Engineer, PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar, besides other concerned officers and officials.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Bandipora, Nizam Ud Din Bhat, today convened a meeting here to review the functioning and progress of the Jal Shakti Department in the Bandipora Assembly Constituency, with particular focus on implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), water supply infrastructure, irrigation and flood management works, and the financial and physical progress of various schemes.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineer, Er. Anbreena Anjum; Executive Engineer PHE Bandipora, Er. Mudansir Malik; Executive Engineer I&FC Sumbal, Umar Jan Bhat; Executive Engineer PHE Sopore, Er. Mudansir Mushtaq and other concerned officers.

The department presented a detailed status of works and schemes being implemented under the PHE and I&FC sectors in the constituency.

Reviewing the progress under Jal Jeevan Mission, it was informed that a total of 57 schemes are being implemented in the Bandipora Assembly Constituency, of which 23 schemes have been completed.

Against a target of 24,736 Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs), 21,187 connections have been provided, achieving an overall coverage of 85.65 percent.

The Hydraulic Division Bandipora has achieved 80



percent coverage, while PHE Division Sopore, covering parts of Bandipora district, has achieved 95 percent coverage.

While reviewing the status of water quality monitoring, it was informed that 84 Field Test Kits (FTKs) are available across all 84 Gram Panchayats falling within the constituency, ensuring coverage for water quality testing at the grass-roots level.

The meeting also reviewed the financial progress of Jal Shakti works. The department informed that the overall expenditure against releases under the PHE sector stood at 98.88 percent, reflecting substantial utilisation of available funds.

Under the I&FC sector, the meeting was apprised of the status of various works being executed under NABARD, UT CAPEX/SASCI, FMBAP Phase-II, PMKSY (AIBP), District CAPEX and other schemes. The review also covered ongoing works re-

lated to flood protection, drainage, irrigation and strengthening of water infrastructure.

The department further briefed the MLA about works taken up under UT CAPEX 2026-27, including strengthening and re-sectioning of the Gadder Spill Channel, construction and strengthening of embankments along Tangwani Nallah, construction of flumes and lining works on Pir Khul and War Khul, besides several irrigation and protection works in the Sumbal area.

During the review, Nizam Ud Din Bhat directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of all ongoing works, particularly those having a direct bearing on drinking water supply, irrigation and flood protection.

He stressed the need for close monitoring of works at the field level and directed officers to remove bottlenecks, wherever identified, so that projects do not face avoidable delays.

The MLA also called for expediting the remaining works under Jal Jeevan Mission and achieving saturation of Functional Household Tap Connections at the earliest, while maintaining quality standards and ensuring reliable and sustainable water supply to households.

He directed the department to undertake regular field inspections and effective monitoring of the quality of works, besides ensuring optimum utilisation of allocated funds. He further emphasised that developmental works should be executed strictly as per approved specifications and timelines, with due focus on public convenience.

Bhat also stressed the importance of strengthening flood protection and irrigation infrastructure, particularly in vulnerable areas, and directed the officers to maintain close coordination with field agencies and local stakeholders for timely response to emerging requirements.

District Admin Bandipora Felicitates Student Anchors for Outstanding Performance on I-Day

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

The District Administration Bandipora felicitated two student anchors for their outstanding performance during the Independence Day celebrations held at the main event at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Nadihal.

The students felicitated were Iqra Ashraf Wani, daughter of Mohammad Ashraf Wani and a student of HKM Government De-

gree College Bandipora, and Waseem Ahmad Poswal, son of Bashir Ahmad Poswal and a student of the Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel.

Recognising their confident stage presence, effective communication and commendable anchoring skills, the District Administration honoured the students for their valuable contribution to the smooth and successful conduct of the national event.

On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commis-

sioner Bandipora Zaffar Husson Shawal, along with Deputy Superintendent of Police Bandipora Ahmad Shafee, presented a cheque of ₹5,000 each to the two students as a token of appreciation for their exemplary performance.

The felicitation was aimed at encouraging young talent and motivating students to actively participate in co-curricular activities that foster communication, leadership and public-speaking skills.

The District Administra-

tion appreciated the students for their dedication, confidence and professionalism, and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence while inspiring their peers through their talent and achievements.

The initiative reflects the administration's commitment to recognising and nurturing the abilities of young students and providing them with opportunities to develop their skills and contribute meaningfully to public events.

CS reviews preparedness for phase-I rollout of Drug Abuse Rehabilitation Programme

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparedness for implementation of the Phase-I Pilot of the Rehabilitation & Socio-Economic Reintegration Scheme for Drug Abuse Victims, 2026, being coordinated by the Social Welfare Department.

The meeting was attended by the Principal Secretary, Home; Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; DC, Srinagar; Head, IMHANS, Srinagar; Director, Health, Jammu/Kashmir and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioners from outside districts along with the Institution heads connected with the meeting through video conferencing.

The meeting reviewed the readiness of the identified pilot institutions and districts, availability of human resources and infrastructure, capacity-building initiatives, inter-departmental coordination and the development of a dedicated digital mechanism for end-to-end monitoring of beneficiaries.

The Phase-I pilot is proposed to be implemented at IMHANS Srinagar, ATFs at Jammu, Kathua, and in Budgam district. The pilot is aimed at testing the rehabilitation model on the ground, identifying operational gaps, refining the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and generating the necessary learn-

ing for its subsequent expansion across the Union Territory.

Taking stock of the preparedness in the pilot districts, the Chief Secretary reviewed the availability of infrastructure and manpower at each location and stressed the need for focused training and capacity-building of Medical Officers, Counsellors, Case Managers, ASHA workers and SHG members so that each stakeholder is adequately equipped to discharge the role assigned under the rehabilitation framework.

The Chief Secretary directed the Social Welfare Department to coordinate the implementation of the programme and ensure its commencement at the earliest. He further directed the Department to simultaneously identify the requisite human resources and infrastructure for extending the rehabilitation mechanism to other districts, so that the pilot exercise facilitates a smooth transition towards wider implementation.

He also sought a first-hand appraisal from the heads of the concerned institutions and the Deputy Commissioners of the districts where the pilot is being initiated. Emphasising the importance of ground-level coordination, he observed that the success of the programme would depend upon each stakeholder performing the designated role with commitment and ensuring seamless coordination throughout the rehabilitation process.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the capacity-building ini-



tiatives undertaken by IMHANS Srinagar for Medical Officers, Counsellors, Case Managers, SHG members and ASHA workers. He directed IMHANS to continue conducting such training programmes across all districts so as to create a sufficiently large and skilled pool of human resources capable of supporting the rehabilitation programme as it expands.

He further directed the National Informatics Centre (NIC) to complete the Rehabilitation Monitoring Portal without further delay, emphasising that an effective digital monitoring mechanism would be critical for tracking beneficiaries and ensuring coordinated implementation of the programme. The proposed portal envisages confidential, end-to-end digital case management, with each beneficiary assigned a Unique Digital ID (UDIN) and role-based access restricted to authorised officials.

The Chief Secretary stressed the importance of building a

trained multidisciplinary human-resource pool capable of undertaking screening, assessment, referral, counselling, family engagement, case management and relapse-risk identification, while maintaining confidentiality and ethical standards in handling beneficiaries.

The Chief Secretary underscored that the Phase-I pilot should serve as a practical model for coordinated rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration, with effective convergence among the concerned departments, health institutions, district administrations and community-level stakeholders.

Giving a detailed presentation on the pilot, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, apprised the meeting of the proposed implementation framework, site-readiness, manpower requirements, capacity-building initiatives and digital monitoring mechanism.

He informed that every pilot

location would require suitable medical, counselling and social-work facilities, including doctors' rooms, patient and family counselling spaces, group therapy facilities and referral/emergency linkages. The facilities would also have identified Medical Officers/Psychiatrists, Counsellors and Social Welfare Officials/Case Managers, besides linkages with community networks including ASHA workers and Self Help Groups. Orientation and training of the concerned personnel would precede beneficiary intake under the pilot.

The meeting further deliberated upon strengthening addiction psychiatry capacity in J&K through proposed collaboration with the National Drug De-addiction & Treatment Centre (ND-DTC), AIIMS New Delhi. The proposed collaboration includes structured training, mentoring, observerships and joint research in addiction psychiatry, opioid agonist treatment, dual-diagnosis management and evaluation of

rehabilitation interventions.

On this occasion the Head, IMHANS Srinagar, Dr Arshad Hussain, briefed the meeting about the interventions undertaken so far by the Institute and the facilities covered under the pilot. He also highlighted certain areas requiring focused attention at the participating health facilities.

Dr Hussain informed that training modules for different categories of personnel have been developed and several batches have already been trained. He expressed confidence that the ongoing capacity-building exercise would create adequate trained manpower within the next two to three months to satisfactorily operationalise the rehabilitation centres in accordance with the approved policy framework.

It was further elucidated that the first phase of the Circle of Care training module has already been completed, with more than 300 frontline workers, including ASHA workers, NRLM/SHG representatives and teachers, trained across Kashmir Division. The proposed next phase envisages expanding the programme to 1,020 participants through 34 cohorts across J&K, covering Counsellors, ASHA workers, Social Welfare officials, police personnel, teachers, SHGs and other stakeholders.

Additionally the meeting was apprised that the capacity-building component envisages training of Medical Officers/Psychiatrists, Counsellors, Social

Welfare Officials, ASHA workers, SHGs and other frontline stakeholders in areas including screening, assessment and referral, counselling and family engagement, Individual Rehabilitation Plans and case management, relapse-risk identification, confidentiality and ethical handling, besides the portal and reporting workflow.

The meeting also reviewed the proposed training programme for Higher Secondary and College teachers, aimed at ensuring that at least one teacher in every Higher Secondary School and College is trained as an institution-based counsellor for prevention, early identification and referral of substance-use disorders. The proposed initiative envisages coverage of approximately 2,200 Higher Secondary Schools and Colleges across J&K.

A significant component of the proposed programme is the Rehabilitation Monitoring Portal (RMP), designed to facilitate confidential and end-to-end digital case management. The system will cover assessment, treatment, counselling, stabilisation, risk classification, Individual Rehabilitation Plans, referral, vocational support and follow-up, besides enabling real-time inter-departmental coordination and programme performance monitoring.

The coordinated Phase-I pilot is envisaged to provide the operational learning required for strengthening the model and preparing it for UT-wide implementation.