

Javed Rana attends seminar on “Implementation of Forest Rights Act and the Way Forward”



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 24

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a day-long seminar on “Implementation of Forest Rights Act and the Way Forward” organised by the Gujjar Bakarwal Students Alliance (GBSA), Jammu & Kashmir, at the University of Jammu.

The seminar, organised as part of the 3rd Foundation Day celebrations of GBSA, was attended by students, members of tribal communities and other stakeholders for deliberations on implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA).

Addressing the gathering, the Minister highlighted the importance

of ensuring effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act.

He said that the legislation represents an important step towards recognising the legitimate rights and entitlements of forest-dwelling tribal communities and other traditional forest dwellers.

Javed Rana emphasised the need for greater awareness among the eligible communities about the provisions of the Act so that they are able to exercise their rights and access the benefits available to them within the prescribed legal framework. He said that awareness, participation and collective action are essential for translating the provisions of the Forest Rights Act into meaningful rights and opportunities for the tribal communities.

“Let us engage, learn and act for our rights and our future. Awareness is the first step towards empowerment and collective participation is the key to ensure that every eligible beneficiary is able to realise the rights guaranteed under the Forest Rights Act,” Rana asserted.

He stressed that empowerment of tribal communities must remain an integral part of the development process, with focused efforts required to improve access to education, livelihood opportunities and government welfare programmes.

The Minister also underlined the importance of close coordination among the concerned departments, grassroots institutions and community representatives for addressing implementation-related challenges

and ensuring that the objectives of the Forest Rights Act are achieved effectively. He called for constructive engagement with the tribal communities and youth. He said that informed participation and awareness are essential for strengthening the implementation of rights-based legislation.

The seminar also witnessed discussions on various aspects of the Forest Rights Act, including awareness, recognition of forest rights, institutional mechanisms, community participation and the way forward for strengthening its implementation.

The event was attended by representatives of the Gujjar Bakarwal Students Alliance, students, members of tribal communities, social activists and other stakeholders.

The GBSA expressed its gratitude to the Minister for introducing two important laws under the Forest and Tribal Affairs departments, aimed at ensuring effective implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) and safeguarding the rights of eligible forest-dwelling communities.

Acting Chief Justice inaugurates Lawyers’ Chambers at DCC Anantnag

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Acting Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Sanjeev Kumar, accompanied by Justice Sanjay Dhar, Judge High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Administrative Judge for District Anantnag), inaugurated the newly constructed Lawyer’s Chambers at the District Court Complex, Anantnag.

The inauguration marks an important step towards strengthening the judicial infrastructure and providing improved working facilities to the members of the legal fraternity. The newly constructed Lawyers’ Chambers are expected to provide Advocates with a more conducive professional environment and facilitate their interaction with litigants and other stakeholders.

Addressing the gathering, the Acting Chief Justice highlighted the importance of providing adequate and modern infrastructure to members of the Bar and ensuring a conducive working environment for advocates and judicial officers. He underscored the role of a strong and well-equipped



judicial infrastructure in facilitating efficient delivery of justice.

He stressed upon the young lawyers that legal profession is not merely a means of earning the livelihood, it is a noble profession which carries with it a great responsibility towards judiciary, society and the cause of justice. He also highlighted the importance of professional/ legal ethics which must remain at the centre of legal practice and reminded the young lawyers that success in the legal profession is earned through hard work, perseverance and continued learning.

The Acting Justice also emphasized the vital role of the legal profession in upholding the rule of law and ensuring meaningful access to justice. He un-

derscored the collective responsibility of the legal fraternity to uphold the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity and discipline.

He expressed confidence that the newly inaugurated chambers would not only provide improved facilities and a better working environment for members of the Bar but would also strengthen the professional capacity of advocates and contribute towards the efficient, accessible and effective functioning of the justice delivery system.

Justice Sanjay Dhar, while speaking on the occasion, emphasised the importance of the continuous development and upgradation of court infrastructure for ensuring accessible, efficient and people-oriented justice.

He underscored the need for all stakeholders in the justice delivery system to uphold the highest standards of professional ethics, integrity and responsibility.

Emphasising that the legal profession plays a vital role in the administration of justice, Justice Sanjay Dhar highlighted the importance of maintaining the dignity and decorum of the institution, while ensuring that the interests of litigants and the cause of justice remain paramount.

The inauguration of the lawyers’ chambers at District Court Anantnag is expected to provide improved facilities and a dedicated workspace for members of the Bar, thereby strengthening the overall functioning of the court complex, he added.

DC Ramban visits Subsidence-Hit Kulthi Chakka-Kundi area

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today visited Village Kulthi Chakka-Kundi in Tehsil Rajgarh to assess the situation arising from recent land subsidence and sinking along the reservoir area of Baglihar Dam.

The Deputy Commissioner also interacted with local residents and listened to their grievances regarding development, road connectivity and essential services and supplies.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Executive Engineer PWD, Ranjeet Singh; Tehsildar Rajgarh, Major Singh; Executive Engineer, JKPDC and other concerned officers.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the damage caused by land subsidence and water-flushing impacts along the reservoir bank. One house has reportedly been submerged, while cracks have developed in other adjoining structures, posing safety concerns to the affected families.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the relief, evacuation and damage assessment measures initiated by the district administration. He issued necessary directions to the concerned officers to en-



sure the safety and well-being of the affected residents. Families residing in vulnerable and high-risk structures have already been evacuated and shifted to safer accommodations by the District Administration.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer of Jammu and Kashmir Power Development Corporation (JKPDC) and concerned technical teams to undertake a comprehensive structural and loss assessment of the affected area and properties. He stressed

that the assessment should be completed expeditiously.

He further directed the concerned agencies to maintain close and continuous monitoring of houses and other structures located in vulnerable zones along the reservoir edge and to take immediate preventive measures, including evacuation, wherever required, in view of any further signs of subsidence.

Interacting with the locals, the Deputy Commissioner patiently listened to their grievances and assured them of continued

administrative support. He reiterated that the safety of residents remains the administration’s foremost priority and assured that all necessary relief and safety measures would be taken on a priority basis.

Responding to the demands raised by the locals, the Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned Executive Engineer to take necessary measures for construction of crash barriers and drainage systems alongside roads, improvement of road conditions and restoration of the Kulthi Iron Bridge.

One Day Orientation Session organised for students of Dogra Law College at JKEDI

JAMMU, AUGUST 24: Students from Dogra Degree College and Cambridge International School visited the Regional Office of the Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) at Bari Brahmana today as part of an immersive exposure and awareness programme focused on entrepreneurship, innovation and emerging opportunities for youth in Jammu & Kashmir.

The programme was organised with the objective of nurturing an entrepreneurial mindset among students and familiarising them with the institutional support available to aspiring entrepreneurs across the Union Territory.

A total of 85 participants spread over batches were briefed by Amit Sharma, Teaching Associate, JKEDI regarding the role of Entrepreneurship as a career choice. He gave a detailed

layout about the various opportunities in the field of innovation and self employment with respect to the current academic scenario.

Later, Assistant Manager, F&A, JKEDI Sorab Mengi delivered an informative session on the J&K Startup Policy, highlighting the incentives, mentorship support, infrastructure and other facilities available to early-stage entrepreneurs. He also briefed the stu-

dents about the upcoming Startup Idea Challenge 2.0, encouraging young participants to develop innovative ideas and actively engage with the region’s growing startup ecosystem.

Itirif Mehraj Lone, Incubation Manager, JKEDI joined the programme virtually and provided valuable insights into angel investment, funding avenues and business expansion opportunities available to early-stage ventures.

DC Kishtwar reviews progress under Aspirational Blocks Programme

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 24: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the improvement in key performance indicators (KPIs) and the progress of developmental works being undertaken in Block Marwah and Block Warwan under the Aspirational Block Development Programme 2026-27 of the Government of India and the Union Territory Government of J&K.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress of key performance indicators (KPIs) under key sectors, including health and nutrition, education, agri-



culture and allied activities, basic infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, financial inclusion and social development. The physical and financial status of ongoing

works, sector-wise achievements and critical gaps were discussed in detail.

Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Akhil Thakur apprised the Deputy Commis-

sioner about the current status of various ongoing works. The DC also reviewed the progress of works under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 for Aspirational Blocks Marwah and Warwan.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments and executing agencies to expedite the pace of work and complete all ongoing projects within the stipulated timelines.

He further directed the agencies to start works immediately where the tendering process has been completed and works have been allotted.



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MOSQUITO BREEDING

PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE, CHIKUNGUNYA AND STAY HEALTHY

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/ Health Worker in case of Fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.

- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use Mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

In case of positive result get free treatment from the nearest Health Institution



STATE MALARIOLOGIST/STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER,
NATIONAL VECTOR BORNE DISEASES CONTROL PROGRAMME [NVBCDP] J&K
DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES JAMMU

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