

J&K sets target of 11,000 MW hydropower capacity by 2035

CS reviews project-wise milestones to realise goal

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Jammu & Kashmir is set to witness a major transformation in its power landscape, with the Government charting a comprehensive, time-bound roadmap to raise its operational hydropower generation capacity to 10,969.65 MW by December 2035, more than three times the present installed capacity of 3,540.15 MW.

The ambitious roadmap, aimed at strengthening energy security, reducing dependence on external power and creating the foundation for long-term economic growth, was reviewed in detail during a high-level meeting chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today.

The meeting besides ACS Power was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Revenue; MD, JKPCCL; concerned Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Power Projects and Representatives from NHPC along with senior officers from the Power Development Department.

The meeting focused on the physical and financial progress of major hydropower projects under execution, their construction and commissioning schedules, as well as the milestones required to ensure timely addition of generation capacity over the coming decade.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for sustained inter-departmental coordination, rigorous project monitoring and timely resolution of bottlenecks to maintain the pace of execution and unlock J&K's considerable hydropower potential.

The ACS, PDD, Ashwani Kumar took this occasion to remark that Jammu & Kashmir has an identified hydropower potential of 14,635 MW, of which around 24.21 per cent has so far been harnessed across the UT, Central



Sector and Independent Power Producer (IPP) projects.

He added that Chenab Basin constitutes the largest share of the identified potential with 11,283 MW (77.1%), followed by the Jhelum Basin with 3,084 MW (21.1%) and the Ravi Basin with 500 MW (3.4%). Emphasising that the Department has now put in place a phased capacity-addition strategy to systematically tap this vast potential and move J&K towards a position of greater energy self-reliance and eventual power surplus.

Giving out the details of the Managing Director (MD), Jammu & Kashmir Power Corporation Limited (JKPCCL), Rahul Yadav revealed that under the roadmap, the first major capacity additions are targeted by the end of 2026, when 1,636 MW is slated to be added through the commissioning of 1,000 MW Pakal Dul HEP, 624 MW Kiru HEP and 12 MW Karnah HEP, taking the cumulative installed capacity to 5,176.15 MW by December 2027, commissioning of the 37.5 MW Parnai HEP is scheduled to take the cumulative capacity to 5,213.65 MW, he added.

The MD further elucidated that the year 2028 will mark another significant jump, with 1,390 MW targeted through the 540 MW Kwar HEP and 850 MW Ratle HEP, raising the cumulative capacity to 6,630.65 MW.

By December 2029, a further 500 MW is expected from Central Sector projects, including 260

MW Dulhasti Stage-II and 240 MW Uri-I Stage-II, taking the total generation capacity to 7,103.65 MW, Rahul explained.

Moreover it was highlighted that the subsequent phase, covering 2031-2035, will see progressive commissioning of major projects in the pipeline, including 820 MW Kirthai-II, 390 MW Kirthai-I and the 1,856 MW Sawalkote HEP. With these additions, J&K is envisaged to reach an installed hydropower capacity of 10,969.65 MW by December 2035.

Reviewing the progress of projects presently under construction, the Chief Secretary called for close monitoring of construction milestones and coordinated resolution of issues affecting project execution so that the targeted commissioning schedules are adhered to.

He took detailed stock of each undergoing HEP from its Project Head. It was divulged that the 1,000 MW Pakal Dul HEP has achieved 85 per cent physical progress and 77.54 per cent financial progress. Filling of the Concrete Face Rock-Fill Dam (CFRD) has reached 89 per cent, while testing and commissioning of Units 3 and 4 is scheduled for March 2027, followed by Units 1 and 2 in May/June 2027.

The 624 MW Kiru HEP has recorded 88.75 per cent physical progress and 73.21 per cent financial expenditure. Dam concreting up to the deck slab has reached 98.99 per cent, with final testing and commissioning targeted

for March 2027.

The 540 MW Kwar HEP has achieved 37.82 per cent physical and 42.11 per cent financial progress. Excavation of the power house cavern is 99.6 per cent complete, placing the project on course for commissioning by March 2028.

The 850 MW Ratle HEP, meanwhile, has registered 31.53 per cent physical progress, with excavation of its underground power house cavern completed. The revised contractual milestones envisage full commissioning of the project by November 2028.

Among UT-sector projects, the 12 MW Karnah HEP has reached 93 per cent completion and is on track for wet commissioning, while the 37.5 MW Parnai HEP has achieved 72.5 per cent physical progress, with 98 per cent excavation of its Head Race Tunnel (HRT) completed.

The planned expansion is expected to have far-reaching implications for Jammu & Kashmir's development trajectory, providing a stronger and more reliable energy base for industry, infrastructure, tourism, services and emerging economic activities.

The decade-long roadmap thus represents a significant step towards transforming Jammu & Kashmir from a power-constrained economy into a more energy-secure and self-reliant region, with hydropower emerging as a key driver of its future economic growth.

Chota Amarnath Yatra Flagged Off from Kaloosa Bandipora

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The annual Chota Amarnath Yatra was flagged off today from Sharda Mandir, Kaloosa, Bandipora, marking the beginning of the revered pilgrimage to the Chota Amarnath Holy Cave.

The Yatra was flagged off from Sharda Mandir, Kaloosa, by Senior Superintendent of Police Bandipora, Ajaz Ahmad Zargar, and Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl, in the presence of devotees, volunteers and local residents.

The Yatra holds deep spiritual significance for devotees of Lord Shiva and reflects the district's rich tradition of communal harmony and peaceful coexistence. Pilgrims embarked on the sacred journey with devotion and faith, seeking blessings at the holy cave.

Members of the Muslim community from the area were also present on the occasion and warmly welcomed the Yatri, extending



ing their heartfelt greetings and best wishes for a peaceful, safe and blessed Yatra.

The District Administration, in coordination with the Police and other concerned departments, had put in place necessary arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the pilgrimage. The arrangements included track development, sani-

tation facilities, langar services, medical support, security deployment and provision of safe drinking water along the route.

The 15-kilometre Yatra proceeds from Arin-Dardpora through Shamphan and culminates at the Chota Amarnath Cave. Adequate security personnel, medical teams and volunteers were deployed at key locations to facili-

tate the pilgrims and ensure a safe and hassle-free journey. Among others, Additional Superintendent of Police Mir Murtaza Hussain Sohil, Assistant Regional Transport Officer Bandipora Mukhtar Ahmad Sofi and other officers of the district administration, volunteers, devotees and local residents were present on the occasion.

Arrangements for Kailash, Manimahesh Yatras, Janamashtami reviewed at Bhaderwah

BHADERWAH, AUGUST 27: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today convened a meeting to review and finalise comprehensive arrangements for the upcoming Kailash Yatra, second Manimahesh Yatra and Janmashtami celebrations 2026.

The meeting was attended by senior officers and representatives of various departments, including Bhaderwah Development Authority (BDA), Police, Army, CRPF, Forest, PWD (R&B), Health, Municipal Committee, Fire & Emergency Services, Traffic, Power and

other concerned departments.

Religious heads and stakeholders associated with the Kailash Yatra, along with representatives from various religious organisations and trusts also participated in the deliberations.

The ADC reviewed arrangements related to traffic management, road connectivity, sanitation, drinking water, power supply, health and medical facilities, security, fire safety and other essential services to ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage for devotees.

The arrangements for the Manimahesh Yatra

2026 and Janmashtami celebrations were also discussed. Officers and representatives from the Army, CRPF, SDRF, Civil Defence, PMGSY, Horticulture and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs Department attended the meeting and apprised the ADC of the preparations being undertaken by their respective departments.

Meanwhile, the Additional Deputy Commissioner conducted a surprise inspection of the government offices to assess their functioning, staff attendance and the quality of public services being delivered.

During the inspection,

the ADC visited the offices of the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), Power Development Department (PDD), Zonal Education Office (ZEO), Irrigation Department, Tehsil Supply Office (TSO), PMGSY and Public Works Department (PWD).

The ADC took stock of the functioning of each department and reviewed the status of services being provided to the public. He interacted with the concerned officers and officials and stressed the importance of punctuality, discipline, accountability and timely disposal of public-related matters.

Joint Operation against Illegal Brick Kilns conducted in Khansahib

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A joint enforcement operation was conducted today by the Police and Sub-Divisional Administration Khansahib against illegal brick kilns operating without requisite permissions in various areas of the sub-division.

The joint team, led by SDM Khansahib, Jahangir Ahmad Giri, along with SDPO Khansahib, Sakib Gani, Tehsildar Khansahib, Moin Azhar Kakroo, concerned SHOs and other officials, carried out inspections of brick kilns found operating without valid permissions and requisite clearances.

During the inspection, the concerned operators were directed to immediately stop all operations and were warned against carrying out any further activity in violation of the prescribed rules and regulations.

The operators were also instructed to clear the dues of the labourers and disengage them at the sites and completely cease operations within one day. The enforcement team



made it clear that failure to comply with the directions would invite strict legal and administrative action, including demolition/removal of illegal structures and assets established in violation of the law.

The administration reiterated that such enforcement measures are aimed at ensuring strict compliance with government regulations, protecting public resources and maintaining environmental and administrative discipline across the sub-division. The Sub-Divisional Administration further warned that no unauthorized brick kiln activity will be permitted and that strict action will be taken against violators as per the applicable rules.

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Wildlife Warden Kathua Vijay Kumar visited Thein Conservation Reserve and planted a sapling of Guava (Psidium guajava) in Co12/KTH.

During the visit, Vijay Kumar inspected the ongoing plantation works in compartment 12/KTH Nakki and Karolla Morh. He directed the field staff to ensure proper maintenance and protection of the plantations.

The Wildlife Warden also directed the staff to conduct Human Wildlife Conflict awareness pro-



gramme for sensitizing the local public about Wildlife Conservation and measures to mini-

mize human-wildlife conflict.

Range Officer Thein Navneet Sharma, Block

Officer Thein Yashbir Singh and other field staff were present during the visit.

Rassense becomes first Indian CFS company to cross 5,000+ employees, On Track to cross Rs 600 cr Revenue

JAMMU, AUG 28: India's largest Indian-owned contract food services company Rassense Pvt Ltd has crossed the 5,000+ employee milestone, becoming the first Indian contract food services (CFS) company to achieve this scale. The milestone comes alongside the commissioning of operations at three of India's premier academic institutions: IIM Jammu, IIM Bangalore, and IIT Guwahati, further strengthening Rassense's Pan-India presence and its growing position in the institutional food services sector. The three new mandates expand Rassense's footprint across the

North, South and North-East and demonstrate its ability to mobilise and commence large-scale operations across diverse geographies in quick succession. Today, Rassense serves over 350,000 meals every day across educational institutions, corporate campuses, healthcare facilities, and industrial locations,

Commenting on the milestone, Swarna Padmini Rajamani, Executive Board Member & Chief Business Officer, Rassense, said "Crossing 5,000 employees is a proud moment for us. Beyond the number are 5,000 people and families who are part of our journey to build an

Indian company to serve Indian food to Indians at work and study across India. As India steps into its 80th year of Independence, this milestone has a special significance for us and reinforces our belief in what an Indian enterprise can achieve.

The commissioning of IIM Jammu, IIM Bangalore and IIT Guwahati in quick succession is another important step in this journey. It reflects the trust we have built with our clients, the strength of our people and our ability to execute consistently across diverse geographies."