

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reviews drainage system of Srinagar city



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, AUG 28

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a high-level meeting to review the drainage sector of Srinagar city, with a focus on addressing waterlogging, strengthening stormwater infrastructure and putting in place both immediate and long-term measures to improve the city's drainage resilience. Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) Fazlul Haseeb gave a detailed presentation on the drainage profile of Srinagar and outlined a comprehensive five-year integrated roadmap to address the key infrastructural and environmental challenges affecting stormwater management in the city. The presentation highlighted that Srinagar currently has around 680 km of stormwater deep drainage network, while the city faces a deficit of nearly 2,500 km of drain length in view of future development envisaged under Master Plan 2035. Around 15 per cent of the existing stormwater network is presently not

functioning at optimum hydraulic capacity due to inadequate drain dimensions, ageing infrastructure, silt deposition and solid-waste ingress. The review also highlighted the impact of rapid urbanisation on the city's natural drainage system and stressed the need for conservation and restoration of remaining natural drainage corridors. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that, to the best extent possible, the drainage system must be strengthened so that the city does not face inundation after few hours of rainfall. He directed SMC to adopt the proposed short-term measures as its Standard Operating Procedure and ensure its timely implementation. He further directed that whenever an alert regarding high precipitation is received, SMC should immediately activate these measures to minimise waterlogging and mitigate its impact. "While these measures will help address some of the immediate problems, the major challenge is infrastructure," the Chief Minister said, directing the SMC to proceed with

the proposed long-term interventions, engage a competent agency and prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR). He stressed that the DPR and proposed interventions should form part of the overall drainage plan rather than becoming a standalone emergency measure. He directed SMC to take all concerned departments on board and, once the DPR and financial requirements are finalised, work out the funding mechanism, including resources available with the departments. The Chief Minister also emphasised the need for a sustained citizen awareness campaign, particularly regarding disposal of solid waste, plastic bottles and polythene bags. He observed that polythene bags are a major cause of choking in the drainage system and called for greater public participation in keeping drains free from waste. The proposed immediate measures include cleaning and de-silting of existing drains, clearing blockages, daily lifting of solid waste, prioritising missing links, installation

of mechanical screens in large open drains and ensuring backup power for dewatering stations. Long-term interventions include construction of additional dewatering stations, segregation of sewerage and stormwater networks, upgradation of old and natural drains, prevention of encroachments and conservation and rejuvenation of lakes. The proposed integrated programme is to be implemented in two phases over five years, with priority accorded to commercial and densely populated areas followed by low-lying areas. The meeting was attended by Srinagar district MLAs, including MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar, MLA Eidga Mubarak Gul, MLA Habba Kadal Shamim Firdous, MLA Zadibal Tanvir Sadiq, MLA Hazratbal Salman Sagar, MLA Chanapora Mushtaq Guroo and MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, who provided their feedback and inputs on the drainage system of Srinagar city. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, ACS to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, ACS PDD Ashwini Kumar, ACS PWD Anil Kumar, ACS Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Housing & Urban Development Mandeep Kaur, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, heads of various departments, Chief Engineers, senior engineers and other concerned officers also attended the meeting.

Ancient Harishwar Mahadev Yatra conducted on Raksha Bandhan

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In a historic revival of faith and heritage, the ancient Harishwar Mahadev Yatra—also known as the Harishore Cave Pilgrimage—was successfully conducted on the auspicious occasion of Raksha Bandhan (Shravan Purnima), bringing back a sacred tradition that had remaining largely dormant for nearly 35 to 36 years. Located in the high mountain ridge above Khonmoh, roughly 14 kilometers from Srinagar, this 4,000 to 5,000-year-old Shaivite pilgrimage site holds deep reverence in Kashmiri Hindu and Pandit culture, representing a naturally formed cave where Lord Shiva's divine presence is believed to have manifested. Demonstrating extraordinary spiritual devotion, a crowd of over 200 to 250 pilgrims hiling from the local Kashmiri community, Jammu, and across India completed an arduous 8 to 9-kilometer steep mountain trek to perform prayers



and seek blessings at the holy shrine. This monumental undertaking was made possible through the relentless efforts and vision of Shri

Ramesh Razdan, who played the primary role in reviving the yatra and led a dedicated team of 10 to 12 workers over 10 to 12 days to clear paths, set up trail

signage, and render the steep route safe for devotees. The initiative received strong support and patronage from Smt. Babita Ji, a prominent political party leader from Pampore; Padma Shri Dr. S.P. Varma, President of the Gandhi Global Family; Shri Kiran Watal, Convener of the Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj; along with Shri Ravi ji and Shri Kamal Ganjoo, alongside the members of the Hareshwar Mahadev Yatra Welfare Society who also organized a grand langar (community kitchen) for all pilgrims. Organizers extended their heartfelt gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Manoj Sinha Ji, as well as The Divisional Commissioner, DC Srinagar, and SSP Srinagar for providing comprehensive security arrangements and administrative support, while announcing plans to Submit a formal proposal to the government for constructing a permanent, safer track to the growing number of devotees in the years ahead.

DC Kathua reviews PC & PNDDT Act compliance, Tobacco control measures

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Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired the meeting of the District Appropriate Authority Committee (DAC) under the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (PC & PNDDT) Act, followed by a District Level Coordination Committee (DLCC) meeting to review the implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP). During the DAC meeting, it was informed that Kathua has recorded a sex ratio of 958, the best figure achieved by the district in the last nine years. It was revealed that a total of 20 ultrasound facilities, including 06 in Government health institutions and 14 in private institutions are running in the district.

Chief Medical Officer Dr Vijay Raina informed that designated teams are conducting frequent inspections of ultrasound centres to ensure compliance with the provisions of the PC & PNDDT Act. The meeting also discussed strengthening surveillance against malpractice and illegal sex determination, including the use of decoy operations wherever required.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned authorities to remain proactive, conduct regular inspections and ensure strict adherence to the prescribed rules and procedures. He made it clear that no illegal activity or violation of the Act would be permitted.

Later, the DC reviewed the implementation of the National Tobacco Control Programme, including action taken and progress towards declaring 40 Gram



Panchayats as Tobacco-Free Panchayats. BDO Headquarters informed the meeting that the process is underway and efforts are being made to expedite it. The DC called for intensified enforcement against tobacco use in public places and directed the concerned departments to conduct regular drives and take strict action against violations.

The meeting also re-

viewed the use of the Tobacco-Free Educational Institution (ToFEI) App in educational institutions. The DC stressed regular monitoring, effective enforcement and coordinated efforts to achieve the objectives of the tobacco control programme. ASP Sunil Kesar, Medical Superintendent Dr Neeraj Nagpal, BMOs and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

VC JKLCMA takes on-site assessment of cleanliness around SKICC, Lalit Ghat

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The Vice Chairman, Jammu and Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), Khurshid Ahmad Shah, today undertook an extensive on-site assessment of the areas around SKICC and Lalit Ghat in connection with the forthcoming 1st International Film Festival, scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026.

The Vice Chairman was accompanied by Collector LCMA and other senior officers during the inspection. During the visit, the Vice Chairman reviewed the cleanliness and overall maintenance of the desig-



nated areas and directed the concerned field staff to undertake necessary cleaning measures on priority. He stressed the need to ensure that the surroundings of SKICC and Lalit Ghat remain clean, well-maintained and presentable ahead of the international event.

For the special cleanliness drive, four machines, including three harvesters and one Water Master, have been deployed. The

machinery will facilitate the removal of aquatic weeds and other floating material, thereby improving the overall appearance and water surface conditions around the designated areas. The Vice Chairman called for timely completion of all cleanliness-related measures and emphasized sustained monitoring of the area to maintain high standards throughout the festival period.

The JKLCMA has reiterated its commitment to ensuring clean and well-maintained surroundings at the venues and adjoining areas, in view of the participation of national and international guests in the 1st International Film Festival.

District Health Society meeting held at Ramban DC calls for strengthening patient care services

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Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a comprehensive review of health services here at a meeting of the District Health Society (DHS). The meeting assessed the performance and achievements of the Health Department under different schemes and programmes. The deliberations focused on evaluation of ongoing initiatives, identification of gaps in service delivery and areas requiring improvement to strengthen public health infrastructure.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Abdul Qayoom, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, CMO Dr. Kamal Jee Zadoo, Executive Engineer PWD Ranjeet Singh, Medical Superintendent, DH Ramban, Dr. Sudarshan Singh Katoch, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Naseer, BMO Banihal Dr. Opinder Singh Raseem, BMO Batote Dr. Vijay, BMO Ukheral Dr. Abdul Rehman, BMO Gool Dr. Iqbal Malik, District Programme Management Unit and other concerned officials. The DC directed the CMO and BMOs to cover



all the far-flung areas through the Mobile Medical Unit under the initiative 'Hospital on Wheel' to provide healthcare facilities to people at their doorsteps. During the meeting, a detailed presentation was made by the CMO on the overall health profile of the district, healthcare infrastructure, human resources, programme-wise achievements and financial progress. Ramban district has four medical blocks—Banihal, Batote, Ukheral and Gool—with 122 health institutions, including one

District Hospital, one Trauma Centre, three CHCs, nine PHCs, 23 New Type PHCs and 85 Sub-Centres. The DC reviewed the performance of major health programmes, including the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NP-NCD), Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram and other national health programmes.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the encouraging progress in key health indicators, including OPD/IPD, institutional deliveries, diagnostic services and surgeries. Significant progress was also reported under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, with 2,56,734 beneficiaries registered and Golden Cards generated, representing 91.51 per cent coverage. A total of 12,902 patients had benefited under the scheme, involving an amount of ₹811.99 lakh. Reviewing the perfor-

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JKEDI organises Capacity Building Programme on MSME Health Clinic

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 28: Under the leadership of Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, JKEDI, a one-day Capacity Building Programme was organized on MSME Health Clinics at its Sempora, Pampore campus today, aimed at enhancing the capacity of field-level officials to assess the overall health, sustainability and potential stress factors affecting

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). The programme brought together Industry Promotion Officers (IPOs) from the District Industries Centres (DICs), Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) officials from Mission YUVA, and District Nodal Officers (DNOs) of JKEDI. The sessions provided partici-

pants with a practical understanding of the MSME Health Clinic framework and equipped them with tools and techniques to identify early warning signs of financial, operational and other forms of business stress. The programme highlighted the importance of timely assessment and intervention in ensuring the long-term sustainability of MSMEs.