

Div Com Jammu reviews progress of road connectivity projects

Directs executing agencies to focus on maintenance

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 01

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar today convened a meeting to review the progress of ongoing projects being executed by NHAI, NHIDCL, Beacon/Sampark and PMGSY across the Division.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Rakesh Minhas; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma; Deputy Commissioners of Jammu Division; Joint Director, Geology & Mining, Jammu; senior officers of NHAI, Sampark, PMGSY Jammu, PWD Jammu and NHIDCL; besides other concerned officers, who participated in person and through virtual mode.

The Deputy Commissioners and senior officers of the concerned departments and executing agencies briefed the chair about the current status and progress of ongoing projects in the areas of their respective districts, besides apprising him of issues and bottlenecks requiring intervention.

The Divisional Commissioner undertook a detailed review of roads, bridges, tunnels, four-laning works, drainage and other connectivity work, with focus on physical progress, financial issues, land acquisition, compensation, RoW, forest and wildlife clearances, utility shifting and other field-level constraints.

The Divisional Commissioner sought detailed



feedback on the progress of different road sections along the National Highway from Jammu to Kathua, Udhampur, Ramban, Banihal besides, Akhnoor to Poonch and other areas. He directed the executing agencies to expedite improvement of riding surfaces, rectification of damaged/vulnerable stretches and strengthening of road approaches, while ensuring strict adherence to prescribed safety and quality standards.

Reviewing tunnel and four-laning projects, the Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned agencies to accelerate the pace and adhere strictly to committed timelines. He emphasized adequate deployment of manpower, machinery and safety measures, particularly at vulnerable stretches and construction sites.

The meeting also reviewed compensation and collateral damage cases, including cases involving affected structures, RoW and slide-affected areas. The Divisional Commissioner

directed the concerned agencies to verify the relevant records and expedite eligible payments and pending cases, while ensuring proper follow-up of matters pending before courts and competent authorities. Issues concerning forest and wildlife clearances, compensation afforestation and mitigation measures were also reviewed. The concerned agencies were directed to maintain close coordination with the Forest and Wildlife authorities and complete all statutory requirements without delay.

The Divisional Commissioner expressed concern over delays in certain works despite availability of funds and awarded contracts. He directed the executing agencies to mobilize adequate resources, increase the pace of work and fix responsibility for avoidable delays. He also stressed regular field inspections and immediate rectification of potholes, damaged riding surfaces and sliding/vulnerable locations.

Reviewing drainage and

utility works in market/shopping areas, the Divisional Commissioner directed execution in manageable stretches in coordination with the local administration so that public movement and business activities are not disrupted.

Emphasizing effective inter-departmental coordination, the Divisional Commissioner directed all agencies to maintain regular communication with the Deputy Commissioners and concerned departments and resolve issues through direct coordination rather than prolonged correspondence. He asked the agencies to submit issue-wise action plans with definite timelines and ensure regular monitoring of progress.

The Divisional Commissioner reiterated that no avoidable delay in critical infrastructure projects would be tolerated and directed all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure timely completion of projects and improved connectivity across Jammu Division.

DC reviews progress of work on new GMC campus at Udhampur

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 01

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today convened a meeting to review the progress of ongoing construction works and allied facilities at the new Government Medical College Campus.

Chairing a meeting with officers of the departments associated with the project, the DC conducted a detailed review of each component of the medical college campus including academic infrastructure, student hostels, faculty residences and other residential facilities. The status of essential services required for the full operationalisation of the



campus, including drinking water supply, electricity, sanitation, internal roads, drainage, lighting, mess facilities, transport arrangements and security of the premises, was also reviewed.

The DC directed the executing agencies to expedite

the balance construction works, mobilise adequate manpower and resources, address bottlenecks and ensure the time-bound completion of all remaining components. He stressed that all essential utilities and facilities for students and faculty must be made

fully functional before shifting to the permanent campus.

The Medical College Principal was directed to maintain close coordination with the executing agencies and concerned departments and ensure regular monitoring of the ongoing works.

Jammu's daughter represents India in Kazakhstan under NCC YEP 2026

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 01

Senior Under Officer (SUO) Sugandhi Khajuria, a dedicated cadet of 9 JK girls battalion of Padma Shri Padma Sachdev (PSPS) Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar has brought distinction to her institution, her unit and the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir by representing India in Kazakhstan under the prestigious NCC Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) 2026.

A cadet of 9 JK Girls Battalion NCC, Srinagar, SUO Sugandhi Khajuria earned this opportunity after successfully completing a rigorous, multi-stage selection process at directorate level and then at national level. The selection process assessed cadets on leadership, discipline, physical fitness, communication skills, cultural awareness and overall personality.

Her selection reflects her dedication, perseverance, confidence and Unit commitment to excellence through structured training in RDC.

During her visit to Kazakhstan, she represented



India as a youth and cultural ambassador. She participated in an Indian cultural group dance, showcasing the richness and diversity of India's traditional heritage before the international audience.

She also had meaningful interactions with students and faculty members of East Kazakhstan Technical University (EKTU) where she conveyed India's message of peace, unity, friendship, cultural understanding and progressive youth leadership.

The programme provided her with valuable international exposure while contributing to friendship and mutual understanding between the youth of India and Kazakhstan.

To commemorate this

achievement, a felicitation ceremony was organized at the PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar campus, Jammu, she was honoured for her outstanding accomplishment by

The Worthy Principal of the college, Prof. Kulvinder Kour who felicitated her and congratulated her mentor Major Shivani Sharma, Associate NCC Officer of 9JK girls Battalion. The ceremony was attended by fellow cadets, who joined in celebrating the achievement.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Kulvinder Kour expressed her pride in the cadet's accomplishment and stated:

"SUO Sugandhi Khajuria's achievement is a matter of great pride for our entire institution and her unit. Her dedication,

discipline and determination reflect the core values of the NCC. She has demonstrated that young women possess the confidence and capability to overcome barriers and excel on global platforms.

Earlier the commanding officer 9 JK Girls Bn Colonel Sharad Sharma also congratulated her and commended her consistent hard work and commitment.

Her achievement reflects the quality of training, mentorship and opportunities provided through the NCC and the unit. He stated that her achievement will further encourage more cadets of the battalion to join the organization and pursue opportunities in leadership, defence, youth exchange and nation-building.

'Art against Drug Addiction' campaign held at Bagh-e-Bahu

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The Excise Department in collaboration with Floriculture Department Jammu, today organised a mega anti Drug Awareness Camp here at Bagh-e-Bahu Garden.

Themed 'Art against Drug Addiction', the event featured a variety of art performances promoting a drug free and healthy lifestyle.

The Dugger Manch presented a Nukkad Natak titled Nashye Di Maar. Mohan Singh Padma Shri awardee alongwith his group enthralled the audience with the short play.

Another Theatre group-Azad Parinde performed a short play titled Karme da fal, depicting ill effects of drug abuse. Veteran theatre actors Madan Rangeela and Janak Khajuria



alongwith Mohit Chib and Gourav performed in the play.

Renowned Cartoonist Manoj Chopra's series of cartoons on drug abuse was the highlight of the event which was on display before hundreds of students from faculty of Social Sciences, Cluster University Jammu and Government Higher Secondary School Bahu.

Merchandise depicting

cartoons and anti drug slogans was released by the dignitaries including Excise Commissioner, Vaibhav Kohli; Padamshree Awardee, Rumalo Ram; Director Floriculture, Nagenra Singh Jamwal; Joint Director, Vikrant Kumar; Arvind Kotwal and Youth Icons Sars Bharti and RJ Juhie (92.7 BIG FM). Display your Talent winner Kunwar Langer performed Music Mashup while Sars

Bharti sang Bawe wali Mata Bhaint.

The Excise Commissioner emphasized the need to combat drug abuse through art and culture and exhorted the youth to say no to drugs and help others in coming out of drug addiction. He reiterated the commitment of the government to Nasha MukT Bharat and inculcating healthy lifestyle among youth.

Ramban: MVD, Police conduct enforcement drive; E-challan 23 vehicles

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The Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Ramban, in coordination with the District Police, conducted a joint surprise enforcement drive today at Maitra, Atri Chowk and T-Chowk to check compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The enforcement drive was led by ARTO Varun Bhasin. The MVD team checked 146 vehicles, of



which 23 vehicles were e-challaned for various violations of the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The violations included overcharging, overloading,

operating without valid permits, use of curtains on vehicle windows and operating without valid fitness certificates, among other offences.

Vehicles found plying without the required statutory documents were challaned, while those involved in serious violations were seized as per the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act.

The total expected amount of the e-challans is approximately ₹54,500. In addition, two vehicles were seized for serious violations.

Furthermore, the department has recommended suspension of two Driving Licences (DLs) for grave violations.

JKEDI organises capacity Building programme on MSME health clinic

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The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), under the overall supervision of Mohammad Younis Malik, Director, JKEDI, organized a Capacity Building Programme on MSME Health Clinic at the Regional Office (RO), Bari Brahmana, Jammu for District Nodal officers from Jammu Division, SBDU representatives, and DIC members.

The programme was aimed at strengthening the capacity of field-level officials and experts to effectively assess the health and performance of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and provide appropriate guidance and support for their sustainability and growth.

A total of 26 delegates from the participating departments and institutions attended the programme.

Representatives from various districts, including Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban and Kishtwar, also participated virtually,



ensuring wider participation and coordinated capacity building across the Jammu Division. The event was also attended by Officers/Officials of JKEDI.

The sessions focused on

the concept of MSME Health Clinics, assessment of the financial and operational health of an enterprise, identification of stress factors and field-level assessment methodologies. Emphasis was

laid on the practical aspects of conducting MSME assessments during field visits and collecting reliable information from enterprises for evidence-based diagnosis and intervention.

The event also highlighted the importance of systematic evaluation of MSMEs in identifying areas requiring financial, managerial, technological and other forms of support. The participants

were sensitized to the need for accurate data collection and objective feasibility to facilitate appropriate interventions for strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

The event concluded with an interactive discussion, wherein participants raised queries related to field-level assessment and implementation of the MSME Health Clinic initiative.