

Omar meets newly inducted IAS officers, other deputations, senior officers

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 01

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several officers, deputations and other individuals at the Civil Secretariat here.

A group of newly inducted IAS officers, including Babila Rakhwal, Shabnam Shah Kamili, Rachna Sharma, Leena Padha, Rajinder Singh Tara, Munir ul Islam, Sajjad Hussain Gani, Anoo Malhotra, Nitu Gupta, Prediman Krishan Bhat, Bhawani Rakhwal and Anuradha Gupta made a courtesy call and met the Chief Minister. The officers were recently inducted into the Indian Administrative Service.

The Chief Minister congratulated the officers on their induction into the country's premier civil service and wished them a successful tenure. He expressed hope that they would continue to serve the people with the same dedication and enthusiasm.



Commissioner Secretary, Information and Planning Department, R. Alice Vaz, separately met the Chief Minister and apprised him of the preparations for the First International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK), scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10, 2026.

The Chief Minister took note of the preparations and stressed the need for

ensuring seamless arrangements and effective coordination among all concerned departments and agencies for the successful conduct of the international film festival.

Inspector General of Police, Kashmir, Sujit Kumar, also called on the Chief Minister following his recent assumption of charge. Omar Abdullah extended his best wishes to the offi-

cer for his new assignment and discussed matters pertaining to the security and policing environment in the Kashmir region.

Managing Director, Ernst & Young (E&Y), Amit Khandelwal, and Regional Head, E&Y, Navreet Singh, also called on the Chief Minister. The delegation briefed him on the work being undertaken by the firm in Jammu & Kashmir.

CM Omar meets Group of Concerned Citizens J&K, discusses key governance, development issues

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JAMMU, SEP 01

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a meeting with members of the Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) J&K at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed a range of issues concerning governance, development, environment and public welfare in Jammu and Kashmir.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani was also present at the meeting. The civil society group was led by Khurshid Ahmed Ganai (IAS Retd.) and comprised other members of the GCC.

The delegation raised several issues of public importance, including governance, environmental protection, municipal



administration and waste management. Particular attention was drawn to the conservation of water bodies and wetlands and the need for effective measures to safeguard these important ecological assets.

The GCC also raised issues relating to the conversion of agricultural land,

traffic management, flood mitigation and management, and power development, including greater focus on renewable energy. Issues pertaining to skill development and employment generation, as well as digitisation of revenue records, were also discussed.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns and suggestions put forth by the members of the GCC. He noted the issues raised during the meeting and assured that these would be taken into consideration by the government while examining the relevant matters.

Javid Dar inaugurates BDC building at Kralgund; stresses accountable, transparent grassroots governance

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 01

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today inaugurated the Block Development Council (BDC) Building at Kralgund, Kupwara, marking another step towards strengthening the Panchayati Raj institutions. MLA Langate, Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad, accompanied the Minister during the visit.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the newly established BDC building is not merely an administrative infrastructure but an important institutional mechanism for empowering the grassroots democratic institutions and ensuring responsive, accessible and people-oriented governance.

Constructed at a cost of Rs 97 lakh, the building will provide a dedicated platform for functioning of the Block Development Council. The utility will facilitate the people of the area in putting forth their developmental concerns and grievances before the concerned authorities without having to travel long distances.

Javid Dar said that strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions is central to the government's vision of decentralized development, wherein local communities and their elected representatives have a meaningful



role in identifying priorities, planning development works and monitoring their implementation. He emphasized that the government is committed to ensure that the benefits of welfare and development schemes being implemented by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir and the Government of India reach the deserving beneficiaries in a timely, transparent and hassle-free manner.

He reiterated that accountability and transparency will remain the cornerstone of the government's development agenda, particularly in execution of works at the grassroots level. He directed the concerned functionaries to ensure proper utilisation of public resources, adherence to approved norms and specifications, timely completion of works and transparency at every stage of

project implementation.

"Every rupee of public money must translate into tangible development and public benefit," the Minister said while stressing that government institutions must remain accessible and accountable to the people.

Javid Dar maintained that equitable development of all regions and areas is a fundamental priority of the government, with particular attention being given to rural, remote and far-flung areas. He called upon the officers to work in close coordination with elected representatives and local communities so that developmental planning remains aligned with the actual needs of the people.

The Minister also underscored the importance of regular field visits, effective grievance redressal mechanisms and continuous monitoring of ongoing projects

to ensure quality, efficiency and timely delivery of services.

MLA Langate, Sheikh Khurshid Ahmad, in his address, highlighted the vast developmental potential of Kupwara district, particularly in the sectors of agriculture, horticulture and rural development. He called for focused interventions and sustained investment in these sectors to unlock the district's economic potential, strengthen rural livelihoods and create greater employment and income opportunities for the local population.

Director Rural Development Kashmir, Additional Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Assistant Commissioner Development Handwara, other senior officers of the concerned departments and a large number of local people were present on the occasion.

Census 2027 Population Enumeration Begins in Snow-Bound Areas of J&K, Ladakh

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 01

Shri Amit Sharma, IAS, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, today declared the commencement of Population Enumeration (Phase-II) of Census 2027 across the snow-bound areas of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

The field operations were formally launched from the remote and snow-bound areas of Dudu and Basantgarh in Udhampur district, marking a significant operational milestone as the Census machinery moved into the population enumeration phase.

Shri Amit Sharma said the launch from Dudu and Basantgarh reflected the Directorate's commitment to taking the Census to every part of the Union Territories, including remote, high-altitude and difficult-to-access areas. He said extensive preparations, including Enumeration Block demarcation, mapping, logistics, training and deployment of field functionaries, had been undertaken to ensure that every household and resident was covered.

He highlighted the encouraging public response to the Self-Enumeration exercise conducted from August 17 to 31, 2026. Jammu & Kashmir emerged as the top-performing State/UT among those covered under the September snow-bound Population Enumeration schedule, recording 9,672 Self-Enumeration submissions. Pulwama recorded the highest number at 3,204, followed by Kisht-



war 2,231, Doda 1,169, Ramban 629, Poonch 569 and Kulgam 554.

In Ladakh, 527 households completed Self-Enumeration, including 301 in Kargil and 226 in Leh. Thus, a combined 10,199 households across Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh participated through Self-Enumeration ahead of the field phase.

Appreciating the strong public response, Shri Amit Sharma said the participation demonstrated growing acceptance of the digital Census process and urged residents to extend the same spirit of cooperation to Enumerators and Supervisors to ensure accurate coverage of households and eligible family members. Population Enumeration in the snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir covers 16 districts and 95 Charges, with an estimated 4,146 Enumeration Blocks. These include Poonch, Kathua, Doda, Ramban, Kishtwar, Udhampur, Reasi, Kupwara, Budgam, Baramulla, Bandipora, Ganderbal, Pulwama, Shopian, Anantnag and Kulgam.

In Ladakh, the entire Union Territory is being enumerated during September through an esti-

mated 637 Enumeration Blocks, making it the first Union Territory to be completely enumerated during the second phase of Census 2027.

A significant component of the September exercise will be the enumeration of the houseless population, for which necessary arrangements have been made. The exercise will also cover Special Charges, including Defence and Central Armed Police Force establishments and other restricted-access locations, in coordination with the concerned authorities. Following completion of field enumeration, a Revisional Round will be conducted from October 1 to 5, 2026, to review coverage and incorporate eligible changes arising during the prescribed period.

The second phase was preceded by a structured training cascade for Master Trainers, Field Trainers, Enumerators and Supervisors, covering Census concepts, definitions, field procedures and digital tools. Nodal Officers and District Coordinators were also deployed to coordinate field preparations, Enumeration Block demarcation, distribution of Census kits and availabil-

ity of manuals and other operational material.

During the visit, Shri Amit Sharma was accompanied by Shri Prem Singh, Additional Deputy Commissioner, and Shri Darshan Kumar, District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Udhampur. From the Directorate of Census Operations, Shri Manmeet Singh Loomba, Deputy Chief Principal Census Officer, Shri Balbir Singh and Smt. Nimrat Kour, Assistant Chief Principal Census Officers, and Shri Ajit Kumar, District Coordinator for Udhampur, accompanied the CPCO.

Shri Amit Sharma said the launch from Dudu and Basantgarh sent a clear message about the approach of Census 2027 in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh — the more difficult an area is to reach, the greater the importance of ensuring that its people are accurately counted. He expressed confidence in the preparedness of the Census machinery and reiterated the Directorate's commitment to complete, accurate and timely Population Enumeration across the snow-bound areas of Jammu & Kashmir and the entire Union Territory of Ladakh.

DC Anantnag chairs Multidepartment District-Level Task Force meeting on Mining

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 01: In order to review issues related to mining and the implementation of S.O. 61 of 2026, aimed at strengthening the enforcement mechanism against illegal mining activities in the district, besides ensuring the availability of construction material for government works, a meeting of the Multidepartmental District-Level Task Force was held under chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the officers of the Irrigation, Flood Control, Geology & Mining, Revenue and other concerned departments to adopt a strict and coordinated approach to curb illegal mining activities in the district. He emphasized ensuring adequate availability of legally sourced construction material for



ongoing works being executed by various government departments.

Dr. Bilal directed the Police, Revenue, Mining, Flood Control, Irrigation and other concerned departments to work in close coordination to effectively curb illegal mining and ensure a hassle-free supply of legally extracted material

to macadam plants, crusher plants, contractors and other authorized users, after payment of the applicable consideration fee and other due charges under rules.

He further instructed them to effectively implement the prescribed mining regulations and strengthen field-level mon-

itoring while ensuring prompt action against violations. The DC further directed the concerned officers to maintain strict monitoring of mining activities and ensure that extraction is carried out from designated and approved sites while safeguarding the environment, irrigation infrastructure and nearby habitations.

During the meeting, the XEN Flood Control and District Mining Officer (DMO) informed the chair that 27 dry blocks, with an estimated quantity of 12 lakh cubic metres, have been identified for extraction of RBM, nallah muck and wet-mix raw material for government works.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Dr. Muzamil Maqbool, ACR, SDMs, SE Hydraulics, DFO, Chief Wildlife Warden, XENs of R&B and Irrigation & Flood Control, DMO, Dy. SP Headquarters and other concerned officers.

Union Secretary chairs workshop on 'Administrative Data Harmonisation' at SKICC

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 01: The Directorate of Economics & Statistics (DES), J&K, under the Planning, Development & Monitoring Department, organised a one-day UT-level workshop on "Administrative Data Harmonisation" at SKICC, Srinagar, to strengthen the quality, consistency, interoperability and effective use of administrative data across government departments.

Dr. Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Union Ministry for Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI) chaired the event. R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development & Monitoring Department along with other Administrative Secretaries of major line departments were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr.

Saurabh Garg highlighted the pivotal role of administrative data in strengthening the national statistical system. He stressed harmonisation of concepts, definitions, classifications, metadata and standards to ensure comparability, interoperability and statistical quality. He encouraged J&K to leverage institutional mechanisms such as Data Strategic Units and Chief Data Officers.

Addressing the gathering, R. Alice Vaz introduced the broad objectives of the workshop. She emphasised the importance of reliable, standardised and timely data for evidence-based policy formulation, efficient resource allocation and outcome-oriented governance. She stressed stronger coordination among the departments besides improvement of data systems at

the source.

The Commissioner Secretary underscored the importance of departmental ownership, inter-departmental coordination and sustainable institutional mechanisms for ensuring regular and quality administrative data flows aligned with planning, monitoring and evidence-based decision-making.

In her welcome address, Ashu Gupta, Director General, Economics & Statistics, J&K, described the workshop as an important step towards establishing a common statistical language across government departments. She clarified that harmonisation is aimed at establishing common standards, definitions, classifications and metadata while retaining departmental ownership.