

25 Aspiring Entrepreneurs Complete ESDP under RAMP at GCW Parade

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 03

The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) successfully conducted a one month Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Programme (ESDP) here at Government College for Women Parade.

As many as 25 aspiring and potential entrepreneurs completed the course organized under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) Programme. The Skill Development Cell and DYD of the College coordinated in organizing the course. The four-week programme focused on developing entrepreneurial competencies and imparting practical knowledge on key aspects of enterprise creation and management.

The participants were trained in entrepreneurship and innovation, business ideation, business planning, market survey, SWOT analysis, marketing, digital marketing and e-commerce, financial management, working capital



management, preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), GST, insurance, intellectual property rights and other regulatory aspects.

The participants were also sensitised to the Government-sponsored schemes and institutional support mechanisms available for entrepreneurs. As part of the practical component, an industrial exposure visit to Birpur Industrial Estate was organised, providing participants with first-hand exposure to industrial operations and enterprise management.

The valedictory session

was attended by the College Principal Dr. Naveen Anand; District Nodal Officer, JKEDI Jammu Rajesh Kotwal; the College faculty members Prof. Sarika Mahajan and Dr. Mamta Sharma, besides designated trainer for the programme Priya Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Naveen Anand appreciated the initiative and emphasised the importance of providing youth with practical exposure to entrepreneurship and skill development. He encouraged the participants to utilise the knowledge gained to explore self-employment and

entrepreneurial opportunities. District Nodal Officer Rajesh Kotwal highlighted the importance of promoting an entrepreneurial mindset among youth and encouraged the participants to translate the knowledge and skills acquired during the programme into viable and sustainable enterprises.

The programme concluded with an interaction and feedback session, wherein participants shared their experiences and acknowledged the practical orientation and relevance of the training programme.

CS reviews rollout of Water Transport, PM E-DRIVE initiatives in J&K

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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed the status and implementation status for introduction of inland water transport on the rivers Jhelum and Chenab, besides the rollout of electric mobility infrastructure under the Government of India's PM E-DRIVE scheme in J&K.

The meeting besides ACS, PWD was attended by Secretary, Transport; Divisional Commissioner, Jammu/Kashmir; VC, LCMA; Representative from IWAI and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the progress, the Chief Secretary stressed the need for time-bound completion of all enabling infrastructure, including terminals, access facilities, navigation arrangements and removal of obstructions in terms of utility shifting, so that water transport can be operationalised within the set deadline.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary was apprised of the progress being made for developing inland water transport facilities along identified stretches of the River Jhelum (NW-49), River Chenab (NW-26) and River Ravi (NW-84).

On this occasion the Secretary Transport, Avny Lavasa apprised the meeting that in River Jhelum, a 106-km cruise corridor from Sangam to Gund



Prang has been identified for development. Land for 11 terminal locations has been identified at strategic points including Marham (Sangam), Pantha Chowk, Zero Bridge, Amira Kadal, Chattabal, Sumbal and Gund Prang, among others. She further divulged that removal of local coffer dams is a key requirement for ensuring uninterrupted navigation along the Jhelum stretch. The Public Works Department (PWD) has been tasked with removal of 52 such structures, of which 18 have already been cleared.

On the Chenab, a 9-km stretch between Reasi and Akhnoor Fort has been identified for cruise-based water transport, while a 15-km stretch of the River Ravi at Sohar in Jammu is also being developed for the purpose.

The meeting was further informed that the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has awarded the tender for procurement of 10 specially designed hybrid eco-vessels, each having a passenger capacity of 20 persons. The vessels are

scheduled for delivery by March 2027.

Later the Chief Secretary also reviewed the implementation of the PM E-DRIVE Scheme in J&K, under which the administration is working towards establishing a robust charging ecosystem to support the transition to electric mobility.

The meeting was informed that 50 locations across Jammu and Kashmir have been identified and found technically feasible for installation of public EV charging stations.

These include 17 sites in Jammu, 5 in Kathua, 4 in Rajouri, 3 in Udhampur, 4 in Doda, 2 each in Ramban and Reasi, and 1 in Samba. Similarly in Kashmir Division, the identified sites include 4 in Srinagar, 3 in Baramulla and 1 each in Anantnag, Budgam, Ganderbal, Pulwama and Kupwara. The Chief Secretary was also apprised of the proposal for procurement of 200 electric buses under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. The proposal has received in-principle approval at the Government of India

level and is being taken forward for procurement through Convergence Energy Services Limited (CESL).

The Chief Secretary directed all concerned departments and agencies to work in close coordination to ensure that the charging infrastructure, electrical connectivity, land requirements and other supporting facilities are put in place well ahead of the deployment of electric buses.

Emphasising the importance of integrating both initiatives with J&K's broader tourism, urban mobility and environmental sustainability goals, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned departments to maintain strict timelines and continuous monitoring at every stage.

He stressed that the initiatives should translate into visible, sustainable and people-centric transport solutions, with the water transport projects and electric mobility infrastructure being progressed in a coordinated manner towards the targeted implementation within the stipulated time-frame.

DAJ reviews progress of Agriculture schemes in Samba, Kathua Districts

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Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta today undertook an extensive tour of Samba and Kathua districts to review the implementation of departmental schemes and ongoing field-level activities.

At the outset of the tour, the Director chaired a review meeting at Samba with Chief Agriculture Officer, district-level officers, SMSs, SDAOs and DDOs to assess the physical and financial progress and expenditure under CSS, CAPEX, NABARD, HADP and JKCIP. The CAO gave a detailed presentation on the progress of ongoing projects, achievements and expenditure incurred under different schemes.

Anil Gupta directed the officers to ensure timely and judicious utilization



of funds, achievement of physical targets within the stipulated timelines and strict adherence to approved guidelines and norms.

Later, the Director, along with Regional Level SMS Krishan Kant and field functionaries, visited different areas to review

the ongoing Digital Crop Survey (DCS). He interacted with Agriculture Surveyors engaged in the exercise and observed the process at the field level.

Later, the Director chaired a review meeting at Kathua attended by the Chief Agriculture Officer, district-level officers,

SMSs, SDAOs and DDOs to assess the physical and financial progress achieved in the district. CAO Jatinder Kumar gave a detailed presentation on the ongoing activities, achievements and expenditure under various departmental schemes and projects.

Block Level Panch Sammelan held at Marwah to generate awareness on VB-GRAM-G Act, 2025

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A Block Level Panch Sammelan was organized today at BHQ Nowpachi-Marwah to sensitize former PRI representatives, BDC, DDC, Panchayat Secretaries, Gram Rozgar Sahayaks (GRSs), field functionaries, and other stakeholders about the provisions, objectives and implementation framework of the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) [VB-GRAM-G] Act, 2025.

The Panch Sammelan was organized under the supervision of Block Development Officer (BDO) Irshad Ahmed Waza with Master Trainer Yassir Rashid serving as the resource person.

Detailed deliberations were held on the transition from the erstwhile MGNREGA framework to the VB-GRAM-G framework, which came into force with effect from July 1, 2026. The participants were apprised of the enhanced statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment for eligible rural households along with the broader objective of promoting sustainable livelihoods, creation of durable rural assets and inclusive rural development.

The Master Trainer elaborated



upon the major focus areas under the new framework including water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and works aimed at enhancing resilience against extreme weather events.

Emphasis was also laid on integrated and convergence-based planning, with the Gram Panchayat playing a central role in identifying local priorities and preparing development plans in consultation with

the Gram Sabha.

The participants were further sensitized to the importance of Gram Sabha participation, transparency, digital monitoring, biometric authentication, GPS/mobile-based monitoring, social audit, proper record maintenance and timely processing of wage payments. The need for maintaining complete and accurate work records at every stage of implementation was also emphasized.

CM Omar Abdullah meets individuals, deputations at Civil Secretariat

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Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several individuals and delegations at the Civil Secretariat here and discussed matters concerning governance, financial oversight and energy infrastructure in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Chief Minister met Sunilraj Somarajan, who recently assumed charge as Principal Accountant General (Audit), Jammu & Kashmir.

Discussions focused on institutional audit practices, financial oversight and measures to further strengthen transparency and accountability in governance.

The Chief Minister also



received a delegation led by Dr. Anil Kumar Jain, Chairperson, Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). The delegation included P.N. GRB Secretary A.K. Mishra, Director (Monitoring) Lt. Col. Abhishek

Kumar and senior representatives of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

The meeting discussed measures to accelerate oil and gas infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir, particularly ex-

pansion of City Gas Distribution (CGD) networks and promotion of Piped Natural Gas (PNG) and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG), besides creating a conducive ecosystem for growth of the natural gas sector.

DC Rajouri reviews permanent restoration action plan

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 03: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the Permanent Restoration Action Plan 2026-27 formulated for the reconstruction of infrastructure damaged in the recent flash floods in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) prepared by the concerned departments for permanent restoration of the damaged infrastructure. It was informed that the DPRs have been formulated and are ready for submission.

The DC directed the concerned departments to thoroughly scrutinize the DPRs and address any deficiencies, if found, so that the proposals are com-



plete in all respects. He further directed the officers to submit the updated DPRs at the earliest to facilitate timely processing and execution of permanent restoration works.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the

need for close coordination among the stakeholder departments and stressed that the restoration proposals shall accurately reflect the ground requirements and ensure durable rehabilitation of the damaged infrastruc-

ture.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Malik Zada Sheraz Ul Haq; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; SE Hydraulics Er. Sunil Kumar Bhat; Chief Education Officer Mohammad Hafiz, besides other officers.