

Ramban drowning incident

Search to trace youth continue in Chenab River on day 5; DC, SSP review ground efforts



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 05

The intensive multi-agency search and rescue operation launched in Chenab River to trace a youth Ravi Kumar entered fifth day today. Ravi Kumar had slipped into the Chenab River here at Maitra on September 1. Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alys Khan and Senior Superintendent

of Police Arun Gupta visited the incident site and reviewed the ongoing search operation and the action plan being implemented by the agencies involved. Tehsildar Deep Kumar, Dy.SP Kuldeep Sharma and other concerned officers were present on the spot. The Deputy Commissioner took detailed feedback from the teams deployed on the ground and assessed the challenges be-

ing faced in carrying out the operation. He was informed that the search operation is being hampered by the high volume of water, heavy turbulence and swift currents in the Chenab River. In view of the hazardous conditions, experts have advised against using boats due to the strong water flow and associated risks. The search operation is being carried out with specialized rescue equip-

ment and trained personnel while following all necessary safety protocols. To intensify the downstream search, four specialized teams have been mobilized, comprising personnel from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Civil QRTs from Ramban, Ramsu, Banihal and the Jammu and Kashmir Police. The teams are carrying out coordinated search efforts at different locations along the river. After the intervention of the Deputy Commissioner, the authorities of the Baglihar Hydroelectric Power Project have restricted the water flow in the river to facilitate the rescue operation and enable the rescue teams to work safely. SSP Arun Gupta has appealed to the general public, particularly youth, to refrain from venturing close to riverbanks or bathing in the Chenab River, especially during the summer and monsoon seasons. He cautioned that strong currents and sudden turbulence can pose a serious threat to life, even for experienced swimmers.

High Court Juvenile Justice Committee, UNICEF hold consultation on 10 years of JJ Act

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 05: The Juvenile Justice Committee, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, with the support of UNICEF India, organized a one day annual consultation on "Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015: A Decade of Implementation and the Way Forward" at the J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar.

The consultation was attended by the Judges of the High Court, Judicial Officers, Principal Magistrates of Juvenile Justice Boards, Chairpersons of Child Welfare Committees, officers of Special Juvenile Police Units, senior officers of concerned departments, Legal Services Authorities, child protection professionals, mental health experts, civil society and academia besides participants joining virtually from Jammu and Ladakh. The consultation reviewed a decade of implementation of the Juvenile Justice Act and identified priorities for strengthening the Juvenile Justice and Child Protection System.

Justice Sindhu Sharma, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee, in her presidential address, emphasized that a child in conflict with law remains, first and foremost, a child and that the juvenile justice system must remain



rooted in fairness, rehabilitation and the developmental needs of children, in keeping with principles reflected in the Beijing Rules. She highlighted the continuing challenge of balancing the reformative approach with concerns arising from serious offences. She stressed the need for adequately resourced institutions, trained personnel, effective data systems and accountability. She observed that while the first decade focused substantially on building the institutional architecture of juvenile justice, the next decade must focus on ensuring that these institutions deliver meaningful, child-centered outcomes and provide every child with dignity, rehabilitation and a genuine opportunity for a better future. Justice Mohd. Akram

Chowdhary, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Member, Juvenile Justice Committee, described the completion of ten years of the Act as an opportunity to objectively assess its implementation. While acknowledging the functioning of Child Welfare Committees and Juvenile Justice Boards across J&K and Ladakh, he emphasized that success must ultimately be measured by its impact on children. He called for stronger infrastructure, trained personnel, continuous capacity building, adequate administrative and financial support, periodic evaluation and improved inter-departmental coordination. Justice Wasim Sadiq Nargal emphasized that juvenile justice extends beyond law and requires a multidisciplinary approach. Reflecting on a

decade of the Juvenile Justice Act, he stressed the need to address implementation gaps and strengthen delivery on the ground. He highlighted the concerns regarding children above sixteen years accused of heinous offences, confidentiality of juvenile records and effective functioning of Juvenile Justice Boards and Child Welfare Committees. He also called for child-centric adoption, adequate infrastructure, trained personnel and administrative support, stressing that the Act must be implemented in letter and spirit to ensure protection, rehabilitation, dignity and hope for every vulnerable child.

Jesper Moller, Deputy Representative (Programme), UNICEF India Country Office, described ten years of the Juvenile Justice Act as an important milestone and emphasized the need to assess its impact on children. He highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's progress in prevention and family-based care, Child-Friendly Spaces, Adolescent Resource Centres, strengthening of Child Care Institutions and training of more than 9,000 frontline workers.

He identified prevention, family-based care, institutional coordination, accountability and disability inclusion as key priorities for the next decade.

Sakeena addresses Teachers' Day celebrations at SKICC

Says Govt will bring resolution on TET in upcoming Assembly session

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The MSME-Development & Facilitation Office (MSME-DFO) Jammu, under the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Government of India, organised a PM Vishwakarma Awareness Programme on Branding & Marketing at Government Industrial Institute Rajouri. The programme was organised with the objective of generating awareness among artisans and traditional craftspeople about branding and marketing of their products, Government support schemes, access to finance, skill development, entrepreneurship and emerging digital and artificial intelligence (AI) tools that can help them improve the quality, visibility and marketability of their products.

The programme commenced with a welcome address and a brief overview of the PM Vishwakarma programme by Assistant Director, MSME-DFO Jammu Vinu Jee Koul. He highlighted the importance of awareness and capacity building among artisans to enable them to effectively utilise the benefits available under the scheme.

Joint Director, MSME-DFO, Jammu Amit Kumar Tamaria elaborated upon the objectives of the programme and the role of the MSME sector in promoting entrepreneurship, employment generation and inclusive economic development. He encouraged artisans to make effective use of Government initiatives and available institutional support for expanding their businesses. General Manager, District Industries Centre (DIC), Rajouri Harpal Singh also addressed the participants and apprised them of the support available to local artisans and entrepreneurs through the district-level industrial ecosystem.



The programme was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, who appreciated the initiative of MSME-DFO Jammu for organising the awareness programme for artisans and traditional craftspeople of the district. He emphasised the importance of improving the branding, packaging and marketing of locally produced goods and encouraged artisans to take advantage of the government schemes and institutional support available for their economic empowerment.

During the technical sessions, HOD, Management Studies, BGSB University Gaurav Sehgal delivered a detailed session on Marketing and Branding. He sensitised the participants to the importance of developing a distinct brand identity, effective product presentation, customer engagement and modern marketing practices for enhancing the reach and competitiveness of artisan products.

I/C Functional Manager DIC Vivek Sharma apprised the participants about the schemes of the Department of Industries & Commerce, J&K and explained the support available to artisans and entrepreneurs through the department.

A dedicated session on the schemes of the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, J&K was conducted by Assistant Director, Department of Handicrafts & Handloom Propkar Singh.

The participants were informed about the initiatives and assistance available for the promotion and development of handicrafts and handloom activities. Faculty, JKEDI Rajouri Hilal Ahmad Rather delivered a session on the role of JKEDI in skill development and entrepreneurship, highlighting opportunities for capacity building, entrepreneurial development and self-employment. A special presentation on AI Tools for Artisans was delivered by Team Lead, Jammu PMVK SLPMU Kanav Kapahi and Consultant, PMVK SLPMU Ajay Pal Singh. The session introduced participants to the potential use of Artificial Intelligence and digital tools for areas such as product presentation, marketing, content creation and promotion of artisan products in contemporary m. The participants were also apprised of financial assistance and credit facilities provided by banks by Lead District Manager, Rajouri Ravinder Singh Nagra. The session focused on improving awareness regarding in-

stitutional credit and financial support available to artisans and entrepreneurs. Senior Manager (IPPB), Rajouri/Poonch Anil Mathur conducted a session on India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) and QR Code generation. As part of the session, 25 QR Codes were generated for the participating beneficiaries, enabling them to adopt digital payment facilities and strengthen their access to cashless transactions.

In particular, 45 queries related to toolkits raised by the participants were addressed and resolved by the PM Vishwakarma Programme Management Unit (PMU) team during the interaction session. The initiative provided immediate assistance to beneficiaries and helped resolve their concerns relating to the PM Vishwakarma toolkit component.

An interactive Question & Answer Session was subsequently held, during which participants raised queries regarding branding and marketing, Government schemes, financial assistance, digital payments, entrepreneurship and other issues related to the development and promotion of their traditional trades and businesses. The queries were addressed by the concerned speakers and officials.

CM's Advisor meets public delegations; reaffirms govt's commitment to prompt redress of public issues

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 5: Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today met with several delegation and individual citizens at the Chief Minister's Public Service and Outreach Office 'Raabita' in Srinagar.

The visiting groups included local citizens, employee associations and individuals. They brought forward issues related to development, media, land and revenue records, employment and service-related matters.

The Advisor took up these matters with the concerned authorities to ensure these are resolved without delay. Highlighting the govern-



ment's focus on public welfare, the Advisor stated that the present government under the leadership of the

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is paying attention to every grievance, big or small.

He assured the public that all genuine demands will be resolved within the shortest possible time.

Commissioner Secretary chairs UTLIMC meet to review computerisation of PACS in J&K

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Commissioner Secretary Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting of the Union Territory Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (UTLIMC) constituted to review implementation of the Centrally Sponsored Project for Computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by the Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K; Deputy General Manager, NABARD; representative of the Finance Department, J&K; Managing Director, J&K State Cooperative Training Board (JK-STCB); representatives of the System Integrator besides other senior officers of the Cooperative Department.

During the meeting, a detailed Power-Point presentation was made on the current status of implementation of

PACS computerisation project. The Committee was apprised of the progress achieved, so far. Various issues and requirements related to handholding support to PACS, scanning and digitisation of legacy data, deployment of manpower and reconciliation of data were also placed before the Committee for consideration.

The Committee held detailed deliberations on the implementation status and associated operational issues, with emphasis on ensuring adequate support to PACS at the field level to facilitate their smooth transition to the computerised system.

While reviewing the progress, Yasha Mudgal directed the System Integrator to ensure that all assigned deliverables are completed strictly within the stipulated timelines. She stressed that the approved implementation schedule must be adhered to in letter and spirit and that avoidable delays should not



be allowed to impede the overall objectives of the project.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasised the need for close and continuous coordination among the Cooperative Department, Registrar Cooperative Societies, NABARD, DC-CBs, System Integrator and other concerned stakeholders for ensuring smooth, timely and effective implementation of the project. She observed that strong field-level coordination would be crucial for resolving operational bottlenecks and ensuring that

the intended benefits of computerisation reach PACS in a timely manner.

Yasha Mudgal directed that regular monitoring of the PACS computerisation project be undertaken at the level of the Registrar Cooperative Societies, J&K. She made it clear that monitoring should go beyond routine reporting and must include verification of the actual completion of each milestone and deliverable.

She specifically directed that every milestone and deliverable must be duly verified before being treated as com-

pleted, with proper supporting documentation and records maintained in each case. She stressed that a robust verification mechanism would provide a clear and reliable basis for assessing the actual status of implementation.

Emphasising the importance of institutional accountability, transparency and proper record keeping, the Commissioner Secretary directed that all communications and directions issued to the System Integrator in connection with implementation of the project should invariably be conveyed in writing and properly documented.

She also directed that the Administrative Department be regularly and timely apprised of the progress of implementation, particularly with regard to achievement of milestones, completion and verification of deliverables, deployment of manpower, scanning and reconciliation of legacy data, as well as any issue having the potential to affect

the approved implementation schedule. Reiterating the significance of the PACS computerisation initiative, the Commissioner Secretary observed that the project is aimed at strengthening the functioning of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies through adoption of modern technology, improved record management, greater operational efficiency and enhanced service delivery. She emphasised that the implementation must accordingly remain coordinated, result-oriented and closely monitored, with due focus on quality, accuracy, accountability and long-term sustainability.

Yasha Mudgal directed all the concerned stakeholders to maintain close coordination and ensure timely resolution of issues so that the approved objectives and implementation targets of the PACS computerisation project are achieved effectively across Jammu and Kashmir.