

DC reviews implementation of District plan, Restoration works in Poonch District

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 07

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the progress of works taken up under the District Capex Budget 2026-27 and assess the status of temporary and permanent restoration works necessitated by the heavy rains and flash floods witnessed in July 2026.

The meeting reviewed the updated status of Administrative Approval and Allotment (AAA), tendering, allotment and execution of works by various departments, besides discussing the restoration of infrastructure damaged during the recent heavy rains and flash floods.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed department-wise review and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of approved works. He stressed close coordination among executing agencies and field-level functionaries to promptly resolve bottlenecks affecting implementation.

Reviewing the restoration works, the DC directed the concerned departments to prioritize the restoration of essential public infrastructure and services. He emphasized that temporary restoration measures should be followed by permanent works wherever



necessary. The DC stressed regular field inspections and effective monitoring to ensure the timely and efficient implementation of sanctioned restoration measures, particularly in areas where public connectivity and essential services have been affected.

He directed Executive Engineers and other field officers to submit updated

progress reports and complete all pending procedural requirements, including tendering and allotment, without unnecessary delay.

The Deputy Commissioner also called upon Block Development Officers, Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers to closely monitor works at

the ground level and regularly report the actual physical and financial progress.

Emphasizing transparency, accountability and quality, the DC urged all concerned officers to ensure efficient execution of developmental works. The officers briefed the meeting on the progress achieved, ongoing works and issues requiring intervention

DIET Kud Holds District-Level Science Seminar on ‘Indian Energy Basket 2047’

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The District Institute of Education and Trainings (DIET) Kud, Udhampur, organised a District-Level Science Seminar on the theme “Indian Energy Basket 2047: Prospects and Challenges” at Higher Secondary School (HSS) Garhi, bringing together young minds from all 11 educational zones of the district.

The seminar aimed at promoting scientific temperament, critical thinking and awareness among students about India's future energy requirements, sustainability and the vision of a developed India by 2047.

The programme commenced with ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by the rendition of Vande Mataram. Held under the guidance of Principal DIET Kud Smt. Irvin Kour, the event witnessed participation of around 550 students at the zonal level, out of whom 40 finalists presented their ideas and perspectives on India's energy future at the district-level competition.

Dr. Jagdish Chander Mehra (JKAS), Joint Director School Education, Udhampur-Reasi Range, was the Chief Guest, while Shri Sunil Kumar Khajuria, Chief Education Officer, Udhampur, attended as Guest of Honour. Dr. Mehra underlined the importance of energy conservation and active youth participation in nation-building, while Shri Kha-



juria stressed the need to align student initiatives with the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision.

Welcoming the guests, Smt. Renu Kotwal, Principal HSS Garhi, highlighted the importance of inculcating practical energy-saving habits among students.

A special cultural presentation added significance to the programme. A song on energy conservation and Viksit Bharat 2047, written in Dogri script by Neetika Mallee, Zonal Coordinator, Ramnagar, was presented by Parveen Singh and Kuldeep Singh Mankoti, Coordinators from Zone Babey.

Addressing the gathering, Principal DIET Kud Smt. Irvin Kour said the seminar provided students from across Udhampur an important platform to express their views on critical issues such as energy sustainability. She said such initiatives demonstrate the confidence and capability of

students to compete and excel at every level.

Shri Bishan Sharma, HOD DIET Kud and Nodal Officer, supervised the programme, while Dr. Rashpal Singh, Senior Lecturer and District Coordinator NSS-2026, coordinated the activities from the zonal to district level. Shri Sanjay Kumar, District Technical Coordinator, looked after the technical arrangements.

The proceedings were efficiently conducted by Rekha Rani, Stage Secretary and noted artist associated with Radio Kashmir Jammu and Doordarshan, whose contribution was appreciated by the organisers. Archana Gupta, Zonal Coordinator, Zone Udhampur, was also lauded for her outstanding role in the event.

The successful conduct of the seminar across all 11 zones was made possible through the coordinated efforts of the team of Zonal Coordinators, teachers and

other officials. Shri Vijay Kumar, HSS Ghordi, and Shri Harbans Singh, Middle School Msndlote, assisted in the technical display of visuals and presentations. K.D. Chalotra, HOD DIET, also attended the seminar.

The event was documented by Ajay Thakur, teacher and expert in still and zoom photography, while podcaster Shubham Singh covered the proceedings.

The seminar concluded with an award distribution ceremony, where students securing top positions were felicitated for their innovative presentations, research-based approach and effective articulation.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Neetika Mallee expressed gratitude to the dignitaries, media representatives, key workers, escorting teachers, participants, NCC cadets and students for making the district-level event a success.

Mission YUVA review meeting held at Baderwah

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A meeting to review the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA was held today here in the office chamber of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Baderwah.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Baderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal and Joint Director Employment Jammu Paramjeet Singh jointly chaired the meeting attended by Employment Officer DECC Imtiyaz Ahmed; BHD Head, AEO Gatha, AEO Saringal, BHD Lead, BHD Coordinators, besides Branch Managers of all J&K Bank branches operating in Sub-Division Baderwah.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on the implementation and progress of Mission YUVA, with emphasis on expediting the processing and sanctioning of eligible cases, strengthening coordination between the Employment Department and banking institutions and facilitating



eligible youth in establishing sustainable self-employment ventures.

The Joint Director Employment, Jammu appreciated the performance of BHD Baderwah and acknowledged the efforts being made towards effective implementation of Mission

YUVA and extending its benefits to aspiring young entrepreneurs.

The officers and bank representatives assured coordinated and time-bound efforts to ensure smooth processing of cases and timely financial support to eligible beneficiaries.

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In a significant initiative aimed at promoting mental well-being and enhancing workplace efficiency, a session on “Stress Management through Blissful Living (SMBL)” was organised today as part of the 2-day Corporate Excellence Programme being held here in the Conference Hall of PWD Dak Bungalow.

At the outset of the program, HoD ENT, Government Medical College Rajouri Dr. Vidushi Badial delivered an insightful lecture on the importance of effective



stress management in maintaining a healthy and balanced life.

She highlighted practical techniques to manage stress, maintain emotional stability and develop a positive outlook while dealing with professional and personal responsibilities. She also underlined the importance of

self-awareness, healthy routines and a calm approach in improving overall well-being.

The session provided participants with valuable insights and actionable strategies to handle stressful situations effectively and enhance their productivity and quality of life.

Deputy Commissioner Ab-

hishek Sharma, while addressing the participants, emphasised that mental well-being is equally important for maintaining efficiency and excellence in the workplace. He urged the participants to imbibe the learning shared during the programme and incorporate them into their daily life, fostering positivity, better work-life balance and a healthier work environment.

The two-day Corporate Excellence Programme will continue tomorrow, with further sessions and interactive activities aimed at strengthening stress-management skills and promoting blissful living among the participants.

Chopal Pe Charcha in Udhampur: Karra puts people's concerns at heart of politics

UDHAMPUR, SEPTEMBER 7: The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) today took the All India Congress Committee's (AICC) ongoing “Chopal Pe Charcha” campaign to Udhampur district, providing a grassroots platform for people to openly discuss issues confronting them in their daily lives. The programme was organised by District Congress Committee Udhampur President Sumit Magotra and was led by JKPCC President Tariq Hameed Karra, along with JKPCC Working President Raman Bhalla, senior Congress leaders, party functionaries and local residents. The programme focused on the alleged “Chanda Chori” issue, the continued delay in restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, unemployment, inflation and the hardships being faced by farmers, youth, traders and other sections of society.

Addressing the gathering, Tariq Hameed Karra said that “Chopal Pe Charcha” was not merely a political programme but an effort to take the Congress's campaign directly to the people and create a democratic forum where ordinary citizens could question those in power. He said the Congress would continue to raise the alleged “Chanda Chori” issue and demand transparency and accountability. Karra alleged that instead of answering uncomfortable questions and addressing people's genuine concerns, the BJP-led government at the Centre was attempting to divert public attention through political narratives. He asserted that Congress would take

the campaign to every district and every section of society so that issues affecting common citizens remain at the centre of public debate.

Karra said that the delay in restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir had become a matter of deep concern among the people. He said J&K had witnessed an elected government after a prolonged period, but the people continued to await restoration of the full constitutional and democratic status that existed before the reorganisation of the erstwhile State. He maintained that democracy should mean meaningful powers, accountability and institutions that remain answerable to the people. The JKPCC chief said the Congress would continue to demand restoration of statehood without further delay, asserting that the people of Jammu and Kashmir deserved dignity, political empowerment and greater democratic accountability.

The Congress president also attacked the BJP-led government over what he described as the rising cost of living and growing unemployment, saying the impact was being felt across households and economic sectors. He said educated youth were struggling to find stable employment while families were under pressure from rising prices of essential commodities and everyday expenses. Karra said farmers were facing challenges including increasing input costs and market uncertainties, while traders and small businesses were struggling to sustain their livelihoods. He said the government could not claim inclusive devel-



opment while large sections of society continued to feel economically insecure and politically unheard.

Karra further said that the Congress would continue to act as the voice of the people and use the “Chopal Pe Charcha” platform to bring their concerns into the mainstream of political discourse. He said the campaign would particularly focus on youth, farmers, traders, students, workers, women and economically vulnerable families. He urged Congress workers to strengthen grassroots outreach and ensure that genuine public grievances reach the appropriate forums, asserting that politics must remain connected with the everyday struggles of citizens.

Raman Bhalla, JKPCC Working President, said the Udhampur pro-

gramme demonstrated that Congress was taking the AICC's national outreach campaign to the grassroots rather than confining it to party offices or formal political meetings. He said people were increasingly willing to speak openly about issues affecting their families, businesses and livelihoods. Bhalla said the concerns raised at the “Chopal Pe Charcha” reflected a wider sense of economic and political uncertainty, particularly among youth and the middle class, and alleged that the BJP government had failed to provide satisfactory answers on unemployment, inflation and other pressing issues.

Bhalla said farmers, traders, students, employees, small entrepreneurs and working families were all facing different forms of economic

pressure, and the government must listen to them instead of relying only on political messaging. He said the people of Jammu and Kashmir had also been waiting for restoration of statehood and greater democratic empowerment. Bhalla maintained that Congress would continue to stand with the people on these issues and expand its grassroots campaign across districts, creating a sustained public dialogue and ensuring that the concerns of ordinary citizens remain part of the political agenda.

Senior Congress leader Balbir Singh and Thakur Manmohan Singh said the “Chopal Pe Charcha” initiative had provided an important opportunity for people to place their genuine grievances directly before the Congress leadership. They said unemployment, inflation, inadequate employment opportunities and difficulties faced by farmers and traders had emerged as major concerns during the interaction. They said the government must be made accountable for its promises and policies and should provide concrete relief to families struggling with increasing expenses. They stressed that young people needed meaningful employment opportunities and better avenues for entrepreneurship, while farmers required stronger support, remunerative markets and protection from rising input costs. They said Congress would continue to raise these issues consistently and would not allow the concerns of ordinary citizens to be ignored.

Congress leaders and workers partic-

ipating in the programme said that direct interaction with the public was essential for strengthening democratic institutions and understanding ground realities. They emphasised that issues concerning employment, inflation, farmers, traders, youth, students and the restoration of statehood should remain central to political discourse. The speakers also urged party workers to maintain regular contact with people at the grassroots and ensure that their concerns are taken up before the appropriate authorities and political forums.

The participants further stressed the need for sustained public engagement on issues affecting the everyday lives of citizens. They said “Chopal Pe Charcha” would help the Congress identify local concerns and build a stronger connect with different sections of society. The leaders maintained that democratic politics must remain rooted in public participation and accountability and assured that the party would continue to raise the people's issues across Jammu and Kashmir.

District Congress Committee Udhampur President Sumit Magotra, who organised the programme, said the objective of taking “Chopal Pe Charcha” to Udhampur was to establish a direct and meaningful dialogue between the Congress organisation and the people. He said residents from different sections of society openly shared their concerns regarding unemployment, inflation, livelihoods, development and restoration of statehood.