

Chief Secretary inspects progress on High Security Prison at Dambra, Kathua

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today visited the construction site of the High Security Prison coming up at Dambra, Tehsil Mahanpur in Kathua district and reviewed the progress of ongoing works.

The Chief Secretary took stock of the progress of various components of the project. He was apprised that work on different sections of the prison complex besides other related buildings and amenities is nearing completion.

He asked for completing the remaining works at the earliest while ensuring adherence to the prescribed quality standards.

Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti; DGP Prisons



Deepak Kumar; Special DG (Coordination), S.J.M. Gillani; Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar; Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma; SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma; ADC Kathua Mahima Madan; ADC Billawar Vishavjeet Singh; SP High Prison Jail Dambra Rahul Charak and other concerned officers were present during the visit.

3rd National Lok Adalat held at Reasi

REASI, SEPTEMBER 13: The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi, under the aegis of National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority, successfully organised the 3rd National Lok Adalat of the year 2026.

The Chairman, DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Khalil Choudhary inaugurated the Lok Adalat in presence of Chief Judicial Magistrate Geeta Kumari; Secretary, DLSA Pooja Gupta; Munsiff Shivali Sharma, President District Bar Association Pawan Dev Singh along with other executives of bar and bar members, staff of District Court, PLVs and litigants etc.

In all, 16 benches were constituted with Bench no.1 presided over by Principal District & Sessions Judge Khalil Choudhary with Munsiff Shivali Sharma as bench member; Chief Judicial Magistrate Geeta Kumar presided over Bench No 2 with Addl Special Mobile Magistrate Aastha Sharma as bench member, Bench no. 3 was presided over by Sub Judge Katra Sidhant Vaid with Adv. Pawan Khajuria as bench member, Bench no. 4 was presided over by Munsiff Katra Vishal Bharti along with Adv Parvesh Kant, Bench no 5 was presided by Munsiff Mahore Himan-



shoo Atri Advocate Imran Akram as bench member, Bench no. 6 was presided over by ADC with ACR, as bench member, Bench no.7 was presided over by ACD with BDO as bench member, Bench no. 8 was presided over by Assistant Director Food & Supply, with TSO, Reasi as bench member, Bench no. 9 was presided over by Assistant Labour commissioner with Adv Rishav Sharma as bench member, Bench no. 10 was presided over by Tehsildar along with Naid Tehsildar as bench member, Bench no. 11 was presided over by District Social Welfare Officer, along with Tehsil Social Welfare Officer as bench member, Bench no. 12 was presided

over by E.O Municipal Council with Assistant LADC Dheeraj Singh Thakur as bench member, Bench no. 13 was presided over by Secretary Zilla Sainik Welfare Board with Assistant LADC, DLSA Ranjeet Singh as bench member, Bench no. 14 was presided over by DFO along with Forest Range Officer as bench member, Bench no. 15 was presided over by Assistant Director Fisheries along with Inspector Fisheries as bench member and Bench no. 16 was presided over by ARTO, Reasi along with Motor Vehicle Inspector as bench member. All the benches so constituted worked tirelessly to dispose of the maximum number of cases.

A total number of 1795 cases were taken up, out of which 793 cases were disposed of amicably resulting in a settlement of Rs. 22071210.

The cases disposed of included Matrimonial cases, NI Act cases, Civil Cases, Criminal Compoundable cases, Bank recovery cases, MACT Cases, Consumer Disputes, Pre-Institution Litigation in Commercial Matters, Pre-litigation cases etc. The National Lok Adalat aimed to provide a platform for amicable settlement of disputes, promoting justice and reducing pending cases. The DLSA Reasi has achieved the objective by settling a significant number of cases through the Lok Adalat.

HP Governor pays obeisance at Maa Jwalamukhi Temple

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The Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh Shri Kavinder Gupta today paid obeisance at the revered Maa Jwalamukhi Temple and sought the blessings of Maa Jwala ji.

The Governor offered prayers and prayed for peace, prosperity and the well-being of the people of Himachal Pradesh and the nation.

He also prayed for the good health and long life of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and for his continued leadership in taking the nation forward on the path of progress and development.

Shri Kavinder Gupta said that the sacred temples



and pilgrimage sites of Himachal Pradesh are not only centres of faith and devotion but also an integral part of the State's rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

He emphasised the need to preserve and promote the State's religious traditions, ancient heritage and spiritual legacy.

The Governor appreciated the arrangements at the temple and conveyed his best wishes to the devotees and the people of Himachal Pradesh.

Director FCS&CA directs crackdown on unfair trade practices

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Director Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Rajesh K. Shavan today reviewed the functioning of the Department in district Rajouri at a meeting with the field officers.

A range of issues, including advance three-month ration distribution, 100% LPG e-KYC, issuance of SK-Oil licences and departmental infrastructure were discussed in detail.

At the outset, Tehsil Supply Officers apprised the Director of the tehsil-wise status of ration distribution and LPG e-KYC.

The Director instructed the officers to ensure 100% completion of LPG e-KYC and complete the distribution of three months' ration by September 15, with close monitoring of lifting and distribution. Progress on the issuance of SK-Oil licences and other supply-related matters was also reviewed.

Later, the Director inspected departmental stores and godowns at Sunderbani, Thana- mandi, Rajouri and other locations. He took stock of infrastructure,



storage capacity and other requirements at each facility.

Officers were directed to identify facilities requiring repair, renovation or augmentation and prepare DPRs, wherever necessary, for taking up their upgradation with the concerned agencies.

Emphasising the importance of accountability and responsiveness at the field level, the Director called for sustained efforts to safeguard consumer interests, ensure smooth supply of essential commodities and deliver efficient services to the public, leaving no scope for laxity in the implementation of departmental responsibilities.

Rana inaugurates projects, lays foundation stones for new works in Salwah

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In a major push to strengthen basic infrastructure and improve access to essential public services in the Salwah area, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated several completed development projects and laid the foundation stones for a number of new works in the sectors of road connectivity, drinking water, education and healthcare.

The initiatives are aimed at addressing the key infrastructure needs of the people and improving the delivery of essential services, particularly in rural and underserved areas.

During his visit to Salwah block, the Minister also inspected various ongoing development works and took detailed stock of their physical and financial progress. He was informed that development projects worth approximately Rs 70 crore are presently under execution in Salwah block.

Reviewing the status of these works, he directed the concerned officers and executing agencies to ensure their timely completion while maintaining the highest standards of quality. He stressed that all development projects must be executed strictly in accordance with the prescribed technical specifications and within the stipulated timelines so that the intended benefits reach the people at the earliest.

Rana called for close coordination among the departments and executing agencies, along with regular field-level monitoring, to identify and resolve bottlenecks promptly.

"Development is meaningful only when it translates into tangible improvements in the daily lives of people. Our priority is to ensure that essential infrastructure and public services reach every community, particularly those living in rural, remote and underserved areas," he said.

The Minister inaugurated the macadamized Nakka Salwah Road, completed under the Cities and Towns Scheme at a cost of Rs 90 lakh. The im-



proved road is expected to provide safer and smoother connectivity to local residents while facilitating the movement of people and goods.

Rana also inaugurated the newly constructed school building at Middle School, Khorbani Salwah, completed under the CDF Scheme at a cost of Rs 20 lakh. The building is expected to provide improved classroom infrastructure and a more conducive learning environment for students. The Minister underscored the importance of strengthening the educational

infrastructure, noting that adequate and modern facilities are essential for promoting quality education and creating better opportunities for the younger generation.

"These completed works reflect our commitment to convert the development plans into visible and tangible outcomes on the ground. Better roads, improved educational infrastructure and strengthened public facilities are essential for inclusive development and for improving the quality of life of our people," Rana said.

As part of the new development initiatives, Rana laid the foundation stone for the Nakka Salwah-Nar Tarkhana road, to be constructed under the SAsCI scheme at an estimated cost of Rs 240 lakh. Once completed, the road is expected to improve connectivity for habitations along the route and provide residents with better access to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, markets and other essential services.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for the Sub Centre Building at Salwah,

which will be constructed under the District CAPEX Budget at an estimated cost of Rs 45 lakh. The proposed health facility will strengthen the local primary healthcare network and improve access to basic medical services, particularly for residents who presently have to travel longer distances to avail themselves of healthcare facilities.

Giving further impetus to drinking water infrastructure, Rana laid the foundation stones for three important Water Supply Schemes (WSS) being taken up under UT CAPEX: These included WSS Pathanteer at an estimated cost of Rs 150 lakh, WSS Salwah Ghutna, at an estimated cost of Rs 89.50 lakh and WSS Salwah estimated at a cost of Rs 633.52 lakh..

Once completed, these projects are expected to augment the existing drinking water infrastructure and help meet the water requirements of the local population.

"Ensuring safe, adequate and reliable drinking water to every household is among the foremost priorities of the Omar

Abdullah-led Government. We are committed to strengthening water supply infrastructure, particularly in rural and underserved areas, while ensuring that projects are completed efficiently and provide tangible and lasting benefits to the people," said the Minister.

As part of the "People's Participation for a Better J&K" initiative, the Minister also interacted with the local residents, students and other stakeholders at Government Higher Secondary School, Salwah.

During the interaction, the participants highlighted a range of issues relating to road connectivity, drinking water supply, healthcare, education and other basic amenities.

The Minister assured them that the issues raised would be examined on priority and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

Rana called upon the officers to maintain close engagement with the people and ensure that development initiatives are implemented in a transparent, efficient and time-bound manner.