

Satish, Nasir highlight importance of Sporting Platforms for Youth at BIG Premier League



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 15

Minister for FS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Science and Technology Satish Sharma and Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, today highlighted the importance of providing sustained platforms to young sporting talent and strengthening the sports ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir while attending the opening day of the Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 at Bakshi Stadium, Srinagar.

The Minister and the Advisor interacted with participating teams and players and appreciated the organisers for bringing together emerging cricketers from across Jammu and Kashmir through the league.

Satish Sharma said that sporting events such as the BIG Premier League provide young people with an important platform to demonstrate their talent, discipline, determination and competitive spirit.

He said that the Government is committed to promoting sports at the grassroots level and creating an enabling environment

where talented youngsters can pursue their sporting aspirations and potentially make sports a career.

“Jammu and Kashmir has immense sporting talent, and our responsibility is to provide our youth with the right facilities, opportunities and platforms to realise their potential. Events like the BIG Premier League give young cricketers an opportunity to compete, gain experience and showcase their abilities before a wider audience,” the Minister said.

Satish Sharma congratulated the organisers, participating teams, players and partners for the initiative and expressed hope that the league would inspire more youngsters to take up cricket and other sporting disciplines with dedication and professionalism.

He said that besides promoting competitive sport, such tournaments also contribute towards building discipline, teamwork, leadership qualities and a positive outlook among young people. Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani said that the Government attaches considerable importance to encouraging youth participation in

sports and providing emerging talent with opportunities to compete at a higher level.

He appreciated the initiative for bringing together the sporting community and said that well-organised leagues provide young players with valuable exposure and experience while also creating greater public interest in sports.

“The talent among our youngsters is immense. What is required is a sustained ecosystem of competition, coaching, exposure and encouragement. Platforms like the BIG Premier League can play an important role in identifying and nurturing promising cricketers,” the Advisor said.

Nasir Aslam congratulated Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council, 92.7 BIG FM, participating teams and all partners for organising the tournament and wished the players and teams success for the competition. The opening ceremony was also attended by Haseeb Ul Rehman, DIG Traffic Kashmir, representatives of participating teams, tournament partners and members of the organising team.

The opening match of the

tournament saw Sultan Warriors Baramulla register a convincing seven-wicket victory over Valley Fresh Cold Chain.

Sultan Warriors Baramulla won the toss and elected to field first. Chasing the target set by Valley Fresh Cold Chain, Sultan Warriors completed the run chase comfortably to begin their tournament campaign on a winning note.

Lakhan Bharti was the star performer for Sultan Warriors, scoring an impressive 72 runs and also claiming a wicket. He was adjudged Player of the Match for his all-round contribution.

The second match of the opening day featured United Imports Srinagar and Royal Goodwill Cricket Club, with United Imports Srinagar winning the toss and electing to field first.

The Greenlam Laminates BIG Premier League 2026 is being organised by 92.7 BIG FM in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Sports Council. Eight teams are participating in the tournament, with the league stage scheduled from September 15 to 20, followed by the quarter-finals on September 21, semi-finals on September 22 and the grand finale on September 23.

The tournament is supported by Greenlam Laminates as Title Partner; Excise Department, J&K as Powered By Partner; J&K Forest Department, Quereshi Kabab Corner and Kanwal Spices as Co-Powered By Partners; J&K Bank as Official Banking Partner; Arsh Autos as Auto Partner; Le Delice as Food Partner; JK Sports Time as Streaming Partner; Rising Kashmir as Print Partner; The Country Side Resorts as Hospitality Partner; and Team Ideation as Event Partner.

Javid Dar reviews Forest, PMGSY projects in Rafiabad, emphasizes timely execution of road projects

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 15

Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a detailed review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing Forest and PMGSY road projects in Rafiabad constituency.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir; Chief Engineer, PMGSY, Kashmir; Conservator of Forests, North Kashmir; Superintending Engineer, PMGSY; DFOs Langate and Baramulla besides other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took a detailed review of the status of ongoing road connectivity projects being executed under PMGSY and other Capex-funded schemes in Rafiabad and adjoining areas. He sought project-wise updates from the concerned officers, with focus on the pace of execution, completion timelines and issues hampering the progress of works.

Emphasizing the impor-



tance of road connectivity in accelerating development, Javid Dar said that effective implementation of public welfare and development projects is closely linked with reliable connectivity, particularly in rural and far-flung areas. He directed the concerned officers to ensure the timely completion of all ongoing road projects under PMGSY and other Capex funds within the stipulated timelines while maintaining quality standards and ensuring judicious utilization of public funds.

The Minister called for greater coordination among the concerned departments to address bottlenecks, streamline the execution process and ensure that the benefits of developmental schemes reach the people without delays.

Highlighting the considerable tourism potential of Rafiabad and its adjoining areas, Javid Dar stressed the need to create and upgrade infrastructure to facilitate tourism-related activities and promote local economic opportunities. He underscored that infra-

structure development in the region must be pursued in a balanced and sustainable manner, ensuring that the ecological balance, natural beauty and forest identity of the area are preserved.

“Development and environmental conservation must go hand in hand. Our endeavour should be to create modern infrastructure while protecting the rich natural resources and forest wealth of the region,” the Minister maintained.

He called for coordinated planning and execution of road and other infrastructure projects so that developmental needs are met without compromising environmental sustainability.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to examine the pending issues on priority and ensure that all necessary clearances are processed expeditiously to avoid delays in the execution of important public infrastructure projects. He called for close coordination between the Forest and PMGSY departments to resolve inter-departmental issues, accelerate ongoing works and improve road connectivity in Rafiabad and adjoining areas.

Javid Dar attends national launch of Swachh Seva Aankalan, discusses SHS 2026 preparations

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 15

Minister for Agriculture Production & Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today participated virtually in a high-level meeting convened by the Union Ministry for Jal Shakti regarding the launch of Swachh Seva Aankalan (SSA) framework and the planning and preparatory arrangements for upcoming Swachhata Hi Seva (SHS) 2026 campaign in rural areas.

The meeting was chaired by Union Minister for Jal Shakti, C. R. Patil and attended by senior officers of the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Union Ministry for Jal Shakti. From the J&K government, Anoo Malhotra, Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, along with other senior officers of the Directorate of Rural Sanitation, participated in the meeting.

On the sidelines of the meeting, the Union Jal Shakti Minister formally launched the Swachh Seva Aankalan (SSA) framework.

During the interaction, Javid Ahmad Dar briefed the Union Minister on the preparations being undertaken by Jammu and Kashmir for Swachhata Hi Seva 2026. These included planned activities aimed at strengthening the community participation, promoting behavioural change, improving cleanliness and waste management practices besides ensuring visible and sustainable sanitation outcomes across rural areas.

The Minister highlighted that J&K has al-



ready initiated preparations for the campaign and is working on a range of innovative, community-centric and convergence-based activities involving Panchayati Raj Institutions, rural communities, field functionaries and concerned departments. He also apprised the Union Minister of the preparations being undertaken at the grassroots level to make SHS 2026 impactful and inclusive across J&K. The sanitation arrangements and practices adopted by Jammu and Kashmir during the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra were lauded by the Union Ministry during the meeting.

The J&K Yatra sanitation model was appreciated as a good practice, with its framework being considered for replication in other States and Union Territories.

The meeting reviewed measures to strengthen rural sanitation services, improve monitoring mechanisms and ensure sustained improvement in sanitation outcomes at the Gram Panchayat level.

Swachh Seva Aankalan (SSA) is an annual digital self-assessment framework for declared ODF Plus (Model) Gram Panchayats, covering key parameters including sustainability of ODF status, solid and liquid waste management, implementation of the Solid Waste Management Rules, 2026, visual cleanliness, operation and maintenance of sanitation assets and functionality of Community Sanitary Complexes. The assessment will be validated through Gram Sabha deliberations to ensure community participation, transparency and accountability.

Javid Dar stressed the need for sustained efforts to strengthen sanitation services at the grassroots level and ensure effective and timely delivery of government initiatives to rural communities.

He called for coordinated efforts among concerned departments, Panchayati Raj Institutions and field functionaries, with greater community participation to achieve the objectives of SBM-G Phase II. He also assured the Union Minister that Jammu and Kashmir is fully geared up for both Swachh Seva Aankalan and Swachhata Hi Seva 2026. The administration has initiated comprehensive planning.

and preparatory activities to ensure their effective implementation and make the campaigns a grand success across the Union Territory.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of Srinagar Ring Road Phase-II & IIA

GANDERBAL, SEPTEMBER 15:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today chaired a meeting to review various issues pertaining to the ongoing Srinagar Ring Road Phase-II and Phase-IIA projects in the district, with focus on removal of bottlenecks, traffic management and timely execution of the projects.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the issues concerning shifting of various structures falling within the Ring Road alignment.

The meeting also reviewed the traffic management plan proposed by NHAI during project construction.

The Deputy Commissioner directed NHAI authorities to adopt a coordinated approach to minimize traffic congestion and ensure smooth movement, particularly during emergencies. The Traffic Police, Police, Revenue authorities and NHAI were directed to undertake a joint ground



assessment and formulate a comprehensive and foolproof traffic management plan.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed all concerned agencies to maintain close coordination and ensure strict adherence to the timelines fixed during the meeting. He stressed that all identified issues must be resolved expeditiously so that ongoing development works are not hampered and public inconvenience is minimized.

The DC emphasised that public safety, smooth traffic movement and uninterrupted progress of the Ring Road projects must remain the priority and called upon all concerned departments and executing agencies to ensure prompt action on the decisions taken during the meeting. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Traffic Police, Superintending Engineer R&B Department Circle Ganderbal, Project Director

NHAI, Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Ganderbal, Executive Engineer KPDCL Ganderbal, Executive Engineer Projects Ganderbal, Executive Engineer Irrigation & Flood Control Ganderbal, Executive Engineer PHE Ganderbal, Executive Engineer TLMD Bemina (Ganderbal), Executive Engineer PDC (NGHEP) Ganderbal, Tehsildar Ganderbal, Sub Divisional Engineer BSNL Ganderbal, besides other concerned officers.

JKEDI Srinagar, Amar Singh College organize Startup Idea Challenge 2.0

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 15

The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), District Srinagar, in collaboration with Amar Singh College, Srinagar, organized Startup Idea Challenge 2.0 under the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

The programme witnessed participation of students and young entrepreneurs from Amar Singh College Srinagar, SKUAST-K, IUST, Central

University of Kashmir and Kashmir University, Zakura Campus, who presented innovative business ideas before the expert panel.

Prof. (Dr.) Tehmina Yousuf, Principal, Amar Singh College, Srinagar, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. In her address, she appreciated the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of the participants and encouraged them to pursue innovation-driven ventures.

Dr Naila Khanday, Faculty JKEDI and Shabir Hussain Shah, District



Officer JKEDI Srinagar, emphasized the role of innovation and creativity in nurturing startups at grassroot levels.

The expert panel was chaired by Dr Naila Khanday, Faculty JKEDI, Shabir Hussain Shah, District Officer, JKEDI Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Altaf, HOD Commerce, Amar Singh College; Prof. Shahzad Ahmad Bhat, Assistant Professor, Commerce; Tabish Shah, Senior Executive Manager, J&K Bank; Nazia Shafi, Communication Associate,

JKEDI; along with team members from JKEDI District Centre Srinagar.

Shabir Hussain Shah briefed the participants about the key features of J&K Startup Policy 2024-27 and various support measures offered by JKEDI including mentorship, incubation, seed funding assistance and co-working facilities.

The initiative aims to provide a platform to budding innovators to transform their ideas into viable entrepreneurial ventures.