

Leverage strengths, address challenges for high-value handicraft exports: CS

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 17

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review the newly framed Action Plan for Promotion of Export of Handicrafts and Handloom Products, aimed at scaling up the Union Territory's textile and apparel exports from the present base of 7800 crore to ₹2,000 crore by 2030.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir/Jammu; Managing Director, J&K Handicrafts (S&E) Corporation; Director, Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT); representatives from NIFT and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary stressed the need for a thorough analysis of the sector's strengths, competitive advantages and challenges before finalising the implementation framework. He also directed the Department to identify challenges for immediate resolution and dovetail your competitive advantages for boosting exports of high value craft products. He called for a year-wise strategy up to 2030, with clearly defined targets, measurable milestones and timelines to ensure systematic progress towards the export goal.

Dulloo also directed the department to prepare a comprehensive plan focusing on capacity building, infrastructure upgradation, establishment of clusters and effective organisation of artisans and craftsmen. He also advised the formulation of a detailed blueprint to leverage incentives and



schemes of the Government of India, while designing suitable UT-specific interventions to achieve the objectives in a time-bound manner.

Emphasising the importance of sound planning, the Chief Secretary observed that the assessments and projections underlying the Action Plan should be scientific, evidence-based and founded on robust data, as the quality of these assessments would directly influence the outcomes.

On this occasion the Commissioner Secretary, I&C, Vikramjit Singh highlighted the outline of the strategic framework developed by the Department for the period 2026–2030 which seeks to align the national export vision with coordinated UT- and district-level interventions.

The Commissioner Secretary also underscored the Jammu and Kashmir's improved trade readiness, noting that the UT had risen from 36th position in 2020 to 2nd position in 2024 in the national Export Preparedness Index among Small States, North-Eastern States and Union Territories.

He further added that the proposed framework comprises the State Export Action Plan (SEAP) and District Export Action Plans

(DEAPs), with interventions tailored to the competitive strengths of individual districts.

The Action Plan as elucidated by the Director, Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam envisages substantial expansion of the export ecosystem by 2030, with the active registered exporter base targeted to increase to 15,000, against the present 269 active RCMC exporters and a potential pipeline of around 1,000 users.

It further aims to ensure 100 per cent GI-QR tagging of exports for enhanced authenticity and traceability, promote ₹100 crore in e-commerce exports through focused digital onboarding and market-access interventions, and raise Free Trade Agreement (FTA) utilisation to over 50 per cent, from the current level of below 20 per cent.

The department also presented a phased implementation framework comprising immediate, medium-term and long-term interventions. Immediate priorities over the next 0–2 years include scaling up the Artisan Credit Card, establishing Export Textile Planning Cells under TexRAMPS and launching the unified “Soulful J&K” GI branding campaign.

Additionally the Medium-

term interventions over 2–4 years include introducing ESG and EUDR compliance certifications for more than 100 manufacturing units and establishing raw material banks to strengthen the production and export ecosystem.

Moreover the Action Plan proposes to leverage the benefits of key Central Government schemes of the Ministry of Textiles, including the Rebate of State and Central Taxes and Levies (RoSCTL) and SAMARTH, the scheme for capacity building in the textile sector. It also envisages utilising the J&K Export Subsidy Scheme, 2021, under which eligible exporters are entitled to an export subsidy of 10 per cent, subject to a maximum of ₹5 crore per exporter, to strengthen the competitiveness of local products in international markets.

Concluding the meeting, the Chief Secretary underscored the importance of sustained institutional coordination, robust monitoring and effective implementation of the Action Plan to strengthen Jammu and Kashmir's export ecosystem, enhance the global reach of its traditional crafts and secure sustainable livelihoods for its approximately 4.50 lakh artisans and craftsmen.

Workshop on Interlinking of Budget with SDGs held at Civil Secretariat in Srinagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 17

A workshop on “SDG Budget Tagging & Outcome-Oriented Financing Framework” was held today at Civil Secretariat, here with the objective of strengthening the linkage between the public expenditure, budgetary allocations and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The workshop was presided over by the Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Finance, Shailendra Kumar and attended by senior officers including DG Budget, DG Codes, DG Resources, DG Audit & Trainings (A&T), Director SDG, Director DED-II, Directors Planning and Directors Finance of various Administrative Departments, besides resource persons from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

The event focused on the need to move from SDG monitoring to SDG financing by linking identified development gaps with appropriate schemes, budgetary allocations and measurable outcomes.

It was emphasised that SDG Budget Tagging would not involve creation of a sep-



arate SDG budget. It would instead bring an SDG perspective to the existing budgetary framework, enabling better assessment of whether public expenditure is addressing the identified development gaps and delivering intended outcomes.

The participants deliberated on mapping of existing UT Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes with relevant SDG Goals and Targets to promote convergence, avoid duplication and identify financing gaps. The exercise is aimed at strengthening the linkage between resources, expenditure and development outcomes.

Emphasis was also laid on outcome-oriented planning, with departments to prepare SDG-wise Action Plans covering identified gaps,

targets, interventions, beneficiaries, responsibilities, resources, indicators and timelines. These Action Plans are proposed to be aligned with the Annual Budget formulation process, so that SDG priorities become an integral part of the regular planning and budgeting cycle.

The workshop also deliberated on integration of the existing SDG Dashboard with IFMIS for improved tracking of expenditure against SDG priorities, without creating any parallel financial system.

The UNDP Team apprised the participants of its proposal covering three broad pillars including Evidence-to-Action, SDG Financing and Institutional & Capacity Building. The proposal is presently under examination.

The workshop highlighted the important role of Master Trainers in operationalising the SDG Budget Tagging framework at the departmental level. They will facilitate departmental sensitisation, scheme and expenditure mapping, outcome-based budgeting and inter-departmental convergence.

The workshop concluded with a clear roadmap to measure progress, identify gaps, plan interventions, converge resources, finance priorities, implement actions and measure outcomes.

The departments will prepare SDG-wise Action Plans aligned with the Annual Budget cycle, along with scheme mapping, sensitisation and integration of the SDG Dashboard with IFMIS.

District-Level Committee reviews relief cases under Central Assistance Scheme in Poonch

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Coordination-cum-Screening Committee to review and scrutinize relief cases under the Central Scheme for Assistance to different Civilian Victims including Cross-Border Firing and Mine/IED victims.

The Committee examined the cases placed before it and reviewed the relevant records and



supporting documents submitted by the applicants/beneficiaries. The members discussed the verification of cases, medical documentation, eligibility of beneficiaries and

other prescribed requirements under the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure thorough verification of all cases, timely completion of

formalities and strict adherence to the prescribed guidelines, so that eligible beneficiaries receive assistance without unnecessary delay.

The Committee also emphasized close coordination among the concerned departments for verification and processing of the cases and directed the officers to submit the requisite reports/documents within the stipulated time frame.

The meeting concluded with directions for expeditious disposal of eligible relief cases in accordance with the applicable rules and guidelines.

DDC Poonch reviews Progress of PMGSY, PWD and NABARD Works

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 17

The District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting today to review the progress of developmental works being executed under PMGSY, PWD and NABARD schemes.

During the meeting, a detailed review of the physical and financial progress of various road and infrastructure projects across the district was undertaken. The District Development Commissioner was apprised about the status of the works, including completed roads, ongoing works and the progress of



different stretches of roads.

The meeting also reviewed issues related to

road execution, pending works, forest clearances, financial progress and utilisation of funds under the UT Capex Budget.

The DDC stressed upon the concerned executing agencies to maintain close coordination and ensure that all ongoing developmental works are completed within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the required quality standards.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, concerned officers of PWD/R&B, PMGSY, NABARD and Forest Department, besides other officers associated with the implementation and monitoring of the developmental works.

DC Ramban reviews implementation of E-Waste, Solid Waste Management measures

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 17: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alias Khan today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of E-Waste Management and Solid Waste Management measures across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; ACD Imran

Naik; Tehsildar Headquarters Reejuta Mahajan; Divisional Officer PCC Mukesh Singh Bali; CEO Municipal Council Sudarshan Jamwal; Executive Officers of Municipal Committees of Batote and Banihal. The Tehsildars, Block Development Officers and other concerned officers attended the meeting virtually. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner

held a detailed review of the measures being undertaken for effective implementation of e-waste and solid waste management practices in rural and urban areas of the district. He reviewed the status of construction and functioning of rural Solid Waste Management. He emphasized the importance of generating public awareness regarding cleanliness, source

segregation and responsible waste disposal practices.

He called for greater community participation to ensure sustainable waste management and improved sanitation across the district. The ACD, BDOs, CEO of Municipal Council and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees were asked to take measures for virtual inspection of dumping sites.

NC calls for youth unity on Statehood, urges immediate recruitment to save age-barred aspirants

JAMMU SEP 17: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) Central Zone, comprising the districts of Jammu, Samba and Kathua, on Thursday held an organisational meeting at the Zonal Office to chalk out the party's strategy for the forthcoming Panchayat and Urban Local Bodies (ULB) elections.

The meeting was held under the chairmanship of former minister and Central Zone President Babu Rampaul. Zonal Secretary and Coordinator, JKNC, Dr. Vikas Sharma, organised the meeting. The meeting also featured detailed deliberations on various public issues requiring the urgent attention of the government.

Addressing the meeting, Rampaul emphasised the need for the party organisation to remain closely connected with the people and give priority to their genuine concerns. He urged party workers to regularly visit their respective areas, listen to public grievances and make sincere efforts to ensure that people's issues are taken up through the appropriate forums.

The senior National Conference leader called upon the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to unite on a common platform and collectively raise their voice for the restoration of statehood.

He said that both Hon'ble Prime

Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah had made commitments in Parliament, outside Parliament and before the Supreme Court regarding the restoration of statehood, but the promise had not yet been fulfilled.

He also said that the youth should reflect deeply on the situation in Jammu and Kashmir before August 5, 2019, and compare it with the present circumstances. He said that such a comparison is important to understand the changes that have taken place and to recognise the challenges facing the people, particularly the younger generation.

He emphasised the need for the youth to remain united and raise their concerns through democratic and peaceful means. He said that the struggle for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood should continue within the framework of the Constitution and through democratic institutions.

He said that restoration of statehood is closely linked with the aspirations and future of the people, particularly the younger generation, and that greater employment opportunities and avenues for youth development must remain a priority.

He expressed concern over the grow-



ing unemployment situation and said that the aspirations of thousands of educated young people cannot be ignored. He emphasised the need for sustained efforts to create employment opportunities and provide the youth with a secure and dignified future.

He welcomed the recent decision of the Jammu and Kashmir Government to refer vacant posts in various departments to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) for initiating the recruitment process.

He said the decision was a positive step towards creating employment opportunities for educated and unemployed youth in Jammu and Kashmir. He appreciated the government for moving ahead with the process of filling vacant positions through the prescribed recruitment mechanism.

people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Former Minister said the forthcoming Local Body and Panchayat elections would provide an important opportunity for the party to reconnect with the people, understand their aspirations and work collectively towards strengthening democratic institutions at the grassroots level.

Highlighting the achievements and initiatives of the government, he said important steps had been taken towards improving public services, strengthening infrastructure, promoting development and addressing the day-to-day concerns of the people.

He urged party workers to take information about government initiatives and welfare measures to the people and ensure that eligible beneficiaries were fully aware of the schemes and programmes available to them.

Commenting on the prevailing situation, Dr. Vikas Sharma expressed concern over what he described as the lack of adequate representation of local people in several important positions and institutions in Jammu.

Referring specifically to the university in the Jammu division, Dr Vikas Sharma expressed strong concern over the appointment of non-locals in the education sector, particularly in Jammu and Kashmir's universities.

“This trend is blocking employment opportunities for highly qualified local youth and creating a sense of discrimination among the educated youth of Jammu and Kashmir,” he noted. The party demanded a fair and transparent recruitment policy with preference to local candidates.

The meeting also discussed various organisational matters, including strengthening coordination among different units, increasing the participation of youth and women, and ensuring greater representation and involvement of grassroots workers in organisational activities.

The meeting concluded with a resolve to further strengthen the organisation, expand its grassroots presence and work collectively towards addressing public issues while preparing effectively for the forthcoming Local Body and Panchayat elections.

Those who spoke on the occasion included Adv. Rajinder Chanyal, Sham Lal Mehra, OM Dalmotra, Thoru Ram Mandi, S.P. Bharatwaj (Retd. DC), Rahul Mahajan, Bharat Bhushan, Dr. Gourav Bharat, Bishan Dass (Retd. SP), S. Surjeet Singh Sasan, Navid Raja, Arvind Jamwal, Birbal Sarpanch, Hemraj, Shakel Ahmed, Manohar Lal and others.