

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates multiple development projects at Pampore

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Minister for Education, Social Welfare and Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Pampore Constituency and inaugurated multiple development projects, aimed at strengthening the educational, healthcare and public service infrastructure in the area.

The Minister was accompanied by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Pampore, Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi; MLA Tral, Rafiq Ahmad Naik; MLA Pulwama, Waheed Ur Rehman Para and MLA Rappora, Ghulam Mohi Uddin Mir.

Earlier in the day, the Minister inaugurated the District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Pulwama main building at Pampore. The project is expected to provide enhanced facilities for teacher education, training and capacity building.

On the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that strengthening the institutions dedicated to teacher training is essential for improving the quality of school education and equipping teachers with the knowledge and skills required to meet the emerging educational needs. She highlighted that government is committed towards modernising the education sector and creating better institutional facilities for students, teachers and other stakeholders. She said that investments in educational infrastructure, coupled with continuous professional development of teachers, are important for building a responsive and future-ready education system.

On the occasion, Minister also distributed regularisation orders among 17



CPWs. She described the step as an important measure towards the welfare and professional security of the concerned workers and highlighted the government's commitment to strengthening social welfare mechanisms and ensuring support to personnel working in this sector.

Later, Sakeena Itoo along with the accompanying MLAs, inaugurated the Science Laboratory Block at Government Degree College (GDC) Pampore.

Addressing the gathering in the auditorium of GDC Pampore, the Minister said that a college is not merely a physical structure but an institution that shapes the intellectual, social and professional growth of young people. She emphasised the need to make higher education more responsive to the changing aspirations of students and the evolving requirements of the employment landscape.

Referring to the year-on-year increase in enrolment at GDC Pampore, Sakeena Itoo appreciated the college faculty and staff for their efforts in strengthening the institution and creating a conducive academic environment.

She said that the growing enrolment reflects increasing interest among the students in pursuing higher education locally.

The Minister said that the students possess considerable talent and potential and stressed the need for a skill-oriented and innovation-driven curriculum that enables them to translate academic learning into practical capabilities. She also called for sustained efforts towards creating a safe, comfortable and inclusive campus environment where the students can pursue their studies with confidence.

She urged the college authorities to continue encouraging co-curricular activities, innovation and skill development alongside academics so that students are better prepared for higher studies, entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

Sakeena Itoo also released the 2nd issue of biannual college newsletter "Shakh-e-Zaffran" and unveiled "Oneirataxia," a collection of poems authored by Dr. Gazala Gayas, Principal, Government Degree College Pampore.

During the visit, the Minister was accompanied by Director Colleges, J&K; Director Health Services Kashmir; Additional Deputy Commissioner Awantipora; Joint Director, SCERT; Chief Education Officer Pulwama; Chief Medical Officer Pulwama; District Social Welfare Officer Pulwama; and Tehsildar Pampore, among other officers and officials.

Subsequently, the Minister visited and inaugurated the New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs) at Mandakpal and Shari Shali, Pampore. She took stock of the facilities available at the newly inaugurated health institutions and reviewed the arrangements being put in place for providing healthcare services to the local population.

The Minister emphasised the importance of strengthening healthcare infrastructure at the grass-roots level and ensuring that people, particularly those residing in rural and underserved areas, have access to essential health services closer to their homes.

strengthening vulnerable areas, restoring damaged infrastructure and building systems that can withstand future floods," Rana said.

Rana lays foundation stone for flood-restoration and riverbank protection works

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today laid the foundation stones for the restoration of 93 water supply schemes across Jammu East and Nagrota constituencies, worth ₹11.29 crore, and a riverbank protection work on the Tawi near Government Degree College, Sidhra, worth ₹3.40 crore.

The 93 water supply schemes were damaged during the August-September 2025 floods, affecting water supply infrastructure in several areas. Their restoration is being taken up under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment



(SASCI) Disaster Mitigation scheme at an estimated cost of ₹11.29 crore. The project aims to restore the damaged infrastructure and strengthen the resilience of water supply systems against future flood-related disruptions, ensuring reliable and uninterrupted drinking water supply to the affected communities.

Rana also laid the foundation stone for a ₹3.40 crore

Tawi river-bank protection work near Government Degree College, Sidhra, under the SASCI scheme.

The project strengthen the riverbank and protect adjoining areas from erosion and flood-related damage.

"Flood protection is not just about responding to disasters; it is about preparing our infrastructure and communities before disaster strikes. Our focus is on

While inaugurating WSSs, the Minister said that ensuring safe and dependable drinking water supply to every household remains a top priority of the Government and that the restoration of flood-damaged infrastructure was being pursued on a mission mode to minimise hardship for the affected population.

L-G VK Saxena hands over appointment letters to 396 new recruits at Rozgar Mela

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
LEH, SEP 17

Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena today handed over appointment letters to 396 newly selected candidates at a Rozgar Mela held at CIBS Auditorium Hall in Choglamsar, Leh, on the occasion of the birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, being celebrated as Sewa Diwas.

The newly selected recruits include lecturers recently selected by the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) and also those who successfully passed the recruitment exams conducted by the Ladakh Subordinate Services Staff Selection Board (LSSSSB), Leh Autonomous Hill Development Subordinate Services Recruitment Board and LAHDC-Kargil Subordinate Service Recruitment Board (KSSRB).

Welcoming the newly appointed government employees, the Lieutenant Governor said receiving an appointment letter is like seeing a dream come true, representing years of hard work, family expectations and the aspiration for a better future. He said the appointment is not merely an employment opportunity but also an opportunity to take on new responsibilities and serve society.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised the Administration's commitment to transparent and accountable recruitment, stating that regular recruitment in



place of ad-hoc appointments is essential for a transparent and accountable system. He said regular recruitment can progress rapidly only when supported by a clear and robust framework.

In this direction, the Lieutenant Governor informed that the Administration has notified or amended 27 Recruitment Rules since March 2026, creating the necessary framework for regular recruitment across various departments.

He said these administrative efforts are now translating into results on the ground. Since March 2026, more than 1,200 appointment orders have been issued in Ladakh, while 1,361 candidates have been recommended for appointment through the UPSC, LSSSSB and District Selection Boards. He further informed that recruitment to 1,507 posts is in the pipeline

for 2026. The Lieutenant Governor also highlighted that employment opportunities extend beyond fresh recruitment and include career growth for those already in government service. He informed that 726 promotions have been made through Departmental Promotion Committees (DPCs) so far in 2026.

Addressing the young recruits, the Lieutenant Governor noted that the Rozgar Mela was being held on the birthday of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, observed across the country as Seva Diwas. He said the appointment letters being received by the young employees on this occasion could also be viewed as a commitment to serve.

Recalling the Prime Minister's emphasis on youth empowerment, the Lieutenant Governor said the vision is to provide every

young person opportunities to work and progress, so that youth are not merely job seekers but also become job creators. The Lieutenant Governor acknowledged the Prime Minister's focus on employment and youth empowerment, stating that these efforts are contributing to inclusive development in Ladakh.

The Lieutenant Governor said the objective of the Administration is not merely to create government jobs but to build a responsive, efficient and people-centric Administration, which provides opportunities for youth while ensuring better service delivery for the people. Congratulating all the newly appointed employees, L-G Saxena expressed confidence that they would discharge their new responsibilities with sincerity and dedication and contribute meaningfully to the development of Ladakh.

JSCL, LEAD launch Jammu Smart City Hackathon to develop solutions for urban challenges

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
LEH, SEP 17

Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL), in collaboration with LEAD (LJK Economic Growth & Development Dialogue), on Thursday launched the Jammu Smart City Hackathon, bringing together innovators, entrepreneurs, startups, researchers and community organisations to develop practical solutions to the city's urban challenges.

The initiative aims to create a platform for connecting innovative ideas with government departments and other city stakeholders, helping develop solutions that are practical, scalable and suited to Jammu's needs.

The hackathon will focus on six broad themes—urban planning, green spaces and public realm; cleanliness, waste management and sustainability; digital governance, mobility and smart infrastructure; tourism, heritage and culture; inclusive communi-



ties and animal welfare and urban resilience and disaster management.

Addressing the gathering, CEO, JSCL, Dr. Devansh Yadav said the hackathon would provide an opportunity to bring together innovative ideas and connect them with the city's development needs, with a focus on solutions that can be practically implemented and scaled.

Registration for the hackathon will remain open from September 17 to 25, 2026. Participants will

go through a structured process involving ideation, mentoring, prototyping and evaluation before presenting their solutions.

Selected participants will also have opportunities for incubation and potential investment support, aimed at helping promising ideas move towards implementation.

As part of the launch, JSCL and LEAD also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to collaborate on various development initiatives in

Jammu. The MoU was signed by LEAD Convenor Harinder Gupta and CEO, JSCL, Dr. Devansh Yadav.

The partnership will cover areas including cultural promotion, startup and entrepreneurship development, innovation and urban and economic development, with a focus on strengthening collaboration between the city administration and Jammu's wider innovation ecosystem.

The launch brought together representatives from academic institutions, industry and the innovation ecosystem, including Dr. Suhaib Batt of MIET Jammu; Dr. Jasvinder Pal Singh and Dr. Harnain Kour of Central University of Jammu; Dr. Raj Kumar V and Dr. Yogesh Nimdeo of IIT Jammu; Dr. Vivek Sharma, Kannav Padha and Druri Sharma of IIM Jammu and Vijay Kumar Raina, Gourav Abrol and Alankrit Mahajan from LEAD.

Others present included Prof. (Dr.) Sarabjeet Singh, Tushar Gupta, Rupesh

Director Agriculture Kashmir inaugurates One-Day Training Programme under Mission Karmayogi

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 17

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, today inaugurated a one-day training programme for the first batch of employees under the Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram, being organised as part of Mission Karmayogi, at the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir, Lal Mandi, Srinagar.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director Agriculture stressed the importance of continuous learning, capacity building and professional development in enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of public institutions. He said that Mis-

sion Karmayogi is an important initiative aimed at nurturing a skilled, responsive and future-ready workforce capable of delivering quality public services.

The Director underscored that the Agriculture Department, being directly connected with the farming community, has a vital responsibility to ensure efficient, transparent and farmer-centric service delivery. He called upon the participating employees to make the best use of the training and incorporate the learning outcomes into their day-to-day functioning.

"Capacity building is a continuous process. Such programmes provide an opportunity to upgrade our



knowledge, strengthen professional competencies and develop a service-oriented

approach towards our responsibilities," the Director said.

He further emphasized the need for greater use of technology, improved coordination and adoption of modern administrative practices to enhance institutional efficiency and ensure effective implementation of various departmental programmes and initiatives.

The training programme is aimed at strengthening the professional, functional and behavioural competencies of employees while fostering a culture of continuous learning, accountability and excellence in public service.

During the programme, participants were oriented

on various aspects of Mission Karmayogi and its competency-based approach, with emphasis on improving workplace efficiency, professional conduct, communication, teamwork and citizen-centric service delivery.

The programme was attended by officers and officials of the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir along with the participating employees of the first batch from other districts also.

The inaugural session concluded with an emphasis on translating the knowledge and skills acquired during the training into improved performance and more effective delivery of services to farmers and other stakeholders.