

DC Kishtwar flags off 5-day Farmers' Exposure Visit to Bhaderwah under CSS-ATMA



KISHTWAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today flagged off a five-day exposure visit of farmers to Bhaderwah under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - Agricultural Technology Management Agency (CSS-ATMA).

A group of 80 farmers, including women farmers,

from different parts of the district are part of the visit, aimed at providing them with practical knowledge, technical guidance and first-hand exposure to modern agricultural and allied farming practices.

During the five-day programme, the farmers will visit Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and the Regional Horticulture Research Sta-

tion, Bhaderwah, where they will interact with experts and gain knowledge about improved agricultural and horticultural technologies.

The programme also includes visits to a trout farm and floriculture units, providing the participating farmers an opportunity to learn about diversified and high-value farming activi-

ties. While briefing the Deputy Commissioner, Chief Agriculture Officer Kushal Chandel highlighted that the exposure visit has been organised to acquaint farmers with advanced technologies, successful farming practices and allied activities, thereby encouraging them to adopt innovative and sustainable approaches in agriculture.

The Deputy Commissioner interacted with the participating farmers and emphasised the importance of such exposure programmes in enhancing their knowledge and skills and promoting diversification in the agriculture sector.

The event was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal, District Agriculture Officer Manzoor Ahmed, SMSDL Vikas Koushal and Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) Dheeraj Singh, besides other officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

JMC Commissioner inspects civic amenities in Preet Nagar

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, SEP 24

Commissioner Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) Dr. Devansh Yadav today conducted an on-ground inspection of Preet Nagar and adjoining areas of Ward Nos. 45 and 52 to assess the civic infrastructure and review the problems being faced by local residents.

During the visit, members of the Mohalla Welfare Committee, Preet Nagar, along with residents of the two wards, apprised the Commissioner of a range of civic concerns, particularly relating to drainage, sanitation, garbage disposal, damaged internal roads and lanes, waterlogging and inadequate wastewater outlets.

The residents explained that several internal lanes have damaged or uneven surfaces and face persistent drainage problems due to blocked drains and inadequate outlets. They said that during rainfall, accumulated water overflows onto roads and lanes, causing considerable inconvenience to residents and commuters and resulting in unhygienic conditions.

Residents of Street No. 6, Ward No. 52, Extension Trikuta Nagar, specifically brought to the Commissioner's notice the blockage of drains on both sides of the street, the damaged culvert and obstruction of the main water outlet. They stated that these issues have severely affected the



drainage of the area and contribute to the accumulation of stagnant wastewater.

The residents also raised concerns regarding inadequate dustbin facilities and indiscriminate dumping of garbage along roadsides and near an open plot being used as a nursery, particularly along the main Preet Nagar road. They requested improved sanitation arrangements and regular monitoring to prevent garbage accumulation and unauthorized dumping.

The poor condition of several internal roads and lanes was another major concern highlighted during the inspection. Residents stated that uneven and damaged surfaces are causing difficulties for school-going children, elderly persons, patients, pedestrians and other residents, while water accumulation during rains further deteriorates the condition of the roads and creates unhygienic surroundings.

The Mohalla Welfare

Committee requested the JMC to take up the repair and reconstruction of damaged lanes, restoration and improvement of drainage infrastructure, repair of the culvert, clearing of blocked outlets, strengthening of garbage collection and disposal arrangements and other essential civic works on priority.

After personally inspecting the affected locations and interacting with the residents, Dr. Devansh Yadav assured the members of the Mohalla Welfare Committee and local residents that their genuine civic concerns would be examined and addressed at the earliest possible.

The Commissioner issued clear and strict directions to the Health and Sanitation Wing to ensure immediate and thorough cleanliness in the affected areas, remove accumulated garbage and strengthen sanitation arrangements to prevent indiscriminate dumping.

The Executive Engineer

was directed to undertake a detailed assessment and formulate a reconstruction and repair plan for the drainage system, including measures for repairing the damaged culvert, clearing blocked drains and restoring the proper flow of wastewater. He was also directed to deploy pothole-filling machines for immediate repair of damaged roads and lanes wherever required.

Dr. Yadav stressed that the issues identified during the inspection should not remain confined to paperwork and directed the concerned officers and field staff to ensure visible improvement on the ground through coordinated and time-bound action.

The Commissioner further emphasized that regular field inspections and direct interaction with residents are essential for identifying civic deficiencies at the grassroots level and ensuring that public grievances are addressed promptly and effectively.

CS reviews implementation of new Labour Codes in J&K

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 24: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting to assess the status of the implementation of the four new Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir, directing the concerned departments to expedite the remaining formalities and ensure a smooth transition to the new regulatory framework.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Chief Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Law; Secretary, Labour and Employment; Labour Commissioner, J&K; and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the overall progress, the Chief Secretary appreciated the steps taken by the Labour and Employment Department and directed the concerned departments to strictly adhere to the prescribed timelines. He emphasised the need for timely completion of the remaining statutory and administrative formalities to ensure the effective implementation of the new Labour Codes in Jammu and Kashmir.

He underscored that the transition to the new framework should strengthen workers' welfare and social security while promoting transparency, industrial harmony and a more efficient regulatory environment for industrial establishments across the Union Territory.



During the meeting, the Secretary, Labour and Employment Department, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan gave a detailed presentation on the progress achieved in implementing the four Codes, namely the Industrial Relations Code, 2020; Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020; Code on Social Security, 2020; and Code on Wages, 2019.

He apprised the meeting about the new framework that consolidated 29 existing labour laws into four Codes to strengthen workers' welfare, improve industrial relations and facilitate ease of doing business.

Reviewing the status of rule formulation, the Chief Secretary was informed that Jammu and Kashmir has already notified the rules under the Industrial Relations Code and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code. The rules under the remaining two Codes are in the final stages of notification.

The Department further informed that the draft rules under the Code on Social Security and the Code on Wages had been pre-published following the necessary approval of the Lieutenant Governor, attracting 27 and five objections respectively. Additionally these objections have been examined and are being disposed of, with the Department targeting submission of the rules for final publication within the next ten days.

The meeting was further informed that administrative notifications under all four Codes have been framed and submitted to the Law Department for statutory vetting. The requisite notifications are proposed to be issued soon after reception from the Department of Law.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the Department's preparedness for transitioning to a unified digital compliance and grievance redressal system through the Central Government's Shram Suvidha and

Samadhan portals. He was informed that J&K has already conveyed its consent to the Ministry of Labour and Employment, Government of India, for onboarding onto the Shram Suvidha portal and furnished the requisite banking details to facilitate digital transactions.

Moreover it was divulged that the Shram Suvidha portal will provide a single-window platform for registration, licensing, filing of annual returns and inspections, while the Samadhan portal will enable workers and employers to register, track and seek resolution of industrial disputes and grievances online.

It was informed that the Ministry is presently undertaking the necessary customisation and revamping of both platforms to facilitate their seamless integration with J&K's compliance systems and ensure their effective implementation for the benefit of stakeholders across the Union Territory.

CEO inspects EVM warehouse in Reasi; reviews security protocols

REASI, SEPTEMBER 24: Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu and Kashmir, Sanjeev Verma, today visited Reasi and conducted the quarterly inspection of the warehouse/Strong Room designated for secure storage of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and other election-related materials.

District Election Officer Reasi Kumar Abhishek, Deputy DEO Akshay Rajan, ACR Nitin Verma, CPO Narinder Kumar and other concerned officers were present during the inspection. Representatives of all recognised political parties also participated in the inspection.

The Chief Electoral Officer had a comprehensive review of the security arrangements and infrastructure at the warehouse, including CCTV surveillance, access-control mechanisms, power supply, fire-safety measures and other requisite security provisions. He assessed the overall preparedness of the facility and reviewed the



measures instituted to ensure the safety and integrity of election-related materials.

Emphasising the critical importance of secure storage and strict procedural compliance, Sanjeev Verma underscored the need for full adherence to the guidelines and protocols prescribed by the Elec-

tion Commission of India for the security, storage and maintenance of EVMs and Strong Rooms. He stressed the importance of round-the-clock security, continuous surveillance, effective access control and meticulous compliance with all prescribed procedures.

The CEO also inspected

the site identified for construction of a new warehouse for storage of election-related materials. He reviewed the suitability of the proposed site and assessed the infrastructure and other requirements necessary for development of the facility in accordance with the prescribed standards.

KVK Bandipora-1 hosts RAWE Students for Field-Based Agricultural Learning

BANDIPORA, SEPTEMBER 24: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, SKUAST-Kashmir, hosted students of the Faculty of Agriculture (FoA), Wadura, under the Rural Agricultural Work Experience (RAWE) Programme 2026, providing them with classroom learning, field exposure, practical demonstrations and opportunities for interaction with farming communities.

The B.Sc. (Hons.) Agriculture Batch 2023 students have been deputed to KVK Bandipora-1 from September 21 to October 18, 2026, to undertake prescribed RAWE activities and gain practical exposure to agricultural extension, field-level technologies and farmer-oriented activities.

Dr Tariq Sultan, Head, KVK Bandipora-1, briefed the students on the objectives of the RAWE programme and the role of KVKs in agricultural technology dissemination, farmer capac-

ity building and extension. He encouraged them to participate actively in the programme and gain practical knowledge through field demonstrations and interaction with farming communities. The programme included technical presentations, interactive sessions and practical demonstrations. The students were introduced to key activities of KVK Bandipora-1, including Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs), On-Farm Trials (OFTs), method demonstrations, result demonstrations, training programmes and farmer-oriented extension activities.

As part of the field exposure, the students visited the Lotus, Makhana and Water Chestnut Demonstration Plots, besides other ongoing demonstrations at the KVK. They were briefed on crop establishment and management practices, crop diversification, horticulture, protected cultivation and aquatic

agriculture. The field visits provided an opportunity to relate classroom concepts to agricultural practices under local conditions.

Dr Bilal Ahmad Zargar, SMS (Agricultural Extension), KVK Bandipora-1, oriented the students on agricultural extension approaches, farmer interaction and technology dissemination, while Shabnum Mumtaz, SMS (Plant Protection), provided guidance on pest surveillance, plant protection and integrated crop protection practices.

The scientific staff of KVK Bandipora-1 facilitated the classroom and field sessions and interacted with the students on various aspects of agricultural technologies and their application under field conditions. The students were also encouraged to understand farmers' practices, constraints and opportunities through direct interaction with farming communities.

Workshop on Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan under VB-G RAM G Act held at Baramulla

BARAMULLA, SEPTEMBER 24: A workshop on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) under the Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Aajeevika Mission (Gramin) (VB-G RAM G) Act, 2025 was held today at Dak Bungalow, Baramulla, with Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Baramulla, Mudasir Hussain, presiding over the workshop.

The workshop was aimed at sensitising officials and stakeholders about the VGPP framework and key provisions of the VB-G RAM G Act, with emphasis on participatory, bottom-up and integrated planning at the Gram Panchayat level. The Act envisages preparation of Viksit Gram Panchayat Plans through the Gram Sabha, ensuring that local priorities and development requirements are identified and incorporated into village-level plans.

During the workshop, detailed dis-

cussions were held on the major provisions of the Act, including the enhanced statutory guarantee of 125 days of wage employment to eligible rural households in a financial year. Participants were also briefed about the four major thematic areas under the framework-water security, core rural infrastructure, livelihood-related infrastructure, and special works for extreme weather events and disaster preparedness.

The workshop also highlighted the importance of convergence and saturation-based planning to address development gaps and create durable and productive rural assets. The VGPP framework seeks to bring together different development programmes and interventions through a coordinated planning process at the Gram Panchayat level.

Speaking on the occasion, the ACD highlighted the significance of the VB-G RAM G Act, 2025 in strength-

ening rural livelihoods, employment opportunities and village-level infrastructure. He emphasised the need for close coordination among Panchayati Raj Institutions, Gram Sabhas, line departments and field functionaries for effective implementation of the new framework.

He stressed the importance of preparing realistic and need-based VGPPs through active community participation, ensuring that the plans reflect the priorities of local communities and contribute to sustainable and resilient rural development.

The ACD further highlighted that the VB-G RAM G framework seeks to link employment generation with durable asset creation, livelihood enhancement and improved rural infrastructure, contributing to the broader vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.