

Div Com Kashmir conducts Extensive Tour of SRR Phase-I from Galandar to Narbal

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: In a bid to expedite the ongoing works on Srinagar Ring Road (SRR) Phase-I, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg today conducted an extensive inspection of the 46-kilometre stretch from Galandar to Narbal to assess the progress of the project and address issues hampering its timely completion.

The Divisional Commissioner was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioners of Pulwama and Budgam in their respective jurisdictions, besides Project Director NHAI, SSP Traffic Rural, engineers from KPDC, PTCL, PHE, R&B and I&FC, DFOs, contractors and NHAI advisor.

At the outset of the tour, the Project Director NHAI briefed the Divisional Commissioner on the status of various components of Phase-I. It was informed that 143 culverts, 23 minor bridges, 3 major bridges, 18 light vehicular underpasses, 2 flyover-cum-interchanges, 6 overpasses, 12 syphons and 107 HPCs have been completed so far.

During the inspection, the Divisional Commissioner visited several locations along the alignment and reviewed ongoing works, including the shifting and height clearance of transmission towers, construction of underpasses and connectivity to artillery roads.

He directed KPTCL to undertake parallel works for the erection of new transmission towers to minimise power shutdowns during the shifting process and avoid inconvenience to the general public. He also called for augmentation of the workforce to ensure that the stipulated timelines are met.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the Project Director, NHAI, to take up the matter of bridge load testing with NIT on priority so that the process is completed without unnecessary delay.

He also stressed the need to establish road connectivity to NIFT and the airport in consultation with all concerned stakeholders, including the Airport Authority, Air Force and BSF. He called for resolving all associated issues in advance through coordinated efforts among the departments concerned.

At the conclusion of the tour at Narbal, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir said that Phase-I of the Srinagar Ring Road extends for 46 kilometres from Galandar to Narbal.

He said that the primary objective of the visit was to assess the progress of the project, review the issues affecting its execution and identify measures to facilitate the contractors in completing the works within the stipulated timeline.

Regarding the completion schedule, he said that efforts are being expedited to make the Phase-I stretch motorable by the end of December. He added that local representatives and MLAs have also been raising the issue of early completion of the project to provide service to the people.

On the issue of transmission towers, the Divisional Commissioner said that NHAI had highlighted the



Fertilizer Wholesalers Meet held at Jammu

JAMMU, SEPTEMBER 26: The Fertilizer Wholesalers Meet 2026 was organised at Jammu today, witnessing the participation of fertilizer wholesalers, dealers, retailers, representatives of leading fertilizer companies and officers of the Agriculture Department. The meeting provided a common platform to the Agriculture Department, fertilizer companies and trade representatives to deliberate on the measures for strengthening the fertilizer supply chain and ensuring timely availability of quality inputs to the farming community. The participants discussed the issues concerning availability of quality fertilizers, distribution, stocking, regulatory compliance and coordination among stakeholders.

Director Agriculture Jammu (Controller Fertilizer J&K) Anil Gupta inaugurated the event as the Chief Guest in presence of Director Law Enforcement J&K Balbir Singh; Joint Director Agriculture Jammu



(Extension) Idrees Bashir Ahmed; Assistant Director Law Enforcement Jammu, Kuldeep Singh; SSM, IFFCO J&K Dr. D. K. Singh; SMS (DL) Santosh Bhat other officers, besides heads and representatives of leading fertilizer companies participated in the meeting.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests, followed by a welcome address by Vivek Verma of IFFCO.

Addressing the gathering, the Director Agriculture Jammu underscored the critical importance of maintaining an efficient, transparent and farmer-centric fertilizer supply chain across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that ensuring timely availability of quality fertilizers to farmers remains a priority of the Agriculture Department.

The Director instructed the concerned officers and representatives of fertilizer companies to ensure adequate stocking and timely supply of fertilizers across all districts as per demand. He further stressed the importance of maintaining complete transparency in distribution channels, strict adherence to prescribed regulatory norms and compilation of comprehensive and accurate district-wise data regarding fertilizer availability and consumption.

The Director also interacted with fertilizer wholesalers and listened to their concerns and issues related to supply, distribution and field-level operations. He assured that genuine operational issues would be examined through the appropriate mechanism while reiterating the need for strict compliance with prescribed norms.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Himanshu Shrivastava of Chambal Fertilisers and Chemicals Limited (CFCL).

Work on EMRS Hubbi Kotranka in full swing

RAJOURI, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today inspected the progress of work on Eklavya Model Residential School coming up at Hubbi Kotranka.

The functionaries from Public Works Department-executing agency, gave a detailed account of progress on the Academic Block, Boys Hostel-cum-Kitchen & Dining Hall, Girls Hostel, Residential Quarters and Principal's Residence.

After reviewing the status of the works, the Deputy Commissioner directed the SE PWD(R&B) to expedite the pace of work and hand-over the Academic Block, Boys Hostel and Girls Hostel to the school management before March 2027. "The Girls Hostel must have a separate internal boundary wall to ensure the safety, security of students," he directed. The issue of water supply and external power supply to the campus was also discussed. The concerned Executive Engineers were directed to take measures to provide connections for the supply before March 2027 to facilitate smooth functioning of the campus. The Deputy Commissioner further directed



DC Anantnag chairs 35th NCORD meeting, directs sustained action against drug menace

ANANTNAG, SEPTEMBER 26: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired the 35th meeting of the Narcotics Coordination Committee (NCORD) at the DC Office Complex, Anantnag, to review the measures being undertaken to combat drug abuse, strengthen enforcement, intensify awareness and ensure effective rehabilitation support across the district.

Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for sustained, coordinated and field-oriented action by all concerned departments and enforcement agencies to effectively tackle the drug menace. He called for stronger inter-departmental coordination, particularly in identified drug hotspots, and directed the concerned departments to ensure that vulnerable individuals are promptly identified and connected with counselling, treatment and rehabilitation services.

The DC emphasized that enforcement against drug peddling and illicit cultivation must go hand in hand with preventive measures, awareness generation, counselling and rehabilitation. He directed all stakeholders to maintain close coordination and ensure regular monitoring of vulnerable areas.

The DC also directed the Executive Officers of Municipal Committees to conduct regular drives against the growth of cannabis plants in public places, including riverbanks, parks, roadsides and other urban areas. The concerned officers were asked to undertake regular field visits and ensure that public spaces do not become vulnerable spots for drug-related activities.

The Tehsildars were directed to ensure immediate identification and destruction of illicit cannabis cultivation in their respective jurisdictions and to coordinate closely with the Police Department for identification and legal action against persons involved in illegal cultivation.

Dr. Bilal stressed the importance of strengthening database management and field-level intelligence, besides ensuring effective handholding of Lambardars, Chowkidars and other field functionaries so that information regarding illicit cultivation, drug abuse and related activities reaches the concerned authorities promptly.

The meeting also reviewed the progress achieved under the 100 Days Nasha Mukht J&K Campaign and the action taken on the directions issued during previous NCORD meetings. Representatives of various departments and institutions briefed the chair about the measures undertaken since the last meeting to curb drug abuse and generate awareness about its harmful effects.

The Principals of Government Degree Colleges informed the meeting that CCTV cameras have been installed in college campuses, while frisking, regular monitoring and visits to college premises are being undertaken to ensure a safe and drug-free environment for students. Awareness programmes and other preventive measures are also



CS for leveraging SBM-U for cleaner, greener J&K

SRINAGAR, SEPTEMBER 26: With Jammu and Kashmir making significant headway in modernising waste management and strengthening civic infrastructure under SBM-U and AMRUT 2.0, the Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting to review the progress of these flagship Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) aimed at transforming the Union Territory's towns and cities into cleaner, greener and more sustainable urban centres.

The meeting was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department; Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporations; Managing Director, J&K Housing Board; Director ULBs, Kashmir/Jammu; Chief Engineer, UEED; Chief Town Planner, Jammu/Kashmir; and other senior officers of the Department.

While speaking the Chief Secretary emphasised that the Swachh Bharat Mission must go beyond creating sanitation infrastructure to bring about a visible and lasting improvement in urban cleanliness, public health and the overall quality of life of citizens here.

He underscored that cleanliness is a basic necessity, assuming even greater significance in Jammu and Kashmir being a tourist area and given its ecologically sensitive environment and the imperative of preserving its fragile ecosystems.

He underscored that the success of



SBM would ultimately be measured by cleaner neighbourhoods, efficient waste management and sustained behavioural change. He urged ULBs to actively engage communities and ensure that the infrastructure created under the mission delivers tangible benefits to the public.

The Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD), Mandeep Kaur took this occasion to present a comprehensive status of both the flagship urban development programmes, apprising the meeting of significant progress in scientific waste management, urban water security, wastewater treatment, legacy dumpsite remediation and technology-driven town planning.

She also highlighted the financial utilisation, timelines for ongoing works and measures being taken to achieve the targets within the stipulated schedules.

The Commissioner, JMC, Devansh Yadav, who is also the MD, SBM (Urban) & AMRUT, while talking over the presentation revealed that under SBM-U 2.0, against a total Phase-II allocation of ₹692.12 crore, expenditure of ₹96.97 crore has been recorded, with ₹57.95 crore available for ongoing works during the current financial year.

Elaborating further he apprised the meeting that the implementation of SBM-U 2.0 has achieved a significant progress here especially in dry waste

processing, bio-remediation of legacy waste and establishment of waste-to-resource facilities.

It was revealed that out of the 78 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) targeted for setting up Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs), 62 have completed the works, while the remaining 16 are targeted for completion by December 2026.

Additionally the meeting was informed that the 225 TPD Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) plant of Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has achieved 50 per cent physical progress. Meanwhile the 300 TPD CBG plant proposed by Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) is presently under an extended bidding process.

In the Construction & Demolition (C&D) waste management sector, the 65 TPD JMC facility has been completed and is undergoing trials, while the 125 TPD SMC facility has achieved 95 per cent physical progress and set for completion by this year.

On legacy waste remediation, out of a total target of 26.29 lakh metric tonnes, 13.29 lakh MT has already been bio-remediated. JMC is scheduled to clear its remaining 0.80 lakh MT by October 2026, while complete remediation in the Kashmir Division is targeted by December 2026. Similarly work on the bio-remediation of 10.20 MT balance legacy waste of SMC is going on round the clock to be completed in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was also informed that treated wastewater from the Mehdi Kadal and Pahalgam STPs is being reused for irrigation of floriculture fields, promoting sustainable water-use practices.

With respect to AMRUT 2.0, the MD, divulged that a Central Assistance of ₹867 crore has been secured by the UT under this Mission, with works amounting to ₹852.90 crore already allotted. He further added that during the current financial year 2026-27, ₹113.51 crore has been utilised out of ₹150 crore released so far.

The meeting was informed that J&K has completed all 22 approved water-body rejuvenation works, marking a significant milestone in the restoration and revival of urban water resources.

Moreover of the 65 approved water supply schemes under AMRUT 2.0, seven have already been completed, while 30 are targeted for completion by December 2026 and another 18 are scheduled for completion by March 2027.

Under the 'Jal Hi Amrit' initiative, against an incentive of ₹10.50 crore sanctioned for 14 Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs), five works have been completed. The STPs had also been incorporated with advanced systems including SCADA and Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS).

The meeting was further informed about the progress under the GIS-based Master Plan for Class-II towns, being implemented at a cost of ₹22.50 crore in collaboration with the Survey of India. Drone-based mapping has already been completed for 14 towns, while mapping of all 18 identified towns is scheduled for completion by October 2026.

It was also highlighted that the Community participation has also emerged as an important component of the urban transformation initiatives. In this

direction Five Self-Help Groups (SHGs) had been engaged under the AMRUT Mitra initiative completing 100 per cent of the targeted 78,000 water-quality tests. Another 11 SHGs are undertaking green-cover initiatives and have so far planted 798 trees around sensitive water bodies and dumping sites.

Under sanitation workers' welfare initiatives, H&UDD has profiled 7,422 Sanitation Response Workers (SSWs) and distributed 713 specialised PPE kits. As many as 627 workers have been covered under Ayushman Bharat Health Cards, while the National Sanitation Helpline 14420 is fully operational, the meeting was apprised.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the department's initiatives under the Clean Himalayan and Hill Cities Initiative (CHHCI), under which ₹22.37 crore is being deployed across key ecotourism destinations.

At Katra, initiatives include container-based Pink Toilets and development of a plastic-free green corridor towards the Railway Station. In the same vein at Pahalgam and Patnitop, automated road sweepers, Reverse Vending Machines and women-friendly smart toilets are being introduced. Initiatives planned for Gulmarg/Tangmarg and Bhadarwah include a Waste-to-Wonder Park, eco-friendly SHG-based packaging and CCTV-enabled waste monitoring systems.