

Sakeena Itoo lays foundation stones for development projects in Kulgam

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today visited Kulgam and laid the foundation stones for various developmental projects in Banimullah and adjoining areas.

The projects, spanning road connectivity, education and healthcare sectors, were initiated in her presence.

During the visit, the Minister also held a public outreach camp in the remote and far-flung areas of the district to assess the public grievances and strengthen the healthcare, education and road infrastructure.

The Minister laid the foundation stone for a Health Sub-Centre at Zangalpura, to be constructed at a cost of Rs 29 lakh by the R&B Sub-Division, Devsar. She also laid the foundation for a double-storey, six-room school building at Banimullah, to be established with an earmarked cost of Rs 95.88 lakh.

In addition, she laid the foundation stone for the 1.53-km Banimullah road, estimated to cost Rs 382.80 lakh and for an AYUSH Centre at Chandergi, Banimullah, coming up at a cost of Rs 29.12 lakh, aimed at enhancing access to healthcare and traditional systems of medicine for the local population.

The projects are aimed at strengthening the developmental infrastructure in the area and improving access



to essential public services, including healthcare, education and road connectivity.

Sakeena Itoo interacted with the local people and enquired about development and welfare issues and the availability of government services being extended to them. She listened to the concerns raised by the people and stressed the importance of ensuring effective delivery of public services at the grassroots level.

The Minister directed the executing agencies to ensure that the projects are executed in line with the set

regulations. She instructed the officers to regularly monitor the progress of the works and ensure their timely completion.

The Minister was accompanied by Director School Education Kashmir, Naseer Ahmad Wani, Director Health Services Kashmir, Dr. Nighat Yasmeen, Director AYUSH, Ajay Kumar Tikoo, Assistant Commissioner Development Kulgam, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, Chief Education Officer Kulgam, Chief Medical Officer Kulgam, Executive Engineer R&B Kulgam and other concerned officers.

Speaker Inaugurates 2.4-Km Inner Link Roads at Tangnar Sheikhpura

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Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today inaugurated the development works of inner link roads at Tangnar Sheikhpura, Chadoora, covering a total length of 2.4 kilometres and executed at an estimated cost of Rs. 25 lakh.

The newly developed road links are aimed at improving connectivity within the area and providing better and more convenient transportation facilities to the local population. The development of the inner link roads is expected to facilitate the movement of residents, students, farmers and other commuters, besides strengthening connectivity with adjoining areas.

Speaking on the occasion, Speaker emphasized the importance of strengthening basic infrastructure and improving road connectivity in rural areas. He said that well-developed road infrastructure is essential for ensuring better access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services, while also contributing to the overall socio-economic development of communities.



He stressed on the executing agencies that development works should be executed in a timely manner and in accordance with the prescribed quality standards so that the benefits reach the people at the earliest. He also called upon the concerned agencies to ensure proper maintenance of the infrastructure after completion.

Later, Speaker Abdul Rahim Rather laid the foundation stone for a bridge connecting village Dharamsala Khampora Saria with village Wanpora.

The proposed bridge is expected to provide an important connectivity link between

the two villages and ease the movement of local residents. Once completed, it will improve accessibility and facilitate smoother transportation, particularly for people who presently face difficulties in crossing the existing route.

The Speaker said that the bridge would address a long-standing connectivity requirement of the people of the area and contribute to improving communication between the adjoining habitations.

He underscored the importance of taking up infrastructure projects based on the genuine requirements of the local population and ensuring that such works are completed within the stipulated timelines.

He further stated that development of road and bridge infrastructure remains crucial for improving the quality of life in rural areas and creating better opportunities for economic activity and public services.

Local residents and representatives expressed their appreciation for the initiation of the development works and the bridge project, stating that improved connectivity would provide considerable relief to the people and facilitate easier movement between the concerned villages.

DC reviews progress of District plan, CSS Works in Poonch District

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District Development Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting of the developmental departments and executing agencies to assess the physical and financial status of ongoing and new works taken up under the current District Capex Budget and Central schemes across different sectors.

The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of Dak Bungalow, and was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Amarjeet Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; PO ICDS Fareed Kohli; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Muhammad Sayeed; Assistant Commissioner Development Shakeel Ahmed Malik, besides other concerned district officers, Executive Engineers, Block



Development Officers and representatives from various executing agencies.

The DDC undertook a comprehensive department-wise, block-wise and executing agency-wise review of the progress of developmental works. Detailed discussions were held on current status of works, including allotment, tendering, ongoing works,

new works, completed works and financial expenditure.

The meeting also reviewed the progress of works under Aspirational Blocks, Swachh Bharat Mission and other centrally sponsored programmes.

The concerned officers and executing agencies apprised the DDC of the current status of works under

their respective jurisdictions, including the number of works taken up, allotment and tendering status, works in progress and works completed.

The DDC also reviewed the uploading of physically and financially completed District Plan works for FY 2025-26 on the respective District e-Compendium Portal, along with mandatory geo-tagged photographs.

The DDC directed all concerned officers, particularly the Executive Engineers and executing agencies, to expedite the allotment and tendering of works and ensure timely execution and completion of all ongoing works.

He further directed the officers to closely monitor works at the field level, remove bottlenecks and ensure that the available funds are utilized efficiently within the prescribed timelines.

JKTPO organizes Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drive in Budgam

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The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) organized an Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce On-boarding Drive at Budgam as part of its scheduled activities for the year 2026-27.

The workshop was conducted in collaboration with the District Administration Budgam, Handicrafts and Handloom Department, District Industries Centre, Budgam, Government e-Marketplace (GeM), Flipkart Samaratha and SBDU Mission Yuva. The event was attended by officers from various concerned departments.

The workshop aimed at empowering local artisans, weavers, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self Help Groups (SHGs), startups and MSMEs of Budgam to leverage e-commerce platforms for wider market access. The workshop witnessed an overwhelming response with participation of over 130 sellers from the district,

dealing in Kani shawls, Crewel Embroidery, MushkBudji Rice, walnuts and other ODOP products of Budgam.

Speaking on the occasion, representative of JKTPO briefly explained about the role of JKTPO and its objectives for promotion of trade and exports from district level and the aim of this workshop is to take district products to national and global markets. This workshop at Budgam is part of our mission to make every district export-ready.

Adil Javaid Khan from Flipkart subsequently delivered a comprehensive presentation on the Flipkart Samarth platform, providing participants with detailed insights into the platform and the opportunities available for artisans and MSMEs.

The session familiarized participants with the various aspects of establishing their presence on Flipkart Samarth and leveraging the platform for reaching wider markets.

Sajid Bashir representative from ONDC-Mission

Yuva highlighted the role of Open Networking platform, registration process and documents required therein. The session also provided an opportunity to participating enterprises to understand the practical benefits of joining the ONDC Network and explore avenues for taking their products to a wider customer base through digital channels.

Ullas Kumar, Branch Manager, Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) explained the role of Credit Guarantee Bank, Credit Risk Insurance and related services for exports and gave a detailed insight on how exporters can safeguard their shipments and money for exports.

During the technical sessions, Maqbool Shah, Senior Consultant, GeM, provided a detailed overview of the Government e-Marketplace portal, explaining the registration process, documentation requirements, and the various benefits available to sellers upon onboarding. He also encouraged entrepreneurs to

leverage the platform for expanding their market reach and accessing government procurement opportunities.

On-spot help desks were established by all three platforms for instant onboarding and document verification. More than 50 sellers were onboarded on-spot on Flipkart, ONDC and GeM during the workshop itself, while 90+ enquiries were registered for further handholding.

The interactive virtual session provided participating enterprises an opportunity to understand the benefits of e-commerce, seek clarifications and gain practical insights into the process of leveraging Flipkart Samarth for their business expansion.

The initiative forms part of JKTPO's continued efforts towards promoting digital adoption, strengthening market access and enabling MSMEs, artisans and other enterprises of Jammu & Kashmir to access wider markets through leading e-commerce platforms.

Free Cataract Treatment Extended to Dharmari Patients by SMVD Narayana Superspeciality Hospital



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Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital (SMVDNSH), Kakryal, has extended specialised eye-care services to residents of remote areas by conducting a free eye screening camp at Dharmari, around 75 kilometres from the hospital.

The outreach camp was organised to facilitate early detection of cataract and other eye-related ailments and ensure timely treatment for patients from peripheral areas. The camp was led by Dr.

Malvika Sharma, Consultant, Ophthalmology, who examined patients and identified those requiring further evaluation and treatment.

Patients diagnosed with operable cataract were subsequently brought to SMVDNSH for definitive treatment. They underwent phacoemulsification with intraocular lens (IOL) implantation under topical anaesthesia. Eligible patients received treatment under the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT scheme, while post-operative medicines were also provided free of cost.

Dr. Malvika Sharma said

cataract is a treatable cause of visual impairment, but people living in remote areas may delay treatment due to limited access to specialised eye-care facilities. She said outreach camps help identify such patients and connect them with appropriate treatment at the right time. Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence, said the hospital's outreach programmes focus not only on screening but also on ensuring that patients requiring treatment are connected with definitive care.

He said schemes such as Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY SEHAT, along with the support of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, are helping make quality healthcare accessible to people living in peripheral and underserved areas.

The initiative reflects SMVDNSH's continued focus on community outreach, early diagnosis and timely access to specialised healthcare, while reinforcing the Shrine Board's commitment to ensuring that geographical distance does not become a barrier to quality medical care.

NHPC Regional Office Jammu felicitates Safai Mitra



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NHPC Regional Office, Jammu felicitated "Safai Mitra" on 26.09.2026 under the 'Swachhata Hi

Seva' program. Shri Anish Gouraha, Executive Director, Regional Office, Jammu, honoured the contractual cleaning staff working at the office. On this occasion, Shri Anish Gouraha said that cleanliness

is a vital task and essential for a healthy life. He noted that the person who clean our workplaces and public spaces, provide us with a hygienic environment, and their work represents true service in

the cause of cleanliness. He emphasized that we, too, should strive to make their work easier by adhering to cleanliness-related guidelines.

A total of 36 Safai Mitra were felicitated on this occasion. Here it is mentioned that the 'Swachhata Hi Seva' program is being organized at the Regional Office, Jammu, from 17.09.2026 to 02.10.2026. Various programs are being organized during this period. Events such as cleanliness awareness drives, essay competitions on cleanliness for students, clean-up activities have been held. The 'Swachhata Hi Seva' program is being organized across the entire NHPC organization.

Shri Pankaj Vashistha, GM(C), Officers & employees were also present on the occasion.