

DC undertakes extensive Tour of Warwan

Reviews Relief measures, dev works, Public Grievances

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 03: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who is on an extensive tour to Warwan in Sub-Division Marwah, reviewed relief and rehabilitation measures, ongoing developmental works and public grievances.

On arrival in Warwan yesterday, the Deputy Commissioner immediately proceeded to Mungli and met the families affected by the recent fire incident. A devastating fire had engulfed a cluster of wooden houses on the intervening night of September 29-30, in which 07 houses were gutted. Fortunately, there was no loss of human life.

The Deputy Commissioner assured the affected families of all possible assistance and support from the administration. He informed them that relief under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) had already been credited to the bank accounts of eligible beneficiaries. Compensation for fully damaged houses, livestock and other eligible losses would be provided as per applicable disaster relief norms. Timber required for reconstruction of the seven damaged houses would also be provided as per applicable provisions.

Immediate relief in the form of kitchen sets, blankets, tents, mattresses, kitchenware, jugs, buckets and other essential items has been provided through the District Red Cross Society. Food and ration kits



have also been arranged, while hydroelectric power project companies have dispatched relief kits under their CSR initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the local community for responding promptly and working together to prevent the fire from spreading. He also appreciated the Sub-Divisional Administration, Police Department, engineering staff and other officials for their immediate response and deployment of machinery, including L&T machines and JCBs.

As a long-term fire-preparedness measure, the Deputy Commissioner proposed establishment of a community-level water reservoir equipped with a water pump and generator set at a suitable central location. He directed the SDM to prepare a Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the same.

Today, the Deputy Commissioner inspected ongoing work on Basmina and Sukhnaie Bridges. He directed the concerned departments to expedite the remaining works and ensure timely completion for the benefit of the local population.

On his return journey, he stopped at Margi village and interacted with local residents and listened to their issues and difficulties. He assured them that their genuine grievances would be examined and taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action.

The Deputy Commissioner thereafter attended a public outreach camp at the Block Development Office, Afti, where members of the public put forth their grievances, demands and issues. The DC gave a patient hearing and directed the concerned departments to provide necessary responses and take appropriate action for timely redressal. A number of issues

were also addressed on the spot.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the administration remains committed to addressing the genuine concerns of people in remote and far-flung areas, ensuring timely completion of ongoing developmental works, effective delivery of public services and necessary assistance to people in distress.

The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Kumar Sharma, CEO KDA Kishtwar Kaiser Bhawani, GM DIC Kishtwar Mohsin Raza, SDM Marwah Dr. Mohd. Ashraf, DSWO/DIO Kishtwar Tariq Parveaz Qazi, DFO Marwah Vishal Chaudhary, CHO Kishtwar Sajid Mustafa, DSHO Kishtwar, Dy. CEO Kishtwar besides other officers and officials from various concerned departments.

DC launches Reforms Utsav in District Kishtwar

Special Gram Sabhas held across All 136 Gram Panchayats

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 03

The Reforms Utsav 2026 was today launched across the District Kishtwar by Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma. The initiative started with Special Gram Sabhas in all 136 Gram Panchayats with the aim to take governance reforms to the grassroots, generate awareness among citizens and eliciting community participation in development planning.

The Reforms Utsav is being implemented through multiple stages, beginning with Jan Manthan that focuses on identification of developmental priorities and seeking suggestions from citizens; Vimarsh, focused on deliberation and identification of actionable reforms and Jan Samadhan, focused on delivering quick-wins and medium-term reforms. The three-month nationwide campaign from October to December will culminate with Sankalp Siddhi from December 25 to 27, 2026, showcasing progress, outcomes and best practices.

The district-level launch was conducted at BDO Office Inderwal, Panchayat Lower Chatroo-B of Block Inderwal, where Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma participated in the Special Gram Sabha and formally launched the Reforms Utsav. He also participated in deliberations on the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP) and Gram Panchayat Development Plan (GPDP).

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted the objectives of the Reforms Utsav to take major governance reforms and citizen-centric initiatives to the people and to provide citizens an opportunity to understand the reforms, assess their impact and identify local development priorities.

He referred to important reforms and initiatives including the three new criminal laws, strengthening of the cooperative sector, digitisation of land records, PMGKAY, Jal Jeevan Mission, VGPP and quality GPDP, among others.

He emphasised that the broader objective of these reforms is to make governance more accessible, transparent, responsive and citizen-centric.

The Deputy Commissioner also explained the significance of the GPDP as an instrument of participatory and decentralised planning. He called upon the people to assess the actual requirements and developmental gaps of their respective Gram Panchayats and ensure that genuine local priorities are appropriately reflected in the GPDP.

Elaborating on the VGPP, the Deputy Commissioner informed the participants that the Perspective Plan provides a comprehensive framework for long-term, saturation-oriented development of Gram Panchayats. The VGPP encompasses 04 Master Work Categories, 30 Sub-Categories and 375 permissible works, providing a wide range of interventions for addressing identified developmental gaps.



Meanwhile, ACD Manoj Kumar participated in the Special Gram Sabha held at Dugga Panchayat of Block Drabshalla, where he interacted with the participants and took part in deliberations on the Reforms Utsav, GPDP and formulation of VGPP.

AAM SC Bitola gears up for NQAS assessment

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Chief Medical Officer Dr Vinod Sharma today visited AAM Sub Centre Bitola in Medical Block Thathri to review the functioning and preparedness of the health facility for the upcoming National Quality Assurance Standards (NQAS) assessment.

During the visit, the CMO took a detailed review of the preparedness and functioning of the health facility with focus on service delivery, infrastructure, documentation and other quality parameters relevant to the NQAS assessment. He interacted with the staff and emphasized the need for maintaining the prescribed standards and completing all necessary preparations well in advance.

The CMO also conducted a routine visit to Community Health Centre Thathri, where he reviewed the overall functioning of the health institution and the delivery of healthcare services.

He interacted with the staff and took stock of the routine activities being carried out at the facility.

BMO Dr Shakeel Ahmed



Kichloo and District Epidemiologist Umar Anayat accompanied the CMO during the visits.

Satish Sharma Undertakes Extensive Development Tour of Chhamb

CHHAMB, OCTOBER 03: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology (IT), Youth Services & Sports, and Science & Technology, Satish Sharma, today undertook an extensive tour of the Chhamb Assembly Constituency, inaugurating and laying foundation stones for a series of development works worth more than 3 Cr aimed at strengthening basic infrastructure, improving connectivity and enhancing public amenities across the constituency.

The day-long programme covered several villages and habitations, with the Minister personally reviewing the progress and requirements of infrastructure works and interacting with local residents.

The development initiatives included roads, culverts, drainage and protection works, community infrastructure and educational facilities, reflecting a



focused approach towards addressing the immediate infrastructure needs of the people.

At Migrant Colony, Kodewala Camp, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for construction of a park and inaugurated the newly constructed drains, aimed at improving the local environment, drainage management and public amenities for residents.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for construction of a link road from Kharah to Thanda Choa, underlining the importance of improved road connectivity for facilitating movement of people and access to essential services.

At Village Kalah, the Minister inaugurated protection works near the house of Madan Lal, Ex-Punch, followed by inauguration of protection works at Mohalla Chatyala. The works are intended to strengthen vulnerable stretches and protect residential and public infrastructure.

At Village Jawan, Satish Sharma laid the foundation stone for construction of a culvert near Atta Chakki and inaugurated a Community Hall.

He said that community infrastructure plays an important role in providing people with accessible spaces for social, public and community activities and called for ensuring that such facilities are completed within stipulated timelines and maintained properly.

At Mohalla Thakur Dass, the Minister inaugurated protection works on the Mageri to Rajani Road, aimed at safeguarding the road and improving its long-term functionality.

The Minister's visit to Dhakkar included multiple important development interventions. He inaugurated protection works on the link road from Narbeda to Dhakkar, inaugurated a Community Hall, and laid the foundation stone for construction of an Examination Hall at Government Higher Secondary School, Dhakkar.

JKTPO hosts Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drives across 4 districts

JAMMU, OCTOBER 3: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), under the aegis of the Industries & Commerce Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has conducted a series of Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drives across Samba, Kathua, Budgam and Pulwama, as part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen the export ecosystem and facilitate wider market access for enterprises across the Union Territory.

The programmes, conducted during September and October 2026, brought together MSMEs, entrepreneurs, artisans, weavers, farmers, SHGs, FPOs, startups and aspiring exporters, with a common focus on creating awareness about export opportunities, improving export preparedness and facilitating access to digital marketplaces.

The initiative is aimed at taking export promotion and market-access

facilitation to the district level and strengthening the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) and One District One Product (ODOP) framework in Jammu & Kashmir. Through such interventions, JKTPO is working to connect locally produced goods and district-specific products with wider domestic and international markets.

The awareness drives focused on key aspects of the export ecosystem, including export procedures and documentation, international market opportunities, export finance, credit risk mitigation, regulatory requirements, government procurement and digital commerce. Participants were also sensitised about opportunities emerging from international trade arrangements, including the India-EU Free Trade Agreement and the importance of improving product quality, packaging, branding and market readiness.

A major component of the pro-



grammes was e-commerce onboarding and handholding, with participants being facilitated for registration and onboarding on platforms such as ONDC, GeM and Flipkart, enabling local enterprises to establish a digital presence, improve product visibility and access a larger customer base.

The programmes also provided a platform for direct interaction between local enterprises and various government departments, export promotion bodies, financial institutions and digital commerce platforms. Representatives and resource persons associated with ECGC, EXIM Bank, FIEO, GeM, ONDC, Flipkart and Mission YUVA, among others, sensitised participants and addressed

their queries relating to exports, finance, risk mitigation, government procurement, entrepreneurship and digital market access.

The district-level outreach is particularly significant in the context of J&K's ODOP initiative, under which district-specific products are being promoted for enhanced market visibility and export potential. By combining export awareness with e-commerce onboarding, JKTPO is facilitating a pathway for local producers and enterprises from formalisation and digital adoption to market access and export readiness.

The initiative also seeks to bridge the information and market-access gap faced by smaller enterprises by providing on-the-spot guidance, institutional linkages and continued handholding support. This approach is intended to enable enterprises to better understand market requirements and progressively integrate

themselves into domestic and international value chains.

The four programmes form part of JKTPO's broader district outreach strategy to build a strong, inclusive and export-oriented enterprise ecosystem across Jammu & Kashmir. The remaining districts of the Union Territory are also being taken up under the initiative and will be covered through similar Export Awareness-cum-E-Commerce Onboarding Drives in the coming months, ensuring wider outreach and access to export-related information, digital platforms and institutional support for enterprises across all districts.

JKTPO will continue to undertake awareness, capacity-building, onboarding and market-linkage initiatives to support local businesses and promote the products of Jammu & Kashmir in national and international markets.