

CS assesses revised Climate Action Plan; calls for time-bound departmental action up to 2030

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 06

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to assess the revised Jammu & Kashmir State Action Plan on Climate Change (SAPCC 2.0), calling for further refinement of the plan by incorporating clearly defined, department-wise actions, outcomes and timelines up to 2030.

The meeting was attended by several Administrative Heads including ACS, PDD; ACS, Tourism; ACS, PWD; Principal Secretary, DMRR&R; Commissioner Secretary, H&ME; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Secretary, Transport; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests; Representatives from MoEFCC and senior officers of the concerned departments.

The revised SAPCC, prepared by the Department of Forest, Ecology & Environment, seeks to provide a comprehensive framework for strengthening climate resilience in J&K while aligning the Union Territory's climate response with India's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), the Paris Agreement and the emerging climate risks specific to the region.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasised that a climate action plan should translate into clear, actionable and time-bound interventions. He directed the department to incorporate the actions to be undertaken by each concerned department, along with their expected outcomes and milestones, over the period up to 2030.

He observed that every plan should have clearly defined goals and a well-laid-out strategy to achieve them



within a specific timeframe. He called for prioritising interventions keeping in view the strengths, constraints, vulnerabilities and available capacities of the UT so that the proposed measures can be implemented effectively on the ground.

The Chief Secretary also stressed greater inter-departmental convergence and dovetailing of climate interventions with ongoing schemes and programmes to optimise resources and avoid duplication of efforts. He called for assigning clear responsibilities and measurable indicators to departments for effective monitoring of progress.

In her presentation, the Commissioner Secretary, Forests, Sheetal Nanda highlighted climate projections based on IPCC pathways, including SSP2-4.5 and SSP5-8.5. She revealed that under the moderate-emission scenario, temperatures are projected to rise by around 1.5°C during 2021–2050, with implications for water resources, agriculture, health and ecosystems.

It was also projected that the annual precipitation is projected to increase by around 5 per cent under the moderate-emission scenario and up to 15 per cent under the high-emission scenario, with the assessment pointing towards shorter cold sea-

sons and greater variability and intensity of rainfall events.

The Commissioner Secretary further detailed out that the climate vulnerability assessment has evaluated 42 indicators across agriculture, water, health and forest sectors, identifying district-specific vulnerabilities and risks to facilitate targeted interventions.

The revised plan proposes 55 emission mitigation strategies, with an estimated mitigation potential of 2.6 million tonnes of CO2 equivalent by 2030.

These include promotion of solar energy, including floating solar plants, greater utilisation of small hydropower and wind energy, strengthening of grid infrastructure, reduction of transmission and distribution losses, promotion of electric mobility and deployment of Intelligent Traffic Management Systems.

Besides, 100 adaptation actions have been proposed across five key sectors along with Disaster Risk Reduction measures. These include expansion of micro-irrigation, achieving universal household tap-water coverage, rainwater harvesting, strengthening health facilities in underserved areas, restoration of degraded catchment forests with native species and construction of retaining walls and other

slope-protection measures at vulnerable locations.

The meeting was also informed about the proposed institutional mechanism under SAPCC 2.0, envisaging a Governing Council headed by the Chief Minister to meet annually and an Executive Council chaired by the Chief Secretary to meet twice a year for overseeing implementation and inter-departmental coordination.

Implementation of the action plan is proposed to be monitored quarterly through a digital dashboard, with departmental nodal officers updating defined Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to track progress against targets.

The Chief Secretary directed that the revised framework should clearly establish who will do what, by when and with what measurable outcome, while ensuring that the interventions are aligned with J&K's specific ecological, geographical and socio-economic realities.

The revised SAPCC 2.0 is proposed to be placed before the State Level Steering Committee (SLSC) for formal approval before its submission to the National Level Steering Committee under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) for its early implementation on ground.

KVK Bandipora-1 hosts First Training Programme on Makhana Cultivation

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Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, SKUAST-Kashmir, in collaboration with the Department of Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir, organised the first in a series of training programmes under the Central Sector Scheme on Development of Makhana at KVK Bandipora-1, Potushai.

The programme aimed to sensitise farmers about the potential of Makhana cultivation and provide technical knowledge on its cultivation, management, harvesting, processing and value addition under Kashmir conditions.

Director, Rakhs and Farms, Kashmir, Ajab Singh Ajeeb, was the chief guest. In his address, he highlighted the immense potential for Makhana development in Kashmir, par-



ticularly in view of the Valley's extensive wetland resources. He emphasised that the available wetlands could be scientifically utilised for developing Kashmir as a potential Makhana hub.

Assistant Director, Rakhs

and Farms, Kashmir, Feroz Ahmad Shapoo highlighted the focus areas and initiatives being undertaken for promoting Makhana in the Valley.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan delivered a detailed presentation on the

scope, cultivation, management, harvesting, processing and value addition of Makhana. He highlighted that Makhana offers considerable scope for wetland-based livelihood diversification, income generation and entrepreneurship, particularly when integrated with other economically important aquatic crops such as Lotus and Water Chestnut.

Farmers from Bandipora and Baramulla districts actively participated in the training and raised queries regarding crop establishment, planting material, management practices, harvesting, processing and marketing of Makhana.

As part of the practical exposure, the participating farmers visited the aquatic crop demonstration and trial plots at the KVK Farm, where they observed ongoing trials and demonstrations of Makhana, Lotus and Water Chestnut.

District Mentor reviews progress of AgriStack, Farmer ID Generation in Tehsil Keller

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District Mentor for Farmer IDs, Najma, IAS Probationer, today visited Tehsil Keller, District Shopian, to assess and review the progress made regarding the creation of Farmer IDs and the implementation of the AgriStack initiative across the Tehsil.

During the inspection, Najma was accompanied by the Tehsildar Keller and Naib Tehsildar Keller.

She interacted directly with field functionaries to evaluate the status, pace, and execution of the ongoing registration work.

The District Mentor stressed upon all concerned Patwaris to accelerate the



creation of Farmer IDs and ensure that all assigned targets are achieved within the stipulated timeframe. She further directed field staff to arrange proper and adequate village-level announcements to ensure all eligible farmers are well-in-

formed and encouraged to generate their Farmer IDs.

Najma emphasised that Patwaris must maintain close coordination with officials from the Agriculture Department to guarantee seamless data verification, accuracy, and timely com-

pletion of the process.

The initiative aims to streamline agricultural administration and ensure government benefit distribution reaches all eligible farmers transparently and efficiently through digitized AgriStack records.

District Admin Budgam conducts eye screening of 65000 students across all Govt schools

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The District Administration Budgam, in collaboration with Nayonika Eye Care Charitable Trust has achieved a significant milestone under the district-wide Children's Eye Health Programme, with 60,500 students screened so far out of 70,280 students in the 6-18 age group.

The comprehensive screening programme aims to ensure early identification of vision-related problems among school-going children and facilitate timely diagnosis and treatment. The initiative is being implemented across schools in the district with the objective of ensuring that no child is left with an undetected vision problem that could affect learning and overall development.

Out of the students screened so far, around 459 children have been identified with suspected visual difficulties. These children will be provided spectacles free of cost, wherever required, and will be referred for further examination and appropriate treatment. Children requiring specialised or surgical intervention will be facilitated



for treatment at higher health institutions, including tertiary-care eye hospitals. The screening process involves preliminary eye examinations at the school level, followed by rescreening and detailed assessment at concerned Sub-District Hospitals and District Hospital, ensuring that children identified with vision difficulties receive appropriate medical attention.

The programme was initiated under the directions of Deputy Commissioner

Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who has emphasised the importance of screening all school-going children in the district. The Deputy Commissioner has stressed that early detection and treatment of vision problems can significantly improve children's participation in classroom learning and educational activities.

The screening of 60,500 children out of 70,280 in the 6–18 age group represents a significant achievement of the District Admin-

istration Budgam and reflects the coordinated efforts of the Health and Education Departments, school-level screening facilitators, Nayonika Eye Care Charitable Trust, Help Foundation J&K and other stakeholders.

The administration remains committed to completing the screening of all eligible school-going children and ensuring timely referral, treatment and provision of spectacles to children identified with vision-related difficulties.

DC Kishtwar reviews functioning of Additional HRT Shalimar Lift Water Supply Scheme

KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 06: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma reviewed the functioning of the additional HRT Shalimar Lift Water Supply Scheme and took note of the issues affecting its completion and operationalisation.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner issued directions to the concerned departments to resolve the pending issues and make the additional

HRT Shalimar Lift functional at the earliest so that the water scarcity issue is resolved.

The GM, NHPC, was directed to allow tapping of the overflow water, which is presently getting wasted and flowing into the nallah and provide the same to the Jal Shakti Department so as to maintain a stable head in the sump tank and ensure judicious utilisation of water for Kishtwar town.

The ExEn, JPDCL Kisht-

war, was directed to immediately remove any tapping or extra connection made from the independent power line provided for the additional HRT Shalimar Lift Water Supply Scheme.

The ExEn, JPDCL Kishtwar, was further directed to provide two transformers by tomorrow — one 400 kVA and one 250 kVA.

The Deputy Commissioner directed both departments (Jal Shakti and JPDCL Kishtwar) to ensure

compliance with the instructions and resolve the issues on priority so that the additional HRT Shalimar Lift Water Supply Scheme, completed under the RR Plan, is made functional at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by ExEn Jal Shakti Kishtwar, Rohit Wadera, ExEn JPDCL Kishtwar, Abdul Hamid, PM DPMU Kishtwar, Er. Fayaz Mehta, GM NHPC Kishtwar and other concerned officers.

DC Kishtwar reviews performance of Banks; Calls for enhancing priority sector lending

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The District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the quarter ending June 2026 was held today. Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired the meeting to review the performance of banks operating in the district during the financial year 2026-2027.

At the outset, Lead District Manager (LDM) Praveen Kumar presented a comprehensive overview of the district's banking performance, highlighting achievements under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP), Priority Sector Lending, Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio and the Government-sponsored schemes.

It was informed that against

the overall annual credit target of ₹131690.79 lakh for FY 2026-27, banks collectively achieved disbursements of ₹25252.23 lakh.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed that all banks need to enhance their contribution towards Priority Sector Lending. He observed that the Priority Sector advances reflect a bank's trust and confidence in its customers and are vital for inclusive economic growth. He directed the Banks to continue progress in Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, which is at 62 per cent and advised them to focus on improving credit flow. "Explore greater lending opportunities in the Renewable Energy and Social Infrastructure sectors to strengthen Priority Sector performance and support sustainable development in the district," he stressed. He



further advised Banks to organize awareness programmes in educational institutions to en-

courage education loan up-

take. The RBI Lead District Offi-

cer directed all the Rural Banks to organize minimum 3 camps per quarter for awareness gen-

eration. Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired the District Level RSETI Advisory Committee (DLRAC) meeting and reviewed the performance of RSETI. An overview was presented on the institute's training programmes, achievements and ongoing initiatives.

The DC directed the AD Employment and CAO for extending hand-holding to individu-

als trained by SBI RSETI so that they can start their own ventures.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; CPO Akhil Thakur; GM DIC Mohsin Raza; ACD Manoj Kumar; ALC/AD Employment Amit Kumar; CAO Kushal Chandel; Manager; J&K Bank Cluster Head, besides other officers and concerned staff from various departments and Banks.

ADC Kishtwar reviews implementation of PMDDKY KISHTWAR, OCTOBER 6: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal today chaired a meeting of the stakeholder departments to review Output Indicators under the Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY).

The ADC emphasized the need for accurate, complete and timely submission of the requisite information. He directed the concerned departments to submit their respective Output Indicators positively by today to facilitate consolidation of data and uploading of the same on the designated PMDDKY portal within the stipulated timeline.

"The information submitted should be factual, properly verified and aligned with the prescribed indicators as the data forms an important component to assess the implementation status of the scheme," he added.