

Mandeep presides over first ever BWG convention; says every generator must own its waste

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 08

A convention for Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs) was today organised by district administration Budgam with the objective of sensitising the business establishments, institutions and other bulk waste generators about their responsibilities under Solid Waste Management Rules and promoting scientific and responsible waste management.

Commissioner Secretary, Housing & Urban Development Department, Mandeep Kaur who presided over the first of its kind convention said that all business establishments and other Bulk Waste Generators have to take responsibility for processing and managing the waste generated by them.

Addressing the gathering, Mandeep Kaur said that waste generators can adopt appropriate mechanisms such as on-site processing, home or institutional composting, or engaging authorised waste collectors or agencies for collection and disposal of waste. She said the practice of dumping waste outside commercial establishments after closure of markets has to change, emphasising that every waste generator must take responsibility for its own waste.

"Municipalities cannot be expected to take responsibility for the waste generated by every establishment," Commissioner Secretary said, adding that waste generators can engage private or municipal agencies for collection and



management of their waste.

The Commissioner Secretary said similar conventions would be organised in every district to create awareness and strengthen implementation of waste management rules in both urban and rural areas. She said the committees constituted under the directions of the Supreme Court and the responsibilities entrusted to Deputy Commissioners would play an important role in ensuring effective enforcement.

Emphasising that public participation is crucial for achieving a clean environment, Mandeep Kaur said people are willing to contribute but systems need to be strengthened and responsibilities clearly assigned. She called upon the welfare associations, societies, organisations, business associations and other stakeholders to establish and implement effective systems for management of the waste generated by them, describing it as an important step forward in the Swachh Bharat journey.

The Commissioner Sec-

retary also urged the local youth to become Swachhta entrepreneurs and create avenues of economic opportunity for themselves and others while contributing towards cleanliness and sanitation.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamar highlighted the importance of strengthening institutional capacity and fixing responsibility at every level. He stressed the need for active participation of PRIs and communities in fulfilling the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission and safeguarding the environment. He also elaborated Budgam's rich natural heritage including Doodhpathri and Shaliganga.

Managing Director, SBM J&K, Dr. Devansh Yadav, gave a detailed introduction to Bulk Waste Generators and apprised the participants of applicable Solid Waste Management Rules and Supreme Court guidelines. He highlighted the provisions related to identification and coverage of BWGs, processing of waste, appropriate disposal and engagement of authorised

waste management agencies.

Earlier, the participants were sensitised about registration through the CPCB portal, engagement of waste entrepreneurs and private vendors and opportunities under Waste to Wealth initiative.

Director, Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, Dr. Fayaz Ahmad Bandy sensitised participants about the role and responsibilities of every citizen in safeguarding fragile environment of Jammu & Kashmir.

A dedicated session on BWGs was conducted by SWAAHA, followed by demonstration of CPCB portal and registration process by SBM(U) PMU. An interactive Q&A session was also held to address queries of the participants.

On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary administered Swachhta Pledge.

All district and sectoral officers, representatives from service sector, hotel industry, schools and other private institutions, restaurant owners, shopkeepers and other business holders attended the convention.

Rana e-inaugurates, lays foundation for forest, wildlife projects worth Rs1.31 cr in Rajouri

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 08

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today e-inaugurated and e-laid foundation stones for four projects under the Forest, Ecology & Environment Departments across Budhal, Thanamandi and Rajouri constituencies.

The projects, funded under UT Capex and having a combined cost of ₹131.71 lakh, are aimed at promoting eco-tourism, providing recreational spaces to local communities and strengthening forest and wildlife protection infrastructure.

The projects included two eco-parks in Nanga Thub (Bakori) and Nambal (Budhal), each being developed at an estimated cost of ₹40 lakh under the Rajouri Forest Division. The foundation stones for both projects were laid in presence of MLA Budhal, Javid Iqbal Choudhary.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for a Forest Check Post at Darhal, to be constructed under the Rajouri Forest Division at an estimated cost of ₹11.71 lakh under UT Capex 2026-27, in presence of MLA Thanamandi, Muzaffer Iqbal Khan.

He also e-inaugurated the Range Office Building at Rajouri, constructed by the Department of Wildlife Protection at a cost of ₹240 lakh, in presence of MLA Rajouri, Iftikhar Ahmed.

Speaking on the occasion,



the Minister said that the projects reflect the Government's commitment to balance the environmental conservation with development while creating quality recreational and eco-tourism facilities for local communities.

Highlighting the importance of eco-parks in Jammu and Kashmir, Rana said that such initiatives promote harmony between nature, forests, wildlife and local communities while creating opportunities for eco-tourism and ecological restoration.

He emphasised the need to develop eco-parks and undertake conservation measures in a manner that safeguards the natural environment while providing quality recreational spaces and sustainable livelihood opportunities for local communities.

"These eco-parks will provide quality public spaces for the people and promote

eco-tourism while the forest check post and Range Office will further strengthen the protection, monitoring and management of our forests and wildlife," he said.

Rana directed the officers concerned to ensure timely completion of the ongoing works and maintain the prescribed quality standards. He asked them to ensure proper upkeep of the facilities after their completion so that these serve the intended purpose and benefit the local population.

The Minister also reviewed the ongoing soil conservation and forest protection measures being undertaken across the concerned constituencies and called for a focused approach towards preventing soil erosion, protecting vulnerable slopes and strengthening measures for conservation of natural resources.

He directed the officers to identify the vulnerable areas on priority and undertake

appropriate soil conservation works in a timely manner, particularly in areas prone to erosion and degradation.

Rana stressed the need for effective coordination between the concerned departments and field functionaries to ensure that conservation measures yield sustainable results on the ground. He directed the officers to closely monitor the progress of works, ensure adherence to prescribed quality standards and complete all ongoing projects within the stipulated timelines. He further called for proper maintenance of the completed facilities and regular field-level monitoring to ensure their optimum utilisation for the benefit of local communities.

Chief wildlife warden, DFO Rajouri, Warden Poonch-Rajouri Range along with other officers were present on the occasion.

Vikas Kundal takes over as Divisional Commissioner Jammu

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 08:

Dr Vikas Kundal today took over as Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, in a formal charge handover and takeover ceremony held at the Divisional Commissioner's Office, Jammu.

The outgoing Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar, formally handed over the charge to Dr Vikas Kundal in the presence of senior officers and officials of the Divisional Commissioner's Office.

A farewell function was subsequently organised in honour of the outgoing Divisional Commissioner, Ramesh Kumar. Senior officers and officials felicitated him and acknowledged his



contributions towards the administration and development of Jammu Division, while conveying their best wishes for his new assignment.

Speaking on the occasion, Ramesh Kumar expressed gratitude to all officers and officials for the cooperation and support extended to

him during his tenure. He described his tenure as satisfying and appreciated the team for its dedication, coordination and commitment in discharging its assigned responsibilities.

He also welcomed Dr Vikas Kundal and expressed confidence in his capabilities and profes-

sional approach. Recalling his earlier association with Dr Kundal, he described him as a dedicated officer and expressed hope that he would carry forward the ongoing work and developmental initiatives in Jammu Division.

Ramesh Kumar urged the officers and officials to extend the same cooperation and support to Dr Vikas Kundal as they had extended to him and conveyed his best wishes to the entire team.

On the occasion, the officers and officials of the Divisional Commissioner's Office conveyed their best wishes to Ramesh Kumar for his new assignment and welcomed Dr Vikas Kundal as the new Divisional Commissioner, Jammu.

J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI organises Industrial Visit for CA Students

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 08

The ICAI - Jammu & Kashmir Branch of Northern India Regional Council (NIRC) successfully organized an Industrial Visit for Chartered Accountancy students today, at the JKMPCL Milk Plant, Srinagar.

Chairman, J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI, Amit Gupta, stated that such industrial visits are an integral part of the Branch's continuous efforts to bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical exposure, thereby enabling CA students to better understand real-

world business and industrial environments.

The visit witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large number of CA students from the Kashmir Valley, who were keen to gain practical exposure to industrial operations, supply chain management, and manufacturing processes in the dairy sector. The visit forms part of the Branch's endeavor to extend its student activities across the Union Territory and to ensure that students in the Valley have equal access to such learning opportunities.

During the visit, Hamid, Plant In-charge, JKMPCL Srinagar, led the students

through the plant and gave them an in-depth overview of the functioning of Jammu & Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL). The students gained valuable insights into the milk procurement system, supply chain management, quality control procedures, dairy product manufacturing processes, and distribution and marketing operations.

The visit provided students with practical exposure to the end-to-end dairy value chain, including the processing of products such as milk, ghee, paneer, and curd, while also highlighting the importance of hygiene standards, quality

assurance mechanisms, and efficient operational management in the food and dairy industry.

The Managing Committee of the Branch, has been taking continuous efforts to provide CA students with practical learning opportunities, which play a crucial role in shaping competent and industry-ready professionals.

The J&K Branch of NIRC of ICAI reaffirmed its commitment towards capacity building, professional development, and industry interaction for CA students and expressed its intent to organise more such knowledge-enriching visits in the future.

District-level JOSH team launched in Kathua to strengthen community participation in TB elimination

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 08

District Tuberculosis Centre (DTC) Kathua today organised a programme to launch the District-Level JOSH Team under the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, with MLA Kathua Dr. Bharat Bhushan as the Chief Guest.

The programme was held in the presence of Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Radha Krishna and Medical Officer Dr. Suman, besides members of the newly constituted JOSH Team and other stakeholders.

The members of the JOSH Team were sensitised to their role and responsibilities in strengthening community participation, awareness and support towards



achieving the goal of a TB-free Kathua.

Addressing the gathering, MLA Dr. Bharat Bhushan appreciated the efforts of the Health Department and all stakeholders engaged in the TB elimination programme. He emphasised the need

for greater community participation, awareness and collective responsibility to realise the vision of a TB-free Kathua.

Appreciation certificates were presented to former Sarpanches of TB-Free Panchayats in recognition of their valuable

contribution towards strengthening TB elimination efforts at the grassroots level. Mementos were also presented to Nikshay Mitras and TB Vijetas for their dedication, support and contribution to the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 08

In a major enforcement drive aimed at curbing the use, sale and distribution of banned polythene and single-use plastic, a team of Municipal Council conducted a series of inspections and raids at major wholesale establishments across Kathua town.

During the enforcement action, the municipal team seized approximately 12 quintal banned polythene material from the premises of wholesalers.

The seized material has been taken into municipal custody for further action under the applicable rules and regulations.

The enforcement drive was carried out to ensure strict compliance with the Plastic Waste Management Rules- 2016 and other applicable provisions governing the manufacture, storage, sale and use of plastic materials.



The Municipal Council has reiterated its commitment to strengthening enforcement against banned plastic and promoting responsible waste manage-

ment practices across Kathua town.

The public, traders and business establishments have been urged to refrain from the use, sale and stor-

age of prohibited plastic items and extend cooperation to the civic authorities in keeping Kathua clean and environmentally sustainable.