

1-Day Training on IDSP–IHIP hosted for Medical Officers, Doctors from GMCs



HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, OCT 12

The State Surveillance Unit- Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) Jammu Division- Directorate of Health Services (DHS) Jammu- organised a one-day training programme for the Medical Officers from all districts of Jammu Division and doctors from Government Medical Colleges of the division.

The objective was to strengthen disease surveillance, early detection of outbreaks and public health response under the IDSP–Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

The training programme was organized under the guidance and support of Director Health Services Jammu

Dr. Poonam Sethi, with the objective of enhancing the technical capacity of healthcare professionals in disease surveillance, outbreak investigation and timely reporting of public health events.

The programme was inaugurated by Deputy Director Headquarters, DHS Jammu Dr. Harbaksh Singh. He delivered the inaugural address and emphasized the importance of effective disease surveillance, timely reporting and coordinated action for the prevention and control of communicable diseases. He highlighted the role of Medical Officers and doctors of medical colleges in strengthening surveillance mechanisms and ensuring prompt public health interventions.

Epidemiologist/State

Surveillance Officer, IDSP Jammu Dr. Rashmi Sharma delivered the welcome address and highlighted the objectives of the training programme, emphasizing the importance of strengthening the IDSP–IHIP framework, improving reporting practices and building capacity for early detection and effective management of disease outbreaks.

Medical Superintendent Government Gandhi Nagar Hospital Dr. Sanjay Arora was also present on the occasion. He extended his valuable support towards the successful conduct of the training programme, emphasizing the importance of strengthening disease surveillance and outbreak response mechanisms.

The technical sessions were conducted by a team

of experts, including Dr. Bhavna Langer, Associate Professor, Department of Community Medicine, Government Medical College, Jammu; Dr. Shehnaz Chowdhary, Medical Officer, Epidemiology Section, DHS Jammu; Dr. Prem Lata, Medical Officer, Epidemiology Section, DHS Jammu; Dr. Simran Nag, State Epidemiologist, IDSP Jammu; and Mr. Ajay Kumar, State Microbiologist, IDSP Jammu.

The training covered key public health topics were- Vaccine-Preventable Diseases (VPDs); One Health under IDSP; IDSP–IHIP, Special Surveillance and Community Reporting; Basic Epidemiology and Outbreak Investigation and Laboratory Component under IDSP;

PMSSS witnesses significant progress in 2026-27; 4715 scholarships allotted so far

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The Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme (PMSSS) has registered a significant progress during the current academic session 2026–27, with 4715 scholarships allotted against the annual target of 5000, thereby achieving 94.3 per cent of the overall target so far.

PMSSS provides students of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh through AICTE counselling process, an opportunity to pursue undergraduate studies in institutions outside these Union Territories, with financial support towards academic fees and maintenance ex-

penses. The scheme aims to improve access to quality higher education, enhance skills and expand employment opportunities for youth.

During the current Academic Session 2026–27, 1894 scholarships have been allotted under General Degree Courses against 2070, and 2741 scholarships under Professional Courses against 2830, and 80 scholarships under Medical/BDS courses against the target of 100.

The current achievement is significantly higher than the full-year figures recorded during the previous three academic sessions. PMSSS had recorded 3627 beneficiaries in 2023–24, 3674 in 2024–25

and 3585 in 2025–26. The current-year allotment is already 1130 higher than the 2025–26 figure, registering an increase of around 31.5 per cent.

The Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, has been facilitating and coordinating the implementation of PMSSS in the UT, including timely commencement of registration and counselling, besides facilitating through Facilitation Centres and Facilitation-cum-Document Verification Centres for students.

The Department also plays an important role in the verification and review mechanism under the scheme through the UT-

level Review Committee headed by the Commissioner/Secretary, Higher Education Department, with the Director Colleges, J&K as its Member Secretary.

The accelerated progress during the current academic session reflects coordinated efforts of the Higher Education Department, concerned authorities and field-level facilitation mechanisms to ensure that eligible students are able to avail the benefits of PMSSS.

With 4715 of the 5000 scholarships already allotted, the scheme is expected to further strengthen access to quality higher education and expand educational opportunities for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Timely completion of works essential to ensure benefits reach people: Speaker



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Speaker Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly and MLA Charar-i-Sharief, Abdul Rahim Rather, today convened a review meeting to take stock of progress of development works being executed in Charar-i-Sharief constituency under various schemes by the Public Works Department (R&B) and the Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the meeting, the Speaker reviewed the scheme-wise progress of works being undertaken under District Capex, UT Capex, NABARD, Bridges, C&T and SASCI by PWD (R&B), besides works being executed under DDC, BDC, PRI, ADBP, CDF, CDP, SBM and other schemes by the RDD.

Emphasising the need for timely execution of de-

velopment projects, the Speaker directed the concerned officers to expedite the pace of ongoing works and ensure their completion within the stipulated timelines while maintaining the prescribed quality standards.

He underscored that timely completion of development works was a collective responsibility of all stakeholders. He added that the primary objective of these projects was to ensure that the benefits of various government schemes reach the people without any unnecessary delay.

“The benefits of government schemes can reach the intended beneficiaries only when the sanctioned works are executed efficiently and completed within the stipulated timeframe,” maintained the Speaker. He stressed the need for greater accountability and close

monitoring at every stage of execution.

While reviewing the macadamisation of various roads in the constituency, the Speaker expressed concern over delay in execution of the works. He directed the concerned officers to expedite the pace of macadamisation and ensure its completion at the earliest.

He emphasised that the available working season was nearing its end due to the onset of severe winter conditions, leaving a limited window for carrying out such works. He stressed the need for timely intervention and effective supervision to ensure that the road macadamisation works are completed within the available working season without compromising on quality standards.

The Speaker also directed the concerned de-

partments to expedite the tendering and allotment process of pending works so that their execution could commence without delay and the projects could be completed within the prescribed timelines. He called for effective inter-departmental coordination and regular monitoring to address bottlenecks, wherever encountered, and ensure the smooth implementation of development projects.

The meeting was attended by the Superintending Engineer, Budgam; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Budgam; Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP), Budgam; Executive Engineers of PWD (R&B); REW; and Block Development Officers of Budgam, Charar-i-Sharief, Nagam, Pakherpora, Chadoora, Surasyar and Parnewa among others.

DIPR bids affectionate farewell to Shreya Singhal

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Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today accorded an affectionate farewell to Shreya Singhal, outgoing Director Information, on her transfer as Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, acknowledging her valuable contributions, professional commitment and leadership during her tenure in the Department.

The farewell gathering was attended by Director Information, Mamta Yadav; Joint Director Information (Hqr), Dr. Zahoor Ahmad Raina; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari; Deputy Director Information (PR/AV), Javid Ahmad Rather; Deputy Director In-



formation (PR) Kashmir, Mohammad Rafiq Zullah; Deputy Director Information (Hqr) Kashmir, Zubair Ahmad Lattoo; other officers and officials of the Department, who expressed their appreciation for her administrative acumen and dedicated efforts towards strengthening the Depart-

ment's information dissemination mechanism and enhancing its public outreach initiatives.

The officers and officials recalled her encouraging leadership, approachable demeanor and emphasis on teamwork, coordination and accountability. They acknowledged her contribu-

tion towards fostering a positive working environment and motivating the staff to uphold the highest standards of public service and professional integrity.

The Department also wished Shreya Singhal good health, happiness and success in all her future endeavours.

Ram Niwas Sharma inaugurates SCERT orientation programme on Holistic Progress Cards, Competency-Based Assessment

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The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), J&K, Divisional Office Jammu, today organised a two day orientation programme on “Reforming Assessment Practices through Holistic Progress Cards to Address Rashtriya Sarvekshan Findings with Competency-Based Assessment” at Kissan Kendra, Talab Tillo.

The objective of the event was to strengthen the assessment practices in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and the National Curriculum Frameworks.

Commissioner Secretary Education, Ram Niwas Sharma, presided over the programme while Director, School Education Jammu and Director, SCERT J&K, Dr. Naseem Javaid Chowdhary, was the guest of honour.

Senior officers of the Directorate of School Education Jammu including Manisha, Personal Officer, Mohd. Mushtaq

and Anil Salgotra, Joint Directors, DSEJ were also pre.

The participants included Chief Education Officers (CEOs), Principals of District Institutes of Education and Training (DIETs) and Zonal Education Officers (ZEOs) from Jammu Division. They are being provided an important platform for deliberations on contemporary assessment reforms and their effective implementation across schools.

In his address, Ram Niwas Sharma underscored the importance of translating the vision of NEP 2020 and the National Curriculum Frameworks into tangible improvements in school education.

He emphasised the need for a fundamental shift from rote memorisation and examination-driven instructions towards conceptual understanding, critical thinking and the practical application of knowledge.

The Commissioner Secretary also highlighted the collective responsibility of educational administrators and institutional heads in ensuring effective im-

plementation of assessment reforms and fostering a culture of continuous improvement across schools.

Addressing the participants, Director SCERT, emphasised the critical role of educational leadership in translating national policy provisions into effective institutional practices. He highlighted the need for systematic academic planning, sustained professional capacity-building and evidence-based interventions to address the learning gaps identified

through Rashtriya Sarvekshan. He stressed the importance of collaborative efforts among the educational functionaries to strengthen school-level academic processes and improve learning outcomes.

Rakesh Kumar Chobber, Coordinator of the Programme, presented the concept note, outlining the rationale, objectives and significance of the orientation. He highlighted the need to move beyond conventional examination-oriented practices towards



learner-centred, competency-based and formative assessment approach in consonance with the vision of NEP 2020.

As part of the inaugural proceedings, SCERT J&K presented key academic publications including SAMVAAD, A Compendium on NEP 2020 Implementation for Jammu Division and TAP (Talent Acceleration Programme), to the Commissioner Secretary. The documents SAMVAAD and TAP were prepared by Dr. Rohini Sharma

while the NEP 2020 Implementation Compendium for Jammu Division was prepared by Monica Sharma, Manu Vasudeva and Rakesh Kumar Chobber.

The occasion also witnessed the launch of ???????? (MANSPARSH) 2026, World Mental Health Awareness Quiz on the DIKSHA platform as part of World Mental Health Month 2026. The quiz was developed by Vivek Jandial, DIKSHA Coordinator, SCERT J&K.

Earlier, Professor Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, SCERT J&K, Divisional Office Jammu, highlighted the significance of the orientation in fostering a shared understanding of evolving assessment practices and strengthening institutional commitment towards improving the quality of school education.

The programme also featured an exhibition of educational resources and academic materials developed by SCERT J&K. The display showcased a diverse range of resource books, teaching-learning materials, curriculum-support resources, re-

search-based publications and other academic initiatives.

In recognition of their commendable professional contributions and dedication to the teaching fraternity, the SCERT felicitated Mohd Ayaz Raina, Lecturer in Botany, GHSS Dalthori, District Rajouri and Kuldeep Gupta, Lecturer in Zoology, GHS Jindrah, District Jammu.

The technical sessions covered a wide range of themes, including National Education Policy 2020: From Policy to Practice; Implementing National Curriculum Frameworks in Schools; Understanding the Holistic Progress Card (HPC): A Comprehensive Approach to Learners; Assessment Reforms under NEP 2020; Digital HPC and Understanding the Findings of Rashtriya Sarvekshan.

The sessions were facilitated by SCERT faculty members Rajesh Hali, Monica Sharma, Rakesh Kumar Chobber and Manu Vasudeva, along with Shahnawaz Gani, Teacher Educator, DIET Ramban.