

One-day district level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index held at Jammu

JAMMU, JULY 13 : The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj J&K organised a one-day district-level workshop on the Panchayat Advancement Index at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex here.

The workshop was designed to sensitise stakeholders about the Panchayat Advancement Index, a comprehensive tool used to evaluate the developmental status of Gram Panchayats across the region.

Deputy Commissioner Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya presided over the workshop, which saw participation from ADDC Jammu Sher Singh, Shahzada Noor Ul Ain ACP Jammu and other concerned

officers and field functionaries.

During the session, par-

green panchayat, and self-sufficient infrastructure in panchayats.

ing tasks.

The event, facilitated by Master Trainer Nida Rafiq,



ticipants were briefed on various themes under PAI-2.0, including child-friendly panchayat, water-sufficient panchayat, clean and

The workshop featured hands-on training on the PAI portal to ensure participants could efficiently handle data entry and monitor

concluded with an interactive session where participants engaged in detailed discussions on operational aspects of the PAI initiative.

DC Poonch, SSP lead comprehensive developmental review tour of Surankote Sub-Division

POONCH, JULY 13 : In a concerted effort to review ongoing developmental initiatives and strengthen administrative preparedness ahead of the forthcoming Buddha Amarnath Yatra, Deputy Commissioner Poonch

dations, medical aid and crowd control mechanisms. He directed officials to ensure a foolproof security plan, uninterrupted utility services and a welcoming environment for pilgrims. A comprehensive on-site security audit of the temple

near Potha, a vital connectivity project.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed technical progress and instructed the National Highway authorities to adhere to quality standards, expedite completion and

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed progress on the Surankote-Buffaliaz road, a critical rural link, along with various smaller development projects across the subdivision. He stressed the need for strong inter-departmental coordination to avoid delays and maintain construction quality.

He further directed Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Surankote to actively monitor the progress of all current and upcoming projects. He emphasised real-time tracking, departmental accountability and quick decision-making to meet deadlines and deliver results for the public.

The tour included participation from key officials such as SDM Surankote Farooq Khan, Tehsildar Surankote Akbar Hussain and senior officers from departments including the Public Works Department (PWD), Border Roads Organisation (BRO), and Parnai Power Project. Their presence enabled on-spot coordination and immediate resolution of issues encountered during the inspections.

This extensive field review underscores the district administration's commitment to public welfare, infrastructure development and effective Yatra management. DC Vikas Kundal affirmed that all ongoing projects in Surankote Sub-Division will be closely monitored and expedited in line with government priorities.



Vikas Kundal, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Shafkat Bhat, undertook an extensive tour of Surankote Sub-Division today.

The high-level delegation included senior officials from the civil and police administration, focusing on infrastructure assessment, inter-departmental coordination and security arrangements for the Yatra-bound pilgrims.

The tour began with a detailed inspection of Dundak Mandir, a key halting point for the yatri.

During the visit, the DC reviewed preparations including drinking water availability, sanitation facilities, temporary accommo-

premises and nearby areas was also conducted.

As part of Yatra coordination efforts, the DC and SSP welcomed the Padal Yatra procession from Shiv Temple, Ari Potha, en route to Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji Temple, Mandi, via Harni-JWG. They interacted with the pilgrims, appreciated their devotion and assured full administrative support throughout their journey. The officers reiterated the administration's commitment to ensuring a smooth, secure and spiritually enriching Yatra experience.

Continuing the developmental review, the team inspected the under-construction bridge on the National Highway Bypass

keep the route obstruction-free for commuter safety. He warned that delays or substandard work would not be tolerated.

The officials also visited the Machakki and Mastandara labour camps, which accommodate workers from the Parnai Power Project. The DC and SSP interacted with labourers to understand their living conditions, safety and working environment. The administration assured them of its commitment to their well-being and pledged to resolve grievances promptly. Project managers were directed to ensure proper accommodation, medical support and adherence to labour safety regulations.

Pawan Sharma Condemns Glorification of Islamist Rioters as Martyrs

Jammu, July 13 : Senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu and Kashmir and former state secretary, Pawan Sharma, strongly condemned the attempts to distort historical facts and glorify aggressors and fundamentalists as martyrs on July 13, a date historically misrepresented by certain political figures.

Sharma stated that "July 13 serves as a stark reminder of a dark chapter when communal violence was given a false narrative of martyrdom. The recent remarks by Omar Abdullah, equating Islamist rioters with freedom fighters, are not only highly condemnable but also an insult to the nation and its true freedom struggle."

He further added that such statements are part of

a dangerous communal propaganda aimed at legitimizing violence and destabilizing peace in Jammu and Kashmir. "Equating rioters with freedom fighters is an attempt to rewrite history and sow discord in a region that has suffered for a long," Sharma emphasized.

Recalling the events of the day, Sharma highlighted that innocent Kashmiri Hindus were subjected to atrocities, looting, and communal hatred at the hands of religious fanatics. He pointed out that Abdul Qadeer, the figure often eulogized on this day, was not even a resident of Jammu and Kashmir. "He was an outsider, planted by the British to incite unrest and weaken the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh. He provoked and misled the local population under false

pretenses," Sharma said.

He also accused Omar Abdullah of Glorifying Perpetrators of Hindu Atrocities

"By glorifying those responsible for the atrocities committed against innocent Kashmiri Hindus, Omar Abdullah is exposing his true colours," Sharma said. "Honouring the butchers of Hindus as martyrs is not just historically inaccurate, it is morally reprehensible and an insult to the collective memory of the victims."

Sharma further stated that such remarks are not only divisive but also reveal a deliberate attempt to provoke communal sentiments and undermine social harmony in Jammu and Kashmir. "This kind of selective remembrance is a form of dangerous appease-

ment politics, and the nation must stand united against it," he added.

He reiterated that July 13 should be remembered as a day of pain for the Kashmiri Hindu community, who faced unspeakable horrors at the hands of fanatics. "Omar Abdullah must be held accountable for trying to repackage communal violence as a freedom struggle. It is nothing short of historical betrayal," Sharma concluded.

Sharma urged all responsible leaders and citizens to recognize the truth and stand against any glorification of communal violence. He reaffirmed BJP's commitment to preserving the unity, peace, and cultural harmony of Jammu and Kashmir.

quality standards.

The DDC also announced that similar



DDC interacted with key stakeholders from the PWD (R&B) Department,

to work in coordination and ensure timely completion of the project, adhering to

facilities are planned at Sub-District Hospitals in Baderwah and Gandoh.

CS assesses progress on logistics infrastructure projects to be raised by NHLML

SRINAGAR, JULY 13 : Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today took a comprehensive review of the modalities for significant projects to be raised by the National Highways Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) including Inter Modal Stations (IMS), Ropeways and Multi-Modal Logistics Parks (MMLPs) in the UT.

Those who attended the meeting included Principal Secretary, Finance; Commissioner Secretary, Tourism; Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, PWD; Secretary, Revenue; DC, Srinagar; CEO, NHLML and other concerned officers.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon the concerned to make a headway on all these significant infrastructure projects by laying a framework for execution of works at an earliest. He emphasized on the PWD to take earnest steps necessary for creation of SPV for establishment of different ropeway projects at various tourist spots of J&K including the one at Shankaracharya Temple.

He also enjoined upon the Finance, Law and Housing & Urban Development Department to put their heads together with the experts of the NHLML for fastracking the grounding of projects like IMS Katra and Multi-Modal Logistics Park at Samba, Jammu.

Regarding the projects, it was given out by the

NHLML that the planned Inter Modal Station at Katra, a crucial project set to serve approximately 2.5 crore pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Holy Cave, will feature a robust transport zone including a bus terminal with 88 bays, parking for approximately 500 ECS, three helipads and a ropeway station. The commer-

Sonamarg - Thajiwas Glacier, Baderwah to Seojhdar, Baltal - Amarnath Cave, Doodpathri from Parihas to Diskhal and Nasri Tunnel to Sanasar Ropeway.

The development of a Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Vijaypur also came up for discussion. This project, to be developed on a PPP-DBFOT

benefiting the local populations and facilitating connectivity.

These 29 approach roads spanning cumulatively 201.46 Kms were constructed by Railways in the Katra-Banihal section of the USBRL project. These roads were crucial for transporting labor, material and machinery during the project's execution.



cial zone will comprise of commercial spaces across multiple floors and five hotel towers.

The Shankaracharya Temple Ropeway project, with a length of 1.05 km and a bid project cost of Rs. 109 crore, is moving forward utilizing the Mono-Cable Detachable Gondola (MDG) technology. It will have a capacity of 700 PPHPD (Persons Per Hour Per Direction) and a travel time of approximately 5 minutes, connecting two stations with 15 cabins. The construction duration is estimated at two years.

Additionally, NHLML is undertaking Detailed Project Report (DPR) bids for several other ropeway projects across Jammu & Kashmir, including

(Design, Build, Finance, Operate, Transfer) basis, will include facilities such as an ICD (Inland Container Depot) for export/import, Container Freight Station, warehousing, cold storage and truck terminals.

Later, another crucial meeting was chaired by Chief Secretary held to review the progress and modalities for takeover of approach roads constructed by the Indian Railways for Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project by the Jammu & Kashmir Public Works Department (PWD).

This move aims to ensure regular maintenance and upkeep of these vital roads links in the twin districts of Reasi and Ramban

During the meeting, it was highlighted that these roads are to be handed over to the J&K PWD for regular maintenance and upkeep. The land acquisition proceedings for these roads are largely complete with no court cases currently pending, the meeting was informed. To facilitate a smooth transition a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be signed between the Railways and J&K PWD to formalize these arrangements. The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of these roads for local connectivity. He directed both the stake holding departments to expedite the handover process to ensure their sustained upkeep for benefit of the public.

Inter-zonal district level Yoga, Handball, Basketball and Badminton competition begins in Doda

DODA, JULY 13 : The Department of Youth Services and Sports, under the supervision of DYSSO Doda Jaffar Haider Sheikh, inaugurated the inter-zonal district level competitions in Yoga,

Handball, Basketball and Badminton. Events are being conducted at various venues across Doda, marking a vibrant return of competitive sports in the district.

A total of 280 partici-

pants are competing in the four disciplines, highlighting the remarkable talent and commitment of local youth. The competitions aim to provide a platform for young athletes to demonstrate their skills

and promote sportsmanship.

Matches in all categories will continue until July 22, offering an exciting display of youthful energy, teamwork and healthy competition.

DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025

KISHTWAR, JULY 13 : Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma along with Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Naresh Singh today visited the revered Shree Chandi Mata Darbar in Machail to review preparations for the upcoming Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025, scheduled to commence on July 25, 2025.

During the visit, the DC paid obeisance at the holy shrine and inspected key infrastructure and amenities, including sanitation, water supply, electricity and road connectivity. He expressed satisfaction with the progress made so far and directed the concerned officers to ensure round-the-clock monitoring to

provide a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience to the pilgrims.

them that all possible steps would be taken to address their issues. He urged them



The DC interacted with locals at Machail, listened to their genuine demands and concerns and assured

to maintain cleanliness and adhere to the necessary guidelines to support the smooth conduct of the pil-

grimage.

He also held a meeting with officers and officials of the Sub-Divisional Level Paddar at the office of SDM Paddar, issuing directions to ensure their continuous and dedicated efforts for a smooth and hassle-free yatra. The DC further inspected the ongoing work at Yatri Bhawan Gulabgarh Paddar and instructed the executing agencies to complete the remaining work ahead of the start of the yatra.

The District Administration Kishtwar remains committed to ensuring a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience for the pilgrims during Shri Machail Mata Yatra 2025.

Rana Asks For Upgrades In Gujjar-Bakerwal Hostels; Reviews Facilities In Hostels

SRINAGAR, Jul 12 : Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today called for upgrading the Gujjar-Bakerwal hostels with provision of all modern facilities to address the existing gaps and foster a conducive environment that supports both academic and personal growth of the students.

He underscored the commitment of government to enhance the living conditions and educational environment for the tribal students.

He made these observations during his visit to Gujjar-Bakerwal hostels in Bemina and Tulsi Bagh where he conducted a thorough inspection of the facilities and had an in-depth interaction with the students.

In line with this vision for enhancing the quality of facilities for the students, Rana instructed the Director Tribal Affairs to take concrete steps to improve hostels' management and implement upgrades to the hostel facilities. "These upgrades are expected to address the existing shortcomings and provide students with a nurturing environment that supports their overall development," Rana said.

He also undertook a comprehensive review of DPR of the under construction build-

ings and directed for expedited completion by PWD.

During the visit, Rana evaluated the quality of facilities being provided to the

es and recreational spaces.

He had a first-hand understanding of the challenges faced by the students and the scope for improvement in the

importance of enabling the students to excel academically and reach their full potential. "We are taking proactive steps to address the students'



inmates, assessing the infrastructure to identify areas that require improvement.

The Minister's inspection of the hostel's infrastructure was comprehensive, covering key areas such as classrooms, mess facilities, library servic-

existing facilities. Rana also engaged with the students, gathering valuable feedback on hostel management and facilities.

The Minister's emphasis on creating a supportive environment highlights the

concerns and improve hostel facilities", the Minister said.

He further assured that Government aims to bridge the gaps in the existing system and promote an environment that fosters growth and development.