

## Chief Minister Omar Abdullah meets various delegations at Raabita Office

**Srinagar, July 14 :** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today met several delegations at the Public Outreach Office, Raabita here, and held wide-ranging discussions on development, overall functioning of Institutions and public welfare issues.

Dr. Mohd. Jaffar Akhoun, Chief Executive Councillor from Kargil, led a deputation to apprise the Chief Minister of several challenges being faced by students and patients from Ladakh, particularly from Kargil, in different educational and healthcare institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

The deputation also raised various civic issues affecting the residents of Ladakh living in the J&K, seeking timely redressal and support.

Prof. Jawaid Iqbal, Vice Chancellor of Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU), Rajouri, briefed the Chief Minister about the

functioning of the university. The VC discussed several ongoing academic and administrative initiatives at the university and sought the Chief Minister's support for strengthening higher education in the region.



Sandeep Sharma, Zonal Head of ICICI Bank, also called on the Chief Minister and discussed matters related to the bank's Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. He informed the Chief Minister about the rescue vehicle provided for Dachigam and

initiatives aimed at employment generation and community welfare.

Brigadier Deepak Sajjan Har from NCC, Srinagar, met the Chief Minister to present a memento in connection with the NCC

the Chief Minister along with a visiting team from SKAL INTERNATIONAL. The team, currently on a visit from Mumbai, discussed the upcoming SKAL India Convention and proposed to make the event



Kashmir-centric in the post-Yatra season, with an aim to promote the region's tourism potential globally. The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all deputations and assured appropriate action and continued government support as may be necessary.

## Union Joint Secretary reviews Baramulla district's progress under NITI Aayog's ADP



**BARAMULLA, JULY 14:** Union Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Central Prabhari Officer for NITI Aayog's Aspirational Districts Programme, Ajeet Kumar Sahu, today chaired a meeting to review district's progress under various indicators of NITI Aayog's Aspirational District Programme (ADP).

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, Joint Director Planning, Principal GMC, ACD, CMO and officers from various line departments.

The Union Joint Secretary was informed that the district has made remarkable progress in its Delta Ranking, issued by NITI Aayog and has improved significantly,

moving from the 108th position to 35th out of 112 districts, achieving a composite score of 61.3.

Apprising the JS of key health indicators, the DC stated that the district has achieved 100% saturation in major areas, including nutrition support for pregnant women, full child immunization, institutional deliveries and major reduction in infant and maternal mortality rates, reduction in TB cases and effective implementation of Poshan Abhiyan in combating malnutrition.

Further, the Central Prabhari Officer was informed that the education sector has seen marked improvement with increased student enrolment, 18 Model Academic Schools and Lab Schools in each of the educational

zone, increase in Atal Tinkering Labs from 2 to 42, consistent pedagogical teacher trainings and sanitary facilities like incinerators and vending machines.

Meanwhile, the Union Joint Secretary took a comprehensive review of the district under Agriculture and Financial Inclusion, Skill Development and Infrastructure.

The Union Joint Secretary also conducted a comprehensive review of the progress on projects undertaken under the ADP, along with key centrally and state-sponsored schemes such as PMSBY, PMJBY, PM-JDY, PM-APY, PM-MUDRA and HADP.

Speaking during the meeting, Ajeet Kumar Sahu directed the Health Department officials to

carry out comprehensive research to identify the root causes of TB in the district and take targeted measures to eliminate them.

Addressing the issue of low uptake of KCC loans by the farmers, the Central Prabhari Officer directed the concerned department to constitute a team to thoroughly examine the reasons behind the poor response and suggest measures to improve participation in the scheme.

Meanwhile, the Union Joint Secretary instructed the concerned department to carry out thorough soil testing across agricultural lands in the district. He asked to ensure that farmers are clearly informed about the findings, particularly any nutrient deficiencies and provide them with tailored recommendations on the types of fertilizers and soil health measures needed to enhance the productivity and sustainability.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner, Minga Sherpa presented a comprehensive overview of the district's performance under 5 key indicators of the ADP, including Health and Nutrition, Education, Agriculture and Water Resources, Financial Inclusion and Skill Development besides Infrastructure.

## Horticulture Department launches fruit plantation drive in Akhnoor Zone

**JAMMU, JULY 14:** The Horticulture Department today kick-started monsoon Plantation Drive in Zone Akhnoor. The drive took off with the ceremonial planting of a fruit sapling by Chief Horticulture Officer Jammu Rakesh Kotwal at Village Gandharwan of block Akhnoor. The initiative marks a significant step toward sustainable horticultural development and aims to boost fruit cultivation in the region's rainfed and sub-tropical areas.

District level subject

Matter Specialist Rakesh Bhagat, Horticulture Development Officer (HDO) Akhnoor Virender Kumar and HDO Khour Amit Saraf were also present. The event drew enthusiastic participation from local farmers and community members, reflecting a growing awareness and interest in horticulture-based livelihood opportunities.

After the plantation drive, Kotwal addressed the farmers, sensitizing them about various Central and

UT Government Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Horticulture Department.

He highlighted flagship initiatives such as the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). These schemes, he explained, are specifically designed to provide financial assistance, technical know-how and market linkage support to orchardists and aspiring horticulturists.

Emphasizing the importance of adopting scientific and modern horticultural practices, Kotwal encouraged farmers in the rainfed and sub-tropical belts of Akhnoor to switch to improved cultivation techniques for fruit crops like guava, mango, citrus, and aonla-crops well-suited to local agro-climatic conditions. He called upon the farming community to actively participate in these developmental schemes to enhance productivity and profitability.

The Department of Tourism and the district administration for making elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the Mahotsav and the safety and convenience of pilgrims. The DC further highlighted the role of the Mahotsav in promoting religious tourism and enriching the cultural heritage of the district. She emphasized that the district administration has made elaborate arrangements for clean drinking water and power supply, medical aid and fire safety to ensure the smooth conduct of the religious festival. A large number of devotees from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and neighboring states participated in the event. ADC Rakesh Kumar, Tehsildar Pouni Sahil Randhawa, Manager (SSKSB) Tersam Lal Sharma, Executive Engineer PHE, AD Tourism and other officials were also present.



The Deputy Commissioner attended both the rituals.

The Shrawan Mahotsav will feature cultural and religious programmes like the Kavayatra to be held every Monday of the month. The Shiv Puran Katha will

be held from 27th July to 4th August and a Bhajan Sandhya will be organized on 4th August, attracting large numbers of devotees and creating a spiritually uplifting atmosphere. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner extended greetings to the devotees and emphasized the importance of the Shrawan month in Hindu tradition. She lauded the efforts of the Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board,

## CS for harnessing ONDC to promote e-commerce in J&K

**SRINAGAR, JULY 14 :** In a move to catalyze the growth of small businesses through digital integration, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting with the CEO of Open Network for Digital Commerce (ONDC) to explore opportunities for leveraging the ONDC platform to promote e-commerce in J&K.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Executive Director, J&K Bank; Secretary, Labour & Employment; Secretary, Tribal Affairs; Secretary in Industries & Commerce; Director General, Budget; Director, Labour & Employment; State Informatics Officer, NIC; Representative from BISAG-N besides other senior officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary emphasized the immense potential of digital commerce in strengthening the local economy and creating new livelihood avenues. He underscored the importance of initiating the digital push with simple, scalable models, and expanding gradually by addressing implemen-

tation challenges in a phased manner.

Dulloo emphasised on the fact that J&K must embrace the digital shift by harnessing the capabilities of ONDC to empower the

The CEO, ONDC, shared success stories from other states, including that of Sri Vidhya Handlooms and Himira in Himachal Pradesh and their initiatives taken in Andhra Pradesh

is looking to adopt a hyper-local delivery model within a 3-4 km radius through a seller app developed by BISAG-N. He added that various categories of service providers would soon be



small and nano entrepreneurs first to serve locally. He directed the Labour & Employment Department to begin with a hyper-local delivery system within a defined radius around businesses.

He also called for onboarding service providers such as electricians, plumbers and other technicians on the digital platform, enabling the citizens to avail their services conveniently here.

where ONDC played a transformative role in supporting the entrepreneurs to reach national markets in shorter time durations. He elaborated on ONDC's potential to digitize local economy of J&K and link the same with the national digital market, thereby uplifting key economic drivers here.

Speaking on J&K's roadmap, Director, Labour & Employment, Shahzad Alam, informed that the UT

onboarded to offer their services through an integrated online hiring platform.

Moreover, he said that the Department is contemplating establishment of district and UT-level collection hubs to facilitate the sale and distribution of goods produced by J&K's weavers, artisans, and other small-scale manufacturers, thereby ensuring better market access and fair value for their products.

## BJP activists, supporters hail Kavinder Gupta's appointment as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh

**Jammu, July 14 :** Large number of BJP's activists and supporters who joined R.L.Kaith in Surya Vihar here today, strongly hailed the appointment of veteran politician Kavinder Gupta as new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh.

Kaith said Kavinder Ji is a wonderful person and has

a fantastic profile. Before becoming, Speaker, J&K Legislative Assembly, and Deputy Chief Minister of J&K, he served as the Secretary of the Punjab unit of the Vishva Hindu Parishad from 1978 to 1979, the Chief of the Jammu and Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Yuva Morcha

from 1993 till 1998, and elected Mayor of the City of Jammu for a record three consecutive terms, from 2005 to 2010.

All present wished Gupta an enriching and successful tenure.

Prominent among the BJP activists and supporters included BJP office secre-

tary Hans Raj Loria, Hony Captain Swarn Singh, Hony Captain Kamal Dass, Ex Subedar Baldev Chand, Ex Havildar Des Raj, Ashok Bindroo, Anita Ganjoo, Neha Pandita, Kamlesh Kumari, Neha Kalsi, Sonali Kumari, Jagdish Raj, Naresh Kumar and Deepak Jyoti.

## Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Parachar Sewa samiti's Amarnath Yatra Bhandara enters 13th Day

**Jammu, July 14 :** Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, Jammu and Kashmir has continuously been arranging Bhandara for Baba Amarnathji Yatris since 2 July, 2025 at Railway Station, Jammu with enthusiasm and fervor. The Samiti has the mission of Public Service accomplishments which forms the core of the organization. The Langar run by the Samiti run continuously and provide pure healthy meals to pilgrims and devotees come from across the country for the darshan of

Baba Amarnath.

Today on 13th day of Bhandara Parmeshwar Anand of Margdarshak Mandal of Samiti inaugurated today's Bhandara in the presence of Sunil Shamra, National Co-ordinator of the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti, hridayanand ji Maharaj lauded the efforts of the volunteers of Samiti for arranging meals for the yatris coming from different states of India and abroad.

The National Co-ordinator of the Samiti Sh. Sunil Sharma informed

that today on 13th day of Bhandara Large number of yatris came from different states of India take meals and appreciated the efforts of the samiti for arranging meals day and night for such a long time for yatris with sweets and fruits on the directions and teachings of Bhrahmgyani Guruji. The pilgrims shall be served hygienic, delicious, energetic and digestive "sattvic" bhojan for all days;

Raman Sharma Sewa Pramukh informed that

For this purpose, the Akhil Bhartiya Dharam Prachar Sewa Samiti under the guidance of Sunil Sharma actively assisted by vishal Sharma, Amrit bhiyani, Vipin Kumar and Raman Kumar have constituted a team of highly dedicated Members to serve the yatris day and night in the best possible manner.

Among Others who attended today's Bhandara namely, Ramesh Sharma, Ajay Kumar, Bhanu Kumar, Arjun Kumar, Raja Mankotia Anil Kumar, Amit kumar and others etc.

## Rajouri gears up to pay glowing tributes to valiant Soldier

**RAJOURI, JULY 14 :** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive meeting at Nowshera to review the preparations and activity plan for the celebration of the birth anniversary of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, besides the launch of Vibrant Village Program

(Phase-II) at the border village Sarya. The Deputy Commissioner laid emphasis on honouring the legacy of Brigadier Usman, a revered war hero who laid down his life defending the nation. He directed that senior officers shall felicitate Bal Sainiks as a mark of tribute to Brigadier Usman and to

instill patriotic fervour among youth. The DC instructed officers to put up departmental stalls showcasing the government schemes and services. Directions were issued for organising vibrant cultural programs to celebrate local heritage, identify hidden talents and foster a spirit of nationalism.

Highlighting the developmental and economic potential of the region, the Deputy Commissioner asked officials to focus on promotion of agriculture and allied sector activities, religious tourism-particularly at Mangla Mata Temple-and tapping of tourism potential in the border belt.

## Rana reviews welfare initiatives for Tribals in J&K

### Calls for proactive inter-departmental coordination

**SRINAGAR, JULY 14:** Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting of the Tribal Affairs Department (TAD) at the Civil Secretariat here to review the initiatives aimed at furthering empowerment of tribal communities in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting aimed to fast-track the tribal welfare initiatives and review ongoing projects, schemes and infrastructure development for tribal communities across J&K.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Secretary TAD, Secretary Health & Medical Education, Commissioner SMC concerned Deputy Commissioners and other senior officers.

Rana emphasized Omar Abdullah led Government's commitment to inclusive growth and social justice, particularly for the tribal population.

He said that upliftment of downtrodden and backward communities is our collective responsibility. The present government has taken a slew of measures to ensure inclusive growth and social justice for all, especially the tribal population, he added.

The meeting focused on

resolving land-related issues concerning the hostels for Gujjar-Bakewal tribe, which are crucial for providing educational and residential support to the students from these marginalized groups.

Rana asked the Secretaries of concerned departments to establish

sized that all Gujjar-Bakewal hostels should have proper buildings with requisite facilities to provide students with a nurturing environment.

The Minister also reviewed the progress on Tribal Bhawan Jammu and instructed the concerned authorities to immediately

healthcare, particularly for people living in remote and under-served areas.

Secretary Health informed that six MMUs are ready to be deployed and work on other units is in progress.

The Minister directed the TAD to utilize available manpower and resources



effective and proactive coordination mechanism to push faster execution of key infra projects in tribal areas. He directed the concerned officials to expedite the resolution of land matters and ensure timely completion of tribal welfare projects.

Regarding establishment of hostels, the Minister was assured that the land has been identified for establishment of hostels in Srinagar, Jammu and Poonch districts and all issues will be sorted out within 10 days. He empha-

identify suitable land for its establishment, as the funds have already been transferred to JDA.

Reviewing the Human Resource (HR) management in TAD, the Minister stressed the need for concerted efforts to fill vacancies to ensure administrative efficiency and timely resolution of issues affecting the tribal people.

Rana also took note of deployment of Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) to tribal areas, designed to facilitate access to public

judiciously, ensuring transparency, efficiency and timely execution of welfare schemes.

He reaffirmed the Government's commitment to empower the tribal communities through improved access to education, healthcare and livelihood opportunities. Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo emphasized the importance of taking forward programs and policies related to tribal welfare, ensuring their effective implementation in a time bound manner.