

Secy RDD reviews progress on Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin; asks to accelerate sanitation projects

SRINAGAR, JULY 14 : Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, chaired a review meeting on Monday to evaluate the progress on the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2025-26, assess the status of locational plans, verify water assets and review progress on the GOBARdhan plans.

The meeting was attended by Director General Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra; Director Rural Development Kashmir, Shabir Hussain Bhat; Director Rural Development Jammu, Shahnaz Akhter; Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Rajesh Kumar Agastam; Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Shafat Hussain besides Deputy Directors Rural Sanitation, Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) and Executive Engineers of REW from all districts.

During the review, the Secretary emphasized the need for timely tendering, land identification and rapid execution of all planned works under the AIP 2025-26. He urged the district teams to eliminate procedural delays and ensure real-time progress reporting.

A detailed district-wise discussion was held on

pending locational plans for various sanitation-related assets, including Compost Pits, Soak Pits, Community Sanitary Complexes (CSCs), Segregation Sheds, Plastic Waste Management Units (PWMUs), GOBARdhan units, Faecal Sludge Treatment Plants



(FSTPs), Waste Stabilization Ponds (WSPs) and Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS).

The Secretary emphasized that Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin is not just about building sanitation infrastructure, it is about bringing systemic change, ensuring sustainability and achieving measurable outcomes. He asked the ACPs to take ownership at the ground level. From DEWATS and FSTPs to compost pits and segregation sheds, the success of these interventions lies in timely land identification, proactive coordination and a mission-mode approach, he added.

Aijaz Asad directed the

districts to submit all pending locational plans to the Directorate of Rural Sanitation within five days.

The Secretary underscored the importance of 100% digital asset verification through the mWater platform. He directed all the districts to ensure that every completed asset is geo-tagged and digitally verified in accordance with SBM-G protocols to maintain full transparency and accountability.

A detailed status of the GOBARdhan was also reviewed, with a focus on organic waste management and bio-energy production. Districts were instructed to expedite physical work progress, highlight challenges if any, and regularly update progress with the Directorate.

The Secretary stressed upon the ACPs to conduct physical site visits for all major infrastructure components, including WSPs, DEWATS and water bodies, ensuring quality control and verification. In districts where land issues were cited. He emphasized that land identification issues must be resolved at the district level in consultation with the respective Deputy Commissioners (DCs).

In many districts, Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) were directed to personally visit the asset sites, conduct

thorough inspections and ensure that all constructed assets, especially those related to water bodies, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) and Waste Stabilization Ponds (WSPs), are verified for functionality, compliance and quality. These visits are crucial for on-ground validation and must be followed by updated status reporting.

Given the critical role of DEWATS and WSPs in environmental protection, the Secretary directed for conducting the a virtual workshop on these technologies for all the field officers.

The Secretary stressed the urgent need for all the districts to update their Self-Assessment data on the Swachh Survekshan Grameen (SSG) 2025 portal (<https://ssg2025.in/State/In dex>).

He reminded the officials that Self-Assessment contributes 140 out of 1000 marks as per SSG guidelines and directly impacts the district rankings.

Earlier, the Director General, Rural Sanitation, presented a detailed presentation highlighting the current status, achievements, challenges and actionable points under the Swachh Bharat Mission-Gramin (SBM-G) across all districts of Jammu & Kashmir.

Gujjar and Bakerwal community including establishment of Eklavya Model Residential School at Khawas, Kendriya Vidyalaya at Kotaranka, and similar educational institutions in other areas with tribal population in the UT. He also requested for special central assistance for the development of Budhal constituency.

Welcome reopening of cases but, commission with clear legal mandate and moral authority is essential : BJP

Jammu, July 14 : We welcome the decision to reopen terror-related cases that were previously closed due to lack of evidence or institutional will. This long-overdue move marks a crucial step towards justice for victims of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir—including the assassination of retired High Court Judge Neelkanth Ganjoo and the brutal massacre of 23 Kashmiri Pandits in Wandhama, Ganderbal, in January 1998. The reopening of these cases—especially the heinous murder of Justice Ganjoo—is a belated but necessary action. Justice delayed must not be justice denied. Had the government of that era acted decisively, the tide of extremist violence might have been

arrested in its infancy. Instead, impunity emboldened the perpetrators, lead-

investigated the 1984 anti-Sikh riots. This commission should be headed by a sit-



ing to further atrocities.

We acknowledge that gathering evidence and locating witnesses after more than three decades poses significant challenges. It is precisely for this reason that we urge the constitution of a High-Powered Commission of Inquiry, modelled on the Nanavati Commission that

ting or retired Supreme Court judge, preferably by a Lady justice and equipped with clear and expansive terms of reference.

The scope of the commission must include:

1. Investigating the causes and progression of the targeted killings and communal violence against Kashmiri Pandits between

1986 and 1990, and beyond.

2. Establishing a comprehensive sequence of events, identifying actors, networks, and motives behind these crimes.

3. Assessing whether the violence could have been prevented, and examining any lapses, complicity, or dereliction of duty by responsible individuals or authorities.

4. Evaluating the adequacy of administrative responses at the time.

5. Recommending concrete legal and institutional measures to ensure justice, accountability, and deterrence.

6. Considering other relevant matters that emerge during the course of inquiry.

Brahman Sabha Channi Himmat continues green cover Plantation drive

Jammu, July 14 : Brahman Sabha Channi himmat on monday continues green cover plantation drive at different sectors of Channi Himmat to promote environmental resources. The event was inaugurated by Academician Dr. Vijay Sharma alongwith Inder Dev Sharma and Sunil Sharma, Head of Channi Himmat Brahman Sabha.

Speaking on the occasion, Sunil Sharma head of the Channi Himmat Brahman Sabha appealed to all the citizens residing in different sectors of Channi Himmat to come forward and actively participate in the drive launched by Brahman Sabha Channi Himmat. Plants are the lifeline of people as they pro-

vide the needed resistance to neutralize pollution having crossed the admis-

Sharma further appealed to the general public to come forward and plant atleast



sible limits, especially in urban sectors. Besides, plantation of trees enhances the level of oxygen and provides fresh air which mitigates the impact of global warming, rain deficit and poor air quality.

two trees in this holy Shravan month to improve greenery for a pollution free atmosphere.

Stressing on protecting nature, Dr. Vijay Sharma said, "Trees are also the natural habitants for birds

District Congress Committees Srinagar, Anantnag hold meetings

Srinagar, July 14 : Amid ongoing Congress Party's programme Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq, Srinagar District Congress Committee on the directions of J&K Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President Tariq Hameed Karra held an impressive meeting of senior leaders and workers at Srinagar Party office in which the participants raised slogan Hamari Riayasad Hamara Haq reiterating Congress Party's demand for restoration of Statehood to J&K.

The newly appointed Coordinator for Srinagar Nizam Ud Din Bhat (MLA) presided over the meeting and urged the Party leaders and workers of Srinagar to gear up for the upcoming challenges especially ULB and Panchayat elections.

Bhat laid emphasis over connecting with the people at grass roots while urging the cadres to seek their (people's) full support to Congress' Party's pro people policies and programmes. Apart from reviewing organizational activities Congress Chief Whip Nizam Ud Din Bhat and Coordinator for

Srinagar sought feedback with regard to current situation in blocks and wards in the entire district and told the Party workers to prepare for the ULB & Panchayat elections, which will be announced anytime, therefore, we need to be fully prepared for these, he told the workers.

The meeting unanimously resolved to visit every block and ward under the leadership Party Coordinator Nizam Ud Din to assess the current political situation and party's strength which will enable the party to prepare a roadmap to face the ULB and Panchayat elections and various other challenges confronting Congress. The coordinators also laid emphasis over the conducting booth, ward & Block level meetings every week to invigorate the Party.

The meeting was organized by Srinagar DCC President Irfan Naqib

Senior Party Leaders including Abdul Gani Khan, Nissar Ahmad Mundoo, Abid Imtiyaz Bhat (Kashmiri) Irfan Naqib (DCC President), Mahila Congress President

Shameema Raina, Arshid Tantray, Dr.Waleed Karra, Yasir Nissar Mundoo and various other leaders addressed the meeting.

Similar meeting was held by the District Congress Committee

situation, as the ULB & Panchayat elections will be announced anytime, for that matter, the Party cadres need to be prepared fully, he told the meeting. On this occasion Magrey reiterated Congress Party demand for



Anantnag at Khanabal, which was presided over by Party Coordinator for Anantnag Bashir Ahmad Magray (Ex.MLA). The meeting threadbare discussed the party activities in Anantnag District and resolved to continue Party's programme Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq for restoration of Statehood to J&K.

Speaking on the occasion Bashir Ahmad Magrey laid emphasis over conducting workers meetings and conventions on a weekly basis to assess the ground

restoration of Statehood to J&K while strongly urging the Centre Govt to fulfill its promise made on the floor of Parliament.

Anantnag DCC President Zafar Farooq Salati organized the meeting.

DCC President Zaffar Farooq Salati, Ex. MLA Abdul Raheem Rather, Farooq Ahmad Bhat, Shaheena Neda, Danish Khan, Gulzar Chowdhary, Gh.Hassan, Majid Warsi and various other leaders addressed the meeting.

Food Safety Department Intensifies Efforts to Ensure Safe and Quality Food for Pilgrims during Amarnath Yatra

Jammu, July 14 : In a proactive move to safeguard public health and ensure a safe pilgrimage experience, the Food Safety Department, Jammu & Kashmir, has significantly ramped up its surveillance and enforcement activities to uphold the highest standards of food safety during the ongoing Amarnath Yatra 2025. This extensive exercise is being carried out under the aegis and directions of the Hon'ble Minister for Health & Medical Education, Mtr. Sakeena Itoo, and Secretary to Government, Health & Medical Education, J&K Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah (IAS). whose visionary guidance has been instrumental in mobilizing field resources and intensifying food safety measures across the Yatra route. Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, Smt. Smita Sethi, led the

efforts personally by inspecting the hygienic conditions of Langars and food service areas at key Base Camps and Transit Camps in the Jammu Division. Her visit underscored the department's unwavering commitment to ensuring that pilgrims are served safe, hygienic, and high-quality food throughout their spiritual journey.

In anticipation of the influx of devotees and the operation of numerous food business operators (FBOs), including langars and street vendors, the department had earlier directed provincial heads to deploy Food Safety Officers, Food Analysts, and Mobile Food Testing Vans across the Yatra route starting from Lakanpur, in Kathua district right upto Baltal as well as Pehalgam axis in the Kashmir Division. These Mobile Vans, equipped with advanced

testing kits and portable equipment, are conducting real-time analysis of food samples daily to check for safety and compliance with quality standards. In addition, they are raising consumer awareness and offering hands-on training to Langar operators and food handlers. During the first week of the Yatra alone, the Food Safety Department has achieved the following milestones: 215 registrations issued to Langar operators and food vendors.

171 inspections carried out across various locations. 910 food samples tested on-the-spot via Mobile Food Testing Vans. 77 training-cum-awareness sessions organized for food handlers. 30 kg of standard food items—including peanuts and vegetables—confiscated and safely destroyed. The Commissioner Drug & Food Safety emphasized

that detailed advisories have been issued to field officers and Langar operators, clearly outlining their duties and responsibilities.

These guidelines include strict instructions on hygiene practices, food storage, preparation protocols, and waste management. The department has further appealed to all FBOs to fully cooperate with the department in maintaining food safety standards. For any grievances regarding food quality or suspected adulteration, consumers are encouraged to contact the department via the Toll-Free Number 104 for prompt redressal. The Food Safety Department reiterates its resolve to uphold the sanctity and safety of the Amarnath Yatra through its robust and sustained efforts, ensuring a wholesome and secure pilgrimage experience for all.

Inauguration of Maj Akash Singh, Shaurya Chakra obstacle training course at PSPS GCW Gandhinagar

Jammu, July 14 : In a stirring tribute to valour, sacrifice, and undying patriotism, a historic milestone was achieved in Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh with the inauguration of the first-of-its-kind Obstacle Training Course at Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhinagar. This momentous occasion marked a red-letter day in the annals of NCC training and educational infrastructure, symbolising the confluence of legacy, leadership, and learning. Under the aegis of NCC Directorate of Jammu Kashmir & Ladakh, 8 J&K Girls Battalion NCC, a vibrant unit comprising of 3520 cadets, has etched its mark in the heart of city by establishing this pioneering Obstacle Training Course, designed to fortify the physical endurance and combat readiness of cadets.

Maj Gen Anupinder Bevli, VSM, Additional Director General, JK&L NCC Directorate, and Ms. Deepti Sambyal, wife of Maj Akash Singh, Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous),

together unveiled and dedicated the Obstacle Training Course in the memory of the brave son of the soil. Maj Akash Singh—a radiant scholar, spirited NCC cadet, and brave officer of the Maratha Light Infantry



Regiment—was commissioned in 1999 and made the supreme sacrifice in 2009 during Operation Rakshak in the treacherous Mendhar sector.

He displayed courage and dedication of the highest order by eliminating terrorists even in his final moments. His story of heroism and supreme sacrifice continues to inspire the youth even today.

While addressing the gathering, Maj Gen

Anupinder Bevli, VSM, passionately called upon the cadets to emulate the steel-willed spirit of Maj Akash, urging them to walk the path with honour, diligence, and devotion. His motivational words rekindled the flame of patriotism in all cadets, reminding all that true strength lies not only in the body but in the unbreakable will of the heart.

He emphasized that Obstacle Training, a cornerstone of the NCC curriculum, develops resilient mindsets, collaborative instincts, and the courage to rise like a phoenix after every fall. The inauguration was witnessed by Brig DN Pandey, Group

Commander, NCC Group HQ Jammu, the ever-supportive Dr. Geetanjali Andotra, Principal GCW Gandhinagar, Col Muneesh Jasrotia, Commanding Officer, 8 J&K Girls Bn, Col Yash Chhibber, AO 2



J&K Bn, along with a distinguished galaxy of intellectuals, Associate NCC Officers, and spirited NCC cadets.

Under the azure skies and watchful eyes of mentors, the spirited SD and SW cadets, brimming with youthful zeal and discipline, displayed their skills on the OT course with impeccable military precision, demonstrating grit, coordination, and indomitable resolve.

to our unwavering commitment to rural transformation. From enabling access

ensure sustainability remains at the heart of development."

livelihoods and institutions will be more critical than ever."



to finance and infrastructure to fostering innovation and resilience, our work has touched millions of lives. As India accelerates toward inclusive growth, NABARD is prepared to lead from the front through digital transformation, support for rural enterprises, and mission-led programmes that unlock grassroots potential. Our focus now is to scale high-impact solutions, nurture entrepreneurial ecosystems, and

M. Nagaraju, Secretary DFS, GoI, lauded NABARD's enduring impact:

"For over four decades, NABARD has served as a cornerstone of India's rural development strategy. Its initiatives reflect the government's vision for an inclusive and future-ready rural economy. As we move into an era defined by climate challenges and digital opportunities, NABARD's role in strengthening rural

The evening witnessed the launch of several strategic initiatives aimed at expanding NABARD's outreach and deepening its development impact.

The evening also featured the premiere of "Green Roots: NABARD's Journey Towards Climate Resilience", a documentary chronicling NABARD's decades-long work in promoting sustainable agriculture and environmental stewardship.