

Commissioner SMC reviews preparedness for Swachh Survekshan 2025-26

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haaseeb, chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the preparedness and ongoing initiatives being undertaken by the Corporation under Swachh Survekshan 2025-26, the nationwide cleanliness assessment programme.

During the meeting, the Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of sanitation measures being implemented across the city and directed officials to further strengthen cleanliness standards in accordance with the parameters laid down under Swachh Survekshan. He emphasized the need for strict adherence to efficient door-to-door waste collection, segregation of waste

at source, and scientific processing and disposal of municipal waste.

Stressing the importance of sustained and coordinated efforts, the Commissioner instructed the concerned officers to intensify monitoring of sanitation services and ensure visible improvements in cleanliness across public spaces, markets, residential localities, and other key areas of the city.

The Commissioner also highlighted the critical role of citizen participation in achieving the objectives of Swachh Survekshan and directed officials to strengthen public awareness and outreach initiatives aimed at encouraging community involvement in sanitation and waste management practices.

Reaffirming the commitment of the Srinagar



Municipal Corporation towards making Srinagar a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable city, the Commissioner urged officers

to work with dedication, efficiency, and accountability to achieve improved outcomes in the national cleanliness survey.

The meeting was attended by Joint Commissioners SMC and other senior officers of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation.



DC Ganderbal reviews progress of digitization of revenue records

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a meeting of revenue officers to review the progress of digitization of revenue records in the district.

During the meeting, the DC sought a detailed tehsil-wise report regarding the status of digitization including entry of backlog mutations as well as resolution of

grievances received during public reading of Jamabandi in various villages. Stressing the need for expediting the process, he directed the officers to ensure timely and accurate completion of the exercise.

The DC instructed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR) to ensure strict monitoring of the progress and ensure daily reporting of targets achieved across the district.

The DC also reviewed the status of pending public grievances related to revenue matters and emphasized that these cases should be disposed-off promptly to provide timely resolutions of the grievances raised during public hearings. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Patwaris and other concerned revenue officials.

DC Kulgam visits Mirhama; inspects construction works of transit accommodation for Migrant Employees

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today visited Mirhama to inspect the ongoing construction work of Transit Accommodation for Kashmiri Migrant Employees.

During the visit, the Executive Engineer R&B briefed the DC about the progress of the project. He informed that the project comprises 196 flats, out of which 128 flats have been completed so far.

It was further informed that the allotted

cost of the project is Rs 33.13 crore.

The DC inspected various components of the project and took stock of the pace and quality of work.

He directed the concerned officers to expedite the electrification work and landscaping to ensure timely completion of the remaining flats.

The DC emphasized the importance of completing the project within the stipulated timeframe so that the accommodation facilities are made available to the employees at the earliest.

DC Budgam visits District Hospital; Inspects Blood Bank, Oxygen Plant

Also reviews progress of under-construction 125-Bedded new DH & 100-Bedded Critical Care Unit at Reshipora

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today conducted an extensive visit to District Hospital (DH) Budgam to inspect its functioning, assess ongoing infrastructure development projects, and review the progress of critical facilities aimed at improving healthcare services in the district.

During the visit, the DC inspected the upgraded Blood Bank, which has been expanded to a second storey. He was apprised that all necessary machinery and equipment for conducting blood tests and storage of blood, including advanced diagnostic tools, have been installed.

The DC emphasised the importance of ensuring that the Blood Bank operates efficiently to meet the critical healthcare needs of the



residents. He also reviewed the functioning of the Oxygen Plant at DH Budgam and interacted with the staff to assess its operational readiness. He directed the concerned authorities to ensure uninterrupted oxygen supply to cater to emergency requirements and patient care.

During his visit, the DC interacted with hospital staff and enquired about the availability of healthcare

services, infrastructure, and maintenance. He also interacted with the patients and attendants. He stressed the need for cleanliness and sanitation in and around the hospital premises and called for maintaining a patient-friendly environment.

Later, the DC visited the under-construction 125-Bedded new District Hospital and 100-Bedded Critical Care Unit at Reshipora

Budgam. During the inspection, the DC reviewed various components of the under-construction health infrastructure and took stock of the pace and quality of the work.

He was informed that the structural skeleton of the building has been completed and the structural steel truss work is about 95 percent complete. Overall, nearly 65 percent of the project has been physically completed so far. The project is expected to be completed by March 2027, while the target for substantial completion is December 2026.

The DC directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work while ensuring quality standards and compliance with accessibility norms so that the facility benefits patients and attendants once completed.

During the visit, the DC stated that the District Administration will conduct weekly monitoring of the construction works to ensure that the new hospital is completed within the stipulated timeframe and dedicated to the public at the earliest.

He also remarked that the new District Hospital is a long-standing requirement of the people of Budgam as the existing hospital lacks adequate space to cater to the growing healthcare needs of the district. He said the new facility will significantly strengthen healthcare infrastructure and improve patient care services in the district.

The DC reiterated that the District Administration remains committed to improving healthcare delivery and directed all concerned departments to ensure the timely completion of the ongoing projects.

DC Kulgam reviews NABARD projects under RIDF Sector

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Shahzad Alam today chaired a workshop cum review meeting of NABARD projects, funded under Rural Infrastructure Infrastructure Fund (RIDF) in the district.

The programme was attended by JDP, Malik Suhail; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; ADDM NABARD, District Sectoral Officers and Executive Engineers of R&B, Jal Shakti, IFC, KP-DCL.

The workshop aimed at sensitizing all the development departments of the district regarding the submission of projects by various departments under various sectors.

Giving a detailed presentation, DDM NABARD, Rouf Zargar outlining the operational guidelines, funding modalities, and strategic priorities of the RIDF scheme.

The presentation highlighted the



39 eligible activities categorized under three broad sectors, Agriculture and related sectors including minor irrigation, watershed development,

cold storage, and flood protection, the Social Sector (covering rural drinking water, public health institutions, and anganwadi centers),

and Rural Connectivity (focusing on the construction of rural roads and bridges). Presentation also covered the Information regarding DPR formulation, fund flow process and operational process involved in sanctioning the projects.

The DC was informed that a total of 112 projects with total outlay of Rs 349.63 Crore was sanctioned by NABARD in district since the inception out of which there are currently 22 ongoing projects with total outlay of Rs 106.12 Cr, under different sectors.

The DC undertook the detailed component wise review of each project, discussing the physical and financial progress of works.

He laid emphasis on the Executive Engineers to complete the projects under timelines fixed by NABARD. Executing agencies were instructed to speed up the slow moving projects and expedite submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) and PCRs for completed projects.

JKEDI launches 2nd Batch of ESDP under RAMP at Pulwama

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Pulwama, today launched the 2nd batch of the Entrepreneurship and Skill Development Program (ESDP) under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme at the Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Pulwama.

The program was formally inaugurated by Range Officer (South Kashmir) JKEDI, Nafia Nazir, in presence of District Nodal Officer (DNO), JKEDI Pulwama Raiyees Manzoor, Superintendent, ITI Pulwama, Gh Nabi Shah, and other senior

officials from JKEDI.

Speaking on the occasion, Nafia Nazir outlined the key objectives of the RAMP scheme, emphasizing its vital role in nurturing grassroots-level entrepreneurship across Jammu and Kashmir. She highlighted how such targeted program empower aspiring entrepreneurs with essential tools to build sustainable businesses.

Furthermore, the District Nodal Officer, commended the initiative and stressed the critical importance of entrepreneurship in addressing unemployment challenges and fostering a self-reliant economy in the region.

The RAMP-funded

ESDP is designed to equip prospective entrepreneurs with comprehensive skills in business development, financial planning, market awareness, and other foundational areas necessary for launching and successfully managing their ventures.

The program forms part of a broader effort by JKEDI, in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME), Government of India, to promote youth entrepreneurship and strengthen the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. The event saw enthusiastic participation of 32 trainees, who expressed keen interest in the training modules.

3-day Nasha Mukta Bharat training program under NMBA commences at Shopian

SHOPIAN: A three-day training programme organised by District Surveillance Unit, Shopian under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) commenced today at Shopian.

The programme was conducted on the directions of Director, Health Services Kashmir and was inaugurated by Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Shopian, Dr. Arshid Hussain Tak.

The programme witnessed participation from lecturers, teachers of various Higher/Secondary Schools and members of NRLM Self Help Groups.

The first day of the training focused on strengthening awareness and preventive measures against substance abuse.

During the sessions, experts threw light on the harmful effects of substance abuse, early identification of drug use among students and the role of teachers and community members in guiding youth towards career development.

Medical Officer, District Hospital Shopian, Dr. Aadil Farooq delivered a detailed presentation, highlighting strategies for drug prevention, early detection, counselling mechanisms and community-based interventions to combat substance abuse.

Other resource persons including Dr. Rahil Hassan Khan and Quratul Ann also shared valuable insights on prevention, awareness and community engagement.

Speaking on the occasion, CMO emphasized the importance of collective efforts in tackling the growing challenge of drug abuse and highlighted the need for community participation in building a drug-free society.

The participants appreciated the initiative and promised to actively support the mission of creating a Nasha Mukta (Drug-Free) society.

MC Dooru empowers SHG Women as Community Mobilizers to strengthen Swachh Bharat Mission

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: Municipal Committee Dooru, Verinag has successfully engaged eight members from various Self-Help Groups (SHGs) as Community Mobilizers under the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) component of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0.

The engagement process was conducted in accordance with

the guidelines and directions issued by the Mission Directorate, SBM (U) J&K, and followed a transparent selection procedure that included personal interviews, verification of credentials, and execution of formal contractual agreements with the selected SHG members.

This initiative is aimed at strengthening community participation at the grassroots level and enhancing public awareness regarding sanitation, solid

waste management, hygiene practices, and source segregation of waste within the municipal limits.

The engaged Community Mobilizers will undertake door-to-door awareness campaigns, community outreach programmes, and public engagement activities to actively promote the objectives of Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban) 2.0.

The engagement of SHG members reflects the Govern-

ment's commitment to empowering women-led community institutions, generating livelihood opportunities, and fostering a sense of community ownership in sanitation and cleanliness initiatives.

Through this initiative, Municipal Committee Dooru-Verinag seeks to further strengthen public participation in maintaining a clean, hygienic, and sustainable urban environment.

DLSA Budgam conducts Awareness Programme on International Women's Day

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority, Budgam (DLSA Budgam), under the aegis of the J&K Legal Services Authority and under the chairmanship of O. P. Bhagat, Chairman, DLSA and Principal District & Sessions Judge, Budgam, successfully conducted an awareness programme on International Women's Day at Government Middle School Nagam, Chadoora.

The programme was organized with the objective of spreading awareness about women's rights, gen-

der equality, legal remedies available to women, laws related to domestic violence, sexual harassment, trafficking, and cyber crimes against women, as well as various legal safeguards available for the protection and empowerment of women in society.

During the programme, the resource persons highlighted the significance of International Women's Day and stressed the importance of educating women about their legal rights and entitlements. They also informed the participants about various welfare schemes and legal provisions available for

the protection and empowerment of women.

The speakers further emphasized the role of the Legal Services Authorities in providing free legal aid and assistance to the needy and marginalized sections of society, particularly women who are victims of injustice or exploitation.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation from the students, teachers, and local residents, who appreciated the initiative taken by DLSA Budgam in promoting legal awareness and empowering women at the grassroots level.



DC Handwara visits Schools, inspects facilities on Reopening Day

KUPWARA: Schools across Sub-Division Handwara reopened today after three-month-long winter vacation, bringing renewed enthusiasm among students and teachers as academic activities resumed.

On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, accompanied by Zonal Education officer (ZEO) Handwara, conducted visits to various educational institutions to inspect the arrangements and welcome students back to their classrooms. During his visit, the ADC interacted with students and teachers and expressed happiness over the cheerful atmosphere as students resumed their studies after the winter break. He reviewed the facilities available in the schools and directed the concerned heads to ensure cleanliness, and availability of basic amenities so that students can pursue their studies in a comfortable environment.

The ADC also encouraged students to focus on their education and make the best use of the academic session. He appreciated the efforts of the school administration and teachers for maintaining discipline and ensuring a smooth reopening of schools.

Students expressed excitement and joy at meeting their classmates and teachers after the long winter break, marking a fresh start to the academic activities in the Sub-Division.