

Road infrastructure push boosting security & development in J&K: Sat MP raises 'Jammu-Srinagar Highway' progress in RS

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI: President, J&K BJP and Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Sat Sharma raised an important issue concerning the upgradation of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway (NH-44), in the Rajya Sabha through an unstarred question.

Sat Sharma, seeking clarity from the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, inquired about the progress achieved for 336 kms Jammu-Srinagar National Highway under Bharatmala Phase-I, assessment of improvements in travel efficiency and logistics movement, and the road safety and traffic management measures being implemented along the corridor.

Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Jairam Gadkari, responding to the query, informed the House



that the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, spanning approximately 244 km, is being developed into a four-lane highway.

He stated that around 230 km of the highway has already

been completed, covering key stretches including Jammu-Ramban and Banihal-Srinagar, along with the construction of 20 tunnels and 9 bypasses.

The remaining 14 km stretch of the Ramban-Banihal section is currently under execution and is expected to be completed by June 2027.

The Minister further highlighted that the project has significantly enhanced connectivity between Jammu and Srinagar by reducing travel distance from about 295 km to 244 km and cutting travel time from 8-9 hours to nearly 5 hours. This has also led to considerable savings in fuel consumption and improved logistics efficiency across the region.

On safety and monitoring, Gadkari emphasized that highway development is being carried out as per Indian Roads Congress (IRC) standards,

with comprehensive measures including road safety audits, installation of signage, crash barriers, road markings, and illumination at critical locations. Continuous monitoring through Network Survey Vehicles (NSV) and field inspections is also being undertaken, along with timely maintenance and deployment of traffic management systems to ensure safe, reliable, and all-weather connectivity.

Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma lauded the leadership of Narendra Modi for transforming India's road infrastructure, particularly in Jammu & Kashmir. He stated that the unprecedented focus of the Government of India on strengthening the road network has accelerated overall development in the region and significantly contributed to the socio-economic upliftment of the people.

Army conduct awareness campaign on Agnipath Scheme at Baila & Haribudha

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RAJOURI: The Indian Army successfully conducted an Awareness Campaign on the Agnipath Scheme at Baila Village, Haribudha aimed at educating and motivating local youth to explore career opportunities in the Armed Forces.

The outreach programme saw enthusiastic participation from students, aspiring candidates and residents of the region. Army officials provided comprehensive insights into the Agnipath Scheme, a recruitment initiative launched by the Government of India in 2022 to enlist young men and women as Agniveers for a four-year tenure in the Armed Forces.

During the session participants were briefed on key aspects of the scheme, including eligibility criteria, recruitment procedures, training structure and service conditions.

The Indian Army representatives also highlighted the financial benefits under the Seva Nidhi package, skill development opportunities and avenues for future employment after completing their service.

The interactive programme featured a question-and-answer session, enabling attendees to clarify their doubts and gain a deeper understanding of life in the Indian Army. Such awareness drives are part of the Army's ongoing efforts to reach out to



youth in remote areas, ensuring accurate dissemination of information regarding recruitment initiatives.

Speaking on the occasion, Army officials emphasized the importance of discipline, dedication and patriotism, encouraging young individuals to contribute to nation-building by joining the Armed Forces.

The event concluded with a strong sense of motivation among the participants, reflecting growing interest in serving the nation. The Indian Army reaffirmed its commitment to empowering youth through awareness and engagement programmes across the country.

Indian Army conduct computer skill development programme at Punthal

RAJOURI: In a significant initiative under the Digital India program, The Indian Army conducted a Computer Skill Development Programme for the youth of Punthal village in Rajouri district.

The session aimed to enhance digital literacy among the participants, providing them with essential computer skills.

This program is designed to empower the youth with the tools necessary to leverage technology for education, employment and personal growth. Through this initiative, the Indian Army strives to build the capabilities of the youth, enabling them to shape brighter futures and contribute to the nation's growth.

Vidyaramb Certificates provided to children in Assar Block on completing preschool education

DODA: A mega Programme was Thursday organized at the ICDS Project Headquarters - Jathi (Assar)- Doda to distribute Vidyaramb certificates among Anganwadi children on completion of Pre-school education.

The event marked an important milestone under the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) component of Mission Shiksha, aimed at ensuring a smooth transition of children from Anganwadi Centres to formal primary schooling. The certificates symbolized the commencement of learning and recognized the successful completion of the preschool curriculum.

DLIC approves 330 Mission YUVA cases at Doda district

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DODA: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was convened today under the chairmanship of the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Krishan Lal to review and approve cases aimed at promoting self-employment in the district.

As many as 330 cases, duly verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU), were placed before the committee for consideration. After detailed deliberations, all the cases were approved by the DLIC for further processing.

The DDC directed



the Assistant Director Employment to promptly forward all approved cases to the concerned bank branches for necessary sanctioning. The Cluster Manager J&K Bank was also instructed to process all cases strictly within the prescribed Turnaround Time (TAT), ensuring that financial assistance is extended to beneficiaries in an efficient and time-bound manner.

The meeting concluded with a collective

commitment from all stakeholders to work in close coordination for the effective implementation of Mission YUVA and to strengthen self-employment avenues across the district.

The meeting was attended by the GM DIC Ashfaq Khanji; AD Employment Nehal Pandit; Lead District Manager, Officer from NABARD, District Employment Officer, officials from Mission YUVA and concerned officials.

DEO Kathua reviews progress of Panchayat Electoral roll revision

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

KATHUA: District Election Officer Kathua Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of the Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) to review the progress of the revision of Panchayat Electoral Rolls being carried out from March 27 to April 29, 2026.

At the outset, the DEO laid emphasis on ensuring maximum publicity of the revision exercise so that all eligible voters are able to avail this inclusive opportunity for enrolment, deletion and correction in the electoral rolls.

He directed the officers to put in place all necessary arrangements for the special weekend camps scheduled



to be held every Saturday and Sunday starting from April 4, 2026 across the designated polling stations in the district. "The election staff shall also undertake door-to-door outreach during the revision period to identify eligible voters, facilitate registrations and ensure that no deserving voter is left out of the process," the

DEO instructed. He sought daily progress reports at the District Election Cell for effective monitoring. The AEROs were asked to personally supervise the process in their respective jurisdictions and ensure timely addition and deletion of voters as per the prescribed norms.

The designated observers were directed to visit

the identified Panchayat polling stations to oversee the conduct of the camps, while senior officers of the district administration were asked to conduct random inspections to ensure smooth and transparent implementation of the exercise.

The DEO informed that local voters presently residing outside the district can also be considered for inclusion in the electoral rolls, subject to submission of prescribed documents as notified by the State Election Commission.

ADC Vishavjeet Singh; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; Deputy DEO Nagesh Singh; ENT and other officials of the Election Department were present in the meeting.

Census 2027: training for Phase-I concludes at Poonch

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POONCH: The District Administration Poonch Thursday successfully concluded a three-day district-level training programme for District and Charge Level Officers, Officials for smooth conduct of Phase-I Census-2027 (House Listing & Housing Census - HLO).

The training programme was conducted in accordance with the guidelines of the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K, with the objective of capacity building of Census functionaries at district and charge levels.

The sessions focused on sensitizing officers to their role and responsibilities, the concepts of House Listing Operations and hands-on training on the Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) and HLBS web applications.

The training was organised in multiple sessions from March 24, 25



to April 2, 2026, ensuring comprehensive coverage of all operational aspects for the smooth and efficient conduct of Census 2027 Phase-I.

Deputy Commissioner Ashok Kumar Sharma, who is also the Principal Census Officer for the district, underscored the significance of accurate and reliable data collection and stressed the need for close coordination among field-level functionaries.

He exhorted the officers to discharge their duties with utmost dedication and professionalism to ensure the successful conduct of the upcoming Census.

The participants actively engaged in the sessions and gained valuable practical exposure to digital tools and procedural frameworks. The programme concluded with interactive discussions, addressing field-level challenges and clarifying operational

queries. Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; District Statistics & Evaluation Officer Javid Ahmed; District Informatics Officer NIC Parvinder Singh; District Coordinators from the Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Tehsildars, Executive Officers and other officials associated with the forthcoming Census exercise participated in the training programme.

DHP&M J&K launches 2 new services on Jan Sugam Portal

JAMMU: In a significant step towards digital governance and ease of doing business, the Directorate of Horticulture Planning & Marketing (DHP&M) Jammu & Kashmir today launched two online services on the Jan Sugam Portal.

The Services include 'Issuance of Fresh License for Trade & Renewal of License for Trade.' These services pertain to trade activities in Fruit and Vegetable Markets and have been successfully developed by the IT Cell of Information Technology Department.

The Services were launched by the Director DHP&M Ghulam Jeelani Zargar in presence of Additional Secretary IT Devender Singh Bhatt; Head IT Cell Megha Khajuria and others.

Phase-I Training for Census 2027 culminates in Kishtwar

KISHTWAR: The District Administration Kishtwar (Principal Census Office), in collaboration with the Directorate of Census Operations J&K, conducted a comprehensive three-day Phase-I training programme for designated officials for Census-2027.

On Day 3 of the programme, held today, the training focused on hands-on practice on CMMS and HLO, marking the final day of the three-day training programme for Charge Officers and census clerks.

The training programme was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (Principal Census Officer), Pankaj Kumar Sharma.

Resource persons from the Directorate of Census Operations J&K, including AD (Nodal Officer) (Census & Operations Office J&K) Balbir Singh; Nodal Officer Kishtwar, Chandra Shekhar Singh Rajawat; Resource Person, Vinay Kumar Singh along with other officials imparted the training.

The sessions covered key aspects such as role and responsibilities of census staff, core concepts of House Listing Operations and hands-on training on the Census Management & Monitoring System (CMMS) and HLBS web portal.

The Deputy Commissioner, in his address, stressed the need for seamless coordination among field level functionaries for smooth census operations. He instructed officers to perform their duties with dedication, precision and professionalism.

The participants actively engaged in the training sessions, gaining valuable insights into digital tools and procedural frameworks essential for modern census operations.

DC stresses concrete corrective measures at accident-prone spots

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POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma Thursday chaired a meeting of the District Level Road Safety Committee (DLRSC) to review and strengthen road safety measures across the district.

Detailed discussions were held on ensuring black spot free roads for commuters. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed accident-prone locations and emphasized the need for a thorough survey to ascertain the causes of road accidents. He directed the executing agencies to carry out comprehensive assessments and take necessary corrective measures.

The concerned departments were asked to utilize the funds allocated for the removal of black spots effectively to enhance road safety. The recent road accidents were reviewed on a case-to-case basis, with a focus on identifying reasons and implementing preventive strategies. Directions were also issued for the identification and rectification of any left-out accident-prone spots.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Muhammad Sayeed, SE PWD(R&B), Arvind Mangay, CMO, CEO Municipality, ARTO, DIO NIC, DySP, Hqr, Tehsildar Hqr. Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

Army plays vital role in transforming lives, strengthening social fabric: Vikramaditya

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Former MLC and scion of the erstwhile Dogra Royal Family, Vikramaditya Singh has lauded the efforts of the Indian Army for its extensive civil outreach and community development initiatives aimed at supporting students and communities in border regions, including Tangdhar and Karnah in Kupwara district of Jammu & Kashmir.

During his recent visit to these areas on the occasion of Navratra Puja at Sharda Temple Teetwal at LOC, he interacted with senior members of civil society, students, and Army officers, gaining first-hand insight into the positive impact of various initiatives on the



ground. He particularly highlighted the contributions of the Army Goodwill School, Hajir and Community Radio Rooh-e-Karnah, noting their role in empowering local youth, promoting education, and strengthening community engagement.

He also expressed that he was deeply impressed by the potential and passion among students and young participants who are actively engaging in and leading these initiatives with the support of the Indian Army.

Vikramaditya emphasized that the Indian Army's sustained efforts in areas such as education, healthcare, infrastructure development, and community welfare have significantly improved the quality of life for residents living in remote and sensitive regions. These initiatives, he noted, not only address immediate needs but also foster long-term trust and cooperation between the armed forces and local populations.

"Such efforts by the Indian Army are highly

impactful and deserve sincere appreciation. They play a crucial role in strengthening the social fabric and ensuring inclusive development in border areas," he stated.

Vikramaditya Singh also expressed his gratitude to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh for their vision and continued support and commitment towards the development of border regions of Jammu & Kashmir, enabling such impactful initiatives to flourish.

He further emphasized that these outreach programs contribute to national integration by bridging gaps and creating opportunities for local communities, especially the youth.

Ex-En rebuts news report 'Improper desilting of Tawi Lift Irrigation Canal'

JAMMU: Executive Engineer Tawi Canal Construction Division Jammu has termed the news article alleging 'Improper desilting of the Tawi Lift Irrigation Canal' published in a section of press as misleading information.

Referring to different photographs published in the report, he said "The pictures indicate accumulation of household waste at certain points and it being discharged through various nullahs that have direct outfall into the canal. It is because the recent rainfall in the region, coupled with the continuous inflow of household sewerage through various nullahs discharging directly into the canal, has contributed significantly to the temporary accumulation of waste and filth at certain points. This issue has already been taken up with the Urban Environmental Engineering Department (UEED), J&K, as the interception and proper disposal of sewerage and household waste fall within their jurisdiction. UEED has prepared a DPR for diversion of nullahs that will effectively prevent the discharge of untreated household waste and sewage into the canal, thereby ensuring a cleaner and more sustainable irrigation system."

"It is reiterated that the department remains fully committed to the proper maintenance and systematic desilting of the canal. All necessary measures are being undertaken to ensure that any residual silt, sludge or waste material is thoroughly cleared before the canal is recharged as the contracts have still not been concluded.