

## P Secy DMRRR reviews ration distribution, extension of welfare schemes for migrants

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**JAMMU:** Principal Secretary Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRRR) Chandraker Bharti Thursday reviewed the progress on implementation of the ration distribution in terms of the Special Relief Ration Scheme for Kashmiri/Jammu Migrants as well as extension of benefits of social sector/welfare schemes to eligible migrants, after integration of their ration cards on the national database.

The meeting was attended by Director Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Jammu, R.K Shavan; Relief & Rehabilitation Commissioner(M), J&K, Dr Arvind Karwani and senior officers from DMRRR, FCS&CA, Social Welfare Departments and National Informatics Centre.

During the meeting, the Principal Secretary directed the concerned departments to take proactive steps to reach out to all households and ensure ration supply to all migrant beneficiaries who have enrolled for integration on the NFSA database, even if e-KYC formalities are pending/in process.

He asked the FCS&CA Department to provide free ration of April and May as

a one-time exception during the transition period into the NFSA database to all such beneficiaries from the FPS dealers indicated by them in the NFSA application, and issue necessary order on same.

The Principal Secretary also asked the officers of the Relief Organization to reach out to all such households that have still not lifted the ration despite the completion of e-KYC formalities and facilitate them. He asked the FCS&CA Department to explore the possibility of establishing a Ration ATM at Mini-Township Jagti, which houses more than 5,000 migrant families and Relief Organization shall identify and provide suitable space for the purpose.

The Principal Secretary also called for conducting an extensive IEC campaign through print, electronic, and social media to make migrants aware that the integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database is purely a welfare-oriented governance reform aimed at inclusion of migrants into the mainstream welfare architecture, extension of social security benefits, digitization and modernization of records, transparency, and accountability in beneficiary man-

agement. He highlighted that the continuation and protection of all the existing relief provisions/guidelines/ entitlements available to Kashmiri/ Jammu Migrants is ensured.

He also directed the officers of Social Welfare department to organise special camps in coordination with the Relief Organization in at migrant camps and prominent non-camp areas at Jammu to reach out to potential migrant beneficiaries of social sector/welfare schemes and facilitate them in filling various online applications for availing benefits of different social sector schemes like Old Age Pension, Widow Pension, Disability Pension, Marriage Assistance, Ayushman Bharat and various scholarships. He also asked them to organise a camp at Reasi for Jammu Migrants.

During the meeting, it was informed that about 21,000 migrant ration cards have already been punched into the NFSA database, and the process of integrating about 5,000 migrant ration cards is in progress and around 50% of families have lifted ration so far under the new scheme. It was apprised that those who could not lift ration in the month of April are being provided two months' free ration (April &

May 2026) and those who received less ration due to any glitch in April or May will also be provided the remaining portion by the FCS&CA Department.

The Government, in terms of various Government Orders and notifications, has repeatedly clarified that the earlier scale of ration distribution to the migrants registered under the relief category shall continue and that all relief ration card holders shall continue to receive 11 Kg free ration per person per month and 1 Kg sugar as per the extant scale of ration distribution. Besides, those registered with the Relief Organisation under the non-relief category (Pensioners, etc.) and categorized into the NPHH category will also receive 5 Kg ration on the Government-approved rates as per their entitlement under NFSA on cost basis.

Social Welfare Department apprised the meeting that 776 families have so far availed the benefit of various social sector schemes after the integration of migrant ration cards into the NFSA database. Pertinent to mention that migrants could not earlier avail the benefits of these schemes due to their ration cards being non-digitized and not integrated into the national database.

## Army organised drawing competition under Nasha Mukti Abhiyan in Poonch

**POONCH:** The Indian Army organised a Drawing Competition at a forward location in Poonch district under the ongoing Nasha Mukti Abhiyan to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse.

The initiative aimed to sensitise local youth and school children through creative expression, encouraging them to understand the social, psychological and health-related consequences of substance abuse, while promoting the values of a healthy and responsible lifestyle.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and members of the local community, who actively engaged in the programme. Through meaningful artwork and visual representation, participants conveyed powerful messages advocating a drug-free society.

The competition provided a constructive platform for young minds to express their ideas and strengthen awareness against the menace of drug addiction.

## MD JPDCL, DC review progress of power Sector projects in Kishtwar



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**KISHTWAR:** Managing Director Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL) Gurpal Singh along with Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma today reviewed the status of the ongoing the Power Sector projects in Kishtwar district.

Executive Engineer (ExEn) JPDCL Abdul Hamid delivered a detailed presentation regarding the progress of the ongoing projects under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Smart Metering Programme and Solar Rooftop installation under PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The MD JPDCL directed executing agency to speed up the pace of work under RDSS for timely completion of the projects.

He also directed the concerned agency to expedite the progress of Smart Metering across the district and ensure completion in a time-bound manner.

The MD JPDCL further instructed the ExEn JPDCL Kishtwar to coordinate with the line departments for facilitating Solar Rooftop installations of employees under the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

Emphasizing efficiency in power distribution, the MD JPDCL directed the department to reduce

Aggregate Technical and Commercial (AT&C) losses below 15 percent in the district.

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma also laid special emphasis on the speedy implementation of Smart Metering to strengthen power distribution and improve consumer services.

The meeting concluded with a detailed review of ongoing projects and discussions on ensuring their timely execution for strengthening the power infrastructure in Kishtwar district. The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; CPO Akhil Thakur; CEO Sanjay Dogra; EEs, JEs, besides other officials of JPDCL.

## Three-Day Training for Enumerators, Supervisors commences at Baderwah

**BHADERWAH:** A three-day training programme for enumerators and supervisors commenced today at the Community Hall Baderwah to prepare them for the Census-2027.

The training session was organised under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner and Principal Census Officer Krishan Lal and supervision of Additional Deputy Commissioner Baderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal.

The technical sessions are being conducted by District Master Trainers, Dr. Yunus Rasheed and Dr. Bharat Singh to impart detailed guidance to the participants regarding enumeration procedures, data collection methods, household listing and other important aspects of the Census process.

On day one, the participants were sensitised to the importance of accurate data collection, proper verification procedures and the effective implementation of census guidelines to ensure smooth and transparent conduct of the exercise. Officials also stressed the significance of the Census in planning and implementation of developmental programmes and welfare schemes.

## DLC reviews Change of Land Use Cases at Doda

**DODA:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Krishan Lal Thursday chaired a meeting of District Level Committee on Change of Land Use (CLU) at his office chamber to review and discuss the Change of Land Use applications received from different parts of the district.

A total of eight Change of Land Use cases were taken up for discussion and consideration.

The committee examined applications pertaining to Doda, Baderwah, Bhalesa and Assar Tehsils. Detailed deliberations were held regarding land status, environmental considerations and departmental clearances associated with each proposal.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed disposal of cases in accordance with established norms and prescribed procedures.

After detailed scrutiny and deliberations, two cases were approved by the Committee, while directions were issued to the concerned departments for expeditious processing of the remaining cases in accordance with prescribed guidelines and norms.

The DC also underscored the importance of maintaining a balance between developmental requirements and environmental sustainability to ensure planned and regulated growth in the district.

## DC Kathua convenes public outreach programme at Duggan

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**KATHUA:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma Thursday chaired a Public Outreach Programme at Duggan, a remote block of Bani Sub-Division, to take first-hand appraisal of public grievances and developmental needs of the area.

The programme witnessed active participation from local residents, public representatives and members of various delegations who projected issues requiring immediate attention of the district administration.

The locals and public representatives highlighted several demands, seeking augmentation of health and education infrastructure, making the JK Bank branch at Duggan functional, meeting shortage of staff in the departments, opening of a Veterinary Hospital and an Allopathic Health Centre, release of pending

land compensation, development of a playground, restoration of irrigation canals, adequate supply of agricultural inputs such as seeds and urea, upgradation of educational institutions and strengthening of power infrastructure in the area.

Responding to the demands, the Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment towards addressing public concerns and ensuring equitable development of remote and far-flung areas. "Improvement of road connectivity and infrastructure development are key priorities," he assured.

The DC directed the Agriculture and Horticulture Departments to ensure maximum outreach and benefits to the people of Bani and Duggan under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). He appealed to farmers and youth to avail benefits of horticulture,

beekeeping and other livelihood generation schemes being implemented by the government.

Regarding the functioning of JK Bank branch at Duggan, the DC assured that the matter would be taken up with the concerned authorities to ascertain the reasons for delay and facilitate its early functioning. On the demand for a playground, he informed that the issue would be taken up with the Sports Council, while directions were issued to the education department to prepare proposals for strengthening educational infrastructure in the area.

The DC further informed that all land compensation cases related to developmental projects have been resolved except those pending due to disputes or litigation.

He urged the youth to stay away from drug abuse and actively participate in the ongoing 100-Day Nasha Mukti Abhiyan and

Mission YUVA for constructive engagement and tap self-employment opportunities. He assured the public that all genuine demands raised at the outreach programme have been duly noted and would be examined for appropriate and timely redressal.

Responding to the demand related to agriculture, the Chief Agriculture Officer informed that a seed sale centre is already functional at Duggan and assured adequate arrangements for availability of urea despite supply constraints. He also encouraged farmers to adopt organic farming practices. The Assistant Director Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs informed that ration card bifurcation would be taken up after completion of Census 2027 activities.

The District Horticulture Officer informed the gathering about the departmental schemes and

interventions being implemented in the Bani-Duggan region to promote kiwi, walnut, beekeeping and other horticulture activities. The Executive Engineer, PDD informed that a transformer for Vaisukhi Nag Mandir would be installed within a week and added that the proposal for creation of a PDD Sub-Division for Bani is already under consideration at the Secretariat level. The Assistant Labour Commissioner highlighted the benefits available under Mission YUVA and other departmental welfare schemes.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner met several delegations and individuals and listened to their grievances for appropriate action.

Among others, the programme was attended by IAS Probationer Nidhi; CPO Ranjeet Thakur; SDM Bani Sundeeep Kumar and officers from the line departments.

## Swami Ram Swarup calls for unity, harmony & Vedic values for peace

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**YOL:** On the 40th day of the ongoing 78-day Yajna Anushtan of all four Vedas at Ved Mandir, Swami Ram Swarup completed the Rigveda by offering oblations into the sacred fire, kindled by seekers, while explaining the final mantra 10/191/4 of the Rigveda, and commenced the Yajurveda which manifested in the heart of Rishi Vayu.

Explaining the completed Rigveda, Swami Ji said that in the beginning of creation, only the Vedic voice originating from Almighty God is the infinite treasure of all knowledge and science. He said that man possesses



limited knowledge whereas God possesses infinite knowledge. The Guru-Shishya tradition began

from Brahma and the knowledge of the Vedas spread across the earth. Only Almighty God is the one Lord of the entire universe who showers happiness through sages and saints, and He is attained by following the path of the Vedas and pleasing Him.

Again, Swami Ji explained some meanings of the concluding mantras of the Rigveda:- Almighty God instructed human beings, "O humans! Do not divide yourselves into different groups, rather remain united in one thread and live together, so that all of you may engage in dialogue among yourselves and not disputes. Let your minds become one. Just as the learned scholars

of earlier ages, united in thought, attained and enjoyed their benefits according to the Vedas, in the same way you should also continue doing so."

The thoughts of human beings should be alike among one another, the tendency towards performing actions should also be alike, and the thoughts arising in mind and consciousness should also be auspicious according to the Vedas. The praise, prayer and worship of Almighty God should be alike among all human beings living on earth.

"O humans! Let your sense of self be alike (meaning thereby that we are all souls, we are all one and there is no high or low

among us). Let there be equal loving behaviour among yourselves. Let your hearts be alike [meaning that similar pure thoughts inspired by Vedic knowledge should arise in everyone's heart and no impure or sinful thoughts should arise in anyone]. Human behaviour should be noble and full of cooperation."

Swami Ji preached that listening to, contemplating upon and deeply imbibing these thoughts originating from God alone can establish peace in the world. He explained that "Nididhyasan" means listening, reflecting and contemplating upon the teachings, and then adopting and imbibing them into one's life.

## Jan Bhagidaari -Sabse Door-Sabse Pehle Welfare Camps held at Tribal villages

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**KISHTWAR:** In continuation to the 7-day "Jan Bhagidaari Sabse Door-Sabse Pehle" IEC Campaign, the District Administration Kishtwar today organised series of awareness and benefit saturation Camps in different parts of the District.

The Camps were held at Panchayat Kabban in Block Paddar, Panchayat Udil Gojran in Block Inderwal and Panchayat Chamoti in Block Drabshalla to facilitate inclusive service outreach to tribal communities.

The initiative aimed to reinforce last-mile implementation of government schemes and enhance public awareness in remote tribal belts.

The camps witnessed enthusiastic participation from offi-



cers, officials, local inhabitants, public representatives and other stakeholders, enabling direct engagement between the tribal population and the government departments.

The camps provided multiple services, including on the spot registrations under finan-

cial inclusion schemes. The departmental stalls set up by Animal Husbandry, Horticulture, FCS&CA, Education, J&K Bank, Lead Bank Office, Fisheries, Forest, PDD, ICDS, Health, Agriculture, Youth Services & Sports and Revenue Departments disseminated in-

formation regarding respective schemes and citizen-centric services among the tribal population.

Public grievances redressal sessions were also organised during the camps, ensuring swift resolution of public concerns and strengthening outreach in far-off areas.

Beneficiaries were sensitized to flagship welfare schemes including PMJJJDY, PMSBY, Mission YUVA, PM Ujjwala Yojana and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana along with other UT and Centrally Sponsored welfare initiatives.

Awareness sessions under the 100 Day Nasha Mukti J&K Abhiyan were also held at all three locations to educate youth and local residents about the adverse effects of substance abuse.

## District Level Coordination Committee reviews implementation of NTCP in Samba District

**SAMBA:** A meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee for National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was held Thursday here at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex Samba. Deputy Commissioner Ayushi Sudan chaired the meeting.

At the outset, the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) briefed the meeting regarding the objectives of the National Tobacco Control Programme and the activities being undertaken in the district.

The Committee reviewed the Action Taken Report (ATR) on the previous decisions. The DC called for strict enforcement of COTPA provisions, including ban on smoking at the public places.

## Arunpal-led delegation meets Nasir Aslam Wani

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**JAMMU:** Arunpal Singh, Provincial Working President of JKNC Student Union, along with his team, met with Nasir Aslam Wani and raised several serious issues and irregularities being faced by students in various colleges and universities across Jammu & Kashmir.

During the meeting, the delegation highlighted major concerns directly affecting the academic environment, health, hygiene, and overall welfare of students.

The issues discussed included irregularities and lack of transparency in the utilization of institutional funds, poor and unhygienic washroom facilities for students—especially girl students—unsafe drinking water in educational institutions, and the illegal operation



of college canteens without following a proper and transparent tender process.

The delegation also emphasized the urgent need for regular inspections and accountability mechanisms in colleges and universities to ensure proper utilization of funds, maintenance of hygiene

standards, and improvement in student welfare facilities.

Arunpal Singh urged the government and concerned authorities to take immediate action on these issues and ensure a safe, transparent, and student-friendly environment in educational institutions across Jammu & Kashmir.