

DDC Shopian Reviews District Capex Works, Directs Timely Completion

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SHOPIAN: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget, with particular emphasis on timely tendering and completion of projects. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ACD, CEO, CMO, XEN PDD, BDOs and other concerned officers from various executing agencies. During the meeting, the DDC took a comprehensive review of the status of works, tendering processes,



physical and financial progress, and implementation of projects on the ground. He directed all concerned departments to expedite the tendering and execution of works, address bottlenecks promptly and ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders. He stressed that projects must be completed

within the prescribed timelines while maintaining the required standards of quality. The DDC also called upon executing agencies to closely monitor ongoing works and ensure optimal utilization of allocated funds. He underscored that timely completion of developmental

projects is vital to providing tangible benefits to the public and strengthening infrastructure across the district. The concerned officers were further directed to submit regular progress updates and maintain strict accountability, transparency and quality throughout the execution of all works.

Awareness Campaign Programme on “Fake Pesticides vs. Genuine Pesticides”

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PULWAMA: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with officials of the State Agriculture Department from Block Kakapora, organized an awareness campaign on “Fake Pesticides vs. Genuine Pesticides” for farmers at Sether Gund village, Block Kakapora, District Pulwama, on August 20, 2026. The programme aimed to educate farmers about the identification and verification of genuine pesticides and the risks associated with the purchase and use of counterfeit products. Dr. Vageesh Pandey, DD (E), sensitized the farmers about various methods of identi-

fying and verifying genuine pesticides before purchase and use. Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), highlighted the serious problems and harmful effects of counterfeit pesticides on crops, human health, and the environment. He also emphasized the importance of verifying pesticide QR codes and following the recommended procedures for their safe and judicious application. Mohd. Shafi, JAEO Kakapora, delivered a valuable lecture on the importance of such awareness programmes and stressed the need for farmers to carefully verify the manufacturer’s details, batch number, and other relevant information before purchasing pesticides. Abir Shankhari, APPO (WS),

further strengthened the practical understanding of the participants through a PowerPoint presentation. He apprised the farmers of the harmful effects of indiscriminate pesticide use on human health and emphasized the adoption of all necessary safety precautions during pesticide handling and application. The programme ops, human health, and the environment. He also emphasized the importance of verifying pesticide QR codes and following the recommended procedures for their safe and judicious application. Mohd. Shafi, JAEO Kakapora, delivered a valuable lecture on the importance of such awareness programmes and stressed the need for

farmers to carefully verify the manufacturer’s details, batch number, and other relevant information before purchasing pesticides. Abir Shankhari, APPO (WS), further strengthened the session in which Sanjeet Singh, JAEO Kakapora, addressed and clarified the queries and doubts raised by the farmers. The farmers appreciated the initiative and the valuable guidance provided by the participating officers. The programme emphasized the importance of purchasing genuine pesticides from reliable sources, verifying product details before purchase, and ensuring their safe, judicious, and responsible use.

JKEDI Organises Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme for RRIUM Faculty and Research Scholars

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SRINAGAR: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organised a one-day Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme (EOP) for faculty members and 25 postgraduate research scholars of the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Srinagar. The programme aimed to familiarise participants with entrepreneurial thinking, innovation and the evolving startup ecosystem, while encouraging a shift from conventional approaches to-



wards problem-solving, opportunity identification and value creation. The programme commenced with an interactive session on “Why Entrepreneurship?”, highlighting the role of entrepreneurial

thinking in addressing contemporary economic and social challenges. Subsequent sessions focused on traditional entrepreneurship, the changing startup ecosystem and opportunities for transforming academic

knowledge and research into viable entrepreneurial ventures. The programme concluded with an interactive session on Business Plan Formulation, which familiarised participants with the essential components of developing a structured and sustainable business proposition. Addressing the participants, Sh. Chand Kishore Sharma (JKAS), Joint Director, JKEDI, encouraged faculty members and research scholars to embrace innovation and explore avenues for translating research and knowledge into meaningful entrepreneurial ventures.

Sh. Barun Verma (JKAS), Accounts Officer, JKEDI, also participated in the programme. The sessions were conducted by Sh. Irtif Mehranj, Incubation Manager; Sh. Shabir Majeed, Faculty; Dr. Sameer Jan Bhat, Teaching Associate; and Dr. Mohammad Furqan Khan, Assistant Faculty, JKEDI, who served as resource persons. The programme reaffirmed JKEDI’s commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and knowledge-driven enterprise creation among academic and research communities across Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Kupwara visits Tekipora Lolab, reviews development and public issues

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KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today visited Tekipora village in Lolab and interacted with local residents to take stock of various issues and developmental concerns. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner met members of the Shiv Mandir Committee and reviewed the pending issues concerning the temple. He discussed the matter with the concerned officers and committee members and directed coordinated efforts to ensure that the pending works are expedited and



completed within a fixed timeframe. The villagers also put forth several demands, including the establishment of a library and installation of solar lights at the local Ziarat. The Deputy Commissioner assured the residents that their concerns would be examined and appropriate

action taken on priority. The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the NTPHC Tekipora and reviewed the functioning and availability of healthcare services at the facility. SDM Lolab, CPO and other concerned officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

DC Bandipora for Accelerated Priority Sector Lending and 100% KCC Saturation

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BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired the District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of banks during the first quarter of FY 2026–27, ending June 30, 2026. The meeting was attended by Anup Sharma, Lead District Officer, Reserve Bank of India; Dr. Rouf, DDM, NABARD; Lead District Manager Liyakat Maqbool; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora; heads of various government departments; representatives of banks; and other stakeholders. At the outset, the Lead District Manager presented an overview of the performance of banks across various sectors during the quarter. The banks were advised to en-

hance credit flow, particularly to the Agriculture, MSME, Education and Housing sectors, to strengthen overall Priority Sector Lending. Reviewing the progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed all banks to substantially improve their performance under Priority Sector Lending and work towards bringing the district in line with the benchmarks achieved at the Union Territory level. The meeting placed special emphasis on achieving 100 percent saturation under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments and financial institutions to cover the remaining more than 10,000 Farm Operating Families (FOFs) within the next two quarters through targeted awareness and saturation campaigns. The performance of Mission YUVA and various Social Security Schemes

(SSS) was also reviewed. J&K Bank was directed to expedite disbursements under Mission YUVA and intensify efforts to increase fresh enrolments under social security schemes. The Deputy Commissioner further instructed Line Departments to improve the quality of cases sponsored under Government-sponsored schemes and ensure that all eligible cases are promptly forwarded to banks for timely sanction and disbursement. A notable achievement during the meeting was the successful settlement of an insurance claim under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Highlighting the role of financial inclusion and social security initiatives in providing support to beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner handed over a cheque of Rs 2 lakh to the beneficiary.

DC Anantnag reviews AgriStack Progress, Directs Time-Bound completion

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, IAS, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of AgriStack implementation and other digital agriculture initiatives across the district. The meeting was attended by both Additional Deputy Commissioners, ACR, SDMs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved in digitisation, AgriStack implementation and Farmer ID generation. He stressed the need for close coordination among revenue officials, field functionaries and agriculture officers to address bottlenecks and ensure the timely completion of pending

work. The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the process and set time-bound targets for achieving 100 per cent saturation of farmer profiles. He also called for intensified Farmer ID registration through village-level camps, along with daily monitoring to maintain the quality and accuracy of the data. The meeting was informed that the implementation of AgriStack has been taken up in mission mode, with the district administration and field functionaries working in a coordinated manner to meet the assigned targets within the stipulated timelines. Out of a total of 5,02,985 entries pertaining to the district, 3,04,720 entries have been completed so far, representing approximately 60.5 per cent progress. The com-

pleted entries are being processed through the prescribed three-tier mechanism of submission, verification and approval. The Deputy Commissioner placed particular emphasis on quality control, directing officials to ensure thorough verification and accuracy of records before their incorporation into the system. He stressed that reliable and accurate data is essential for the effective delivery of digital agriculture services. Meanwhile, more than 84 Farmer ID registration camps are currently operational across the district, through which 2,830 registrations have been completed so far. Field teams are continuing their efforts to accelerate the registration process and facilitate greater farmer participation. The district administration has also undertaken awareness

and mobilisation activities in coordination with various departments and field functionaries. These efforts are aimed at sensitising farmers about the importance of Farmer IDs and encouraging them to complete their registration at the earliest. Reiterating the administration’s commitment to speed, accuracy and quality, the DC directed all concerned to maintain close monitoring and ensure that the assigned targets are achieved within the prescribed timelines. At the conclusion of the meeting, Dr. Bhat said that AgriStack would serve as an important foundation for modernising the agricultural sector and would provide significant benefits to the farming community by enabling more efficient and targeted delivery of farmer-centric services.

Branding and Marketing Awareness Programme Held for PM Vishwakarma Artisans in Pulwama

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

PULWAMA: A Branding and Marketing Awareness Programme under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme was organised today at Town Hall, Pulwama, by the Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in collaboration with the District Administration Pulwama. The programme was exclusively organised for registered PM Vishwakarma artisans. The programme aimed to strengthen the branding, marketing and market-access capabilities of artisans and sensitise them to the importance of effective product branding, improved presentation, digital presence and adoption of modern marketing practices to expand their market reach. Speaking on the occasion, Shri Mohammed Tariq Ishtiaq, IEDS, Assistant Director, Branch MSME-DFO Srinagar, urged the participating artisans to make optimum use of the branding and marketing support available under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme. He emphasised the need to embrace digital tools and explore new market opportunities to enhance the visibility and commercial value of their traditional products. The programme featured interactive sessions by representatives from Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), J&K Bank, Lead Bank, India

Post Payments Bank (IPPB), TPO and Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST). The sessions covered key areas including QR code generation, digital onboarding, digital payments, banking and financial linkages, entrepreneurship development, technology adoption and market facilitation. Officials from the District Industries Centre (DIC), Pulwama, also participated and interacted with the artisans, providing guidance on institutional support and facilitation available for the growth and development of their enterprises. The artisans were sensitised on the significance of building a strong brand identity, maintaining a digital presence, engaging customers effectively and adopting modern marketing techniques to improve product visibility and access wider markets. The programme also provided artisans with an opportunity to interact directly with various institutional stakeholders, seek clarification on their queries and gain practical knowledge about digital, financial and market-oriented tools and services. The participation of more than 100 registered PM Vishwakarma artisans reflected the growing interest among traditional artisans in adopting modern branding, marketing and digital practices to expand their market outreach and strengthen their enterprises.

DC Anantnag reviews implementation of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

ANANTNAG: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a district-level meeting to review the implementation of the TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and assess measures for strengthening block-level monitoring and service delivery across the district. The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Vikas Ahlawat; SDM Dooru/Kokernag Parvaiz Rahim; SDM Pahalgam Amit Gupta; SDM Bijbehara Tanveer Ahmad Tanveer; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Tariq Ahmad Malik; Assistant Commissioner Development

Shafiq Ahmad Wani; District Social Welfare Officer; Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Chief Medical Officer; District Tuberculosis Officer; all Block Medical Officers and Block Development Officers of the seven medical blocks—Achalbal, Bijbehara, Sallar, Shangus, Mattan, Larnoo and Verinag—besides representatives from Higher Education/Degree Colleges, School Education, NCC and MY Bharat. During the meeting, sanction was accorded for the formal constitution and operationalization of Block-Level Monitoring Committees across all seven medical blocks. The committees will function under

designated Sub-Divisional and District Sectoral Officers to strengthen monitoring, inter-departmental coordination and timely resolution of implementation gaps. The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers and field functionaries to ensure strict adherence to the key performance indicators under the campaign. He stressed the need to achieve 100 per cent population screening through chest X-rays in identified high-risk pockets, vulnerable villages, congested urban wards and congregate settings through TB Shivers and outreach camps. Dr. Bilal also directed officials to ensure 100 per cent digital onboarding and registration of

eligible beneficiaries on the TB Mukht Bharat Portal/App and Khushi Chatbot. He emphasized upfront molecular testing through CBNAAT/Truenat for all presumptive TB cases and advised against relying solely on conventional microscopy. The meeting further stressed comprehensive coverage of Differentiated TB Care for diagnosed patients as per national guidelines, along with TB Preventive Treatment (TPT) for all eligible household and close contacts after clinical exclusion of active TB. Block-specific micro-plans were also directed to be prepared, focusing on identification of service-delivery gaps and prompt corrective action

at village and ward levels. Highlighting the importance of community participation, the meeting called for enhanced convergence among the Education, Youth Services & Sports and Rural Development Departments. NCC cadets and MY Bharat volunteers will be mobilized for community awareness, sensitization, outreach activities and logistical support during field-level screening camps. It was further decided that dedicated Senior Treatment Supervisors (STS) under the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) will coordinate directly with the Member Secretaries (BMOs) and respective.

Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviews PM SHRI Schools, Health Centre

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BARAMULLA: Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, and Central Prabhari Officer for Baramulla District under the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block Programmes, PM SHRI Schools and PMDDKY, today undertook a comprehensive field visit to Tangmarg and Pattan to assess the progress of key development initiatives. Sahu, accompanied by Pranjal J. Hazarika, Additional District Development

Commissioner, Baramulla; Nissar Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer; SDM Gulmarg; State Coordinator PM SHRI Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz and other concerned officers, reviewed the implementation of various flagship programmes at the grassroots level. During the visit, he inspected PM SHRI Schools at Dobhiwan, Tangmarg, and Gund Khwaja Qasim in Pattan. He took stock of the infrastructure, educational facilities and initiatives being implemented under the PM SHRI Scheme. He also interacted with students to understand

their learning experiences, assess the availability of facilities and hear their aspirations. The visit also focused on evaluating the implementation and impact of the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block Programmes and PMDDKY, while identifying areas that require further attention and strengthening. Later, Sahu visited Singhpora, Pattan, and inspected the newly established Health and Wellness Centre (Delivery Point). The facility has been constructed with award funds received under NITI Aayog’s Aspi-

ration Blocks Programme, aimed at strengthening local healthcare infrastructure and ensuring improved access to essential health services. During the field visit, Sahu stressed the need for effective implementation, judicious utilization of resources and continuous monitoring of development programmes. He emphasized that coordinated efforts should be made to ensure that the benefits of these flagship initiatives reach the intended beneficiaries efficiently and within the stipulated timelines.