

DC Shahzad Alam reviews progress of developmental projects under CAPEX

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KULGAM: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of ongoing, newly approved and proposed development projects being executed under UT CAPEX, NABARD, Archives & Archaeology, and other key sectors, including Tourism and Education. The meeting focused on expediting the execution of developmental works, addressing implementation bottlenecks and ensuring the timely completion of projects for the benefit of the public. During the review, the DC took a detailed appraisal of the physical and financial progress of projects being implemented by the concerned executing agencies. Stressing the importance of timely execution, he directed all execut-



ing agencies, particularly the officers of the Public Works Department, to maintain the required pace of work and ensure that all ongoing projects are completed within the stipulated timelines. The Deputy Commissioner further instructed that work on all newly approved projects should commence without delay after the completion of

all codal formalities. He directed the concerned officers to furnish a definite timeline to the District Administration regarding tendering, allotment and commencement of each project to facilitate close monitoring and timely intervention wherever required. The DC emphasized that quality, transparency and strict adherence to prescribed timelines must remain the guiding principles during project execution. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Altaf Ahmad Khan; Superintending Engineer, Public Works Department; Fayaz Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer, Suhail Malik; Executive Engineers; Assistant Executive Engineers of all PWD divisions, and other concerned officers from the Tourism, Education, Archives & Archaeology and allied departments.

ADDC Kulgam chairs e-Office Training Programme to strengthen Digital Governance

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KULGAM: An e-Office training programme was conducted today under the chairmanship of Altaf Ahmad Khan, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Kulgam, with the objective of strengthening digital governance and enhancing the efficiency of official work through the effective implementation of the e-Office system. The training was imparted by resource persons from the Information Technology Department, J&K along with District Informatics Officer (DIO), Nadeem, NIC Kulgam. Officers and officials from the Rural Development Department (RDD), Education Department, Health Department, and Social Welfare Department actively participated in the training programme. During the session, participants were sensitized to various features of the e-Office platform, including electronic file management, digital correspondence, workflow automation, and the use of digital signatures for ensuring transparency, accountability, and timely disposal of official business. Speaking on the occasion, Altaf Ahmad



Khan emphasized the importance of adopting digital governance initiatives and urged all departments to make optimum use of the e-office system for efficient, transparent, and paperless administration. He appreciated the resource persons for conducting the training and called upon all participants to implement the knowledge gained in their day-to-day functioning to improve public service delivery. The programme concluded with an interactive session during which participants raised queries that were addressed by the resource persons.

Awareness Programme on Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act 2007 held

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BANDIPORA: An awareness programme on the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007 was organised under the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVAY) at Community Hall Nowgam, Sumbal by the Social Welfare Department (SWD). The programme witnessed the participation of a large number of senior citizens, members of the local community, and other stakeholders. The resource persons

from the Tehsil Legal Services Authority (TLSA), Sumbal highlighted the key provisions of the Act, explaining the legal rights of senior citizens, the responsibility of children and relatives towards their maintenance, and the legal remedies available to elderly persons in cases of neglect or abandonment. Speaking on the occasion, Tehsil Social Welfare Officer, Sumbal, stressed the importance of ensuring dignity, care, and social security for

senior citizens. He also briefed the participants about various welfare schemes and services being implemented by the Social Welfare Department under AVAY for the well-being and empowerment of the elderly. The programme concluded with an interactive question-and-answer session, where participants shared their concerns and received guidance from the speakers regarding the provisions of the Act and the support available to senior citizens.

Engage NMC-registered doctors only: CMO Kulgam directs private hospitals

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SRINAGAR: The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kulgam has directed all private hospitals and healthcare institutions in the district to ensure that only duly qualified and registered medical practitioners are engaged for providing medical services, warning that violations of the National Medical Commission (NMC) Act, 2019, will invite strict legal action. The order follows directions from the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir (DHSK), and the Administrative Department, which have called for strict implementation of the provisions of the National Medical Commission Act across private healthcare institutions. According to the order, all private hospitals, nursing homes, clinics and other healthcare institutions operating in Kulgam have been instructed to ensure that only medical practitioners possessing valid registration with the National Medical Commission or the concerned State Medical Council are allowed to undertake clinical practice, prescribe medicines, perform medical procedures, issue medical certificates



and provide patient care. The CMO has also directed all institutions to thoroughly verify the educational qualifications, professional credentials and registration status of doctors engaged on a full-time, part-time, contractual, visiting, honorary or consultant basis. Besides verification, the institutions have been asked to maintain updated records of registration certificates, educational qualifications, appointment orders and other relevant documents of every medical practitioner and produce them before the competent authority whenever

required. The order further states that any deficiency, irregularity or unauthorized engagement identified during internal verification must be rectified immediately in accordance with the provisions of the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, and other applicable laws and regulations. Holding the management accountable, the CMO said that the Head of the Institution, Managing Director, Administrator or Medical Superintendent will be personally responsible for ensuring compliance with the statutory provisions and preventing any violations

within their respective institutions. To verify implementation of these directions, the CMO's office has announced that an inspection team will be constituted to conduct checks in private hospitals and healthcare institutions across the district. During the inspections, institutions will be required to produce registration certificates, qualification documents, appointment orders and other statutory records for scrutiny. They have also been directed to extend full cooperation to the inspection teams. The order warns that concealment of facts, submission of incorrect information, failure to produce records or obstruction during inspections will be viewed seriously and may result in action under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019, and other applicable laws. The move is aimed at ensuring that only qualified and legally registered doctors provide healthcare services in private institutions, thereby strengthening patient safety, accountability and compliance with regulatory standards in the district.

DDC Shopian calls for expedited execution of Capex Works

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SHOPIAN: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2026-27. The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, SE, PHE, Nazia Nazir, SDM, Zainapora, Bilal Ahmed, CPO, Mudasir Ahmed Dar, officers from all executing departments and other concerned. During the meeting, the DDC conducted a detailed review of approved works, tendering status, ongoing projects and financial progress under the District Capex Budget. Stressing the need for timely implementation, the DDC directed all executing agencies to expedite the tendering process and ensure that



approved works are taken up immediately and completed well before the onset of the winter season. The DDC reviewed the status of CDS and directed the concerned departments to take up and complete the works within timeline. He also instructed officers to expedite all required approvals, clearances and other procedural formalities so that no project is delayed. The DDC emphasized strict adher-

ence to financial guidelines, calling for efficient utilization of available funds and timely completion of projects to avoid delays and ensure maximum public benefit. Highlighting the recent allocation of an additional Rs 3 crore to the district under the Capex Budget, the DDC instructed all district officers to identify urgent and high-priority developmental works in their respective sectors. He directed to closely monitor all Capex works at the district level, while SDM Zainapora was directed to inspect works in his subdivision regularly and supervise their timely completion. Officers were also directed to submit regular progress reports and ensure transparency, quality and accountability in execution so that the developmental benefits reach the people without delay.

SKUAST-K conducts Free Veterinary Camps, Farmer Awareness Drive

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SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) conducted a series of awareness and free veterinary clinical camps in Tulail, Bagtore and Dawar villages of Gurez Valley under the DBT-sponsored project, "Socio-economic Upliftment of Marginal Farmers of Gurez Valley through Scientific Livestock Rearing." The initiative, led by the faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry, aimed to improve livestock health and promote scientific animal husbandry practices in the remote region, where access to specialised veterinary services remains limited. Farmers were sensitised on disease prevention, timely treatment, nutrition, fodder management, vaccination, deworming, hygienic animal care and improved livestock



management practices. The outreach was led by Prof. Riaz Ahmad Shah, Dean, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences and Animal Husbandry; Prof. Amatul Muhee, Professor & Head, Clinics and Principal Investigator of the project; Dr. Shahid Hussain Dar, Associate Professor, along with the project team. The scientists conducted health screening and clinical examination of livestock, provided free veterinary consultations and advised farmers on preventive healthcare and dis-

ease management. As part of the intervention, free veterinary medicines and nutritional supplements, including deworming medicines, liver tonics and mineral mixtures, were distributed to livestock owners. Informative pamphlets on scientific cattle, sheep and goat rearing were also provided to help farmers adopt improved husbandry practices. The awareness camps offered farmers an interactive platform to discuss challeng-

es related to livestock nutrition, fodder conservation, breeding, housing, disease control and herd health. Scientists also highlighted the importance of value addition, efficient resource utilisation and market-oriented livestock production to improve incomes under the high-altitude conditions of Gurez Valley. The team noted that interactions with farmers generated valuable field-level feedback on livestock health and management challenges, which will help shape future interventions under the project. The scientists reaffirmed SKUAST-K's commitment to farmer-centric research, extension and technology transfer, stating that continued technical support, awareness programmes, training and veterinary health interventions will be provided to strengthen sustainable livestock-based livelihoods in Gurez Valley.

SKUAST-K trains 80 growers on modern production and marketing

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SRINAGAR: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), in collaboration with the Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, organised a one-day capacity-building program for 80 progressive floriculture growers under the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) at the Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, Shalimar. The programme focused on modern production technologies, marketing strategies and entrepreneurship in commercial floriculture,

highlighting the sector's growing potential as a high-value enterprise for employment generation and economic upliftment. The training also reflected SKUAST-K's commitment to fostering innovation and entrepreneurship under the vision of the Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai and the implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP). Addressing the gathering as Chief Guest, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension and Dean, Faculty of Horticulture, SKUAST-K, stressed that commercial floriculture has emerged as a promising livelihood av-

enue capable of generating employment while meeting the growing demand for aesthetic landscaping and ornamental plants. She encouraged both growers and students to explore entrepreneurship opportunities in the sector. Shaik Rasool, Deputy Director, Department of Floriculture, Gardens and Parks, briefed growers on various government support schemes available for the industry. Prof. Qazi Altaf Hussain, Head, Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, outlined the significance of the programme and discussed a roadmap for the sustainable

growth of commercial floriculture in the region. A major highlight of the program was the interaction with SKUAST-K student startups including ARJ Innovations, founded by Urbina Jain; Gul Poosh, founded by Tooba, and Florenza, founded by Sobia. The young entrepreneurs shared their experiences of establishing successful floriculture enterprises, inspiring growers with their business journeys. Within just two months, each startup successfully raised nearly 1.5 lakh chrysanthemum plants, demonstrating the strong economic potential of commercial floriculture,

with an estimated 1:10 economic return ratio. The programme was attended by faculty members of the Division of Floriculture and Landscaping, including Prof. Z.A. Bhat, Prof. K.M. Malik, Prof. N.H. Masoodi, Dr. Raiz A. Lone, Dr. Gazanfer Gani and Dr. Z.A. RATHER. The event concluded with an exposure visit to the Division's floriculture farm, where participants observed nearly five lakh rooted chrysanthemum cuttings, including multiflora and several other commercial varieties, showcasing advanced propagation and production practices adopted by SKUAST-K.

DLSA Ganderbal continues 3-Day training programme for community mediators, plvs

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GANDERBAL: Continuing its Three-Day Training Programme for newly selected Community Mediators under the NALSA SOP on Community Mediation: Towards Litigation-Free Rural India, the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal today conducted the second day of the training programme at the Conference Hall, District Court Complex, Ganderbal. The second day's training commenced with a comprehensive deliberations on the role of Community Mediators and the various stages of mediation in rural areas. The participants were also imparted practical training on the practical aspects of



Community Mediation in rural areas, time frame for Community Mediation proceedings, and best practices to be followed by Community Mediators. The programme concluded with an interactive group discussion, enabling participants to clarify their doubts and exchange practical experiences. These sessions

were conducted strictly in accordance with the prescribed curriculum under the NALSA Community Mediation Training Manual. The training sessions were conducted by experienced trained mediators, viz. Adv. G.R. RATHER and Adv. Tanveer Ahmad Bhat who shared their practical experiences and guided the par-

ticipants through interactive discussions and case-based learning to strengthen their mediation skills. The programme witnessed active participation from the newly selected Community Mediators and Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs), who engaged enthusiastically in the practical sessions and discussions.

RRU, KU sign MoU to strengthen national security research

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SRINAGAR: The Rashtriya Raksha University (RRU) and the University of Kashmir (UoK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to strengthen academic cooperation, research initiatives and skill development in areas related to national security and allied disciplines. Official communication states

that the MoU, was signed at the Office of the Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, by Dr Mahesh Tripathi, Director, Rashtriya Raksha University, Jammu and Kashmir Campus, and Prof. (Dr.) Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, University of Kashmir. The signing ceremony was attended by UoK Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Neelofar Khan, Prof. (Dr.) Mehraj Ud Din Mir, Lifetime Professor

at RRU, Prof. (Dr.) Shahnaz, Head and Dean, School of Law, UoK, Dr. Ashfaq Ahmad Zari, Special Secretary to the Vice Chancellor, UoK, Dr. Mudasir Bhat, Senior Law Faculty at RRU, and Dr. Mohammad Yaseen Wani, Senior Law Faculty, School of Law, UoK. Under the agreement, both institutions will collaborate on joint research projects, student and faculty

exchange programmes, internships, and credit transfer mechanisms under the Choice Based Credit System (CBCS). The partnership will also focus on teacher training, consultancy services and capacity building in fields including national security, behavioural and forensic sciences, law, police administration, criminology and other multidisciplinary areas.