

DC Budgam reviews development of Kanihama Craft Village

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat today conducted a comprehensive review of the developmental works at Kanihama Craft Village, taken up as a Model Craft Village to preserve and promote Kashmir's centuries-old handicraft traditions.

On the occasion, DC was briefed in detail about the infrastructure created and works already completed including installation of advertising boards for shops, improvement of the public park near Jamia Masjid Kanihama, upgradation of inner link roads at Hajam Mohalla and New Colony Road, construction of a Chowkidar quarter at the Craft Village, link road improvements and construction of drainage paths with steel grill fencing around the park near the CFC building.

Other important interventions include face-lifting of the Common Facility Centre (CFC) building, con-

struction of dedicated weavers' sheds for artisans, and overall beautification of the site.

To further improve the amenities, DC directed that street lights be installed across the craft village to ensure better lighting, safety, and an inviting ambience for visitors even during evening hours.

DC was informed that most of the works have already been completed, while some are in the final stages.

In total, developmental works worth more than Rs.3 cr have been executed to provide roads, public facilities, fencing, artisan sheds, and support infrastructure at Kanihama.

Speaking during the review, DC stressed that Kanihama Craft Village must now be made fully functional as a cultural and tourist hub.

For smooth management, he announced the formation of a District Level Management Committee, which will look after operations, coordinate with artisans, and ensure proper up-

keep of the facilities.

He also directed for dedicated IEC campaigns to promote Kanihama as a dedicated Craft Village in the district and across UT, highlighting its unique crafts and heritage through community events, awareness drives, and exhibitions.

Dr Bilal emphasised the need to amplify the documentary of Kanihama Craft Village on all social media platforms of the district showcasing the life of artisans, making of famous Kani Shawls, pottery, and other handicrafts.

The documentary shall also portray the transformation of Kanihama into a model craft village, which can be used for promotional purposes at tourism fairs, exhibitions, and digital platforms.

DC instructed for wide social media amplification of Kanihama Craft Village on X and other handles so that the initiative reaches tourists, buyers, and craft lovers at both national and



global levels.

DC said that the development of Kanihama Craft Village is not just an infrastructure project but a mission to protect heritage, empower arti-

sans, and brand Kashmiri crafts internationally. He urged artisans and the local community to participate actively, assuring them of complete support from the administration. Be-

sides GM DIC, CPO, ACD, Executive Engineer R&B, representatives from Handicrafts department, DIO, BDO and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

Secretary RDD reviews RGSA schemes, stresses speedy land identification, completion of PAI 2.0 data entry

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD)and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation of flagship initiatives under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

The review covered progress under the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0, construction of Panchayat Ghars (PGs), co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs), functioning of Panchayat Learning Cen-

tres (PLCs), Model Women-Friendly Panchayats, geo-tagging of Panchayat Ghars through the Meri Panchayat App, and audit compliance for 2021-22.

The Secretary was informed that 90 percent of data entry under PAI 2.0 has been completed, with 3,868 Gram Panchayats (GPs) having started the process out of a total of 4,291 GPs. He directed Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) to ensure 100 percent completion within two to three days and emphasized validation through Gram Sabhas and block-level committees by Septem-

ber 5, so that the state can share verified data with the Ministry of Panchayati Raj by September 10.

On the status of Panchayat Ghars, the Secretary expressed concern over delays in land identification in certain districts and asked ACPs to coordinate with Deputy Commissioners to resolve land availability issues at the earliest, underscoring that no Panchayat should remain excluded due to lack of land.

With regard to co-location of CSCs, it was noted that 93 percent completion has been achieved.

The Secretary directed field officers to bridge the remaining gap to ensure universal coverage. He also reviewed the status of Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs), instructing Kupwara district to immediately operationalize its pending centre.

Taking stock of the Model Women-Friendly Panchayats initiative, the Secretary directed that quarterly data be carefully scrutinized and validated at the state level for timely submission. He informed that 20 such Panchayats have already been established and further work is in progress.

On the issue of audit compliance, the Secretary urged ACPs to download Audit Online reports for 2021-22 from the designated portal and respond promptly in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Directors of RDD Kashmir and Jammu, Shabir Hussain Bhat and Shehnaz Akhtar; Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal; Director Finance, Umar Khan; Superintending Engineers REW Kashmir and Jammu; Deputy Secretary, Tahir Ahmad Magray; ACPs, BDOS, Executive Engineers.

FCS&CA Baramulla launches doorstep e-KYC drive, inclusion of left-out beneficiaries

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BARAMULLA: Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) department Baramulla has launched a special campaign to extend doorstep e-KYC services and include left-out beneficiaries into the Public Distribution System (PDS). As part of this initiative, a dedicated team of employees visited the remote border villages of Chotali, Somawali, Gagarahill, Jabdi, Lajdi, Bankhod, Maidanan and Dudran to ensure inclusion of eligible households in the Priority Household (PHH) category, while also conducting door-to-door e-KYC to streamline the ration distribution system. e-KYC is a mandatory

exercise conducted every five years to remove deceased or bogus souls from the PDS database. The campaign also seeks to address public grievances related to food and supplies at the doorstep of even the remotest villages. Moreover, it is creating awareness about updating Aadhaar details of children who have attained the age of six, so they can be added to ration cards.

The department has also finalized the launch of the SMART PDS website, which will automatically remove non-deserving beneficiaries from PHH/AAV ration lists, particularly families owning four-wheelers registered in the name of any household member.

Secretary Transport conducts surprise inspection of SMG Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Secretary, Transport, Avny Lavasa today conducted surprise inspection of State Motor Garages (SMG), Bemina here and took stock of its functioning.

During the visit, the Secretary inspected Regional Workshop, Traffic Control Unit, and various administrative sections of the department. She interacted with officers and officials and closely reviewed the facilities available for repair, maintenance, and management of the government vehicle fleet. During the inspection, Avny Lavasa laid special emphasis on introducing new initiatives to modernise the system. She highlighted the importance of framing a comprehensive new Car Policy, adoption of automation in service delivery, and upgradation of the inventory management system to ensure efficiency, transparency, and timely availability of spare parts. The Secretary also deliberated upon various administrative and operational challenges being faced by the department. She issued on-spot directions to address such issues in a time-bound manner. She stressed upon adopting innovative practices, capacity-building of staff, and better coordination among different wings of the department to enhance overall service delivery. Avny Lavasa further underscored that the State Motor Garages Department, being the custodian of the government vehicle fleet, has a crucial role to play in ensuring optimum utilisation of resources and maintaining vehicles in a roadworthy condition for uninterrupted government functioning.

Dr. Farooq, Omar Abdullah extend condolences to Block President Sopore on his son's passing

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah and the Hon'ble Chief Minister and Vice President Omar Abdullah have expressed deep sorrow and extended heartfelt condolences to Block President Sopore, Ghulam Hassan Gojri, on the tragic demise of his young son, Muhammad Ishtiyaq Gojri.

Muhammad Ishtiyaq Gojri, a resident of Syed Sultan Pora, Sopore, passed away recently, leaving the entire family in mourning. In their messages, the duo prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

They described the loss as deeply personal and extended solidarity with the Gojri family during this time of immense grief.

Meanwhile a Party delegation including Provincial President Showkat Mir, MLA's Nazir Khan Gurezi, Irshad Kar visited the bereaved family in Sopore and offered condolences with the Gojri family on their loss. They offered fateha and prayed for peace to the departed soul.

Among others Party General Secretary Ali Muhammad Sagar, Addl GS Dr. Sheikh Mustafa Kamal, Treasurer Shammii Oberoi, Advisor to HCM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq have also extended heartfelt condolences with the bereaved household.

DC Budgam chairs DLIC meeting, 220 cases approved under Mission YUVA

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BUDGAM: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) on Mission YUVA was today held under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, at the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

During the meeting, 220 fresh cases, duly verified by Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), were placed before the committee for consideration and all were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA.

The approved ventures covered a diverse range of activities, reflecting the district's focus on encouraging youth entrepreneurship across traditional crafts as well as modern service sectors.

As per official data, 1939 applications have been submitted under Mission YUVA in Budgam. Out of these, 1015 applications have been verified by SBDUs and 68 beneficiaries have already received disbursement.



DC emphasised that Mission YUVA is not merely a financial support scheme but a youth empowerment movement aimed at generating sustainable livelihoods. He said the administration's goal is to equip young entrepreneurs with resources, mentorship, and access

to markets so that they can become self-reliant and contribute to the local economy.

He underlined that today's approvals reflect a new wave of entrepreneurship in Budgam.

He said that by supporting youth through Mission YUVA, district ad-

ministration is not only financing projects but also investing in hope, resilience, and self-reliance.

DC directed all line departments, banks, and implementing agencies to work in close coordination and ensure time-bound sanctioning, disbursement, and continuous mentoring of the approved cases.

He further instructed that Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) must be prepared swiftly to avoid delays. "No application should remain pending at the SBDU level for more than 7 days. We must ensure accountability, efficiency, and transparency at every stage," he stressed.

He further said, "The success of Mission YUVA will not be measured only by numbers of approvals but by how many businesses we can make sustainable. We must provide training, marketing linkages, and continuous guidance to ensure that every young entrepreneur succeeds."

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer, General Manager DIC, Deputy Director Employment, District Nodal Officer, and representatives from JKEDI, besides other concerned officers.

Commr Secy I&C visits Bandipora, reviews functioning of Wool, Tweed Cluster

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

BANDIPORA: Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, today visited Bandipora and reviewed the functioning of the Wool/Tweed Cluster established under the World Bank-funded Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP).

During the visit, the Commissioner Secretary also took stock of works on upcoming Industrial Estate at Chewa Sumbal.

The Commissioner Secretary was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib and Director Handicrafts and Handloom Mussarat ul Islam.

On the occasion, the Commissioner Secretary took first-hand appraisal of Bandipora Weavers Producer Company and interacted with artisans and weavers and directed for creating marketing linkages for the company.

He stated that the gaps in infrastructure and development will be addressed under the National Handicrafts and Handloom Development Programme, an umbrella initiative of the Ministry of Textiles that provides holistic support to handicraft ar-

tisans and handloom weavers in areas such as infrastructure, skill development, design, marketing, raw materials, and financial assistance.

Vikramjit Singh appreciated the work being carried out by the artisans and stressed the need for concrete measures to further strengthen the cluster.

He directed the concerned officers of the Industries & Commerce Department and District Industries Centre (DIC) Bandipora to extend all necessary support in scaling up production, enhancing quality, and creating stronger market linkages for the products.

Later, the Commissioner Secretary visited the upcoming Industrial Estate at Chewa Sumbal to take stock of ongoing development works and review issues pertaining to its establishment. He was accompanied by General Manager DIC Bandipora, Sameer Ahmad Jan, and Functional Manager, Abdul Rouf Gilkar.

The Commissioner Secretary on the occasion was informed that the wool/tweed being produced in Bandipora has significant demand in markets across India and abroad.

NIT Srinagar celebrates National Sports Day with enthusiasm, pays tribute to Major Dhyan Chand

EARTH NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Friday observed National Sports Day with a pledge ceremony and a series of sporting activities, joining institutions across the country in paying tribute to hockey legend Major Dhyan Chand on his birth anniversary.

The event was organised by the Students Activity and Sports (SAS) Centre and witnessed active participation from students, faculty, and staff. As part of the programme, a fitness pledge was taken to reaffirm commitment towards health, fitness, and sportsmanship.

National Sports Day is celebrated every year on August 29 to honour Major Dhyan Chand, regarded as one of the greatest hockey players of all time. Known as the 'Wizard of Hockey', Dhyan Chand's unmatched skill and sportsmanship brought glory to India, including three Olympic gold medals in 1928, 1932, and 1936. The day is observed nationwide to promote the importance of sports and fitness in daily life.

On the occasion, Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, said the observance of National Sports Day at the Institute is reminder of the crucial role sports play in student life.

"Sports not only instil discipline, confidence, and resilience in young minds but also teach them unity and leadership. Celebrating this day is our way of paying tribute to Major Dhyan Chand, the Wiz-



ard of Hockey, whose legacy continues to inspire generations," he said.

Prof. Rehman said that Major Dhyan Chand's contribution to Indian sports is unmatched and serves as a beacon for all of us.

Dean Students Welfare (DSW), Prof. Abid Bazaz, focused on the importance of sports in shaping personalities.

"In today's competitive academic environment, students must balance studies with physical activity. A healthy body fosters a healthy mind, which is necessary for developing leaders of tomorrow. National Sports Day is an opportunity to reaffirm this balance," he said.

In his remarks, Dr. Manoj, In-charge Faculty SAS, said the Centre is committed to strengthening sports culture on campus.

"This day is not only to honour the legacy of Major Dhyan Chand but also to remind students of their lifelong responsibility towards fitness. Our vision is to integrate sports and academics so that students excel in both," he said.

SAS Officer, Kowsar Ali Mir, said that the strong participation of faculty and staff alongside students reflects the inclusive sporting environment at the Institute.

"When faculty and staff join students in such activities, it creates motivation and a stronger culture of sportsmanship. The SAS Centre will continue to broaden the scope of activities to engage all sections of the Institute community," she added.

NCC Officer, Lt. Dr. Nitika Kundan, highlighted the role of sports in na-

tion-building. "Sports instil patriotism, unity, and courage among youth. On National Sports Day, we remember Major Dhyan Chand not just as a hockey legend but as a role model who proved that discipline and hard work can take the nation to greater heights," she said.

NSS Coordinator, Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav, said the event was a reflection of NIT Srinagar's commitment to holistic student development.

"Academic excellence must go hand in hand with physical well-being. National Sports Day is an occasion to remind ourselves that sports are not extracurricular but integral to personality development," he added.

As part of the extended celebrations; NIT Srinagar has planned a series of activities till August 31. These include sports debates, fitness awareness talks, and competitions in both indoor and indigenous games such as Kho Kho, Kabaddi, Pithu, and rope skipping.

The Institute will also host yoga sessions, cycling events, and interactive conclaves on Olympic and Paralympic values.

The participation of faculty, staff, and students in these events will not only mark the legacy of Major Dhyan Chand but also contribute to promoting a culture of health, inclusivity, and sportsmanship on campus.

This year's celebrations will follow the theme "Ek Ghanta, Khel ke Maidan Main," encouraging citizens to dedicate at least 60 minutes a day to physical activity to combat lifestyle diseases.