

# Chief Secretary delineates framework for reducing multidimensional poverty in J&K

SRINAGAR, JUNE 17: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level review meeting to assess the current status of the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) in Jammu and Kashmir and deliberated upon targeted interventions required for further reducing poverty levels across the UT. The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs; Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department; Commissioner Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Secretary, Rural Development Department and senior officers of the Planning Department. Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing. Reviewing the incidence of multidimensional poverty in Jammu and Kashmir and the indicators defining deprivation



across the three broad dimensions of Health, Education and Standard of Living, the Chief Secretary underscored the need for identification of vulnerable households in each district, initially laying focus on Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) families, to facilitate outcome-oriented interventions. He directed the Planning Department to undertake a comprehensive analysis of the updated data emerging from the forthcoming NFHS-6 survey and develop district-specific action plans aimed at improving individual indicators and accelerating poverty reduction over time. The Chief Secretary observed that several Centrally Sponsored Schemes already provide effective instruments for addressing various dimensions of poverty. He highlighted flagship programmes such as the National Food Security Act, Ayushman Bharat,

National Education Policy-2020 initiatives, housing schemes, Ujjwala Yojana and financial inclusion programmes as critical tools for improving living standards and reducing deprivation. He emphasized the need for convergence of these schemes and augmentation through capital expenditure wherever required. He further instructed the Planning Department to devise a standardized survey format for district-level assessment of vulnerable households and work closely with district administrations to identify gaps and priority areas requiring focused interventions. Additional Chief Secretary, Finance, Shailendra Kumar, advised the districts to incorporate poverty reduction initiatives into their annual development plans and stressed the importance of focusing on AAY households for more targeted

and actionable interventions. During the meeting, Commissioner Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, R. Alice Vaz, highlighted that the Multidimensional Poverty Index captures poverty beyond income and reflects deprivations experienced by households across multiple dimensions, thereby serving as an important policy tool for poverty eradication. She informed that the current baseline MPI estimates are based on NFHS-5 data and were released in July 2023, while NFHS-6 data is presently under finalization and is expected to provide updated insights into multidimensional poverty across the country. The meeting was informed that the MPI framework comprises twelve indicators distributed across three dimensions of Health, Education and Standard of

Living. Health includes three indicators, Education two indicators and Standard of Living seven indicators, with equal weight assigned to each dimension. The estimates are derived from household-level data collected through the National Family Health Survey (NFHS). Highlighting the J&K specific insights, the meeting was informed that the Multidimensional Poverty Head Count Ratio declined sharply from 12.56 percent in 2015-16 to 4.80 percent during 2019-21. During the same period, more than 10.45 lakh people moved out of multidimensional poverty, reflecting the positive impact of sustained welfare and development interventions undertaken across the Union Territory. It was further informed that Jammu and Kashmir is well on course to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target of 1.2, which envisages reducing multidimensional poverty by at least half before 2030. All twelve indicators used for measuring multidimensional poverty have registered improvements, demonstrating the growing effectiveness.

# JKTPO organises export awareness workshop, e-commerce onboarding drive and India-EU FTA session at Doda

DODA, JUNE 17: The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organisation (JKTPO), Industries & Commerce Department in collaboration with District Administration Doda today organised an Export Awareness Workshop, E-Commerce Onboarding Drive and a session on the India-European Union Free Trade Agreement (FTA) at Doda to promote exports, enhance market access and strengthen the entrepreneurial ecosystem.



The programme drew participation from over 90 MSMEs, artisans, farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), self-help groups and aspiring entrepreneurs from the district. The workshop commenced with introductory remarks by JKTPO Faculty Vishal Ray, who underscored the need for integrating local enterprises with national and international markets and building export readiness among aspiring entrepreneurs of the region. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Doda Anil Kumar Thakur graced the occasion as Chief Guest and highlighted the district's potential in agriculture, horticulture, food processing, hand-

loom, handicrafts and other value-added products. He urged entrepreneurs, farmers and artisans to capitalise on institutional support and explore export-oriented opportunities. During the Export Awareness Session, Gaurav Gupta of FIEO provided insights into export procedures, market opportunities and government support mechanisms for exporters. Ullas Kumar of ECGC apprised participants about export credit insurance and risk management tools for businesses entering overseas markets. As part of the E-Commerce Onboarding Drive, Reena Shivhare from ONDC and Anant

Thukraal from GeM sensitised participants about digital commerce opportunities, onboarding procedures and government procurement avenues on their respective platforms. A dedicated session on the India-EU Free Trade Agreement was conducted by FIEO, focussing on emerging trade opportunities, market access prospects and preparedness required for businesses to benefit from future trade arrangements with the European Union. Among those present were Chief Agriculture Officer Doda Kushal Chandel, General Manager District Industries Centre (DIC) Doda Mohd Ashfaq and officers from various line departments.

# MVD Ramban intensifies enforcement on NH-44; 13 vehicles e-challaned, two seized

RAMBAN, JUNE 17: Under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan and in coordination with District Police under SSP Ramban Arun Gupta, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD) Ramban conducted an enforcement drive at Maroog, Karol, Chanderkote and Dhalwas along National Highway-44. The drive was carried out on the directions of the Transport Commissioner J&K and under the supervision of ARTO Ramban, to ensure compliance with traffic regulations and enhance road safety. More than 60 vehicles were checked for adherence to the Motor Vehicles Act and road safety norms. A total of 13 vehicles were e-challaned for various offences, attracting an expected penalty of



Rs.1.36 lakh. Violations included permit-related offences and operation of defective vehicles. Two vehicles were seized for being operated in defective condition and two driving licences were recommended for suspension for serious violations including operating vehicles without valid permits. Pressure horns were removed from three vehicles on the Karol-Kumate Road for

violating noise and safety norms. ARTO Ramban Varun Bhasin advised vehicle owners, drivers and commuters to follow traffic regulations, maintain their vehicles in road-worthy condition and carry all valid documents while driving. The MVD in coordination with District Police, will continue regular enforcement drives across the district, the ARTO added.

# DC Ramban conducts public outreach programme at Batote, resolves grievances on the spot

RAMBAN, JUNE 17: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today conducted a Public Grievances Redressal Camp at Batote to hear public grievances and review developmental issues of the area. The Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by ACR Ramban Shokat Hayat Mattoo, ACD Sheraz Ahmed, CMO, CAO, CHO, CAHO, Executive Engineer JPDCL, Tehsildar Batote and other district and sectoral officers. Prominent citizens and a large number of residents participated in the programme. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner said that such camps bring governance to the doorsteps of the people and ensure prompt redressal of grievances and effective delivery of services. On road-related demands, the Deputy Commissioner informed that the Nashri-Patnitop road project under NHAI is nearing completion and that issues concerning the Sanasar-Champa Dayanu road have been taken up with authori-



ties concerned, with directions issued for clearance of potholes and widening of sharp curves within the coming weeks. Executive Engineer JPDCL was directed to immediately replace damaged electric poles and worn-out cables to prevent untoward incidents, and to examine complaints regarding electricity billing and unscheduled power curtailments. Executive Officer Municipal Committee Batote was directed to initiate construction of

the proposed public toilet in the main market immediately. Engineers of the Jal Shakti Department were directed to ensure adequate and uninterrupted water supply to affected areas. The CMO was directed to ensure the proper functioning of Emergency Hospital Batote, with patient care as the foremost priority. CAO, CHO and officers of all allied sectors were directed to organise regular awareness camps in rural areas to educate farmers about

departmental schemes, and to ensure prompt disposal and disbursement of pending KCC loan cases of eligible farmers. PWD engineers were directed to start sanctioned developmental works and ensure their timely completion. The ACR and ACD were directed to identify suitable land for playgrounds under the Youth Engagement Initiative of the Nasha Mukta Jammu & Kashmir Abhiyan. The Deputy Commissioner urged the public to join hands with the administration in identifying drug peddlers and helping individuals affected by substance abuse, and assured that treatment and rehabilitation facilities are available at the Addiction Treatment Facility (ATF) Centre, District Hospital Ramban. Earlier, residents raised issues pertaining to construction, maintenance and upgradation of roads under PMGSY, PWD and NHAI; power and water supply infrastructure; health services at Emergency Hospital Batote.

# ANTF Crime Branch J&K commences two-day capacity building programme for investigating officers under Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan

JAMMU, JUNE 17: As part of the 100-Day "Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan" launched on 11th April 2026, the Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Crime Branch J&K today commenced a two-day specialised training programme for Investigating Officers at the Police Auditorium, Gulshan Ground, Jammu. The programme was inaugurated by Inspector General of Police Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti, who attended as Chief Guest. In his address, the IGP stated that the fight against the drug menace requires a multi-dimensional approach encompassing enforcement, quality investigation, effective prosecution, rehabilitation of victims and community participation. He noted that well-trained Investigating Officers form the backbone of the criminal justice system and play a decisive role in dismantling drug trafficking net-



works and securing convictions. A total of 120 Investigating Officers drawn from the Jammu-Kathua-Samba (JKS) Range and Udhampur-Reasi (UR) Range are participating. The programme aims to enhance the professional competence of field investigators handling NDPS cases and strengthen institutional capacity to

tackle narcotics trafficking. The 100-Day Abhiyan seeks to combine enforcement, prevention, awareness, rehabilitation and community engagement to disrupt supply chains, identify drug hotspots and sensitise vulnerable sections of society. The two-day schedule includes sessions on drug trafficking scenario in

Jammu & Kashmir and the national perspective, legal provisions of the NDPS Act, investigation and prosecution of NDPS cases, recent technological advancements, forensic and fingerprint applications, utilisation of NAFIS and case studies covering investigation from registration of FIR to filing of the Final Report. Sessions are being conducted by subject experts from the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), senior police officers, forensic specialists and legal practitioners. Officers of ANTF stated that enhanced investigative skills, meticulous evidence collection and effective use of technology are essential for ensuring successful prosecution and deterrence against drug traffickers. The programme will conclude on 18th June 2026 with practical evaluation exercises, feedback sessions and distribution of certificates to participants.

# DC Kishtwar reviews health sector, evaluates programme implementation

KISHTWAR, JUNE 17: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of various health programmes and key performance indicators of the health sector in the district. Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kishtwar Dr Sanjay Bhat apprised the Deputy Commissioner of

the current status of health schemes across the district. The schemes reviewed included ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account), Institutional Deliveries, Sex Ratio at Birth, Low Birth Weight among Newborns, Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram

(JSSK) and other health programmes. All Tehsildars concerned were directed to identify State land within the next ten days for the construction of health centres presently functioning from private rented buildings. The CMO was directed to conduct an inquiry and audit into funds utilised under the Rogi Kalyan Samiti (RKS) programme, to withhold the salaries of medical staff attached outside their original places of posting until they return and to conduct an audit of JSY and JSSK implementation. The Deputy Commissioner further directed that incentives of officers and officials recording zero per cent performance under the e-Sanjevani.