

## Javed Rana approves key proposal to accelerate tribal welfare in JK

*Asks for inclusion of newly notified tribes under tribal welfare schemes*

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**JAMMU, DEC 24:**

In a significant move towards empowering tribal communities and ensuring inclusive development, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, has approved a key departmental proposal for inclusion of newly notified tribes in Jammu and Kashmir under various tribal welfare schemes. The Minister asked the Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G and Director, Tribal Affairs J&K, Gulam Rasool and other senior officers to focus on expediting initiatives for socio-economic empowerment of the tribal population in J&K. The Minister accorded approval for expansion of Dharti Aaba Mission, a flagship tribal development program aimed at improving the quality of life in tribal-majority villages. Under the proposal, which is being submitted to Ministry for Tribal Affairs (MoTA), the mission will cover 20 districts, 112 blocks and 393 villages notified in J&K. Additionally, 676 new villages and 204 villages from aspirational districts including Baramulla and Kupwara, have been identified for inclusion, bringing the total number of tribal villages under the mission to 880. The Dharti Aaba Mission will prioritize



interventions in infrastructure, education, healthcare and livelihood development.

The Minister emphasized the inclusion of newly recognized tribal communities under welfare schemes. With the recent amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Tribes Order, 2024, communities such as Pahari Ethnic tribe, Gadda Brahmin, Koli and Paddari have been added to the Scheduled Tribes list, doubling the tribal population of J&K to approximately 30 lakh, which accounts for 11.9 percent of J&K's total population. These newly recognized tribes will immediately benefit from key programs such as Pre-Matric and Post-Matric scholarships to boost educational opportunities and Dharti Aaba scheme for livelihood development.

Additionally, the Pradhan Mantri Aadi Darsh Gram Yojana (PMAAGY) will be extended to tribal villages, focusing on holistic development with an emphasis on improving basic amenities and socio-economic indicators. A detailed socio-economic survey is also in the pipeline to identify the specific challenges and needs of tribal communities, ensuring that interventions are targeted and effective. To further strengthen the tribal economy, self-employment schemes like Van Dhan Vikas Kendras are being prioritized. Under these initiatives, tribal artisans and entrepreneurs will receive skill development training, financial support and market linkages to promote their indigenous crafts and products.

The Tribal Affairs Department has prepared a comprehensive proposal to expand the coverage of tribal villages, selecting them based on specific criteria, such as a minimum population of 500 people with at least 50 percent belonging to Scheduled Tribes. For instance, Baramulla district will include 43 new villages alongside 54 aspirational district villages, while Kupwara will cover 50 new villages and 150 aspirational district villages, making them major hubs for tribal-focused areas. Underlining the intent of the Government to ensure that all tribal welfare schemes reach their intended beneficiaries, the Minister instructed the Director Tribal Affairs to plan the launch of a series of aware-

ness campaigns in collaboration with tribal leaders, NGOs and local bodies. These campaigns will educate communities about their rights and entitlements under various welfare schemes, he added.

Stressing the importance of a robust monitoring mechanism to oversee the implementation of tribal welfare schemes, Rana directed for regular reviews to ensure transparency, accountability and timely delivery of benefits.

Recognizing the pivotal role of women and youth in tribal communities, the Minister announced roll out of special initiatives under the Dharti Aaba Mission to empower tribal women through skill development centers and Self Help Groups (SHGs). Dedicated programs will also be launched for tribal youth, including career counseling sessions, sports programs and training for competitive exams to foster leadership and educational growth among the younger generation.

"The inclusion of newly declared tribes under welfare schemes marks a historic step in addressing inequities that have persisted for decades," the Minister said, adding that the Government remains steadfast in its efforts to ensure that every tribal community has access to education, healthcare and economic opportunities.

## Deputy Chief Minister holds public grievances redressal camps at Dhanaka, Langer Nowshera

*Assures road connectivity to every village, ward*



**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**NOWSHERA, DEC 24:**

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted public grievances redressal camps at Dhanaka and Langer in Nowshera to assess public grievances besides reviewing the development profile of the areas. The events witnessed enthusiastic public participation who expressed gratitude for the government's outreach initiatives. During the camps, the Deputy Chief Minister reiterated the government's commitment towards ensuring holistic development in rural and urban areas. He assured the

public that road connectivity would be extended to every village and ward in the region, emphasizing that no area would be left behind in developmental progress.

In his address, Surinder Choudhary appealed the public to refrain from encroaching roads, highlighting the adverse impact of such practices on infrastructure and public safety as well. He stressed the importance of community cooperation in maintaining the integrity of public spaces.

The Deputy Chief Minister also issued clear directives to the officers present, instructing them to formulate MGNREGA

plans only after consulting Gram Sabhas. "Community participation is the cornerstone of effective planning and implementation of developmental projects. All developmental schemes under MGNREGA must reflect the needs and aspirations of the people," he remarked.

Surinder Choudhary acknowledged the overwhelming response from the public and assured them of the administration's unwavering support. "Our government is dedicated towards bridging developmental gaps and ensuring that the benefits of governance reach the grassroots level," he concluded.

The camps concluded with the Dy CM urging the public to actively participate in governance and development initiatives, fostering a spirit of collaboration and accountability.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Nowshera, Babu Ram Tandon, along with other district and sectoral officers accompanied the Deputy Chief Minister during the public grievances redressal camps.

## Director Skill Development reviews Mission YUVA activities in Udhampur

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**UDHAMPUR, DEC 24:**

A comprehensive meeting on the implementation of the ambitious Mission YUVA project was convened today in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur. The meeting was chaired by O P Bhagat, Director of Skill Development J&K UT. He gave a detailed briefing on the objectives of the Mission YUVA scheme. He elaborated on the procedures for conducting baseline enumerations and surveys, emphasizing their importance in identifying and enrolling beneficiaries through the YUVA portal. Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh, DSEO Darshan Kumar and Assistant Director DE&CC Priyanka Gupta among others attended the meeting. They provided additional insights into the scheme's objectives, focusing on youth empowerment and skill development initiatives under Mission YUVA. The meeting was attended by Master Trainers, Supervisors and Field Investigators, who received hands-on guidance on the enrollment process and the portal's functionalities.

## District Level Committee discusses action plan for revival of heritage sites in Poonch

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**POONCH, DEC 24:**

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal on Tuesday convened a meeting of the District Level Coordination-cum-Implementation Committee to prioritize the revival, restoration, preservation, and maintenance of the district's architectural and heritage sites. The meeting deliberated on the renovation and improvement of Poonch Fort's basic structure, plans for Lodh Devta, RamKund Mandir, Chotay Shah, Gurudwara Deri Sahab Khari Dharamsal, old Niwazodin Ziarat, Battalkote Ziarat, and the repair and renovation of Bagh Deodi and Sheesh Mahal. Each site was examined in detail, underscoring their cultural significance. The Deputy Commissioner asked that a team of the Department of Archaeology would be invited to assess the Fort's structure. "The assessment will facilitate the initiation of the tendering process for the restoration plan," he added. The Deputy Commissioner instructed the SE PWD and other concerned executive engineers to collaborate in devising a comprehensive strategy for the planned development of these distinguished locations, which hold immense importance for the local populace.

*Good Governance Week 2024*

## PDD acquaints Doda public about Muft Bijli Yojana

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**DODA, DEC 24:**

As part of the Good Governance Week 2024, the Power Development Department (PDD) on Tuesday conducted an outreach program and awareness camp here at DC Office. The initiative aimed to strengthen the department's engagement with the community, providing timely assistance and information about government schemes. Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh interacted with PDD staff and the public, emphasizing the significance of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana. The scheme, designed to make electricity more affordable, offers subsidies of up to 65%, enabling citizens to slash their electricity bills by 50%. The DC Doda highlighted the transformative potential of this initiative in improving the quality of life for households and urged people to take full advantage of the scheme.

## DC Kathua flags-off Red Cross Volunteers to attend National Youth Exchange Program at Amritsar



**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**KATHUA, DEC 24:**

The District Red Cross Society Kathua, organized a flag-off ceremony today here at DC Complex to send off its contingent of volunteers for the National Youth Exchange Programme being held in Amritsar, Punjab.

The ceremony was presided over by Deputy Commissioner and Chairman District Red Cross Society Dr Rakesh Minhas in presence of ADC (Secretary DRCS) Om Parkash Sharma, Chief Education Officer, Mangat Ram Sharma, DEPO Kathua, Karamjeet Singh and several

members of the Red Cross Society and District Administration.

The other attendees were Member District Management Committee, DRCS Khem Raj Sharma, DICC Monika Khosla, ZICC Rishi Tangri, Member, District Management Committee DRCS Pinky Devi, Counsellor, DRCS Sunita Kumari and Counsellor DRCS Sunil Singh Jasrotia.

Addressing the volunteers, the DC commended their dedication towards humanitarian values and urged them to represent Kathua with pride. He emphasized the importance of fostering cultural understanding, collaboration and community spirit through the exchange programme. The Red Cross Society and District Administration extended their best wishes to the contingent, reaffirming their support for youth empowerment and humanitarian efforts.

## Health Department conducts Hepatitis, AIDS Screening Camp at District Jail Bhandarwah

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**DODA, DEC 24:**

District Health Society Doda on Tuesday organized a special Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and AIDS (HIV) screening camp for inmates here at District Jail Bhandarwah. The camp, organized on the directives of the Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, was conducted under the guidance of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Dr. Om Kumar and in collaboration with District Jail Authorities Bhandarwah, Sub-District Hospital Bhandarwah, and Government Medical College (GMC) Doda.



The camp screened a total of 146 jail inmates for Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C, and HIV, with the assistance of a dedicated medical team from GMC Doda, including Dr. Kamaldeep Singh, Dr. Rahat Goni, Asia Beg (Pharmacist),

Asha Devi, Halima Kousar (FMPHWs), Puneet Kotwal (Lab Technician, ICTC), Saima Zargar (Counsellor), and Mohammad Altaf (Lab Technician).

## DC provides Red Cross aid to TB Patients in Poonch



**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**POONCH, DEC 24:**

A cheque amounting to Rs. 84,000 has been issued by the Chairman of the District Red Cross Society (Deputy Commissioner), Vikas

Kundal to the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. P.A. Khan. The funds will be allocated among 28 tuberculosis (TB) patients under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMA) pro-

gram. The initiative aligns with the Ni-kshay Mitra program, launched by President of India Droupadi Murmu, on September 9, 2022. The crowd-sourced initiative enables organizations and individuals to 'adopt' TB patients, offering crucial support through nutrition supplies and vocational training. Each patient will receive Rs. 500 per month for the next six months, providing vital support for their treatment. This initiative demonstrates the district administration's commitment to enhancing healthcare access and supporting vulnerable populations in the fight against tuberculosis.

## Mission YUVA: Reasi gears up for Baseline Survey

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**REASI, DEC 24:**

A review meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Director Skill Development OP Bhagat to assess the preparations for the baseline survey under Mission YUVA, an initiative aimed at empowering the youth through skill development and employment opportunities. The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev

Singh Samyal, DSEO Ashok Kumar, AD Employment Reasi Annie Vaid, supervisors and enumerators responsible for conducting the survey. During the session, the Director emphasized the critical role of the baseline survey in identifying key areas of intervention for the mission's success. Key points of discussion were the preparedness of supervisors and master trainers on survey

app, training and capacity building of enumerators on 26th and 27th December.

He instructed the teams to maintain a high level of professionalism, ensuring data accuracy, timeliness, and ethical practices during the survey process. He also stressed the importance of community engagement to maximize participation and build trust among stakeholders.

## DC Ramban reviews arrangements for 76th Republic Day Celebrations

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**RAMBAN, DEC 24:**

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Baser-Ul-Haq Chaudhary today chaired a meeting to discuss arrangements for the 76th Republic Day celebrations at District Headquarters Ramban. Senior civil and police officers, including SSP Kulbir Singh; ADDC Roshan Lal; PO ICDS Jahangir Hashmi; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR S. Harpal Singh and other officials attended the meeting.



The district-level function will be held at District Police Lines Ground, where the National Flag will be unfurled by the Chief Guest, followed by a ceremonial march past by the contingents. Highlighting the significance of the Republic Day celebration, the Deputy Commissioner formed a Committee to identify local achievers, particularly those excelling in prestigious competitive examinations for facilitation during the event. The

Committee was directed that the local artists will also perform; showcasing the region's cultural vibrancy. The Deputy Commissioner instructed all departmental heads to hoist the National Flag at their respective offices and illuminate government buildings on the occasion. He emphasized greater public participation to ensure the event is celebrated with patriotic fervor and enthusiasm. To enhance the grandeur of the event, DC

Chaudhary directed departments to set up stalls at the venue and organize additional activities to mark the occasion. The DC also directed all concerned officers to ensure fool-proof arrangements regarding seating, barricading, drinking water, power supply, sanitation, fire services, security, transport, traffic regulations, illumination of government buildings and other necessary arrangements for the National festival.

## GST Enforcement team of Central Kashmir imposes Rs.23.4 lakh penalty on tax violations in cement, scrap, iron & timber

*162% rise in penalty of scrap, 60% in iron achieved*

**JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS**  
**SRINAGAR, DEC 24:**

In a breakthrough, the Enforcement (Central) wing of the State Taxes Department, Kashmir, imposed a penalty of Rs. 23,41,406 on major commodities, including cement, scrap, TMT bars, timber and plywood, in the financial year 2024-2025 upto December. In view of the recent directions received from higher authorities to keep a strict vigil on major goods being transported across the state, special enforcement efforts were led by Deputy Commissioner State Taxes Enforcement (Central) Kashmir Waseem Raja under the overall super-

vision of Commissioner State Taxes P K Bhat. As many as three field teams and a flying squad were constituted to carry out enforcement activities across Srinagar, Budgam and Ganderbal districts. These teams comprised State Taxes Officers, besides inspectors, sub-inspectors and guards of the wing. To achieve maximum detections and deterrence, the teams also conducted surprise checks and inspections during late hours and on Sundays as well. At Srinagar airport, a special enforcement team headed by STO is ensuring a vigil on mobile phones and other cargo items. It is worth mentioning that

a penalty of Rs 9 lakh was levied on tax violations pertaining to cement up to December this year. Tax-evading scrap shipments drew a penalty amounting to Rs. 2,47,494 till December this year, against Rs 94,590 levied in the financial year 2023-2024, marking a staggering rise of 162% from last year. Fines worth Rs. 9,84,654 imposed on timber and plywood defaulters up to December saw a 95% increase from previous year's penalty of Rs 5,03,762. Moreover, recording a 60% increase, seizures related to TMT bars churned out a penalty amounting to Rs. 1,99,800 till December,

against last year's Rs. 1,24,958. In an analysis of violations under scrap and cement, a substantial surge in penalties was witnessed in the months of September, October and November 2024. This financial year, a penalty of Rs. 1,06,100 was realized from scrap cases in the said months, registering an astounding rise of 268% against Rs. 28,800 charged in FY 2023-24. The enforcement teams imposed a penalty of Rs 5,01,580 on cement from September to November this year. To achieve more accuracy and efficiency in enforcement activities, a Data Analytics

Cell was constituted by DC Enforcement (Central). The Cell is tasked with collecting valuable inputs through the online MIS/E-way bill portal, tracking watchlist transporters, maintaining databases and sharing the same with the field teams concerned on a daily basis.

"The idea behind the creation of the Data Cell is to obtain vital inputs regarding enroute vehicles through smart work. The online MIS portal provides a plethora of valuable information such as live vigilance, watchlist transporter details, among others, and the same is put to good use in the field," said DC Enforcement (Central).