

Mobilize community to minimize forest fires: Chief Secretary

Assesses departments' preparedness to save region's green wealth

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, JUN 12:

Amid rising temperatures and the looming threat of scorching heat wave across J&K, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today convened a high level meeting of the Forest Department, Divisional Commissioners and district administrations regarding proactive planning to protect the region's 'green gold' from the menace of forest fires.

The meeting besides PCCF and Commissioner Secretary, Forests, was attended by Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners, HoD's of the Forest Department and representative from the department of DMRR&R.

In order to make the information channel more robust and efficient, the Chief Secretary stressed on registering more and more volunteers from the local community residing near forests. He advised for focusing on the SHG members and Anganwadi Workers whose presence is found far and wide in the UT.

Regarding the incidence of forest fires, he expressed concern that out of around 5000 sq kms of dense forests around 1000 sq kms are vulnerable. He enjoined upon the Deputy Commissioners to frequently review the plans being implemented for saving our green assets from turning into ash.



He enquired from each DC about the incidence of forest fires in their districts, functioning of control rooms, active fires (if any) and the measures taken by them to douse the fires once the alerts are received from the field.

Regarding encouragement of the volunteers (fire watchers), Dulloo proposed incorporation of a provision for their relief if any injury or loss of life is reported during the performance of this social work.

He also called for a vigorous IEC campaign and popularization of contact numbers of the Joint control rooms established by the Department. He also underscored the need of having a common social media platform to receive and disseminate the information about the control and prevention of forest fires in the UT.

Commissioner Secretary,

Forests, Sheetal Nanda, earlier in her overview, made out that the department had undertaken a series of strategic measures to address the growing threat of forest fires across the Union Territory.

After giving details of year wise forest fires reported from the last few years, she revealed that a detailed Forest Fire Vulnerability Mapping, using historical fire data from the Forest Survey of India, was done in 2021 for each forest division. She stated that the same is serving as the basis for preparation of targeted fire management and mitigation strategies across these forest divisions.

With respect to vulnerability of forests, PCCF (HoF), Suresh Kumar Gupta, gave out that a categorization of forests had been done in J&K. He added that the UT had a forest

cover of 270.11 sq kms categorised as 'Very Highly Fire Prone', 890.62 sq kms as 'Highly Fire Prone', 1244.13 sq kms as 'Moderately Fire Prone' and majority of 19203.80 sqkms as 'Less Fire Prone' forests.

Enumerating the major causes of forest fires, the PCCF classified them into three broad categories of Anthropogenic (human-induced) caused by burning of crop residues, carelessly discarded smoking materials and fires lit along roadsides and use of fire for promoting growth of grass.

Among the causes are lightning strikes and rolling stones during dry spells occasionally ignite fires in forested areas. In addition, the environmental & climatic factors like extended dry spells, build-up of dry leaf litter and rising tempera-

tures coupled with erratic rainfall patterns exacerbate the fire risks.

As far as the preventive measures are concerned, it was defined that a multi-pronged strategy had been adopted to reduce the fire incidence and improve readiness across the divisions.

It was revealed that creation and maintenance of fire lines to halt the spread of fires, controlled burning to manage combustible material and early warning systems through satellite-based FSI alerts (Van Agni) are acting as pre-emptive measures for event fires.

In addition, establishment of 85 Joint Forest Fire Control Rooms are operational across the UT for receiving instant alerts and initiation of prompt action to douse the flames. The distribution of firefighting equipment like beaters, rake hoes and sprayers are helping in doing the same with enhanced efficiency, the meeting was informed.

Besides, it was given out that mock drills and training programmes, community engagement through Village Forest Committees (VFCs, BMCs) and volunteers are acting effectively to safeguard the forests. Awareness campaigns in schools and through posters, hoardings and social media are also being employed to create necessary awareness among the public.

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department reviews implementation of HADP projects in J&K



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, JUN 12:

Secretary in Agriculture Production Department and Mission Director, Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP), Sandeep Kumar, today said that successful implementation of HADP will play a pivotal role in transforming Jammu and Kashmir's agriculture and allied sectors into a sustain-

able and vibrant Rs 1 lakh crore agri-economy.

Chairing a review meeting held at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lal Mandi, Srinagar, Sandeep Kumar emphasised the importance of output-based monitoring and real-time progress tracking to maximise the impact and efficiency. The review meeting focused on 13 major HADP projects. Director Agriculture

Jammu, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Animal Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), Director Sheep Husbandry (Jammu/Kashmir), representatives from SKUAST-Jammu and SKUAST-Kashmir, Directors of Sericulture, CAD, Fisheries and other allied sectors besides concerned PGMs and technical teams attended the meeting while officers from outside the station joined the meeting virtually. The Mission Director stressed the need for robust and measurable outcome tracking over 92,000 units already established at the grassroots level under HADP schemes. He also underlined that output-led project governance, efficient inter-departmental coordination, and strategic bottleneck resolution are vital for achieving the goals of HADP.

Arrangements for Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 reviewed at Udhampur

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
UDHAMPUR, JUN 12:

To ensure smooth conduct of the upcoming Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Prem Singh on Thursday convened a meeting with officers from the line departments here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex. The meeting held comprehensive discussion on key arrangements along the Tikri to Chenani route. The ADC inquired about the security deployment, provision of power and water supply, sanitation, first-aid, identification of lodging sites, provision of temporary toilets, traffic management and regulation of service rates. He directed departmental heads to work in close coordination and ensure that all necessary preparations are completed well before the commence-



ment of the Yatra. The Power Development Department (PDD) was instructed to ensure uninterrupted electricity, while the Public Health Engineering (PHE) department was tasked with arranging 24/7 water tanker services. Traffic authorities were directed to maintain smooth vehicular movement, and the

Municipal Committee was asked to install dustbins and provide vehicles for efficient garbage disposal from larger sites and transit camps.

The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was directed to ensure round-the-clock medical services and maintain an updated inventory of essential medicines.

Committee on Privileges holds first meeting in Srinagar

Chairman expresses confidence in seamless coordination, effective performance



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, JUN 12:

The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly held its first meeting today at the

Assembly complex in Srinagar. The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman, Nizam-u-din Bhat. The Committee members including MLAs Riyaz Ahmad

Khan, Salman Sagar, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed (Pardesi), Javid Iqbal, Vikram Randhawa and Bharat Bhushan participated in the meeting. The Chairman elaborated on the roles and responsibilities of the Committee members. He expressed confidence in the members' ability to work in coordination and contribute effectively to the Committee's performance.

The members actively participated in the discussions, sharing their suggestions and feedback on various pertinent issues.

Rana reviews progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, JUN 12:

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat Srinagar to review progress on implementation of Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in PHE division Chadoora and other areas.

The meeting was attended by MLA Chadoora, Ali Mohammad Dar, MLA Beerwah, Dr Shafi Ahmad Wani, MLA Khan Sahib, Saifud Din Bhat, MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar and senior officers from Jal Shakti department. While reviewing various

ongoing JJM projects in Chadoora, Budgam, Sopore, Khan Sahib and Beerwa, Javed Rana exhorted upon the officers to expedite pace of progress on these works for timely completion. He directed the officers to personally monitor the execution of works in their respective divisions.

He instructed the concerned officers to ensure pace of work is expedited to ensure speedy construction of filtration plants, civil works and other related works at all water supply schemes. He stressed that work on all JJM projects be carried out in full swing without any delay. He exhorted upon the officers to work in

mission mode so that safe and adequate drinking water is made available to all citizens of Jammu and Kashmir

He enjoined upon the officers to maintain coordination and better synergy between executing agencies to ensure timely and effective implementation of Water Supply Schemes. He further said that work should be resumed on the water supply schemes wherever it has been stalled so that people don't have to face any problems.

MLA Chadoora, while speaking on the occasion, said that certain water supply schemes in his constituency are nearing completion and require little attention from the officers so that they can be dedicated to public use.

The MLAs raised various issues related to water supply and irrigation pertaining to their constituencies and demanded immediate attention of the Minister for early resolution.

The officers assured that most of the WSSs are nearing completion and will be put to public use at an earliest.

Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan

DC Kishtwar reviews Camp Calendar for IEC campaign

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KISHTWAR, JUN 12:

In the run up to the 15 day Dharti Abha Janjatiya Gramin Utkarsh Abhiyan starting from June 15, 2025, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Kumar Shavan reviewed the camp calendar and arrangements at a meeting held here today.

The Kishtwar administration is all set to launch a massive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign across 19 tribal villages of the district. The focus will be on saturation of centrally sponsored schemes being implemented by 17 Government Departments.

The DC highlighted that the campaign will address developmental gaps in tribal habitations through development of social Infrastructure, construction of pucca houses under PMAY-Gramin, access to tap water supply through Jal Jeevan Mission, road development under PMGSY and household electrification through RDSS.

Additionally, the district administration plans to provide instant health care services by deploying mobile medical units, to distribute Ayushman Bharat cards, establish Anganwadi Centres and make provision of AYUSH medicines. The administration also proposes to construct hostels under Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, launch skill develop-



ment programs, promote digital literacy, provide LPG connections, extend benefits under PM-KISAN, support livestock and fisheries development, and promote financial inclusion schemes.

The DC also reviewed arrangements for providing different services at the camps, including Aadhaar enrollment and updation, issuance of PMJAY cards, caste certificates, domicile certificates, registrations under HADP and others.

Emphasis was laid on ensuring the availability of basic amenities at all camp venues, including clean drinking water, sanitation facilities and the services of Tribal influencers

to raise awareness in locally spoken language such as Gojri and Urdu.

To ensure maximum Tribal participation, the DC instructed the departments to intensify Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) efforts through vans, posters, newspaper outreach, and social media engagement at the sub-division, tehsil, and block levels.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACR Idrees Lone, CPO Shahnawaz Bali, DSWO Zubair Ahmed, DIO Dr Kuldeep Kumar, AD FCS & C A / Employment Shafiqat Ali Keen, Tehsildars, BDOs besides other senior officers.

World Day Against Child Labour

J&K Labour Commissioner's Office hosts series of awareness events



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 12:

To mark the World Day against Child Labour, office of the Labour Commissioner, J&K Government organized a series of awareness events to draw the attention of the employers and workers' organizations as well as civil society towards ending child labour menace.

The observance began with a webinar followed by a panel discussion, highlighting key issues and collaborative strategies to combat Child Labour under the Theme "Progress is clear, but there's more to do:

let's speed up efforts". The theme reflects both the progress achieved and the urgency to intensify action to meet global targets.

Esteemed speakers and stakeholders shared insights on child labour laws, reforms and challenges being faced to eradicate this menace of Child Labour. Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh underlined the efforts to eliminate the child labour and required measures to help them.

A Walkathon was organised to spread the message "Stop Child Labour" among the civil

society, while a Nukkad Natak was staged at Bahu Plaza to raise public awareness and reinforce the collective responsibility towards making the region child labour free.

Speaking on the occasion, the Labour Commissioner said "Child Labour is a curse, it cannot be accepted. Let us, on this World Day Against Child Labour, pledge to connect every child with education, safety, dignity and values". He urged common masses, stakeholders and employers and workers' organizations to unite against the practice by ensuring that every child receives education, security and dignity. "The Labour Department is organizing awareness camps from time to time to make the people aware about the rights of the Children and consequences of Child Labour and also taking effective measures in connivance with other departments to eradicate this curse of Child Labour and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of Child labour", he added.

In addition, he said, the Department of Labour is making every effort to plug the loopholes which are being faced while enforcing the laws with respect to prohibition of Child Labour to make the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir free from child labour.

JKMC condoles demise of former member

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
JAMMU, JUN 12:

The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Council (JKMC) has condoned the sad demise of its former member Dr. Romesh Khajuria. Dr Khajuria was the member of the Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council from 2015 to 2021. Recalling the contribution of Dr. Romesh Khajuria, the board members described him as a well learned, decent and cultured person, always devoted to his cherished job. All the members and staff stayed up to almighty to bestow peace to the departed soul and give strength to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.

Historic 3-day Sudh Mahadev Mela concludes at Udhampur

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
UDHAMPUR, JUN 12:

The 3- day annual Sudhmahadev Mela concluded today recording a footfall of over 45,000 devotees, visitors including men, women and children across the social spectrum.

The visitors paid obeisance at Sudh Mahadev temple after taking bath in the Pap Nashini Bowl believed to have divine power of purging the sins of the followers.

During the first two days, scintillating cultural performances by the folk artists and students of educational institutions of the area captivated the audience, depicting the rich heritage of the region with special reference to deep reverence of people for Lord Shiva. The audience was treated to captivating Dogri music and folk dances. Mela Officer (Tehsildar Chenani) Pankaj Singh Bhau coordinated the activities and managed the arrangements for the devotees during the 3 day religious and cultural event.

Three-day Baba Aghar Jitto Mela concludes amid massive influx of devotees

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
REASI, JUN 12:

The three-day annual Baba Aghar Jitto Mela concluded today at the sacred shrine of Baba Aghar Jitto in Aghar Jitto village of Reasi district amid religious fervour and enthusiastic participation of devotees and visitors from across Jammu and neighbouring states. The Mela, which celebrates the rich cultural and spiritual heritage of the region, witnessed a massive influx of devotees who thronged the shrine to pay obeisance and seek blessings. Over the course of the three days, the festival featured vibrant cultural programmes, devotional music and the installation of departmental stalls to spread awareness about the government-sponsored welfare schemes. A major highlight of the concluding day was the traditional Dangal (wrestling competition), which drew an impressive crowd. Renowned wrestlers from different parts of Jammu and Kashmir and neighbouring states showcased their talent, much to the delight of the spectators. The District Administration Reasi, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, made elaborate arrangements to ensure the smooth conduct of the Mela. Provisions for security, sanitation, medical aid and transportation were meticulously planned and executed to facilitate a hassle-free experience for the visitors. Speaking on the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner Rakesh Kumar praised Shiv Kumar Sharma, President of the J&K Indian Style Wrestling Association, for his committed efforts in organizing the wrestling competition, which has become a major attraction of the Mela. Tehsildar Katra Jatinder Singh, prominent citizens and other senior officers who contributed to the successful conduct of the event.

Rajouri admin finalises activity plan for International Yoga Day 2025

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
RAJOURI, JUN 12:

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess and finalize the preparedness for the International Yoga Day (IYD) -2025.

At the outset, the DC underlined the need for meticulous planning to ensure widespread participation and impactful celebration of the day. He directed that Yoga Day events be organized at multiple venues including Government Degree Colleges, Ayushman Bharat Health and Wellness Centres, near Amrit Sarovars and selected villages of the district.

To showcase collaboration and unity, the DC instructed the concerned officers to plan a joint Yoga event with the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to highlight the role of armed forces and civil administration in promoting wellness.