

Sakeena Itoo chairs 46th BoDs meet of JKSCSTBC Development Corporation

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, AUG 17:

Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired the 46th meeting of Board of Directors (BoDs) of the Jammu & Kashmir Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe & Backward Classes (JKSCSTBC) Development Corporation Limited at Civil Secretariat here today.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary Planning Development & Monitoring, R. Alice Vaz; Commissioner Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi, Director General, Budget; Sultan Malik, MD JKSCSTBC Development Corporation; Ranjeet Singh; Director Finance SWD, Seema Bhasin and other members of the Board, besides senior officers of Social Welfare department and JKSCSTBC Development Corporation.

During the meeting, the Board deliberated upon vari-



ous important administrative, financial and policy matters concerning the functioning of the Corporation and took several key decisions.

Speaking during the meeting, the Minister emphasised on the need for the Corporation to function with greater efficiency, transparency and responsiveness, with a focused

approach towards ensuring that the intended benefits of welfare and development schemes reach eligible beneficiaries in a timely manner.

She called for strengthening institutional mechanisms, streamlining procedures and improving coordination among the concerned stakeholders to facilitate easier access to finan-

cial assistance, self-employment opportunities and other support measures for the targeted communities.

"Welfare interventions should translate into tangible improvements in the socio-economic conditions of beneficiaries, particularly through initiatives that encourage entrepreneurship, sustainable

livelihoods and economic self-reliance", she observed.

The Minister directed the Corporation to maintain close engagement with beneficiaries and community representatives, identify emerging requirements and take necessary measures to address genuine concerns within the prescribed framework.

She also appreciated the efforts of the Corporation and stressed upon all concerned officers to ensure transparency, accountability, efficiency and timely implementation of the decisions taken by the Board in the larger public interest.

During the meeting, the Board directed the Corporation to intensify and expedite the recovery of outstanding loans, particularly long-pending dues, and adopt all permissible measures for effective follow-up and timely recovery. They asked the Corporation to establish online system for recovery and disbursement of various schemes.

Directorate of Horticulture urges fruit growers to utilize dedicated Rail Parcel Services

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, AUG 17:

In a major initiative aimed at facilitating efficient, reliable and cost-effective transportation of Kashmir's horticultural produce, the Directorate of Horticulture Kashmir has urged fruit growers, traders and other agricultural stakeholders across the Valley to actively utilize the dedicated Rail Parcel Services operated by Northern Railway. The dedicated service, JPP-RCS, has been operating successfully since September 2025 and connects Badgam (BDGM) with Adarsh Nagar Delhi (ANDI) via Jammu, with an intermediate stoppage at Bari Brahmana. The availability of this cost-effective, time-efficient and all-weather rail transportation facility assumes considerable importance for the horticulture sector, particularly during the fruit harvesting and marketing season. The service provides reliable and timely connectivity to major markets across the country, thereby facilitating smoother movement and marketing of Kashmir's horticultural produce. It is pertinent to mention that Train No. 00462, Ex-Badgam to Adarsh Nagar Delhi, has so far successfully transported 332 VPs carrying approximately 7,400 tonnes of produce, including apples, e-commerce and mixed goods. On the return journey, 786 VPs carrying approximately 17,450 tonnes, mainly comprising e-commerce and mixed goods, have also been transported, reflecting the growing utility and operational efficiency of the rail parcel service. The Directorate has accordingly called upon fruit growers, traders and other stakeholders to make optimum use of the dedicated rail facility for transportation of horticultural produce, particularly during the peak harvesting season. For commercial inquiries and booking details, stakeholders may contact the Office of the Senior Divisional Commercial Manager, Northern Railway, Jammu Tawi, at Mobile/CUG: 9596732950 or through email at srdcmt-jat@gmail.com.

Passenger Lift inaugurated at DC Office Complex Doda

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
DODA, AUG 17:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Krishan Lal today inaugurated a newly installed passenger lift at DC Office Complex Doda, aimed at enhancing accessibility and providing greater convenience to officers, officials and visitors. The inauguration was held in the presence of ACR Ashraf Parvez, Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar and other officers and officials. The passenger lift is expected to facilitate easy and convenient movement within the office complex, particularly for senior citizens, persons with disabilities and visitors requiring assistance. During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the functioning of the lift and interacted with the concerned officials regarding its operation, maintenance and safety aspects. He stressed the importance of ensuring proper upkeep and smooth functioning of the facility for the convenience of the public.

The DC appreciated the efforts of the concerned agency for completing the installation of the facility and emphasized the importance of providing accessible and citizen-friendly facilities in government offices. The lift has been installed with the courtesy of Mechanical & Hospital Division Doda.

Awareness Vehicle launched in district Kishtwar to promote Census-2027 Phase II activities

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KISHTWAR, AUG 17:

An awareness vehicle was today flagged off by Additional District Development Commissioner Vinod Kumar Behnal here, marking an important initiative to strengthen public awareness and encourage active participation in Census-2027 Phase II.

The awareness campaign aims to educate and sensitise the general public to the ongoing Self-Enumeration process in difficult areas and the subsequent house-to-house population enumeration. Self-Enumeration commenced on 17th August and shall continue till 31st August 2026, providing citizens with an opportunity to furnish their related information through the designated Census platform. The Self-Enumeration exercise shall be followed by the main population enumeration activity from 1st September to 30th September 2026, during which trained Enumerators and Supervisors would visit households across the district for door-to-door population enumeration. The ADDC highlighted that reliable and accurate Census data is crucial for effective developmental planning and informed policy formulation, thereby contributing to the overall socio-economic development of the district and the nation. The awareness vehicle will disseminate information across different areas of the district, particularly reaching remote and far-flung habitations, with the objective of ensuring that no household and no individual is left out of the Census exercise.

CEO, FSSAI reviews food testing facilities in J&K; assessed infrastructure, capacity enhancement measures

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, AUG 17:

Chief Executive Officer, Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), Rajit Punhani, today visited Food Laboratory, Kashmir during his visit to Srinagar, to have on spot assessment about it's functioning.

During the visit, the CEO FSSAI took round of various sections, including Microbiological Section, Chemical Section and HEE Sections and interacted with the technical staff of the Laboratory.

Subsequently, the CEO FSSAI chaired a meeting which among others was attended by State Drug Controller J&K, Joint Commissioner Food Safety, Deputy Commissioner Food Safety Kashmir, Accounts Officer FDA and Food Analyst Food Testing Laboratory Srinagar and Jammu.

ECommissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K, made a detailed presentation outlining the laboratory's analytical capabilities, testing performance, NABL accreditation, infrastructure, manpower position and the roadmap for strengthening food testing facilities across the Union Territory. It was informed that the Food Laboratory, Kashmir is an FSSAI-notified and NABL-accredited facility equipped with advanced instruments, including GC-MS/MS, LC-MS/MS and ICP-MS. The laboratory presently has a NABL scope covering 354 parameters, comprising 77 quality and 277 safety parameters.

The presentation highlighted



the testing workload handled during the last three financial years. The laboratory analyzed 11,479 samples in 2023-24, 9,938 in 2024-25 and 6,722 in 2025-26, out of which, 440, 266 and 381 samples respectively, were found to be non-conforming.

The meeting was informed that the steps have been initiated to expand the scope of Laboratory to 3500 parameters by end of 31st March, 2027 covering key commodities including milk and milk products, fruits and vegetables, cereal and cereal products, oils and fats and Indian sweets and achieve wider coverage of 5,000 parameters in the long run.

The Commissioner brought to the notice of the CEO, FSSAI the key constraints affecting the laboratory's functioning, including inadequate infrastructure, shortage of technical manpower. He also sought his intervention in approval of the proposal for hiring of Technical Manpower, Chemicals, CRMs Consumables etc. He requested the CEO, FSSAI for providing financial and technical assistance for construction of new laboratory building at Srinagar and Jammu and upgrading the facility to

improve quantity and volume of testing.

The Food Laboratory, Kashmir is presently housed in an old, shared Drug & Food Laboratory complex, with limited space for modern equipment and dedicated instrument sections.

As part of the long-term strategy, the Department proposed developing an integrated Food Testing Laboratory network across Jammu and Kashmir by leveraging the existing facilities in government institutions, including SKUAST and IUST, with suitable technical and manpower support. The initiative is intended to expand the overall testing capacity and facilitate timely analysis of samples received from different parts of the Union Territory.

The Commissioner, Food & Drugs Administration, J&K, expressed gratitude to Rajit Punhani, CEO, FSSAI, for visiting the Food Laboratory, Kashmir and for taking a keen interest in its functioning, analytical capabilities and capacity-building requirements.

The CEO, FSSAI expressed satisfaction on the working of laboratory and called upon the J&K FDA officials to continue their efforts for strengthening it further.

SKUAST-K emphasises handholding, strengthening of Rural Collectives during JKCIIP Mobilisation Drive

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
BARAMULLA, AUG 17:

A mobilisation drive under the Upscaling Collectivisation Component of the IFAD-sponsored Jammu and Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIIP) was organised by The Harvesting Harmony Farmer Producer Organisation Cooperative Ltd., Pattan, in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

Prof. (Dr.) Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension and Dean, Horticulture, SKUAST-Kashmir, was the Chief Guest on the occasion.

More than 185 prospective members and farmers participated in the programme, which aimed at creating awareness about the importance of Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs), encouraging farmers to join the collective and strengthening farmer-led institutions for sustainable agricultural development.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth emphasised the need for sustained handholding, capacity building and institutional strengthening of rural collectives to enable FPOs to

emerge as effective farmer-led enterprises. She said FPOs can play a transformative role in agriculture by enabling farmers to access modern technologies, quality inputs, institutional credit, value addition and organised markets through collective action.

She urged farmers to actively participate in FPOs and make full use of the opportunities being created under the IFAD-supported JKCIIP to enhance farm incomes and build resilient and sustainable farming enterprises. She also highlighted the crucial role of SKUAST-Kashmir in providing continuous technical guidance, capacity building and extension support to strengthen farmer institutions across the Union Territory.

Dr. Waseem Hassan Raja underscored the importance of scientific farming, capacity building and collective marketing in improving the economic status of farmers. He encouraged the participants, particularly women and rural youth, to actively engage with the FPO and adopt improved agricultural technologies for enhancing productivity and profitability.

Dr. Mohammad Iqbal Bhat, Coordinator, Upscaling Collectivisation, JKCIIP, SKUAST-Kashmir, elaborated on the objectives of the component and the institutional

support mechanisms being extended to FPOs under the project. He stressed that increased farmer membership and active participation are essential for developing strong and self-sustaining producer organisations capable of addressing production, value addition and marketing challenges.

Dr. Bhat also highlighted the support being provided by SKUAST-Kashmir in handholding farmer collectives, including capacity building, value addition, branding of FPO products and market intelligence, aimed at enhancing the competitiveness and sustainability of rural enterprises.

The programme concluded with an interactive session in which farmers raised queries regarding FPO membership, governance, business planning and the benefits of collectivisation. The experts responded to their queries and encouraged eligible farmers to join the FPO and actively contribute to its growth and sustainability.

The management of The Harvesting Harmony Farmer Producer Organisation Cooperative Ltd., reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening farmer collectives and promoting inclusive agricultural development under the IFAD-sponsored JKCIIP.

Div Com Kashmir reviews arrangements for Ist International Film Festival of J&K

Directs departments to designate nodal officers for smooth conduct of festival



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
SRINAGAR, AUG 17:

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg today chaired a meeting to review preparations for the 1st International Film Festival of J&K (IFFJK), scheduled to be held from September 7 to 10 and organised by the Department of Information and Public relations jammu and kashmir.

The meeting deliberated on the objectives of the festival, the proposed programme of events, and coordination among various government departments and stakeholders to ensure its successful conduct.

Director Information and

Public Relations Shreya Singhal, at the outset, made a detailed presentation outlining the vision and objectives of the festival, including promotion of cinematic excellence, cultural exchange, creative collaboration, emerging filmmaking talent and international industry engagement.

She apprised the meeting of the planned activities, including the opening and closing ceremonies, curated film screenings, masterclasses, panel discussions, jury and filmmaker interactions, film tourism initiatives, networking and business meetings, and dedicated engagement with students and young filmmakers. While reviewing the

arrangements, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir directed all the concerned departments to designate nodal officers for effective inter-departmental coordination and seamless execution of the film festival-related activities.

He also directed the Director Information and Public Relations to prepare a comprehensive work chart for the event manager and participating departments, clearly defining roles, responsibilities and timelines.

Emphasising the promotion of Kashmir's tourism potential, particularly emerging destinations, Anshul Garg directed the Tourism Department to undertake focused branding of new tourist locations to attract filmmakers and international visitors. He also called for appropriate branding of shikaras and boats being utilised during the festival.

The Divisional Commissioner further stressed the need to integrate cultural programmes with the festival and showcase Kashmir's rich handloom and handicraft products at identified venues.

He advised the preparation of food menu suited to national and international guests and directed that bilingual service providers be designated through the outsourced agencies to facilitate effective communication.

Kathua Admin ends Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign with grand finale at Iconic Atal Setu

Display of 600-metre-long Tricolour marks culmination, celebrating national pride, 150 years of Vande Mataram

JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
KATHUA, AUG 17:

A grand 600-metre-long Tiranga rally taken out from the iconic Atal Setu to Basohli town, marked the end of Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign in Kathua District.

The rally, comprising students, youth, officers, officials and a large number of locals with the massive Tricolour, showcased the spirit of patriotism, unity and national pride.

Member Legislative Assembly Basohli Darshan Singh, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma and SSP Mohita Sharma participated in the rally and marched alongside the participants. ADC Mahima Madan, CEO BBDA Babu Ram, Tehsildar Sagar Vishav Karma, officers and officials of line departments were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA appreciated the students and locals for their enthusiastic participation in the rally and commended their spirit of patriotism. He called upon the youth to stay away from drugs and other harmful activities and channelise their energy towards education, sports, skill development and other constructive pursuits. He urged the younger generation to actively contribute towards



nation-building and realise the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of the National Flag as a symbol of the country's unity, integrity and sovereignty. He appreciated the overwhelming public participation and said that such initiatives strengthen the bond between citizens and the nation. He called upon people, particularly the youth, to uphold the values of patriotism, responsibility and service and contribute positively towards the development of

the country.

The SSP also appreciated the enthusiastic participation of students, youth and citizens. She emphasised the importance of discipline, responsible citizenship and constructive engagement of young people in nation-building activities. She called upon the youth to make positive choices, remain away from drugs and other social evils and become responsible citizens contributing to a safe, progressive and developed society.

DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi



JAMMU BULLETIN NEWS
POONCH, AUG 17:

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office to review and finalize arrangements for the Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

The meeting was attended by SSP Shafket Hussain Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; senior officers of the district administration and

police department, along with religious scholars, Muftis and prominent citizens of the district.

Threadbare discussions were held on measures to be taken for the smooth and peaceful observance of Eid-i-Milad-un-Nabi, including security arrangements, traffic management, sanitation, uninterrupted power and water supply, medical facilities, fire and emergency services, food safety, cleanliness around religious

places and other necessary civic amenities.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments to ensure adequate arrangements well in advance and maintain close coordination with religious representatives and the local community. He stressed that all necessary facilities shall be put in place so that devotees and the general public can participate in the religious programmes peacefully and without inconvenience.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of maintaining peace, brotherhood, communal harmony and mutual respect during the festival. He said that Poonch has a long-standing tradition of communal harmony and peaceful coexistence and urged people of all communities and faiths to uphold this cherished tradition.

The DC called upon religious leaders and prominent citizens to play an active role in promoting harmony, peace and prosperity in society. He said that the festival should be celebrated in a spirit of unity, brotherhood and mutual respect, strengthening the bonds of communal harmony among people.