

# Rana reviews progress of key RDD schemes

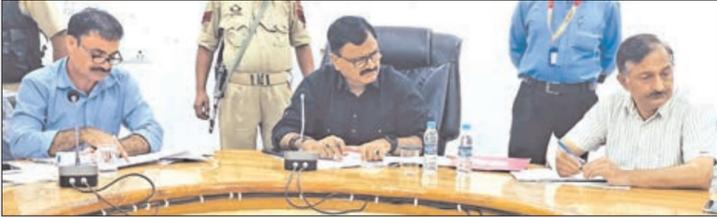
## STATE TIMES NEWS

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana on Thursday chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of key development schemes undertaken by Rural Development department (RDD) for the fiscal year 2025-26, with a particular focus on Balakot and Mankote blocks.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Shakeel A Malik; Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), Block Development Officers (BDOs) of the respective blocks and other senior officers of the department.

During the review, the Minister underscored the critical role of RDD in catalysing rural transformation, emphasizing that all development efforts must be aligned with the needs and aspirations of local communities.

He reiterated the government's commitment of timely implementation of schemes, in a transparent and people-centric manner, with enhanced convergence among departments and active community participation at every stage.



Tribal Affairs Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana chairing a comprehensive review meeting.

While taking stock of the Annual Action Plan, the Minister pointed out the need to bridge the gap between physical achievements and financial expenditure under major funding components including the Area Development Plan (APDP), PRI Grants, CD Panchayat funds, Tribal Sub-Plan, District Capex and the Vibrant Village Programme.

He directed officials to identify implementation challenges, remove bottlenecks and adopt a proactive approach to ensure that all ongoing works are completed within stipulated timelines.

Reviewing the progress under flagship schemes like PMAY (G) and MGNREGA, the Minister instructed Block Development Officers to take ownership of projects and expedite the execution of works in accordance with

approved block-wise plans. He laid strong emphasis on the timely disbursement of wages under MGNREGA and called for an increase in the number of workdays generated to enhance livelihood opportunities for the rural population.

He also urged officials to resolve delays in wage payments and clear all pending arrears within a fixed time frame.

With regard to PMAY-G (Awas-Plus), Rana directed officers to closely monitor the progress of house completions and evaluate new sanctions.

He stressed that special attention must be given to the rehabilitation of disaster-affected families and issued instructions to expedite damage assessment surveys and submit detailed proposals for assistance at the earliest.

Highlighting the impor-

tance of transparency and accountability in public service delivery, Rana called for the regular conduct of social audits and strict adherence to quality standards in all development works.

He asserted that transparency forms the foundation of an accountable governance system and must be upheld without compromise.

The Minister also reviewed the progress under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) and assessed block-wise achievements across various components like Individual Household Latrines (IHHL), Community Sanitary Complexes, Solid Waste Management units, compost pits and waste management sheds.

He reiterated that the core objective of SBM-G is to establish an effective system for waste collection, segregation and scientific disposal and urged officials to

intensify their efforts to achieve this goal.

During the meeting, the Minister also stressed the significance of convergence between the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and MGNREGA to promote sustainable watershed development.

He encouraged the promotion of innovative livelihood models and called for greater support to Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to strengthen rural livelihoods and economic empowerment.

Taking a comprehensive review of the ongoing construction of Panchayat Ghars in Balakote and Mankote blocks, the Minister examined the block-wise progress and urged all executing agencies and stakeholders to work in close coordination to overcome on-ground challenges.

He also directed them to resolve any pending land issues without delay to ensure the timely completion of all sanctioned Panchayat Ghars.

Rana reaffirmed Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to inclusive rural development, assuring that every possible measure will be taken to deliver impactful outcomes that reflect the aspirations of the people.

# SMC organises 'Sewa Parv 2025' Culmination Event at Jhelum River Front

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) on Thursday concluded Sewa Parv 2025 with a grand culmination ceremony at the scenic Jhelum River Front Rajbagh, a vibrant public space along the Jhelum. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of citizens, officials, self-help groups, and community organizations who played a vital role throughout the fortnight-long civic campaign.

During the past two weeks, SMC carried out a diverse set of initiatives reflecting its vision of building a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable Srinagar. These activities included plantation drives across different parts of the city, large-scale sanitation and cleanliness campaigns, awareness programmes on waste segregation and solid waste management, awareness camps under housing schemes, streetlight repair and maintenance drives besides special sanitation operations in all wards of Srinagar.

These efforts drew massive participation from residents, students, civil society groups, and local communities, highlighting a shared sense of civic responsibility and collective ownership.



Speaking on the occasion, Nuzhat Qureshi, Joint Commissioner (Administration), SMC, expressed gratitude to the people of Srinagar for their wholehearted support and active involvement.

She stated that "Sewa Parv has reinforced our belief that civic responsibility is a shared duty. The collective efforts of our people have not only beautified the city but also strengthened the sense of belonging and ownership among residents. Such initiatives prove that positive change is possible when the community and administration work hand in hand."

The culmination event at River Front Rajbagh was marked by a felicitation ceremony recognizing the contributions of ward officers, frontline sanitation staff, and community groups. The programme also featured cultural performances, thematic exhibitions, and displays showcasing the journey, milestones, and achievements of Sewa Parv 2025.

A special highlight of the closing ceremony was the Swachhata Pledge, taken collectively by officials, citizens, and participants, reaffirming their commitment towards cleanliness, sustainability, and active civic participation.

The atmosphere was festive, engaging, and inspiring for both participants and visitors. With the formal conclusion of Sewa Parv 2025, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation reaffirmed its commitment to sustaining community-driven efforts, enhancing civic services, and expanding participatory initiatives that empower citizens and contribute to a progressive urban future for Srinagar.

# Sakeena visits fire-affected families in Kulgam, extends financial assistance



Health Minister, Sakeena Itoo meeting with fire-affected family.

## STATE TIMES NEWS

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo on Thursday today visited Langkhull Nandimarg area of Kulgam district and distributed relief cheques among fire-affected families.

During the visit, the Minister interacted with the affected families, expressed her solidarity with them and assured them of every possible support from the Government. She personally distributed relief cheques among the victims as an immediate measure of assistance.

The Minister emphasized that the administration has been directed to ensure swift rehabilitation and timely relief measures so that the affected families are able to rebuild their lives at the earliest. She further stated that necessary steps will be taken to extend both short-term and long-term support, including assistance under various government schemes.

The Minister reiterated that the welfare of the people, especially those facing sudden calamities, remains a top priority of the Omar Abdullah led Government. She also directed the concerned officials to expedite the process of damage assessment and ensure that no affected household is left out of the relief ambit.

# SKUAST-K distributes poultry chicks to tribal farmers

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of ongoing SEWA PARV, SKUAST-K's Division of Livestock Production and Management (LPM), organized a Chick Distribution Program at its Faculty of Veterinary Sciences Shuhama campus today.

Around 40 tribal beneficiaries from the Ganderbal belt, particularly from Dignibal and Allusteng areas, received backyard poultry units consisting of 4-week-old improved Gramapriya chicks along with poultry feed, aimed at strengthening livelihood opportunities and nutritional security. The program was a part of Tribal Sub-plan component of ICAR funded All India Coordinated Project on Poultry Breeding.



The event was graced by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik, Director Research SKUAST-K, and Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Registrar SKUAST-K and Principal Investigator, AICRP on Poultry Breeding.

Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, emphasized the role of backyard poultry in ensuring nutritional security and income generation for rural and tribal households. He encouraged farmers, particularly women, to explore value addition in poultry products such as organic and free-range eggs, which have a growing demand in urban markets.

Prof. Haroon Rashid Naik (Director Research) urged the beneficiaries to rear the birds with scientific care and assured them of continuous technical guidance from experts at the Division of LPM. He stressed that community-level adoption of

backyard poultry can significantly contribute to rural upliftment and food security.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Azmat Alam Khan, Principal Investigator of the project, outlined the ongoing research and developmental activities under AICRP, HADP, and DST-funded projects aimed at strengthening the poultry sector in Kashmir. He assured that the Division will provide continuous technical and field support to tribal farmers under the DAPST framework of AICRP, reaffirming SKUAST-K's commitment to promoting sustainable and farmer-centric poultry production models.

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# DLSA Budgam organises Swachhta prog on Gandhi Jayanti

## STATE TIMES NEWS

BUDGAM: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, organized an awareness programme and a cleanliness drive in district court Complex Budgam in order to mark Gandhi Jayanti.

The event was held under the visionary leadership of Justice Arun Palli, Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Patron-in-Chief, J&K Legal Services Authority, and Justice Sanjeev Kumar, Executive Chairman, J&K Legal Services Authority.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Shazia Tabassum, Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, supervision of O.P. Bhagat, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority Budgam, and active guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary, DLSA Budgam.

The programme commenced with a session on the values of non-violence and social justice, inspired by the principles of Mahatma Gandhi. The speakers highlighted the role of the legal system in advancing peace, justice, and equality, as

envisioned by Gandhiji. His philosophy of non-violence (Ahimsa) and social justice emphasized peaceful resistance against injustice, guided by truth, compassion, and equality, to transform individuals as well as society. Gandhiji also envisioned the legal system as an instrument to institutionalize these values, advocating for a "world law" and a non-violent international framework to replace exploitative systems and resolve conflicts through negotiation, mediation, and arbitration.

Similar kind of awareness programmes were organised at Tehsil Legal Services Committees of Charar-i-Sharif, Chadoora, Beerwah, and Magam also. As part of the programme, a special "Swachhta Abhiyaan" was also organized by DLSA Budgam, symbolizing not only a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi but also a collective commitment to transforming his vision into reality. The initiative highlighted the power of community participation in building a cleaner, greener, and sustainable future for generations to come.

Awareness activities were also conducted by the Tehsil Legal Services Committees of DLSA Budgam.

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# Agriculture Deptt organises Swachhta Pledge Rally



## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: As part of the nationwide Sewa Parv initiative, the Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir organized a Swachhta pledge ceremony and rally at Lal Mandi, Srinagar. Speaking at the occasion, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, underscored the department's commitment to promoting cleanliness and community service. Dir Shah administered the Swachhta pledge to the staff and led a vibrant rally through the various offices within the Lal Mandi agriculture complex. The event saw enthusiastic participation from the entire staff, including the Chief Agriculture Officer, Srinagar and other senior officials. Highlighting the significance of Sewa Parv, Director Shah said, "This initiative is a powerful reminder of our collective responsibility to foster a cleaner and healthier environment. Sewa Parv inspires us to contribute to society through voluntary acts of service, aligning with the vision of a Swachh Bharat." The Swachhta pledge and rally are part of a broader series of activities across the Kashmir division, with similar events held in other districts to promote sanitation awareness. The Directorate plans to extend these efforts to its field offices, ensuring sustained momentum in cleanliness and community engagement initiatives.

# Dist Admin marks Gandhi Jayanti with Swachhta Abhiyaan, Anti-Drug Awareness Programme

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SHOPIAN: The District Administration Shopian on Thursday organized a series of public service and community engagement programmes at Borihallan, Shopian, in connection with the celebration of Gandhi Jayanti and the culmination of Sewa Parv in the district.

Besides, Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta, the events were attended by SSP Shopian Anayat Ali, ADDC Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ADC Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz and officers of district administration.

The event also witnessed active participation of officers, officials, civil society members, students and the public.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasised on combating the drug menace under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, terming it a grave

challenge for the youth and society. He appreciated the stakeholders for their strong actions against drug menace and called for community-level vigilance and cooperation to eradicate substance abuse.

He further highlighted that Swachhta and community-oriented programmes not only help in creating a cleaner environment but also build stronger bonds between the Administration and the people.

DC also inspected departmental facilitation counters and grievance redressal camps where citizens interacted directly with officers for on-the-spot resolution of issues related to basic services, schemes, and developmental works.

A pledge ceremony was also held wherein participants reaffirmed their commitment towards keeping surroundings neat, clean,

plastic-free, and upholding Gandhian values of simplicity, service, and community responsibility.

The fortnight-long Sewa Parv dedicated to cleanliness drives, awareness rallies, pledge ceremonies, plantation drives, and welfare activities across Shopian culminated with this event.

To mark the occasion, cultural programmes and thematic skits on Cleanliness and Drug Abuse were presented by DIPR Shopian and Cultural Unit DIPR Kashmir alongwith performances of school children, showcasing themes of patriotism, cleanliness, and drug-free living.

The event blended the spirit of Gandhi Jayanti, Swachhta, Anti-Drug Awareness and community service, reinforcing the message of collective responsibility and responsive governance in Shopian district.

# Gandhi Jayanti celebrated in Ganderbal



## STATE TIMES NEWS

GANDERBAL: District Administration Ganderbal on Thursday organized an event at Cloek Tower, Duderhama to commemorate the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

During the programme rich tributes were paid to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, while promoting his timeless values of truth, simplicity, non-violence, self-suffi-

ciency, and cleanliness. Speaking on the occasion, the DC extended greetings to the people on Gandhi Jayanti and remembered Gandhi Ji's enduring legacy of peace, non-violence, and community service.

He highlighted that during the fortnight Sewa Parv campaign, the District Administration carried out extensive awareness drives on clean-

ness, Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, and various welfare activities which would continue throughout the year.

The DC urged the community to extend full cooperation to the administration in its endeavors towards a cleaner environment, a drug-free society, and overall public welfare. The event featured cultural performances by students showcasing

Gandhian philosophy and the importance of Swachhata as a collective responsibility.

On the occasion, a felicitation ceremony was also held wherein the DC distributed certificates of appreciation among students, Safai Mitras, and other participants in recognition of their active role in the campaign and their dedicated service to society.

The celebrations witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, frontline sanitation workers, and the local community.

The programme concluded with a reaffirmation of the district's commitment to uphold Gandhian ideals and work collectively towards a cleaner, healthier, and more inclusive society.

# KVIB Jammu commemorates Gandhi Jayanti



## STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board, Division Jammu, on Thursday solemnly commemorated Gandhi Jayanti, honoring the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the revered Father of the Nation.

The event paid heartfelt tribute to Gandhiji's enduring legacy as a freedom fighter and social reformer.

His unwavering commitment to non-violence, truth, and rural empowerment was remembered with deep reverence. Staff members gathered to reflect on his pivotal role in India's independence movement and his lifelong dedication to uplifting the marginalized through khadi and village industries.

The celebration included speeches and reaffirmation of the Board's mission to promote self-reliance and sustainable development in line with Gandhian principles.

The J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board remains committed to preserving and promoting the values championed by Mahatma Gandhi, continuing to inspire generations toward a more equitable and self-sufficient society.

# Div Com pays rich tribute to Mahatma Gandhi

## STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Anshul Garg on Thursday paid rich tributes and reflected on the timeless legacy of the great leader.

While commemorating the day, the Div Com underscored Mahatma Gandhi's pivotal role in India's freedom struggle and his enduring message of truth, non-violence, and communal harmony.

He highlighted how Gandhi Ji's principles of peace, equality, and compassion continue to guide the nation in overcoming injustice, inequality, and division.