

CS reviews implementation of city sanitation, waste management works

Action plans amounting above Rs 700 Cr approved for J&K ULBs

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Wednesday chaired a meeting of Housing & Urban Development Department (H&UDD) to take appraisal of the progress made in implementation of Swachh Bharat Mission Urban (SBM-U) 2.0 aiming at scientific disposal of waste and achieving the garbage-free status for all cities in India.

Those who were present include Principal Secretary Finance; Commissioner Secretary H&UDD; Chairman Pollution Control Committee; DG Rural Sanitation; Commissioner SMC/JMC; Director ULB J/K besides other concerned officers.

On this occasion the Chief Secretary impressed upon the Department to take swift decisions regarding implementation of this project here in J&K. He observed that the centrally sponsored schemes are time-bound in nature and therefore deserve efficient implementation on ground for maximizing benefits to common masses.

Dulloo also seized this opportunity to enquire from the Commissioners of the twin Municipal Corporations and Directors of ULBs about the current status of each work envisaged under this scheme. He stressed on



Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chairing a meeting of H&UDD.

ensuring their timely completion and quality outcomes in terms of their functioning at the end.

While looking into the proposed action plans of sanitation and waste management for the municipalities, the Chief Secretary enquired about different components being implemented under SBM 2.0 and the anticipated outcomes. He called for taking more serious efforts to take each to their logical conclusion within the set deadline fixed for this mission.

The Principal Secretary Finance, Santosh D.Vaidya took keen interest in giving his suggestions for better implementation of this mission here in the UT. He took note of the financial progress made so far and the means through which the Department is contemplating to accomplish the works across all the urban areas.

The Commissioner Secretary H&UDD,

Mandeep Kaur elucidated the type of components and progress registered by the Department in each of them. She introduced that SBM-U 2.0 was launched in October 2021 with the vision of achieving garbage-free city (GFC) status in all cities in India.

She further added that this mission entails segregation of waste and its 100% door-to-door collection and thereafter its management including safe disposal in scientifically designed landfills.

It was also revealed that the ULBs had to prepare city sanitation action plans (CSAPs) and city solid waste action plans (CSWAPs) by submitting them to MOHUA in the form of a state action plan for their funding.

The meeting took appraisal of the measures made for scientific disposal of Solid Waste Management including material recovery facilities, transfer stations, waste

processing facilities, remediation of legacy waste dumpsites, and scientific landfilling in different municipalities of J&K.

Regarding the achievements made so far it was given out that the work on 350 TPD waste processing plant for JMC is under progress through NAFED at Kot Bhalwal is slated to be completed by March, 2025 with another 138 TPD project being vetted by IIT Jammu.

As far as the CSWAP for Srinagar is concerned, the meeting took appraisal of the revised plan estimated at a cost of Rs. 212.67 Cr including components for Dry waste facility, wet waste facility and legacy waste treatment. The meeting was further apprised that for Solid Waste Management (SWM) in J&K, 78 MRFs and waste to compost plants with a cumulative capacity of 454 TPD and 611.5 TPD had

been approved along with 2 Bio-gas plants of 225 TPD for Jammu as well.

As far as the Used Water Management (UWM) is concerned it was divulged that STPs having installed capacity of 71 MLD are functional in Jammu producing a sewerage of around 86 MLD at the rate of 108 litres per capita per day.

Similarly, in Srinagar STPs of the capacity of 61.99 MLD constructed by SMC/LCMA are functional currently with the gap to be covered by 2028. STPs of capacity 13.6 MLD and 6 MLD had also been made functional by ULBs of Jammu and Kashmir divisions in some of its municipalities with more under progress.

In the action taken report it was given out that CSWAP to the tune of Rs. 446.03 Cr was approved along with UWM plan of Rs. 271.67 Cr in favour of J&K. In addition for construction of 804 seats of aspirational toilets with all the modern facilities an amount of Rs. 32.52 Cr has been made available under this mission.

The mission also features capacity building of the manpower for which Rs. 12.86 Cr for 2 year period had been earmarked and for carrying out the IEC activities Rs. 14 Cr had been approved under SBM plan for J&K.

SFCAC Jammu approves monthly assistance for 94 underprivileged children

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Sponsorship & Foster Care Approval Committee Jammu has approved monthly financial assistance for 94 destitute children here at its meeting chaired by the Committee Chairman (District Magistrate) Sachin Kumar Vaishya.

The beneficiaries include three children whose video showing their poor plight was widely circulated on social media a couple of months ago. The three children were severely lacking in nutrition, with one child desperately asking for milk. In response, the Social Welfare Department and members of the civil society stepped forward



to assist the poor children. These children, along with 91 others, will be receiving a monthly assistance of Rs. 4,000 for the next three years, or until they reach 18 years of age, whichever is earlier, under Mission Vatsalya. The committee meeting, held in the presence of Member Secretary Mamta Rajput (District Child Protection Officer) and other committee members, saw the District Magistrate calling for proactive efforts towards child protection and welfare activities in the district. Other initiatives for the wellbeing of children were also discussed during the meeting.

Heritagean Puneesh Puri continues winning streak, clinches gold at CBSE National Skating Competition 2024-25



Heritage School faculty felicitating winner Puneesh Puri.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Puneesh Puri, a talented Class 8D student of Heritage School, secured the Gold Medal in the Under-14 Boys 500m Rink Race at the CBSE National Skating Competition 2024-25.

The prestigious event, held from October 23rd to 27th,

2024, took place at the Shivganga Sports Club, Belgaum, and was hosted by Good Shepherd Central School, Belagavi. This competition, organized by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE), attracted top young skating talent from across the country.

This latest achievement builds upon Puneesh's impressive skating record. In September 2024, he won Gold in the 500m Rink Race at the CBSE North Zone II Championship held at O.P.S Vidya Mandir, Ambala City, where he competed against nearly 3,000 students from CBSE schools across Jammu, Haryana, Punjab, and Chandigarh. Earlier, in August 2024, Puneesh showcased his prowess by securing three Gold Medals at the 2nd India Skates Roller Games in Pollachi, Tamil Nadu, earning the title of National Champion in the Under-14 Boys category. The Heritage School fraternity extends its warmest congratulations to Puneesh Puri for his extraordinary achievements.

J&K bags Silver, Bronze in National School Games in Taekwondo

Tara says DYSS catches athletes young, nurtures talent at grass-root level

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir won two medals in 68th National School Games in the discipline of Taekwondo U-14 and U-17 Boys and Girls Championship held at Vidisha in Madhya Pradesh from November 8 to November 12, 2024.

Mohd Hadie from Baramulla clinched Silver medal in U-17 Boys -73 kgs category, while Nasir ul Islam of Budgam claimed Bronze medal in U-17 Boys -59 kgs category.

Apart from these two medal winners, 12 athletes sealed the berth in the last eight stage and lost their quarterfinal bouts, thus losing the medal hopes.

The Director General Youth Services and Sports,



Rajinder Singh Tara congratulated the medal winners for their fabulous show thus keeping J&K's flag high at the National scene.

"You have made us proud. Keep the spirit high and leave no stone unturned in winning more and more medals at the higher levels. The achievement like this is a step forward towards the Government's commitment of making J&K a sporting hub. You are our heroes,"

said Mr Tara in a congratulatory message to the medal winners.

Tara further said that the Department of Youth Services and Sports serves as a nursery for the budding sportspersons, who after receiving proper coaching and training become role models for others, adding those who emerge Champions in various sports disciplines are nurtured at the grass-root level by the Department.

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, in collaboration with J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council, Department of Science, Technology, on Wednesday organized one day inter college oral presentation competition with 'Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Society' as its theme.

The event, held at the college auditorium, brought together students, scholars and experts from 10 different colleges of Jammu district to discuss and showcase their understanding of the transformative role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in modern society.

Commissioner Secretary & Technology, Sourabh Bhagat, who was chief guest on the occasion, elaborated and emphasized the importance of innovation and technological advancement in shaping the future of youth. He urged upon the youth to adopt a proactive approach towards compre-



Commissioner Secretary S&T Sourabh Bhagat lighting a ceremonial lamp.

hending a knowledge-based learning. Sourabh Bhagat spoke about the job scenario in government sector saying that it is not possible for the administration to accommodate everyone in the government job. He exhorted upon the youth to engage themselves in innovation and those areas where they can become skilful and develop entrepreneurial skills so that they can set up their own start-ups, ventures. There are various government departments which provide subsidies to youth for starting up their ventures or startups under different schemes.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Nodal Principal and Principal GCW, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Dr. S.P. Saraswat, emphasized the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence in various aspects of life.

Additional Director, JKSTIC, DST, Dr. Mushtaq Ahmed Bhat, gave a brief detail about the schemes in place for welfare of student community in particular and society at large. He disclosed that the department is aimed at creating platform for students to display their talent, scientific acumen, express their ideas through debates,

seminars and workshop on core issues of Science and Technology under the scheme Science Popularization.

The highlight of the event was a series of oral presentations, followed by panel discussion in which students from various colleges and panelists engaged in participatory interaction.

The competition aimed to enhance students' critical thinking and communication skills while fostering a deeper understanding of the societal implications of Artificial Intelligence. The event also provided a platform for exchange of ideas between students, faculty and the experts in the field of technology.

The panel of judges included prominent experts like Dr. Vishal Sharma, Associate Professor and Head of Electronics, GCW Udhampur and Dr. Mekhla Sharma, Assistant Professor, GCET Jammu, who evaluated the presentations based on originality, depth of analysis and relevance to contemporary issues.

The event concluded with a prize distribution ceremony, recognizing the outstanding presentations and efforts of the participating students wherein GCET Jammu, GCW Gandhi Nagar and GCOE Jammu were adjudged first, second and third winner respectively.

Other distinguished guests, including Neelam Khajuria, Additional Secretary, Science & Technology Department, Sanjay Kharoo, and Sunita Razdan, Joint Directors, JKSTIC, Science & Technology department were also present during the event.

Dr. Nazia Rasool, Convenor Science and Eco Club proposed vote of thanks.

The session was coordinated by Prof. Sugandha Mahajan. Principal, Dr. SP Saraswat, commended the work done by the whole organizing committee of Science Club and Eco Club. The event was attended by more than 500 students and faculty members from different colleges of Jammu division.

Ranji Trophy Elite Group-A Auqib, Rasikh plot Manipur collapse; Khajuria stands tall



■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Continuing his devastating form, talented Speedster, Auqib Nabi once again emerged as the stand-out bowler for Jammu & Kashmir and alongside artistic seamer Rasikh Salam plotted collapse of the Manipur team, while in reply Shubham Khajuria stood tall on a bowling friendly JKCA Hostel Ground track in the ongoing Ranji Trophy Elite Group-A match here today.

Earlier, J&K bowlers hit the right areas from the word go and put the rival batters

in trouble, thus plotting their (Tripura's) collapse for paltry 165 runs in 50.3 overs.

Skipper Mandeep Singh top scored with 67 runs off 122 balls studded with 7 delectable boundaries, while Tajasvi Jaiswal and MB Mura Singh contributed 33 and 25 runs to the total respectively.

For J&K, Auqib Nabi was the wrecker-in-chief, who captured 6 wickets by conceding 54 runs in 16 overs, while Rasikh Salam bagged 3 wickets by giving away 26 runs in 7.3 overs. Left-arm

spinner Abid Mushtaq also claimed one wicket.

In reply, J&K were 82/3 at stumps on day-1 today. Shubham Khajuria showed solidity, sublimity and elegance to remain unconquered at 46 runs off 94 balls with 7 crispy boundaries, while young wicketkeeper batsman Shivansh Sharma was at the other end unbeaten on 4 runs. Vivrant Sharma (16), Abdul Samad (15) and Ahmad Banday (0) were the three batsmen dismissed today.

J&K was trailing by 83 runs with 7 wickets in hand. With Shubham Khajuria solid at one end, Jammu and Kashmir at this stage enjoy an edge to gain a first innings lead.

For Tripura, Rana Dutta, AK Sarkar and MB Mura Singh claimed one wicket each.

Satish Sharma reviews functioning of IT, ARI & Training departments Emphasises hassle free, timely services to common people

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Minister for Information Technology (IT) and Administrative Reforms, Inspection & Training (ARI & Training), Satish Sharma, chaired a crucial review meeting today at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, to assess the performance of the IT and ARI & Training departments. The meeting was attended by senior officials including Principal Secretary IT Santosh D. Vaidya, CEO JaKeGA Ankita Kar, State Informatics Officer NIC Jaskaran Singh Modi, Director Finance IT Iftikar Chauhan, Additional Secretary Aijaz Qaiser, and



Minister for ARI & Training, Satish Sharma chairing a meeting.

other key department heads.

The meeting began with a detailed presentation by the Additional Secretary, IT Department, who outlined the department's key initiatives, which include Digital Transformation, Cyber Security, and the Online Service Delivery System.

Satish Sharma was informed that 1164 services have been unified through the e-UNNAT online portal, with over 300 services integrated with Auto Appeal Services (AAS) under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). A total of 785,109 appeals have been received through the system, with more than 520,177 disposed of, marking a 66 percent achievement rate.

Sharma was also briefed about the 17,608 Common Service Centers (CSCs) established across Jammu and Kashmir, with over

14,000 currently operational. Additionally, 940 new touch points have been added in government offices to improve the delivery of public services.

The Minister commended the department for its efforts, particularly for making Jammu and Kashmir the top-performing Union Territory in the country under the National e-Governance Service Delivery Assessment (NeSDA). Satish emphasized the importance of Cyber Security and urged the department to ensure strict adherence to safety protocols to protect sensitive government data. He directed that measures be taken to safeguard critical IT infrastructure to prevent cyber threats.

The Minister also called for regular inspections of CSCs to ensure they are operating effectively and delivering services to the

public in a timely manner. He stressed the importance of a robust audit mechanism to ensure that these centers remain transparent and efficient.

Sharma highlighted the need for advanced technologies to continue driving the success of Digital Jammu and Kashmir.

He directed the IT Department to utilize cutting-edge technologies to ensure the UT continues to be a leader in providing integrated online services and hassle-free citizen access to government services.

Following the review of the IT department, Minister Sharma turned his attention to the ARI & Training Department. The meeting included senior officials such as Shabnam Kamili, Secretary ARI & Training, Dr. Abdul Kabir, Secretary (Technical), and Muzaffer Ahmad, Secretary Law, who briefed

the Minister on the department's ongoing initiatives.

The ARI department plays a vital role in administrative reforms, inspections, and training to improve the functioning of government departments.

The Minister directed officials to conduct a survey for modernizing the presses and improving their efficiency. He asked for a focus on upgrading men and machinery and highlighted the need for new buildings for the Ranbir Government Press in Jammu.

Sharma also directed the identification of land for constructing new buildings for JK BoPEE in both Jammu and Srinagar.

He stressed the importance of streamlining recruitment processes and filling vacant posts across government departments. He also emphasized the need for a robust mechanism to resolve the leftover seats in professional courses managed by JK BoPEE.

Additionally, he reviewed the progress of administrative inspections, which help identify inefficiencies in government functioning, and urged the ARI & Training Department to continue improving operational capacity across departments.