

Director Colleges holds interactive meeting with Principals of GDCs of Kashmir Division

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
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Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri, Director Colleges, Jammu and Kashmir, held an interactive meeting with the Principals of Government Degree Colleges (GDC) of the Kashmir Division at Government College for Women, M.A. Road, Srinagar, to discuss institutional challenges and explore measures to strengthen the overall functioning of colleges.

Prof. Seema Naz, Nodal Principal, welcomed the Director Colleges and Principals and assured her commitment to collective efforts towards strengthening the Department of Higher Education.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri emphasized the need to understand institutional challenges and practical realities at the grassroots level to develop effective and respon-



sive policy perspectives. She underscored that meaningful progress in Higher Education Institutions requires collective efforts, mutual co-ordination and a shared commitment to ensuring effective academic delivery.

She highlighted that Principals are not merely administrative heads but also academic leaders who play a pivotal role in shaping the academic environment, guiding faculty members and empowering students. She stressed the importance

of strengthening their leadership capacities and enabling them to address institutional needs effectively.

The Director Colleges further emphasized the need to remain sensitive to student grievances, since they are the most important stakeholders of educational institutions. She called for the effective implementation of robust mentorship programme across all colleges to ensure appropriate guidance and support for students.

Prof. (Dr.) Twinkle Suri also stressed the importance of promoting innovation, research and skill development to make students industry-oriented and employment-ready. She noted that such initiatives would help equip students with the knowledge and competencies envisaged under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

During the interactive session, the Principals shared their perspectives on the functioning of their respective institutions and highlighted various academic, administrative and infrastructural challenges faced by the colleges.

Taking note of the issues raised, Prof. Suri assured the principals that the concerns discussed would be taken up for appropriate redressal. She reiterated that collective efforts, effective coordination and sustained engagement among stakeholders are essential for ensuring the smooth function-

Civil Defence Volunteers training programme begins in Pulwama

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A three-day Civil Defence Volunteers Training Programme commenced today at Circuit House, Pulwama, with the objective of enhancing the preparedness, skills and response capabilities of Civil Defence volunteers for effective assistance during disasters and other emergencies.

The programme is being organised by Headquarters 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles in collaboration with the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Pulwama, and is being conducted from October 17 to 19, 2026.

ADC/CEO, DDMA Pulwama, Dr. Sheikh Mohd Ashraf inaugurated the programme and appreciated the initiative aimed at strengthening community-level emergency preparedness.

He stressed that effective disaster response depends on trained personnel, timely action and close co-ordination among the administration, emergency services and community volunteers. He also highlighted the important role Civil Defence volunteers can play in assisting authorities, supporting evacuation and extending immediate assistance to affected com-



munities during emergencies.

Under the programme, Headquarters 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles is facilitating and conducting the training and practical demonstrations, while DDMA Pulwama is coordinating the participation of Civil Defence volunteers and contributing through its disaster-management expertise and resource persons.

The training covers key aspects of Civil Defence, emergency response, search and rescue, evacuation pro-

cedures, safety measures, and the roles and responsibilities of volunteers during disaster situations.

As part of the practical component, personnel of 12 Sector Rashtriya Rifles conducted demonstrations and hands-on training for the participants. Volunteers were familiarised with emergency-response equipment, rescue techniques and procedures relevant to different emergency scenarios.

Specialized sessions are also being conducted by trainers and personnel from SDRF, Fire & Emergency Services, Police Department and DDMA Pulwama, providing participants with practical and operational knowledge relating to disaster management and emergency response.

The sessions also focused on how Civil Defence volunteers can effectively support the administration and specialised agencies at the community level.

A specialised awareness session by a representative of 44 Rashtriya Rifles focused on CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) hazards and hazardous environments. The session covered the classification of chemical agents, associated symptoms and indicators, preventive and protective measures, and immediate protective actions in the event of exposure.

The session also covered biological warfare awareness and protective measures, with emphasis on recognising potential hazards, adopting immediate protective action and following established safety protocols.

A search-and-rescue training video was also screened to familiarise participants with rescue operations, evacuation procedures and coordinated action during emergencies and high-risk situations.

KVK Bandipora-1 organises Technology Demonstration on Brown Sarson at Kootasatrie NICRA Village

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Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-Kashmir), organised a Technology Demonstration on Brown Sarson at Kootasatrie, a NICRA village, to promote improved agricultural practices and strengthen climate-resilient farming among local farmers.

The programme aimed to sensitise farmers, particularly women farmers, about improved brown sarson production practices and the importance of adopting suitable agricultural technologies to enhance crop productivity and farm income. During the programme, quality brown sarson seed was distributed among farmers to encourage the adoption of improved varieties and strengthen local oilseed cultivation.

Head, KVK Bandipora-1, Dr. Tariq Sultan highlighted the importance of technology demonstrations, improved crop management practices and the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural technologies under the National Innovations in Climate Resilient Agriculture (NICRA) initiative.



On the occasion, Scientists from KVK Bandipora-1, shared technical guidance on brown sarson cultivation and improved crop production practices to help farmers achieve better

productivity.

The programme witnessed the participation of local farmers and farm women, who received technical guidance and quality brown sarson seed.

CS lays foundation stone for restoration of Vittal Bhairav Temple in Rainawari

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Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday laid the foundation stone for the revival and restoration of the historic Vittal Bhairav Temple at Motiyar, Rainawari, in Srinagar district, marking a significant step towards preserving Kashmir's rich cultural and architectural heritage.

The restoration project is being undertaken at an estimated cost of Rs 2.84 crore under the Government's heritage conservation initiative. The project aims to preserving the temple's historical, religious and cultural significance.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir Anshul Garg, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Akshay Labroo, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Dr Basharat Qayoom, Director Archives, representatives of the Kashmiri Pandit community and other concerned officials were present on the occasion.

During his visit, the Chief Secretary reviewed various components of the proposed restoration project and directed the concerned officers to expedite the work while ensuring strict adherence to prescribed timelines



and quality standards.

Emphasising the importance of the project, Atal Dulloo said the restoration and conservation efforts were aimed at reviving the temple's decades old glory and preserving its architectural and cultural heritage.

He said the initiative reflected the Government's commitment to conserving the region's heritage while recognising the cultural contributions of different communities of Kashmir's diverse social fabric.

The Chief Secretary observed that the temple holds considerable historical, cultural and religious significance and represents an important part of Kashmir's shared heritage. He expressed hope that the restoration work would help preserve its aesthetic appeal, heritage value and social significance for future generations.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar Mir Imtiaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Joint Commissioners of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation Syed Abu Qasim and Nuzhat Qureshi, Superintending Engineer R&B Tatheer Manzoor, along with Officers from the R&B, PHE, KPDCL, SMC, Police, Revenue and other concerned departments, were present on the occasion.

DLSA Ganderbal conducts Special Lok Adalat on NI Act Cases

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District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, successfully conducted a Special Lok Adalat for Negotiable Instruments Act (NI Act) cases today across District Ganderbal.

The Special Lok Adalat was held under the guidance and supervision of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Ganderbal.

Two benches were constituted for the amicable settlement of cases. The first bench was presided over by Mahoor, Munsiff/JMIC, Ganderbal, with Adv. Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal, as a member. The second bench was presided over by Moonis Wahid, Munsiff/JMIC, Kangan, with Advocate Tariq Ahmed Raina, Panel Lawyer, Tehsil Legal Services Committee, Kangan, as a member.

The first bench heard cases at the District Court Complex, Ganderbal, while



the second bench conducted proceedings at the Munsiff Court Complex, Kangan.

Several NI Act cases were taken up during the Special Lok Adalat, and cases were amicably settled through the process of mutual agree-

ment between the parties, resulting in the settlement of disputes and facilitating speedy justice.

The Special Lok Adalat aimed to provide an effective platform for the amicable resolution of disputes, reduce the pendency of

DLSA Srinagar settles 46 Cases at Special Lok Adalat, Awards Rs 1.07 cr in compensation

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In compliance to the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for NI Act Cases (U/S 138) and MACT Cases which was held under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, two benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Fayaz Ahmad Qureshi, Presiding Officer MACT Court Srinagar, and Kamiya Singh Andotra, Special Mobile Magistrate/Railway Magistrate, Srinagar as member. The 2nd bench was presided over by Mohammad Ishtiyak Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate Srinagar, and Vikas Bhardwaj, 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar as member.

A total of 82 Cases were taken up by these benches for amicable settle-



ment, out of which 46 Cases were settled.

An amount of Rs 1,07,77,500 was awarded as settlement amount in all these cases including award of Rs 78,20,000 in 27 MACT Cases.