

Additional Registrar reviews cooperative activities in Ramban; inaugurates Jan Aushadhi Kendra & Curd Processing Unit

DDC Poonch reviews implementation of Vibrant Village Programme-II

RAMBAN, JULY 3: He also inaugurated a Curd Making Unit set up by Chenab Cooperative Societies, Jammu, Bal Krishan today conducted an extensive visit to district Ramban to review the functioning of the Cooperative Department and promote grassroots-level initiatives under the cooperative movement.

During the visit, the Additional Registrar inaugurated the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra established by Thopal MPACS at CHC Batote. The Kendra aims to provide quality generic medicines at affordable prices to the local population, ensuring improved access to essential healthcare.

He also inaugurated a recently inaugurated Cooperative Mini Super Bazar run by MPACS Maitra. He appreciated the efforts made to provide goods at affordable prices with a special focus on organic and locally produced items.

As part of the day’s engagements, he participated in a plantation drive under the “Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam” initiative, symbolizing commitment to sustainable and cooperative-driven development in line with the International Year of Cooperatives.

He later interacted with members of various cooperative societies, encouraging them to diversify their ventures and tap into emerging opportunities in the cooperative sector. On the occasion, registration certificates were distributed to newly established MPACS units, marking a new milestone in the district’s cooperative growth.

The Additional Registrar also visited the construction site of the upcoming Cooperative Super Bazar Ramban, reviewed the quality and pace of work, and issued directions for its timely completion. Lastly, he inspected the Fair Price Cooperative Medical Shop at the District Hospital Complex, Ramban and instructed the management to enhance discounts on medicines and equipment to benefit the public.

POONCH, JULY 3: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Vikas Kundal today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review the implementation of the Vibrant Village Programme-II—an ambitious initiative of the Ministry of Home Affairs aimed at transforming the lives of people in border areas. The review meeting, held at the conference hall of the DC Office Complex, focused on strategizing measures for achieving full saturation across key thematic areas identified by the Ministry. The DDC underlined the importance of addressing critical gaps in essential sectors such as network connectivity, road accessibility, television connectivity and household electrification in remote and border villages.

Calling for a holistic and inclusive development approach, DDC directed the concerned departments to carry out detailed gap analyses and prepare Village Action Plans (VAPs) accordingly. He emphasized the need to conduct Gram Sabhas in each village to ensure ground-level assessment and community participation in the planning process. Speaking on the occasion, the DDC said, “This Vibrant Village Programme will become a major scheme for our border district. The administration is committed to ensuring inclusive development and significantly improving the quality of life in border and remote villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme.”

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), PO ICDS, Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Panchayats (ACP), AD FCS&CA, BDOs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers joined the session virtually.

Cont. From page 1

Shivraj Chouhan, CM Omar Abdullah review Agri, Rural Development progress in J&K

in the meeting. Addressing the meeting, Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for the holistic development of Jammu & Kashmir. "For Viksit Bharat, a Viksit Jammu & Kashmir is essential. I extend my full support to CM Omar Abdullah and his team and assure you that my office is just a call away whenever needed," the Union Minister said. Shivraj Singh Chouhan lauded the J&K Government led by CM Omar Abdullah for its achievements in agriculture and allied sectors and appreciated the momentum being built at the grassroots. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his welcome address, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Union Minister for his prompt response and visit: "Your presence here today has truly won our hearts. We have always known you to be a positive and responsive leader, but I must admit-I did not expect such a swift and gracious response. A few days ago, during the NITI Aayog meeting, I had requested you to visit, especially after the Pahalgam incident, to reassure the people that the nation stands with us. Today, you are here with your full team, which reflects your deep commitment and solidarity." He added that face-to-face engagement, as opposed to formal correspondence, helps in quicker resolution of issues. "This meeting itself is a testimony to how much can be achieved through dialogue and collaboration," he said. Earlier in the meeting, Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar, and Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Aijaz Asad, gave comprehensive presentations on the performance and progress of their respective departments. They highlighted implementation status, physical and financial achievements under various centrally sponsored schemes, GoI-supported and UT-specific schemes, including: PM-Kisan, RKVY, Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture; Rural infrastructure initiatives under MGNREGA, PMAY-G, NRLM, and PMAY Key performance indicators, success stories from field-level beneficiaries, and use of digital governance tools for real-time monitoring were also showcased. The meeting broadly reviewed sectoral achievements, discussed bottlenecks, and chalked out action plans to accelerate progress in both Agriculture and Rural Development sectors. On the occasion, in the presence of the Chief Minister and Union Agriculture Minister, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between Kudumbashree and JKRLM to establish 20 food service enterprises across all 20 districts of J&K. This initiative aims to empower women, Self-Help Groups (SHG) by creating local employment opportunities and building market-ready ventures. Additionally, the dignitaries launched ‘Har Didi Ek Kahani’-a compendium of success stories of over 100 women SHGs who have become Lakshmi Didis through structured enterprise support, capacity building, and mentorship under the JKRLM framework. The Union Minister and the Chief Minister jointly made commitment for grassroots empowerment, inclusive growth, and stronger centre-state collaboration to transform the rural and agricultural ecosystem of Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Omar Abdullah flags off fleet of water tankers to strengthen drinking water supply in Kashmir

summer demand or ongoing infrastructure development. The event witnessed the presence of Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, several MLAs, senior officials from the Jal Shakti Department, representatives from the Public Health Engineering (PHE) wing, among others. Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasized the government's commitment to ensuring uninterrupted access to safe and clean drinking water for every household in Jammu & Kashmir. Minister of Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, in his remarks, highlighted that the tankers will be strategically deployed to areas experiencing acute water shortages and will operate in coordination with local administrative units to ensure timely delivery. The Chief Minister also appreciated the presence of elected representatives on the occasion, stating that such collective participation underscores the government's inclusive and responsive approach to governance.

Second batch of pilgrims leave for Amarnath yatra from Jammu

for Amarnath along with a group of 20 members from Kanpur, said they do not have the slightest fear. "The increasing number of pilgrims thronging the yatra will send a befitting reply to terrorists and Pakistan that we do not fear them," he said. Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch of pilgrims for the annual Amarnath Yatra from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp on Wednesday. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp for the annual pilgrimage. Thirty-four accommodation centres have been set up across Jammu, and Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) tags are being issued to the pilgrims. Twelve counters have been set up for the on-the-spot registration of pilgrims who intend to undertake the yatra. So far, more than 3.5 lakh people have registered themselves online for the pilgrimage.

Search operation underway in Kishtwar

which was continuing when last reports came in. Reinforcements have been rushed to the area to maintain a tight cordon and neutralise the terrorists, who are affiliated with Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad outfit, the officials said. According to reports, top terrorists Saifullah and Adil are believed to be operating in the hills of the district. This is the second encounter in the Jammu region in the past one week. On June 26, a Pakistan-based JeM terrorist was killed in an encounter with security forces, and three of his associates escaped into the forested area of the Basantgarh belt of Udhampur district.

Dr Jitendra hosts luncheon get together for Delhi based J&K cadre AGMUT officers

bond beyond office spaces. "Knowing each other personally makes it easier to collaborate professionally. Trust is key in governance," remarked one officer present. Dr. Jitendra Singh, in his address, reflected on the careers of several officers - from their first postings in J&K to their rise through the ranks into senior leadership roles. He recalled a pioneering initiative started soon after the Modi Government assumed office in 2014 - where senior officers were asked to revisit their first posting districts to assess developmental progress over the years and file reports. "It brought a sense of continuity and personal connection to public service," he said. Highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's continued importance in national priorities, Dr. Singh mentioned recent milestone projects like the Chenab Bridge, the Lithium discovery, and the Purple Revolution of lavender farming that is empowering youth entrepreneurs in the region. "J&K will emerge as a key growth engine in India's journey from the 4th largest to the 1st largest global economy," he affirmed. He also recalled the turbulent times of peak militancy in the 1990s and early 2000s, acknowledging the courage of officers who served in extremely challenging circumstances as young SPs and DCs. During the interaction, officers openly shared experiences, feedback, and concerns. Dr. Singh gave a patient hearing, offering insights and guidance, while assuring continued attention to regional issues. "Leadership is most effective when it listens - and when it remains accessible," he stated. The Minister encouraged officers to break rigid hierarchies, sharing that he maintains personal contact with many officers and often reaches out directly. "It saves time and gets the job done faster - especially when the outcome affects people's welfare," he noted. Several officers appreciated Dr. Singh's consistent personal engagement, both in the past and now in Delhi, calling it a "humane touch to administration" that motivates them to go the extra mile in delivering citizen-centric governance. From the IAS, senior-most officer Navin Kumar Choudhary (1994 batch) was present, followed by Manoj Kumar Dwivedi (1997), Hirdesh Kumar (1999), and Sarita Chauhan (1999). Also present were Ajeet Kumar Sahu (2003), Pandurang Kondbarao Pole (2004), Simrandeep Singh (2008), Sushma Chauhan (2009), Shah Faesal (2010), and Sheikh Arshad Ayub (2013). Officers from DANICS/Secretariat Services included Preetpal Singh (2000), Naveen Kumar Shah (2000), and Rushal Garg (2018). From the IPS, attendees included Pankaj Saxena (1992), Rajesh Kumar (1995), Mukesh Singh (1996), Danesh Rana (1997), Viplav Kumar Choudhary (1997), and Vijay Kumar (1997). Also part of the interaction were Abdul Ghani Mir, Shri S.P. Pani (2000), Keshav Ram Chourasia (2003), Atul Kumar (2004), Amit Kumar (2006), Abdul Jabbar (2008), Ambarkar Shriram (2011), Sandeep Choudhary (2012), and Chandan Kohli (2013). Officers Sandeep Gupta and Sheikh Arshad Ayub also joined the interaction, contributing to the vibrant exchange of ideas and memories.

Amarnath Yatra begins amid tight security, 38-day pilgrimage to conclude on Aug 9

Pahalgam path in Anantnag and the 14-km Baltal track in Ganderbal. With chants of “Bum Bum Bhole” echoing through the early morning air, the yatris were flagged off by senior officials at both base camps.

The pilgrimage follows the arrival of the first batch of 5,892 pilgrims in the Valley on Wednesday, who were formally flagged off from Jammu’s Bhagwati Nagar base camp by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. The group was warmly welcomed by local residents and officials upon reaching Kashmir.

Pilgrims will now proceed to pay obeisance at the sacred Amarnath cave, which houses the revered naturally formed ice-lingam, considered a manifestation of Lord Shiva.

To ensure a safe and peaceful yatra, multi-layered security has been deployed across the entire route, with personnel from the J&K Police, CRPF, ITBP, and other paramilitary units. The arrangements include aerial surveillance, drone monitoring, and round-the-clock checkpoints. The yatra will continue till August 9, with thousands expected to participate in this significant spiritual event.

Seminar on Cooperative Empowerment and Sustainable Agriculture held at Jammu

identifying natural seeds of indigenous plant varieties, including but not limited to food grains, vegetables, fruits and more. The initiative aims to establish a comprehensive system for the

preservation, breeding, conservation, production, distribution and promotion of these seeds. BBSSL plans to incentivize farmers cultivating natural seeds through coordinated support from various agencies and to establish seed banks ensuring availability of such seeds to farmers across regions. Ms. Babila Rakwal, Commissioner Secretary, Department of Cooperatives, was the Chief Guest, while Dr. Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture Jammu, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. In her address, Ms. Rakwal highlighted the formation and aggregation of 165 cooperative societies in the Union Territory and emphasised their potential in ensuring the supply of quality seeds and generating rural employment. She underscored the importance of identifying and preserving natural seed varieties found in different agro-climatic zones of J&K, pointing out their long-term sustainability compared to hybrid seeds. Dr. Arvinder Singh Reen, while speaking on the occasion, highlighted the diverse agro-climatic potential of Jammu and Kashmir, which is conducive to seed production of cereals, oilseeds and medicinal and aromatic plants. He emphasized the need for collaborative efforts between the Agriculture and Cooperative Departments to benefit farmers and encouraged exploring allied activities such as beekeeping, mushroom cultivation and exotic vegetable farming. Representatives from BBSSL, J.P. Singh and Paresh Desai, delivered a detailed presentation on the role of BBSSL in promoting the production, conservation, and distribution of natural seeds. They also informed about collaborative efforts with National Cooperative Organic Ltd. (NCOL) and National Cooperative Export Ltd. (NCEL) to support farmers in production and market linkage. Key speakers included Dr. Puneet Choudhary, Head KVK Jammu; Vikrant Dogra, Chairman UNATI and Sh. Jyoti Saroop Sharma, M.D. UNATI, who spoke about the ongoing initiatives and future prospects in sustainable agriculture through cooperative models. As part of the seminar, a plantation drive titled "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was carried out by the distinguished guests along with members of FICCI FLO, promoting environmental awareness and sustainability.

Annual Sarthal Devi Ji Yatra commences with religious fervor & enthusiasm at Kishtwar

At the Bus Stand, devotees boarded buses and other vehicles to make their way to the historic Shri Sarthal Devi Temple in Kishtwar. A grand Jagran (night-long devotional singing) is going to be organized today at the Sarthal Devi Mata Bhawan, adding to the spiritual fervor of the yatra. Tomorrow morning, on 04 July, a Maha Yajna (grand religious ritual) will be performed at Sarthal Devi Mandir. The district administration and police have made meticulous arrangements for security, drinking water, power supply, transportation, and other essential facilities at Kishtwar and Sarthal to ensure a smooth and comfortable experience for the devotees. Sarthal Devi Ji is revered as the "Kul Devi" (patron goddess) of the region. The historic yatra has been organized every year since the Dogra regime, and each devotee holds a deep and unique faith in this sacred pilgrimage. The yatra is annually organized by the Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, under the patronage of Dr. Karan Singh, the sole trustee and Vikramaditya Singh, Chairman Trustee of the Trust. Pooja Thakur, Chairperson of the District Development Council (DDC) Kishtwar; MLA Kishtwar, Shagun Parihar; Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma; prominent socio-religious personalities of Kishtwar; key officers from the civil and police administration; Arvind Parihar, President of Santan Dharma Sabha and Sanjeev Parihar, Vice Chairman of Shri Sarthal Devi Ji Trust, among others were present on the occasion.

Three-Day Training for Internal Assessors-cum-Service Providers (IA cum SPT) Commences at Convention Centre, Jammu

participants who successfully qualify will be awarded a Certificate of Internal Assessor. These certified assessors will play a pivotal role in monitoring and enhancing the quality of healthcare services in their respective districts, thereby contributing to the overarching goal of strengthening the public health system and quality certification of the public health facilities, which is the priority area of Govt. of India. This training reflects the strong commitment of the National Health Mission J&K towards institutionalizing quality assurance practices and ensuring sustained improvements in healthcare delivery across the UT.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi dedicates Ghana's highest state honour "to enduring friendship, shared values" with India

democracy, I bring with me the goodwill and greetings of 1.4 billion Indians," the Prime Minister said. Highlighting the deep cultural and historical connections between the two nations, he praised Ghana not only for its natural wealth but also for the warmth and strength of its people. "Ghana is known as the land of gold, not just for what lies under your soil but as much for the warmth and strength in your heart. When we look at Ghana, we see a nation that stands with courage that rises above history that meets every challenge with dignity and grace. Your commitment to democratic ideals and inclusive progress truly makes Ghana a beacon of inspiration for the entire African continent," he added.

