

J&K Govt working on

said, adding that 10,616 positions have been referred to the Public Service Commission and Services Selection Board, out of which notifications for 7,376 positions have been issued.

Examinations for 6,090 positions have already been conducted, he said.

"This year, 1,116 cases under SRO-43 have been approved, while 150 cases are under review. A total of 4,500 children have been provided free training at 92 Khelo India Centres, who are now shining on national podiums.

"As many as 15,000 sports persons represented J-K in national and zonal competitions in different disciplines. Special focus has been given to women's participation, with our women athletes winning medals and earning accolades at national and international meets," he said.

He said one of J-K's crowning achievements is the revival of international cricket through the Legends League, hosted in J-K for the first time since 1988, drawing global attention and massive crowds.

"A water sports academy at Nehru Park in Srinagar and a fencing academy at MA Stadium in Jammu have been established.

The prestigious Khel Gaon in Nagrota, a multi-sports hub with world-class facilities, will soon be completed," Sinha said. The LG also said that high-performance training centres will be developed in every district in a phased manner to enhance athlete training and performance.

"A gymnastics academy shall be established at GINDUN Stadium in Srinagar for providing specialised training to aspiring gymnasts. After successfully hosting four editions of Khelo India Winter Games at Gulmarg, we look forward to host the fifth edition in February," Sinha said.

Urban youths are being provided self-employment opportunities under various self-employment programmes, which include the National Urban Livelihood Mission, National Rural Livelihood Mission, besides the creation of self-help groups and skill development and training under Himayat scheme, the LG said.

"The government plans to transform 40,000 women into 'Lakhpati Didis' to promote livelihood and empowerment of rural women," Sinha said.

He also said Jammu and Kashmir has pioneered the establishment of 20 hubs for women's empowerment, which serve as vital centres for offering comprehensive information on a wide range of women-centric schemes.

More than 550 persons with disabilities have secured employment in the government sector due to a change in the reservation policy and notification of posts suitable for various benchmark disabilities, Sinha said.

22 JKAS officers transferred

District Development Commissioner, Kulgam, has been appointed as Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Kashmir. Altaf Ahmad Khan, JKAS, Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Kashmir, has been transferred and appointed as Additional District Development Commissioner, Kulgam.

Akram Ullah Tak, JKAS, Director Urban Local Bodies, Kashmir, has been posted as Additional Commissioner in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir.

Pran Singh, JKAS, Additional District Development Commissioner, Doda, has been appointed as Special Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. Zahoor Ahmad Mir, JKAS, Special Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department, has been posted as Additional Director SKIMS, Srinagar. Sanjay Gupta, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Samba), has been transferred and posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Mining Department.

Arun Kishore Kotwal, JKAS, Additional Secretary to the Government, Mining Department, has been posted as Additional Transport Commissioner, J&K. Bal Krishan, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Baderwah, has been transferred and posted as Additional Registrar Cooperatives, Jammu.

Masarat Hashim, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Pahalgam, has been transferred and posted as Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), J&K. Shah Nawaz Shah, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Kokernag, holding additional charge of Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Verinag, has been posted as Deputy Commissioner.

Waseem Raja, JKAS, Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Central) Kashmir, has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Department of Forest, Ecology and Environment. Ajeet Singh, JKAS, Chief Executive Officer, Tourism Development Authority, Bani-Basohli, has been posted as Deputy Commissioner, State Taxes, Enforcement (Samba).

Mridhu Salathia, JKAS, Additional Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Jammu, has been posted as Additional Secretary to the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. She will also hold the additional charge of Mission Director, National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), in addition to her own duties, until further orders. Ideel Saleem, JKAS, Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), J&K, has been posted as Additional Secretary in the J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Kashmir.

Mir Nasrool Hilal Jeri, JKAS, Joint Registrar, Cooperative (Audit), Srinagar, has been posted as Additional Secretary to

the Government, Housing and Urban Development Department. Manpreet Kour, JKAS, Assistant Commissioner, State Taxes Department, Jammu, has been posted as Additional Mission Director, J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Jammu.

Bureeda Majid, JKAS, Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD) Budgam, has been transferred and posted as Programme Officer, ICDS Project, Ganderbal. Hilal Ahmad Mir, JKAS, awaiting orders of adjustment in the General Administration Department, has been posted as Project Officer, Wage Employment (ACD) Budgam

LG Sinha awarded various

lauded the faith of people of J&K UT and appreciated the Election Commission of India and the office of Chief Electoral Officer, for conducting the both Lok Sabha and Assembly Elections 2024, in free, fair, and transparent way, which witnessed a record-breaking voter turnout. The LG reaffirmed the commitment of the people of J&KUT to democratic values and the pivotal role of every voter in strengthening the foundation of the republic.

The objective of NVD was to encourage voters across all ages especially the young voters, first time voters to exercise their right to vote ethically and responsibly. He congratulated the Chief Electoral Officer, J&K Pandurang K Pole, Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, Senior Superintendent of Police, Pulwama, Smt P.D. Nitya, were awarded Best Election practices award by President Of India on 25th of January 2025. Keeping up with practice of appreciating and encouraging Election machinery for working day and night to make elections successful, LG Manoj Sinha conferred 29 civil and police officers with best election management awards.

The officers awarded on the occasion are Sara Rizvi, District Election Officer Jammu Sachin Kumar Vashiya, District Election Officer, Devansh Yadav, DEO Rajesh Kumar Shavan, DEO Baramulla Minga Shirpa, SSP Kulgam, Sahil Sarangal, SSP Rajouri Randeep, Special Secretary Nirupa Rai, Special Secretary Manzoor Ahmed Bhat, MD SRCT, Rakesh Kumar Sarangal, Joint CEO, Anil Salgotra, Nodal officer SVEEP Akhtar Hussain Qazi, ADC Srinagar Khalid Hussain Malik, Chand Kishor and Sapna Kotwal.

CM Omar reviews

designs, coupled with detailed technical scrutiny of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), has led to significant cost savings amounting to Rs 522 crore, underscoring the department's commitment to efficiency and innovation.

The Chief Minister reviewed various challenges faced during the mission's implementation, including low tender responses, delays in the supply of Galvanized Iron (GI) pipes in Jammu and Ductile Iron (DI) pipes in Kashmir, and incidence of dry bore wells in multiple districts. Electro-mechanical issues were also highlighted as significant concerns impacting the timely execution of projects.

The proposed project size under the Jal Jeevan Mission covers 3,253 schemes aimed at ensuring a sustainable water supply system. The meeting was informed that establishment of District Project Management Units (DPMUs) and continuous technical review by consultants are being carried out to ensure the quality and success of the mission.

The Chief Minister stressed the importance of robust third-party monitoring mechanisms to enhance transparency and accountability.

He directed that complaints from specific areas be addressed promptly by engaging these monitoring agencies for swift resolutions. Furthermore, he called for addressing concerns related to the improper laying of water supply pipes above ground and ensuring the sustainability of water resources in affected regions.

The meeting also focused on water quality monitoring and surveillance, with the Chief Minister emphasizing the need to strengthen Pani Samities at the Panchayat level.

He encouraged regular interaction with concerned Ministers and MLAs to define their roles and responsibilities in enhancing the effectiveness of these committees.

In addition, the meeting discussed the operation and maintenance of rural water supply and extension of the Nal Jal Mitra Programme, e-billing systems and other operational aspects. The Chief Minister highlighted the urgency of addressing manpower shortages within the department to improve service delivery and achieve mission objectives.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction with the progress made under the Jal Jeevan Mission while reiterating the importance of sustaining momentum and overcoming challenges.

He assured full government support in realizing the mission's vision of providing clean and reliable drinking water to every household in Jammu and Kashmir

CS reviews progress on

preparation of CNCPL for each proposed habitation at block/district level was debated thereabre in the meeting.

It was revealed that J&K being in special category along with NE states would be given assistance to the extent of 90% by the central government under PMGSY. It also has a relaxation in terms of population criteria as the habitations here need to have a population of 250 only instead of 500 for other States/UTs with legislatures.

The meeting was apprised that out of the 1386 unconnected villages in J&K, Gram Sadak Survey in favour of 1249 villages had been finalised and those of 102 is under scrutiny to take them up under PMGSY phase IV for execution.

About Central Road Infrastructure Fund (CRIF), it was divulged that out of 121 ongoing projects sanctioned at a cost of Rs2366 crore an expenditure of Rs 1180 crore had been incurred till date and 21 projects stands completed against the target of 41 projects for the year 2024-25.

With respect to NABARD RIDF, it was given out that 1098 projects were sanctioned under RIDFs XXIV to XXIX to be completed at a cost of Rs4761 crore. Out of these, an expenditure of Rs 1246 crore had been recorded and 195 projects completed till date. It was added that under RIDF-XXX the UT has submitted 140 projects for approval costing around Rs949 crore.

Regarding the overall performance registered under Capex for the financial year 2024-25, the meeting was informed that 2115 works stands completed as on date against the target of 3469 works sanctioned under Road Sector, NABARD, Cities & Towns, CRIF, PMGSY, Bridges programme and other heads of development.

As far as blacktopping of roads is concerned, it was divulged that a total of 3013 km of roads had been macadamised during the ensuing financial year under different sectors of development. Moreover, 25 bridges had also been completed against the target of 60 fixed for this fiscal.

The Chief Secretary also took appraisal of the progress achieved on major road projects executed in different parts of J&K under various schemes. He asked about the current status of their completion with the possible dates of completion. He also directed for completion of all projects on due date so that there is no more slippage in timelines fixed for them.

Other issues that came up for discussion in the meeting included merger of JKPC staff in PWD and utilisation of funds still lying with the Corporation for finishing of incomplete projects left out by it.

10 personnel awarded

Warder, District Jail Kupwara; Bharat Bushan Tickoo, Warder, Prison Headquarters, J&K; Manzoor Ahmad Baba, Warder, Central Jail Srinagar and Sangeeta Rani, F/Warder, District Jail Jammu.

While congratulating the awardees, Director General of Police, Prisons, J&K Deepak Kumar expressed the hope that they would continue to work with the same zeal and enthusiasm in future also.

Handicrafts & Handloom

the unique craft of Kani weaving, Mukhtar Ahmad Bhat from Sonpah, Beerwah Budgam and Mushtaq Ahmad Khan, from Badamwari Srinagar, were given J&K Government Awards for their immense contribution in taking crafts like Sozni and Kani weaving to the next level.

In a statement issued here today, Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, Mussarat Islam, showered praise on the awardees for bringing laurels to Kashmir Handicrafts and inspiring younger generation to carry on the tradition of making exquisite hand-made products from the valley. "This recognition shall provide traction to the indigenous craft of Kani weaving as well as intricate Sozni embroidery on Pashmina fabric which have the potential to emerge on global markets in a much bigger way," he stated.

Later, a team of officers led by the Director, visited the residence of Padma Shri Awardee Farooq Ahmad Mir at Chanapora, Srinagar, to personally congratulate him and his family for the honour bestowed upon him. The team included Mirza Shahid Ali, Deputy Director, Quality Control, Amina Assad, Chief Designer, School of Designs and Riyaz Ahmad Kawoosa, PEO.

The Department shall shortly organize a function to felicitate all the awardees, and also hold interactive sessions to bring these stalwarts face-to-face with craft trainees enrolled in the department, the statement added.

Organophosphorus

that official reports are yet to come and concluding that organophosphorus is behind these deaths would be wrong at this stage.

At least 17 people, including 14 children, have died, while several have been admitted to hospital due to "mysterious" illness in the Badhaal village over the past two months. The situation in the Badhaal area of Rajouri appears to be stabilizing, with no new cases reported in the last five days. However, authorities are still working to confirm the cause behind the 17 mysterious deaths that occurred in the village over the past two months.

Officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that three siblings who were undergoing treatment at GMC Jammu and SMGS Srinagar have recovered and were discharged. These individuals have been shifted back to Rajouri, where they will remain under observation along with their families and close contacts.

Another patient, Aijaz Ahmad, who is being treated at PGI Chandigarh, is also showing signs of recovery, while other patients admitted to GMC Rajouri have also recovered.

Top health officials suspect that organophosphorus poisoning might be behind the deaths, as patients responded positively to atropine injections—a standard antidote for organophosphate poisoning. A senior doctor explained, "Atropine was initially administered to two patients for heart rate management, and they showed significant improvement. This led us to consider organophosphorus poisoning as a likely cause."

However, the doctor cautioned against premature conclusions, as official reports from top laboratories are still awaited.

Organophosphorus poisoning is caused by exposure to organophosphates, a class of chemicals commonly used in pesticides, herbicides, and nerve agents. Exposure can occur via ingestion, inhalation, or skin contact.

Common symptoms include excessive saliva and tears, vomiting and diarrhoea, small pupils, sweating, muscle tremors and confusion.

The Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report from Chandigarh, which could provide critical insights, is expected within 2-3 days.

Dr Shuja Qadri, an epidemiologist and Head of Community Medicine at GMC Rajouri, stated that active and passive surveillance of cases has ruled out communicable diseases, bacteria, viruses, and zoonotic causes. "Our investigation has narrowed down to food-related toxins, either ingested accidentally or deliberately," he said.

Samples have been sent to toxicology labs for screening against 200 potential toxins. Dr. Qadri expressed optimism that the investigation will identify the toxin within a week, enabling authorities to prevent further deaths.

Over the last two months, 17 people, including 14 children, succumbed to the mysterious illness, with several others requiring hospitalisation.

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, speaking to KNO expressed confidence in the investigating team. She assured that all possible efforts are being made to identify the cause behind the mysterious deaths in Rajouri.

"The team is working diligently to gather more information and laboratory results, which will provide critical insights into the situation," she said.

With the situation seeming to normalise, the minister appealed to the public to remain vigilant and cooperate fully with the authorities. "The government is committed to taking every necessary step to ensure the safety and well-being of the people, particularly those living in the affected areas," Itoo added

J&K Govt Revises DA for

creasing it from 50% to 53% of the basic pay, effective from July 1, 2024. Jammu travel guide

As per an order, The arrears for the additional DA install-

ment, covering July to December 2024, will be disbursed in cash in February 2025, forming part of the monthly salary from January 2025 onward.

'One Nation, One Election'

a long time. But over time, this pattern broke down, causing significant challenges for the country," he said.

Addressing the NCC rally in Delhi. It is a great platform that empowers youth to realise their potential for national development. <https://t.co/axOJrwxRP>

— Narendra Modi (@narendramodi) January 27, 2025

Mr. Modi highlighted that the current situation, where elections take place frequently, disrupts governance and development.

"Today, there is an important debate about 'One Nation, One Election'. Holding the Lok Sabha and state elections simultaneously could alleviate disruptions and enable a more focused governance approach," he said.

The Prime Minister urged youngsters to take part in the discussion, stressing its relevance for the country's future.

"I appeal to the NCC cadets, volunteers and all youngsters across the country— wherever you are, take this debate forward. It is directly linked to your future," he said, while emphasising that participating in the debate is essential for shaping India's future political landscape.

Comparing India's election frequency with that of other countries, Mr. Modi pointed out that even in the United States, the electoral cycle is structured to ensure a clear separation of governance periods.

"In countries like the US, elections are held every four years and the dates for forming a new government are fixed," he noted.

The Prime Minister said more youngsters should join politics with innovative ideas.

"I had said from the Red Fort that one lakh youngsters should join politics," he said.

Mr. Modi also said that the future of the world cannot be imagined without India's youngsters.

"That is why I call you a force for global good," he added.

Mr. Modi said in 2014, the number of NCC cadets in the country was around 14 lakh. "Today, it is around 20 lakh and more than eight lakh of them are girl cadets," he added. (Agencies)

JPC clears Waqf

national capital. The allegations were however brushed aside by the BJP MP Aparajita Sarangi, who said that every member was given 'ample time and was heard out by the JPC chief'.

The JPC committee on the Waqf Bill had to submit its recommendations by November 29, however, the deadline was extended till February 13.

Nursing Orderly Among two

was seized from them. A case under provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act was registered against the accused and an investigation started to expose the peddling racket, the spokesperson said.

J&K Crown and

is formed. This commitment is essential to win hearts of people and bring stability to Jammu & Kashmir.

Surinder Choudhary said that the present Government led by Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah is committed to fulfil the promises made during the election campaign. He said that all out efforts will be made to safeguard the interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir besides creating employment avenues for the unemployed youth.

The Deputy Chief Minister highlighted the significance of constitution of India in establishing framework for country's governance, protecting citizen rights and upholding democracy. He said secularism is foundation of India and constitution provides everyone the opportunity to live with dignity and honour. He recalled that during partition period Mahatma Gandhi saw only ray of hope for India in Jammu and Kashmir as people here are peace loving and ambassadors of mutual brotherhood.

Surinder Choudhary also spoke about the Kashmiri migrant Pandits saying that proactive steps are being taken up for their dignified return to their homes. He also spoke about the menace of drugs and urged the youth to keep themselves away from this social evil. He said intensified deterrence measures are being taken against the drug menace and its peddling, besides destroying the channels/ networks and sources of drug peddling.



Poets & writers have

participating in the Poetry Sessions.

He said the Rashtriya Kavi Sammelan, starting from today, reflects the richness and variety of our unique literary heritage. In these sessions we get an opportunity to see a repository of wisdom and tradition of our civilization that has existed over millennia, he further added.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor paid homage to the great literateurs of Dogri, Hindi and Urdu languages and highlighted the pivotal role of poets and writers in the society.

"In India every generation of poets, writers have made rich contribution to the creative tradition and cultural identity. They have also ensured that our traditions are passed on to the next generation," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the poets and literary personalities to become the voice of patriotism and unity and make their valuable contribution in building a vibrant, progressive and united society.

"Poetry Art form has a social responsibility. It can be a powerful medium for creating awareness about socio-economic issues, inspiring the spirit of patriotism and portraying the values of harmony and brotherhood," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the Jammu Kashmir is witnessing a historic transformation and it is our collective responsibility to reaffirm our commitment to inclusive development and work with dedication.

In today's Hindi Poetry session, Sh Harish, Sh Upender Pandey, Sh Rajesh Agarwal, Sh Shambhu Shikhar, Sh Deepak Saini, Sh Chetan Charchit, Sh Shailender Madhur, Sh Rajesh Jain, Sh Dharamveer Nishchal, Sh Santosh Singh, Ms Padmini Singh and other renowned poets and young talent, enthralled the audience through their captivating poetry recitation.

Sh Suresh Kumar Gupta, Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Sh Sachin Kumar Vaishya, Deputy Commissioner, Jammu; Ms Harvinder Kour, Secretary, JKAACL, renowned artists and people, especially the youth in large number were present.

Secretary RDD for expeditious completion of Panchayat Ghars, CSCs, PLCs

JAMMU, JAN 27:

Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Aijaz Asad, on Monday emphasised the need to expedite the construction of Panchayat Ghars (PGs), Common Service Centres (CSCs) and Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

While chairing a meeting held in this regard, the Secretary directed for ensuring completion of all ongoing works of Panchayat Ghars by March 31, 2025. He sought the intervention of Deputy Commissioners (DCs) in the projects wherever land related issues for Panchayat Ghars still exist. As of now, 258 Panchayat Ghars have been completed. The Secretary stressed that Panchayat Ghars are essential for strengthening local self-governance, enhancing rural administration, and ensuring better service delivery to citizens.

Furthermore, the Secretary set a deadline of February 3 for submission of balance Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for PGs planned for the 2024-25 fiscal. He also instructed that the Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs) must be uploaded immediately with an empha-



sis on addressing bottlenecks in infrastructure development to ensure timely completion of these projects. He added that the ongoing work on PGs and CSCs is vital for effective local governance. He highlighted that the additional rooms being added to existing PGs for CSCs would provide citizens with improved access to digital services, including online applications, banking and various government schemes.

This initiative, he said, would not only streamline services but also contribute significantly towards enhancing digital literacy and fostering greater inclusion in rural areas.

In addition, the Secre-



tary reviewed division-wise progress on PLCs and asked the district officials to complete installation of required equipment by March 31. He urged upon the nodal officers to ensure that centralised specifications for equipment are delivered to the concerned PLCs without delay. During the meeting, the Secretary also reviewed the status of Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs), which define the development priorities for each village. He noted that while the majority of GPDs had been approved and uploaded, efforts should be made to ensure the remaining ones are completed on time to prevent delays in local development activities.

Director Panchayati Raj, Sham Lal, gave detailed presentation regarding progress on Panchayat Ghars (PGs), Common Service Centres (CSCs) and Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs). He provided an update on the status of ongoing PG projects, highlighting that while many had reached their final stages, some were still in the construction or planning phase.

The meeting was attended by Director RDD Jammu, Mumtaz Ali; Superintending Engineer REW Kashmir, Aamir Ali; Superintending Engineer REW Jammu, Rajesh Kumar; Deputy Secretary RDD, Sheetal Pandita and all Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACP).

Editor, Printer, Publisher and Owner : Ravish Sharma
(Mob) 9419600008, 6005794917 email: iwlife_28@yahoo.com, ravish_910@yahoo.com
[Website: dailyshadow.in, epaper-epaper.dailyshadow.in.]

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E-Mail - dailyshadow@rediffmail.com, shadowdaily@gmail.com, Raman Raina - Photographer (Mob) 9419331404, email- ramanraina2007@gmail.com, Manager Number : 7006181007.