



J&K Emerging As Major Hub Of Education, Innovation Under PM's Leadership: LG

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha addressed the Valedictory session of 5-day Orientation Pro-

of people, push for inclusive growth and make sure no one is left behind. "I wish to see the young and bright minds as business leaders and thinkers of tomorrow who will shape the

secure private investment, promote economic activity and build a private sector that supports the country's economic stability," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the students' new journey at IIM Jammu will forge a powerful connection between the academic world and



gramme at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated Tejas Sports Complex within the campus.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the students on the beginning of their new journey.

He called upon the management students to focus on changing the lives

economic progress of society and the future of this great country.

As we seek to make India a developed country by 2047, we must ensure greater prosperity for all.

Future of India's business innovation and resource management rests on the shoulders of business leaders and thinkers of tomorrow. It will be business leaders and thinkers' responsibility to accelerate industrial growth,

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has emerged as a major hub of education and innovation.

He lauded the IIM Jammu for its significant contribution in J&K's education sector. He said the Tejas Sports Complex inaugurated today symbolizes IIM Jammu's commitment to students' holistic growth.

the real world, ensuring that through a blend of skills and values, they emerge competent professionals ready to contribute to nation-building.

He emphasised that 5Cs: Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, Creativity and Curiosity will equip business leaders of tomorrow with essential life skills, empowering them to effectively navigate

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India Welcomes US' Designation Of TRF As Terrorist Organisation

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NEWDELHI: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Friday welcomed the United States' decision to designate TRF as a "Foreign Terrorist Organisation," The Resistance Front (TRF) which is a proxy of Pakistan's Lashkar-e Tayyiba (LeT) terror group and that has claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack.

Jaishankar termed the move by the US Department of State as a "strong affirmation of India-US counter-terrorism cooperation."

"Appreciate SecRubio and @StateDept for designating TRF, a Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) proxy, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). It claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack. Zero tolerance for terrorism," Jaishankar posted on his social media platform X.

In a statement issued by the US Secretary of State Marco Rubio it was acknowledged

that TRF, which is a known proxy of the Pakistan-based terror outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyiba, under US anti-terrorism laws had claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack.



The April 22 attack in the tourist spot in Jammu and Kashmir had claimed the lives of 26 civilians and triggered the four-day military escalation between India and Pakistan. In light of this, the US accorded the group as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

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Amarnath Yatra resumes after daylong suspension

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The annual Amarnath Yatra resumed on Friday after remaining suspended for a day due to bad weather, while over 16,000 pilgrims had darshan at the holy cave, officials said.

An official said, that the Yatra had been halted on Thursday following re-

lentless rains, which triggered landslides along the routes, posing a threat to the



safety of pilgrims. However, with improved weather conditions,

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Rajnath, Shah Discuss 'Op Sindoor' with NSA, Service Chiefs

Parliament Monsoon Session

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NEW DELHI: Ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session slated to commence from July 21, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high level meet here on Friday.

According to the details the meeting held at Rajnath Singh's Delhi residence was attended by National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff, Tri-Services Chiefs and other top officers.

The top officers, according to the sources, briefed the ministers about the success of "Operation Sindoor" and other proactive steps that were taken after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

The Defence Minister is likely to give a statement on "Operation Sindoor" in the upcoming monsoon session of the Parliament.

Sources said that the Singh and Shah took feedback from the security top brass on the host of issues that are likely to come up during the customary all-party meeting scheduled to be held on Sunday and during the "Monsoon Session."

Later another meeting of the Group of Ministers chaired by the Defence Minister and the Union Home Minister discussed government's stand over a host of matters amid the opposition raising heat on issues, including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, the Pahalgam attack and

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CM Omar Abdullah Interacts With Citizens At Raabita Office Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: CM Omar Abdullah after his interaction on Thursday with public at his Jammu Raabita

Prof. Iqbal S. Hasnain, Padma Shri awardee and Member of the Board of Trustees at the National University of Science and Technology, Muscat, Oman presented his book



office, listened to public grievances at Srinagar Raabita office. Several deputations and individuals today called on the Chief Minister at the weekly public outreach programme and apprised him of various issues, demands and challenges faced by different sections of society.

"Fault Lines in the Faith" to the Chief Minister. Prof. Hasnain also serves on the Executive Committee of Hamdard University and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, and is the former Pro-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard, Javid Ahmad Tenga, President of the Kashmir Chamber of Com-

merce and Industry (KCCI), met the Chief Minister to discuss various trade-related matters and shared insights into the challenges faced

Chief Minister gave a patient hearing with all visiting delegations and individuals and assured them that their genuine concerns will be addressed on priority, reaffirming his government's commitment to inclusive and responsive governance.

by the business community in Kashmir.

A delegation of international martial arts players also

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DGP reviews security situation, anti-terror operations

Focus of meet on mountainous districts of Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban



JAMMU: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabbhat on Friday reviewed the security situation and anti-terror operations in the mountainous districts of Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar,

an official said.

The DGP, who visited Baderwah and Batote areas, laid emphasis on eliminating both existing and newly formed terrorist groups hiding in the higher reaches of these districts.

The DGP underscored strengthening the intelligence grid and focused on conducting successful operations.

"The Director General of Police visited the range police headquarters in

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Dressed in Goncha

Kavinder Gupta Sworn In As New Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Kavinder Gupta, former deputy chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir, was sworn in as the new Lieutenant

known as Goncha. Gupta was administered the oath by the CJ after Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal read out his warrant of appointment.

The swearing-in ceremony of the LG

Talking to reporters after taking oath, the LG said that he will work collectively for development of Ladakh. "I want to assure the people of Ladakh that we will rise above religion, caste, and party politics and work together for the devel-

Gupta said that he will work collectively for development of Ladakh. "I want to assure the people of Ladakh that we will rise above religion, caste, and party politics and work together for the development of Ladakh. We have to do much more for Ladakh."



Governor of Ladakh on Friday morning.

At an impressive function held at Raj Niwas, Leh, Gupta was administered oath of office and secrecy by Justice Arun Palli, chief justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Dressed in traditional Ladakhi attire,

was attended by Member Parliament Ladakh, Haneefa Jan, Chief Executive Councillors of Leh and Kargil Hill Councils, Tashi Namgyal and Dr Jaffer Akhoun, respectively, BJP J&K unit president Sat Pal Sharma and top bureaucrats and police officials.

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Every Disaster A Lesson To Learn From: CS Dulloo

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In a significant step towards enhancing the disaster resilience and preparedness, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir



conducted a high-level workshop on the Incident Response System (IRS). The workshop was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, senior Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Heads of Departments and National Disaster Management experts including Brigadier Kuldeep Singh (Retd), Former Senior

Consultant, Ministry of Home Affairs.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Secretary underlined the critical importance of building a culture of disaster preparedness among the citizens and institutions. "Disasters often arrive without warning and in every such instance, citizens are the first responders," he said. "Each capable individual has a moral responsibility to contribute to disaster resilience by being aware, prepared and proactive."

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's unique geopolitical and environmental vulnerabilities, the Chief Secretary emphasized the UT's susceptibility to earthquakes, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, cross-border tensions and climate-induced challenges. "Given our exposure to multiple hazards, our preparedness must be all-encompassing, institutionally

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Statehood our right, must be restored forthwith: Dr Farooq

BUDGAM: Stating that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is democratic right of the people, National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday said that it must be granted without further delay.

Dr Farooq said, "I am thankful to Congress leaders including Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi and Rajya Sabha LoP & party president Mallikarjun Kharge for raising the issue of statehood restoration with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urging the government to restore statehood to the region."

"They have taken a stand for the people of J&K. Their letter to the Prime Minister is a welcome step. Statehood is our constitutional right. Why wouldn't we get it? We will raise this demand strongly in the INDIA alliance meeting on Saturday (July 19)," he said.

Pertinently, the Congress leaders had written to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the immediate restoration of statehood. The letter sent to the PM was also hailed by the

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Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025

JAMMU: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti reviewed the arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The review meeting, held here the other day was attended by senior officials including the DIG CRPF, DIG JSK Range, DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi, along with heads of key departments such as JPDC, Tourism, Health, PWD, Jal Shakti, BRO and Traffic Police. Representatives from civil society also participated and shared suggestions.

The Yatra's first batch will depart from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, on July 28, 2025, moving towards Tehsil Mandi in Poonch in a regulated convoy amid full security arrangements.

The Divisional Commissioner directed officials to establish a help desk and registration counter

at Bhagwati Nagar and Jammu Railway Station to facilitate the pilgrim Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch were instructed to ensure



adequate accommodation with essential facilities including power supply, drinking water, langars,

parking, waterproof tents and mobile toilets along the route.

The Tourism Department was tasked with

promoting the Yatra through newspapers and hoardings from Lakhanpur to Poonch to ensure

wide publicity. Emphasizing safety, the IGP Jammu stressed strict adherence to convoy timings and urged public awareness for travelling only with the official convoy.

The BRO was directed to maintain road conditions and clear any debris promptly on the Jammu-Poonch highway. JPDC was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply with backup generators, while the PHE Department will provide drinking water at halt points, night stays, and at the Budha Amarnathji Temple.

PWD officials were instructed to repair the Poonch-Mandi road and the SSP Traffic Rural will arrange parking spots for convoy vehicles. The Deputy Commissioner Reasi also apprised the arrangements for devotees visiting Shri Shiv Khori shrine during the Yatra period.

The meeting concluded with valuable inputs from civil society members for the peaceful and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

MP Jugal Kishore chairs DISHA meet at Reasi

Stresses fast-tracking of development projects
'Rapid development ahead with special focus on roads, education and healthcare'



REASI: Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma chaired the District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here to review the implementation and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and ongoing development works in the District. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Reasi and attended by DDC Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag; MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey; MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma; Vice Chairperson DDC Sajra Qadir; Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik; SSP Paramvir Singh; ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal and other district and sectoral officers from the development departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who also serves as the Member Secretary of DISHA, gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting the physical and financial progress made under flagship schemes and major developmental initiatives across the district.

MP Jugal Kishore reviewed the progress of key infrastructure projects, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, BMG Road, RAM Road and other centrally sponsored initiatives. He directed officials to complete the targets within the stipulated time frame to ensure timely delivery of services to the beneficiaries.

The MP emphasised the need to fast-track the execution of all projects and ensure proper utilisation of allocated finances. He directed officials to take prompt action on all suggestions discussed during the meeting and to address the issues raised effectively. He advocated for a collaborative interdepartmental approach to ensure the timely completion of development projects.

MP further instructed officials to prioritise resolving the issues raised by the DDC Chairperson, MLAs, and other members during the meeting. He underscored the importance of collective field visits by officials and public representatives to enhance service delivery.

MP Jugal Kishore also appreciated the commendable efforts of the District Administration for their continuous work under the Nasha Mukh Bharat Abhiyan and their sustained crackdown on drug trafficking. He termed it a significant step toward building a drug-free and secure society.

MP laid Special emphasis on schemes such as PM SHRI, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, integrated watershed and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, with instructions to fast-track their implementation while maintaining high quality standards.

The MP further emphasised that with the recent visit of the Prime Minister and the inauguration of the Vande Bharat train connecting the Kashmir Valley, this region is now poised for rapid growth and development. This landmark connectivity is expected to boost tourism, create new economic opportunities, and significantly improve access to the region.

MP Jugal Kishore praised the Reasi District Administration, led by DC Nidhi Malik, for taking timely action on issues raised during the last DISHA meeting and for successfully organizing the present meeting at short notice.

Reiterating the vision of Government of India, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma stressed the importance of interdepartmental synergy and coordination with public representatives to eliminate bottlenecks and accelerate development, particularly in border and rural areas.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by the Deputy Commissioner.

DIPR artists present Nukkad Natak to raise awareness among Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Pilgrims



JAMMU: A Nukkad Natak (street play) was presented by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu to raise swatchtha awareness among the pilgrims of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, highlighting the importance of maintaining cleanliness and following safety protocols for a safe and smooth pilgrimage.

The street play effectively communicated the message of maintaining cleanliness along the Yatra route, using biodegradable materials, proper waste disposal and following safety guidelines issued by the administration.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

JMC Shines in Swachh Survekshan 2024: Citizens urged to join hands for a cleaner, greener City

NEW DELHI: Marking a moment of pride for Jammu City every residents, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has



achieved a significant milestone by winning the Promising Swachh Sheher Award, and earning the prestigious Garbage Free City (GFC) 3-Star Rating, securing ODF++ certification and ranking 42nd among the top 100 cities in India (3-10 lakh population category) in the Swachh Survekshan 2024, conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

These achievements were announced at the Swachh Survekshan Award Ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where the awards were presented by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, in presence of senior dignitaries including Minister of State (MoHUA) Tokun Sahu, Secretary MoHUA Srinivas R. Katikithala and Joint Secretary MoHUA Roopa Mishra.

On behalf of JMC, the award was received by Dr. Devansh Yadav,

Mission Director, SBM (J&K), Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation) and Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer,

establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in all urban local bodies, scientific bioremediation of legacy waste at dumpsites and development of Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Plants that will soon become operational in both Jammu and Srinagar.

Special attention has also been given to the maintenance and cleanliness of public and community toilets, and new aspirational toilets are being constructed to make sanitation more accessible and hygienic.

While these awards bring honour to the city, maintaining and improving cleanliness is a shared responsibility. Citizens are urged to segregate their waste at home, cooperate with sanitation workers and follow collection schedules, avoid littering in public places, use public and community toilets responsibly and actively participate in cleanliness and plantation campaigns.

This recognition is proof that when citizens and the administration work together, even the most ambitious goals can be achieved.

Everyone is encouraged to take this achievement as inspiration to make Jammu a model clean and green city of India. Together, we can build a city we are all proud to call our home.

This success has been made possible by sustained efforts of the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), J&K and JMC, which focused on regular door-to-door garbage collection and scientific disposal of waste,

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While these awards bring honour to the city, maintaining and improving cleanliness is a shared responsibility. Citizens are urged to segregate their waste at home, cooperate with sanitation workers and follow collection schedules, avoid littering in public places, use public and community toilets responsibly and actively participate in cleanliness and plantation campaigns.

This recognition is proof that when citizens and the administration work together, even the most ambitious goals can be achieved.

Everyone is encouraged to take this achievement as inspiration to make Jammu a model clean and green city of India. Together, we can build a city we are all proud to call our home.

This success has been made possible by sustained efforts of the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), J&K and JMC, which focused on regular door-to-door garbage collection and scientific disposal of waste,

achieved a significant milestone by winning the Promising Swachh Sheher Award, and earning the prestigious Garbage Free City (GFC) 3-Star Rating, securing ODF++ certification and ranking 42nd among the top 100 cities in India (3-10 lakh population category) in the Swachh Survekshan 2024, conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

These achievements were announced at the Swachh Survekshan Award Ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where the awards were presented by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, in presence of senior dignitaries including Minister of State (MoHUA) Tokun Sahu, Secretary MoHUA Srinivas R. Katikithala and Joint Secretary MoHUA Roopa Mishra.

On behalf of JMC, the award was received by Dr. Devansh Yadav,

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Govt intends to make J&K 365- days destination beyond seasons: Dy CM

Addresses 1st meeting of CII Northern Regional Committee on tourism, hospitality

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, chaired the maiden meeting of Confederation of Indian Industry Northern Regional Committee on tourism and hospitality held in Srinagar to discuss the strategic interventions on revival of tourism and position J&K as global tourism hub.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Aslam Wani and MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmed Shah were present in the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, the Dy CM highlighted several key points on boosting tourism growth through collaboration and value-added verticals in Jammu and Kashmir. He maintained that the government intended to position J&K as a premier 365-Day destination beyond seasons. He urged the CII to support the government in shifting focus from summer/winter peaks to year-round tourism through curated experiences.

"Tourism and Kashmir are inter-related in such a way that one can't be described in absence of other. It is not like that tourism in Kashmir is for a particular season but round the year. Every season has its own significance" he added.

The Dy CM said that the CII has been working closely with government on policy issues, enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and expanding business

opportunities for the industry through a range of specialised services and global linkages. He urged the CII to come forward with a special focus on tourism, handloom and handicrafts, adventure sports and skill development to explore more possibilities of campaigning and awareness about high scope in J&K. The Dy CM stated that our partnership with CII will unlock sustainable growth, generate employment and showcase our cultural heritage to the world. He reiterated that the government is taking all steps to boost tourism in J&K with special focus on enhancing the infrastructure, diversifying tourism offerings, promoting safety and security besides engaging the local communities.

While speaking on the occasion, the Advisor to CM said that CII with its National and International connects should help government in targeting niche markets for sustainable growth and higher tourist spending. He invited the CII members and industry at large to promote J&K on MICE Tourism map and suggest ways to further strengthen the tourism infrastructure in J&K.

Highlighting the importance of handlooms and handicrafts, the Dy CM suggested showcasing them through live demonstrations, craft village tours, and immersive shopping experiences to captivate audiences." He asserted that J&K is famous for its rich culture and heritage and one of our endeavours



should be reviving folk festivals, sufi music circuits, heritage walks in Srinagar/Jammu.

MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmed Shah, emphasized that adventure sports can be a key driver for tourism

promotion, suggesting that Gulmarg and Pahalgam be leveraged to host national and international adventure sports competitions. He further said that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is also one area where government and CII could jointly work and develop specialized infrastructure like adventure parks, wellness centers, heritage hotels via transparent PPP models. He also suggested to explore possibility of joint marketing campaigns with airlines, hotel chains and travel aggregators and empower the local cooperatives for homestay, guided tours and artisans markets. Earlier, Chairman CII Northern Regional Committee on Tourism & Hospitality, K.B Kachru, highlighted the agenda of the meeting which mainly included police interventions, yearly action plan, tourism review of northern states, skill development, capacity building and flagship schemes. He said that CII took a conscious decision to hold its first regional committee on tourism meeting in Srinagar to send a message to larger industry that we must promote J&K at this juncture. He reiterated that CII and its members would like to contribute in overall tourism development of this region. "Our priority is to drive policy reforms, sustainable practices, and public-private synergies" he added. Lastly, Chairman CII J&K, Dr. M.A Alim, while presenting the vote of thanks, said that J&K government and CII will soon roll out certain initiatives to further boost growth in this sector.

JKEDI hosts orientation program for SKUAST-K students

Offers hands-on exposure to startups and entrepreneurship

FE News Network

PULWAMA: Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Friday organized a one-day Entrepreneurship Orientation Program (EOP) for the students of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) here at its Sempora campus.

The program was specifically designed for B.Sc. Forestry students, who were accompanied by faculty from the Department of Forestry, SKUAST-K.

The primary objective of the program was to develop an entrepreneurial intention among the students besides awareness about the vast opportunities and institutional support mechanisms available for aspiring entrepreneurs.



The orientation session placed a strong emphasis on educating students about the critical role that entrepreneurship and innovation play in shaping modern careers. Participants were encouraged to view entrepreneurship not only as a viable career path but also as a means to contribute to economic growth and societal transformation.

Around 83 students participated in the orientation programme who interacted with the faculty and were briefed about the evolving entrepreneurship culture in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir along with business plan modelling. Detailed Project Report (DPR) formulation, capacity building and providing financial and market linkage including handholding and

mentorship support to the aspiring entrepreneurs. The students were also briefed about the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

A key focus of the interaction was to encourage students to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career option.

They engaged in brainstorming sessions on innovative startup ideas and discussed their potential to be developed into successful business ventures. The event also included a Q&A session where students shared their perspectives on entrepreneurship and clarified their doubts with the experts. This EOP-cum-interaction session is part of JKEDI's ongoing initiative to introduce students to the world of entrepreneurship and enhance their understanding of startups as key drivers of innovation and economic development.

MLA Nizamuddin seeks swift action on key issues ahead of CS's Bandipora visit

FE News Network

BANDIPORA: Bandipora is set to welcome Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, son of the soil, who will visit the district tomorrow (July 19). Dulloo is known for his compassionate leadership and commitment to addressing the real issues of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat has expressed gratitude for the Chief Secretary's visit, stating that Bandipora looks towards him with trust for fast-tracked development.

As per a statement, Bhat, is once again bringing to his notice the dilapidated condition of the Sumbal-Bandipora road, reminding that he had raised this issue in two earlier meetings with the Chief Secretary.

He stressed that hurdles in upgrading the Srinagar-Bandipora



road, including the demand for National Highway status, should be removed at the earliest to ease the difficulties faced by commuters.

Bhat, also highlighted the issues of District Hospital Bandipora, including the non-functional lift, inadequate heating arrangements and staff shortages, which have been affecting patient care, requesting urgent

intervention to ensure dignified healthcare for the people.

Concerned about local livelihoods, Bhat urged the Chief Secretary to facilitate the reopening of Wullar, Watlab tourist points and Gurez for tourists, allowing people to earn during the peak season while ensuring necessary safety measures.

He also stressed the need for

the beautification of Bandipora town with proper street lighting and innovative steps to develop it as a model town of North Kashmir.

Looking towards Bandipora's future, Bhat is requesting the establishment of a Youth Skill Development Centre to address unemployment, eco-tourism projects around Wullar Lake to generate livelihoods while preserving ecology, implementation of solid waste management for a cleaner Bandipora, development of sports infrastructure to positively channel youth energy, and promotion of local handicrafts with strong market linkages for artisans. MLA Nizamuddin Bhat urged the Chief Secretary to consider these demands on priority during his visit so that the long-pending issues of Bandipora can be addressed without further delay—(KNO)

Meeting on 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign held at Anantnag

FE News Network

ANANTNAG: A meeting on 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign (90 days' Mediation drive to settle pending cases in all the Taluka Courts, District Courts and High Courts of India) was convened at Bar Room, District Bar Association Anantnag.

The meeting, presided over by

of the advocates for the mediation and termed the process of mediation impossible without the active support of the advocates. The advantages of the mediation were also communicated in the meeting that in the nation where more than 05 crore cases are pending for adjudication before the courts throughout the country and in Anantnag about 30,000 cases are pending adjudication before



the Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina, aimed to apprise that the National Legal Services Authority in association with the Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India has conceptualized the Special Mediation Drive- 'Mediation for the Nation'.

The 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign is being launched across the length and breadth of India. It is a 90 days' intensive drive to settle pending cases in all the Taluka Courts, District Courts and High Courts of India through mediation.

Principal District and Sessions Judge/ Chairman DLSA Anantnag in the meeting highlighted the importance of the mediation in the administration of the justice and called it win-win situation for both the parties as none of the parties to the litigation loses on the mediation process but both the parties win in the mediation.

Raina also highlighted the role

various courts of the district.

The meeting was bilateral in which the senior members of District Bar Association Anantnag and the trained mediators of District Bar Association Anantnag expressed their valuable thoughts and ideas to make this 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign a successful and fruitful.

The meeting was attended by, Masarat Rohi, Additional District and Sessions Judge Anantnag; Feroz Ahmad Khan, Chief Judicial Magistrate Anantnag; Arshad Aziz Qureshi, Munsiff Anantnag; Anurag Khajuria, District Mobile Magistrate Anantnag; Fazul Haq, Munsiff Shangus; Aarizoo Javaid, Munsiff Dooru;

Himanshu Atri, Additional Special Mobile Magistrate Pahalgam, senior members of District Bar Association Anantnag, executive members of District Bar Association Anantnag, trained mediators of District Association Bar Anantnag and members of District Bar Association Anantnag.

CS inspires new batch at IIM Jammu

Emphasizes ethical leadership, nation-building

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: In an insightful address to the newly admitted batch of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today exhorted students to embrace their journey with purpose, passion and a deep commitment to public good.

The event marked the commencement of the academic year for one of India's youngest and most dynamic IIMs.

Congratulating the students for securing admission to a premier national institution, the Chief Secretary emphasized that IIM Jammu is not merely an academic campus, but a crucible of transformation. "You have crossed a significant milestone and now stand at the threshold of an experience that will transform your lives," he said, calling upon the students to not only become professionals but also leaders of values and vision.

Quoting Malcolm X, he remarked, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today," setting the tone for an address that combined wisdom, pragmatism and inspiration.

Describing IIM Jammu as a symbol of aspiration and excellence in New India, the Chief Secretary said the institution carries the energy and potential to shape the future leaders who can contribute to the region and the nation.

"You are not just students you are ambassadors of this institution," he told the gathering, underlining the mutual responsibility between the individuals and institutions.

Dulloo highlighted that an



MBA is more than a degree, it is a holistic journey that shapes decision-making, leadership character and ethical thinking. "You will learn the language of markets and innovation, but more importantly, you will learn collaboration, humility and empathy," he said, quoting Martin Luther King Jr., "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

Speaking on India's evolving economic and developmental landscape, the Chief Secretary observed that the country is witnessing a historic transformation through rapid digitalization, infrastructure growth, start-up momentum and global positioning.

However, he stressed that along with these opportunities come challenges like climate change, social equity and sustainable development.

Emphasizing on developing the leadership traits,

he maintained that the nation doesn't need managers who maintain the status quo but it needs leaders

who think boldly, act ethically and lead with courage.

Touching upon the region's rapid development, the Chief Secretary noted that Jammu & Kashmir is emerging as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and governance reforms. He encouraged the students to engage with the region meaningfully. He urged them not to be just passive observers but be catalysts to bring the necessary change.

Drawing from his experience in public life, Dulloo offered five principles for personal and professional success.

He asked for staying curious, being resilient, acting ethically with full integrity, be inclusive showing respect to diversity and leading with compassion saying that kindness is a powerful leadership characteristic.

The Chief Secretary encouraged the students to see the next two years as the foundation of a meaningful life.

"Don't just aim for a good job only aim for a good life too," he said, urging them to build a legacy of purpose and service.

ACB arrests Junior official of JDA for accepting bribe of Rs 10,000

KC NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have trapped and arrested Junior official of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000.

In a statement issued, ACB received a complaint alleging

therein that public servant namely Kewal Krishan, Junior official of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for allowing further construction of the double storey building at Ballain Domana, Jammu.

"The accused had demanded a bribe of Rs 20,000 from the complainant for allowing further construction of the double storey building at Ballain Domana, Jammu and has agreed to receive 1st installment amounting Rs 10,000 out of the demanded bribe," the statement said, adding that since, the complainant didn't want to pay the bribe and he approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law.

"On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was

conducted, which corroborates the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR number 14/2025 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation taken up," the ACB said. During the course of investigation, a trap team headed by Gazetted rank officer was constituted, it reads, adding that the team laid a successful trap and the accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 10,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses. "The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following the due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team.

DC Kishtwar reviews formulation of CAPEX Budget 2025-26

FE News Network

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a comprehensive meeting to assess the preparation of the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26.

The DC reviewed the formulation of the CAPEX plan and set a four-day deadline for finalization, emphasizing the timely uploading of the plan on the BEAMS portal for subsequent submission to the Finance Department.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and Executive Engineers to revisit their respective plans to ensure the inclusion of works that are genuinely beneficial to the community, avoiding ambiguous works or those that cater to individual benefits.

He stressed the importance of grassroots involvement, instructing that all developmental projects be taken up in



consultation with the Gram Sabhas, with a special focus on essential public infrastructure.

The DC also directed the concerned heads of Departments to ensure overall development and saturation of the development indicators in aspirational blocks of Marwah & Warwan on priority.

The meeting also stressed speedy completion of the ongoing public welfare projects.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to transparent, accountable, and result-driven governance, DC Kishtwar directed all Officers to adopt a proactive and mission-oriented approach to ensure timely completion of the set targets and effective utilization of resources.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Pawan Kotwal; Assistant Commissioner Development Kaiser Bhawani; Chief Planning Officer (Joint Director Planning), Akhil Thakur; concerned District Officers; Block Development Officers (BDOs); Executive Engineers (XENs) and other concerned officials.

Editorial

TRF's Terror Tag

The United States' decision to designate TRF, a proxy of Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) is a significant and welcome move in the global fight against terrorism. This action, announced by the U.S. State Department, underscores Washington's recognition of TRF's role in the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack and its broader links with LeT, a group long responsible for bloodshed in Jammu and Kashmir and beyond. The timing of this designation sends a strong message. The Pahalgam attack, in which armed terrorists targeted Hindu pilgrims after verifying their identity, was a grim reminder of the persistent threat posed by Pakistan-backed extremist groups. India's decisive military response—Operation Sindoor—targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir demonstrated New Delhi's resolve to retaliate against cross-border terrorism. However, sustained international pressure on terror sponsors remains crucial.

The U.S. designation is a diplomatic victory for India, reinforcing the growing counter-terrorism partnership between the two nations. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar rightly acknowledged this as a "strong affirmation" of bilateral cooperation. Yet, the challenge remains: Pakistan continues to provide safe havens to groups like LeT and its affiliates, rebranding them under new names to evade scrutiny. The TRF, for instance, is merely a front for LeT, operating with the same ideology and backing.

While the U.S. move is commendable, the global community must go further. Pakistan's role in nurturing terrorist networks cannot be ignored under geopolitical expediency. The international community must hold Islamabad accountable for its duplicity, claiming to fight terrorism while sheltering these terror groups. The U.S. designation of TRF is a step in the right direction, but the fight against terrorism demands consistency. The world must recognize that terror groups, regardless of their rebranding, remain a threat to regional and global security. Only sustained pressure on their sponsors will bring lasting peace.

Mental Rabies: Rejecting Humans, Embracing Dogs



DR. SATYAWAN SAURABH

We live in a time where people leave their mothers in old age homes but buy velvet beds for dogs. Where paying child's fees is difficult but throwing an anniversary party for a pet is considered 'cute'. This

based love.

On the one hand people order birthday cakes for dogs, make them sit in the front seat of the car, and dress them in expensive clothes, while on the other hand they frown if a poor child's clothes get dirty. If they find an injured bird, they take a picture and express compassion, but they consider a labourer crying out of hunger on the roadside as a 'problem of the system'. What kind of compassion is this that is for the innocent but not for the needy human being?

The market has sensed this trend. Now



is the age where the direction of compassion has changed, not expanded. It is not bad to love animals and birds, but when this love turns into distance and neglect from humans, it is not a sign of mental balance but of mental confusion.

Nowadays people say that dogs are the most loyal. True, but should we make loyalty so great that parents, siblings, old neighbours and needy society all become secondary? To what extent is it justified to disregard humanity in the name of loyalty? This question is disturbing today's modernity.

There are expectations from humans, questions, and demands for responsibility. On the other hand, dogs, cats, parrots and rabbits only take affection without asking for anything. This is why people are now more attracted to creatures who have no social responsibilities attached to them. This is not compassion, but convenience-

there are bathrooms for dogs, cakes for cats, and toys for rabbits. This has become a multi-crore industry. The media also promotes this 'compassion-love'. One who is emotional for animals is civilized. One who is emotional for humans is called a fool. This is the new global form of empathy, in which not emotions but 'coolness' sells.

A new disease is growing in today's society - mental rabies. Just as a dog becomes mad and starts biting when it has rabies, similarly this social rabies is forcing people to bite, despise and ignore fellow humans like themselves. This disease is spreading wearing the mask of love. This disease says that loving humans is a dangerous task, but loving animals is safe and prestigious.

It has also been observed that many people impose their unfulfilled feelings on animals and birds. Those who did not get affection in childhood start calling dogs their sons. Those whose relationships broke,

start considering cats as their life partners. This is not love, but emotional escape. This is an attempt to escape from the truth that the mirror shows. Animals do not show the mirror, so they are now becoming the ideal.

The biggest problem with this trend is that priorities have been distorted. Now we adopt animals, but not orphans. We feed birds, but do not spare a single roti for the neighbour's widow. We pay a thousand rupees for a dog's haircut, but hesitate to spend ten rupees for a poor person's medicine.

ance. We should love animals and birds, but not by keeping a distance from humans. Compassion is an instinct, it cannot be limited to a particular class. The day we understand that every living being, every creature and every human being deserves our love and help at their own level, that day this mental rabies will end.

A society is healthy when there is food for the birds, biscuits for the dogs and support for the old people. When birds chirp in the house and the elderly smile in the yard.

A new disease is growing in today's society - mental rabies. Just as a dog becomes mad and starts biting when it has rabies, similarly this social rabies is forcing people to bite, despise and ignore fellow humans like themselves. This disease is spreading wearing the mask of love. This disease says that loving humans is a dangerous task, but loving animals is safe and prestigious.

When cats are in the lap and children are in school.

The true form of love is that which values every life. If your compassion is only for those wagging their tails, and not for a hungry child with tears in his eyes, then it is not love, it is pretense.

Dogs are loyal, but not as loyal as parents. It is good to keep birds, but it is necessary to teach children. There should be a place for every creature - but not at the expense of humans.

If we cannot maintain this balance, it will become a social epidemic. And then we should really be afraid - not of a virus, but of the 'brain rabies' that will force us to bite humans.

Author is an Independent columnist and social analyst. He can be mailed at satywanverma333@gmail.com

Choose Health Over Samosa and Jalebi



Lalit Garg

In a diverse country like India, where the aroma of Samosa and the sweetness of Jalebi attract people at every corner, these tasty dishes are now becoming a danger signal for health. Deeply connected to our traditions and food habits, fried and excessively sweet items like Samosa, Kachori and Jalebi have now become the main cause of diseases like obesity, diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. Due to these reasons, realizing the need to start an awareness campaign across the country, Janjagrat Abhiyan has been started. This effort being made towards reducing the consumption of fried dishes is commendable and is a call for revolution in view of the increasing health concerns. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for reducing the consumption of oil and sugar under the Fit India campaign. With the activeness of the Central Government, just like there is a health warning on cigarette packets, a similar warning will be issued about these oily and sweet food items. It is being widely publicised through radio and other TV channels that one should stay away from consuming oily or excessively sweet foods.

The shocking facts related to the serious condition of obesity and other incurable diseases are worrisome. Health experts consider sugar and Trans fat to be the main causes of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. 1 out of every 5 people in India is obese, and the main reason behind this is excessive fried food. India ranks second in the world in terms of obesity. According to WHO, the number of diabetes patients in India can reach 13.4 crores by 2045, which will be the highest in the

world? A major reason for the increasing obesity rate in children is things like samosas, kachoris, and burgers available around schools. Things like samosas and kachoris are fried again and again in the same oil, due to which Trans fat and carcinogenic elements (acrylamide) start growing in them. These harden the arteries of the heart and increase cholesterol. Jalebi is dipped in thick sugar syrup, which immediately increases the amount of glucose in the body. This con-



dition invites diseases like insulin resistance, type-2 diabetes and fatty liver. Excessive use of refined flour is made in samosas and kachoris, which slows down digestion. This causes disorders like gas, constipation, acidity and obesity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has from time to time not only inspired the countrymen for social and economic development, but has also called for adopting a healthy lifestyle. Recently, taking an important initiative, he has appealed to the countrymen to reduce the amount of oil in food items and avoid serious health problems like obesity. Reflecting on this increasing health problem, Modi said that we have to change our eating habits. Less oil, less salt and less

sugar - this is the key to health. Modi's call is - Reduce oil, make life healthy. Because excess oil is not healthy, it is the gateway to disease. Remember, obesity is increasing in the country and awareness against it is also increasing. It has also been said that people can help in making India developed by reducing oil in their food. In this context, if samosas, jalebis and other dishes that are harmful to health have been officially targeted, then it is not surprising but a great need of the hour.

Oil is an integral part of Indian kitchens. But today, the way excessive oil is being used in every dish, obesity has become a major health problem in India, it has encouraged many other diseases and has given rise to a health crisis. Fried foods like samosa, kachori, pakoda, puri, jalebi, fast food, etc. are becoming the cause of diseases like obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes. Central health institutions have been instructed to put up clear 'oil and sugar warning boards' in cafeterias and public places. These informative posters will highlight the

amount of fat and sugar in very popular foods. The time has come to discourage fried and sugar-rich foods. It should start with the careless restaurants running in hospitals. It is necessary to hang this warning on all restaurants and sweet shops. It is not that people will stop eating samosa or jalebi, but they will become aware. Cardiologist Dr. Bimal Chhajed has achieved remarkable success by effectively treating heart patients through the 'Zero Oil' diet system for the last three decades. While presenting the formula for a healthy lifestyle, the Prime Minister has appealed to the public to use limited oil and fry, boil or steam food instead of frying. To increase physical activity, do yoga, pranayam, walking or exercise daily.

Stop junk food at home; give children fresh fruits, dry fruits, sprouted grains. Fight habits, not diseases. Control in diet is the biggest treatment. Therefore, preventive measures are necessary. Recently, every person has been appealing to reduce the consumption of oil in their food by ten percent. Some people must have moved towards improvement and now when there will be warnings on food items like samosas and jalebis, the pace of improvement in diet will get further stronger. The 'Fit India Movement' started under the leadership of Modi ji is not just a campaign, but a message of lifestyle. This is a revolutionary step taken towards freeing the country from the burden of diseases. In this movement, people are being made aware that only a healthy person can build a prosperous nation.

The Fit India campaign needs more honesty and at the same time, the government departments responsible for pure food will have to be more alert and cautious than honesty. Today, many types of foreign dishes are also available in the markets; most of these dishes have dangerous use of refined flour, oil, artificial colors and chemicals. It should not seem at all that only Indian dishes are being targeted. The second important thing is that both the eaters and the cooks have to wake up. The repeated use of the same oil and the use of bad or wrong ingredients at many sweet shops should stop immediately.

Today, there is a need that we should not just become slaves of taste, but listen to our body. A responsible society is the one that hands over healthy habits and not diseases to the next generation in the name of taste. A generation is being prepared, which is sacrificing health for taste. This is not a warning, but a message of consciousness that if we do not improve now, then the coming generations will continue to struggle with diseases. So come, let us all pledge that we will reduce oil, increase walking, and make life long and healthy! The govern-

ment will have to make strict provisions especially for businessmen, restaurant owners and confectioners. Those who play with the health of the country in the pursuit of earning money should not be left free. When there is no guarantee of milk and cheese, then we will have to think that only warn-

”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has from time to time not only inspired the countrymen for social and economic development, but has also called for adopting a healthy lifestyle. Recently, taking an important initiative, he has appealed to the countrymen to reduce the amount of oil in food items and avoid serious health problems like obesity.

”

ings will not bring improvement. The departments and officials ensuring quality will have to be active on a war footing, only then will we be able to realize the dream of Fit India.

Author can be mailed at lalitgarg11@gmail.com

Commissioner SMC Inspects Animal Birth Control Facilities at Tengpora, Shuhama, and Chatterhama

FE NEWS NETWORK

80% Work Completed at Chatterhama ABC Centre Under Construction

SRINAGAR: In a significant move aimed at reinforcing animal welfare and public health infrastructure in Srinagar, Mr. Fazlul Haseeb (IAS), Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), undertook an inspection tour of multiple Animal Birth Control (ABC) facilities in the city.

The visit was part of SMC's ongoing efforts to ensure efficient and humane management of the stray dog population under the guidelines of the Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI).

Commissioner SMC was accompanied by Joint Commissioner (Administration), Joint Commissioner (Works), Health Officer, and Executive Engineers of the Corporation during the inspection.

The Commissioner first visited the ABC Centre at Tengpora, which is fully functional and plays a critical role in carrying out sterilization and vaccination of stray dogs. The facility is equipped with dedicated operation theatres, post-operative care units, and recovery kennels. Mr. Has-



seeb interacted with the veterinary and support staff and reviewed the procedural workflow, ensuring that all operations are being conducted in compliance with animal welfare norms.

He then proceeded to the ABC Centre at Shuhama, a key institutional support unit in collaboration with the Faculty of Veterinary Sciences at SKUAST-Kashmir.

The Commissioner appreciated the collaborative efforts of SMC and SKUAST in delivering quality veterinary services and highlighted the importance of continued inter-agency coordination for effective implementation of ABC protocols.

The final leg of the inspection covered the under-construction ABC facility at Chatterhama, where nearly 80% of the work has

already been completed. The new center is being developed as a state-of-the-art unit with multiple operation tables, holding areas, and enhanced sanitation and waste disposal mechanisms. Commissioner Haseeb issued directions for expediting the remaining work and instructed the engineering and animal husbandry teams to ensure the project is completed within the stipulated timeframe, with strict adherence to quality standards.

During the inspection, the Commissioner reiterated the importance of ABC facilities not only as a means of stray dog population control but also as a critical component of public safety, urban sanitation, and humane animal care. He expressed satisfaction over the progress made and assured that SMC is committed to scaling up its ABC infrastructure in line with the city's growing needs.

He also emphasized community awareness and the role of citizens in supporting these initiatives by reporting stray dog hotspots and cooperating with field teams during capture and release operations.

These visits are part of a broader SMC initiative to modernize civic infrastructure, promote animal welfare, and strengthen the city's preparedness in handling zoonotic disease risks in urban environments.

DC Ganderbal Reviews Arrangements For Independence Day Celebrations

FE NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, con-

vened a meeting today to review the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat.

Responsibilities for various arrangements were assigned to respective departments, and the committees were constituted to monitor imple-



At the outset, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of all necessary arrangements for the smooth and dignified conduct of the celebration. The preparations reviewed included the readiness of the main venue, podium arrangements, security measures, seating, transportation, power, electricity, parking, refreshment, medical care, deployment of fire tenders, decoration

tional Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest, followed by a march past featuring contingents from the District Police, CRPF, Armed Police, SSB, PTS Manigam, Forest Protection Force, and students from various educational institutions. Students will also present patriotic cultural programmes during the event.

The DC underscored the importance of cleanliness, the illumination of government offices and flag hoisting at iconic locations, tourist destinations, and government establishments to honor the day with appropriate enthusiasm and respect.

mentation on the ground to ensure smooth conduct of the function.

Additionally, the DC directed all Tehsiladars to ensure timely arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day at the Subdivision and tehsil levels. The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal; Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihaqi; CEO SDA, ACR, Executive Engineers of various wings; EO Municipality; ARTO; Tehsiladars, and other concerned officers and officials.

AIFOF office bearers call on Forest Minister

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The office bearers of the All India Forest Officers Federation (AIFOF) called on Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat.

Led by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta, the delegation apprised the Minister that the main function of the Forest Martyrs Day, 2025, will be observed in Srinagar on September 11, 2025.

The purpose of this observance is to commemorate the sacrifices of the foresters who have laid down their lives in the line of duty to protect India's precious forests and wildlife.

The Minister appreciated the decision of the Federation to hold the national level function in Srinagar. He acknowledged the crucial role that forest officials, guards and environmentalists play in preserving the country's natural resources.

The Minister instructed the Forest authorities to extend all possible assistance to the Federation in collectively organising the national level event. This celebration will ensure that the sacrifices of those who have given their lives in the service of the environment are duly honored.

The Minister stated that the government is committed to support the initiatives that recognize and celebrate the bravery and dedication of individuals working towards environmental conservation.

"The commemoration of Forest Martyrs Day is a tribute to the selfless service and ultimate sacrifices made by forest officials and others who have worked tirelessly to protect India's forests and wildlife," he said.

The event serves as a reminder of the importance of conservation efforts and the need to continue protecting the country's natural heritage for future generations, the Forest Minister said while highlighting the need of honouring and celebrating selfless public service.



DC Kulgam reviews progress of Jal Shakti Abhiyan- Catch the Rain campaign

FE NEWS NETWORK

Instructs deptts to take concrete steps to minimize runoff & enhance rainwater harvesting efforts

KULGAM: To review the implementation and progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan-Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) campaign in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on ongoing initiatives, future strategies, and departmental roles to ensure effective water conservation and rainwater harvesting.

During the meeting, officers from the Rural Development, Forest, Agriculture,

Irrigation, Jal Shakti, and other line departments briefed the chair on the status

of ongoing water conservation initiatives. Emphasizing the importance of sustain-

able water management, DC urged all departments to minimize runoff and

departmental coordination to fast-track the execution of JSA-CTR projects.

To enhance impact on the ground, DC instructed departments to ensure construction of a minimum of five rainwater harvesting structures per panchayat to improve groundwater recharge and rainwater storage.

He also instructed for regular cleaning, rejuvenation, and maintenance of water bodies to ensure their long-term sustainability.

DC directed all concerned departments to ensure proper data uploading on the portal.

The meeting was attended by the District Programme Officer, Joint Director Planning, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Executive Engineers, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chief Agriculture Officer and other concerned officers.



of ongoing water conservation initiatives. Emphasizing the importance of sustain-

maximize water harvesting efforts.

He stressed the need for greater inter-

SKUAST-K organises Agri-Leadership program to 'Compete, Connect and Command Market Power'

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Institute of Business and Policy Research (IBPR), SKUAST-Kashmir under the aegis of the HADP project 04 'Strengthening Agriculture Marketing in UT of J&K', successfully organised a transformative three-day training program titled "Catalysing Agri Transformation: Leadership, Branding, and Market Power", held from 16th to 18th July, 2025.

Designed as a strategic knowledge intervention, the program convened a diverse and dynamic cohort comprising officers of development departments, FPO leaders, agri-startups, and institutional stakeholders, with the shared objective of accelerating agricultural transformation in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The sessions were enriched by the presence of international trainers and domain experts, who engaged in deep-dive deliberations and solution-oriented discussions with participants across the three days.

Inaugurating the event, Prof. Haroon R. Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-K, delivered a visionary keynote, emphasizing the urgent imperative for a shift from traditional production models to market-responsive and innovation-driven agriculture.

"Agriculture today cannot thrive on production alone. Our farmers and agri-entrepreneurs must be equipped with the tools of branding, digital integration, and strategic thinking to unlock the full market potential of their produce. Initiatives like this are not just timely, they are transformative," Prof. Naik remarked.

Prof. Farhet A. Shaheen, Course Director, elaborated on the structure, objectives, and broader vision of the training program. He described the initiative as a first-of-its-kind convergence of leadership development, branding acumen, and market strategy, aimed at bridging critical gaps in conventional agri-capacity building.

"True transformation begins with a transformed mindset, leaders who can think strategically, act entrepreneurially, and communicate their product stories with clarity and confidence in competitive markets," Prof. Shaheen stated. He highlighted the program's emphasis on practical learning, case-based sessions, hands-on toolkits for market navigation that empowered participants to craft business models, design product identities, and explore real-world com-

mmercialization pathways.

Programs like this are not standalone events, they are strategic investments in building a resilient, market-ready, and innovation-driven agricultural ecosystem, he remarked.

Prof. S. H. Baba, Head, Institute of Business and Policy Research (IBPR), spoke about the critical intersection of knowledge, leadership, and market empowerment in redefining the future of agriculture in the region.

"The future of Indian agriculture lies not just in increasing yields, but in expanding value, visibility, and voice for our grassroots producers. Through this training, we sought to catalyze a mindset shift, from cultivation to commercialization, from production to positioning, and from isolation to integrated market engagement," he asserted. Prof. Baba applauded the high level of engagement from participants and reiterated IBPR's commitment to converting academic insights into actionable field-level change.

Dr. Abid Sultan, Coordinator of the training program, described the event as a pivotal step in reshaping the agricultural narrative of Jammu & Kashmir, a shift from viewing farmers as mere cultivators to recognizing them as leaders, brand creators, and market strategists.

"In regions like J&K, agri-economies will no longer be defined solely by what we grow, but by how we lead, how we tell our stories, and how we claim our rightful place in the market economy, he asserted.



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DLIC approves 63 cases under Mission Yuva Scheme in Ganderbal

FE NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: To examine and approve cases received under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme for financial assistance and entrepreneurial support, the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting here in the V.C room of DC Ganderbal.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 63 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units.

The DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, GM DIC, Assistant Director Employment Ganderbal, Lead District Manager; DSWO, Nodal Officer JKEDI and other concerned.



J&K Emerging

challenges of the rapidly evolving world. “Technology is rapidly reshaping our world, especially the business landscape. Your role will be to utilise management practices and technological innovation for ease of doing business and enhancing ease of living for all. Your leadership and problem-solving skills will provide fresh impetus to social development, fostering local entrepreneurship culture through sustainable business models,” the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The new batch of students at IIM Jammu brings together a diverse group across its various academic programs, with a total enrolment of 474 students for the academic year. This includes participants in the MBA, MBA (Healthcare & Hospital Management), Ph.D. & Ph.D. (Working Professionals), and EMBA programs.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Shri Sudhir Langer, CEO & MD, RPSG FMCG, senior officials, HoDs, faculty members, and incoming batches of students were present on the occasion.(DIPR)

Pahalgam Attack

The United States noted this was the deadliest civilian attack in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks, also carried out by LeT.

The US State Department further stated that TRF has also been involved in multiple attacks on Indian security forces in recent years, including in 2024.

The decision, the US government said, underlined the Trump administration’s continued commitment to global counter-terrorism.

“These actions taken by the Department of State demonstrate the Trump Administration’s commitment to protecting our national security interests, countering terrorism, and enforcing President Trump’s call for justice for the Pahalgam attack,” Rubio said in the statement.

“TRF and other associated aliases have been added to LeT’s designation as a FTO and SDGT pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and Executive Order 13224, respectively. The Department of State has also reviewed and maintained the FTO designation of LeT. Amendments to FTO designations go into effect upon publication in the Federal Register,” the statement further added.

The Indian embassy in the US said in a statement, “Another demonstration of strong India-USA counter-terrorism cooperation. Appreciate the Department of State for listing The Resistance Front (TRF) as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation and Specially Designated Global Terrorist.”

“TRF is a proxy of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and claimed responsibility for the April 22 terror attack on civilians in Pahalgam. ZERO TOLERANCE for terrorism!” the statement by the Indian embassy in the US further read.

Earlier this week, EAM Jaishankar, speaking at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Council of Foreign Ministers Meeting in Tianjin, emphasised the importance of taking an uncompromised stance against terrorism, citing the recent Pahalgam terrorist attack, which was condemned by the UN Security Council.

Jaishankar highlighted that three evils have taken over the world: “Terrorism, Separatism and Extremism,” which he believes often occur together. (ANI)

Amarnath Yatra

authorities gave the green light for pilgrims to proceed.

Amid religious fervour and passion, 16,858 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Friday, he said.

The pilgrims who paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine included 11,357 males, 4,816 females, 220 children, 125 sadhus, 18 sadhvis, and 322 security personnel. The cumulative number of pilgrims who have performed darshan so far has reached 2,73,091.

The official said the 16th batch comprising 7,908 pilgrims left from the Jammu base camp early on Friday morning under tight security.

The convoy departed in 261 vehicles, with 92 on the Baltal route and 169 on the Pahalgam axis. The batch comprised 5,957 males, 1,613 females, 26 children, 290 sadhus, and 22 sadhvis.

The pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced on July 3 and will conclude on August 9—(KNO)

DGP reviews

Batote to review the security, law and order situation, anti-terror operations and administrative readiness in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts,” said a police officer.

The DGP was during his visit briefed by Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shridhar Patil and other district police chiefs.

“A detailed review meeting was held at Bhaderwah to assess deployment for the Amarnath Yatra and anti-terrorist operations,” the officer added.

Lauding the efforts of the civil and police administration in ensuring peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra, the DGP emphasized on strengthening the intelligence grid, focusing on the successful execution of operations and ensuring the welfare of police personnel.

He laid special emphasis on eliminating

both existing and new terrorist groups hiding in the higher reaches of these districts as well as dismantling the overground support networks of anti-national elements.

The DGP during his visit to Batote highlighted strengthening the intelligence grid and conducting successful operations.

The DGP’s visits reinforced the importance of inter-agency coordination in maintaining peace and stability in the region, the officer said. (PTI)

CM Omar

called on the Chief Minister to deliberate on the emerging challenges concerning international-level sports persons from Jammu and Kashmir, and sought the government’s continued support for developing their talent and giving them ample opportunities.

President and Secretary of the Kashmir Labour Union’s Federation, brought to the Chief Minister’s attention the pressing concerns regarding the Jammu and Kashmir Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB). He urged the government to expedite the appointment of the Board’s Chairman and to facilitate prompt approval of welfare funds for lakhs of construction workers across J&K.

In addition, deputations from Beerwah, Indrawal, Baramulla, and other regions also met the Chief Minister to highlight issues specific to their constituencies and local population.

Representatives from minority communities too called on the Chief Minister and flagged various issues and demands for his attention.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing with all visiting delegations and individuals and assured them that their genuine concerns will be addressed on priority, reaffirming his government’s commitment to inclusive and responsive governance. (DIPR)

Rajnath, Shah

“Operation Sindoor,” sources said. They said the meeting was attended by Union Ministers J P Nadda, Kiren Rijiju, Piyush Goyal and G Kishan Reddy.

Pertinently, the opposition has been pushing for debate in Parliament on issues like “Operation Sindoor” and the claims of US President Donald Trump that he brokered the “ceasefire” between India and Pakistan.

The government has rejected Trump’s claim, but the opposition has been insisting on a debate and has even demanded a special session of Parliament over the issue. The government has termed Operation Sindoor a big success, which inflicted massive damage on terror sites and military facilities in Pakistan.

It may be recalled that a few days after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, armed forces on May 6, 2025, launched “Operation Sindoor” and destroyed nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The attack on terrorist camps led to breaking out of skirmishes between India and Pakistan that continued till May 10. Hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) approached his counterpart in India and requested for a ceasefire—(KNO)

Kavinder Gupta

world,” he said. Gupta also expressed gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for appointing him as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh—(KNO)

Every Disaster

sound and technologically enabled,” he stated.

Dulloo stressed that disaster readiness is not measured by paperwork but by the number of lives saved and the responsiveness of the system during crisis. He noted that increasing urbanization and climate change have escalated the intensity and frequency of disasters, placing greater responsibility on governments, institutions and citizens to act decisively.

He advocated for clear institutional frameworks with defined roles and responsibilities. He emphasised the need of optimising use of advanced technologies such as GIS mapping, real-time weather forecasting and drone-based surveillance besides active community engagement, capacity building of NGOs, civil society and local volunteers. He also asked for integration of mid-career training for the officers and regular mock drills to ensure readiness.

The Chief Secretary called for customisation of IRS protocols based on local risk profiles at the district and block level. He proposed development of a Disaster Dashboard to map available resources, machinery, manpower and vulnerable zones across the UT.

In his inaugural address, Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, described the IRS as a newly notified system in J&K aimed at establishing a well-coordinated command structure during disasters. He explained that the IRS, modeled on international best practices and customized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), defines precise roles for each officer to eliminate confusion during emergencies.

Bharti highlighted the ongoing initiatives under the Disaster Management Department including the Mitigation plans for GLOFs and landslides, Integration of the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN), Deployment of Decision Support Systems and Establishment of Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

He expressed optimism about significantly strengthening the disaster management mech-

anisms through these efforts and urged the officials to institutionalize the disaster response protocols across all levels.

Delivering a detailed presentation, Brigadier Kuldip Singh (Retd), a distinguished disaster management expert, shared his insights on disaster typologies, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the defined responsibilities of various stakeholders during emergencies. Drawing from real-life disaster incidents across India, he emphasized that “no region is immune to disasters”, and increased development must go hand-in-hand with increased vigilance and responsibility.

Brigadier Singh stressed the critical roles of central and UT governments, NDMA, SDMA, DDMA and block-level institutions in developing a seamless and scalable disaster response framework. He reiterated the need for integrated planning, resource allocation, and community-based preparedness to make India one of the most disaster-resilient nations in the world.

Later, a comprehensive Handbook on the Incident Response System (IRS) was unveiled, clearly delineating the roles and responsibilities of each officer and department involved in disaster response.

At the Union Territory level, the IRS is being headed by the Chief Secretary, who functions as the Response Officer. The handbook also outlines the hierarchical structure, including designated roles for the Incident Commander, Nodal Officer, Liaison Officer, Planning and the Media Communication System, thereby institutionalizing a well-coordinated and structured mechanism for disaster preparedness and response in the UT. (DIPR)

Statehood

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah earlier, stating that they were waiting for the opposition’s response in this regard.

He further added “If they don’t give us what’s ours, we will see how to deal with it,” he remarked.

Asked about the United States designating The Resistance Front (TRF), suspected to be behind the recent Pahalgam terror attack, as a foreign terrorist organization, Dr. Abdullah said, “The matter is under investigation. It is better to comment once the probe is completed.” Earlier, the National Conference President visited the residence of the deceased poet and social activist Shahid Budgami and also visited the family of the late Aga Syed Mohammad Baqir to pay his respects.

He was accompanied by National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani—(KNO)

Rains transform the mood across Kashmir’s rural landscape

Farming community joyful

SRINAGAR : After weeks of relentless heat and parched landscapes, the orchards and fields of Kashmir have finally received much-needed rainfall, bringing immense relief to thousands of apple growers and paddy farmers across the region.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Kashmir was grappling with soaring temperatures and dry spells that left the land cracked and the faces of farmers withered in worry. The absence of rain posed a serious threat to the region’s famed apple orchards and paddy fields, with growers concerned about stunted fruit size, reduced quality, and poor yields—especially for early and high-density apple varieties that are particularly sensitive to moisture stress.

“Every drop of rain felt like a blessing,” said Ishfaq Ahmad Malik, an apple farmer from the Shopian district, one of south Kashmir’s major apple-producing areas.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Malik said the recent showers not only revived withering crops but also lifted the spirits of the farming community. “Nature has been kind to us,” he added.

The rainfall over the past few days has ended the prolonged drought, rejuvenating orchards and fields. Farmers like Rafiq Ahmad Khan from Zainapora said the persistent heatwave had caused sunburnt apples with reduced juice content, resulting in crop losses and diminished returns. “The timely rains have brought great relief to both apple and paddy farmers,” Khan told KNO, recalling how paddy fields had developed deep cracks due to the lack of water.

The impact of the drought was widespread, with water levels in Kashmir’s major rivers and streams, including the Jhelum—often called the region’s lifeline—dropping to alarming lows. At several locations, the river level was reported to be only knee-deep. Shabir Ahmed, another local farmer, said, “The rain has refilled many drains and rivers, reviving our hope.” Rain-fed farms, which lack irrigation infrastructure and depend entirely on natural rainfall, were among the worst affected during the drought. “The soil had become friable and we had almost given up hope,” Shabir said. The recent rains, he added, arrived just in time to save apple, paddy, and vegetable crops from potential damage.

Official data confirms a marked improvement in water levels across the region’s rivers and tributaries. As of July 17, the Jhelum was flowing at 9.50 feet at Sangam (flood mark: 21 feet), 1.55 metres at Pampore (flood mark: 4.5 metres), 9.57 feet at Munshi Bagh (flood mark: 18 feet), 5.33 feet at Asham (flood mark: 14 feet), and

1575.08 metres at Wular Lake (full level: 1578.00 metres). Tributaries have also seen a rise but remain below danger levels, with Visho Nallah at Khudwani at 5.36 metres (flood mark: 7.75 metres), Rambiar Nallah at Wachi at 0.40 metres (flood mark: 5.4 metres), Lidder Nallah at Batkot at 0.67 metres (flood mark: 1.5 metres), and Sindh Nallah at Dodarhama at 1.84 metres (flood mark: 3.65 metres).

Compared to previous reports—when water levels at Sangam, Munshi Bagh, and Asham were as low as 3.85 feet, 5.94 feet, and 3.84 feet respectively—the current situation marks a significant recovery. Officials have reiterated that there is no immediate risk of flooding, and water levels are being closely monitored, with the impact of rain in upper catchment areas expected to be seen after a short delay.

Weather experts say the rainfall has significantly eased water shortages. They said that the recent rains have raised the water level of the Jhelum river, which will go a long way in overcoming the water shortage and that the rivers and tributaries are in spate, providing sufficient water for irrigation needs.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast more rainfall in the region in the coming days, particularly between July 21 and 25, offering further respite to the farming community—(KNO)

Rahul Parroting Pakistan Line, Wish He Was More Mature, Match PM Modi: Kiren Rijiju

New Delhi: Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of “parroting” Pakistan’s narrative on Operation Sindoor and wished he was “more mature” and “more intellectual” to at least “match our leader” while raising issues in Parliament.

Ahead of the Monsoon session beginning Monday, Rijiju said that the government was ready for debate on any issue in accordance with rules of procedure and slammed the opposition for trying to “hijack Parliament” by insisting to “occupy all the space”.

He said the government has sufficient legislative business for the Monsoon Session which will continue till August 21. Earlier, the session was to conclude on August 12, but the government opted for a longer duration.

Rijiju said Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had initially supported the government on Operation Sindoor, but later started echoing the Pakistani narrative on the conflict.

“If our leader of opposition is providing fuel to our enemy country, thereby causing harm to our national interest, how do we take it? Internally, we may have all kinds of disagreement, because that is the nature of democracy... but outside you are broadcasting the narrative of the other country. This is something that is unacceptable to us,” he said.

The minister said Gandhi could argue that as the leader of the opposition, his job is to criticise the government, but he was “parroting” the line taken by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Rijiju said initially, Gandhi was egging the government to take action against Pakistan, then started calling for de-escalation and later wanted to know the number of aircraft India lost during the conflict.

“That is why I have made a very categorical difference between which is internal and which is external. He is parroting the lines taken by Pakistan during the Operation Sindoor,” the minister said.

He said a group of opposition parties tried to damage India’s image but the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that the entire country was united during the conflict.

“I wish our Leader of Opposition is more mature, more understanding, more intellectual, because we need a leader of opposition at least to match our leader. Our prime minister, all the senior ministers, are very serious about parliamentary business,” Rijiju said.

He said the government was open to debate and discus-

sion but the opposition only wanted to stall parliamentary proceedings, which was not a healthy sign in a democracy.

“Parliament constitutes all the MPs. We are in the government. We have more members of Parliament. But, some of the opposition MPs say that only they should speak. They want to hijack Parliament. That will not happen,” Rijiju said.

“What is a democracy? Democracy is giving space to everybody. In Parliament, it is very proportionate. Every MP represents certain areas, some states and some constituencies. So, if they think that the opposition should occupy all the space, that will not happen,” he said.

Rijiju said Indian democracy is very vibrant and was in favour of the same spirit reflected in Parliament.

“Many people may say that the Indian Parliament is very noisy, very messy, but I welcome it. Being a very vibrant democracy, there should be some fireworks, there should be some, you know, heated debates and discussions. It’s okay,” the minister said. (PTI)

Dr Andrabi visits Eidgah Srinagar

Meets Youth Delegations, Interacts With Sports Council Authorities, Reviews Future Plans Of Development

SRINAGAR: Chairperson of J&K Waqf Board & Minister of State Dr Syed Darakhshan Andrabi visited Eidgah in Srinagar where she meet youth delegations, sports



clubs representatives and listened to their demands for the maintenance of playing field here. She later interacted with the Sports Council Authorities regarding the levelling of the ground for sports activities. Waqf Chairperson assured the youth that their demanda will be taken care of. The representatives of the sportspersons thanked Dr Darakhshan for her on the spot resolution of their demands. Andrabi also thanked the Sports Council authorities for their assurance of help in improving the sports field area.

Waqf Board Chairperson took stock of the ground situation for the infrastructural plans of historic Eidgah to taken up by the Board in future. She was accompanied by the Engineering Team of the Waqf Board. Prominent citizens of the area also met Dr Andrabi during her visit. “Our developmental plans take concrete shape always on the ground zero. Public involvement & local cooperation helps us in completion of the infrastructural projects as per the need”, said Dr Darakhshan Andrabi while interacting with the people there. Social Activist Faheem Reshi also met Dr Darakhshan Andrabi. The youth delegation comprised of the Baba Mudasir, Aijaz Shalla, Mohammad Ashraf and others. (PR)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITAL DIVISION ANANTNAG

GIST of e-NIT No MHDA/TS/14 of 2025-26 DATED: 16-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders are invited on item rate basis from Registered contractors/Firms (Registered on JKPWDOMS) having experience in executing relevant mechanical works for the below mentioned works:

S.No.	Name of the Work	Estimated Cost (In Rs)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	EMD (In Rs)	Time of completion (Days)
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Supply of Spares required for DRR No. 624, 643 and 198 of Mechanical and Hospital Sub Division 1st Anantnag.	96570.00	200.00	1950.00	15

- **Accord of Administrative Approval:** Accorded vide No. M&HED/K/ACctt/35 of 2025-26 dated 08-05-2025 by Chief Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Directorate Kashmir.
- **Accord of Technical Sanction:** Accorded vide noMHED/K/TS/62 Dated: 30-06-2025 by Chief Engineer Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Department Kashmir, Srinagar.
- **Position of Funds:** Available
- 1. **Downloading of Bids:** The Tender document Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the Govt. website www.ijktenders.gov.in from 16-07-2025 (16:00Hrs)
- 2. **Submission of Bids:** The bidders shall deposit their bids in electronic format on the above website from 16-07-2025 (17:00Hrs) to 06-08-2025 (14:00Hrs) in two covers.
- 3. **Opening of Bids:** The bid uploaded on the Web Site up to due date and time will be opened on 07-08-2025 (14:00Hrs) in the Office of the Superintending Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Circle Kashmir.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Mechanical and Hospital Division
Anantnag

No: MHDA/ TS-295/993-95
Dated: 16-07-2025

DIPK-3908/25 Dt: 18-07-2025

Dr. Jitendra Launches NSCSTI 2.0 Framework, Heralds a New Era in Civil Services Training Standards

"Mission Karmayogi is now a global model for civil services reform", says Dr. Jitendra Singh

NEWDELHI: "The Government has removed unreasonable barriers separating public and private sectors, enabling the best practices from all domains to be harnessed". This was stated by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh while launching the National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0 (NSCSTI 2.0) at the Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI), here. Developed by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), the revamped framework marks a major leap in India's mission to build a future-ready civil service.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "This milestone has been made possible because Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always encouraged out-of-the-box thinking and empowered us to break taboos of the past. NSCSTI 2.0 is not just a compliance tool—it is a transformative step toward institutional excellence."

The Minister highlighted how the framework supports cooperative and competitive federalism, empowering institutes to evaluate and upgrade themselves. "Just as the Aspirational



Districts Programme enabled backward districts to outshine expectations, NSCSTI 2.0 encourages CSTIs to introspect, innovate and pursue excellence," he noted.

The upgraded NSCSTI 2.0 framework presents a more refined, inclusive, and future-ready approach to civil services training. It has been simplified and streamlined, with the number of evaluation metrics rationalized from 59 to 43,

ensuring greater clarity and a sharper focus on outcome-based assessments. The framework is field-informed, drawing extensively from consultations with over 160 Civil Service

Training Institutes (CSTIs), assessors, and domain experts, making it grounded in real-world training challenges and needs. Its inclusive design makes it adaptable for training institutes across all levels of government—Central, State, and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Recognizing the shifting learning landscape, the framework is also digitally aligned, embracing hybrid learning models and AI-driven training mechanisms. Most importantly, it is forward-looking, integrating progressive elements such as Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), Karmayogi Competency Model (KCM), and the Amrit Gyaan Kosh (AGK), thereby aligning with India's vision of building a future-ready, competent, and citizen-centric civil service.

Dr. Jitendra Singh added, "The Government has removed unreasonable barriers separating public and private sectors, enabling the best practices from all domains to be harnessed. This framework is an outcome of that vision."

He emphasized the need for extending customized training modules to scientific institutions, stressing the importance of administrative preparedness in addition to technical expertise.

Recounting the global interest in India's

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civil services reform model, Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that countries like Bangladesh, South Africa, and Maldives have shown keen interest in studying Mission Karmayogi. "This is a testament to India's leadership in governance reform," he said. (PIB)

Petroleum Dealers Must Become Active Partners in India's Energy Transition: Hardeep Singh Puri

NEWDELHI: Union Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri, urged petroleum dealers across the country to transform into active partners in India's energy transition, while addressing the Plenary Session of the All India Petroleum Dealers Association (AIPDA) Conclave yesterday.



AIPDA is the largest national body representing petroleum retail outlet dealers. The Minister emphasized the importance of embracing green initiatives, enhancing digital readiness, and evolving business models in line with India's dynamic energy landscape.

Recognizing the pivotal role played by petroleum dealers in the energy ecosystem, Puri acknowledged concerns related to dealer commissions, operational costs, and other issues. He assured the gathering that the Ministry believes in "consultation, not confrontation," and cited the revision of dealer margins in October 2024 and the implementation of intra-state freight rationalisation as concrete steps taken to address disparities. He further said that structured platforms for feedback and grievance redressal would continue to be strengthened.

Reflecting on the challenges of the past five years—including the COVID-19 pandemic and global geopolitical conflicts—Puri noted that

India not only navigated these disruptions effectively but also emerged as a global leader in energy growth. Despite global volatility, India accounted for 16% of global growth in crude oil consumption and is projected to contribute 25% of such growth over the next three decades. The Government, he said, has ensured affordable

and uninterrupted energy supply to citizens, even during times of global uncertainty.

Highlighting India's achievements in the biofuels sector, the Minister noted that nearly 20% ethanol blending has been achieved in 2025, a significant rise from 1.53% in 2014. This accomplishment has resulted in 1.4 lakh crore in foreign exchange savings, substitution of 238 lakh metric tonnes of crude oil, a reduction of 717 lakh metric tonnes in CO emissions, and direct payments of 1.21 lakh crore to farmers. He also cited the expansion of CNG stations from 738 in 2014 to over 8,100 today and the provision of 10.33 crore LPG connections under PMUY, empowering women and improving health outcomes. "These numbers are not just achievements; they are milestones on our journey towards a cleaner, self-reliant energy future," he said.

Appreciating the dedication of petroleum dealers who serve over 67 million customers daily, Puri stated, "You are the physical interface between the Indian citizen and the national energy system." He emphasized that as India reduces crude oil imports, diversifies energy sources, and boosts renewables, the role of dealers becomes crucial in ensuring accessibility, availability, and affordability—the three pillars of energy justice. He lauded the dealer network's reach from Ladakh to Lakshadweep, ensuring fuel availability even during emergencies, natural disasters, and elections.

Puri called for a transformation of retail outlets into centres of customer excellence, where digital payments, automated billing, clean toilets, strict safety protocols, and effective grievance redressal become the norm. He urged adoption of technologies that enable zero pilferage, zero tampering, and complete transparency. He also emphasized the growing relevance of non-fuel services at outlets, such as convenience stores, EV charging, utility bill payments, and fintech services, which can enhance customer experience and provide new revenue streams. (PIB)

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Government Committed to Building World-Class Road and Transport Infrastructure for Viksit Bharat@2047: MoS Malhotra

NEWDELHI: Minister of State for Corporate Affairs and Road, Transport & Highways Harsh Malhotra addressed the Road and Highways Summit in Delhi.

Minister stated that under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and guidance of Nitin Gadkari, MoRTH is committed to build a world-class road and transport infrastructure that connects people, drives economic growth, and ensures safety and sustainability for all.

Malhotra stated that over the past 11 years, the Ministry has worked tirelessly to turn Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's vision into reality—connecting cities, empowering communities, and accelerating development through an unprecedented pace and scale of highway construction.

Minister stated that these modern highways are not just roads they are lifelines of progress, connecting people, industries, and opportunities and by expanding the network, the government has redefined the very experience of travel—making it faster, safer and significantly more comfortable for every citizen.

Malhotra stated that the national highway network has expanded from 91,000 km in 2014 to over 1.46 lakh km today, making it the second-largest road network in the world.

Minister quoted that the government's spend-

ing on road infrastructure has grown 6.4 times between 2013-14 and 2024-25 and the budget allocation for road transport and highways has

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seen a 57% increase from 2014 to 2023-24, reflecting the government's unwavering commitment to connectivity, mobility and economic growth.

Minister also stated that in recent years road infrastructure has created 45 crore man-

days of direct employment, 57 crore man-days of indirect employment and 532 crore man-days of induced employment which demonstrates the substantial impact of infrastructure projects on



job creation across various sectors.

Malhotra also stated that more than 10000 kms of National Highways (NHs) constructed in North Eastern Region (NER) during the past decade, which demonstrates PM Narendra Modi Ji's commitment to the region.

Malhotra mentioned the Delhi Decongestion Plan, which aims to reduce the traffic congestion

and pollution in the city and would improve connectivity in the city. The plan includes extension of Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway (NE-5) from KMPE till UER-II (NH-344M) in Delhi and Haryana, Extension of UER-II (NH-344M) near Alipur till Delhi-Dehradun Expressway (NH-709B) near Tronica City in Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, Construction of a Road Tunnel starting from Dwarka Expressway (near Shiv Murti Mahipalpur) to Nelson Mandela Marg, Vasant Kunj.

Minister stated that the Ministry is in process of developing 700+ Wayside Amenities (WSAs) by 2028-29 that offer clean restrooms, quality food, rest areas, fuel stations, and EV charging points.

Malhotra said that the Ministry has accorded top priority to the Road Safety and stated that 14000 accident prone blackspots have been rectified. Minister also applauded the successful implementation of schemes like the Good Samaritan Scheme and the Cashless Golden Hour Scheme.

Malhotra stated that with initiatives like the Green Highways Policy and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', the Ministry has planted over 4.78 crore trees and transplanted around 70,000 trees along national highways. (PIB)

Union Minister Meghwal inaugurates 'Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh' at Shastri Bhawan to promote women's health and well-being

NEWDELHI: In a first-of-its-kind initiative towards institutionalising workplace wellness within the corridors of government, the Department of Legal Affairs, Ministry of



Law and Justice, today inaugurated the Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh—a thoughtfully designed health, fitness and wellness space exclusively for women employees of the Department.

The facility was formally inaugurated by the Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Law and Justice, Arjun Ram Meghwal, in the presence of Law Secretary, Dr. Anju Rathi Rana, senior officers of the Department and a large gathering of women officials. The event included a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, plaque unveiling and a walkthrough of the newly developed space.

Nestled within the Shastri Bhawan premises, the Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh has been carved out of a previously unused garage space—now transformed into a vibrant, wellness-focused zone with gym equipment and a private lactation room for nursing mothers. The facility is envisioned as a space to encourage physical fitness, mental well-being and work-life balance for women employees.

Speaking at the inauguration, Meghwal praised the Department for the initiative, describing it as a meaningful stride in realising Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Hum Fit Toh India Fit' campaign. He emphasised that the well-being of women employees is essential to building a truly fit and inclusive India, and encouraged them to make full use of the space.

Law Secretary Dr. Anju Rathi Rana spoke about the deeper message the initiative carries—and the everyday challenges women face in prioritising their health amid professional and personal responsibilities. "Women often set aside their own well-being while caring for others. This space is a gentle reminder that self-care is not selfish, it is foundational to empowerment," she said. Dr. Rana added that the Department remains committed to creating an inclusive work environment that values the holistic well-being of its employees.

The Mahila Aarogyam Kaksh is more than just a wellness room—it's a quiet but firm shift in how we imagine government offices. Not merely as spaces of administration, but as workplaces that acknowledge the human needs of those who serve within them. In aligning with the Fit India Movement and the vision of a Viksit Bharat, this initiative places dignity, health and inclusion at the heart of institutional culture. (PIB)

Indian Youth Need Guidance, Tech Support, and Policy Backing to Build Viksit Bharat: Lok Sabha Speaker at JITEM Youth Conclave

GURUGRAM: Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Friday emphasized that Indian youth require the right guidance, technological support, and robust policy frameworks to realize the vision of a developed India (Viksit Bharat) by 2047. Addressing the JITEM Youth Conclave 2025, organized by the Jain International Trade Organisation (JITO) in Gurugram, Birla highlighted the crucial role of social and community-led organizations in the holistic development of both society and the nation.



Birla asserted that the spirit of Antyodaya—uplifting the last person in the queue of development—is a shared national responsibility. He lauded the Jain community's efforts in embodying this ethos, calling them "inspiring and exemplary."

Speaking on the potential of Indian youth, the Speaker said they are not just job seekers but are fast transforming into job creators. "They have the passion to change, the capacity to shape the future, and the zeal to build the nation," he said, adding that initiatives like Start-up India, Skill India, Make in India, and the Green Energy Mission have channelized youth energy in a constructive direction.

Birla noted that JITO is more than just a trade body—it is an institution that brings together innovation, entrepreneurship, and the spiritual principles of Jainism, including the teachings of Lord Mahavir. "It is a platform where new technology, ideas, and innovations are shared," he said, commending the organization's contribution to India's economic, educational, and social development through various initiatives.

Highlighting the widespread impact of the Jain community, Birla said that their ethical conduct and spiritual values have helped them excel in trade, industry, social service, politics, science, and governance—not just in India, but globally. "Their guiding principles—moral thought, social cooperation, service, renunciation, peace, and goodwill—are pillars of collective progress," he said.

Touching upon India's democratic journey, the Lok Sabha Speaker reminded the audience that many skeptics had doubted India's capacity to sustain democracy post-independence. However, India had not only proved them wrong but evolved into a vibrant, deeply rooted democracy, thanks to its long-standing traditions of dialogue, social effort, and unity during crises.

The conclave brought together youth leaders, entrepreneurs, and changemakers from across the country under the banner of JITO, providing a platform for ideation and action aligned with the goal of nation-building. (PIB)

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