



Terror Ecosystem Dismantled, Fear Eliminated: LG Manoj Sinha

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Interacts with members of Indian Chamber of Commerce

SRINAGAR: Asserting that the people of Jammu and Kashmir have

this change, and J&K has now come at par with other regions of the country.”

LG Sinha said that train has connected Kashmir with Kanyakumari in spirit and development. “Days of

and progress,” he added.

Recalling the grim past when Pakistan-backed shutdowns paralysed Kashmir, the LG said, “There used to be 150 days of hartals in a year at the behest of Pakistan. Terrorists dictated terms,

clear sign that the youth of Kashmir have rejected Pakistan’s propaganda and embraced peace,” he said.

He praised the peaceful conduct of Lok Sabha and Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir, which recorded the highest polling percentage in 35



stood firmly against Pakistan and terrorism sponsored by it, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said that the fear of terrorists and their ecosystem has ended in the region.

Interacting with the members of Indian Chamber of Commerce (ICC), here, LG Sinha said,

“During the past five years, the people of Kashmir have stood firm against Pakistan and its disruptive agenda. Everyone has acknowledged

fear are over and Jammu and Kashmir is marching on the path of peace, prosperity, and integration with the rest of the nation,” he added.

Highlighting the change in the ground situation, LG Sinha said that in the past, Pulwama was synonymous with violence, but today the district has more industries than Srinagar. “Hundreds of people from villages in Pulwama proudly joined the Tiranga Yatra this year, showing their faith in peace

and after any encounter in which a terrorist used to get killed, schools, colleges, and markets across the Valley were shut forcibly. That dark chapter has ended.”

He said, “Now Lal Chowk remains open till late in the night, and there is a new vibrancy in Kashmir’s streets.”

LG Sinha also pointed out the major dip in terrorist recruitment, noting that only one local youth has joined terrorist ranks this year. “This is a

LG Sinha also pointed out the major dip in **terrorist** recruitment, noting that only one **local youth** has joined terrorist ranks this year. “This is a clear sign that the **youth** of Kashmir have rejected **Pakistan’s propaganda** and embraced peace,” he said.

years. “Politicians freely carried out their campaigns till late in the night, something unimaginable in the past,” the LG said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, “Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed a remarkable transformation under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and the region is now emerging as one of the favourite

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MeT Issues Weather Alert In J&K For 2 days

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SRINAGAR: The weatherman here has predicted heavy rainfall across Jammu division and two districts of Kashmir in the next 48 hours, saying there is a possibility of cloudburst and flash floods in Jammu division as well.

An alert has been issued by the local Meteorological Department (MeT) here for the next 48 hours for two Kashmir districts, including Anantnag and Kulgam, and all ten districts of the Jammu region.

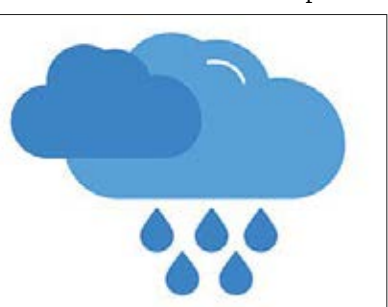
The weatherman has said there is a possibility of cloudburst, landslides, and flash floods in Jammu division over the next 48 hours.

While the alert has been issued, the season’s first snowfall was recorded at Razdan Top in Bandipora district.

An Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng has said that the temperatures in mountains have significantly dropped, which is a transition to

autumn.

Moreover, the reports of hailstorm have also been reported from Yachama area of Kangan in Central Kashmir’s Ganderbal district and also from Bandipora district as well.



trict as well.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, in a detailed forecast, has predicted light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places till August 26. He said heavy rainfall is expected in Jammu, Reasi, Udhampur, Samba, Rajouri, and Kathua, while moderate to heavy

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Rajnath Singh to visit flood-hit Kishtwar today

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SRINAGAR: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to visit the flood-affected areas of Kishtwar district on Sunday, as rescue and relief operations continue for the ninth consecutive day following a devastating cloudburst in the Chasoti village.



Sources said, that Rajnath Singh is expected to review the ongoing rescue efforts, meet affected families, and take stock of the relief

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CM Omar Urges Students To Push Boundaries, Explore Beyond Limits

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JAMMU: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah addressed the TEDx event at JK Public School Kunjwani as chief guest, inspiring students



to challenge limits and embrace the theme “Beyond Boundaries”.

Speaking to a hall full of students besides other eminent speakers and school administration, the Chief Minister said boundaries exist everywhere, in geography, politics, laws and borders, sometimes for good reasons, sometimes as restrictions. He noted that

people often create self-imposed boundaries shaped by experiences or stereotypes. “These limits may be real or imagined, but every great exploration and advancement of civilisation has come from crossing boundaries,” he said.

Encouraging students to aim high, he urged them not to let boundaries hold them back. “Set lofty goals. Unless you test your limits, you cannot carve a unique identity for yourself,” he said. He advised them to speak up, ask questions and never let hesitation silence them. Gender, background or appearance, he added, should never be hurdles to achievement.

At the same time, he reminded students to distinguish between restrictive or imaginary boundaries and the laws of the land. “Go beyond boundaries, but do so lawfully. Goals must never be pursued by breaching the law,” he said.

“Set many goals and spend your life

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Hindi Emerges as bedrock of country’s shared identity, cultural unity: LG Sinha

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SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Saturday addressed the youth during an event “Hindi Rangmanch - Humari Bhasha, Humari Pehchaan” organized by Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti at Tagore Hall, Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the remarkable efforts of Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti towards the promotion of the official language Hindi in Jammu Kashmir.

“In the last 75 years, Hindi has become the language that connects the country and our shared culture. During the freedom struggle, Hindi language was considered the medium for exchanging sentiments of the entire country. Hindi is not only a medium of communi-

cation but is also a symbol of pride, integrity, unity and identity for us Indians. It has played a very important role in weaving our diversity into the thread of unity. Our



policy makers had stressed that there should be harmony between Hindi and other languages of the country,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that India is a multilingual country

where 453 living languages are officially spoken and among these 453 languages, Hindi has been the connecting link for 140 crore Indians. He asked the youth to maintain

He also appreciated the endeavours of the **Culture Department** and J&K Academy of Art, **Culture & Languages** to promote J&K’s **linguistic** heritage.

linguistic harmony and learn and respect other languages. Along with Hindi, we should be proud of all our languages. Apart from our mother tongue,

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BJP Welcomes Govt Takeover Of 200 Schools Affiliated To Banned Jel In Kashmir



JAMMU: The Jammu and Kashmir BJP has welcomed the takeover of over 200 schools affiliated to the banned Jamaat-e-Islami (JeI) in the valley and said the Lt Governor-led admin-

istration has secured the future of thousands of students by this action.

BJP vice president Priya Sethi said the JeI and its affiliate Falah-e-Aam Trust (FAT) misused the sacred platform of education to spread radicalisation instead of knowledge.

“By seizing control of these schools, the government has broken this vicious cycle and secured the academic future of thousands of innocent students,” Sethi, who is a former education minister, said in a statement here.

She said the Ministry of Home Affairs had rightly declared the JeI as an unlawful association because

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Bottimline

Khelo India Water Fest Wraps Up on High Note at Dal Lake

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SRINAGAR: The Khelo India Water Sports Festival—India’s first-ever national-level competition under the flagship Khelo India programme, concluded on Saturday on the calm waters of Dal Lake.

Over the past three days, from August 21 to 23 (today), the iconic lake turned into a sporting arena where “rowing, canoeing, and kayaking” were contested for medals, while water skiing, dragon boat racing and a lively shikara sprint added colour and cultural vibrancy.

As per details, around 400–800 athletes from 36 states and Union Territories competed in the medal events, while many more participated in the demonstration showcases.

The event was organised by the Sports Authority of India and the J&K Sports Council, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. In the run-up to the festival, clean-up campaigns and intensified dewatering operations were carried out in Dal Lake, ensuring

the environment remained clean and highlighting the eco-friendly spirit of the event.

Speaking during these days, Bilquis Mir, Olympic canoeing judge, said this is not just an event, but the beginning of



a new era for water sports in our country. “This festival will serve as a major inspiration for our young athletes.”

Mohsin Ali, J&K state champion, said this festival is a dream come true for athletes like him who grew up paddling on Dal Lake.

A local shikara operator and water sports athlete said the festival will open new opportunities not only for sportspersons but also for those living around Dal Lake. “I want athletes to enjoy their visit and experience the vibrant life on Dal,” he said.

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Notably, the Khelo India Water Sports Festival 2025 marked a noteworthy step in mainstreaming aquatic athletics under the Khelo India initiative.

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J&K HC, UNICEF India Organize Annual Consultation On Safeguarding Girl Child

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SRINAGAR: The Juvenile Justice Committee of the High Court of

inabad, Srinagar.

The programme was inaugurated by Chief Justice, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, Arun Palli, in the august



Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in collaboration with UNICEF India today organized a one day Annual Stakeholders’ Consultation on “Safeguarding the Girl Child: Towards a Safer and Enabling Environment for Her in India” at the Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, Moom-

presence of Justice Sindhu Sharma (Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Committee), Justice Rajnesh Oswal, Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd. Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, and Justice

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Govt will continue with reforms to make India a developed nation by 2047: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said the country will soon become the world’s third-largest major economy and asserted that the government will continue with reforms to make India a developed nation by 2047.

Modi said the next-generation GST reform process will be completed before this Diwali. It will make the GST law simpler and bring down prices.

The Prime Minister asked the private sector to increase investment in research & development in various sectors, including clean energy, quantum technology, battery storage, advanced materials and biotechnology.

Speaking at the Economic Times World Leaders Forum, the Prime Minister said India is the fastest-growing major economy in the world today.

“We are soon going to become the third-largest economy in the world. Experts are saying that India’s contribution to the world’s growth is going to be around 20 per cent very soon,” he noted.

The growth and resilience seen

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ADC Jammu reviews arrangements for JKSSB Junior Engineer Examination

JAMMU: Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu Ansuya Jamwal convened a meeting to review arrangements for the smooth conduct of the OMR based written examination for the post of Junior Engineer (Electrical and Civil), being conducted by the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) on 24th and 31st August 2025.

It was informed that on 24th August, 18 examination centers have been established in District Jammu for 5793 registered candidates, while on 31st August, 26 centres will cater to 9431 candidates. The exam will be held from 11:00 AM to 01:00 PM on both days.

The ADC asked for strict enforcement of prohibitory orders under BNSS-163

around all examination centres during the examination hours. Ansuya Jamwal asked Principals and

centres one day before the examination and ensure that no unauthorized person other than officials on duty be allowed



Heads of Institutions to coordinate with the deployed Centre Superintendents, Deputy Superintendents, invigilators and support staff as per JKSSB guidelines. She instructed that staff to inspect the

inside the premises. The meeting also discussed deployment of Magistrates and Observers at each centre, provision of vehicles through RTO Jammu for safe transportation of examination material

and security arrangements by Police to ensure smooth conduct and traffic regulation. PDD was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply and SSB officials to maintain strict vigil on examination day.

The ADC emphasised close coordination among departments and adherence to instructions for fair and transparent conduct of the examination, assuring all possible support to facilitate the appearing candidates.

The meeting was attended by AC Nazool Vinay Sharma; SP South Ajay Sharma; Secretary SSB Atul Sharma; District Education Planning Officer B.D Sharma, Executive Engineers from line departments and other concerned officers.

DC Reasi discusses plan for implementing Adi Karamyogi Abhiyan at Block level

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a debriefing session with officials who had participated in the UT-

will be identified in every block from key departments including Education, Medical, Forest, Jal Shakti, and Rural Development



level workshop under the Adi Karamyogi Abhiyan.

The meeting focused on reviewing key takeaways from the workshop and charting out a comprehensive plan for implementing the initiative at block and 44 identified tribal villages.

During the deliberations, it was decided that Master Trainers

Department (RDD). These trainers will be imparted structured training as per the scheduled modules, enabling them to further disseminate knowledge and practices at the grassroots.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner directed that Village Level Committees be constituted in a time-bound manner. These committees,

working in close coordination with the Master Trainers, will prepare and implement village-specific action plans with a special focus on the welfare of tribal communities and ensuring that the benefits of the initiative reach the last mile.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of inclusive and participatory development. She added that The Adi Karamyogi Abhiyan is a unique opportunity to strengthen grassroots governance and empower our tribal communities. With the active involvement of all stakeholders, we can ensure that the vision of holistic welfare and sustainable development is realized in every village of Reasi.

The session concluded with directions to all concerned departments to work in close synergy and submit a timeline-based roadmap for effective roll-out of the programme at both block and village levels.

DC Rajouri approves 43 relief cases under SDRF norms



RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall to finalize relief cases received from various tehsils of the district under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

During the meeting, all cases related to disaster management and livestock loss were meticulously reviewed. A total of 38 cases of fully and partially damaged kachha and pacca houses were approved, in addition to 05 cases of livestock loss comprising 81 cattle heads caused by recent disasters.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the need for timely disbursement of relief assistance to ensure swift support and rehabilitation for the affected families.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Chander Prakash, ACR, Mohd Jahangir Khan and all Tehsildars of the district.

DC Samba inspects provision of amenities in Child Care Institutions, interacts with inmate children

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan visited the Social Welfare Department-run Child Care Institutions, Parisha (Girls) and Palaash (Boys).

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner undertook a detailed inspection of key facilities, including the store room, pantry, sick room, recreation room, dining hall and kitchens.

She reviewed the standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and overall upkeep of the premises to ensure that the children are being provided with a safe and nurturing environment.

The DC also interacted warmly with the children, motivating them to pursue their education with dedication and to make the

best use of the opportunities and facilities available. The institutions currently provide

positive environment within the homes. She emphasized that the government remains



amenities such as a library, yoga sessions, recreation spaces, and other supportive services designed for the holistic growth and development of the children.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the staff to ensure proper care, nutritious meals, and a

committed to safeguarding the welfare and empowerment of children, particularly those residing in institutional care.

The visit was accompanied by District Social Welfare Officer Samba, Nawaz Sharif and other concerned officials.

“Hospital on Wheels” Brings Quality Healthcare to Bhimdassa Village

RAMBAN: In continuation of its efforts to take healthcare to the remotest corners, the District Administration Ramban, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, organized a “Hospital on Wheels” Mobile Medical Camp at Village Bhimdassa, Tehsil Gool.

The initiative, aimed at bridging the healthcare gap in hard-to-reach areas, provided on-the-spot medical consultations, essential diagnostics, free medicines, and vital health awareness to the rural population.

A dedicated team of doctors and paramedical staff attended to over 175 patients, including 159 General OPD cases and 16 Dental consultations. The camp

also conducted essential tests such as blood sugar, anaemia, and malaria. Screenings for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Tuberculosis (under

sensitized villagers about flagship schemes like JK SEHAT, PMJAY, E-Sanjeevani, NTEP and ABDM, while stressing the importance of preventive healthcare and healthy



NTEP) were undertaken, ensuring early detection and timely intervention.

Furthering the vision of digital health, 35 ABHA IDs were generated under the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM). The medical team also

lifestyle practices. The outreach drive is a part of a series of medical interventions designed to strengthen last-mile healthcare delivery and improve health outcomes across inaccessible and far-flung areas of the district.

Deputy Commissioner reviews academic activities, arrangements for Sports Festival at PG College Rajouri

RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, visited the Government Post Graduate College Rajouri to inspect the facilities



and review preparations for the upcoming Sports Festival. During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed round of the college campus and inspected classrooms, the multipurpose conference

hall, playground, and the botanical garden. He also interacted with faculty members and students, encouraging them to actively contribute to enhancing the academic and co-curricular environment of the institution.

Reviewing the arrangements for the Sports Festival, the DC stressed the importance of promoting a vibrant sports culture to ensure holistic development of students.

The DC also reviewed the college's ongoing academic initiatives and took stock of activities being carried out under the Nisha Mukta Abhiyan, stressing the need for consistent awareness programmes to keep students away from substance abuse.

Principal of the College, Zameer Mirza, along with other staff members, accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

Mission Director HADP reviews Mid-Line Correction of HADP Projects

JAMMU: Mission Director HADP/JCIP Sandeep Kumar today chaired meeting in the Conference Hall Directorate of Agriculture, Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo to review the mid-line correction of HADP Projects P1 "Development of Seed and Seed Multiplication chain in PPP mode", P9 "Farm Mechanization and Automation", P14 "Promotion of Floriculture", P15 "Rainfed Area Development (RAD)", P20 "Innovative Approaches in Agricultural Extension" and P28 "Development of Fodder resources in J&K".

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Joint Directors, Scientists and officers from SKUAST-J, DSCO Jammu, Technical Officer HADP (DAJ) and other senior officers. The Directors and senior officers from Agriculture and Allied Departments Kashmir, along

with officers from SKUAST-K, joined the proceedings through video conferencing.

implementation. He highlighted that the success of HADP lies in its ability to adapt and align with



During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held to finalize the formats, recommendations, mid-term proposals, address implementation bottlenecks and propose necessary mid-term corrections in the identified projects to ensure smooth execution and timely outcomes.

Addressing the gathering, the Mission Director emphasized the importance of timely mid-line correction in the identified projects to ensure better outcomes and effective

the emerging needs of farmers, technological interventions, and regional requirements.

He further stressed on the need for strong inter-departmental coordination, timely reporting, and field-level monitoring to achieve the envisaged goals of the programme.

The Mission Director urged all departments and stakeholders to work with a result-oriented approach, keeping farmers at the centre of planning and execution.

DC Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma chairs NCORD meeting to review anti-drug measures

Emphasizes Inter-Departmental Coordination, Community Involvement to eliminate the menace

POONCH: To further strengthen the anti-drug measures, Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD). The meeting reviewed ongoing drug control measures and assessed the performance of enforcement departments in curbing drug trafficking and abuse.

The meeting was attended by SSP Shafiq Hussain Bhat; ADCT Tahir Mustafa Malik; ACR Mohammad Sayeed; CMO Dr. Mohammad Parvaiz; District Social Welfare Officer Khalil Ahmed Bhanday, Medical Superintendent, ACP, college heads, Tehsildars, CID officials, Inspector MVD, Drug Inspector, Forest Department representatives and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner held an in-depth review of anti-narcotic operations across tehsils. SDMs and Tehsildars presented area-specific reports on the status of drug addiction and the monitoring of chemist shops. The ACP informed that Panchayat-level anti-drug

campaigns have already begun, with encouraging



community participation.

The College Principals shared details about students' awareness and prevention programs being organised in the Educational Institutions. The CMO highlighted

ongoing counseling services, medical interventions, and sensitization drives being carried out through health centers.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the DSWO to intensify the awareness campaign, while directing the College Principals to mobilize the NSS units for such initiatives in their localities.

He stressed the importance of involving high and higher secondary schools in awareness efforts to secure the future of youth and prevent them from falling into harmful habits.

The Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) was directed to take timely action to eliminate cannabis plantations and enhance surveillance to prevent illicit cultivation.

The SSP presented recent enforcement data and called for continued coordination among departments. He also directed law enforcement units to submit monthly reports on drug-related cases and trends for a more structured approach toward tackling the issue.

Khelo India Water Sports Festival: Mohsin Ali, Sajad & Muhammad Hussain bring laurels for J&K

SRINAGAR: Mohsin Ali, Sajad Hussain and Muhammad Hussain all hailing from humble backgrounds around Dal Lake have brought laurels for Jammu and Kashmir UT at the national stage in the Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF), 2025.

Mohsin won the gold in K-1 1000 metre men's kayaking, Sajad silver in C-2 500 metre Canoe Slalom, and Hussain silver in C-2 Canoe 500 metres men and bronze in C-1 Canoe 1000 metres men.

The three medals enabled hosts J&K finish seventh among 28 states and Union Territories that took part in the Games.

The families of all three water sports athletes struggle to make ends meet, yet they encouraged their children to participate in water sports events, and one of the reasons for this is their confidence in SAI.

The SAI centre, set up at Nehru Park inside Dal Lake, is playing a major role in turning around the careers of these water sports athletes.

Mohsin, Sajad and Hussain have all been training at the SAI's Nehru Park Centre and honing their skills under the guidance of SAI's water sports coaches. Sajad said that the centre not only provides training to them but also all possible support.

"When we used to train at the Nehru Park Centre in the mornings, our SAI coach Zulfkar Ali Bhat would drop us at school after training as the school would start soon after the training at the centre.

We used to put on our school uniform in his car after training at the centre," he said.

Hailing from the Mir Bahri area in the interiors of the Dal Lake, Sajad said that being a Shikarawallah's son, it was difficult to venture into endurance sports like canoeing, as it requires a proper diet, besides hard work and proper training.

Muhammad Hussain, said that he had faced numerous hardships on the way to his success and was thankful to

SAI, which had set up the SAI centre at Nehru Park, which was instrumental in his success.

"We aren't well off financially, and if we were to train on our own, it would not be possible for us to excel," he said. "It was the training that we got at SAI Jammu centre at Nehru Park that made a difference."

Hussain said that training at the centre and participating in sports also keeps youth away from the menace of drug addiction.

Mohsin Ali, also echoed similar sentiments and said that without the SAI's support, he could not have won the gold as his family too was living from hand to mouth, and he himself would ride a Shikara to assist with the family's income.

Their Canoeing and Kayaking coach at SAI's Nehru Park centre, Zulfkar Ali Bhat, said that as India is bidding for the 2036 Olympics, the SAI Jammu centre at Nehru Park is working on long term plans like having the talent and resource pool ready for the event.

Drug Control Officer inspects Medical Shops in Sangaldan

RAMBAN: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, the Drug Control Officer Ramban today conducted an inspection drive in the Sangaldan area to ensure strict compliance with regulatory norms governing medical shops and establishments.

The inspection focused on verifying the functionality of CCTV cameras, computerized billing systems, and registration status of chemist shops, besides checking that psychotropic drugs are not misused and are dispensed strictly against valid medical prescriptions.

During the inspection, records of sales and the availability of medicines were scrutinized. The Drug Control Officer also checked CCTV footage from several establishments to ensure adherence to prescribed norms and prevent any irregularities in the sale of prescription drugs.

Medical shop owners were sensitized about the importance of strict compliance with guidelines, transparency in operations, and digital record-keeping of sales and purchases for effective monitoring of medicine supply chains.

The Officer further issued strict instructions that any violation of the provisions of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act will invite stern action.

DC reviews functioning of Common Service Centres in Poonch District

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the status of government services facilitated through Common Service Centres (CSCs). The meeting aimed to ensure that the general public can effectively access portal-based services in the district.

District Manager of CSC Imtiaz Ahmed provided an overview of the CSC operations and the services offered. It was informed that there are 330 Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) and 23 CSC touch points functioning



in government offices across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need for launching special awareness campaigns to encourage

the maximum number of citizens to avail the benefits of CSC services.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner instructed the Centre Operators to work in an organized manner and establish a regulatory body to improve operational effectiveness.

The meeting was attended by General Manager DIC, CPO, ACP, ACR, CMO, Xen JPDCL, DSWO, ALC, Manager SICOP, District Informatics officer, LDM, District Manager CSC Poonch along with VLEs.

CS reviews Development Works In Budgam; Assures District's Economic Transformation

● Emphasizes timely implementation, saturation of development, welfare schemes

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BUDGAM: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, visited Budgam to take stock of progress on various ongoing developmental works and flagship schemes undertaken by different departments in the district.

He assured all possible help in uplifting the economy of Budgam through timely project completion, saturation of welfare schemes and effective implementation of developmental programmes.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, presented sector-wise detailed report on the District Capex Budget 2024-25 and 2025-26, financial and physical progress on works, status of languishing projects and other flagship programmes.

The Chief Secretary stressed that all schemes whether Centrally Sponsored or UT Capex must be implemented in letter and spirit to yield real benefits for the people. He directed the concerned departments to achieve 100 percent coverage of all eligible beneficiaries so that no one is left out.

Underscoring the need for accountability and grassroots presence, the Chief Secretary instructed the officers to frequently undertake field inspections to assess the real-time status of schemes and projects, ensuring that maximum benefits reach the targeted beneficiaries. He directed the executing agencies to strictly adhere to timelines and expedite the pace of ongoing projects.

The Chief Secretary asked the Agriculture Department to enhance production of exotic crops and vegetables besides ensuring proper functioning of Kissan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) and expanding



the Kisan Credit Card coverage.

He asked the Sheep and Animal husbandry departments to boost mutton and poultry production. He also asked the horticulture department for providing proper guidance to the orchardist for maximum benefits.

The Chief Secretary directed the agriculture and allied departments for ensuring stronger coordination to reap maximum output under HADP. He asked the FCS&CA to strengthen the PDS distribution across the district.

The Employment Department was tasked with scaling up training programmes under Mumkin, Tejaswini and Mission YUVA. The GM DIC was directed to support the unemployed youth

in establishing units.

The RDD was asked to expedite the completion of PMAY houses and enforce door-to-door waste segregation in coordination with PRIs. The Education authorities were told to rationalize the teaching staff and ensure functional toilets and drinking water facilities in schools.

While reviewing PMGSY, PWD and Jal Jeevan Mission works, the Chief Secretary directed the concerned to complete the projects within set deadlines.

Atal Dulloo also instructed the departments to identify the pending works under earlier schemes and finish them without delay. Emphasizing tourism promotion, the Chief Secretary called

for development of Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan and Yousmarg with proper sanitation, hutments, cafeterias and visitor amenities to enhance the tourist experience. He also stressed on convergence of MGNREGA with other schemes to provide sustainable employment and create durable rural assets.

On the occasion, the Chief Secretary interacted with the beneficiaries of welfare schemes. He distributed approval certificates for dairy, mushroom, apiculture, embroidery and agriculture units besides handing over keys of subsidized tractors and farm machinery to them at DC office complex Budgam.

Later, the Chief Secretary, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, inspected three major infrastructure projects including 125-bedded District Hospital Budgam, 100-bedded Critical Care Unit at Reshipora and Transit accommodation for the Kashmiri Migrants at Kakanmaran Budgam. He directed the concerned agencies to expedite work and ensure timely completion.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the government is committed towards uplifting Budgam's economy through proper implementation of schemes, timely completion of projects, promotion of agriculture and tourism besides creation of new employment opportunities.

He directed the Deputy Commissioner to regularly monitor all developmental works, obtain daily feedback from district officers and ensure strict adherence to timelines.

The review meeting was attended by heads of Agriculture, Horticulture, Education, Health, RDD, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Employment, Industries, Command Area Development, PWD, PMGSY, Jal Shakti, KPDC and other district and sectoral officers.

Rana inspects 1.125 MGD rapid sand filtration water treatment plant at Mehjoor Nagar



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SRINAGAR: Minister for al Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, conducted an extensive inspection of the 1.125 Million Gallons per Day (MGD) Rapid Sand Filtration Water Treatment Plant (WTP) at Mehjoor Nagar, Srinagar.

Accompanied by MLA, Ahsan Pardi and senior officers of the department, the Minister reviewed the plant's operations, treatment capacity and service delivery mechanisms.

During the inspection, the Minister emphasized the significance of sustained water

quality and efficient distribution.

He lauded the efforts of the field staff and engineers but noted the pressing need to match the infrastructure capacity with the growing population demands of the city.

The Minister also reviewed the functioning of Water Supply Scheme (WSS) at Padshahi Bagh, which currently serves a population of approximately 35,000 residents, with raw water sourced directly from the River Jhelum.

The Minister issued on-the-spot directions for augmentation

of the WSS through installation of a new 2.00 MGD Water Treatment Plant.

To facilitate this capacity upgrade, Rana directed the Chief Engineer, PHE Department, to expedite the acquisition of 6 kanal of land required for the expansion.

He emphasised stronger coordination between the district administration and revenue authorities to complete the land transfer at the earliest.

"The Government led by Omar Abdullah remains steadfast in its commitment to provide safe and adequate drinking water to every household," Rana stated.

The Minister reiterated that such inspections will be a regular feature to monitor on-ground progress, identify bottlenecks and ensure timely project completion under the Jal Jeevan Mission and allied urban water supply initiatives.

Chief Engineer, PHE, Superintending Engineer PHE, Executive Engineers and other technical staff were present during the inspection.

DC Kupwara reviews functioning of Common Service Centres



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KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the functioning of Common Service Centres (CSCs) across the district.

DC took a detailed review of the services being provided through CSCs including Aadhaar enrolment, Ayushman Bharat, e-Shram, PM Kisan, revenue services, online utility payments

and other citizen-oriented facilities. He appreciated the role of CSCs in bridging the digital divide and ensuring last-mile delivery of e-governance services in rural and border areas of the district.

It was informed in the meeting that there are 1451 active CSCs in the district which provide the digital services to the people.

DC directed the Revenue and Rural Development departments to provide

necessary support to strengthen functioning of CSCs.

He also directed all Tehsildars to monitor functioning of CSCs through on spot inspections on a regular basis.

Considering the important role of CSCs in bridging the digital divide, he directed the Information department and District Manager CSC to ensure wide publicity of services being provided by CSCs so that benefits can be availed by people in the district especially in far flung areas.

He also directed concerned officials to ensure necessary infrastructure to establish the first Digital Excellence Centre at the headquarters in coming months.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Kupwara, ACD Kupwara, all Tehsildars and BDOs as well as line departments & District Manager CSC.

DC Ganderbal presides over distribution camp for Children with special needs

FE News Network

GANDERBAL: In a significant step towards promoting inclusive education, district administration Ganderbal organized a distribution camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) at Government Middle School, Rampora Ganderbal.

The camp was presided-over by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, as the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, DC commended the efforts of the Education department and applauded the determination of specially-abled children who have excelled in various fields despite all odds.

He emphasized that education plays a transformative role in shaping a person's life and urged parents to encourage and support their children so that they can become self-reliant and active contributors to the society.

During the programme, various aids and appliances provided by Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) under Samagra Shiksha were distributed among the beneficiaries, including wheelchairs, hearing aids, Braille kits, CP chairs, educational TLM kits, and smartphones. These assistive devices aim to enhance mobility, learning, and communication for Children with Special Needs and other deserving individuals.

On the occasion, Chief Education Officer Ganderbal, Oneel Kumar, highlighted the importance of empowering CWSN through education and outlined several initiatives undertaken by the Education department to ensure inclusive learning opportunities.

Justice Rajnesh Oswal visits Anantnag, reviews functioning of judiciary

Discusses various matters, administrative issues

FE News Network

ANANTNAG: The Administrative Judge for district Anantnag, Justice Rajnesh Oswal Saturday conducted an official visit to Anantnag to review and discuss various matters concerning the functioning of the judiciary



and related administrative issues in the district.

During the visit, the Judge held detailed interactions with judicial officers, administrative officials, and representatives of the Bar Association Anantnag. The discussions focused on improving judicial infrastructure, ensuring speedy disposal of cases, and strengthening coordination between the judiciary and the district administration.

He also took stock of ongoing development works related to court complexes and emphasized the importance of creating a people-friendly justice delivery system. Issues pertaining to case pendency and disposal were addressed by the Administrative Judge on the top priority, and directed the Judicial Officer to show extraordinary performance in disposal of the cases. Justice Oswal appreciated the efforts of the judiciary and administration in Anantnag and directed them to work in close coordination for an efficient justice delivery system.

DC Bandipora chairs NCORD meeting, calls for intensified action against drug menace

FE News Network

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday presided over a meeting of the District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) Committee at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, to assess the district's efforts in enforcement, awareness, and rehabilitation under the anti-drug campaign.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl, presented the action taken reports from line departments. The meeting reviewed in detail the measures implemented to curb drug abuse, including enforcement drives, community sensitization programmes, rehabilitation of affected individuals, and steps taken to address vulnerable hotspots.

During the deliberations, DC underlined the need for strict action against drug peddlers and directed departments to strengthen inter-agency coordination for better law enforcement. She urged all stakeholders to scale up awareness campaigns, particularly focusing on the youth, while also involving community forums and educational institutions to spread the message of a drug-free society.

SSP Bandipora, Harmeet Singh Mehta, during the discussion gave a brief about the impressive action taken by District Police in this matter which has made an impact in the circulation of the menace

related articles in the district.

DC further impressed upon officers to adopt a multi-pronged and sustained approach combining enforcement, prevention, and rehabilitation, assuring full support of the district administration in this regard. It was reiterated that tackling drug menace is a collective responsibility and not the sole task of police.

On the occasion, DC directed the ALC to work in coordination with the Drug Control Inspector and asked the Medical Officer, Addiction Treatment Facility Bandipora, to focus on outreach campaigns in synergy as there is no point working in isolation when the enemy is the same.

She also stressed keeping the helpline functional, using tele-consultation, and ensuring coordination among DDAC, ATF, Health, ALC, Law, and Information departments.

SSP Bandipora, also informed

that properties of drug peddlers had been sealed and awareness campaigns intensified. He shared updates on acquittal cases and the status of RDA initiated against government employees involved in drug abuse.

The meeting was attended by ADC Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Chief Prosecution Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Medical Superintendent DH Bandipora, Assistant Labour Commissioner, Assistant Regional Transport Officer, District Information Officer, Assistant Drug Controller Officer Bandipora, District Youth Services & Sports Officer, Tehsildar Bandipora, Chief LADC, District Nodal Officer AYUSH/ISM, BDOs, representatives from FSS, Excise & Taxation, Medical Officer ATF Bandipora, Medical Officer DDAC, besides Coordinator J&K Students Welfare Mission, Ashtangoo.

Secretary RDD inspects progress on Niwas at Kheer Bhawani Temple Tulmulla

Directs for strict adherence to timeline for project completion

FE News Network

GANDERBAL: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) & Panchayati Raj, Aijaz Asad, inspected the ongoing construction work on Yatri Niwas at the revered Mata Kheer Bhawani Temple, Tulmulla, to assess the progress and expedite timely completion of the project.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, Director RDD, Shabir Hussain Bhat, Executive Engineer REW, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Ganderbal and Block Development Officers of Ganderbal, Lar and Tulmulla.

During the site visit, the Secretary reviewed the completed phases of the work and sought a detailed briefing on the timelines for the remaining components. He directed the Executive Engineer REW to accelerate the pace of construction. He



instructed that any issues, particularly those related to fund availability, be reported promptly to avoid unnecessary delays. Emphasizing the importance of the project, Aijaz Asad underscored the need for strict adherence to the approved timeline and quality standards.

J&K can become India's water sports capital: Satish Sharma

Minister urges athletes to spread message of peace, prosperity

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir has the potential to emerge as the "Water Sports Capital of India" if it continues to receive people's blessings and support, Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, said on Saturday.

The Minister also thanked coaches and parents for their dedication, calling athletes the "ambassadors of peace, prosperity and love."

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the Khelo India Water Sports Festival (KIWSF) at SKICC Srinagar,

Minister Sharma, as per the news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the mega event has turned into a true celebration of sports, youth and the spirit of J&K.

"This festival not only showcased sporting excellence but also reflected how sports inspire us, unite us and help build a stronger and healthier society," he said.

The Minister congratulated the J&K team for its performance among 28 participating teams and lauded athletes from Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Kerala and others.

He also thanked coaches and parents for their dedication, calling athletes the "ambassadors of peace, prosperity and love."

Editorial

From Strife to Stability

The words of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, spoken at a gathering of the ICC in Srinagar this weekend, paint a picture of a region transformed. They speak not just of government policy, but of a profound shift in the public mood, a collective exhale after decades of held breath. For years, the narrative around Jammu and Kashmir was dominated by conflict. The names of places like Pulwama were synonymous with violence, evoking images of hartals, fear, and a society held hostage by Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. As the LG rightly recalled, it was not uncommon for life to grind to a halt for 150 days a year at the behest of forces across the border. Terrorists dictated terms, and the shadow of the gun loomed large over schools, markets, and daily life. That chapter, it appears, is decisively closing. The evidence, as presented, is compelling. The starkest symbol of this change is the sight of Lal Chowk, the historic heart of Srinagar, bustling with activity late into the night, a simple act of normalcy that was once unimaginable. The statistic that only one local youth was recruited into terrorism this year is a powerful testament to where the aspirations of Kashmir's young people truly lie. They are choosing hope over hatred, and opportunity over obstruction.

This transformation is most vividly demonstrated by the people themselves. The fact that hundreds from Pulwama, once an epicenter of unrest, joined the Tiranga Yatra speaks volumes. The record voter turnout in recent elections, with politicians campaigning freely after dark, is a resounding affirmation of faith in the democratic process. This is not a change imposed from above; it is a conscious choice made by the people of Jammu and Kashmir, who have stood firm against a disruptive agenda and embraced a future within the Indian mainstream.

This newfound stability is the bedrock upon which economic prosperity is being built. The announcement of investments worth thousands of crores is a vote of confidence from the business community. When the ICC chooses to hold a major meeting in Srinagar, it sends an unambiguous message to the world: Kashmir is open for business. The region is shedding its old identity and emerging as a viable and attractive investment destination, with improved connectivity linking it spiritually and physically to the rest of the nation, from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Of course, the path to lasting peace and prosperity is continuous. While we acknowledge and celebrate the immense progress, the focus must remain on nurturing this fragile peace, ensuring that development is inclusive, and that the dividends of this new era reach every citizen. The government's role in providing handholding and support to investors is crucial, but the real architects of this new Kashmir are its people. The journey of Jammu and Kashmir is turning a corner. The days of fear are giving way to nights illuminated by vibrant marketplaces. The echo of gunfire is being replaced by the sound of construction and enterprise. This is a new dawn, forged by the resilience of its people and a collective will for a peaceful, prosperous future. It is a story that the entire nation welcomes and supports.

Entertainment, Employment, And Ethical Responsibility



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Since the digital revolution in India, the world of online gaming has been one of the most fascinating and controversial in the way mobile and internet have influenced people's lives. The increasing reach of smartphones, fast internet and the popularity of digital platforms among the youth have led to rapid expansion of this sector. But while on the one hand e-sports and skill-based games have put India on the world map, on the other hand trends like money-based games, betting apps and gambling have worried both society and the government. In this background, the central government has recently approved the Online Gaming Bill. This bill is not only important from an economic and social point of view but will also determine the direction of India's digital policy in the future.

This bill clearly states that any real money based gaming or online betting will be banned. Along with this, there is also a provision to ban the advertisement, promotion and financial transactions of such games. This simply means that banks and financial institutions will not process transactions related to such games in any form. With this provision, the government wants to ensure that tendencies like gambling do not spread in the society due to greed for money.

But the biggest feature of this bill is that it promotes e-sports and skill-based non-economic gaming. The government has made it clear that it wants to promote e-sports as a sport. In the coming times, an institution like the "National E-Sports Authority" can be established, which will work towards making e-sports India's representative at the international level. This step will not only legitimize digital sports but will also provide opportunities to millions of youth who want to make gaming a career.

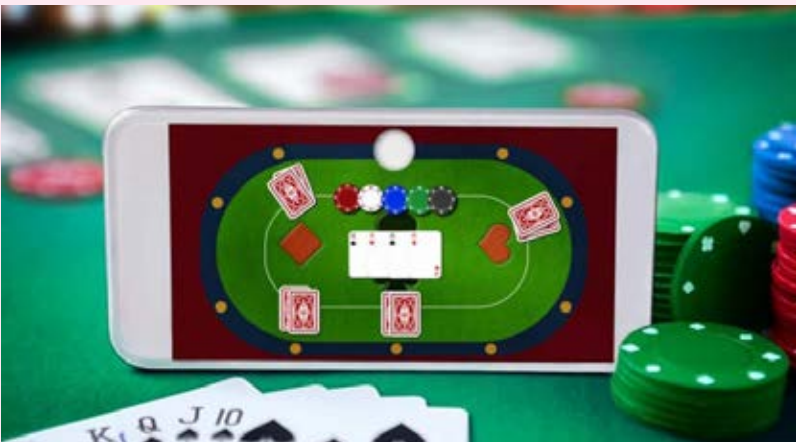
Another important aspect of this bill is that under this, the Ministry of Information Technology (MeitY) has been assigned the role of central regulator. The ministry will have the right to block unregistered or illegal gaming platforms. This arrangement has been made with the aim of protecting consumers from fraud and illegal activities. Till now, the rules related to online gaming in India were different in different states. Somewhere it was considered legal and somewhere it was banned. In such a situation, making a national level framework

was the need of the hour.

This bill is not just a document of rules and laws but there are deep social and psychological reasons behind it. In the last few years, it has been seen that addiction to online betting and real money games has ruined the lives of many young people. In many cases, people played by taking loans and families were destroyed. Addiction to

level, as we have seen in badminton, wrestling or cricket. Apart from this, by promoting non-economic games, children's entertainment will also remain within safe limits.

On the other hand, critics believe that the government should have chosen the path of "strict regulation" instead of "complete ban". If money-based gaming was



mobile games is also having a deep impact on mental health among children. The government also realizes that preventing this problem is as important as preventing drug addiction. Many experts have called it more dangerous than drug addiction because it directly controls the mind without any physical substance.

However, the industry's view is completely different. The gaming industry says that this bill has put about two lakh jobs at risk and may also affect the GST revenue of twenty thousand crores rupees received by the government every year. Companies like "Dream11", "Games24x7", "Winzo" have been doing business worth crores of rupees for a long time. They say that if the domestic platform is completely banned, users will turn to foreign and offshore platforms, where there will be neither any control of the government nor protection of consumers. On the contrary, this will only cause losses.

Both sides of this debate have their own arguments. The government argues that it is important to protect society from gambling and drug addiction, while the industry believes that this sector is a big part of the country's digital economy and eliminating it would be detrimental to both youth employment and innovation. The real challenge is how to strike the right balance.

Supporters of the bill say that this step will not only ensure social security but will also channel the energy of the youth in the right direction. By encouraging e-sports, India can win medals at the international

controlled under a license system and strict taxation, not only would the government get revenue but consumers would also be protected. The problem with a complete ban is that people will run towards underground or foreign platforms and the government's control will become even weaker.

This debate is not limited to India only. Many countries of the world have different views on online gaming. In many parts of America and Europe, it has been legalized under strict rules and tax system. At the same time, countries like China have imposed restrictions on gaming time for children. India has not yet made any clear national policy in this direction, which is why confusion and inequality remained at the state level.

Now the question arises what will happen next? This bill will be introduced in the Lok Sabha and it is possible that there will be amendments in it. In view of the concerns of the industry, the government can show some leniency. For example, "fantasy sports" can be considered a skill-based game and limited permission can be given. Similarly, there can be an agreement between the government and the industry through taxation and regulation.

But one thing is certain that this bill is an important milestone in India's digital journey. It forces the country to think about how to balance technology and society. Technology in itself is neither good nor bad, its use makes it good or bad. If online gaming can give youth a career, employment and international recognition, then it is

positive. But if the same gaming breaks up families, drowns youth in debt and promotes crime, then it is dangerous.

Therefore, it is important that the government, industry, society and family all come together to find solutions. Parents will have to keep an eye on their children, educational institutions will have to teach digital literacy, the industry will have to adopt self-regulation and transparency and the government will have to strike a balance between regulation and incentives.

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The Online Gaming Bill is not just a law, it is the blueprint for the future of our society. It forces us to think whether we will allow the digital revolution to become just a means of entertainment and gambling or make it an opportunity for education, employment and global competition. It remains to be seen how this bill will be implemented in the coming years and what impact it will have on society. But one thing is clear that this debate will reach every home in India, because mobile and internet are now in every pocket and gaming is the choice of every age.

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When Emotions Move At The Speed Of Light



Faheem ul islam

There was a time when emotions moved slowly. They had patience. They travelled through handwritten letters that took days to arrive, through eyes that spoke in silence, through voices that trembled during a long pause. Now, our emotions travel faster than we can process them. They light up on screens, shaped into emojis, punctuated with likes, and measured in views. A smile is now a yellow circle, love is a red heart, and grief is a broken heart icon. Somewhere between handwritten notes and instant messages, we have begun to ask ourselves: are we truly emotional, or just digitally emotional?

The truth is, emotions have not disappeared. If anything, they are everywhere, surrounding us in endless digital streams. Every morning begins with a rush of feelings that arrive before we even step out of bed. We scroll through updates and are pulled into other people's lives: a wedding celebration, an exam result, a political rant, a tragedy. Within a few minutes, we have felt joy, envy, anger, and sympathy—all without saying a word to another human being. This intensity of emotion was once rare; now it is routine. The question is whether such emotions still have the same depth when experienced through screens.

Take, for instance, the way friendships unfold today. Earlier, a friend's presence was measured in shared walks, hours of conversation, and simple gestures like showing up at the door unannounced. Today, friendship is measured in streaks on Snapchat, in daily likes on Instagram, in remembering to respond with the right emoji at the right time. Young people can speak to each other all day through messages, yet feel strangely distant when they meet face to face. The digital world makes friendships constant

but not always deep. We feel close, but often only as close as our Wi-Fi connection allows.

Family life has not escaped this transformation either. In many households, the dining table has become a place where everyone eats with one hand and scrolls with the other. Parents complain that children are "always on their

the risk of curating emotions for an audience. Online, sadness is dressed up as poetry, joy is filtered through perfect pictures, and anger is amplified into arguments that attract attention. We do not always show what we truly feel; we show what we think will be noticed. The pressure to be visible sometimes overshadows the need



phones," but sometimes they forget they are guilty of the same. A father checks his emails in between bites, a mother scrolls through reels before bed, and children disappear into endless chats. The emotional fabric of families is still there, but it is stretched thinner by devices that compete for attention. It is not that love has disappeared—it is simply that we now express it in shorter, distracted ways. Of course, the digital space is not empty of genuine feeling. In fact, it often makes people bolder in expressing what they might otherwise keep hidden. A shy student may never tell his teacher in person that he feels nervous, but he may write it in a late-night message. A child may find it difficult to say "I miss you" to his/her parents face to face, yet says it easily with a heart emoji. In this sense, technology has become a bridge for emotions that once struggled to find a voice. For many, it feels safer to express themselves online because the screen provides a shield from judgment.

But with that freedom comes a certain risk:

to be authentic. A person may laugh loudly on a reel but feel hollow in reality. Another may post cheerful pictures while fighting loneliness in silence. The performance of emotions often becomes more important than their sincerity.

This is where the digital world tricks us. It makes us believe we are sharing everything, while in fact we may be hiding the most important parts of ourselves. The constant stream of reactions—likes, comments, shares—becomes a substitute for deeper validation. We feel noticed, but not always understood. We feel surrounded, but not always held. It is a strange paradox: never before have we expressed so much, yet never before have so many felt so unseen.

And yet, I cannot bring myself to condemn digital emotions as false. They are real in their own way. A message of encouragement received at the right time can brighten someone's day. A late-night call can comfort a lonely heart. A shared joke online can ease the weight of stress. The digital world may not replace human presence,

but it does extend it. It allows emotions to travel across distance, to reach people we may never meet in person. It creates a new kind of intimacy—fragile, yes, but still valuable.

The challenge, then, is not whether we should be digitally emotional but whether we can remain fully human while doing so. Are we letting screens dictate the rhythm of our feelings? Or are we using them to support the emotions that make us human—love, empathy, care, and kindness? The danger lies in forgetting that the screen is only a medium. It can carry emotion, but it cannot create it.

Perhaps the balance lies in remembering the small, ordinary acts that digital life cannot replace. Sitting with a friend in silence when words fail. Listening without distractions. Smiling without emojis. Writing a letter that takes time and effort. These are not old-fashioned; they are timeless. They remind us that emotions are not meant to be consumed quickly like posts on a feed. They are meant to be lived, slowly, deeply, and in the presence of others.

So, are we digitally emotional? Yes, we are. But we must also remain emotionally human. Digital platforms should be bridges, not prisons. They should extend our connections, not replace them. At the end of the day, a heart on a screen cannot beat like a real one. A like cannot replace love, and a comment cannot replace comfort. What we must guard against is the illusion that it can. The most advanced technology is not the phone in our pocket or the app on our screen. It is still the human heart—messy, vulnerable, unfiltered. As long as we remember that, our emotions, whether digital or physical, will remain what they were always meant to be: the thread that ties us to one another.

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Chief Secretary visits Pediatric & Orthopedic health facilities in Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, conducted a detailed inspection of two premier healthcare institutions in Srinagar



– the 500-Bedded Government Children Hospital, Bemina, and the Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla. He was accompanied by Secretary, Health & Medical Education Department, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Principal, Government Medical College Srinagar, Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah; and Administrator, Associated Hospitals GMC

Srinagar, Mohammad Ashraf Hakaak.

At the Children Hospital, Bemina, the Chief Secretary took an extensive round of various sections including the NICU, PICU, Dialysis Centre, Pediatric Super-specialty wards, and Pediatric Surgery theatre. He

ment to fast-track construction of the upcoming Diagnostic Block, which will house CT, MRI, and Digital Radiography facilities, along with provisions for vertical expansion by three additional floors to accommodate more super-specialty ser-

ity Rate (IMR) to levels below the national average, the Chief Secretary stressed on the need to set new milestones for further growth, consolidation, and expansion of services. He also expressed satisfaction over the fellowship programmes initiated in Pediatric Neonatology and Neurology, and the proposed fellowship in Pediatric Nephrology. It was further informed that MD seats in General Pediatrics will be enhanced from 17 to 21.

Later, at the Bone & Joint Hospital, Barzulla, the Chief Secretary inspected patient care facilities and took a comprehensive round of the newly inaugurated 160-bedded hospital block. He assessed the availability and utilization of facilities and emphasized the importance of ensuring quality orthopedic care for patients across the Kashmir Valley. He further observed that the enhanced bed capacity, OTs and other infrastructure should proportionately enhance the patient care and treatment up to the satisfaction of all seeking treatment at this tertiary care hospital of the valley.

Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary reaffirmed the government's commitment to strengthen healthcare infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. He underlined that the administration is focused on expanding specialized medical services, upgrading facilities, and ensuring equitable access to quality healthcare for all of the citizens.

DC Bandipora interacts with students on natural resource preservation

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Saturday presided over a discussion on 'Roots and Wings – Growing with Nature' organised at Chittermar Bandipora to spread awareness among students about environmental conservation and sustainable living.

During the programme, students shared powerful messages on the importance of protecting nature.

Speakers highlighted that nature is greater than wealth, technology, or human power, and destroying it would ultimately lead to our own destruction. They urged participants to save the environment for future generations, stressing that climate change is a universal issue that demands collective action. Students presented excellent talking points on the future plan of action with regards to environmental protection.

In a friendly conversation with the children, DC stressed on practical actions like rainwater harvesting and waste segregation. She said it is easier in Bandipora to collect the water as the roof tops are sloppy.

She urged students to make their families aware of correct waste management and not to give wet waste to

Training School Chittermar underlined the importance of such initiatives in sensitising youth and called for more



Municipal Committees and prepare compost from it in their homes. She reminded the audience that while older generations neglected the environment, the youth must take the lead in preserving it for the future.

On the occasion, Principal, Forest

awareness drives that combine classroom learning with field exposure in forests.

The event witnessed participation of Padma Shri Awardee Faisal Ali Dar, school children, teachers, and officials from the Forest Department.

DC Kulgam convenes DLIC meeting, approves 67 new cases under PMAY-U 2.0

FE NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: To review the implementation and progress of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY)-Urban 2.0 in the district, a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) was today convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, at the Mini-Secretariat here.

At the outset, DC took a comprehensive appraisal of the scheme's implementation across Municipal Council Kulgam and the three Municipal Committees of the district.

It was informed that so far 226 cases have already been approved in previous DLIC meetings in the district. Moreover, 67 new cases were placed before the committee and approved today under PMAY-U 2.0.

DC directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the scheme guidelines so that all genuine

and eligible beneficiaries in the urban areas of the district are covered under the programme.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan;



Tehsildars of Kulgam, Yaripora, Frisal and Devsar; CEO Municipal Council Kulgam; Executive Officers of MCs; District Coordinator PMAY-U 2.0; and other concerned officers.

DC Pulwama reviews physical/ financial progress of District Capex Budget 2025-26 & CDF scheme

Calls for coordinated efforts, timely execution and strict monitoring to ensure effective delivery of developmental works

PULWAMA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired a review meeting here, to assess the physical and financial progress of the District Capex Budget 2025-26 and Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme.

At the outset, Joint Director Planning (CPO Pulwama) presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation on sector-wise status of works, covering areas including Minor Irrigation, Roads & Buildings, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, Urban Development, Jal Shakti, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Power, and Rural Development along with ongoing as well as new works under the Aspirational Block Development

Programme (ABDP) and Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP).

During the meeting, Dr. Qayoom reviewed the status of approved works in detail and called upon the concerned officers to ensure time-bound completion of projects while maintaining quality standards. He also emphasised that officers of various departments must work in close coordination to ensure seamless execution of works and to maximise the impact of developmental funds at the grassroots.

While reviewing assembly-wise projects under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Dr. Qayoom asked the officers to expedite the pace of execution and resolve all bottlenecks so that the benefits of these works are delivered to the people well within set timelines. He further directed for regular monitoring and reporting of works to ensure transparency, accountability and effective utilisation of funds.



Emphasizing the importance of timely project delivery, DC set clear timelines for estimation, tendering, allotment, and execution of works sanctioned under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 & CDF

scheme and directed all concerned departments to adhere strictly to the deadlines.

"District Capex Budget and CDF scheme are key instruments for local development, aiming to strengthen infrastructure, improve service delivery, and address sector-specific needs of the community," DC reiterated while emphasizing the strong inter-departmental coordination, timely completion and proper implementation of works.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Superintending Engineers and Executive Engineers of KPDC, R&B, and Hydraulics; Assistant Commissioner Development, Pulwama along with BDO Arupal/Achegoze; Chief Medical Officer, Pulwama; Exen Ground Water and Exen Rew; District Youth Services & Sports Officer Pulwama; Chief Executive Officer, Pulwama and Executive Officers of other municipalities.

DC Srinagar chairs DLC meeting on JKCIIP; approval accorded to several applications

FE NEWS NETWORK

Also reviews progress in implementation of Holistic Agriculture Development Plan in Srinagar

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, chaired the 2nd meeting of District Level Committee (DLC) here at DC Office Complex to review and approve applications under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIIP) in district.

The meeting focused on enhancing the competitiveness and resilience of farming in the district.

During the meeting, the Committee reviewed and discussed in detail the applications received from various sectors under the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIIP). After comprehensive deliberations, the Committee approved several cases from Agriculture, Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Fisheries, Horticulture, Sheep Husbandry and allied sectors under the initiative.

On the occasion, DC highlighted the objectives of the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project. He said CIPS is aimed to contribute to a sustained increase in the incomes of households by improving the farming operations and competitiveness, besides building resilience against climate change. He directed all departments to implement the scheme in mission mode and ensure transparent, time-bound execution of approved projects.

He called upon the Bank authorities to integrate the bank processes with that of the JKCIIP portal to streamline service delivery and enhance coordination. He stressed on giving swift approvals to the applications submitted by the beneficiaries in line with the scheme guidelines. He also emphasized

timely sanctioning of the approved cases under priority sector.

DC stressed on swift processing and sanctioning of beneficiary applications, streamlining bank processes with the JKCIIP portal, clearing pending cases, enhancing enrolments and ensuring timely processing of beneficiary data on Daksh Kisan portal.

He directed all implementing departments to



ensure transparent and time-bound execution of the approved projects and called for regular follow-up and coordination so that the initiative yields tangible results in terms of productivity, employment generation and quality produce.

Meanwhile, DC also reviewed the progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Plan (HADP) in the district and underscored the need for inter-departmental coordination, robust implementation strategies, and regular evaluations to maximize the scheme's impact on agricultural growth and employment generation in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Assistant Director Fisheries, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, LDM (Banks) and other concerned.

DLSA Srinagar organizes legal awareness programme on POCSO Act, drug abuse at GGHSS Soura

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: To sensitize students about the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, menace of drug abuse, and the importance of consumer protection and available legal remedies, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, today organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Soura.

The programme was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar.

On the occasion, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defence Counsel, threw light on the significance of the POCSO Act, emphasizing the need for awareness and early intervention to safeguard children from abuse. She also deliberated on the growing challenge of drug abuse, its detrimental effects on youth, and the legal as well as rehabilitative measures available.

Furthermore, she highlighted consumer rights and the legal remedies accessible to individuals in cases of exploitation.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members, fostering an engaging dialogue on rights, protection, and legal support mechanisms.



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Terror Ecosystem

investment destinations in the country.” “Investments worth thousands of crore rupees have already arrived in J&K, with new industries and opportunities being created for the youth,” he said. The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the efforts of the Indian Chamber of Commerce to promote the interests of trade, commerce, and industry in Jammu Kashmir. He said the ICC’s members meeting at Srinagar will provide a platform for net-working and collaboration for local businesses. “India is one of the oldest civilizations in the world. For us, relationships are not transactional. It is based on compassion and brotherhood. Our unique cultural heritage and traditional values have made our economy resilient and established India as a great and powerful nation.

By organizing this meeting in Srinagar, Indian Chamber of Commerce has also assured the industrial ecosystem that no terrorist force can ever subdue India. This event in Srinagar is a huge statement against the enemies of our great nation and it will inspire Industries in J&K to aim for greater goals,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor spoke about the investment opportunities, prevailing peace and economic transformation taking place in Jammu Kashmir over the past few years.

“Under the leadership of PM Modi, Jammu Kashmir is witnessing the industrial revolution and UT of J&K has emerged as an attractive destination for investment. We have achieved historic milestones in road, air, and rail connectivity, successfully extending the reach of industrial investment to every corner of Jammu & Kashmir,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also lauded the significant contribution of the Indian Chamber of Commerce in policy advocacy, partnership with the global business community and discharging its responsibility of connecting investors, regulation for a business-friendly environment and increasing India’s competitiveness in the global market.

He said the role of the Indian Chamber of Commerce, as one of the important pillars of our strong economy is extremely important in the historic and transformative journey of India towards Viksit Bharat in 2047.

The Lieutenant Governor also thanked all the business leaders and stakeholders who have contributed to attracting domestic and foreign investment and establishing India as a stable and strong economy.

He assured industry players and potential investors of all necessary support and handholding to explore profitable investments and economic opportunities in J&K.

Abhyuday Jindal, President, Indian Chamber of Commerce and Managing Director, Jindal Stainless Limited; Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Department; Dr. Rajeev Singh, Director General Indian Chamber of Commerce; Rahul Sahai, Chairman, ICC Jammu Chapter; Khalid Wani, Chairman ICC Kashmir Chapter; business leaders, members of Indian Chamber of Commerce and senior officials were present—(KNO)

MeT

rainfall or intense showers are expected in Poonch, Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar, as well as in the southern parts of Kashmir division.

Ahmad said hot and humid weather is expected, with brief spells of rain and thunder at a few places from August 27 to 31.

He added that generally hot and humid weather, with brief spells of rain and thundershowers, is expected at a few places from September 1 to September 5.

Moreover, in its advisory, the MeT has appealed to people to stay away from water bodies, streams, Nallam River embankments, loose structures, kacha houses, etc.

The MeT has advised the concerned authorities to follow precautions accordingly—(KNO)

Rajnath Singh

measures. The cloudburst, which struck on August 14, triggered massive flash floods and has so far claimed at least 65 lives, with over 70 people still missing. Rescue teams, including personnel from the Army, NDRF, SDRF, and local administration, remain engaged in large-scale operations to locate the missing persons—(KNO)

BJP Welcomes

of its anti-national agenda, and the recent takeover of 215 of its affiliated schools is a strong step to put an end to this “dangerous misuse of education”. “This move is yet another step under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to safeguard the future of the youth and ensure that education in the Union Territory remains free from radical influence.

“Despite being projected as a socio-religious body, the JeI was actively involved in spreading separatist ideology and creating a mindset of hostility against India. Its affiliate FAT-run schools were being misused to indoctrinate young children, rather than providing them with modern and progressive education,” she said.

The BJP leader said institutions linked to JeI and FAT were never about genuine education or empowerment.

“They were hubs of indoctrination, trying to create generations detached from the mainstream of progress. Children who deserved modern education, scientific thinking and growth opportunities were instead being exposed to regressive propaganda. This betrayal of trust by JeI and FAT cannot be forgiven,” she said.

Sethi said such organisations never worked for the welfare of society but rather acted as breeding grounds of extremism, misguiding generations of Kashmiri youth and pushing them away from the mainstream.

“By taking direct control of these schools, the government has ensured that no student will ever again be used as a pawn in the separatist agenda,” she said, praising the Narendra Modi government for its firm resolve in protecting the nation’s future by striking at the root of radical networks.

“Modi has given a clear message that education will not be allowed to become a tool of separatism,” she said.

Under his leadership, Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a transformation where schools will now serve their real purpose – nurturing talent, unity and nation-building,” Sethi said.

The BJP leader assured parents that government supervision will bring transparency, accountability and quality to these schools.

“Our children will now study in an environment of positivity and patriotism, without the shadow of radical ideology,” she said, adding that the BJP stands committed to supporting every initiative to secure the future of the youth and to build a peaceful and developed Jammu and Kashmir. (PTI)

Hindi Emerges

we should also learn other languages and spread the cultural and literary heritage of those languages,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Speaking about the discussion held in the Constituent Assembly on 14 September 1949, the Lieutenant Governor said that when the debate was going on in India on the selection of the official language, Hindi got the most support from those areas where Hindi was not spoken.

For our Freedom Fighters, Policy Makers, Hindi was linked to the identity of the nation. They saw Hindi as a thread of harmony and it has further enriched the diversity present in our cultural heritage, he said.

He also appreciated the endeavours of the Culture Department and J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages to promote J&K’s linguistic heritage.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the students, teachers and artists for their exceptional participation in a campaign launched by Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti in the month of June-July this year in four Kendriya Vidyalayas to generate interest in Hindi language among students of class 6th to class 10th through various activities.

Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma; Param Vir Chakra recipient (Honorary Captain) Yogendra Yadav; MD & CEO J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee; Deputy Commissioner, KVS, Jammu, Nagendra Goyal; National President Wadies Hindi Shiksha Samiti, Nasreen Ali Nidhi; senior officials, prominent literary personalities, heads of educational institutions and youth in large number were present—(DIPR)

CM Omar

striving to achieve them. The pursuit itself is worthwhile, no matter what the outcome,” the Chief Minister told the gathering.

Other speakers who shared their ideas at the event included educationists such as Prof Amitabh Mattoo and Usha Mani.(DIPR)

PM Modi

in the Indian economy are due to macroeconomic stability in the last 10 years, Modi said. On key economic fundamentals, the Prime Minister said India’s fiscal deficit has been reduced to 4.4 per cent despite challenges posed by the COVID pandemic.

Indian companies are raising record funds from capital markets, he pointed out.

Banks are much stronger now, inflation is very low, interest rates are low, and the current account deficit is in control, he asserted, adding that forex reserves are strong.

Every month, the Prime Minister said, lakhs of domestic investors are putting thousands of crores in the capital market through SIPs.

When economic fundamentals are strong, the positive impact could be seen all around, he added.

Modi noted that the latest June EPFO data shows that 22 lakh formal jobs have been added, the highest-ever in a single month.

Retail inflation is at the lowest level since 2017. “For us, reforms are neither a compulsion nor

a crisis driver, but a matter of commitment and conviction,” he said.

Modi said the government evaluates and assesses each sector in a holistic manner before undertaking a series of reforms.

The Prime Minister said that during the just concluded Mosnoon session of parliament, the government continued with reforms despite disruptions caused by the Opposition parties. (PTI)

Khelo India

Organisers said the event aims to position Dal Lake as a national hub for water sports, much like how Gulmarg has emerged as India’s winter sports capital—(KNO)

J&K HC

Shahzad Azeem besides Judges High Court of J&K and Ladakh.

The inaugural session was attended by the Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, MD National Health Mission & Secretary Education and Skill Development.

The proceedings opened with a reminder of the timeless Sanskrit maxim that “where women are honoured, divinity prevails”, underlining that safeguarding and empowering the girl child is not merely a statutory duty but a sacred social obligation.

The speakers noted that despite constitutional and legislative safeguards, girls continue to face challenges of safety, discrimination, limited access to resources and societal biases, necessitating joint action by the State, judiciary, and civil society. In her welcome address, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi emphasized that safeguarding the girl child is a moral, constitutional and societal imperative. She stressed that while significant progress has been made through legislation and policy, the true challenge is to ensure that these protections reach the most vulnerable and voiceless children.

Justice Javed Iqbal Wani highlighted the stark realities faced by the girl child, including declining child sex ratios, barriers to education and higher mortality rates. He attributed these concerns to entrenched biases and economic factors, calling for a comprehensive approach combining stronger laws, awareness and empowerment measures.

Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary reiterated that ensuring safety and dignity for the girl child is not only a statutory duty but also a moral obligation of society at large. He acknowledged the progress made in Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, while stressing that continued collective effort is needed to overcome persisting challenges.

Vijay Lakshmi Arora, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF India, in her address, described the protection of the girl child as a moral imperative alongside a legal duty. Citing both progress and persisting challenges in Jammu & Kashmir, she highlighted that neonatal and infant mortality rates have seen remarkable declines and child marriage rates are among the lowest in India and sex ratios at birth have improved.

Delivering the keynote address, Justice Sindhu Sharma, Chairperson of the Juvenile Justice Committee, reflected upon the paradox of the girl child in India who is celebrated as a symbol of strength and resilience, yet disproportionately burdened with discrimination, poverty and violence. She called for a collective societal responsibility to translate the legal protections into lived realities of safety, dignity and empowerment.

In his Presidential address, Chief Justice Arun Palli emphasized the need to move beyond safeguarding to empowering the girl child. While acknowledging the constitutional and legislative safeguards in place, he underlined that true change lies in shifting societal mindsets and celebrating the girl child as an equal and indispensable part of India’s future.

The day-long consultation featured four thematic technical sessions; each chaired and moderated by distinguished experts and administrators, covering key areas of concern.

The first session focused on legislations, programs and schemes for the girl child in J&K and Ladakh, with senior bureaucrats and child rights experts presenting a detailed overview of government interventions and gaps.

The second session examined advancing gender equity through education and skill development, highlighting reforms in the school education sector of both Union Territories, as well as opportunities in vocational training, sports and digital literacy for adolescent girls.

The third session deliberated on enhancing the access to justice, legal aid and community support for at-risk girls.

Judicial officers, police officials and NGOs presented their experiences and field practices, stressing the importance of child-friendly policing, institutional collaboration and community awareness.

The fourth session addressed gender-based health inequities with health and nutrition officials of J&K and Ladakh discussing the maternal health, reproductive services, adolescent mental health and targeted interventions for nutrition under national flagship schemes.

The valedictory session was chaired by Justice Sindhu Sharma in presence of Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi.

Hilal Ahmad Bhat, Child Protection Specialist, UNICEF J&K, summarized the action points of the day and outlined the Action Plan 2025-26.

Special remarks were delivered by Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, followed by the valedictory address of Sonia Gupta, Member Secretary, Juvenile Justice Committee, who emphasized the need to carry forward the collective resolve into actionable frameworks.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Shama Sharma, Secretary, DLSA Rajouri.

The consultation also witnessed huge number of virtual participation from the various departments of UT of J&K and UT of Ladakh

The consultation reaffirmed the High Court’s

commitment, through its Juvenile Justice Committee, towards strengthening child protection systems and ensuring justice, dignity and equal opportunities for the girl child in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. (DIPR)

Usman Majid Expresses Concern Over Hailstorm Damage in Bandipora

Former Minister urges District Administration to send assessment team and provide immediate relief to affected farmers

BANDIPORA: Former Minister and Ex-MLA Bandipora, Usman Majid, has expressed deep concern over the heavy hailstorm that has hit several villages of Bandipora, including Mantrigram, Pazalpora, and Kralpora, causing extensive damage to crops and fruit orchards.

In a statement issued here, Majid said that the



sudden hailstorm has left farmers and orchardists in distress, as their standing crops and produce have suffered heavy losses. He urged the District Administration Bandipora to immediately depute a special assessment team to the affected villages in order to evaluate the scale of damage and take swift measures for relief and compensation.

Majid emphasized that agriculture and horticulture remain the backbone of Bandipora’s economy, and any natural calamity directly affects the livelihood of hundreds of families. He stressed the need for timely support so that the affected farmers do not suffer irreparable losses.

While extending solidarity with the farmers, Majid appealed to the concerned authorities to ensure that adequate relief is provided at the earliest, and necessary steps are taken to safeguard the interests of the farming community in these difficult times. (PR)

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION **BUDGAM.**
Engineering Complex Budgam

TENDER NOTICE

E-tendering NIT No:-27-DB of 2025-26/3493-3507 DATED:-21-08-2025.

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT, e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works.

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Cost of T/Doc.	Earnest money CDR/FD R / BG	Time of Completion (days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of account	Project Authority
1	Construction of link road taking off from Khanpora to Naraspora road near H/O Mufed and others by way of GSB and G-I II. Concrete path link road LHS of Main Khanpora road upto H/O Shabir Darzi and others at Khanpora	Rs. 2.46 lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.4920/-	20 days	DEE	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (Regular)	District Dev. Commissioner Budgam
2	Construction of Lane bund at Ompora behind Abelhadees Masjid	Rs. 3.00 lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.6000/-	20 days	DEE	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (Regular)	District Dev. Commissioner Budgam
3	Drain from House of Fayaz Ahmad Dar to the House of Aijaz Ali at Usmanabad colony	Rs. 5.62 lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.11240/-	25 days	DEE/ CEE	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (Regular)	District Dev. Commissioner Budgam
4	Road from House of Mushtaq Ahmad Bhat to House of Riyaz Ali at Usmanabad Colony	Rs. 5.14 lacs	Rs.300/-	Rs.10280/-	25 days	DEE/ CEE	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (Regular)	District Dev. Commissioner Budgam
5	Construction of Retaining wall to Approach road leading to District Court complex at Budgam	Rs. 20.00 lacs	Rs.800/-	Rs.40000/-	50 days	BEE/ CEE	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (Regular)	District Dev. Commissioner Budgam
6	Development of Syedabad colony Sheikhpora road.	Rs. 5.00 lacs	Rs.200/-	Rs.10000/-	25 days	DEE	District Capex Budget 2025-26 (Regular)	District Dev. Commissioner Budgam

Position of Funds= Project Authority/Authorization=

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per schedule of date given below:-:

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21-08-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	21-08-2025
3.	Bid submission Start Date	21-08-2025
4.	Bid Submission End Date	28-08-2025 Upto to 4.00 P.M.
5.	Date & time of opening of Bids	29-08-2025 at 11:00 AM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Budgam
6.	Submission of Performance Security (PS)	Within 7days of receipt of LOA. (The bidder has to provide 5% of allotted Cost as Performance Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG which shall subsequently release 2% CDR

No: 3493-3507
DATED:-21/08/2025

Sd/-
EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B Division Budgam.

DIPK-5469/25 Dt: 23-08-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT.

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
R&B DIVISION BARAMULLA.
NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

e-NIT No:- 37/4650-59/2025-26/RnB/Bla Dated 22.08.2025
(Fresh to NIT No: 26/3948-57/2025-26/RnB/Bla Dated 05.08.2025)

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K UT e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors Regd. on IKPWDOMS With J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works. The Contractors should mandatorily be registered on IKPWDOMS for making online payment to the agency as per Govt. Order No.: 186-PW(R&B) of 2023 dated 08-05-2023.

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Earnest money. (In Rs.)	Time of completion	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account	Project Authority	Position of AAA	Position of funds	
1.	Construction of compound walling at Deputy Commissioners office complex & Painting of Deputy Commissioner Office Complex Baramulla	20.00	40000/-	800/-	60days	B&C	MH- 4059- NFB D/S	District Development Commissione r Baramulla	Accorded (Order NO: 61/DB/CF of 2025 dt: 30.07.2025)	Available
2.	Impvt./Upgradation of al bathrooms of Deputy Commissioners office Complex Baramulla (Stage Contract)	8.00	16000/-	300/-	Upto ending March 2026 (as per direction Engineer Incharge)	A, B C & D	MH- 4059- NFB D/S	District Development Commissione r Baramulla	Accorded (Order NO: 61/DB/CF of 2025 dt: 30.07.2025)	Available
3.	Impvt./Upgradation of all bathrooms of Deputy Commissioners Residence Complex Baramulla (Stage Contract)	5.00	10000/-	200/-	Upto ending March 2026 (as per direction Engineer Incharge)	A, B C & D	MH- 4059- NFB D/S	District Development Commissione r Baramulla	Accorded (Order NO: 61/DB/CF of 2025 dt: 30.07.2025)	Available
4.	Upgradation/ Facelifting of District Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at Deputy Commissioner's Office Baramulla	10.00	20000/-	600/-	30days	C&D	SDRF	Chairman DDM Deputy Development Baramulla	Accorded (Order NO: 30/DCR/SD RF/ of 2025- 26 OF 2025 dt: 25.06.2025)	Available
5.	Construction / extension of Garages at Deputy Commissioner's Residence complex Baramulla	6.63	13260/-	300/-	20days	C&D	MH- 3054- Administ rative Charges	Deputy Development Baramulla	Accorded	Available

1. The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.iktenders.gov.in as per the scheduled date given below.

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22.08.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 23.08.2025 to 29.08.2025 4:00PM
3	Bid submission Start date	23.08.2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	29.08.2025 upto 4:00PM
5	Date and time of Opening of Bids (Online)	30.08.2025 upto 11:00AM in the office of the Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla

2. Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0052 mentioning there in the name of work/ NIT No. in the name of Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. (tender inviting authority) as the cost of the tender document.

3. At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG. Between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date, pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Baramulla. Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security @ 5% at the time of contract award in the form of CDR/FDR/BG (The Bank Guarantee should be valid for 45 days beyond DLP), strictly in accordance with the Government's circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of Performance Security of 5% of the Advertised Cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period

4. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.iktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site at the office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Division Baramulla.

5. All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 4650-59
Dated 22.08.2025
DIPK-5475/25 Dt:23-08-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Division Baramulla

National Space Day | An Indian To Announce ‘Viksit Bharat 2047’ From Moon In 2040: Dr Jitendra

NEW DELHI : In a speech blended with science, poetry, realism and future promise, Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh said that an Indian will announce “Viksit Bharat 2047” from the surface of Moon in 2040, and this will send a message around the universe that India has arrived.

Addressing the National Space Day programme at Bharat Mandapam here, Dr Jitendra Singh said, India’s space programme has, from its very beginning, been about more than rockets and satellites – it has been about empowering people, improving lives, and shaping a better future. He also referred to the recently concluded National Meet 2.0, held a decade after the first Mega User Meet in 2015.

“National Space Day is a reminder that India’s achievements in space are not an end in themselves but a stepping stone to a larger vision — where science, innovation, and public welfare come together to build the nation’s future,” Dr. Jitendra Singh said. The ISRO has created a valuable asset for India, he said, pointing to four astronauts Group Captain Subhanshu Shukla, Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair,

Group Captain Ajit Krishnan and Group Captain Angad Pratap who are preparing for Gaganyaan mission.

Recalling Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s call in 2014 to expand the use of



space technology in governance, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that the 2015 had set the vision for integrating space applications into flagship development programmes. “Ten years later, both the government and private sector have grown significantly in their space capabilities,” he said. He added that the second edition of the National Meet was preceded by nearly 300 interactions with user departments and produced close

to 90 documents, spanning over 5,000 pages, forming the foundation of a 15-year roadmap. The plan envisages the launch of over 100 satellites, 70 per cent of them small satellites, to be implemented through a mix of government technology missions and private sector-led operational missions.

According to Dr. Jitendra Singh, this roadmap will guide India’s space journey to 2040 and beyond, supporting the vision of Viksit Bharat by leveraging space technology for food and water security, disaster resilience, environmental sustainability, and inclusive growth.

Building on this vision, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that India’s space programme has entered a transformative phase where it is no longer confined to symbolic achievements but has become a vital contributor to the country’s scientific progress, technological innovation, and public welfare. At the event, he presented awards to students who won the Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon-2025 and the ISRO Robotics Challenge – URSC 2025 (IROC-U 2025).

Explaining the significance of National Space Day, Dr. Jitendra Singh

said the occasion is a reminder of how far India has travelled since the early years of space research, and how the nation has grown into a trusted partner in international missions. “India is no longer a follower; today, other nations look to India to add value to their missions,” he said. He underlined that the observance is not only about celebrating past achievements but also about introspecting on what more can be done to unlock future opportunities in space science and technology.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said that the opening up of the space sector to private players has brought in a new wave of innovation and entrepreneurship. From once being limited to government-led projects, India today has hundreds of start-ups engaged in developing technologies with potential applications in interplanetary exploration as well as in day-to-day governance. He pointed out that space technology has silently entered people’s lives, powering projects such as disaster management, infrastructure monitoring, smart city planning, housing programmes, and even land ownership mapping through drones. (PIB)

Taiwanese opposition survives another recall vote, referendum on nuclear power fails

TAIPEI: Opposition lawmakers easily survived recall votes in Taiwan on Saturday, but an opposition-backed referendum to bring back nuclear power failed.

The recall votes, the second in a month, were an attempt to restore ruling party control of the legislature after the Democratic Progressive Party lost its majority in a 2024 election.

The recall results were a second straight setback for the ruling DPP. The seven lawmakers from the opposition Nationalist Party all held onto their seats, as did 24 members of other parties in a first round of recall votes on July 26.

The Democratic Progressive Party won the presidency in 2024 but neither main party took a majority in the 113-seat legislature. The Nationalists, also known as the Kuomintang or KMT, won 52 seats, one more than the DPP.

The Nationalists have teamed up with a third party, the Taiwan People’s Party, to pass legislation, much to the consternation of the ruling DPP.

The referendum on nuclear power

Voters favoured a return to nuclear power by an almost three-to-one margin, but the total in favour fell short of a threshold of 25 per cent of eligible voters, or about 5 million votes, needed for approval.

The referendum was supported by 4.3 million voters and opposed by 1.5 million.

Taiwan shut down its last reactor in May under a DPP policy of phasing out nuclear power, which once provided about 20 per cent of the self-governing island’s electricity.

But the same month, the legislature approved a proposal from the Taiwan People’s Party to hold a referendum on extending nuclear power, with the support of the Nationalists.

The referendum asked voters if the most recently shut nuclear plant should continue operating, assuming regulators agreed it was safe to do so.

The last reactor at the Maanshan plant, one of three that Taiwan once operated, was shut three months ago after its 40-year operating license ran out.

Backers of nuclear power said it reduces electricity bills and helps meet the growing demand for power from artificial intelligence applications. (PTI)



“Health Knows No Boundaries; Collaboration Is The Key To Resilient Medical Device Ecosystem”: Agrawal

NEW DELHI: Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals chaired the session yesterday on “Leveraging Inter-sectoral Networking for Med-Tech Innovations” as part of the two-day South East and South Asia regional meet on “Health Research and Innovations in Public Health: Exchange of Good Practices across RESEARCH Plat-



form” organised by the Department of Health Research and the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at Sushma Swaraj Bhawan, New Delhi. The session brought together senior health functionaries from the governments and public health agencies from India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan and Timor-Leste to deliberate on strengthening health research systems, facilitate exchange of good practices and promote cross-border collaboration in South and Southeast Asia. The meeting is part of the Regional Enabler for South and Southeast Asia Research for Health (RE-SEARCH) Platform, which aims to foster solidarity, knowledge-sharing and collaboration among participating countries.

Addressing the session, Amit Agrawal, Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals underscored that “health knows no boundaries”. He observed that the COVID-19 pandemic has shown the critical need for collaboration, across borders, between sectors and among government departments and public health agencies, in creating resilient and strong healthcare systems.

Agrawal emphasised the need to strengthen the medical device sector ecosystem not only through technology and skilled manpower, but also by establishing internationally accredited laboratories, adopting glob-

ally harmonised standards and supporting clinical investigations for innovative devices to achieve economies of scale but aggregating demand beyond national borders. With the ongoing development of medical device parks in India and ICMR’s MedTech Mitra and Patent Mitra initiatives, clinical trial support schemes and strengthened re-

search platforms, India is systematically laying the foundation to emerge as a significant MedTech innovation hub. The Secretary also highlighted the contributions of the National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs) in developing skilled human capital. Specialised courses in medical devices are now being offered across seven NIPERs, and these have been opened to foreign nationals as well.

Agrawal stated that medical technologies will increasingly move beyond hospitals into households through digitalisation, thereby making healthcare more accessible and affordable. He also highlighted the importance of the Academia to Industry: Discovery Marketplace platform developed by the Department of Pharmaceuticals, which aims to enable connect industry, startups, academic and research institutes and other stakeholders in the pharma-MedTech sector for partnerships, collaborations and tie-ups for innovative products and promote breakthroughs for both commercial and public good.

Agrawal summed up the session by stressing the importance of RESEARCH PLATFORM in making the South East and South Asian region a global powerhouse for MedTech innovations. (PIB)

South Korea’s Lee in Tokyo to highlight friendly ties with Japan before key summit with Trump

TOKYO: South Korean President Lee Jae Myung held his first full summit with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Tokyo in a visit largely aimed at showcasing friendly ties between the two Asian neighbours that now face common challenges from the United States, their mutual ally.

Lee’s visit Saturday comes in an unusual order, putting Japan ahead of the US, to help him better prepare for his crucial first summit in Washington with US President Donald Trump, mainly on trade and defence issues.

His Tokyo visit before Washington is well received by Japanese officials who see it as a sign Lee is placing great importance to relations between the two neighbours whose ties have repeatedly been disrupted by historical disputes, hampering their trilateral coordination with Washington.

Noting Lee’s visit in Tokyo as the first destination of his foreign trip after taking office in June, Ishiba welcomed the South Korean president’s arrival at the Prime Minister’s Office and posted photos on social media platform X.

The two leaders first met in a closed, small group of officials before summit talks with expanded groups.

For Ishiba, who faces pressure from rightwing rivals within his governing party to resign over its July election loss, Lee’s visit and a successful summit could shore up his support.

Rintaro Nishimura, an associate with The Asia Group’s Japan branch, said the timing of Lee’s visit shows “his way of pragmatic diplomacy” with a focus both on bilateral and trilateral relations with the US.

“Obviously tariffs play a big part, but I also think it was a gesture from Lee to show that Japan is very important in his mind as a partner in his foreign policy,” he said.

For the two leaders, who last met only on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in June, Saturday’s talks are largely symbolic and aimed at highlighting their friendship and focusing on exchanges as this year also marks the 60th anniversary of normalising their diplomatic ties, he said.

Possible outcomes of the meeting include fast-track entry visas for South Korean travellers and working holiday programmes.

The two leaders are also expected to discuss mutual concerns including North Korea’s nuclear and missile development and China’s growing assertiveness in the region.

Ishiba, who met Trump in Washington in February and held talks with him at the June



G7 summit, has settled a tariffs deal ahead of South Korea, enabling him to coordinate with Lee ahead of his summit in the US.

The summit comes just days after the two leaders signalled their conciliatory approach to each other.

In his August 15 address marking the liberation from Japan’s 1910-1945 colonisation of the Korean Peninsula, Lee called for the two sides to overcome grievances rooted in Japan’s brutal rule and develop future-oriented ties, though he urged Tokyo to face the issues that remain unresolved and strive to maintain trust.

In an interview with Japan’s conservative Yomiuri newspaper published Thursday, Lee also said he will stick to past agreements with the Japanese government on the forced labour issues and sexual abuses of the so-called “comfort women,” though hard feelings remain among many Koreans. Ishiba, who has acknowledged Japan’s wartime aggression and shown empathy toward Asian victims, expressed “remorse” over the war, which he called a mistake, restoring the word in a Japanese leader’s August 15 surrender anniversary address for the first time since its 2013 removal by former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. (PTI)

NDA’s VP candidate CP Radhakrishnan meets Amit Shah in Delhi

NEW DELHI: National Democratic Alliance’s (NDA) Vice Presidential candidate CP Radhakrishnan on Saturday met Union Home Minister Amit Shah in the national capital.

A day earlier, Shah said the nomination of Maharashtra Governor CP Radhakrishnan as the NDA’s candidate for Vice President is a matter of pride for Tamil Nadu and reflects Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s commitment to honour Tamil culture, language, and leadership.

Speaking at the booth committee members’ convention in Tirunelveli, Shah expressed regret for not being able to address the gathering in Tamil and thanked PM Modi and BJP president JP Nadda for their support to Radhakrishnan.

“I have come to tell the people of the state that after assuming the post of Vice President, Tamil Nadu’s son CP Radhakrishnan is going to become the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Earlier, the NDA had also given this honour to APJ Abdul Kalam ji by making him the President of India. Narendra Modi ji has always worked to glorify Tamil Nadu, Tamil language and Tamil culture,” Shah said while addressing the gathering.

On Wednesday, CP Radhakrishnan filed his nomination papers for the Vice Presidential elections in the presence of Prime Minister

Narendra Modi.

Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan, who has been the Maharashtra Governor since July 31, 2024, had earlier also served as the Governor of Jharkhand, Telangana and Lieutenant



Governor of Puducherry.

Radhakrishnan, who served as the two-time MP from Coimbatore, was born on October 20, 1957, in Tamil Nadu’s Tiruppur. The BJP stalwart from Tamil Nadu has achieved a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and became the state committee member of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, the BJP’s precursor, in 1974.

Before the Jan Sangh, he joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). In the year 1996, Radhakrishnan was appointed as the BJP Tamil Nadu secretary, following which he was elected as a Lok Sabha member from Coimbatore in 1998 and reelected again in 1999. (ANI)

Centre to launch pilot project to revive diversified fish farming in Kuttanad, Kerala

KOCHI: In a major move to uplift the fishing community in the Kuttanad region in Kerala, Union Minister of State, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, and Minority Affairs, Shri George Kurian, has announced a new pilot project aimed at boosting livelihood opportunities for fish farmers. This was decided at a consultative meeting held at ICAR-Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) in Kochi.

Under the new initiative, the Department of Fisheries, Government of India, will take proactive steps to implement a range of modern and traditional aquaculture practices to revive economy based in Kuttanad. These include integrated fish farming, cage fish farming, the sustainable “one fish one paddy” initiative, and biofloc fish farming.

As part of the project, Fish Farmers

Producers Organizations (FFPOs) will be formed to empower local communities and streamline operations.

“Enhancing livelihood for the region’s farmers is the primary goal of the initiative”, Minister George Kurian said.

Under the pilot project, extensive training programmes will be conducted to equip farmers with the necessary skills in aquaculture and other related practices. The project will also encourage startups to enter the sector, focusing on essential post-harvest activities such as processing, cleaning, packing, and fish trade, thereby creating new employment opportunities and adding value to the produce.

Given the diverse aquatic environments of Kuttanad, the project will be divided into separate fresh and brackish water farming initiatives, catering specifically to the distinct conditions of Upper



and Lower Kuttanad. Expertise of premier research institutions, including ICAR research institutes, central agencies, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) will be explored to provide technical and scientific support.

The Union Minister of State pointed out that a detailed project report will be prepared immediately to ensure the swift and effective implementation of the initiative, which is expected to bring significant and sustainable economic benefits to the Kuttanad region.

Former Union Minister of State Rajeev Chandrasekhar, Fisheries Development Commissioner Dr Mohammed Koya, CMFRI Director Dr Grinson George, and CMFRI Principal Scientist Dr Imelda Joseph also spoke while representatives from various research institutes, government agencies and KVKs presented their views on the occasion. (PIB)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

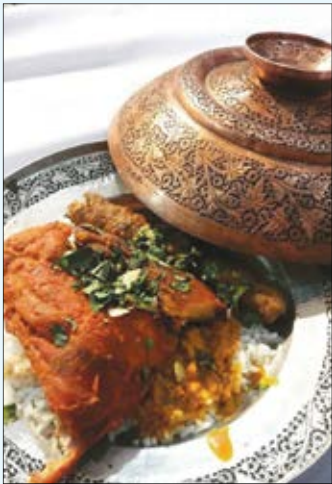
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