



## LG Sinha Stresses Experiential Learning, Wisdom in Classroom

FE NEWS NETWORK

### Addresses Teachers' Day event in Srinagar

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha addressed the Teachers' Day event in Srinagar. The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to great educationist and former President of India, Dr. Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan and felicitated the award-winning teachers from across Jammu Kashmir.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the important reasons why the education system must focus on education for sustainable development and promote a deeper understanding of interconnectedness of existence among the young generation.

"The balance between economic growth and environment protection is the key for prosperity and social equity. Our education system should emphasize that our natural resources are finite and youth need to work on preserving ecosystems and biodiversity and protect the natural resources.

World is facing escalated natural calamities leading to loss of lives, damage to infrastructure and impact on society. Our educational institutions must work on improving early warning systems and collaborate with local population for nature-based solutions for disaster and climate resilience," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor entrusted upon the School and Higher Education Departments to connect students with Green Jammu Kashmir Drive program for field experience along with changes in curriculum.

"We should revive the age-old tradition of living in harmony with nature. There is a need for teaching climate

ity every day. Youth must take on the huge responsibility of creating a balance between nature and development," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, called upon the Teachers to use their wisdom and experience to cultivate life skills, critical thinking, creativity, a scientific temper, and curios-

your mind, your greatest aspirations and dreams will become reality.

A teacher must inspire students to dream big and build their character. Along with science, teach them values and help them develop their unique personalities. The ultimate goal is to ensure students are fully prepared to



change as a compulsory subject in the classroom and fieldwork.

While the new technologies are reshaping industries and social norms, the fury of nature is also increasing. Natural disasters are affecting human-

ity and teach students values like teamwork and perseverance.

"Today on the occasion of Teachers' Day, my message for students and teachers is that once the pursuit of excellence becomes deeply rooted in

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face life's challenges and adapt to the rapid changes in the world," he added.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the teachers cannot be compared with AI tools because teaching is not merely data and information but it is about experience and wisdom.

"The most special quality

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### Operation Sindoor

## Air Power Necessary For Striking Terror Camps: CDS Chauhan

FE NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan stated that air power was "necessary" to strike terrorist camps in Pakistan's Bahawalpur and Muridke during Operation Sindoor, which was made possible due to being given "full operational freedom" and clear directions by the Central government.

"After the Pahalgam terror attack happened, we already had enhanced precision strike capabilities. When we discussed with the political leadership, it was decided that by only using drones and loitering munitions, we will not be able to achieve the political objectives. To destroy terrorist camps in Bahawalpur and Muridke, it was necessary to use air power, that is why we had to do little bit of changes in our plans," CDS General Chauhan said in an event in Gorakhpur on Friday.

The CDS made the remarks while speaking at an event titled 'National Security Challenges Before India,' organised on the first day of a seven-day-long program in Gorakhpur. The program is being car-



ried out from September 5 to September 11 to remember the death anniversary of Rahmalleen Yugpurush Mahant Digvijay Nath Maharaj and Rashtrasant Brahmaleen Mahant Avednath Maharaj.

"During Operation

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### Jammu-Srinagar Highway shut for 4th day

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remained closed for the fourth straight day on Friday due to landslides, with around four thousand vehicles stranded. However, the Mughal Road has reopened after a four-day closure.



An official said that the 270-km-long Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, considered the lifeline of Kashmir,

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## Jhelum Calms As Level Falls Below Danger Mark

■ MeT says no possibility of major wet spell in next 3 days

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The flood threat in Kashmir is almost over as the roaring river Jhelum



has witnessed a fall at all the stations after two days, bringing respite to the people from the risk of a deluge.

According to the details, the water level in Jhelum was above the danger mark at Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh stations till yesterday, but the situation has calmed as both the stations have now witnessed a

fall in the water level.

Pampore station saw a drop in water level below the danger mark after a gap of 53 hours, while Ram Munshi Bagh witnessed the fall after 30 hours. Notably, Sangam station had witnessed a drop in the water level to below the danger level after 28 hours yesterday, which was flowing at 16.41 ft this evening.

The latest readings at River Jhelum show: Pampore: 4.97m (danger mark: 5 m); and Ram Munshi Bagh: 18.93 ft (danger mark: 21 ft).

Other readings include Asham: 13.58 ft (danger mark: 16.5 ft) and Wullar: 1577.22m (full level: 1578 m).

Regarding tributaries, the data show: Vishow Nallah at Khudwani: 4.92 m (danger mark: 8.5 m); Rambiyara Nallah at Wachi: 1.34 m (danger mark: 5.7 m); Lidder Nallah at Batkoot: 0.25 m (danger mark: 1.65 m);

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## CM Omar Chairs High-Level Meeting To Review Flood Situation In Kashmir

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a high-level meeting to review the flood situation in the Kashmir valley with a focus on rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures.



The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti

Javed Ahmad Rana, and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani. Also present were Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to CM, Additional Chief Secretaries Jal Shakti, Agriculture Production, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, all Ad-

ministrative Secretaries, heads of key departments, senior police officers, Chief Engineers of KPDC, KPCL, I&FC, PHE, R&B, BEACON and SAMPARK, Commandants of

SDRF and NDRF, Director India Meteorological Department Kashmir, RO NHAI J&K, State Level Coordinator IOCL J&K, besides

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The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted arrangements for evacuees, close coordination with the police to maintain order, and strict countering of rumour-mongering to prevent unnecessary panic.

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other concerned officers. Outstation officers participated through video conference.

Divisional Commissioner

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## President Honours 45 Teachers With National Teacher Awards



**NEW DELHI:** President Droupadi Murmu on Friday gave the National Teacher Awards to 45 teachers from across the country for their exemplary contribution to teaching and learning.

From novel methods of teaching, dedication to students' growth to attempts to enhance learning achievements in difficult environments, the awardees were recognised at the annual award ceremony.

Ranging from innovative pedagogy to inspiring first-generation learners, the awardees played a key role in shaping young minds across India.

Among the awardees is M Devananda Kumar, Faculty of Telugu at Dr Lakireddy Hanimreddy Government Degree College, Mylavaram, Andhra Pradesh, who has received the award for

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### Bottimline

## J&K Initiates Damage Assessment, Recovery Ops Post-Destructive Rains

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR/JAMMU:** After days of relentless rains, cloudbursts and landslides that wreaked havoc across Jammu and Kashmir, people have begun the process of rebuilding and cleaning their homes.

Pertinently, in recent weeks, natural disasters in the Union Territory have claimed over 150 lives and caused widespread destruction of property.

Officials said, that the 4th Tawi Bailey Bridge at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu was opened for light motor vehicles on Friday, easing congestion in the city where traffic had been severely disrupted by the floods.

The official said that there's a possibility that the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway will be reopened on Saturday if weather conditions remain favourable. Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh said

the rehabilitation process was gaining pace but critical challenges remained. "The road from Gulabgarh to Chashoti, which is a vital link to the spot that suffered the cloudburst tragedy, is still blocked



and may require heavy equipment to remove the blockade. Authorities are working with the target of clearing it by late evening," he said.

The pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Reasi district, however, remained suspended for the 11th

consecutive day. The yatra was halted after a landslide on August 26 claimed 34 lives and injured 20 others. "Yatra is still suspended. This is due to the decision taken by authorities last week, keeping in view the safety of pilgrims. A decision

Officials said, that the 4th Tawi Bailey Bridge at Bhagwati Nagar in Jammu was opened for light motor vehicles on Friday, easing congestion in the city where traffic had been severely disrupted by the floods.

to resume will be taken after reviewing all aspects," an official said.

In Panchayat Bali of Udhampur district, a massive landslide has left more than 50 houses completely destroyed and

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## No Let-Up In Infiltration Attempts Along LoC In J&K: Army Chief Dwivedi

FE NEWS NETWORK

**NEW DELHI:** Noting that there is no let-up in infiltration attempts along Line of Control (LoC) in Jam-



mu and Kashmir, Chief of Army Staff General Upendra Dwivedi on Friday said that it is too early to assess the full impact of 'Operation Sindoor' in the region.

Speaking at the launch of Retired Lt Gen KJS Dhillon's book 'Operation

Sindoor: The Untold Story of India's Deep Strikes Inside Pakistan' at the Manekshaw Centre, General Dwivedi said, "The operation ended only a few days ago, and its long-term effects on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and the LoC situation remain to be seen."

"The situation on the LoC and the impact it has had is a very small time to talk about this. We will have to look at this from a long-term perspective," he said.

General Dwivedi added that while the operation targeted terror infrastructure, infiltration attempts are still being reported along the LoC. "If you look at today's date and see if state-sponsored terrorism has ended, I don't think so. Infiltration attempts have still been made along the LoC. The number of terrorists killed and those who escaped are known and have been reported," he said.

On the subject of theater

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## PM, LG, CM, others greet people on Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

**SRINAGAR:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday extended greetings to the people on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

In a post on X, Narendra Modi wrote, "Best wishes on the occasion of Milad-un-Nabi. May this sacred day bring with it peace and well-being in our society. May the values of compassion, service and justice always guide us. Eid Mubarak!" Office of J&K LG, also wrote, "Greetings to all on the auspicious occasion of Milad-un-Nabi. The life and teachings of Prophet Muhammad inspire humanity to live a life of compassion and selflessness. May his message guide us to righteous living and strengthen unity, brotherhood & peace in society. Eid Mubarak!"

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

In his message, the Chief Minister said that the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) are an eternal

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## DC Reasi calls for expediting relief, damage assessment measures across District

**REASI:** To review the progress of assessment of damages caused to private property including houses, crops and livestock due to heavy rain and floods, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Reasi Nidhi Malik convened a meeting in the VC Room of the DC Office.

During the meeting, the DC took a detailed review of the submission of relief/compensation cases, the verification procedures adopted and the subdivision-wise progress in Katra, Dharmari and Mahore. She directed the Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to ensure that assessment teams remain active on the ground, expedite the process of damage verification and prepare proposals for timely submission to the Deputy Commissioner's Office.

Alongside relief case reviews, the DC

Reasi also assessed the status of road restoration works to ensure connectivity accelerate repair and landslide clearance work on roads identified by SDMs to restore



across the district. She instructed the Executive Engineers of PWD and PMGSY to smooth traffic movement. Further, the DC also reviewed crop

damage assessments and directed the Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) to conduct daily evaluations and submit compiled reports. Livestock damage issues were also deliberated upon with the District Sheep Husbandry Officer (DSHO) and Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO).

The DC stressed that all staff must remain present on ground during relief operations, working round the clock to ensure public convenience. She reiterated that the district administration of Reasi is fully committed to providing relief to the affected families, including the distribution of essential relief material such as tents, mattresses and ration supplies.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi, CPO Reasi, all SDMs, ACR, ACD, Tehsildars, CAO, CAHO and DSHO, among other concerned officers.

## DC Kathua reviews restoration along Ravi River bank, flood-affected areas

**KATHUA:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma today visited Lakanpur to take stock of the ongoing restoration efforts along the Ravi river bank which had changed its course during the recent flash floods and rains, posing threat to nearby government buildings.

Pertinently, the district administration has stepped up the restoration drive with round-the-clock efforts being made to stabilize the embankments.

The DC asked the Flood Control Department and NHAI to ensure full mobilization of men and machinery for protection works so as to mitigate the threat

of flooding and safeguard critical government infrastructure. He further impressed upon the



agencies to utilize the fair weather window effectively while observing all safety precautions.

Earlier, the Deputy Commissioner visited the village Babera to assess the damages caused to residential houses due to landslides triggered by heavy rains. The DC instructed

the Revenue field staff to carry out immediate assessment of losses so that timely relief under SDRF norms can be provided to the affected families. Later, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the Bhed-Blore road which has suffered extensive damage due to flash floods. He called upon the concerned agency to ensure early temporary restoration of connectivity to facilitate smooth movement of locals. Among others, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, ASP Kathua Rahul Charak, Tehsildar Kathua Vikram Kumar, CAHO Kathua and representatives from NHAI accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

## Udhampur Beopar Mandal provides relief material for flood-affected people



**UDHAMPUR:** Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, today flagged off a relief van carrying essential supplies for the flood-affected families of Udhampur District. The relief material has been provided by the Beopar Mandal Udhampur for the distribution among the people affected by recent floods induced by heavy rain. While interacting with media persons, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the community support and the philanthropic gesture of Beopar Mandal Udhampur. She congratulated the members of the Beopar Mandal for their humanitarian contribution and stressed that collective efforts are crucial in mitigating the hardships of flood-hit people.

The Deputy Commissioner informed that the relief material, comprising ration and other essential commodities, is meant exclusively for the families impacted by the recent floods. She further added that several teams are working tirelessly on the ground to assess damages and ensure effective relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected population.

## IMCT visits flood-affected areas in Udhampur for damage assessment

**UDHAMPUR:** An Inter-Ministerial Central Team, deputed by the Government of India, visited the flood and rain-affected areas of Udhampur district to assess the damages caused by the recent natural calamities.

The team inspected several affected sites, including Malhar and Thard, as well as stretches of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway NH-44, to evaluate the extent of losses. During the visit, the IMCT interacted with the local administration and reviewed the ground situation.

They were accompanied by Member Legislative Assembly Chenani Balwant Singh Mankotia, Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh and other senior officers from various line departments, who briefed them on damages caused to infrastructure, agriculture, housing and other sectors.

Following the field inspection, a detailed meeting was convened in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; Additional SP Sandeep Bhat; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan;

Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, along with other senior officers of line departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai presented a comprehensive PowerPoint briefing on rescue and relief operations, restoration measures, rehabilitation efforts and damages to crops,



private property, government infrastructure, agricultural land and residential houses. She informed the team that 38 relief camps have been established across the district, sheltering over 2,000 affected persons, with the administration ensuring food, shelter and other essential supplies. The IMCT was also apprised that around 380 roads have

been damaged, of which 190 have already been restored. Connectivity has been re-established in almost all areas, except certain parts of Dudu-Basantgarh and Moungrri, where restoration work is still in progress. Essential supplies and communication networks are being monitored on a daily

basis, with focused efforts to improve road connectivity as weather conditions permit.

The visit of the Inter-Ministerial Central Team underscores the commitment of the Government of India to extend all possible support and assistance to the affected regions, ensuring timely relief, rehabilitation and restoration for the people of Udhampur.

## DC Kishtwar approves 160 Mission YUVA cases at DLIC meeting

**KISHTWAR:** The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) met today in Kishtwar under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma to review and approve applications submitted under the Mission Yuva Scheme.

A total of 166 applications, duly verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs), were presented before the committee. Each case was assessed on eligibility, project feasibility and the applicant's socio-economic background.

After scrutiny, the Committee approved 160 applications for financial assistance and handholding support. As verified by the J&K Bank Manager, Cluster Head Kishtwar, 06 applicants had already availed themselves of benefits under other government-sponsored schemes and their cases were accordingly rejected.

DC Kishtwar emphasized the importance of empowering youth to drive local economic growth. The DC directed the AD Employment to ensure that all approved cases are forwarded to banks at the earliest so that applicants can avail themselves of timely benefits under the scheme. He further directed banks to sanction and disburse loans without delay and ensure regular mentorship to support the new entrepreneurs. Mission YUVA continues to play a vital role in creating livelihood opportunities and promoting self-reliance among the youth of Kishtwar district.

The meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; GM DIC Rishi Sharma; AD Employment Shafiqat Keen; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Lead District Manager, Manager Cluster J&K Bank and other concerned officers.

## DC Reasi approves Mission YUVA 307 Cases to promote youth entrepreneurship

**REASI:** In a significant push towards youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik today approved 307 loan cases under Mission Yuva here at a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the applications received through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU). After thorough scrutiny, the committee approved 307 cases, including 306 under Non-Enterprises and 1 under MSME, for financial assistance and institutional support.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Nidhi Malik underlined the role of Mission YUVA in equipping youth with skills, fostering entrepreneurship

and creating avenues for self-employment across the district. She emphasized the importance of post-approval handholding and continuous follow-up to ensure the long-term sustainability of



the approved ventures.

Highlighting the need for synergy among departments, the DC Malik called for coordinated efforts to maximize outreach

and impact of the scheme. She also directed banks to ensure timely processing and quick disbursement of sanctioned cases to benefit the youth at the earliest. The meeting

was attended by ADDC Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal, Assistant Director Employment, Annie Vaid, representatives from banks and other concerned officers.

## DC takes stock of arrangements for Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

**KISHTWAR:** Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting of district officers and representatives of religious organisations to review and finalise arrangements for the Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW).

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to ensure that adequate facilities are put in place well in advance so that the public does not face any inconvenience during the celebrations.

The Senior Superintendent of Police, Kishtwar, was instructed to ensure adequate deployment of police personnel across the district, including Sub-Divisions and Tehsils, with foolproof security arrangements at religious sites and along procession routes. The Traffic Police, ARTO and DTI Kishtwar were asked to frame a comprehensive traffic and parking management plan for hassle-free vehicular movement.

The Majlis-e-Shoura Committee Kishtwar, led by Imam Sahib Jamia Masjid Kishtwar, apprised the Deputy Commissioner of various issues and demands. The DC gave a patient hearing and assured full support from the District Administration.

The SSP Kishtwar urged the Majlis-e-Shoura Committee Kishtwar to ensure that the procession is conducted peacefully under the leadership of the Head of the Majlis-e-Shoura Committee, strictly refraining from any sloganeering not permissible during religious processions. The meeting was attended by SSP Kishtwar Naresh Singh; ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal; ACR Kishtwar Idrees Lone; DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar; besides other senior officers and representatives of the Majlis-e-Shoura Committee Kishtwar.

## Deputy Commissioner Ramban inspects Pernote Bridge, Karol-Maitra Gool Road restoration works

**Directs executing agencies to expedite connectivity restoration efforts**

**RAMBAN:** To expedite post-rainfall and flash floods restoration efforts, Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alys Khan carried out an extensive on-site inspection of the ongoing restoration works at the Pernote Bridge and the Karol-Maitra-Gool Road at Bhatti area, both being executed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), NHAI and ARMY.

SSP Arun Gupta; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; Executive Engineer PWD and Tehsildar were part of the inspection team.

The Pernote Bridge and the Karol-Maitra-Gool Road are

lifeline for the movement of people and essential supplies to Sub Division Gool and other areas of Tehsil Ramban. These were affected by recent flash floods and heavy rainfall, disrupting traffic movement and supply chains.

During the inspection, the Deputy Commissioner took a detailed stock of the action plan from BRO officials for the restoration and protection works on these strategically important road links. He directed to accelerate the pace of work and adhere to engineering standards to ensure the long-term durability and safety of the infrastructure.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the BRO to complete the restoration and protection works at the earliest so that vehicular movement and supply chains to

Gool and adjoining areas can be restored properly. He assured all possible support from the District Administration in facilitating the work.

The Deputy Commissioner said that restoring vital road networks is a top priority for the District Administration to ensure smooth supply of essential goods, emergency services and public convenience across Ramban district. Meanwhile, to provide relief to the families affected by the recent heavy rainfall, flash floods, cloudbursts, and landslides, the Deputy Commissioner convened a meeting of officers. He directed Tehsildars and other revenue officials to process relief cases promptly and submit the same to provide relief to affected people under SDRF norms.

## Deputy Commissioner Reasi orders termination of 4 temporary RDD officials for corrupt practices

**REASI:** In a decisive action against corruption, Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik has ordered the termination of four temporary officials of the Rural Development Department (RDD) after an enquiry revealed their involvement in serious irregularities, manipulation of records and embezzlement of government funds.

DC Reasi affirms unwavering commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability in all areas of public service.

The action comes after a detailed enquiry which exposed large-scale violations under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM). ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh was the enquiry officer. In Block Jij Bagli, the terminated temporary officials, Mohammad Latief Gram Rozgar Sevak (GRS)

and Rahil Magotra (Technical Assistant), were found guilty of manipulating official records, issuing fake and duplicate job cards and irregular sanctioning of multiple IHHL units in violation of SBM guidelines. The enquiry revealed that out of 55 job cards under complaint, seven were fake, five were duplicate, twenty-four were deleted and thirty-one are active. The officials were also held responsible for misappropriation of government funds under MGNREGA, as highlighted in the Social Audit report.

Similarly, in Block Chassana, Abdul Qayoom (GRS) and Arun Gandotra (Technical Assistant) were found responsible for major irregularities in the execution of works under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

While financial records reflect an expenditure of 3.00 lakh on the construction of a

Community Sanitary Complex (CSC) in Panchayat Chassana-A, the asset was not found on the ground during the Social Audit.

Furthermore, the Deputy Commissioner has taken up the matter with the Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD), recommending strict and exemplary action against the permanent employees who were posted during the period of irregularities.

These include the BDOs of Chassana and Jij Bagli, AEE (REW Subdivision Mahore), Junior Engineers and Panchayat Secretaries.

The Deputy Commissioner Reasi has also urged initiation of recovery proceedings against those involved, in line with the Jammu & Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control & Appeal) Rules, 1956, so that accountability is enforced and such malpractices are not repeated in the future.

...NCORD meeting

## DC Rajouri pushes for concrete steps against drug trafficking, stringent action against perpetrators

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma chaired the 35th meeting of the District Narco Coordination Committee (NCORD) in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and strengthen efforts to combat drug trafficking and ensure effective implementation of the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan in the district.

During the meeting, the Police Department informed that 25 FIRs have been lodged in connection with narcotic-related crimes, while eight cases under PIT NDPS have been processed and one case is pending.

The Assistant Drug Controller briefed the chair that out of 822 medical shops in the district, 818 have adopted computerized billing and CCTV cameras have been installed in all shops.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Chief Education Officer to prepare a roster for awareness camps and to submit Action Taken Reports (ATRs) regarding complaints received through complaint boxes.

He further instructed that village-level Committees constituted under the Nasha Mukht Abhiyan be imparted training as

per the scheduled roster.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of addiction treatment facilities and mental health programs. It was informed that all departments have declared their offices as "No Smoking Zones" under COTPA provisions.

To expand preventive healthcare efforts, the ARTO was directed to organize medical camps in coordination with the Health Department.

The Excise and Taxation Officer (ETO) briefed that raids have been conducted and around 21,800 kg of lahan was recovered.

The DC also directed the concerned authorities to provide alternate employment opportunities to eligible persons of affected areas under Mission Yuva.

Among others, ADC Kalakote Tanvir Ahmed, ADC Rajouri Chandar Prakash, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, ACR Rajouri Mohd Jahangir Khan, ACP Sheraz Chouhan, ACD Auqil Naveed, Additional SP, CMO Rajouri, representatives of the Excise & Taxation Department and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

## Deputy Commissioner Rajouriconducts whirlwind tour of Khawas, Kalakote

**RAJOURI:** Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma conducted an extensive whirlwind tour of Khawas



and Kalakote areas to assess damages caused due to recent rains and landslides and to review ongoing restoration works.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer PMGSY Rajouri to immediately restore the Kenchi Morh-Narla road and the Chak Matiyani-Kot Charwal road. He also instructed the R&B to expedite restoration of the Kotranka-Khawas road. The DC personally supervised the restoration work on the Moughla-Khawas road.

Emphasizing the importance of connectivity for Khawas, the Deputy Commissioner noted that road links in the area were severely affected due to the recent rains, causing hardship to the public. He directed the concerned departments to ensure time-bound

restoration of all vital road links so that normal movement of people and essential supplies can be resumed without delay.

Taking note of damages to residential houses, the DC directed the Tehsildar concerned to submit complete relief files at the earliest. On the spot, cheques under the Red Cross were distributed among the affected beneficiaries.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed the Sub-Divisional Agriculture Officer (SDAO) to submit a comprehensive crop damage report and directed the BDO Khawas to provide immediate protection work under MGNREGA.

Directions were also passed for the prompt restoration of water supply and electricity in the affected areas.

While interacting with the local residents, the DC heard their grievances at their doorstep and issued on-the-spot directions for redressal, assuring the people of timely action by the administration.

ADC Kotranka, Dilmir; Tehsildar Khawas; Executive Engineers PMGSY Rajouri and Budhal; BDO Khawas; AEE Jal Shakti; SDAO and AEE Sub-Division Budhal accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the tour.

# Minister Sakeena Itoo holds massive Public Darbar at Saikhanen DH Pora Kulgam

Says Omar Abdullah led Government public-centric, making concerted efforts to meet developmental aspirations of people

FE News Network

**KULGAM:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo visited Saikhanen village in D.H. Pora, Kulgam and held a massive Public Darbar to directly engage with the people and listen to their grievances and developmental aspirations.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the Omar-led Government is public centric and making concerted efforts to meet developmental aspirations of the people and ensure improved services at their doorsteps. She added that the government in recent months has initiated several projects of public importance besides healthcare facilities have been upgraded across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir



with particular focus on rural and far-flung areas.

In her address, the Minister also spoke about various schemes meant for various sections of society, including women. She also urged youth to actively avail skill development schemes and stressed the importance of

She added that the Government is committed for responsive governance and grassroots development.

During the Darbar, locals projected several demands like upgradation of Middle School to High School, establishment of Animal Husbandry Centre, a Sub Centre, SFC wood depot, Agriculture and Horticulture units, food store, relief in utility bills, fast-track completion of Panchayat Ghar, as well as development of a playfield in the area.

While responding to these demands, the Minister directed the concerned authorities to identify land for a playfield and assured the locals that an ambulance will be provided to the area considering its far-flung nature. She also assured the public that other demands will be addressed promptly.

community participation in ensuring accountability and progress.

The Minister further underlined that these Public Darbars are at the core of the present government and vital for bridging the gap between administration and the people.

# Jal Shakti Minister reviews post-flood situation in Srinagar

Calls for coordinated efforts to mitigate the current crisis and prevent future flooding

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the post-flood situation in Kashmir and ongoing response efforts.

Besides, Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, the meeting was attended by senior officials from the Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) Department along with representatives of allied departments.

While chairing the meeting, the Minister stressed the importance of coordinated and multi-pronged efforts aimed at mitigating the ongoing flood crisis.

Minister Rana called for ensuring swift relief to affected areas and restoration of essential services including power, water supply and road connectivity.

He said that coordinated and proactive response is needed to dewater inundated areas in and around Srinagar. He called for urgent deployment of adequate pumping machinery, wherever required, so that stagnant water is evacuated swiftly.

He said that these steps are needed to ensure restoration of essential services thereby enabling residents to return to normal life at the earliest.

Minister also called for effective



management of Jhelum's water levels, especially in view of the heightened discharge from its tributary nullahs.

While calling for mitigation of the present crisis, Rana also stressed on the need for institutional strengthening of flood management systems for the long term to prevent similar flooding events in the future.

Rana further called for reinforcement of weak stretches of the embankment and deploying additional men and machinery to tackle any eventuality.

He stressed that people should be informed well in advance about any potential risk, so that they are able to take necessary precautionary steps in time. He said timely steps are necessary to ensure safety of our people to avoid panic or confusion at the last moment.

During the meeting, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, presented a detailed report on the breach at Shalina-Lasjan (Budgam) and its impact on surrounding areas.

He informed that necessary steps have been taken in this regard and field staff is actively monitoring the situation for strengthening of

vulnerable embankments. He further highlighted that dewatering pumps have been positioned in the affected zones to divert excess water and vulnerable habitations are being closely monitored to ensure the safety of residents.

He also informed that a technical assessment is being undertaken to work out medium and long-term measures for permanent strengthening of flood protection infrastructure in the area.

# Sakeena Itoo extends Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) greetings

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo has extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).



In her greeting message, the Minister said that this sacred day reminds us of the timeless

values of compassion, kindness, and service to humanity, which form the essence of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She expressed hope that this pious occasion will inspire people to strengthen bonds of brotherhood, promote peace and harmony, and work collectively for the welfare of society.

"On this revered occasion, let us pledge to walk on the path of truth, compassion, and selfless service shown to us by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)", she said.

The Minister also highlighted that true way of celebrating this blessed and sacred day is to uphold the values of empathy, patience, and mutual respect in our daily lives.

Sakeena Itoo also prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

# DC Srinagar takes stock of arrangements at Dargah Hazratbal for Eid-e-Milad (SAW)

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo along with Senior Superintendent of Police, Sundeep Chakravarty on Friday visited Dargah Hazratbal to take stock of the facilities and arrangements for Eid-e-Milad Un Nabi (SAW).

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Regional Transport Officer, Kashmir, Qazi Irfan, Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM East, CMO Srinagar, Tehsil Sar North, BMO Hazratbal senior officers of PHE, R&B, PDD, SMC, Police, Traffic and other line departments

At the outset, the DC along with SSP took on spot review of the arrangements made by all the concerned Departments for providing facilities like a dedicated healthcare camp, uninterrupted supply of power, safe

drinking water, transport, parking, cleanliness & sanitation measures and other arrangements for convenience of the devotees expected to visit the Holy Shrine.

The Officers of the all line



Departments were directed to ensure every necessary facility and arrangements for the Devotees for smooth and seamless observance of the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad (SAW) at the Shrine.

On the occasion, the DC was informed that adequate measures have been made by the PHE to ensure a continuous supply of clean drinking water at the shrine

so that devotees do not face any inconvenience. Similarly, the PDD Officials apprised that uninterrupted power supply has been made available at the Shrine during the auspicious days and nights of prayers culminating with display of Holy Relic. In addition to this, proper power backup through Genset to tackle any power breakdown. Likewise,

the DC was informed that the SMC has deployed sufficient men and machinery including Mobile Toilet Units at the venue for proper sanitation and cleanliness in and around the Shrine.

On the occasion, the DC inspected a Medical camp set up in the premises of Hazratbal Shrine by the Block Medical Office, Hazratbal. He directed for ensuring availability of adequate number of Doctors and paramedics, first aid facilities, besides an ambulance service in the camp.

The DC inspected designated areas for mobile toilets and drinking water taps to ensure their functionality and cleanliness.

In order to assist and facilitate senior citizens visiting the shrine, the DC instructed officials from Transport department to arrange e-Rickshaw services from designated parking areas to the Hazratbal shrine on the auspicious occasion.

Meanwhile, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo has also conveyed his heartfelt greetings and best wishes to people on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad Un Nabi (SAW).

# Chief Minister Omar Abdullah extends greetings on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

Calls for spreading Prophet Muhammad's (SAW) message of peace, compassion, unity



FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

In his message, the Chief Minister said that the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW) are an eternal source of guidance for humanity, emphasizing the values of peace, compassion, equality and brotherhood.

He urged people to imbibe these values in their daily lives and

work collectively towards building a harmonious society.

"The auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) reminds us of the timeless message of the Prophet (SAW), which is rooted in kindness, tolerance and service to humanity. Let us dedicate ourselves to following this noble path and promote unity, brotherhood and mutual respect across all sections of society," the Chief Minister said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and hoped that the occasion would strengthen the spirit of harmony and collective responsibility.

# As Wular crosses 'danger mark', Bandipora villagers evacuated to safer places

Round-the-clock vigil on, power supply cut-off in affected village; Residents say they live in constant fear

FE News Network

**BANDIPORA:** Several families from flood-prone villages in North Kashmir's Bandipora District, including Kulhama and Kanyari, were evacuated on Friday after Wular Lake crossed the danger mark and water entered into residential areas.

Officials said, that the affected households were temporarily shifted to nearby school buildings, where arrangements have been made for the people.

"We shifted families as a precautionary measure to avoid any risk to life. Shelter and basic facilities have been provided", a senior officer said.

Amid the evacuation drive, three transformers along with their 11kV feeder at Kanyari village (Gundjehangir 11kV feeder) were put off as a safety measure after the area was submerged. "This



was necessary for the safety of the public and to prevent any mishap", said Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib.

Locals at Kanyari, however, accused successive governments of ignoring their demand for permanent relocation. "We live in constant fear. Floods threaten our homes every year,

and despite repeated assurances, we haven't been given land to shift permanently", villagers said.

Earlier the DC said adequate measures had been taken to prevent further damage. "To stop spillage into adjoining areas of SK Payeen, sandbags have been laid at three vulnerable spots. People need not panic, the situation is

expected to recede. Preventive steps have been taken at all vulnerable points", he said.

Authorities said that while precautionary evacuations and shutdowns were carried out, the overall situation remains under control and round-the-clock monitoring will continue until water levels recede—(KNO)

# LoP Sunil Sharma visits flood-affected areas in Akhnoor

FE News Network

**JAMMU:** Leader of the Opposition, Sunil Sharma along with MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal, undertook an extensive tour of the flood-affected areas in Akhnoor constituency to assess first-hand the widespread devastation caused by the recent floods. During his visit, he reached out to the worst-hit villages in Pargwal region including Mollu, Sajwal Kulle, Chani, Nai Basti, Rangpur, Pindi, Markulle Fattu Kotli, Garhal, and the Mala Bela BSF Post.

As per a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Sharma interacted with affected families, patiently listened to their grievances, and expressed deep solidarity with the suffering communities. He assured the local population of every possible support, stressing that their concerns would be raised with urgency at all appropriate forums.

Highlighting the pressing challenges faced by the displaced and distressed families, Sharma called upon the administration to immediately initiate comprehensive and coordinated relief measures. He urged for the provision of essential supplies including



food, clean drinking water, medical aid, and temporary shelters. He also pressed for the swift restoration of critical services such as electricity, road connectivity, and communication networks to ease the hardships of the people.

Looking beyond immediate relief, the Leader of the Opposition emphasized the need for a long-term, structured rehabilitation plan. He underscored that rebuilding damaged infrastructure, restoring livelihoods, and

creating effective flood mitigation systems must be treated as priority areas to safeguard the region from recurring natural calamities.

Sharma assured continuous monitoring of the situation and reaffirmed his personal commitment to stand by the affected families until normalcy is restored. He said that the voice of the flood-hit communities will not go unheard and pledged to ensure their plight receives the urgent and compassionate response it deserves—(KNO)

# Rotten Meat: Gbl Police files 2 FIRs; accused arrested

FE News Network

**GANDERBAL:** To ensure public health safety, Ganderbal Police have registered two FIRs against stockists and food outlets for storing and selling rotten mutton and expired eatables.

Police received reliable information about a

person allegedly selling rotten and unhygienic frozen meat at Kondabal Safapora, a police spokesman said.

Acting swiftly, a team from Police Station Safapora, accompanied by the Food Safety Officer and the Executive Magistrate, inspected the shop of Abdul Hameed

Lone S/o Ghulam Hassan Lone R/o Kondabal.

During the search, a considerable quantity of boiled meat items (Rista & Kabab) was recovered in a rotten and unhygienic state, unfit for human consumption. An FIR (No. 14/2025) under sections 271, 272, 274 & 275 BNS was registered at Police Station Safapora.

The accused has been arrested, and investigation is underway.

In another case, Police Station Ganderbal received information that the owner of Hotel Matamal Food Sale Point at Beehama was using expired food items in cooking.

On inspection, expired eatables were seized

from the kitchen. An FIR (No. 145/2025) under the same sections of law was registered, and the accused was also arrested.

Meanwhile, Ganderbal Police assured the public that strict action will continue against such practices, and those endangering public health will be dealt with sternly under law—(KNO)

Editorial

Respite, Not a Resolution

The collective sigh of relief echoing across Jammu and Kashmir UT is almost palpable. After days of anxiety, Jhelum has begun to retreat, its water levels falling below the danger mark at key monitoring stations. For the residents of Srinagar's outskirts and low-lying areas, this ebb brings a welcome end to the immediate threat of a devastating deluge. The statistics tell a story of a narrow escape. At Pampore, the waters remained above the danger mark. These are not just numbers on a chart, they represent hours of sleepless nights for hundreds of families, and the agonizing wait for evacuation alerts. The fact that nearly 9,500 people had to be evacuated from these areas is a stark reminder of how close we came to a full-blown catastrophe. The submerged properties and extensive losses suffered by many are sobering testament to river's relentless power. The Jhelum is not merely a river, it is a mirror to our environmental management. Each flood scare is a brutal examination of our drainage systems, and our commitment to preserving wetlands and marshes that have been relentlessly encroached upon over the decades. The fact that a relatively short period of intense rain can push the entire valley to the brink of disaster reveals a systemic weakness that blue skies cannot mask.

This receding threat is undoubtedly a cause for gratitude, owed to the improved weather and the efforts of disaster response teams. However, to view this simply as a crisis averted would be a profound mistake. This event is not an anomaly; it is a recurring drill that underscores a persistent vulnerability. The water level is receding, but it will rise again, not today but some other day, and the question is not if, but when. The respite we are experiencing now must be treated as a precious opportunity, a warning heeded in hindsight. It is a time for the administration to move beyond evacuation plans and invest in long-term, sustainable flood mitigation strategies. This includes dredging the river Jhelum and strictly regulating construction on floodplains. For the people of Kashmir, living with the Jhelum is a part of life. But living in perpetual fear of it should not be. The receding waters have given us another chance. Let us use it not just to rebuild what was lost, but to build smarter and safer, ensuring that the next time the clouds gather, our confidence is built not just on hope, but on action.

New Sacred

How Accountability Is Becoming Hazratbal's Greatest Offering



By:- Zubair Chowdhry

At the revered Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar, where generations of Kashmiris have bowed their heads in devotion, a quiet but profound change has unfolded. This change is neither cosmetic nor symbolic alone; it reflects a new model of accountability, transparency, and respect for faith-based institutions. The credit goes to Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson of the Jammu & Kashmir Waqf Board, whose initiatives at Hazratbal have delivered not just improvements in infrastructure, but also a message of reform to the entire country.

For decades, Waqf-managed shrines across India have faced criticism for inefficiency, neglect, and opacity. Hazratbal, despite being the spiritual epicenter of Kashmir, was no exception. What should have stood as a beacon of sanctity often bore the weight of mismanagement. By prioritizing cleanliness, organization, and facilities for pilgrims, Dr. Andrabi has restored dignity to the shrine. Yet, beyond the physical upgrades, her work has carried a deeper message: faith institutions must be managed with the same seriousness and professionalism as any other public body.

The transformation at Hazratbal demonstrates that devotion does not exclude

discipline, and sanctity does not diminish with scrutiny. On the contrary, transparency strengthens faith. Pilgrims entering the shrine today witness not only orderly

Board is both symbolic and substantive. She has combined firmness with empathy, showing that religious institutions can be modernized without eroding tradition. This balance

tradition-bound institutions can be revitalized.

There is also a political undertone to her message. In an environment where religious



spaces but also an atmosphere of respect that reassures them their trust has not been misplaced. That emotional reassurance is perhaps Dr. Andrabi's greatest achievement—rebuilding faith in management itself.

Her stewardship also breaks barriers in another way. In a space largely dominated by male leadership, Dr. Andrabi's role as a reformist woman at the helm of the Waqf

is rare and necessary.

Nationally, her work at Hazratbal resonates as a case study for broader Waqf reform. With billions in assets under Waqf control, the scope for development, education, and community welfare is enormous. Yet, inefficiency and corruption have long crippled that potential. Hazratbal now stands as proof that with integrity and vision, even the most

spaces are often exploited for vested interests. Dr. Andrabi has made accountability a sacred duty. She has effectively told society that shrines and their management cannot remain frozen in time. Reform is not a threat to faith—it is an affirmation of it.

The Hazratbal model should therefore not remain confined to Srinagar. It deserves replication across the country. Every shrine, mosque, dargah, or religious institution managed under Waqf can—and must—be uplifted with the same spirit of responsibility. To resist reform is to fail the very communities that these institutions are meant to serve.

In a society searching for trust and transparency, Hazratbal's renewal offers both. It is a reminder that devotion is not only expressed in prayer, but also in ensuring dignity, discipline, and accountability within places of worship. Dr. Darakhshan Andrabi's leadership has shown that when courage meets conviction, even institutions bound by centuries of tradition can embrace progress.

Her work at Hazratbal is not just commendable—it is inspirational. It sends a message that echoes far beyond Kashmir: reform, when rooted in sincerity, does not weaken faith. It strengthens it.

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India's Space Station: A Giant Leap for a Billion-Person Ambition



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

India has set an ambitious course for its future in space with the announcement that it will establish its own space station by 2035. The proposed Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS) marks a decisive step in the country's long journey from modest satellite launches to becoming a recognised global space power. It reflects both confidence in the capabilities of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and the broader vision of a nation determined to expand its presence beyond Earth.

The story of India's space programme is one of gradual but consistent progress. Beginning with the launch of Aryabhata in 1975, ISRO has built its reputation on cost-effective innovation and technical reliability. Over the decades, India has moved from experimental satellites to ambitious planetary missions. The Mars Orbiter Mission, Mangalyaan, placed India in an elite group of nations capable of interplanetary exploration, while the Chandrayaan-3 landing on the lunar south pole in 2023 was a watershed moment, earning India international acclaim. More recently, ISRO successfully demonstrated satellite docking technology, a crucial precursor to the assembly and maintenance of an orbital station. These achievements, layered upon one another, have given India the confidence to aim for a permanent human presence in space.

The establishment of a space station holds significance far beyond symbolism. A permanent orbital platform offers vast opportunities for research in microgravity, with applications in medicine, biology, physics, and advanced materials. For a country with aspirations of becoming a knowledge-driven economy, such research is invaluable. Beyond science, the space station

will also strengthen India's strategic autonomy. Today, only the International Space Station and China's Tiangong provide such platforms. By building its own, India will no longer depend on others for human spaceflight or orbital research. The decision also reflects a recognition of the growing space economy, projected to exceed one trillion dollars by 2040, where India seeks a meaningful stake.

The Bharatiya Antariksh Station is expected

The road ahead, however, is not without formidable challenges. Designing systems that can sustain human life in orbit for months at a time will test India's technological limits. Developing modular architecture, reliable docking systems, and effective radiation shielding will require sustained innovation. Financially, the project demands long-term investment running into billions of dollars, even if India pursues a more economical model compared to the Inter-



to take shape gradually. Designed as a modular platform, it will initially be launched in segments and later expanded to its full capacity by 2035. The first module is targeted for deployment by 2028. Once complete, the station will be able to host three to four astronauts at a time for extended periods. Importantly, it will build on the experience of the Gaganyaan mission, scheduled for the latter part of this decade, which will carry Indian astronauts into low Earth orbit for the first time. Gaganyaan will validate life-support systems, safety protocols, and recovery operations—critical elements that will later define the long-duration missions aboard BAS.

national Space Station. Beyond technology and funding, the challenge of human resource development is equally pressing. Astronaut training facilities, mission simulation centres, and a larger pool of space scientists and engineers must be developed in tandem with the hardware.

There is also the wider international context. By the 2030s, China's Tiangong station is expected to be fully operational and possibly expanded, while the United States and private players are working on commercial stations. India's success with BAS will depend not only on its ability to execute the project but also how effectively it positions itself within this

competitive environment. Sustaining public and political support will also be crucial, particularly as questions may arise about spending priorities in a developing country. Communicating the practical benefits of the station—ranging from scientific breakthroughs to technological spin-offs—will help secure that support.

India's growing private space sector could play a vital role in the success of the project. Startups working on launch vehicles, satellites, and space technologies are already contributing to the ecosystem. Their involvement in BAS could bring efficiency, innovation, and cost reductions, much like the role private companies have played in revitalising the American space programme.

The vision for a space station is not an isolated one. India has also outlined its ambition to attempt a human mission to the Moon by 2040. The experience gained through BAS will serve as a crucial stepping stone, preparing astronauts for long-duration missions and building confidence for journeys beyond Earth's orbit. Just as the International Space Station served as a laboratory for future lunar and Martian missions, the Bharatiya Antariksh Station will lay the groundwork for India's deeper space ambitions.

In many ways, the space station is more than just an engineering project. It is a symbol of how far India has come and where it intends to go. From launching rockets in makeshift facilities to planning a permanent home in orbit, the journey illustrates the country's growing confidence and determination. If realised, BAS will inspire future generations, nurture scientific talent, and stand as a testament to India's ability to dream big and translate vision into reality.

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# J&K Judicial Academy Organises Workshop on Soft Skill Development, Stress, Time, Court Management Techniques

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Judicial Academy, under the guidance of the Governing Committee, organised a

The event was graced by Justice Rahul Bharti, Judge, High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and Member of the Governing Committee, who delivered the inaugural address and conducted the first technical session.

decision-makers, and leaders in ensuring sensitive justice delivery. He emphasized the importance of empathy, interpersonal communication, emotional intelligence, and mindful judicial conduct to improve court efficiency and maintain public confidence in the justice system.

chologist, and Afifa Aftreen, RCI-Registered Clinical Psychologist, focusing on "Stress and Behavioural Management - Developing Self-help Techniques".

The session introduced participants to the Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) model, emphasizing psychological flexibility as a tool for managing professional and personal stress.

Practical exercises on mindfulness techniques helped officers cultivate present-focused, non-judgmental awareness, while strategies for self-motivation, values-based decision-making, and self-evaluation were discussed to enhance mental resilience.

The speakers also addressed the unique judicial stressors faced by officers, including heavy caseloads, high public expectations, and the emotional demands of decision-making.

Participants were encouraged to develop a personalized stress-management toolkit integrating mindfulness practices, balanced wellness strategies, and healthy coping mechanisms to maintain efficiency and overall well-being.

Concluding the workshop, Farhana Ali, Joint Registrar, J&K Judicial Academy, delivered the Vote of Thanks.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from judicial officers across the region.



one-day workshop on "Soft Skill Development, Stress Management, Time Management, and Court Management Techniques" at its Srinagar campus.

Welcoming the participants, Justice Bharti highlighted the evolving role of Judicial Officers as not only interpreters of law but also effective court managers,

courtroom discipline while upholding dignity and decorum.

The 3rd technical session was conducted jointly by Dr. Arshid Hussain, Psy-

# Div Com Jammu reviews restoration works on NH-44 at Thard in Udhampur

Also directs for restoring Kanithgali-Moungari, Ramnagar-Basantgarh & Chenani Sudhmahadev roads on priority

FE NEWS NETWORK

**UDHAMPUR:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, visited the landslide affected stretch

erations being carried out by the executing agencies on a war-footing basis.

Focus was also laid on restoration of Kanithgali-Moungari, Ramnagar-Basantgarh & Chenani Sudhmahadev

district  
The Div Com directed for ensuring 100% restoration of essential services, including power supply, drinking water, road connectivity and providing immediate relief to the people by alternate temporary arrangements till the services are restored completely in the affected areas.

He also directed the district administration for ensuring supply of essential commodities and provision of temporary shelter facilities to the flood-affected families, besides meticulously working on their rehabilitation.

Highlighting the critical importance of the highway, the Divisional Commissioner noted that the Udhampur stretch of NH-44 has suffered unprecedented damage. Though it was restored and opened on 29th and 30th August, it again suffered significant damage.

Stressing the urgent need to restore this vital lifeline connecting Jammu to Doda Kishtwar and Srinagar, the Div Com informed that the agencies have been directed to restore the damages by tomorrow evening.

He emphasized that every possible effort shall be made to restore NH-44, other critical roads and provide necessary relief to the affected popu-



of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway NH-44 at Thard to take stock of the ongoing restoration works.

He was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai and concerned officials of district administration, police and NHAI.

The Divisional Commissioner inspected the damaged portion of NH-44 and directed the executing agencies to mobilize additional men and machinery to complete the restoration process at the earliest.

The Divisional Commissioner reviewed in detail the clearance op-

roads on priority.

The Divisional Commissioner instructed the concerned agencies to ensure speedy clearance of debris and take all possible measures for restoring vehicular traffic on the critical roads.

He further directed the concerned agencies to work in double shifts so that traffic movement on NH-44 can be restored in minimum possible time.

During his visit, the Divisional Commissioner also reviewed the situation of drinking water, power supply and availability of ration in the

# KVK Bandipora Holds Farmer Awareness Programme at Pazalpora

FE NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora-1 in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture and various allied departments organised an awareness programme at Pazalpora Panchayat under the ongoing



Kisan Sampark Abhiyan, a flagship component of the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement in Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP).

The programme aimed to educate the local farming community about modern agricultural practices, encourage the adoption of climate-resilient techniques, and create awareness regarding various government schemes and

support services. The event saw participation from over 100 individuals, including farmers, women entrepreneurs, students, and rural youth.

During the technical sessions, Dr. Bilal Ahmad Zargar and Shabnum Mumtaz, scientists from KVK Bandipora-1, delivered in-depth lectures on advanced crop production methods, the use of modern farm machinery, and opportunities in income-generating allied sectors such as beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and poultry farming. Emphasis was laid on adopting scientific methods and improving farm productivity while promoting sustainable agricultural growth.

Resource persons from the Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, and Fisheries Departments shared details of newly launched schemes, input assistance programmes, and training opportunities available under JKCIIP and other ongoing initiatives. Representatives from financial institutions also addressed the gathering, highlighting the availability of institutional credit, subsidized loans, and the streamlined process for availing agricultural finance.

The event concluded with an interactive session, where farmers raised questions about field-specific challenges and received expert advice tailored to their local conditions.

# DC Budgam visits Zoonipora Breach Site; Reviews Relief & Rehabilitation Efforts

FE NEWS NETWORK

Ensures distribution of ration, medical aid, safe drinking water; restoration of services in flood-affected villages

**BUDGAM:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat visited the Zoonipora breach site and other flood-affected areas to take a first-hand assessment of the situation. He was accompanied by senior district officials, SDM Chadoora, engineers, and field functionaries.

DC carried out an appraisal of damages and interacted with the local population, listening patiently to their concerns. He assured people that the District Administration is standing shoulder to shoulder



with them in this hour of crisis and that all possible support will be extended to them.

DC informed that relief measures are in full swing in the affected areas.

The ration kits, medical kits, and other essential items are being distributed among affected families, while portable water tankers have been pressed into service to ensure safe drinking water supply, he said.

Meanwhile, on-spot testing of water sources is also being conducted for public safety.

Regarding healthcare, DC said that medical teams with mobile ambulances and essential medicines have been

deployed in all six flood-affected villages - Rakh Shalina, Shalina, Bagh Shakurshah, Seerbagh, Summerbugh & Zoonipora to provide timely medical care to the people.

Speaking on the restoration of services, the DC said that work on electricity restoration is being carried out on war footing bases. He added that the local receiving station had been damaged, but necessary repairs are underway and supply will be restored at the earliest.

DC further assured that work on restoration of the breached bund at Zoonipora will be taken up shortly in consultation with experts to prevent further damage and safeguard adjoining habitations.

He directed all line departments to remain on high alert, ensure coordination, and provide immediate relief wherever required.

ADC Budgam, SDM Chadoora and other senior district and sectoral officers accompanied him during the visit.

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# No alarming flood situation in Bla, adequate stock of essentials in place: DC

FE NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner Baramulla Minga Sherpa on Friday assured people that there was no shortage of essential supplies, including fuel and ration in the district. He added that the flood situation is not alarming in the district.

Sherpa, said the district has more than a week's stock of petrol, diesel and LPG, while ration supplies are sufficient for a month.

"People need not to panic. Additional tankers are also expected to reach by this evening or tomorrow, so there is no shortage of essential commodities in the district," the DC said during his visit to Sopore to review the situation.

On the rising water levels in Wular Lake and Jhelum, the DC maintained that the situation is under control and there is no alarming threat. "The gauge is almost one meter below the danger level in Sopore and 1.5 meters in Baramulla. As such, there is no need to worry. The levels are too far from the alert mark," he said, adding that the administration has identified shelters and kept spots ready as a precautionary measure.

He further assured that the district administration is on alert and will take additional measures if required—(KNO)



# Floods damage paddy, other crops, horticulture in Kashmir

FE NEWS NETWORK

Farmers demand compensation; Assessment of damage on, says official

**SRINAGAR:** Recent floods in Kashmir have caused extensive damage to farmland, crops, and horticultural produce, leaving local farmers devastated.

er from Anantnag. "Our trees are soaked, and many of the fruits have fallen. It's a total loss."

As the floodwaters recede, the full scale of the destruction becomes more evident. The affected families are now calling for urgent compensation, and some are drawing comparisons to the devastating 2014 floods, which similarly ravaged large parts of the region.

In 2014, the Jammu and Kashmir government



As per the details available with the news agency-Kashmir News Observer, the rising waters have submerged acres of paddy fields, fruit orchards, and other essential crops. The floodwaters have also damaged numerous structures, exacerbating the loss for families whose livelihoods depend on agriculture.

Several farmers described the extent of the destruction, with many expressing their concerns about the future of their crops and their families' survival. "Our fields are completely submerged. This flood is worse than anything we've seen in the past decade," said Ghulam Mohammad, a farmer from the Awantipora area. "The paddy crop, which was almost ready for harvest, has been washed away. All that hard work is gone."

The damage also extends to horticultural crops, with apple orchards, one of the valley's most valuable agricultural assets, severely impacted. "The apples were just about to ripen, and now they've been destroyed," lamented Shabir Ahmad, an orchard own-

provided financial assistance and compensation to those affected by the flood.

Farmers and residents are now urging the government to take similar steps.

"In 2014, the government promised us compensation and relief," said a local farmer, Mehmood Ali. "We are once again asking for the same support. If the government could help us then, there's no reason they can't do so now."

The local administration is already at work, assessing the damage across the valley. According to officials, a report on the extent of the destruction will soon be submitted to the government, and compensation plans will be discussed thereafter.

"We are in the process of gathering all the necessary information on the damages," a senior official said.

"Once the assessment is complete, we will submit a report to the government, and relief measures will be implemented accordingly."—(KNO)

## LG Sinha

of a teacher is their ability to bring a human touch to the classroom. Only a teacher can give a live experience of education to children and facilitate experiential learning.

Today, Artificial intelligence tools, machine learning have reshaped industries and education. In this rapidly evolving world, teachers will have to re-imagine the entire education system.

Teachers shouldn't compete with technology; instead, they should focus on how to use it for the benefit of students. Technology will serve as a virtual assistant, strengthening the education system and helping us prepare future human resources," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He further asked the School Education and Higher Education departments to include an award for innovation, news ideas and research in addition to the Gold Medal and Certificate of Merit.

"Dream big, believe in yourself, and work hard with focus and determination. Remove the word "satisfaction" from your vocabulary; must have the hunger to do something new and creative," the Lieutenant Governor told the youth.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to the people who lost their lives in the recent natural calamities in Jammu Kashmir.

He reiterated that the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Amit Shah have assured that all efforts will be made for the proper rehabilitation of the affected families. The Government of India is committed to rebuilding not just the infrastructure but also rebuilding the normal life, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the School Education department for honouring the Specially-abled teachers and including the Language and Yoga in the Award category.(DIPR)

## Jammu-Srinagar

continues to remain closed for the fourth day on Friday due to damage on the route.

He said that in the last eleven days, only one day the road was partially restored, adding that a major hurdle remains the reconstruction of a critical patch at Thard in Udhampur district.

The official said the highway in Udhampur is expected to reopen partially tomorrow as every effort is being made to reopen it. "Big boulders are lying on the patch at Thard. Now blasting is being used on the big boulders. At Thard eleven machines are being used to restore the highway as soon as possible," he said.

A traffic official told KNO that the Ramban-Banihal stretch has been partially restored for stranded traffic after it was hit by landslides and falling stones. He said men and machinery are on the job to restore two-way traffic in the Ramban-Banihal sector.

According to officials, more than 3,000 vehicles, including 500 trucks carrying fruit, are stranded on the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to landslides, road sinking, and debris accumulation.

The most critical disruption is reported between Samroli and Udhampur, where a 10-kilometre stretch of the highway has collapsed, posing significant challenges to restoration teams. Repair and clearance operations are ongoing, but due to the scale of the damage, traffic movement is yet to resume.

Vehicles are stuck in multiple locations, particularly between Qazigund and Wanpoh. Authorities confirmed that once the road is cleared, fruit-laden trucks will be given priority for movement to prevent spoilage and further economic loss.

Truck drivers have raised concerns about the lack of food, money, and basic supplies. Many drivers have been stranded for over ten days with no assistance.

The drivers near Qazigund said that their resources have been exhausted and called for immediate relief and restoration of the highway.

The Mughal Road, an alternative route connecting Poonch and Rajouri with south Kashmir, was also blocked due to landslides and falling rocks. After remaining closed for four days, it has been reopened for traffic movement, officials said. Passenger vehicles and private cars have been permitted to travel in both directions between Jammu and Srinagar via Poonch.

For heavy motor vehicles, however, movement has been restricted. Only sixty-tire trucks carrying essential supplies are currently being allowed to ply from Poonch towards Shopian, while larger vehicles remain barred until the road condition improves.

Meanwhile, the Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road remains shut due to unstable conditions.

The Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has expressed concern over the prolonged highway closure. In a statement, KCCI said that the blockage has disrupted trade, supply chains, and transport of essential goods, including fruits, vegetables, livestock, groceries, and dairy products. The group stated that the unavailability of alternative logistics systems has deepened the crisis, affecting several sectors.

The KCCI urged the government to allow the movement of heavy vehicles through the Mughal Road until the national highway is restored. It also appealed to traders to avoid increasing prices during the crisis.

The Chamber called for a long-term contingency plan to manage such recurring disruptions, pointing out the region's dependence on a single highway. It stressed the need for a sustainable supply chain mechanism to minimise economic losses and prevent future crises due to natural disruptions—(KNO)

## Air Power

Sindoor, the political leadership provided a clear direction with a clear message to destroy the terrorist camps, and retaliate only if we are attacked. During Operation Sindoor, we were given full operational freedom, including planning and selection of targets," the CDS said.

"India and Pakistan have also learned differently from the previous strikes. While India focused on long-range precision strike weapons and post-strike damage assessment after the 2019 Balakot airstrike, Pakistan might have focused on air defence," General Chauhan said.

"During the surgical strikes after the 2016 Uri terror attack, the Indian Army entered Pakistan by land and destroyed the terrorist camps. We conducted airstrikes in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa region after Pulwama attack", the CDS added.

Speaking on the concept of 'atmanirbharta' (self-reliance), General Anil Chauhan called for expanding its scope, saying that while people only look for self-reliance in defence production, in other areas, such as military.

"When we talk about national security, an important aspect of it is also self-reliance. Most people associate self-reliance only with defence manufacturing, but it should also be associated with defence research and we should be self-reliant in it. It should also be with military tactics and thinking, we should have Indian thinking," he said.

General Chauhan also mentioned that the border dispute with China remains one of the biggest challenges, while mentioning the challenges India is facing and will continue to face

"One of the first challenges is regarding the boundary dispute, because of which we have fought many wars, including in 1947 (India-Pakistan), 1962 (India-China), which are a result of that. In this, I consider the dispute with China as the biggest challenge. The second big challenge will be with Pakistan. Pakistan's strategy has been to bleed India with a thousand cuts," he added.

Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit, which took place on August 31-September 1. PM Modi described the visit as "productive" and emphasised India's position on key global issues during his engagements. The SCO summit came amid mounting pressure from the United States after it imposed 50 per cent tariffs on India as a penalty for purchasing Russian oil. (ANI)

## President

his innovative teaching practices.

"His work includes creating thallapatra granthas (palm-leaf manuscripts), producing educational videos for LMS, and earning prestigious accolades for his contributions to education," his citation read.

Similarly, Proshanto Kr Saha, Faculty of Psychology at Rajiv Gandhi Central University, Arunachal Pradesh, has been recognised for his expertise in forensic psychology and neuropsychology, with more than 14 years of academic service.

"He established a Neuropsychology Lab, developed intervention training modules, led major research projects, and extended psychological support to child abuse victims, reflecting his commitment to both academic excellence and social impact," the citation said.

Ahead of the awards, Prime Minister Narendra Modi interacted with the National Award-winning teachers. In a light-hearted remark, he said that while teachers usually give homework to students, he wanted to assign one to them—to lead campaigns promoting swadeshi products and strengthen the "Make in India" and "Vocal for Local" movements. (PTI)

## CM Omar

Kashmir briefed the meeting on the water levels at Sangam, Ram Munshi Bagh and Asham, saying that the water level has receded below the danger mark.

He informed that personnel from I&FC, police, and other departments were patrolling vulnerable embankments and deploying sandbags where necessary. He further reported that inundated villages in Shalina are witnessing receding waters and relief measures are underway for displaced families.

On the restoration front, the meeting was informed that water supply schemes are functioning smoothly with minor disruptions in a few places, while power, telecom, and health services remain largely unaffected.

Essential supplies are being routed through Mughal Road, which has become the valley's temporary lifeline. The meeting was informed that Srinagar-Jammu National Highway (NH-44) is expected to be restored by tomorrow, with fruit-laden trucks currently being cleared via Mughal Road in a phased manner.

Deputy Commissioners of all the Valley districts also shared ground reports, confirming that water levels are receding in the Jhelum's tributaries, including Lidder, Vaishow, Sandran, Rambi Ara, and others.

Addressing the meeting, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directed immediate reinforcement of embankments at vulnerable spots, evacuation of residents from inundated areas, and round-the-clock monitoring through control rooms. He emphasized the importance of frequent visits to affected areas and timely advisories urging people to remain alert, avoid panic and fully cooperate with the administration.

The Chief Minister instructed officials to ensure uninterrupted arrangements for evacuees, close coordination with the police to maintain order, and strict countering of rumour-mongering to prevent unnecessary panic. He underscored the need for swift restoration of essential services, including electricity, water supply and road connectivity.

Calling the next 48 to 72 hours "critical," the Chief Minister said:

"The level of vigilance currently being maintained must continue until the water recedes below the danger mark. Our deployed teams must remain fully active on the ground, and continuous monitoring of bunds should be carried out. Any leakages or breaches must be addressed without delay. While the respite from continuous rainfall has improved the situation compared to two days ago, we cannot afford complacency."

He further stressed the need for damage assessment to pave the way for relief and compensation measures.

"Deputy Commissioners must conduct realistic assessments of the damage caused to property, agricultural lands, and infrastructure. These findings will form the basis for projecting requirements to the Government of India," he noted.

To support immediate relief operations, the Chief Minister announced the utilization of 5 crores from the UT CapEx budget, in addition to funds from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The Chief Minister also asked Deputy Commissioners and Agriculture Department officials to assess damage to standing crops across both provinces, highlighting that the Mughal Road has emerged as a vital road artery in the wake of blockage of NH-44. He directed the Health Department to remain vigilant against potential water-borne and post-flood diseases.

The Chief Minister reiterating his government's commitment to ensuring safety, timely relief and early restoration of normalcy in the flood-affected areas of Kashmir valley. (DIPR)

## J&K Initiates

several others partially damaged. Residents have appealed to the government to provide immediate compensation and relief to the affected families.

Ramesh Kumar, whose house was reduced to rubble, said, "We have lost everything, our homes, cattle, and fields. The government must step in quickly so that we can start rebuilding our lives."

Another villager, added, "We are living in temporary shelters with no proper food or water. Winter is approaching, and without compensation or support, survival will become even more difficult."

Officials said assessment teams have been sent to the area to record the extent of the damage.

Another top official said a team from the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is on the ground inspecting areas affected by heavy rains, floods, and landslides, while major rehabilitation measures are being undertaken by the government. Multiple surveys are being conducted in flood-hit regions of J&K, and

compensation will be provided after assessments are completed.

Leader of Opposition in the J&K Assembly Sunil Sharma visited flood-hit areas in Reasi, including Markulle village and the BSF post at Mala Bela, along with MLA Akhnoor Mohan Lal. He assured residents of timely relief and rehabilitation. Officials said land subsidence in Reasi's Bagga Jameslan and Sarh had damaged 50 houses, forcing villagers to evacuate.

SRINAGAR, BANDIPORA, SOUTH KASHMIR  
Meanwhile, floodwaters continued to affect several areas. In Srinagar's Hajam Mohalla, locals said water levels were still rising. "Our ground floors are filled with water, and despite some sunshine, the situation is not easing here," said Mohammad Ashraf, a resident. In Bandipora, the rising water in Wular Lake forced the evacuation of families from low-lying villages.

In South Kashmir, residents in flood-hit low-lying areas reported gradual improvement. "Water has started receding from our homes. We are cleaning whatever is left, though most of our belongings are destroyed," said Naseema Begum from Pulwama. Local orchards have also suffered heavy losses.

Fruit growers have urged the government to announce a special compensation package to cover damages.

PREZ MURMU EXPRESSES ANGUISH

President Droupadi Murmu expressed her anguish over the widespread devastation in J&K and other states. "Cloudbursts in the hills and floods in the plains have taken a heavy toll. The nation shares the sorrow of the people affected by calamities and is with them in this crisis. I commend the spirit of those involved in rescue and relief," she said.

"I have been deeply anguished every time I have come to know about natural calamities during the monsoon this year. Cloudbursts in the hills and floods in the plains have taken a heavy toll, leaving death and destruction in their wake in Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab, Assam and many other parts of the country," she said.

The President said that the nation shares the sorrow of the people affected by calamities and is with them in this crisis. "I commend the spirit of those involved in the rescue and relief operations. Together we will overcome this challenge," she added—(KNO)

## PM, LG

source of guidance for humanity, emphasizing the values of peace, compassion, equality and brotherhood. He urged people to imbibe these values in their daily lives and work collectively towards building a harmonious society.

"The auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) reminds us of the timeless message of the Prophet (SAW), which is rooted in kindness, tolerance and service to humanity. Let us dedicate ourselves to following this noble path and promote unity, brotherhood and mutual respect across all sections of society," the Chief Minister said.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah prayed for peace, prosperity and well-being of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and hoped that the occasion would strengthen the spirit of harmony and collective responsibility.

Meanwhile, the Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo extended her heartfelt greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

In her greeting message, the Minister said that this sacred day reminds us of the timeless values of compassion, kindness, and service to humanity, which form the essence of the life and teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW). She expressed hope that this pious occasion will inspire people to strengthen bonds of brotherhood, promote peace and harmony, and work collectively for the welfare of society.

"On this revered occasion, let us pledge to walk on the path of truth, compassion, and selfless service shown to us by the Prophet Muhammad (SAW)," she said.

The Minister also highlighted that true way of celebrating this blessed and sacred day is to uphold the values of empathy, patience, and mutual respect in our daily lives.

Sakeena Itoo also prayed for the peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, particularly the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

On the auspicious and blessed occasion, Minister Javed Ahmed Rana has extended his warmest and most heartfelt greetings to all citizens, urging them to embrace the sacred spirit of this blessed day.

The Minister emphasized that Eid Milad-un-Nabi is not only a time for celebration but also an opportunity to reflect deeply on the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him).

He described the life of the Prophet (SAW) as the perfect embodiment of peace, mercy, compassion, unity and justice—qualities that remain timeless and universal.

Rana called upon the people to seize this occasion to renew their commitment to the Sunnah of the Prophet (SAW).

He highlighted the importance of serving humanity with humility, promoting harmony and strengthening the bonds of brotherhood within our communities.

Addressing the current challenges faced by society, marked by social divisions and hardships, the Minister reminded everyone that the Prophet's (SAW) message of universal brotherhood, mercy and compassion for all creation shines brighter than ever.

The Cabinet Minister, Javid Ahmad Dar, in a post on X, said, "May the blessings of Prophet Muhammad SAW bring peace, love, and guidance into our lives. Eid Milad-un-Nabi Mubarak!"

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Chief, Mehbooba Mufti in a post on X, said, "Eid Milad-Un-Nabi Mubarak On this blessed occasion may the virtuous Seerah of Prophet Muhammad continue to guide us with honesty, compassion & righteousness."—(KNO)

## Jhelum Calms

and Sindh Nallah at Doderhama: 1.76 m (danger mark: 3.9 m). Notably, the rise in the water levels in the river Jhelum and other tributaries led to a flood-like situation across Kashmir, while several areas in Srinagar outskirts got submerged yesterday, causing extensive losses to properties.

The government had yesterday informed that nearly 9500 people were evacuated after the floods in different parts of Kashmir, especially in Tiagan, Shaalina and Zainapora areas.

Furthermore, an Independent Weather Forecaster, Faizan Arif Keng, told KNO that the water level is expected to come below the flood declaration mark, also at Pampore and Ram Munshi Bagh, till midnight.

He added that the weather conditions are expected to remain dry for the next three days, but a brief spell of rain, especially in the morning and late afternoon hours, cannot be ruled out.

Also, he said that the Monsoon conditions at present look weak and are mostly in the withdrawal state.

Pertinently, the weather conditions started improving from Wednesday afternoon, and no rainfall was recorded at any station across Jammu and Kashmir today. However, a precipitation of 0.2 mm was recorded at Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, today till Friday evening—(KNO)

## Dwivedi

isation, the Army Chief said it is necessary for effective command and coordination during operations involving multiple agencies. "Theaterisation is something that will inevitably come sooner or later. To implement it, we need several steps involving jointness, integration, and careful planning. Wars are not fought by the Army alone. With so many agencies involved, theaterisation becomes the solution. A single commander is needed to coordinate execution effectively," he said.

General Dwivedi described 'Operation Sindoor' as a tribute to the professionalism and effort of the Indian Army and the nation. "It is not just a narrative of a military operation, but a record of the courage and work of the Indian Army. Regarding the LoC situation, we have become accustomed to these conflicts and may not always recognize the relevance, losses, and challenges involved," he added.

On economic and defence reforms, General Dwivedi welcomed the government's GST reform, noting its potential to boost defence corridors. "The reform will allow greater investment in defence corridors and support MSMEs and startups. They will find it easier to invest in research, development, manufacturing, and upgradation of equipment for the Indian Army," he said—(KNO)

## Lifestyle, pollution, genetics among main reasons for hematologic cancers: Doctors

### Call for early detection, awareness with better treatment facilities

SRINAGAR: Blood cancer, medically known as hematologic cancer, is emerging as a growing health challenge in the world, along with Jammu and Kashmir.

Experts, warned that lifestyle changes, environmental pressures, and limited awareness may contribute to a sharp rise in cases if preventive measures are not taken seriously.

They said blood cancer affects the production and functioning of blood cells, originating in the bone marrow where blood is formed. Abnormal growth of blood cells, particularly white blood cells, weakens the immune system and affects oxygen transport.

They explained that the three main types of blood cancers include leukaemia, which affects blood and bone marrow, lymphoma, which impacts the lymphatic system and myeloma, which targets plasma cells in bone marrow.

Dr Mohammad Ashraf Mir, an oncologist, said that 8-10% of all cancer cases in the UT are blood-related and tertiary care centres in Srinagar and Jammu have reported a steady rise in referrals.

"Over the past decade, we have seen a gradual rise in hematologic cancers among both young and elderly patients. Factors such as lifestyle, pollution, and genetics are playing a role," he said.

The Kashmir Valley, already known for high rates of gastrointestinal cancers, is now witnessing a growing burden of blood cancers, especially in men aged 30-60 years.

Doctors explain that while the exact causes of blood cancers are not always clear, several risk factors have been identified as genetics, radiation that may be natural or medical exposure, chemical exposure that is on-term contact with pesticides, benzene, or industrial chemicals and immune system weakness that comes usually due to chronic infections or autoimmune conditions and lifestyle that is smoking, alcohol, poor diet, and lack of physical activity.

In J&K, doctors highlight the role of pesticide exposure in orchards, air pollution, and contaminated water sources as major environmental contributors.

"If untreated, blood cancer can damage the immune system, cause recurrent infections, anaemia, and bone weakness, lead to life-threatening complications and treatment typically involves chemotherapy, radiation therapy, targeted drugs, and in severe cases, bone marrow transplants." Dr Ashraf said.

While not all cases can be prevented, early detection and healthy practices can reduce risks, he said, adding that regular medical check-ups, especially for those with a family history and eating a balanced diet rich in fruits, vegetables, and antioxidants while avoiding tobacco and alcohol and safe handling of pesticides by farmers and orchard workers using protective gear are key.

Doctors said that awareness drives on early symptoms, such as persistent fatigue, fever, unexplained weight loss, frequent infections, or abnormal bleeding, need to be checked at the earliest.

Doctors urge the J&K administration to strengthen oncology facilities in district hospitals, make chemotherapy more affordable and accessible and establish bone marrow transplant centres in all GMCs.

"Cancer is not always a death sentence if detected early. What J&K needs is awareness, timely diagnosis, and local treatment facilities," they said—(KNO)

## Satish Sharma Extends Greetings on Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW)

JAMMU: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, has extended warm greetings to the people of Jammu and Kashmir on the auspicious occasion of Eid-e-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW), marking the birth anniversary of Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

In his message, the Minister said that the sacred occasion is a reminder of the noble teachings of the Holy Prophet (SAW), who showed humanity the path of truth, compassion, and service to mankind.

He expressed hope that the blessed day will inspire people to uphold the values of peace, harmony, mutual respect, and brotherhood, thereby fostering unity and collective progress in society.

"On this revered day, let us rededicate ourselves to the principles of empathy, kindness, and selfless service, which remain the foundation of the Prophet's (SAW) life and message," Sharma said.

The Minister added that the true way of celebrating this day is by practicing patience, spreading goodwill, and extending support to those in need.

Satish Sharma also prayed for peace, prosperity, and well-being of all citizens, especially the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

## Dr Jitendra Hails IIT Roorkee As Asia's Oldest Engineering College, Role Model

**ROORKEE (UTTARAKHAND):** In a highly scholarly Convocation address, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh hailed IIT Roorkee, founded in 1847, as Asia's first Engineering College and a role model that combines research, innovation and societal engagement.

Even in the NIF rating released yesterday, the institution, which was earlier known as the University of Roorkee before it became IIT, was ranked no. 6 in the country, the Minister added.

With the advantage of its versatile academics and geographical location, Dr Jitendra Singh urged the institution to take up Himalayan studies ranging from Disaster management to Aromatic economy.

Delivering the convocation address as Chief Guest, Dr. Jitendra Singh said that IIT Roorkee's nearly 240 startups—out of 1.7 lakh across India—stand testimony to its significant contribution to the country's startup ecosystem. "Your

nine centres of excellence, pioneering work in disaster risk, resilience and sustainability, and your deep engagement with local communities through



initiatives like Vibrant Villages make you a true role model," he said, adding that the institute's location in the Himalayas makes its role critical not only in disaster response but also in what he termed a "peacetime calendar" of building resilience and growth.

The Minister pointed to IIT Roorkee's recognition on multiple platforms, noting that the institute has received the "Most Innovative Institute Award by the Confederation of Indian Industry" for the fourth year in a row, along with

the "Gatishakti Achiever Award for Excellence of Women in STEM". He also congratulated the institute for securing the sixth position in the latest national rankings.

Dr. Jitendra Singh praised the leadership of Director Prof. Kamal Kishore Pant and Deputy Director Prof. U.P. Singh, alongside senior faculty, in steering the institute towards academic and research excellence. He also recalled the institution's legacy as India's oldest engineering college, which evolved into an IIT without having to seek the transformation, "a rare example of the stature and confidence it had earned over decades."

Placing IIT Roorkee's role in the larger national context, Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the government's futuristic initiatives in science and technology. He underscored India's rapid rise in the global startup landscape, now ranked third with 1.7 lakh registered ventures, and emphasized that nearly half of these come from smaller cities and towns. "This is a democratisation of opportunities, and institutions like IIT Roorkee can nurture this momentum," he said.

The Minister spoke of emerging opportunities in biotechnology, space, nuclear energy, and Himalayan resources, stressing that the next industrial revolution would be biotechnology-driven. He urged the institute to explore new domains such as biotechnology and regenerative processes while continuing its strengths in civil engineering and disaster management. He also pointed to recent government initiatives, including the Purple Revolution in lavender cultivation and new biotechnology policies under Bio-E3 (employment, environment, economy), as examples where academia and industry can work together.

Calling for early industry linkages and stronger public-private partnerships, Dr. Jitendra Singh encouraged graduating students to move beyond dependence on government or corporate jobs and instead become drivers of innovation-led enterprises. He reminded them that India's recent achievements in vaccine development, space exploration, and global innovation rankings were possible through a blend of government support, private initiative, and youth talent. (PIB)

## Philippine forces deliver supplies, personnel to disputed South China Sea shoal despite tensions

**MANILA (PHILIPPINES):** Filipino forces transported food, fuel and new personnel Friday to a Philippine territorial outpost in a fiercely disputed shoal in the South China Sea despite tensions flaring recently at the atoll after China staged water cannon drills and deployed additional coast guard and suspected militia vessels,

by a helicopter and an unmanned surveillance drone.

A Chinese coast guard ship was spotted firing its powerful water cannon in an apparent drill or intimidating gesture and a Chinese boat came as close as 50 metres to the Sierra Madre. The Chinese vessel was blocked by two boatloads



two Philippine officials said.

Two Philippine security officials told The Associated Press that a new Armed Forces of the Philippines delivery of supplies and navy and marine personnel to the Second Thomas Shoal was successfully "completed without any untoward incident" Friday. The officials did not elaborate and spoke on condition of anonymity because of the issue's sensitivity.

One of the officials said the delivery was postponed for a few weeks to ensure its security and success. Chinese officials did not immediately issue a statement. They have previously claimed the fishing atoll and virtually the entire South China Sea in the past and have repeatedly demanded the Philippines pull a grounded warship, the BRP Sierra Madre, from the Second Thomas Shoal.

The Philippine military has carried out at least nine such deliveries of supplies and new batches of navy and marine personnel without incident to the long-grounded ship, the BRP Sierra Madre. Confrontations were averted after Beijing and Manila signing a temporary nonaggression deal in July 2024 to prevent new confrontations at the fishing atoll.

Last month, however, China deployed several more coast guard and suspected militia ships to the closely guarded shoal, including some with more powerful machine guns, backed

of Filipino forces from coming closer to the ship outpost, the Philippine military said.

Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro condemned the Chinese forces' actions at Second Thomas Shoal, which lies within Manila's Exclusive Economic Zone, and said the Philippines would stand up against such "gross violations of international law."

There have been concerns a new attempt by the Philippine military to deliver fresh supplies to the Sierra Madre may be blocked by the beefed-up Chinese forces.

The Philippines deliberately beached the Sierra Madre in the shallows of the Second Thomas Shoal in 1999 to serve as a territorial outpost. China, which also claims the shoal, later surrounded the atoll with its ships.

The long-unresolved territorial standoff has caused frequent faceoffs between Philippine military supply boats and Chinese forces until diplomats forged the nonaggression arrangement last year covering the shoal, a landmark deal between two claimant states.

Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also have overlapping territorial claims in the strategic sea passage, a key global trade route. The US lays no claims to the waters but has repeatedly warned it is obligated to comply with a 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty covering Filipino forces in the South China Sea. (PTI)

## AAP gov't's negligence turned 'rains into man-made disaster' in Punjab, says BJP leader

**CHANDIGARH:** BJP leader Tarun Chugh sharply criticised the Aam Aadmi Party government in Punjab on Friday and said its negligence "turned rains into a man-made disaster in the state."

In a statement, Chugh said the India Meteorological Department had predicted above normal rains as early as April 15, while the Bhakra Beas Management Board's technical committee had, on April 23, recommended reducing water levels to create buffer space in reservoirs.



Instead, the Bhagwant Mann government deployed police at Bhakra dam gates, stalled water release and turned it into a political spectacle, he alleged.

"The result is before the people to see," he said, "Delayed, sudden release of 65,000 cusecs of water from Bhakra dam and 80,000 cusecs of water from Pong dam

devastated villages downstream."

When Atal Bihari Vajpayee was the prime minister and Parkash Singh Badal was the Punjab chief minister, embankments along the Sutlej, Beas, Ravi and Ghaggar rivers were strengthened to protect crops, Chugh said, "Since then, illegal mining and negligence have weakened them, allowing floodwaters to enter villages."

Punjab is currently facing the worst floods in four decades, which has claimed several lives and affected thousands. The BJP leader asked why flood-preparedness meetings were held barely 17 days before the monsoon, when months of planning was required. Mann and his entire cabinet were campaigning in Delhi for Arvind Kejriwal (for assembly elections earlier this year) instead of preparing in Punjab, he alleged.

"Punjab's suffering today is not a natural calamity but the direct result of AAP's negligence and reckless politics," he added.

However, Prime Minister Narendra Modi stands firmly with people of Punjab in this hour of crisis, the BJP leader said.

Modi government has already allotted Rs 11,000 crore for disaster management in Punjab and it is now the responsibility of the Mann government to get the 'girdawari' (survey) done for an estimated assistance, he said.

Chugh said Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan has conducted a firsthand review of the situation in flood-affected areas on Thursday. Two Central teams have also arrived in the state on the Prime Minister's instructions, with senior officials from agriculture, rural development, energy, finance, roads and Jal Shakti departments assessing the damage.

He expressed gratitude to Prime Minister Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for releasing Rs 11,000 crore for the National Disaster Response Fund. (PTI)

## Minister Manohar Lal Launches Angikaar 2025 Campaign Under PMAY-U 2.0

**NEW DELHI:** Union Housing and Urban Affairs Minister Manohar Lal on Thursday launched Angikaar 2025, a last-mile outreach campaign under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0), aimed at expediting the delivery of affordable housing

With the scheme revamped as PMAY-U 2.0 in September 2024, the government has set a target of supporting an additional one crore urban families with up to 2.5 lakh financial assistance for constructing or purchasing a pucca house.



and creating mass awareness about the scheme.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB) the launch event, held in New Delhi, was attended by Minister of State for Housing and Urban Affairs Tokhan Sahu, MOHUA Secretary Srinivas Katikithala, Joint Secretary and Mission Director (Housing for All) Kuldip Narayan, along with other senior officials of the Ministry. Designed to bridge the gap between policy and implementation, Angikaar 2025 will run nationwide from September 4 to October 31, covering more than 5,000 Urban Local Bodies (ULBs). The campaign seeks to fast-track verification of applications, accelerate completion of sanctioned houses, and extend the benefits of allied government schemes to PMAY-U beneficiaries. Key highlights include outreach on the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust for Low Income Housing (CRGFTLIH) scheme and convergence with the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, ensuring beneficiaries gain access to solar energy benefits. Special focus will be given to vulnerable groups identified under PMAY-U 2.0, with housing needs of these sections prioritised.

Under PMAY-U so far, 120 lakh houses have been sanctioned, of which 94.11 lakh have already been completed and handed over.

Speaking at the launch, officials said Angikaar 2025 reaffirms the government's commitment to 'Housing for All' and will use door-to-door campaigns, loan melas, cultural events, and community mobilisation to spread awareness. The initiative is expected to create momentum under the Jan Bhagidari movement, ensuring last-mile delivery of benefits.

As part of the campaign, PMAY-U Awas Diwas will be celebrated on September 17 to mark one year of PMAY-U 2.0. An anchor event, PM Awas Mela - Shehri, will also be organised in two phases - September 17 to 27 and any day between October 16 and 31 - at district headquarters or municipal corporation levels in larger cities. These events will showcase the benefits of PMAY-U and related schemes, while offering services and platforms for community engagement.

Following the launch, Kuldip Narayan chaired a meeting with State and UT officials to chalk out strategies for effective implementation of the campaign at the grassroots level. Officials emphasised that Angikaar 2025 will not only expedite housing delivery but also ensure holistic development outcomes through convergence with other welfare programmes. (PIB)

## 16th India-Singapore Defence Working Group Meeting Held in Singapore

**SINGAPORE:** The 16th India-Singapore Defence Working Group (DWG) meeting was held in Singapore on September 4, 2025, co-chaired by Amitabh Prasad, Joint Secretary (International Cooperation), Ministry of Defence, India,



and Col Daxson Yap, Director, Policy Office, Ministry of Defence, Singapore.

In a statement issued to Press Information Bureau (PIB), an official spokesperson said the meeting reviewed progress on decisions taken during the last Defence Ministers' Dialogue and various bilateral defence initiatives. "It provided a platform for both sides to exchange perspectives, accelerate ongoing projects, and explore new avenues across the spectrum of bilateral defence engagement, including regional security architecture".

Deliberations were guided by the latest Joint Statement on the Roadmap for the Comprehen-

sive Strategic Partnership between India and Singapore, issued following the meeting between Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lawrence Wong in New Delhi. Both sides expressed satisfaction with the current level of defence cooperation and discussed ways to strengthen collaboration in training, capability building, industry and technology, maritime security, and multinational exercises. Emerging areas of cooperation and global commons issues were also highlighted during the discussions.

Marking 60 years of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore in 2025, the co-chairs agreed to further deepen defence ties, in line with India's Act East policy, where Singapore has played a pivotal role in promoting economic cooperation, cultural links, and strategic connectivity in the region.

On the sidelines, Shri Prasad met Deputy Secretary Policy BG Fredrick Choo and visited the Information Fusion Centre and the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Cyber Security and Information Centre of Excellence at Changi Naval Base.

The meeting reinforces the strong strategic partnership between India and Singapore, highlighting their commitment to enhanced bilateral defence collaboration and regional security cooperation. (PIB)

## Putin Says Foreign Troops Deployed To Ukraine Before Any Peace Deal Would Be 'Legitimate Targets'

**KYIV:** Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that any foreign troops deployed to Ukraine before a peace agreement has been signed would be considered "legitimate targets" by Moscow's forces.

Putin's comments came hours after European leaders pledged their commitment to a potential peacekeeping force, a prospect that Moscow has repeatedly described as "unacceptable."

"If any troops appear there, especially now while fighting is ongoing, we assume that they will be legitimate targets," he said during a panel at the Eastern Economic Forum in the far eastern Russian city of Vladivostok.

Putin also dismissed the idea of peacekeeping forces in Ukraine after a

final peace deal, saying "no one should doubt" that Moscow would comply with a treaty to halt its 3½-year full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

He said that security guarantees would be needed for both Russia and Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov later said that Moscow would need "legally binding documents" to outline such agreements. "Of course, you can't just take anybody's word for something," he told Russian news outlet Argumenty i Fakty.

Putin's comments follow remarks from French President Emmanuel Macron on Thursday that 26 of Ukraine's allies have pledged to deploy troops as a "reassurance force" for Ukraine once fighting ends.

Macron spoke after a meeting in Paris

of the so-called coalition of the willing, a group of 35 countries that support Ukraine. He said that 26 of the countries



had committed to deploying troops to Ukraine—or to maintaining a presence

on land, at sea or in the air—to help guarantee the country's security the day after any ceasefire or peace is achieved.

Addressing the participants of the international economic conference the Ambrosetti Forum on Friday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said it was important that security guarantees "start working now, during the war, and not only after it ends."

He said he could not disclose more details as they are "sensitive and relate to the military sphere."

Drone strikes continue  
Russian troops attacked Ukraine overnight with 157 strike and decoy drones,

as well as seven missiles of various types, Ukraine's air force reported Friday. Air defences shot down or jammed 121 of the drones, it said.

One attack damaged multiple residential buildings in Dnipro in central Ukraine, regional administration head Serhii Lysak wrote on social media. The regional administration also said that an unspecified "facility" had been set alight in the strike, but did not give further details.

Lysak shared photos of residential buildings with damaged roofs, glass shards lying on the ground and people carrying wooden boards to cover broken windows. "Private homes were damaged. Windows in apartment buildings were shattered," he wrote.

Meanwhile, in Ukraine's Chernihiv

region north of Kyiv, Russian drones attacked infrastructure in the Novhorod-Siversk district, leaving at least 15 settlements without electricity, local authorities reported.

Elsewhere, Russian troops destroyed 92 Ukrainian drones overnight, Russia's Defence Ministry said Friday. Local social media channels in the city of Ryazan, approximately 200 kilometres southeast of Moscow, reported that the city's Rosneft oil refinery had been targeted. They shared videos that appeared to show a fire against the night sky. Local Gov Pavel Malkov said that drone debris had fallen on an "industrial enterprise" but did not give further details, instead warning residents not to post images of air defences on social media. (PTI)

# WAZWAN DELIGHTS

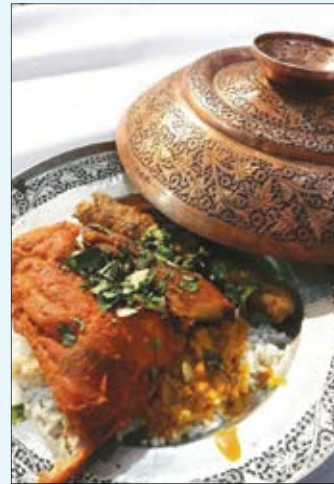
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