



Completing Flood Rehabilitation Our Top Priority: LG Manoj Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday expressed the commitment of the government of India and the Union Territory (UT) administration for the complete rehabilitation of families affected by rains and floods in the region, and said it is resolved to support the people through this difficult time.

Sinha on Tuesday reached out to the flood-affected people of three districts in the Jammu region and reviewed the restoration work on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway at Udhampur.

Sinha visited the flood-affected areas in Jammu city's Rajiv Colony, followed by Jakhani and Thard in Udhampur district, and Keso Manhasan and Vijaypur in Samba district during his day-long tour.

"The government of India and the J-K administration are fully committed to not only restoring the damaged infrastructure but also completing rehabilitation of the affected families," the LG said during the visit.

Assuring people of the support, he said, "We are resolved to support the people of Jammu and Kashmir through this difficult time."

The recent natural calamities caused massive destruction throughout the Jammu region, which has not experienced such events on this scale for a

very long time, he said.

"The Centre, in coordination with the J-K administration, is currently assessing the damage to essential infrastructure like roads, power, water supply, education and health caused by the recent natural calamities. The

He urged farmers across the Jammu region to take advantage of the benefits of the PM Fasal Bima Yojana and the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

Sinha also expressed gratitude to the director and the entire team of AIIMS

nine more mega health camps, and the J-K Health Department, Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs), Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Army are also organising similar health camps. "I urge the people to visit these camps and avail of healthcare services," he



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team has also visited several affected districts in the Jammu region," the LG said.

He said the complete restoration of infrastructure will require some time, but the administration is focused on providing immediate relief to the affected population.

The LG said the farming community has been severely affected by the recent natural calamities.

Jammu for organising the health camp for flood-affected families and for discharging their moral responsibility towards the healthcare of the people of Samba.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah, during his recent visit to Jammu, emphasised that health camps should be set up in every panchayat for flood-affected people.

AIIMS Jammu will be organising

added.

Earlier, the LG visited Devak Bridge near AIIMS Jammu at Vijaypur, Samba. The bridge suffered damage due to incessant rains and increased water levels. He directed the officials to expedite the restoration work.

PM Modi Set To Visit J&K To Review Calamity Damage

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SRINAGAR: After visiting flood hit areas in Himachal Pradesh on Tuesday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Jammu and Kashmir in coming days to review the flood situation and damage caused due to cloudbursts, rains and landslides.

Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and organizational General Secretary Ashok Koul while talking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, "PM Modi will visit J&K to take the first-hand account of the damages caused by the recent natural calamities."

He said, "The date of his J&K visit will be announced soon."

Sources told KNO that PM Modi besides assessing the damages will also conduct an aerial survey of landslide hit holy town of Katra, where landslides enroute Shri Mata Vashino Devi Shrine last month led

to more than 35 people losing their lives. They said that PM Modi will also conduct the aerial survey of Chasoti village in Kishtwar District where more than 60



people died after a landslide hit the hamlet nestled within mountains. "PM Modi may also announce a special relief package for the flood victims in J&K."

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NDA's Radhakrishnan Elected Next Vice President

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NEW DELHI: Strongly rooted in the RSS and the BJP, Chandrapuram Ponnamsky Radhakrishnan, who was on Tuesday elected as the 15th Vice President of India, brings along a rich political and administrative experience which will prove handy in his role as



the ex-officio Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha.

Seen as a soft-spoken and non-confrontational leader, ■ See On P/6

'Operation Sindoor' Is Model Of Military Coordination: Army Chief

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NEW DELHI: Describing 'Operation Sindoor' as a model of military coordination involving soldiers, policymakers and indus-



try, Army Chief General Uday Shankar Dwivedi on Tuesday said India's security and economic growth depend on leadership, indigenous innovation and coordinated response to challenges.

Speaking at the plenary session of the 52nd National Management Convention of the

All-India Management Association here, General Dwivedi, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) while referring to 'Operation Sindoor', a four-day operation against terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan in May this year, said, "War is always unpredictable. We are not sure what kind of psychological impact a particular issue would make."

The Army Chief said that dominance over land will remain the "currency of victory" in wars. "When you go back to the Alaska conference that took place between the two presidents, they just discussed how much land has to exchange hands," Dwivedi said, referring to last month's summit talks between US President Donald Trump and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Alaska on the Ukraine conflict.

"Land remains the currency of victory, especially with India's two-and-a-half front threat," he said, adding, "Low-cost,

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Empowering J&K's Farmers Is Key, Agriculture Our Economic Backbone: CM

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SRINAGAR: The Apex Committee for the Holistic Agriculture Development Program (HADP) led



by Dr. Mangla Rai, renowned agriculture scientist and former DG, Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and briefed him about the progress on implementation of HADP for development of Agriculture & allied sectors across

Jammu and Kashmir.

Other committee members including Dr. PK Joshi, Secretary NAAS; Dr HS Gupta, former Director IARI; Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Prof.

gal Rai gave an overview of HADP and presented comprehensive two-year progress report on the program's initiatives. He also pre-

He **Assured** The Committee That The **Government** Is Committed To Accelerate Region's Agricultural **Growth** Through Progressive Policy Measures And Active **Collaboration** With Apex Committee.

sented several suggestions before the Chief Minister to further enhance the program's implementation

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Avalanche Strikes Siachen Base Camp In Ladakh; Three Soldiers Killed



LEH: Three soldiers lost their lives when an avalanche struck Siachen, the world's highest battlefield, in the Union territory of Ladakh, officials said on Tuesday.

The avalanche occurred in the 12,000-foot-high Siachen base camp area, trapping three soldiers, including two Agniveers, the officials said.

They said a rescue operation was immediately launched, and the bodies of the trapped soldiers were retrieved on Tuesday.

In a tribute posted on X, the Indian Army's Fire and Fury Corps said: "GOC, Fire and Fury Corps and All Ranks salute Sepoy Mohit Kumar, Agniveer Niraj Kumar Choudhary and Agniveer Dabhi Rakesh Devabhai, who made the supreme sacrifice in the line of duty in #Siachen

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Bottimline

J&K Has Potential to Be India's Top Wedding Destination: CM Omar

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Inaugurates 'Hindustan-2025 Wedding Planners Expo' at SKICC

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah remarked that Jammu and Kashmir has immense potential for 'Destination Wedding Tourism' and efforts are on to tap this potential so that Kashmir can emerge from Paradise on Earth to Country's Destination Wedding Capital.

The Chief Minister made these remarks after inaugurating the Hindustan-2025 Wedding Planners Expo, organised by Indian Chamber of Event Industry (ICEI) at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here.

In his address, the Chief Minister highlighted that Jammu and Kashmir is known for its beauty across the globe and has immense potential for destination wedding tourism, apart from the other regular tourism activities like leisure tourism,

adventure tourism, pilgrimage tourism or border tourism. He added that the tagline 'Wed in Kashmir' is more than a



tagline as it is a movement which will turn Kashmir's natural beauty into engine of prosperity, bringing global spotlight and associated development for this region.

"This expo is a manifestation of Jammu and Kashmir's immense potential to emerge as a hub for luxury weddings and associ-

ated enterprises. It is also an opportunity for local entrepreneurs and artisans to showcase their talent on a national stage and further integrate into the growing event management ecosystem," Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister further said that in earlier times no Bollywood movie was complete nor any producer used to produce a film unless a song was not being picturised in Kashmir.

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Kulgam Encounter Ends, Terrorist Hideout Busted During Searches

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2 Lashkar terrorists killed, 2 soldiers also lose lives

KULGAM: The two-day-long gunfight between security forces and terrorists in the Guddar forest area of south Kashmir's Kulgam district ended on Tuesday after two soldiers, including a JCO, were killed in action and as many terrorists were shot dead, officials said.

An official said, that the encounter began on Monday morning when a joint team of Police, Army's 9 RR, elite Para Special Forces and CRPF personnel launched a search operation in the Guddar forest area.

He said the operation was launched on specific police input about the presence of 2-3 terrorists in the area. As the searches were underway, terrorists opened fire on the forces,

which was retaliated to, triggering a gunfight.

In the initial exchange of fire, one terrorist was killed while three Army personnel, including a JCO, sustained



injuries. The injured soldiers were evacuated to a military hospital, where two of them, including the JCO, succumbed. The condition of another injured Army officer is said to be stable.

As the searches continued, security forces again engaged the hiding terrorists. Another terrorist was killed in the gunfight, taking the toll to two.

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Land sinking in Poonch, nearly 50 structures damaged

MENDHAR/JAMMU: About 50 structures, mostly residential houses, were damaged due to sinking of land in a village on the slope of a hill in Jammu and Kashmir's Poonch district, officials said on Tuesday.

J-K minister Javed Ahmad Rana visited the affected Kalaban village in his Mendhar constituency and assured adequate relief and rehabilitation of the affected population.

Three school buildings, a mosque, a graveyard and the road leading to the village were also damaged by the land sinking which is still going on, causing panic among the local residents, the officials said.

"This is my ancestral village which is facing this land sinking for the past couple of days...the problem of land sinking was reported from different parts of Poonch, Rajouri and Kashmir in the recent past, apparently due to excessive rainfall," Rana, who holds the portfolios of Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology and Environment, and Tribal Affairs, told reporters during his visit to the village.

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DC Jammu holds public meeting in 3 villages of Pargwal tehsil

Takes stock of developmental works, flood damage, assures comprehensive relief

JAMMU: Deputy Commissioner Jammu Dr Rakesh Minhas met residents and inspected developmental infrastructure works in Pargwal

detailed discussions and deliberations were held. The meeting also provided a platform for direct dialogue between officials and the residents.



area. He also assessed flood damage while delivering relief material to affected families. He assured reconstruction plan for damage to public infrastructure.

During the public meetings held at Pargwal, Gurha Manhasa and Hariapur Kona with MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat also present,

Addressing the gathering, Dr Minhas reaffirmed the administration's commitment to sustainable development and systematic recovery.

The public raised concerns about damaged roads and bridges that have disrupted connectivity; need for enhanced

healthcare facilities, restoration of interrupted water supply system, while demanding for new bore wells.

Beyond the public meeting, Dr Minhas conducted a detailed ground assessment of flood damage across the tehsil. He inspected the construction status of the Indri Pattan Bridge and assured early resumption of its construction work. He also visited several flood-affected villages to review recovery needs. The Deputy Commissioner also prioritised assessment of essential supply chain and relief distribution mechanism.

The officers present included Additional Deputy Commissioner Ansuya Jamwal, Sub Divisional Magistrate Satish Sharma, Tehsildar Manjeet Singh and other district officers.

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri reviews progress under JKICP



RAJOURI: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma chaired a review meeting and assessed implementation of the Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Sectors Project (JKICP) here today.

During the review meeting, the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the guidelines of the scheme for its effective implementation. He emphasized the need for proper follow-up and monitoring to achieve the desired results on the ground. He also laid special emphasis on timely and efficient execution of initiatives promoting climate-resilient agriculture, innovation and sustainability. He highlighted the importance of aligning ground-level actions with the strategic objectives of JKICP, asking the officers to resolve any operational bottlenecks on priority. The meeting was attended by CPO Maqsood Ahmed; LDM, Ravinder Nagara; CAO, Madan Gopal Singh; CAHO, Dr Khalid Hussain; DSHO, PP Sagotra; AD Fisheries Bodh Raj and other concerned officers.

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar reviews developmental works under Aspirational Blocks Programme

KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works being undertaken under the Aspirational Blocks Programme of the Government of India.

The review primarily focused on Aspirational Block Marwah, covering key performance indicators across critical sectors such as health and nutrition, education, agriculture and allied activities, basic infrastructure, drinking water, sanitation, financial inclusion and social development.

Each sector was examined in detail, with discussions revolving around ongoing progress, priority gaps and measures to accelerate implementation. The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to submit innovative projects for funding under NITI Aayog, with special focus on health, education, nutrition, agriculture, and infrastructure.

He also stressed immediate corrective measures in sectors lagging behind, so as to achieve the set developmental targets within stipulated timelines.

He emphasized the shifting

of government offices from rented accommodations to government-owned buildings and instructed the concerned

The ADC FCS&CA was directed to ensure LPG connections for all households in Marwah and Warwan, improving access to



Heads of Departments to submit proposals in this regard.

The PO ICDS was directed to prepare estimates for all Anganwadi Centres, while the CMO was tasked with submitting estimates for the construction of sub-centres and PHCs.

The CAO was instructed to include all sown areas of Marwah and Warwan under irrigation coverage, ensuring that agricultural productivity in these remote regions is adequately supported. To address connectivity issues, the ADC was directed to submit VSAT proposals for Marwah and Warwan, aimed at providing reliable internet access to government offices as well as the local population.

clean energy for cooking.

The CEO was asked to submit proposals for the solarization and electrification of schools, besides ensuring the provision of drinking water facilities and girls' toilets in all government schools of the area.

The DC underlined the importance of collaborative efforts among all line departments to ensure holistic, inclusive, and timely development of Aspirational Blocks.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, PO ICDS Rishi Kumar Sharma, CPO Akhil Thakur, CDPO Marwah/DIO Kishtwar Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, CHO Sajid Mustafa and other concerned officers

DIET Jammu organises one-day seminar on Empowering Teachers for Career Guidance in Schools

JAMMU: District Institute of Education and Training (DIET) Jammu successfully organized a One-Day Seminar on "Empowering Teachers for Career Guidance in Schools" at Government Girls Higher Secondary School. The event brought together educators, counsellors and experts to deliberate on the crucial role of teachers in shaping students' career choices.

A total of 58 faculty (lecturers, teachers) representing cluster head schools of district Jammu attended the program.

The program was inaugurated by Principal DIET Jammu, R.G. Dogra in the presence of Assistant Director Employment, District Employment and counselling Centre Jammu, Mukhlis Ali.

In his opening remarks, R.G. Dogra underlined the need for teachers to act as guides and mentors in helping students make informed career decisions. He also expressed his wish to work in collaboration with concerned agencies for betterment of the educational and guidance ecosystem in the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Assistant Director, Employment, reiterated the department's commitment to extending

career guidance and counselling support to schools, enabling students to explore suitable pathways for their future.

in government schools that integrates scientific career assessments, psychosocial counselling and experiential platforms such

for youth empowerment, interactive discussions and Group Presentations, where six groups of lecturers/teachers designed Career Guidance Action Plans for Schools. Presentations were judged on content, feasibility and communication, and prizes were awarded to the top three groups: 1st Prize – Group VISION, 2nd Prize – ASPIRATION, 3rd Prize – PASSION and three CONSOLATION PRIZES were awarded to remaining groups namely: VOCATION, SKILL and MOTIVATION.

With the spirit of valediction, the participants carry forward a commitment to transform learnings into action. The seminar concluded with the distribution of certificates and prizes marking a meaningful step towards strengthening career guidance in schools.

The programme was coordinated by IFPC wing of DIET Jammu comprising of team Suniya Mehta Lecturer, Tripta Charak Lecturer, Akash Khajuria teacher under the headship of Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD, Kamwal Preet Kour, Monika Kalsot, Dr. Romesh Kumar, HODs, DIET Jammu acted as Judges for career Guidance plan presentations.



Delivering the keynote address on "Empowering Teachers as Career Mentors in Schools," Dr. Romesh Kumar, HOD, DIET Jammu, highlighted that career counselling must be viewed as an integral part of student development, not limited to job placement. Dr. Kumar also proposed creating a structured ecosystem

as career fairs in collaboration with partner agencies. The seminar included a Career Talk by Navdeep Kour, Career Counsellor at District Employment and counselling Centre Jammu, where she demonstrated on the government scheme MISSION YUVA, elaborating on its objectives and key components and emphasising its relevance

ADC Rajouri chairs SDRF Relief Committee Meeting

RAJOURI: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, a



meeting of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) Relief Committee was today convened under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Chander Prakash, to review

and streamline the relief measures in rain-affected areas of the district.

At the outset, the ADC emphasized the importance of providing immediate ex-gratia relief to families affected by damage to houses, crops, and other property.

He directed the concerned officers to conduct timely assessments of damages and ensure the disbursement of assistance to the eligible beneficiaries without any delay.

Several relief cases were taken up for detailed discussion, and necessary instructions were issued to expedite the processing of pending cases. The ADC stressed that all concerned departments must work in close coordination to mitigate hardships faced by the affected families.

The meeting was attended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Khalid Hussain; Tehsildars and Accounts Officer DC Office, Amin Malik

Mohd Rafeeq Pandth Appointed Vice District President Pulwama by JKNC



Pulwama: In a significant organizational development, the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference (JKNC) has appointed Mohd Rafeeq Pandth as the Vice District President for Pulwama.

The announcement was made via an official order issued by the Provincial President of Kashmir Province, under Order No. Jure/pp/205/25, dated September 9, 2025. This decision comes following the recommendation of the Zonal President, JKNC South Zone, and has been duly approved by the President of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference. The appointment is part of the party's ongoing efforts to strengthen its grassroots presence and organizational structure in South Kashmir. Party sources indicate that further appointments of office bearers in the South Zone are also underway, aimed at bolstering JKNC's position ahead of upcoming political activities in the region. This move is being seen as a strategic step by the National Conference to reassert its influence in South Kashmir and engage more actively with youth and community leaders on the ground.

MHA teams assess flood, landslide damages in J&K; relief package to follow

IMCTs prepare detailed reports for central relief, rehabilitation; MHA officials say findings guide govt's assistance efforts

Srinagar: Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs) deputed by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) are currently visiting parts of Kashmir to assess damages caused by recent floods and landslides, officials said on Tuesday.

The teams are conducting field inspections, reviewing relief measures on the ground, and preparing detailed assessment reports.

Based on these reports, a relief package is expected to follow, the team told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

According to officials, the IMCTs arrived in Jammu on September 3 to carry out a ground assessment before moving to Kashmir. Their visit comes after heavy rains since early August have led to widespread flooding, landslides, and infrastructure losses in several districts.

Figures shared by authorities show that more than 150 people have died in rain-related incidents across the Union Territory, including casualties among yatrins and local residents.

Search and rescue operations are still underway in some remote areas.

The Centre constituted the IMCTs on September 1 to examine the impact of floods and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Punjab. Each team is headed by a Joint Secretary-

level officer from the MHA or the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and includes representatives from the ministries of agriculture and farmers' welfare, expenditure, Jal Shakti, power, rural development, and road transport and highways.

"The teams are mandated to assess the



damages and review the relief operations initiated by the administration," an MHA official told KNO. "Their reports will guide the central government in deciding the scale of assistance."

The officials said that the mechanism was put in place in 2019 by Home Minister Amit Shah, who directed that central teams must reach disaster-hit areas at the earliest, rather than waiting for formal memorandums from state governments.

In Kashmir, the IMCTs have so far visited flood-affected villages, interacted with district

officials, and inspected damaged public infrastructure, including roads, bridges, and water supply schemes. "We are taking note of immediate needs as well as long-term restoration requirements," one team member said.

A senior officer said that the local government is extending full cooperation. "The team's visit will help in aligning state-level assessments with central support," the officer said.

The reports prepared by the IMCTs are expected to form the basis for additional financial support and mitigation measures from the Centre.

Officials said the teams will conclude their fieldwork shortly and submit findings to the Union Home Ministry for further action. Union Home Minister Amit Shah visited Jammu on September 1 and 2 to review the situation following heavy rains, cloudbursts, and landslides in the region.

During his visit, he met families affected by floods in Mangu Chak village and inspected damaged sites, including the Tawi Bridge at Bikram Chowk, the Shiv Temple, and several residential areas.

The Centre has sanctioned Rs 209 crore to the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) to support relief and recovery measures—(KNO)

DC Kishtwar inspects status of ongoing work on Kuntwara–Ohli Road



KISHTWAR: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, along with Senior Superintendent of Police Nareish Singh today conducted an on-site inspection of the Kuntwara–Ohli Road in Block Drabshalla to review the progress of ongoing works.

The visit was necessitated in view of the connectivity issues being faced by the residents of Kuntwara following the submergence of the bridge constructed by the Rattle Power Project authorities. During the inspection, the Executive Engineer PMGSY apprised the Deputy Commissioner that out of the 29 km sanctioned length of the Kuntwara–Ohli Road, nearly 26 km has been completed, with only 1.1 km in Part-I and 2.0 km in Part-II are pending. The incomplete stretch of 1.1 km in Part-I falls in the 5th km of the Kandani–Ohli Road, and once executed, full connectivity to the Kuntwara area will be restored. The Deputy Commissioner directed the Executive Engineer PMGSY and the contractor's representative to immediately mobilize resources, commence work simultaneously from both ends of the pending stretch at Km 5, and ensure its completion within one month. He further warned that any delay or lapse would attract strict accountability, while emphasizing that the restoration of all-weather connectivity to Kuntwara is of paramount importance. The DC was accompanied by Tehsildar Drabshalla Irshad Ahmed Sheikh, Executive Engineer PMGSY Kishtwar Rajesh Sharma and other senior officers.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch visits flood-affected area of Kalaban - Mendhar

POONCH: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma conducted an extensive visit to the flood-affected area of Kalaban in Sub Division Mendhar, where recent heavy rains have caused severe damage to houses, roads, and other critical infrastructure due to landslides and road sinking.

Accompanied by SDM Mendhar Imran Kataria, Executive Engineers, and other concerned officers, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the ground situation and interacted with the affected residents to understand their grievances.

Several families reported the complete or partial collapse of their homes and snapping of essential services such as water and electricity supply. The Deputy Commissioner gave on-spot directions to the concerned

departments to restore basic amenities without delay.



provided relief materials, including tents, ration, medical supplies, and other essential items to the affected families. Compensation was also disbursed to affected families as per the disaster relief norms.

The Deputy Commissioner reassured the people that

"no genuine flood-affected family will be left out" and reiterated the administration's commitment to provide every possible support in this difficult time.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner met with the Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs Javid Ahmed Rana to discuss relief efforts and the provision of basic amenities for the flood-affected people of Kalaban and to assess the situation on the ground and ensure timely assistance to the residents.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner also visited the Higher Secondary School, Gali Kalaban where he met with the school management to review the condition of the infrastructure. The district administration continues to monitor the situation closely to ensure safety, support, and timely rehabilitation of all affected families.

Samba: Rs 10 Lakh compensation provided to NoK of deceased Workers

SAMBA: District Administration Samba today releases a compensation of Rs. 10, Lakh in favour of Next of the Kin of deceased workers under the provisions of the Employees' Compensation Act.

The compensation was formally handed over to the families by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Champa Devi, in the presence of the Assistant Labour Commissioner, Himani Jerath, who had facilitated the compensation process on behalf of the Labour Department.

The initiative ensured that the rightful entitlements reach the beneficiaries in a transparent and timely manner, reflecting the Labour Department's commitment to safeguarding the welfare of workers and their dependents.

The Labour Department conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and reaffirms



its resolve to extend every possible support to workers and their families through various social security mechanisms.

Chief Secretary meets Textiles Secy Rao in Srinagar to boost J&K crafts, handloom, sericulture



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, held a high-level meeting with Smt. Neelam Shami Rao, Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Textiles, to chart a forward-looking roadmap for the robust promotion and transformative development of the handicrafts, handloom and sericulture sectors in the Union Territory.

During the meeting, Chief Secretary sought the Ministry's support to introduce advanced certificate courses in NIFT Srinagar's craft sector, with a vision to eventually evolve them into full-fledged degree programs. He also emphasized the establishment of an incubation centre at NIFT aligned with the UT's flagship Mission YUVA scheme, to skill and empower the youth.

Emphasizing the strategic role of QR coding in promoting

authentic handmade products from Jammu and Kashmir, the Chief Secretary underlined its potential to not only enhance traceability and assure authenticity but also to expand market access, strengthen brand value, and build greater consumer trust, calling for its wider adoption across the craft and handloom sectors.

He further assured the Secretary, Textiles, that the J&K Government would soon resolve the pending issue of land transfer for the establishment of a Weaver Service Centre at Bemina, a step expected to significantly strengthen artisan-centric initiatives in the handloom sector.

During the deliberations, Secretary Textiles sought the intervention of the Chief Secretary to address issues related to NIFT Srinagar at its Ompora campus. She stressed the need for increased funding support and additional land allocation to transform the institute into a premier

fashion technology centre of excellence.

Rao is on a two-day visit to Srinagar on 9th and 10th September 2025, during which she will interact with textile industry representatives, meet Heads of Departments of the Industries & Commerce Department, virtually inaugurate the Kanihama Craft Handloom Village, inaugurate the CSB Seri-Tourism Project at Manasbal, preside the distribution of Modified Modern Steel Carpet Looms to 100 beneficiaries at ICT Srinagar, and inaugurate Animal Fibre Quality Assurance Laboratory at SKUAST Kashmir.

The visit is expected to drive policy support, technical guidance, and resource allocation to accelerate the growth of J&K's traditional sectors. It will boost skill development and employment, strengthen handicraft and handloom value chains via QR coding and market linkages, enhance infrastructure with the

Weaver Service Centre and quality assurance facilities and promote sericulture-based tourism, while attracting greater national attention and investment to the Union Territory's rich craft and textile ecosystem.

Also present at today's meeting were Padmini Singla, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Textiles.

Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce; Mussrat Islam, Director Handicrafts & Handloom Kashmir; Tannu Kashyap, Director General, National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) along with other senior officers from J&K administration.

The meeting underscores Government of India's unwavering commitment to revitalizing traditional crafts in Jammu & Kashmir, empowering artisans, strengthening rural economies, and enhancing the region's cultural identity on a global platform.

Dy CM takes on ground assessment of the damage due to flash flood

Visits Sidra, Majeen, Lower Rangooro Dawara Chowk

FE News Network

JAMMU: In order to take the on ground assessment of the damage due to heavy rainfall and flash flood recently, the Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today conducted an extensive tour of Jammu city.

The Deputy Chief Minister visited low-lying and worst-hit localities of Sidra, Majeen, Lower Rangooro and Dawara Chowk. He also interacted with the flood victims, and assessed the extent of damage caused to residential houses, agricultural fields, public utilities and road networks in these areas.

He directed the administration to provide immediate relief in the form of ration, clean drinking water, medicines, and temporary shelter facilities to all affected families.

Taking a serious view of the damage caused to public infrastructure, the Dy CM asked officials of the concerned departments to prepare a comprehensive assessment report of losses for immediate submission to the Government, so that adequate compensation and rehabilitation packages can be extended to the affected families at the earliest.

While interacting with the flood affected families, Surinder Choudhary assured them that the Government is committed to their welfare. He expressed solidarity with the

victims and reiterated that providing timely relief and rehabilitation remains the topmost priority of the Omar Abdullah led Government.

The Dy CM reiterated the government's commitment to stand with the affected people,



ensuring that departments should work together for speedy relief, proper rehabilitation, and long-term safety of residents.

Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also made a surprise visit to DIC Jammu and reviewed the functioning. He checked the attendance register and stressed on maintaining punctuality in the office.

Surinder Choudhary emphasized the need for prompt service delivery, better management of public inflow and improved infrastructure.

He also stressed that benefits of all government schemes should reach the last person in line in real-time and asked the officers to ensure that the public receives hassle-free services.

CS discusses welfare measures for Ex-Servicemen with Defence Secretary (ESW)

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo held a detailed interaction with Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare), Ministry of Defence, Dr. Niten Chandra, to review and deliberate upon issues related to the implementation of welfare schemes for Ex-Servicemen in Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandraker Bharti and other concerned officers.

During the discussions, several important matters concerning the welfare and post-retirement opportunities of Ex-Servicemen were taken up by the Chief Secretary with the visiting Secretary.

These included the compilation and digitization of a comprehensive database of Ex-Servicemen in J&K for effective cadre management; the provision of allowing applications under the 'Ex-Servicemen Quota' in government jobs during the last year of service to facilitate a smooth transition to civilian life; and the engagement of retired personnel as NCC trainers, leveraging their expertise and discipline.

He also discussed several possibilities of providing livelihood opportunities to Veer Naris besides functioning of Sainik Welfare Board across districts also came up primarily during this discussion. Other measures to ease the process of addressing service-related issues were also part of the detailed review.

LG Sinha, Omar pay tribute to soldiers killed in Kulgam encounter

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday paid tributes to the two soldiers killed in an encounter with terrorists in Kulgam district.

Subedar Perbhat Gaur and Lance Naik Narender Sindhu were killed in the gunfight with terrorists on Monday.

The CM visited the Srinagar-based headquarters of the Army's Chinar Corps at Badami Bagh Cantonment here and laid a floral wreath on the coffins as a tribute to the fallen soldiers.

"The chief minister today paid solemn tributes at the wreath-laying ceremony of the two brave soldiers who lost their lives in Kulgam. He observed that their exemplary



courage, unwavering valour, and ultimate sacrifice will be eternally remembered with deep respect and gratitude," the CM's office said on X.

Abdullah affirmed the government's

unwavering commitment to the welfare of the families of martyrs and their continued support in all circumstances, a spokesman added. Lt Governor Sinha said the valour and indomitable spirit of the two soldiers

will always be remembered.

"The LG paid tributes to the brave army personnel Sub Perbhat Gaur and L/ NK Narender Sindhu, who made supreme sacrifice in the ongoing operations against terrorists in Kulgam,"

an official spokesman said. "My thoughts are with the bereaved families. The nation stands shoulder to shoulder with them in this difficult hour," the LG said in a statement.

Two terrorists, including one believed to be a Pakistani national, and two soldiers were killed in a fierce encounter in Kulgam district of south Kashmir on Monday.

The encounter erupted after security forces launched a search operation in the Gufar forest area of Kulgam based on specific intelligence about the presence of terrorists.

JKPICCA calls on CM Omar Abdullah

Raise highway closure issue amid peak fruit season



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: A delegation of Jammu and Kashmir Fruits & Vegetable Processing & Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Raabita Public Outreach Office here and raised the issue of closure of National Highway in view of the peak fruit season in valley.

The delegation, while

interacting with the Chief Minister, sought immediate intervention of the Government to ensure uninterrupted movement of fruit and vegetable laden trucks from Kashmir to outside Mandis. They also sought streamlined passage of fruit and vegetable laden trucks, no arbitrary halts, alternate routes, dedicated transport corridor, priority movement status for fruit laden trucks as well as immediate start of Railway Cargo

Service to ensure faster and direct transportation of the valley's fruit produce to national markets.

While interacting with the delegation, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the association members that the government is fully aware of the gravity of the situation and

NH-44 restoration is being monitored on hourly basis. He emphasized that all possible measures are being explored to restore highway connectivity at the earliest, while long-term solutions are also being explored to prevent such issues in future peak seasons. The Chief Minister further assured the delegation that the introduction of Railway Cargo Service for fruit produce of Kashmir has already been raised with the Union Ministry of Railways and additional rakes have been requested from them for smooth transportation of fruit produce.

DC Kupwara reviews progress of RDSS

Stresses timely execution of projects, strict adherence to quality standards



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KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, chaired a meeting to review the progress of the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in the district.

At the outset, DC was briefed about the objectives and progress of the scheme by Project implementation Agency NTPC. The meeting discussed

various ongoing works under the scheme, including system strengthening, augmentation of existing power infrastructure, installation of smart meters, feeder segregation, and improving power supply networks.

DC stressed the officers to ensure timely execution of projects and strict adherence to quality standards, adding that successful implementation of RDSS will directly benefit the

people of Kupwara district by providing uninterrupted and reliable electricity.

He directed the concerned engineers and executing agencies to maintain close coordination and regularly monitor field-level progress.

RDSS is a flagship initiative of the Government of India aimed at improving the quality, reliability and affordability of power supply to consumers. The scheme focuses on strengthening power infrastructure, reducing Aggregate Technical & Commercial (AT&C) losses, and enhancing operational efficiency of the distribution sector, thereby ensuring financial sustainability.

The meeting was attended by CPO Kupwara, Executive Engineers of KPDCL, representatives of different executing agencies and other concerned officers.

DC Ganderbal inaugurates Humsafar Milk Processing Unit at Watlar

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GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, today inaugurated the Humsafar Milk Processing Unit at Watlar, established under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP).

The unit has been set up by Humsafar Dairy Self-Help Group and is equipped with facilities to process milk into a variety of value-added products such as curd, cheese and other dairy items.

During the visit, the DC inspected the facilities and interacted with the members of the Humsafar Dairy Self-Help Group (SHG), who briefed him about the unit's operations and the financial assistance/subsidy received under the scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the establishment of such units is a significant step towards strengthening the rural economy and empowering local SHGs by creating sustainable livelihood opportunities.

He further directed the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO) to provide technical guidance, ensure effective market linkages, and facilitate value addition to make the unit more viable and sustainable.

Union Textiles Secretary reviews Handicrafts & Handloom Sectors in J&K

Emphasizes artisan welfare, promotion, export & market expansion of local products

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Union Textiles Secretary, Neelam Shami Rao, said that the Central Government will explore establishing a vibrant testing and certification system to promote high-end handicrafts and handloom products of Jammu and Kashmir.

She made these remarks during an interaction with representatives from chambers of commerce, exporters, weavers, and artisans' associations at the Arts Emporium Office, Srinagar.

Chairing a meeting with stakeholders, the Union Secretary discussed ongoing initiatives and proposals aimed at promoting local crafts, enhancing exports, and creating new avenues for growth, innovation, and employment generation.

Neelam Shami Rao emphasized that a strong testing and certification system would help eliminate counterfeit products, boost exports, and safeguard the unique identity of Kashmiri crafts.

In this regard she instructed that a proposal be submitted to the Union Government.

Appreciating the Government's decision to reduce GST on textiles and handicrafts from 12% to 5%, stakeholders called for a brand campaigning for J&K handicrafts and handloom products at national and international markets, infrastructure upgradation, extension of welfare schemes for artisans, market diversification, and curbing sale of machine-made and counterfeit items from showrooms.

At the outset, the Union Secretary stressed ensuring maximum coverage of artisans under pension schemes, PF/ESIC registration, and scholarship benefits for their children.

She said that efforts are being made to diversify markets for local products, targeting Europe, the UK, and the Middle East markets.

Neelam Shami Rao said that the Government is committed to developing J&K's textile sector with a focus on

infrastructure development, skill enhancement, market expansion, and the welfare of artisans, weavers, and entrepreneurs.

Union Secretary also visited the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) campus in Budgam, where



she inspected various labs, auditorium, classrooms and interacted with faculty and students.

She appreciated students for their exemplary work and dedication in making best products, showcased on the occasion.

Addressing students she encouraged them to make best use of training and learning throughout

their time in the campus, and become one among the best creators. "You are the future of India's textile industry. Your creativity and skills will define the next generation of design and fashion from Kashmir to the world. Keep trying, explore new ideas, and be yourself, the world will recognize your work through your creativity," she said.

Neelam Shami Rao described the NIFT campus as one of the best in the country and encouraged students to focus on innovation and entrepreneurship.

Union Secretary also virtually inaugurated the Craft Handloom Village at Kanihama, terming it a significant step towards promoting traditional crafts, tourism, and sustainable livelihoods.

She directed the Deputy Commissioner Budgam to ensure wide publicity of the craft village to attract tourists and encourage direct purchases from artisans.

Later, the Union Secretary visited the CSB Seed Farm, Manasbal, where she inaugurated the CSB Seri-Tourism Project and interacted with scientists and stakeholders. MLA Beerwah, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani; Union Joint Secretary, MoT, Padmini Singla; Member Secretary, Central Silk Board, P. Sivakumar; Commissioner Secretary, Industries and Commerce, Vikramjit Singh; Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mahiuddin Bhat; Director General NIFT, Tanu Kashyap; Director Sericulture, Aijaz Ahmad Bhat; Director Handicrafts & Handloom, Mussarat Zia; and other senior officers also accompanied the Secretary during her tour to various facilities.

Editorial

Beyond Temporary Fixes

The eight-day closure of the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway due to a washing away of the Highway at various places is not just a traffic disruption. It's a brutal and frequent reminder of the utter vulnerability of Kashmir's economic and logistical lifeline. Even though the hopeful promises by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to open the road tonight (Saturday) are welcomed, this episode must be the tipping point in the reboot in the way we control over this life-line.

Photographs of thousands of stranded vehicles, commuters walking ankle deep in muck along the highway, and traders bemoaning the spoilage of perishable goods are depressingly common. Every shutdown sets off a domino effect, scarcities of such basic necessities as food, medicine and fuels sweep the Valley, and the economy of the community, populous-for-Kashmir though it may be, shrinks because of frustrated consumers.

The visit of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for on the spot review of the restoration work is a welcome decision indicating and that the administration is serious. It is laudable that the NHAI teams are working 24x7 in adverse circumstances. In the shorter term, constructing a 250-meter diversion is a necessary, and fitting, temporary resolution to alleviate the current crisis. What makes the revelation that "the full restoration could take much longer to achieve" and will need to be addressed in its own "detailed project report" a much greater challenge, but also an opportunity.

As with previous attacks, this incident makes clear the failings of after-the-fact responses. Heavy rain and landslides are not acts of god in this geologically fragile Himalayan region, but regular and predictable annual events. The reaction must then be one that seizes the initiative and is rooted in anticipation and.

Merely patching up the road after every collapse is an exercise in futility. What is urgently needed is a comprehensive, long-term strategy that invests in robust infrastructure. This includes constructing stronger retaining walls, advanced slope stabilization projects, and potentially exploring alternative alignments for the most vulnerable sections.

The people of Jammu and Kashmir UT have shown immense patience through these recurring ordeals. They deserve a permanent solution. The reopening of the highway will bring temporary relief, but it should not bring complacency. The true test of governance will be to ensure that the next time, such situation does not once again bring Kashmir to a standstill. It is time to fortify this lifeline, making it not just a highway, but a reliable testament to resilient infrastructure.

New Chapter: The Rise of Soft-Spoken Vice



By :- Zubair Chowdhry

In a political development that has sent ripples across the nation, Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan a name deeply rooted in the ideology of the Rashtriya Sway-

gressive posturing dominate political discourse, his election stands as a silent but powerful assertion that influence is not always about volume; it is about conviction, ideology, and unwavering commitment to a vision of India rooted in tradition and nationalism.

The backdrop to Radhakrishnan's ascension is dramatic in itself. His predecessor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, resigned on July 21, leaving the vice presidency vacant and setting the stage for an unexpected political contest. The resignation caught political

figing figure in a country deeply divided along political, cultural, and social lines.

Critics may dismiss him as a mere party loyalist, but such a reductionist view misses the larger picture. Radhakrishnan's political journey is not one paved with populist slogans or flamboyant public rallies. Rather, it is a narrative of disciplined grassroots work, quiet perseverance, and strategic political acumen honed over decades. His tenure in various organizational roles within the BJP and the RSS has equipped

tional leaders aligned with the RSS-BJP ideology. His rise reflects not only personal achievement but also a shifting political landscape in the region. It shows that the BJP's long-term investment in the southern states is beginning to yield tangible results.

But perhaps the most compelling aspect of Radhakrishnan's ascent is what it tells us about leadership in the 21st century. In a political era obsessed with soundbites, showmanship, and fleeting media attention, Radhakrishnan's steady climb up the ranks serves



amsevak Sangh (RSS) and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was elected as India's 15th Vice President on Tuesday. This victory marks not just another entry into the annals of Indian political history, but a testament to the quiet, steady perseverance of a leader who has long toiled in the background, away from the media glare and political theatrics.

At 67, Radhakrishnan emerges as the third leader from Tamil Nadu to hold this prestigious post, following in the footsteps of luminaries who once shaped the political landscape of southern India. Yet, unlike many power-hungry politicians, Radhakrishnan's demeanor is soft spoken, almost understated, and his style decidedly non-confrontational. In an era where loud voices and ag-

observers and insiders off guard, creating a vacuum of power that demanded swift and strategic maneuvering. Into this breach stepped Radhakrishnan a leader known more for his steadfast allegiance to ideological moorings than for personal ambition.

The significance of his election cannot be overstated. At a time when India is grappling with challenges both internal and external rising regionalism, ideological polarization, and global uncertainties, Radhakrishnan's appointment signals a deliberate choice by the BJP to reinforce its ideological base. The RSS connection is central to understanding this move. As a longtime member of the Sangh Parivar, Radhakrishnan's ideological alignment is well-established, giving him the credibility to serve as a uni-

him with a profound understanding of India's political pulse, particularly in Tamil Nadu a state where the BJP has historically struggled to establish a firm footing.

His election is also symbolic of the BJP's strategic push into southern India an area often perceived as outside its core strongholds. By elevating a leader from Tamil Nadu to such a high constitutional office, the BJP sends a message that its ambitions are truly pan-Indian. It is an unmistakable signal that the party is determined to expand its ideological and political influence across every corner of the nation.

For the people of Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan's success is a matter of immense pride. Traditionally dominated by Dravidian politics, the state has seldom produced na-

”
Radhakrishnan emerges as the third leader from Tamil Nadu to hold this prestigious post, following in the footsteps of luminaries who once shaped the political landscape of southern India.
”

as a powerful reminder that influence is often built in silence and persistence. His is not the story of dramatic speeches or sensational controversies; it is the story of ideological consistency, strategic patience, and an unwavering belief in a greater national mission.

As he prepares to assume office, the nation watches with cautious optimism. Will his tenure reinforce the constitutional sanctity of the vice presidency, or will it further the ruling party's ideological agenda? Time will tell. But one thing is clear Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan's election is not merely a political event; it is a statement of intent. It is the RSS-BJP's declaration that India's future will be shaped by those who hold steadfast to the past, while boldly stepping into the future.

Jai hind Jai Bharat

Author can be reached at
Zubairahmad78646@gmail.com

Preventing Suicide

Why Awareness and Action Matter More Than Ever



VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

10th September is observed as World Suicide Prevention Day. It was established in 2003 by

among organizations, government, and the public, giving a singular message that suicide can be prevented. Suicide is voluntary, taking a person's own life. Suicide is defined as death caused by self-directed injurious behavior with intent to die as a result of the behavior.

Nearly 3000 people on average commit suicide daily, according to WHO. For every person who completes a suicide, 20 or more may attempt to end their lives. Relatives and close friends of

people a year take their life around the world. For every suicide, there are likely 20 other people making a suicide attempt and many more have serious thoughts of suicide. Millions of people suffer intense grief or are otherwise profoundly impacted by suicidal behaviours. Although suicide is a deeply personal and an individual act, suicidal behaviour is determined by a number of individual and social factors. Suicide can occur among all age groups, but it is most com-



the International Association for Suicide Prevention in conjunction with the World Health Organization (WHO). Suicide is continuously talked about the subject in our society. The main focus to observe the day is to focus attention on the issue, reduces stigma and raises awareness

people who die by suicide are a high-risk group for suicide. Suicide occurs across all age, economic, social, ability, racial, gender and ethnic boundaries. Suicides can be difficult to understand, especially when we are unaware a person is struggling. It is estimated that around 700,000

monly seen among teenagers and young adults. When a person attempts suicide, this isn't necessarily a sign that they want to die. Instead, it's an indicator that they are in great emotional pain, but don't know how to deal with it. According to Article 21 of the Indian consti-

Depression and suicide are rampant in today's time and is a growing issue of concern. There is much that friends and family members can do to help people who are depressed or contemplating suicide. Depression is an illness that pushes a person to commit self-harm or even commit suicide. There is an urgent need to develop a national plan for suicide prevention in India...

tution, "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by the law". While the constitution covers the right to life or liberty, it does not include the 'right to die'. Studies says that the frequent occurrence of suicide pacts and family suicides, which are more due to social reasons and can be viewed as a protest against archaic societal norms and expectations. Suicide rates were also up among daily wage earners, businesspersons, and those in the farm sector. More than 1.5 lakh people died by suicide across India in 2020. Poverty, unemployment, debts and educational problems are also associated with suicide. More than 90% of people who are suicidal or commit suicide to suffer from mental illness. Suicide is especially a critical factor in our society during the ongoing pandemic. People who suffer from depression or have genetic vulnerability have more tendency to act on their suicidal thoughts.

In our country attempted suicide is a punishable offence. Section 309 of the Indian Penal Code states that "whoever attempts to commit suicide and does any act towards the commission of such an offence shall be punished with simple imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with a fine or with both".

Depression and suicide are rampant in today's time and is a growing issue of concern. There is much that friends and family members can do to help people who are depressed or contemplating suicide. Depression is an illness that pushes a person to commit self-harm or even commit suicide. There is an urgent need to develop a national plan for suicide prevention in India. People who are suffering from deteriorating illnesses, therefore, must visit a mental health specialist. Suicide is a serious problem and any suicide threat or attempt should be taken seriously. Suicide is a significant public health concern worldwide. By promoting awareness, support, and resources, we can work together to prevent suicides and create a more supportive environment for those in need

Author Can Be Mailed At
dixitpatrakar@yahoo.in

Rana visits landslide-affected Kalaban village of Poonch district

Directs For Immediate Relief, Rehabilitation Measures

FE NEWS NETWORK

MENDHAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, vis-

During the visit, the Minister conducted detailed assessment of the situation and interacted with the affected families to understand the gravity of

essential facilities like temporary accommodation, food, clean water and healthcare be extended to the victims without any delay.

The Minister also directed the administration to conduct swift and comprehensive assessment of the losses incurred, so that timely compensation can be provided to the affected families under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

The Minister, during the visit, was informed that the calamity has caused complete destruction of more than 25 residential houses and government institutions, while several others have been severely damaged, leaving dozens of families displaced.

Acknowledging the fact that the affected land has become uninhabitable due to continued soil instability, the Minister underscored the need to explore immediate and viable plans for the permanent relocation of the families to safer zones.

He assured the local population that the Government stands firmly with them in this hour of need and all possible support will be extended for their re-

habilitation and restoration of livelihood.

In addition to relief and rehabilitation efforts, Rana also directed the Forest Department to undertake urgent soil conservation measures in the affected areas.

He emphasized the importance of initiating extensive plantation drives to restore ecological balance and mitigate further degradation of the land.

Recognizing the long-term threat posed by recurrent landslides and land sinking in the area, the Minister instructed the Flood Control Department to prepare a comprehensive Detailed Project Report (DPR) aimed at developing effective mitigation strategies. He asked them that the proposed DPR should focus on structural and non-structural measures to prevent future incidents and to ensure the long-term safety and stability of Kalaban Village and its surrounding areas.

The Minister reaffirmed Omar Abdullah Government's commitment to protecting vulnerable communities and promoting sustainable environmental practices, while ensuring timely and effective disaster response mechanisms are in place across regions.



ited Kalaban Village of Mendhar subdivision of Poonch district and took stock of damages due to landslide and land sinking incidents in the area.

The Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, along with other senior officers of the district and sub-divisional administration.

the losses suffered.

Expressing deep concern over the unprecedented damage, Rana emphasized the urgency of providing immediate support and relief to the affected population. He issued firm directives to the district administration to initiate prompt rehabilitation measures for all the displaced families. He instructed that all

IMCT visits Pulwama, holds review meeting on relief, restoration measures

FE NEWS NETWORK

Also inspects flood affected areas in Pampore, Kakapora, Awantipora

Later, the team held a review meeting at Circuit House Pulwama, during which a detailed presentation was given on the district profile, its

It was informed that temporary restoration works were taken up on priority, and safety audits were conducted in flood-affected schools, with temporary relocations where required.

The team was informed that while short-term measures such as road clearance, power and water restoration, and ration supply have been undertaken, long-term resilience planning is underway, including strengthening of embankments, flood protection works, and disaster preparedness mechanisms.

The meeting was also informed that damage details and estimations are being compiled department-wise for submission to Government of India.

The IMCT appreciated the response measures taken by district administration.

The meeting, among others, was attended by senior officers of district administration, engineers from key departments like PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti (PHE), Irrigation & Flood Control, KPDCL, PMGSY and senior officers of Health, Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, FCS & CA, and Revenue departments.



geographical context, and the challenges posed by heavy rainfall and flood vulnerability.

The IMCT was apprised of the multi-phase and multi-faceted disaster response adopted by the district during the floods. The meeting was also briefed about rescue and relief measures including ration supply, potable drinking water through tankers, food kits & medical aid, and relocation of vulnerable families to designated rescue centres.

The team was also briefed about the damage to essential infrastructure like power feeders, drinking water supply schemes, roads, bridges, irrigation channels, and school buildings.

Div Com Kashmir Reviews Status Of Migrant Grievances, Related Issues

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a meeting to review the status of resolution of migrant grievances and other related issues.

The meeting was attended by all Deputy Commissioners, Additional Commissioners, Assistant Commissioner Central, OSD, and the Law Officer.

During the meeting, Div Com directed all Deputy Commissioners to designate Nodal Officers in their respective offices specifically for the resolution of migrant grievances. He emphasized the importance of maintaining proper records of all grievances and ensuring timely action and follow-up for effective redressal.

Garg stressed that all pending court cases related to migrants should be actively pursued and monitored to ensure their swift resolution. Special focus was laid on identification and removal of encroachments on migrant properties and land. Div Com highlighted the need for both online and

offline grievance mechanisms to be handled professionally, ensuring quality and timely disposal. Also, he directed that temple lands be demarcated in accordance with court directions, and any encroachments be promptly



removed.

He instructed synchronization of data of DC offices and Div Com office to avoid repetition and duplicity of cases.

CM Omar meets public, several delegations at Raabita Public Outreach Office Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Scores of delegations and individuals called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Raabita office here to apprise the Chief Minister of various issues of public importance.

A delegation of folk artists and renowned singers of Kashmir including Ustaad Abdul Rashid Hafiz, Waheed Jeelani, Gulzar Ganie and Muneer Mir raised the concerns of the local artists and singers with the Chief Minister. They sought the Government's intervention to resolve various challenges faced by the community from last several years.

Similarly, other public delegations also met the Chief Minister and apprised him of various developmental issues and concerns of their respective areas.

Apart from these delegations, scores of individuals called on the Chief Minister

and apprised him of various personal and public concerns.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing to all delegations and individuals,

assuring them that the issues raised would be appropriately addressed through the concerned departments.

Earlier, the Chief Minister also held a

brief interaction with MLA Kulgam, M.Y. Tarigami and discussed developmental activities in Kulgam constituency.



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Inspection of various retail & whole sale drug establishments held at Kulgam

FE NEWS NETWORK

Operation of one sale establishment disallowed, another show-caused

KULGAM: In order to ensure proper compliance of maintenance of sale/ purchase records of drugs by sale establishments, an inspection of various retail and wholesale drug sale enterprises was carried out in Kulgam town with the main emphasis on checking of records of schedule H & H1 category of drugs.

Around 15 sale establishments were inspected and 1 medical store was found violating conditions of license in terms of absence of qualified person, non functional CBS, and his operation was disallowed on spot under section 22(d) of Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 till the compliance is ensured. One more Medicate near Dist. Hospital was show-caused.

Many drug samples were lifted for testing and analysis to ensure quality medicine reaches the general public.

Moreover, a meeting with the courier service providers at Chawalgam was conducted to sensitize them with reporting of suspicious parcels, random reporting of medicine parcels etc.

The intensive drives by Drug Control officials are aimed to ensure that the quality medicine reaches the intended patients without any unscrupulous sale.



Satish Sharma reviews availability of Food Stocks and LPG supplies amid flood situation in J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

Supply chain strengthened through Mughal Road, Simthan Top; Air-Drops Conducted in Inaccessible Areas

SRINAGAR: In the wake of the recent floods that have disrupted life in several parts of Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Con-

supplies have reached the Kashmir Division through the Mughal Road, providing a lifeline after the temporary disruption of the national highway. Similarly, supplies have been ensured to the far-flung districts of Kishtwar and Doda through the Simthan Top route, ensuring that people in these areas do not face any shortage of essentials.

The Minister was also briefed that air-dropping of food supplies has been carried out in inaccessible and cut-off villages, where road connectivity has



sumer Affairs, Information Technology, Transport, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, today convened a high-level meeting to review the availability and distribution of essential commodities including food grains, LPG, and petroleum products across the Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Saurav Bhagat, along with senior officers of the department.

During the meeting, the Minister was apprised that adequate stocks of food grains and essentials are available in all districts. The ration for the month of August has already been distributed, while in certain flood-affected and vulnerable areas, the September quota has also been issued in advance to ensure uninterrupted supply. In addition, the department has maintained a buffer stock of food grains, LPG, and other essential items to meet any future requirements in case of extended disruption.

It was also highlighted that with the active co-operation of telecom operators, the Smart PDS system has been made fully functional, ensuring that the distribution of ration remains smooth and transparent despite the challenges posed by floods.

The meeting was informed that around 400 trucks carrying petroleum products and other essential

been severely affected due to landslides and flooding. This measure has ensured that no household remains without food and basic essentials during the crisis.

While interacting with the officers, the Minister said, "The Government is fully committed to ensuring uninterrupted availability of food grains, LPG, and other essentials across Jammu and Kashmir, even in the face of natural calamities. I want to reassure the people that there is no shortage of food stock. All possible measures, including road transportation through alternative routes and air-dropping in inaccessible areas, are being taken to reach every household."

The Minister also directed the officials to maintain close coordination with district administrations and field functionaries to monitor the ground situation regularly and to adopt a proactive approach in addressing emerging challenges. He stressed that special attention must be given to remote and vulnerable areas to ensure equitable supply and to prevent any hardship to the public.

Satish Sharma further appreciated the efforts of officers, frontline workers of the Food & Supplies Department and various oil companies for working tirelessly in difficult conditions and called for continued dedication until complete normalcy is restored.

Digital Reforms : India to Mentor Madagascar's Officials on Good Governance: Dr Jitendra

NEWDELHI: India's experience in good governance and technology-driven reforms will form the backbone of a training programme for Madagascar's civil servants, as discussed in a meeting between 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 and Mrs. Hanitra Fitiavana Razakaboana, Minister of Labour, Employment & Public Service of Madagascar.

Discussions centred around training Madagascar's civil servants in India's governance practices and use of technology to improve transparency and efficiency. Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted India's citizen grievance redressal platform CPGRAMS, powered by AI to ensure time-bound resolution of complaints, and the wider shift towards faceless, seamless, and paperless service delivery. He noted that over 85% of government services are now digital, reducing delays and minimizing corruption. The Minister also spoke of reforms in pension disbursement through

Jeevan Pramaan digital life certificates and property digitisation using drones. He underlined the transformative role of the JAM Trinity—Jan Dhan accounts,

priorities, from agriculture and food security to urban development and labour reforms. Dr. Jitendra Singh outlined India's



Aadhaar, and mobile connectivity—which has enabled direct benefit transfers and made India a global leader in digital payments through UPI.

Razakaboana welcomed India's initiatives and stressed that exposing Madagascar's officers to such practices would help modernize their own systems. She indicated her country's interest in expanding participation beyond the existing three-year programme. Batches of Madagascar's civil servants are already attending leadership courses at India's National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), with training tailored to their

recent reforms under DARPG, including Right to Information 2.0, a mobile app for instant access to government information, and Mission Karmayogi, a capacity-building programme for civil servants. He cited the abolition of interviews for Group C and D posts as an example of democratizing opportunities, alongside multilingual recruitment exams now available in 13 regional languages, with plans to expand to all 22 scheduled languages.

On financial inclusion, he pointed to India accounting for nearly half of global digital transactions. In October

2024 alone, over 16.8 billion transactions were processed, reflecting the impact of direct benefit transfers and the expansion of digital infrastructure. The Swachh Bharat Campaign, which generated over 2,300 crore through disposal of office scrap, and the establishment of a Human Desk Setup in 2023 for post-redressal citizen feedback, were highlighted as further governance innovations.

India's advances in science and technology were also discussed. Dr. Jitendra Singh referred to the National Quantum Mission and Open Network for Digital Commerce, and noted achievements in space, including Chandrayaan-3, which made India the first nation to reach the Moon's South Pole, and the ongoing Aditya-L1 solar mission.

He further cited simplification measures such as a single pension form, unified portals for fellowships and higher education, and the repeal of more than 1,600 obsolete rules. Initiatives like Rozgar Melas were described as a boost to youth employment. The Life Certificate Campaign using facial recognition for pensioners was highlighted as another step in easing citizen services. (PIB)

Scindia Launches UPI-UPU Integration at Global Postal Summit in Dubai

DUBAI: Union Minister for Communications and Development of North Eastern Region, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, on Tuesday launched the historic UPI-UPU Integration project at the 28th Universal Postal Congress in Dubai, a move set to transform cross-border remittances and global digital financial services.

The initiative, developed jointly by the Department of Posts, NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL), and the Universal Postal Union (UPU), will link India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with the UPU Interconnection Platform (IP).

Officials told Press Information Bureau (PIB) that the integration will combine the reliability and vast outreach of the global postal network with the speed, affordability, and safety of UPI transactions.

Calling it "more than a technology launch, but a social compact," Scindia said the platform would allow families across borders to send money faster and at lower cost. "It reaffirms that public infrastructure built for citizens can be linked across borders to serve humanity better," he told delegates.

Outlining India's vision for a modern, inclusive postal sector, Scindia said the focus would be to connect through data-driven logistics, include through affordable digital services, modernise with AI and digital tools, and cooperate through South-South partnerships.

Citing India Post's role under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Digital India vision, he noted: "With Aadhaar, Jan Dhan and India Post Payments Bank, we have opened over 560 million accounts, most in women's names. India Post delivered over 900 million letters and parcels last year. This is the scale and spirit of inclusion we bring to the global stage."

In a major announcement, the Minister committed USD 10 million to support global postal innovation, especially in e-commerce and digital payments. He also declared India's candidature for two key UPU bodies—the Council of Administration and the Postal Operations Council.

"India comes to you not with proposals, but with partnership," Scindia said in his concluding remarks. "We believe in resilience, interoperable solutions that avoid costly fragmentation, and in trust, linking payments, identity, addressing and logistics so that global commerce becomes seamless." (PIB)



All satellites were working perfectly during Operation Sindoor, says ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan



NEWDELHI: Indian Space Research Organisation Chairman V. Narayanan on Tuesday said that all satellites during Operation Sindoor were working perfectly well, enabling all requirements.

Addressing a gathering, ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan said, "During Operation Sindoor, all satellites were working 24/7 perfectly and enabling the requirements."

Earlier, on August 25 as well, ISRO chairman V Narayanan highlighted that all satellites placed by the space agency played a vital role in Operation Sindoor, which the Armed Forces conducted in May.

ISRO chief also informed that currently India has 58 satellites which are in operational mode in orbit.

"During Operation Sindoor, all our satellites worked fantastically well. Through our satellites, we ensured the safety and security of every citizen of Bharat in Operation Sindoor. PM Modi has given the direction that in another three years, the number of satellites in orbit will be at least three times the present number, which is 58," ISRO chief said.

Operation Sindoor, initiated on May 7, 2025,

in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 innocent civilians, showcased a calibrated, tri-services response that embodied precision, professionalism, and purpose.

The operation was conceived as a punitive and targeted campaign to dismantle the terror infrastructure across the Line of Control and deeper inside Pakistan.

As per an official release issued by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, dated May 14, the role of ISRO was highlighted in the Operation Sindoor.

"At an event on May 11, ISRO Chairman V Narayanan mentioned that at least 10 satellites are continuously working round-the-clock for the strategic purpose to ensure the safety and security of the citizens of the country," the release stated.

"To ensure the safety of the country, the nation has to serve through its satellites. It has to monitor its 7,000 km seashore areas. It has to monitor the entire Northern part continuously. Without satellite and drone technology, the country can't achieve that," the ISRO chief said. (ANI)

K P Sharma Oli: Rebel leader-turned politician fails to provide political stability to Nepal

KATHMANDU: Veteran politician K P Sharma Oli, who wrecked many governments in the past, kindled hopes for much-needed political stability in Nepal when he assumed power for the third time in 2024, but that proved to be short-lived due to his own actions.

Known for his pro-China stance, Oli was forced to resign in the face of massive protests by youths over corruption and a government ban on social media that resulted in the death of at least 19 people in police firing and injuries to hundreds.

The 73-year-old leader's ouster has once again pushed Nepal, which has had 14 governments



in the last 17 years, into political instability.

He came to power in July 2024 after he ditched his one-time friend Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' and joined hands with his foe-turned-friend Sher Bahadur Deuba, who was leading the largest party - Nepali Congress - in the House of Representatives.

Oli, the CPN-UML Chairman, defended his party's decision to ditch 'Prachanda' and form a coalition government with the Nepali Congress, saying it was required for maintaining political stability and development of the country.

Oli, who joined politics as a student activist in his teenage years and spent 14 years in jail for opposing the now-abolished monarchy, became Nepal's prime minister for the first time in October 2015. During his 11-month stint, Kathmandu's ties with New Delhi strained.

He publicly criticised India for interfering in Nepal's internal matters and accused it of toppling his government. He, however, promised to forge a partnership with India to move forward towards the path of economic prosperity ahead of assuming office for the second term.

Oli became prime minister for the second time

in February 2018 when the alliance between the CPN (Unified Marxist-Leninist) and 'Prachanda'-led CPN (Maoist Centre) won a majority in the House of Representatives in the 2017 elections. After their victory, the two parties formally merged in May 2018.

During his second term, Oli claimed that efforts were being made to oust him after his government redrew Nepal's political map by incorporating three strategically key Indian territories, a move that strained ties between the two countries.

India had termed as "untenable" the "artificial enlargement" of the territorial claims by Nepal after its Parliament unanimously approved the new political map of the country featuring Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura areas, which India maintains belong to it.

Oli accused his rivals within the party of making efforts to topple his government.

He served as the prime minister from February 5, 2018, to May 13, 2021. He continued to serve from May 13, 2021, to July 13, 2021 - because of an appointment by the then President Bidya Devi Bhandari, described by local media as a success of Oli's Machiavellian tricks.

Later, the Supreme Court ruled that Oli's claim to the post of prime minister was unconstitutional.

Born on February 22, 1952, in Terhathum of the eastern Nepal district, Oli is the eldest child of Mohan Prasad and Madhumaya Oli. His grandmother raised him after his mother died of smallpox.

He left his school in Class 9th and joined politics. He, however, did an Intermediate level in Arts from jail later. His wife, Rachana Shakya, is also a communist activist, and the two had met in the course of party activities.

Oli started his political career as a student activist in 1966 by joining the fight against the autocratic Panchayat System under the direct rule of the King.

He joined the Communist Party of Nepal in February 1970. He went underground soon after taking the party's membership. The same year, he was arrested for the first time by the Panchayat government.

In 1971, he took leadership of the Jhapa Rebellion, which was initiated by beheading landlords in the district. (PTI)

Indus Towers Stands by Flood-Affected communities in Punjab, J&K and Himachal

Indus Towers, one of World's leading telecom infrastructure providers, continues its commitment to supporting communities impacted by natural disasters. Indus employees in collaboration with the local authorities volunteered and gone beyond call of duty by distributing 3000 relief kits to flood-affected families in Punjab (Gurdaspur, Kalanor, Ajnala, Dera Baba Nanak, Ramdas), Jammu & Kashmir (Batote), and Himachal Pradesh (Mandi).

As part of Indus Towers' CSR Disaster Relief initiative, 3000 packs of essential food items and 1000 packs of cattle feed are being distributed to benefit approximately 3000 families. The relief kits include vital supplies aimed at addressing immediate nutritional and livelihood needs of both residents and their livestock.

Speaking on the initiative, Tejinder Kalra, Chief Operating Officer, Indus Towers, said, "Our hearts go out to every family impacted by the devastating floods. In these moments of hardship, Indus Towers stands firmly beside the communities we serve. We are working hand in hand with local authorities and our dedicated Indus Volunteers to ensure timely delivery of essential relief. Beyond immediate aid, our commitment is to help restore network con-

nectivity and bring hope back to these regions."

Sanam Gupta, Circle CEO, HPH, Indus Towers, added, "This initiative reflects Indus Towers' deep-rooted commitment to social respon-



sibility and community resilience. We are immensely grateful to our Indus Volunteers and government partners whose swift coordination made the distribution of relief materials possible. As recovery efforts continue, Indus Towers remains steadfast in its support—ensuring not just essential aid, but also the restoration of connectivity that helps communities rebuild and reconnect."

This CSR initiative is part of Indus Towers' broader mission to empower communities and build resilience through timely interventions and collaborative action. (PR)

Oppn MPs also voted for Radhakrishnan listening to their conscience: BJP

NEW DELHI: The BJP on Tuesday hailed NDA candidate C P Radhakrishnan's election as the 15th Vice President of India and said the poll outcome is an indication of his wider acceptance as several MPs from the opposition camp also voted for him after "listening to their conscience".

Radhakrishnan secured 452 votes against the joint opposition candidate B Sudershan Reddy's 300, winning the contest with a bigger-than-expected margin, indicating cross-voting from the rival camp.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah congratulated Radhakrishnan on being elected as the country's 15th vice president, and said his sagacity as a leader and his profound administrative knowledge will help in bringing out the best in India's parliamentary democracy to serve the marginalised.

Expressing gratitude towards all those who voted for Radhakrishnan, BJP chief whip in the Lok Sabha, Sanjay Jaiswal, said the NDA nominee won the vice presidential election by bagging 452 votes because he received support from some opposition MPs also.

"About 40 MPs" belonging to the opposition camp supported the NDA's vice presidential candidate Radhakrishnan, "listening to their conscience", he said.

"We express gratitude towards them also," he told PTI Videos in the Parliament House Complex.

The BJP MP also hailed the prime minister's leadership for the NDA's decision to nominate Radhakrishnan for the vice presidential polls.

"Whatever decision is taken under the leadership of the prime minister is

correct. That's why our (NDA) candidate (won)," he said



"Despite our strength of 427, we got 452 votes. This indicates that our can-

didate had wider acceptance," the BJP leader added.

In an apparent reference to the votes which were declared invalid, Jaiswal

said 15 MPs "deliberately" did not cast their votes properly.

"They may have done so because they neither wanted to go with the INDI alliance nor the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)," he added.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said he was confident that under Radhakrishna's leadership, the Rajya Sabha will scale new heights and the country's parliamentary traditions will be further strengthened.

"His vast experience, profound knowledge of constitutional and legislative affairs and unwavering connect with the people will further enrich his new role," Singh said in a post on X.

After meeting Radhakrishnan, BJP president and Union Health Minister J P Nadda said his dedication towards the nation, long-term administrative and political experience and his spirit

of working continuously in the national interest will make the democratic and constitutional traditions in the Upper House "even stronger and richer".

Union minister Dharmendra Pradhan said he was confident that Radhakrishnan would enhance the country's parliamentary discourse and enrich the democracy with his wisdom.

Former vice president M Venkaiah Naidu also congratulated Radhakrishnan and said, "Hailing from Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan is the epitome of discipline, dedication and integrity."

"His rise through the ranks of the party organisation and his inspiring journey bear testimony to his long years of hard work in public life in the service of the nation," he said in a post on X. (PTI)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

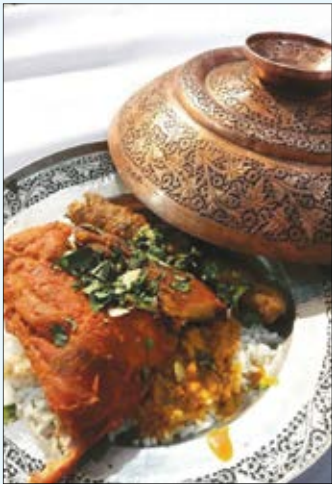
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