



## Rebuilding Lives

# LG Announces Free Houses for Families Affected by Op Sindoor, Floods, Terrorism

■ Initiative to provide 1,500 modern 'smart houses' to support victims across J&K

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India) signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Divisional Commissioner

our of the HRDS India.

HRDS India will build 1500 free houses across the UT. These 3-bedroom houses will be designed and delivered as a "Smart House", incorporating modern features for comfort and

destroyed by the terrorists. Besides, 15-year life insurance coverage to all family members, HRDS India will ensure monthly health check-ups and digital connectivity for every house. As part of its extended commitment,

painting of each beneficiary house every five years, at no cost to the beneficiaries.

Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Anshul Garg, Divi-



Jammu and Divisional Commissioner Kashmir for building houses damaged during Operation Sindoor and recent floods in Jammu Kashmir.

It is the initiative of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and reflects his vision of empowering and safeguarding the future of those affected by natural calamities and unprovoked shelling on civilian population by the enemy.

The Lieutenant Governor presided over the MoU signing ceremony at Raj Bhawan. He lauded the noble endeavor

safety.

"Construction of houses is more than just putting up structure. It is about building dreams, a fresh start and a new chapter in the lives of affected families. Human losses are so profound and devastating that they can't be measured but this initiative will definitely ease their suffering," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Under the initiative, the HRDS India and Divisional Commissioners of both the divisions will also identify terror victim families whose houses were

HRDS India, in collaboration with BSNL, will provide free internet access to all beneficiary households to support education, communication, and digital inclusion.

The trained HRDS India volunteers will visit each beneficiary household monthly to disseminate information about new government schemes relevant to the beneficiaries. They will conduct free awareness sessions on health, education, hygiene, and preventive care.

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sional Commissioner Kashmir; Aji Krishnan, Founder-Secretary, HRDS India; Ms Saritha P Menon, Administrator; Swaraj Kumar G., Director Corporate Sponsorship and Shri Sanjeev Bhatnagar, Chairman Global Initiatives, HRDS India were present during the MoU Signing ceremony.

## New criminal Laws Imperative In Eliminating Terrorism: Lt Guv

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated an exhibition on 'New Criminal Laws' at J&K Police Public School, Bemina, Srinagar.

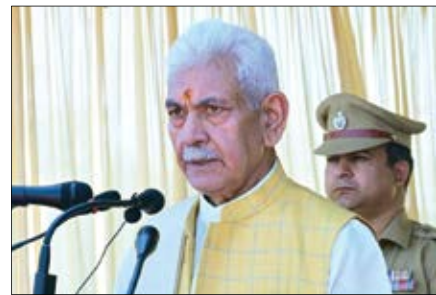
The Lieutenant Governor commended the initiative of the Economic Offences Wing, J&K Police to raise awareness and educate students, parents and the general public. He said the exhibition will help in achieving broader objectives of shaping understanding on new laws and ensuring justice to the last man in queue.

"After almost 150 years, India's criminal justice system underwent a significant overhaul on July 1, 2024. The 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita', 'Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita', and 'Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam' were implemented nationwide to replace colonial-era laws, making the legal system more transparent and efficient.

The three new criminal laws have com-

pletely transformed our criminal justice system, making it victim-centric and more justice-oriented than punitive.

The new criminal laws reflect India's collective vision of justice. The prime



objective of the new Laws is to protect and empower the women and weaker sections of the society. Special care has been taken to make the weaker sections, women and children priority of the justice system," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor directed

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## Act Tough Against Those Involved In Drug Trade: DGP Prabhat

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat Thursday chaired a security review meeting at the Conference Hall of Police Control Room Kashmir to assess the prevailing security situation in the UT of J&K and to discuss measures to further strengthen



en the security framework.

At the outset, the Zonal Inspector Generals and heads of various wings briefed the DGP J&K

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### Historic Rail Link...

## First Apple-Laden Parcel Train Rolls Out From Kashmir To Delhi

### FE NEWS NETWORK

LG Sinha Expresses Gratitude To PM Modi, Union Railway Minister; CM Omar hails move, thanks Vaishnav for his support



Budgam: Fruit growers in Kashmir on Thursday welcomed the launch of a trial parcel train service carrying apples to Delhi, saying it will cut travel time nearly in half and save produce from rotting due

to frequent highway closures.

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnav announced that a daily time-tabled parcel train from Budgam to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, would begin from September 13. "With the Jammu-Srinagar line operational, the Kashmir Valley has better connectivity. Railways is introducing a daily time-tabled parcel train from Budgam in Kashmir Valley to Adarsh Nagar station in Delhi starting 13th September 2025. Loading of 2 parcel vans carrying apples from Budgam to Delhi is beginning today," Vaishnav posted on X.

Officials said, that today, two parcel vans will depart from Budgam station, one bound for Delhi and the other for Jammu, both laden with the season's finest Kashmiri apples.

The Lieutenant Governor conveyed his appreciation for the initiative. "The daily parcel train from Budgam to

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## Heavy Rains And Flash Floods In Kishtwar Damages Over 400 Houses

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**JAMMU:** Jammu and Kashmir's Kishtwar district was battered by heavy rains, flash floods, and land-



slides during August, causing extensive damage to more than 400 houses, officials said on Thursday.

According to official reports, 52 houses were fully destroyed, 105 severely damaged, and 283 partially damaged. Additionally, 125 cattle sheds and five religious

structures suffered significant damage.

The calamity also led to the loss of 248 animals, further impacting the livelihoods of the local popula-

tion, the officials said.

On Wednesday, Kishtwar Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma conducted an on-site inspection of Kuntwara-Ohli Road in Drabshalla Block and Kishtwar-Thathri stretch of the highway to review the progress of ongoing

restoration works.

He warned that any delay or lapse would attract strict accountability, while emphasizing that restoring

The **officials** said agricultural losses were substantial, with **1,000 kanals** of crop land and **1,002 kanals** of horticulture land being **severely** affected.

all-weather connectivity is of paramount importance.

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## Court Rejects NIA Plea For Polygraph, Narco Analysis Of Pahalgam Attack Accused



**JAMMU:** A special court here has rejected the NIA's plea for a polygraph test and narco analysis of the two men arrested in connection with the Pahalgam terror attack, ruling that the "scientific techniques"

would violate the right against self incrimination.

The National Investigation Agency, which took over the case five days after the April 22 terror attack that killed 26 people, had informed the court that the accused had given their consent to the two tests to prove their innocence.

However, Bashir Ahmad Jothatd and Parvaiz Ahmed, who were summoned, contradicted the NIA's claim. They had been arrested on June 26 on charges of allegedly providing shelter to the terrorists involved.

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### Bottimline

## Kashmir Highway Reopens To Heavy Vehicles After 16 Days

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**QAZIGUND (LEVODORA):** After remaining closed for nearly 16 days, the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway was reopened for heavy motor vehicles (HMs) on the Kashmir side Thursday, ending



days of anxiety and losses for truckers and fruit growers.

Officials said, that by Thursday evening, around 1,200 trucks had crossed Qazigund, nearly 40 per cent of them carrying apples.

The highway had remained shut since August 26 due to landslides, flash floods, and major road damage in Udhampur and Ramban.

For truckers who had spent sleepless nights parked along the road, the reopening was nothing short of a lifeline.

driver from Baramulla, as his vehicle finally moved past the Qazigund tunnel.

The prolonged closure had pushed many into debt, with perishable fruit consignments stuck on roads at the peak of Kashmir's apple season.

"I was worried about my family. The fruit boxes I carry belong to a grower in Pulwama. If they get damaged, I will have to bear the brunt. Today, when I finally drove out, it felt like a burden lifted from my chest," said Gull Mohammad Bhat, another driver from Pampore.

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## CS Dulloo Reviews J&K Cyber Security Action Plan

Urges swift e-SAM rollout

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress made on the



implementation of the Cyber Security Action Plan across J&K.

The meeting was attended by Administrative Secretaries of all departments; Inspector General, (Crime); Commissioner, Jammu/Srinagar Municipal Corporation; CEO, JaKeGA; SIO, NIC, and other concerned officers.

At the outset, the Chief Secretary took a comprehensive review of the initiatives undertaken to strengthen the cyber security framework of the UT.

He noted with satisfaction the progress made in the security audit of departmental websites, installation of Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) and Unified Endpoint Manage-

ment (UEM) solutions in the Civil Secretariat, and other measures designed to safeguard government systems from cyber threats.

He also reviewed steps being taken for the augmentation of State Data Centre (SDC), operationalization of a Mini Security Operations Centre (SOC), and capacity building of officers to promote cyber hygiene across departments.

Stressing on the importance of holistic protection of IT

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## Low-intensity blast in Doda; no one injured

**JAMMU:** Two persons have been detained after a low-intensity explosion occurred in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district on Thursday, triggering panic in the area, sources said.

No one was injured in the blast that took place in Dumri-Thukar Mohalla near Jamia Masjid, they said.

"A low-intensity blast was reported from Thukar Mohalla of Doda town. No injuries reported," Deputy Inspector General of Police, Doda-Kishtwar-Ramban Range, Shridhar Patil, said in a post on X.

Efforts are on by police and forensic science lab (FSL) teams to ascertain the details of the blast, police said.

Two persons – Javed and Khurshid – have been detained for questioning. They were present at the place during the blast, the police added.

Speaking to reporters in Doda, DIG Shridhar Patil said that there was a report of an explosion-like sound between 10.30 and 11 am, which is under investigation. "Two persons are under inquiry and action will be taken based on the investigation," he said.

...Mission YUVA

## Deputy Commissioner Jammu hands over loan sanction letters to 72 young entrepreneurs

**JAMMU:** Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Minhas handed over sanction letters to a fresh batch of entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA at a special event organised at the Zonal Office of J&K Bank.

The programme was attended by Deputy Director DECC, Sunaina Saini, Assistant Director Employment, Mukhlis Ali, senior functionaries of J&K Bank and aspiring entrepreneurs who have been sanctioned loans under the scheme.

Representatives of J&K Bank, including Rakesh Mangotra, General Manager (RAM & CSS), Ashok Gupta, General Manager and Divisional Head Jammu, Anita Nehru, Deputy General Manager and Zonal Head Jammu, besides Cluster Heads of Jammu Zone were also present and assured continued support in timely disbursement and facilitation of the scheme.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Minhas

congratulated the beneficiaries and said that the sanction of financial support under Mission YUVA would provide them a new

Deputy Commissioner also lauded the role of the Employment Department in effectively facilitating the scheme at the

have already been approved by the District Level Implementation Committee. She expressed confidence that many more success stories would emerge under the scheme in the coming months.

The event concluded with an interactive session where the young beneficiaries shared their aspirations and expressed gratitude for the government's initiative that promises to transform their entrepreneurial dreams into reality.

Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir aimed at fostering youth entrepreneurship and employment generation across the Union Territory.

The scheme provides financial assistance to fresh as well as existing entrepreneurs to establish and expand their business ventures, with J&K Bank acting as the key financial partner for its implementation.



direction for growth and self-reliance.

He described the scheme as a blessing for aspiring entrepreneurs who are determined to carve a niche for themselves in different sectors. The

grassroots level.

Deputy Director Employment, Sunaina Saini, informed that sanction letters in respect of 72 cases were handed over at today's event, while as many as 885 cases

## DC Samba directs line departments to gear up for Sewa Parv

Seeks focus on welfare, awareness, maximum public participation

**SAMBA:** A meeting to finalize the preparations for the upcoming Sewa Parv was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan. The meeting outlined a Directed Action Plan aimed at ensuring active public participation, convergence of departmental efforts, and holistic community outreach.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that Sewa Parv is not merely a set of activities but a collective spirit of service, reflecting the government's commitment to citizen welfare and inclusive development.

She laid special emphasis on the role of crucial line departments such as Rural Development, Health, Education, Municipality and Social Welfare, directing them to design and conduct special activities under various flagship schemes so that the benefits reach people at the grassroots level.

The plan for Sewa Parv includes cleanliness drives, tree plantation campaigns, health

camps, blood donation drives, educational and IEC initiatives, workshops for vulnerable sections, sustainable practices and beautification drives.

action plans. The DC stressed on building synergy at the district level, ensuring that the efforts of different departments complement each other to create



Awareness activities about government schemes will be carried out extensively, supported by real-time monitoring, visual documentation and social media updates to ensure transparency, visibility and mass engagement.

In addition to Sewa Parv, the meeting also discussed simultaneous preparations for Poshan Pakhwada and Swasth Naari Samridh Parivar, with all concerned departments instructed to formulate detailed

a greater cumulative impact. Stalls of flagship government schemes will also be set up for direct citizen awareness and participation.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Samba, PO ICDS, ACD Samba, Chief Education Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, District Information Officer, CEO Municipality Samba, among other district officers, who shared inputs for effective implementation.

## District Level Committee on Change of Land Use convened at Ramban

**RAMBAN:** A meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use (CLU) was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, in his office chamber to review the latest status of CLU cases across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Shokat Hayat Mattoo; General Manager District Industries Centre (GM DIC), Ravinder Anand; Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Ashfaq Khanji; Divisional Forest Officers (DFO) Ramban and Batote, Bishan Dass and Abhinav Ramotra; Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO); Chief Horticulture Officer (CHO); District Officer, Pollution Control Committee (DO PCC); Executive Engineers PWD Ramban and Banihal; Assistant Executive Engineer JPDCL, along with other concerned officers.

The Committee reviewed 15 applications for land use change, focusing on thorough scrutiny

of documents and verification for compliance with existing rules.

The Deputy Commissioner undertook a comprehensive review of the revenue records,



case-wise status of NOC (No Objection Certificate) issuance and overall progress of CLU applications received to date.

Emphasizing transparency and efficiency, the Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of fast-tracked NOC processing and called for proactive efforts to enhance public service delivery related to land use change across the district.

## DLSA Srinagar organizes comprehensive legal awareness programme at GBHSS Zainakoot

**SRINAGAR:** To promote legal literacy and awareness among the youth, and empower them

Waste Management, and the NALSA Helpline 15100. This outreach was held under



with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities in society, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme at Govt. Boys Hr. Secondary School (GBHSS) Zainakote.

The initiative aimed to sensitize students on pressing social and legal issues, focusing particularly on the legal provisions for persons with intellectual disabilities, Solid

the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and conducted under the guidance of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

During the awareness session, Adv. Gazala Mumtaz Khan, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, delivered a detailed presentation on the legal provisions applicable to persons with intellectual disabilities, highlighting the importance of protecting their rights and

ensuring their integration in society with dignity and respect.

She urged students to develop an empathetic understanding towards such individuals and informed them about the mechanisms in place to safeguard their welfare.

Adv. Suhaila Ali, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar addressed the students on the critical issue of Solid Waste Management, emphasizing its impact on public health and the environment. She also elaborated on the role of the NALSA Helpline 15100, explaining how it provides free legal aid and guidance to those in need, thus bridging the gap between the common citizen and the justice delivery system.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where students actively participated by asking questions and sharing their views, demonstrating a keen interest in understanding legal and environmental responsibilities.

## CM expresses gratitude to Vijay Chopra for contribution to Relief Fund



**SRINAGAR:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed profound gratitude to Vijay Chopra, Padma Shri awardee and Editor of Punjab Kesari/Hind Samachar Group, for his generous contribution of Rs 11 lakh to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in support of the flood-affected families.

The Chief Minister said that such contributions reflect the spirit of solidarity and compassion that is vital in times of crisis.

"I sincerely thank Shri Vijay Chopra for this generous gesture. His contribution will strengthen our ongoing efforts to provide relief and rehabilitation to families affected by the devastating floods. It is through such collective efforts that we can bring hope and support to those in distress," the Chief Minister stated.

He added that the Government is committed to ensuring that every contribution is channelled towards meaningful assistance for the affected families.

## Mission Yuva: DC Reasi hands over 35 sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs

**REASI:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Reasi today gave away sanction letters to 35 young entrepreneurs, who had applied for financial support under Mission Yuva to establish their enterprises.

The sanction letters, issued by various J&K Bank branches of the district, were presented to the beneficiaries at an event organised by the District Administration Reasi in collaboration with J&K Bank.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC highlighted that Mission Yuva has made significant progress in Reasi district.

A total of 832 applications have been approved by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC), out of which 148 have already been sanctioned.

Under Mission Yuva - Udyam Jagriti, 100% of the district's panchayats have been covered through Yuva Doots.

She added that currently an awareness

campaign under Udyam Jagriti 4.0 is being implemented across all Colleges in the district, with a special focus on sensitising women, including Lakhpati



Didis and members of Self-Help Groups (SHGs). The initiative underscores the transformative role of entrepreneurship as a catalyst for economic growth and

social change. Capacity-building programs are also being organised in polytechnic colleges to equip students with essential skills for self-reliance. The DC reiterated



the administration's commitment to facilitating training and support programs that will help beneficiaries successfully establish their ventures. Addressing the

youth, the DC encouraged them to take maximum advantage of Mission Yuva and motivate others to benefit from such initiatives.

She assured that the District Administration, in coordination with J&K Bank and other financial institutions, will extend all possible support for smooth implementation and timely assistance to beneficiaries. The General Manager J&K Bank, in his address, reaffirmed the bank's commitment to empowering youth through self-employment opportunities and assured continued support in providing financial assistance to help them realise their entrepreneurial goals.

The event was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal; GM Cross Selling CHQ Anand Pal Singh; DGM Zonal Head Udhampur Lalit Prakash; Cluster Head Reasi Amit Bargarotra and other senior officers.

## Director Agriculture reviews expenditure under HADP, CAPEX, NABARD & CSS

**JAMMU:** The Department of Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Jammu convened a meeting of all Joint Directors of Agriculture Department and Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs) through video conference to review the expenditure made till date under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), CAPEX, NABARD and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS).

The meeting was chaired by Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta and was also attended by Regional Level SMS, Sanjay Anand, Deputy Director Planning, Priyanka Parihar, Accounts

Officer Vishnu Kant Sharma along with officers and staff of the department.



During the meeting, the Director Agriculture took a detailed review of financial progress and physical achievements under various schemes and emphasized the need to ensure time-bound utilization of funds. He directed all district heads to expedite

implementation of approved works and submit updated expenditure details regularly, so



that the benefits of these schemes reach farming communities in an effective manner.

The Director also underscored the importance of maintaining transparency and accountability in execution and asked officers to monitor progress at ground level for timely completion of targets.

## NIT Srinagar, IIT Delhi organise orientation workshop on UBA for 51 PIs in J&K

Experts highlight tech-driven solutions for rural growth, plastic pollution, renewable energy

**Srinagar:** The Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI), National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, in collaboration with the National Coordinating Institute (NCI), IIT Delhi, on Tuesday organized a one-day orientation workshop on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) for the Participating Institutions (PIs) across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The workshop drew enthusiastic participation from 51 representatives of higher educational institutions across the region, with a focus on strengthening the role of academia in rural transformation.

The program was inaugurated by Prof. M.F. Wani, Regional Coordinator of RCI NIT Srinagar and member of the National Executive Committee of UBA.

Prof. M.F. Wani expressed his gratitude to the Ministry of Education (MoE) and NCI IIT Delhi for their guidance and financial support in advancing the mission of UBA.

He also thanked Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Prof. Atikur Rehman, Registrar, and the entire NIT administration for their continuous encouragement and support.

During the session, Prof. Wani presented

a detailed progress report on UBA activities in the region and outlined plans aimed at strengthening the program's impact.

The Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, who was the Guest of Honour on the occasion, reflected on the long journey of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), recalling the challenges and uncertainties that marked its early days.

"Through consistent efforts and visionary guidance, particularly from Prof. M.F. Wani, NIT Srinagar has today emerged as a strong Regional Coordinating Institute under UBA," Prof. Rehman said.

He added that the success of UBA lies not only in academic discussions but in creating a real bridge between institutions of higher learning and the needs of villages.

"When academia and villages join hands, they can discover solutions that are both practical and locally relevant."

This partnership can help transform rural life in sustainable ways, while also allowing students and researchers to learn from ground realities," Prof. Rehman added.

Ms. Manavee Ajit Singh, Senior Project Scientist at UBA IIT Delhi, conducted a live demonstration of the newly launched UBA ERP Portal.

She guided participants through the process

of institution registration, proposal submission, and real-time monitoring of activities.

The session ensured that all participants were well-equipped with the digital tools needed for effective engagement in UBA programs.

Dr. Dinesh Kumar Rajendran, Technical Coordinator, UBA NIT Srinagar, delivered a talk on the role of 3D Printing and Drone Technology in Agriculture.

He explained how drone technology can transform precision farming by monitoring crop health, improving irrigation practices, and reducing manual labour.

"3D printing holds great potential for producing affordable agricultural tools, prototypes, and spare parts, helping rural farmers access cost-effective and innovative solutions."

Such cutting-edge technologies, when adapted to local needs, could revolutionize agriculture in regions like J&K," Dr. Dinesh said. Er. Bashir Ahmad, Managing Director of JK Green Technologies, presented a detailed lecture on Solar Energy for Sustainable Development. He highlighted how renewable energy can be a game-changer for rural areas by providing affordable and clean power to households, schools, and small-scale industries.

"Youth should explore solar entrepreneurship, pointing out that solar

energy not only addresses energy challenges but can also serve as a sustainable livelihood opportunity," he said.

Prof. Sami Ullah, Coordinator of the Department of Environmental Science, University of Kashmir, spoke on Plastic Pollution and Environment: Status, Risks, and Opportunities. His lecture raised awareness about the growing dangers of plastic waste to ecosystems and public health.

At the same time, Prof. Sami Ullah also discussed innovative pathways for recycling and reuse. He focused on how rural communities can turn this challenge into an opportunity for entrepreneurship and collective well-being.

A formal vote of thanks was delivered by Prof. M.F. Wani, Member of UBA at NIT Srinagar. He extended his heartfelt gratitude to Ministry of Education, NCI IIT Delhi, and Director NIT Srinagar, Registrar, and administration of the Institute for their constant support.

Prof. Wani also thanked the distinguished speakers, participating institutions, faculty members, and student volunteers for making the workshop a success.

The session wrapped up with participant feedback, followed by the distribution of certificates and mementos by the dignitaries, marking a meaningful close to the daylong program.

## IASOWA extends helping hand to flood-affected families of Jammu

**JAMMU:** The IAS Officers' Wives Association (IASOWA), Jammu & Kashmir, under the leadership of Mrs. Monika Wali Dulloo, wife of Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, has extended a helping hand to families affected by the recent floods in the Jammu region by donating essential relief material.

The relief material was formally handed over to Additional Deputy Commissioner Anusuya Jamwal.

The occasion was marked by the presence of IASOWA members including Mrs. Geetanjali Singla (wife of Dr. Piyush Singla), Mrs. Jyoti Kumar (wife of Neeraj Kumar), Mrs. Sunaina Yadav (wife of Dr. Devansh Yadav), Mrs. Divya Yadav (wife of Rahul Yadav) and Mrs. Rohini Kumar (wife of Rupesh Kumar), who collectively

reinforced the association's commitment towards community welfare.



The relief package comprised a wide range of essential items aimed at supporting immediate household and nutritional needs of the affected families.

These included bed-sheets, blankets, clothing, kitchen utensils and food supplies such as grains, pulses and other daily essentials.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of the administration, ADC Jammu, Anusuya Jamwal

said that the generous gesture by IASOWA will provide much-needed

comfort to several families reeling under the impact of the floods. She lauded the association's timely support in complementing ongoing relief efforts of the district administration.

The IAS Officers' Wives Association, J&K, continues to play an active role in extending social support and undertaking welfare initiatives aimed at alleviating hardships of vulnerable communities across the Union Territory.

# Lieutenant Governor reviews preparations for 'Sewa Parv' celebration in J&K



FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations ahead of 'Sewa Parv', to be organised across the Union Territory from 17th September to 2nd October, 2025.

The meeting was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Shailendra Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Deputy Commissioners and other senior officers of the stakeholder departments.

The Lieutenant Governor took a comprehensive review of the wide range of activities planned by the Departments and District Administrations to promote Public Service,

Community Participation and Inclusive Governance.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the celebration of 'Sewa Parv' should reflect commitment towards Viksit Bharat and Viksit Jammu Kashmir.

Our focus must be on outcome and not on symbolic activities. Senior officials must act as role models and lead the effort. Each Department must ensure that the activities are aligned with development priorities, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed the departments to identify gaps in coverage of flagship schemes and dedicated efforts should be made

to achieve the saturation. He further directed for instituting a review mechanism for daily monitoring at district, division and department levels.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasized that drug addiction, disaster management awareness campaigns and

special camps for grievance redressal to be incorporated in the Sewa Parv activities.

He directed the departments to set realistic targets for their respective identified activities and monitor them through the digital portal.

We must educate students about civic responsibilities and key national and social issues through platforms like Youth Parliament. Relief and addressing concerns of people in flood affected areas, promotion of personnel hygiene among masses, curb on single use plastic and welfare of old-age, poor and specially-abled should also be the part of our planned activities, the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also directed for organising debate and essay writing competitions on Mahatma Gandhi. He observed that Sewa Parv's guiding principles are public service, community participation and inclusive governance to ensure meaningful impact on communities. Sewa Parv's prime objective is to ensure that every voice is heard and every segment of society benefits from development initiatives.

The observance of the 'Sewa Parv' will be anchored to identified themes including Cleanliness Drives & Environmental Action, Education-Focused Initiatives, Engagement with Elderly & Vulnerable Sections, Health & Nutrition Initiatives, Awareness & Capacity Building Workshops, Cultural Activities and Public outreach campaigns.

It was informed that a dedicated online portal will be utilized for the duration of Sewa Parv to ensure seamless coordination, real-time monitoring, and transparent reporting.

The Lieutenant Governor was also briefed on 'Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan' campaign to be organised from 17th September to 2nd October 2025, emphasizing women's health and empowerment as key to family and community progress.

## Several legislators call on CM Omar Abdullah, highlight key public issues



FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Several legislators, including MLA Pampore, Justice (Retd) Hasnain Masoodi; MLA Karnah, Javid Ahmad Mirchal and MLA Rajouri, Iftikhar Ahmed called on Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah at Raabita Public Outreach Office.

The legislators apprised the Chief Minister of pressing developmental issues impacting

their respective constituencies, as well as challenges posed in the aftermath of recent flood situation in the region.

During the interaction, the MLAs raised critical concerns related to infrastructure development, improvement of basic civic amenities, road connectivity, health services,

among others from their respective constituencies. The legislators also asked

for accelerated implementation of various development projects, especially in remote and flood-

affected zones, to ensure sustainable progress and improved quality of life for the local population.

The legislators also briefed the Chief Minister about the hardships faced by people due to recent flood

situation, as well as losses to crops and houses. They appreciated the spontaneous rehabilitation and restoration measures employed by the government for the facilitation of affected population.

Acknowledging the gravity of the concerns raised, the Chief Minister assured the legislators that the government remains fully committed to addressing both developmental imperatives and disaster-related challenges with utmost urgency.

## CS reviews 'Citizen Centric Services' of Law Department Stresses on early launch after incorporating stakeholders feed back

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level review meeting of the ambitious Citizen Centric Services initiative of the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs. The meeting focused on evaluating the progress made so far and ensuring its timely launch for the benefit of people across Jammu & Kashmir.

Secretary, Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs, Achal Sethi, presented a detailed update on the development of the digital platform, comprising both a web portal and mobile application.

The meeting was also attended by Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla; CEO JAKEGA, Mahima Madan; senior officers of the Law Department; and representatives of BISAG-N.

The Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the ongoing work and underlined the need for an early launch of the services within the stipulated timelines. He observed that the initiative holds



immense potential to enhance transparency, accessibility, and efficiency in legal service delivery while simplifying citizens' access to essential services such as legal aid and advice.

He observed that the platform is a reflection of the government's commitment to legal empowerment, inclusive governance, and citizen-centric service delivery. Adding that it has the potential to serve as a model for other regions of the country to replicate.

Underscoring the importance of inclusivity, the Chief Secretary directed the Department to seek valuable inputs from legal experts,

especially from the High Court of J&K and Ladakh, and incorporate their suggestions to make the services more comprehensive and beneficial for all stakeholders.

The Citizen Centric Services initiative encompasses ten integrated modules designed to simplify public access to legal services. Key features include a Legal Aid/Advice module that connects citizens with Legal Aid Counsels and Pro Bono Counsels, access to Central and UT Acts, Rules, Notifications, and landmark judgments, and information on court locations and real-time case status.

Other services on the platform

include facilities related to notaries, oath commissioners, documents, and marriage registration. The portal also provides details of MLAs, legislative business, and enables public feedback on draft laws. Additionally, it offers legal education guidance and career support for aspiring legal professionals, an AI-powered chatbot for basic legal assistance, and a grievance redressal and feedback mechanism.

The Chief Secretary asked all stakeholders to work in close coordination to address any pending technical or administrative issues and ensure readiness of the platform as per schedule. He further emphasized the need for widespread awareness campaigns to maximize citizen outreach and effective utilization of the services by them post-launch.

The Department assured that necessary steps are being taken to meet the launch timeline and to operationalize the platform in a citizen-friendly and efficient manner.

## Div Com reviews Implementation of CSS, UT schemes by Agriculture & Sericulture departments Emphasizes on prolific production, enhancing farmers' income

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the implementation and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and Union Territory (UT) schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) by the Agriculture and Sericulture departments.

The meeting was attended by the Director of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Additional Director Sericulture, Deputy Director Planning, and other senior officers from the concerned departments.

During the meeting, Div Com evaluated the effectiveness of ongoing schemes aimed at promoting

agriculture and allied sectors with a focus on economic growth, increased crop productivity, employment generation, and boosting farmers' incomes.

Emphasizing the importance of tangible outcomes, Div Com directed officers to ensure that the benefits of all schemes are effectively percolated down to the grassroots, reaching



the intended beneficiaries. He stressed the need to bridge the gap between targets and actual achievements under the various schemes.

Highlighting the role of digital platforms in modern agriculture marketing, he urged departments to assess the impact of digital interventions

and to integrate larger e-commerce platforms such as Amazon to facilitate better market access and higher returns for farmers.

Div Com instructed the Agriculture department to focus on the distribution of scientifically advanced, high-yielding

crop varieties, which are crucial for enhancing per hectare productivity. He also called for motivating farmers to adopt highly remunerative agricultural practices, such as mushroom cultivation and sericulture, as part of an integrated farming approach.

Further, he called for a measurable increase in scheme output and visible improvements in livelihood parameters across rural areas.

Earlier, Director of Agriculture presented a detailed overview of the sector's current status, including the area under cultivation, irrigation facilities, productivity levels, and a strategic vision aimed at achieving sustainable agricultural development, ensuring food security, enhancing rural livelihoods, and promoting environmental sustainability.

It was informed that the Agriculture department is currently implementing 16 schemes under HADP in addition to various Centrally Sponsored and UT Schemes.

Representative from the Sericulture Department also shared insights into the department's historical significance, ongoing projects, and future vision for enhancing silk production and farmer engagement in the sector.

## DDC Budgam chairs review meeting on Ring Road Project Stresses timely completion of the project for ease of general public



FE News Network

**BUDGAM:** District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of the Ring Road Project in the district.

During the meeting, DC directed all stakeholders to expedite the work process and ensure timely completion of the project, emphasizing its significance for public convenience, decongestion of traffic, and environmental benefits.

It was informed that out of the total 42 km road length, 32 km falls within Budgam district. The NHAI representatives apprised the chair that four major entry/exit locations have been identified in Budgam that are Ichkoot, Kuzwere, Gowherpura, and Kesarmulla.

DC directed the District Mineral Officer to allow only registered GPS-installed vehicles for legal evacuation and transportation of earth/soil. He instructed that all illegal vehicles be seized immediately and FIRs registered against violators.

He also directed NHAI representatives to obtain proper NOCs from the Forest department, PHE, Irrigation, PDD, DMO, and other concerned departments before starting execution of work. He stressed the importance of sharing feasibility reports with the district administration with respect to transport and land assessment, and also instructed NHAI to secure Gram Panchayat resolutions in the identified areas before initiating work.

Dr Bilal highlighted that all stakeholders must be fully involved in the execution and implementation of this vital project, keeping in view the larger public interest.

NHAI apprised the chair that at least 201 structures, including minor and major bridges, are to be constructed along the 38 km stretch of the project within Budgam.

DC directed NHAI to remain 100% legal and transparent in all project-related activities, assuring that the district administration will extend full support in the smooth execution of this public asset.

## J&K BOSE notifies dates for filling of examination forms for 11th, 12th classes Urges institutional heads to adhere to timeframe

FE News Network

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), has notified online submission of Annual examination Forms for class 11th and 12th, Regular, 2025 (Oct-Nov session).

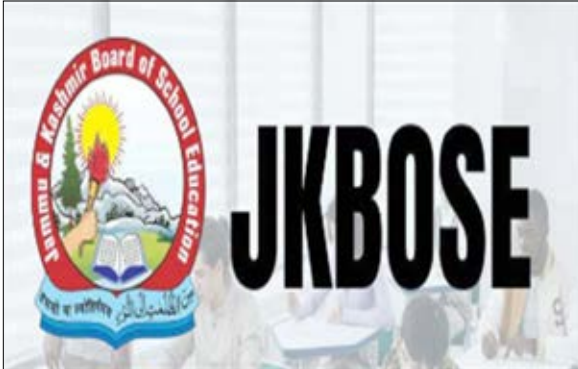
As per the notification issued by the Joint Secretary, Examinations JD/ KD, all eligible students of Kashmir Division including winter zone areas of Jammu Division besides district Kargil and Leh can submit their examination forms in online mode from September, 11 to 25 on payment of normal prescribed fee.

The forms can also be submitted from September, 26 to October, 2 and October, 3 to 9 with applicable late fees.

The Board has directed all concerned institutions to ensure timely submission of forms, advising students to carefully verify their particulars during punching of information on the designated portal.

The detailed notification along with necessary guidelines, fee structure and instructions are available on the official JKBOSE website, [www.jkbose.nic.in](http://www.jkbose.nic.in).

The Board has urged parents and students to complete



the process of submission of forms within the stipulated time frame to avoid

imposition of late fees, cautioning that no form will be entertained after October, 9 whatsoever.

Relevantly, the JKBOSE is committed to conduct the annual examination in November, 2025 for all the three classes including 10th, 11th and 12th in sync with the directions of the government to restore the session to November from March for Kashmir Division and winter zone areas of Jammu Division.

## DC Kulgam Felicitates Meritorious Girl Students with Laptops & E-Readers under BBBP Initiative

FE News Network

**KULGAM:** To promote academic excellence and digital empowerment, the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women Kulgam organised a Capacity Building and Exhibition Programme on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics) aimed at fostering the participation of women

and girls excelling in these fields.

The Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), who presided over the function as chief guest, felicitated meritorious girl students from government schools who secured top ranks in the 10th and 12th board examinations.

As a token of appreciation and to aid their further studies, the DC distributed laptops and e-readers to the achievers.

Acknowledging the dedicated efforts of teachers, students, and their parents, the DC remarked that such achievements are a testament to the rising standards of education in government schools across the district.

He encouraged students to stay committed to their academic goals and continue striving for success.

The Deputy Commissioner extended his heartfelt wishes to the students for their future pursuits and assured District Administration's full support for educational initiatives.

The distribution of laptops and e-readers was carried out under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) scheme,

underscoring the Administration's unwavering commitment to girls' education and digital inclusion.

On the occasion, various women speakers from different walks of life highlighted the importance of educating and securing the girl child and exhorted strict enforcement of relevant rules and regulations.

The event, organised by the Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women Kulgam, witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam Viqar Ahmed Giri, Chief Education Officer Kulgam, teachers, and proud parents.

The day-long event also featured a Capacity Building & Exhibition Programme on STEM disciplines by SHEW Kulgam, where 15 models were displayed by girl students of different government higher secondary schools.

The top three highest-ranking participants were celebrated for their hard work and contributions to STEM projects and were awarded mementos and education kits by the District Development Commissioner Kulgam.

Editorial

A Welcome Lifeline

When the new trial parcel train service from Budgam in Kashmir to Delhi was launched, it was a huge step towards ensuring the economic stability of the valley's horticulture sector, something that has been a challenge for Kashmir's fruit growers, and apple farmers in particular, for years. For decades, the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, or NH-44, has held the valley hostage, and the new train service isn't just a supplementary logistics option, it has become a potential lifeline. Its biggest promise is to halve transit times, slash spoilage and add some much needed reliability to the supply chain. The sense of urgency for this initiative was laid out by Varun Mital, the founder of Fine Valley Agri Farms. The 14-day closure of NH-44 last year resulted in massive losses. 30-60% Of apples, 100% of plums and almost 70% of pears were ruined in the stranded trucks, as per his words, this is the worst-case scenario we have seen in Kashmir. The road nicknamed "the lifeblood of Kashmir", has time and again turned out to be its Achilles heel, basically strangling the region's economy during the harshest of winters and landslides, and each time it's shut, it doesn't just cost the individual farmers money, it cripples the valley's entire economy which relies heavily on apple cultivation.

The benefits of the rail service are immediately apparent. Reducing the travel time from 36 hours to just 20 ensures that the famed Kashmiri apple reaches markets fresher and in better condition, directly enhancing its quality and value. Furthermore, the scalability of the project, beginning with a trial of two vans and moving to a daily time-tabled train with eight parcel coaches, demonstrates a clear vision for a robust alternative infrastructure. The commitment to proper scanning and security, as assured by the Railways SSP, adds a layer of professionalism and safety to the process. This initiative is a prime example of how targeted infrastructural development can directly address grassroots economic challenges. The personal intervention acknowledged by LG Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister, and the KTMF, underscores the importance of responsive governance. This parcel train is a pragmatic and powerful intervention. It acknowledges a long-standing grievance and offers a practical solution that empowers growers, stabilises the market, and secures livelihoods.

Track Tomorrow: Kashmir's Tourism On The Right Line



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

For decades, tourists flocking to Kashmir had to rely on the twists of mountain roads



or the uncertainty of air travel. Flights were expensive, buses uncomfortable, and winter snow often cut off the Valley from the rest of the country. Today, that picture is changing fast. With the completion of landmark railway projects and the launch of new train services, the paradise on earth is closer than ever — and its tourism industry is set for a transformation.

The Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) has been described as one of the most challenging railway projects in the world. Stretching 272 kilometres through the Himalayas, the line includes 36 tunnels, nearly 1,000 bridges and engineering feats that have tested the best of Indian Railways.

What once seemed like a distant dream is now reality. The commissioning of the Banihal-Sangaldan line, full electrification of Valley tracks, and the final touches on the Banihal-Katra section have brought Srinagar into the national rail map. Soon, tourists will be able to board trains from Delhi, Mumbai or Chennai and step straight into the Valley without changing modes. For the tourism sector, this is nothing short of a revolution.

The story of tourism and railways in Jammu and Kashmir begins with pilgrimage. The commissioning of the Udhampur-Katra rail link in 2014 transformed access to the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine, one of India's most visited spiritual destinations.

Earlier, pilgrims had to travel by road from Jammu. Now, trains run directly into Katra station, saving hours and cutting travel

fatigue. The overnight Shri Shakti Express from Delhi remains one of the busiest trains on the route. Hotels, dharamshalas, restaurants and shops in Katra have boomed since the line opened.

With tracks now pushing further into Kashmir, religious circuits are expanding. Shrines such as Hazratbal, Shankaracharya and the Amarnath cave are expected to see increased visitors once direct trains begin

Crucially, fewer vehicles on mountain roads also reduces pollution and congestion. For a fragile ecosystem, this is an added bonus.

Railways don't just move people — they connect cultures. With Kashmir plugged into the national grid, new circuits are emerging. A tourist can now plan a journey from Amritsar's Golden Temple to Vaishno Devi in Katra and onward to Gulmarg's ski slopes — all by train.

But the promise comes with challenges. Tourism in Kashmir is seasonal, peaking in summers and winters. Railways will have to manage surges during the Amarnath Yatra or Christmas-New Year ski season. Safety in high-altitude stretches, snow clearance, and earthquake-proofing will be constant concerns.

There is also the bigger question: can Kashmir handle the numbers? More visitors mean more pressure on Dal Lake, Pahalgam meadows and Gulmarg slopes. Experts caution that sustainability must be central — with strict waste management, promotion of offbeat destinations, and eco-tourism practices to prevent environmental stress.

Despite the hurdles, few doubt the scale

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Railways are also building goods terminals across the new Jammu Railway Division. This means that not only tourists, but also Kashmiri apples, saffron and flowers can travel faster to markets. Agro-tourism — orchard visits, farm stays, local tasting tours — could ride the same wave.

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of change underway. In the last decade alone, Jammu and Kashmir has gone from being a region largely dependent on road and air travel to one with some of the most spectacular railway infrastructure in the world.

For pilgrims, tourists, and adventurers, the Valley is now within easier reach than ever before. For locals, it is a promise of new livelihoods and markets. And for India, it is proof that determined engineering can unlock the potential of even the toughest terrains.

As the first Vande Bharat Express glides over the Chenab Bridge into Srinagar, it will not just carry passengers. It will carry with it the hopes of a tourism industry entering a new era — faster, broader, and more inclusive than ever before.

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CP Radhakrishnan: Charting a Fresh Course for Rashtrapati Bhavan



VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Kudos to Chandrapuram Ponnusamy Radhakrishnan for being elected as 15th Vice President of India securing 452 votes in the election. He has won by a margin of 152 votes, surpassing expectations with his strong support base. Radhakrishnan's election is seen as a symbol of clean politics, and he is expected to uphold this image, promoting transparency and accountability in governance. He is a seasoned politician with a rich background in governance and politics. His elevation to this role marks a significant milestone in Indian politics, particularly given his roots in Tamil Nadu, a state where the BJP has traditionally faced challenges in gaining traction.

Born on October 20, 1957, in Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan was serving as the Governor of Maharashtra since July 2024 before being named as the NDA's Vice Presidential nominee. Radhakrishnan has had a long association with the RSS and BJP, starting as an RSS swayamsevak at 16. He served as a two-term Lok Sabha MP from Coimbatore and held key positions in the Tamil Nadu BJP. He has served as Governor of Jharkhand, Telangana, and Maharashtra, showcasing his governance record and legislative experience. He holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration. A sports enthusiast, he excelled in table tennis and took keen interest in cricket and volleyball. He has also represented India on several international delegations across Asia, Europe and North America.

With over four decades of experience in politics, he has developed a pragmatic approach to leadership, evident in his ability to navigate complex political landscapes. PM Narendra Modi said Radhakrishnan "will strengthen our Constitutional values and enhance Parliamentary discourse". Radhakrishnan's experience as



Governor and his understanding of parliamentary procedures will be crucial in ensuring productive debates and minimizing disruptions in the Upper House. He is expected to encourage constructive discussions, fostering a platform for policy-making rather than political confrontation. As Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Radhakrishnan will need to balance his political background with impartiality, ensuring fair representation of all parties. He will have to ensure productive debates and minimizing disruptions in the Upper House with encouraging constructive discussions and policy-making, rather than political confrontation. He will have to balance his political background with impartiality, ensuring fair representation

of all parties.

Unlike his predecessor, Jagdeep Dhankhar, known for his vocal and impulsive nature, Radhakrishnan is perceived as a mellow and inclusive leader, which could foster a more collaborative environment in the Rajya Sabha. He has played a key role in shaping the BJP's presence in Tamil Nadu and Kerala. He led a 93-day, 19,000-km 'Rath Yatra' across Tamil Nadu to highlight issues like river-linking projects, eradication of untouchability, and combating terrorism and has also contributed to campaigns for tuberculosis eradication in Jharkhand, Puducherry, and Maharashtra.

There is no doubt that as a representative

from Tamil Nadu, Radhakrishnan will be expected to address regional concerns while prioritizing national interests. His pragmatic approach will enable him to find effective solutions to complex problems, balancing competing interests and priorities. With his extensive experience in politics and governance, Radhakrishnan is well-equipped to handle the responsibilities. As Vice President, he will be expected to uphold the dignity and integrity of the office, ensuring that the Rajya Sabha functions smoothly and efficiently.

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He served as a two-term Lok Sabha MP from Coimbatore and held key positions in the Tamil Nadu BJP. He has served as Governor of Jharkhand, Telangana, and Maharashtra, showcasing his governance record and legislative experience

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## JKEDI Hosts Day-Long Investment Cum Mentorship Program On 'Deep Tech And Venture Capital'

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Thursday organized an investment cum mentorship program titled "Deep Tech and Venture Capital" at its Main Campus Sempora, Pampore.

The day-long program was held in collaboration with the National Small Industries Corporation Limited (NSIC), a GoI enterprise and Sanchi Connect, a leading Business Accelerator supporting Deep Tech Startups.

The event aimed at strengthening the startup ecosystem in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir while promoting innovation and entrepreneurial excellence. The programme witnessed active participation from over 100 startups, aspiring entrepreneurs, and industry thought leaders, offering a unique platform for knowledge-sharing, real-time interactions, and personalized mentorship.

On the occasion, the JKEDI also signed an MoU with GIF – National Institute of Technology (NIT), Srinagar aimed at fostering skill development and exposure for the youth of Jammu & Kashmir.

Sarvana Kumar, CEO of NSIC Ventures Capital Fund Ltd., and Dr. Sunil K Shekhawat, Founder & CEO of Sanchi Connect,

Our objective is to channel this talent pool towards creating scalable and sustainable tech-based enterprises. Mentor-

port.

Dr. Sunil K Shekhawat shared his entrepreneurial journey and underlined how Sanchi Connect's network of "450 Venture Capital Funds and 100 Corporate Houses" helps Deep Tech startups scale effectively. He emphasized the importance of integrating forward and backward linkages into traditional business models for sustained growth.

The participants lauded the event's practical insights and strategic depth. A startup founder remarked, "The interaction helped us rethink our approach and gain sharper clarity on our business direction."

The session concluded with an interactive Q&A, fostering further engagement between the experts and participants, where selected startups received personalized guidance from the resource persons to refine their business models, overcome challenges, and strategize for long-term growth.

JKEDI reiterated its mission to foster a robust startup ecosystem in J&K and announced upcoming initiatives like Idea Challenge Competitions in schools and colleges, aimed at promoting innovation from an early stage.



were the keynote speakers for the day-long event.

Khalid Jahangir, Secretary in, Industries and Commerce Department, and Director JKEDI, in his address, highlighted the region's entrepreneurial legacy and the urgency to align it with modern, technology-driven business models. The JKEDI is on boarding the mentors for providing one to one mentorship to the startups of which there is a dire need.

He stated, "The entrepreneurial spirit is deeply rooted in J&K's culture.

ship is a vital key to enabling this growth, and today's programme is a step in that direction." He further added that with 44% of the startups registered with the JKEDI as tech based startups, the dialogues on Deep Tech will enable these startups to gain more insights.

Sarvana Kumar detailed the role of NSIC under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative, especially the Self Reliant India Fund (SRI Fund) backed by 10,000 Crore of Mother Fund, which supports startups and MSMEs by providing access to affordable capital and strategic sup-

## DC Ganderbal reviews preparations for Seva Parv celebration

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**GANDERBAL:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, chaired a meeting of concerned officers to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Seva Parv, a nationwide initiative scheduled to be celebrated from 17 September to 02 October, 2025.

The fortnight-long programme is aimed at strengthening citizen-centric governance by improving service delivery, creating awareness about public welfare schemes, and ensuring seamless access to essential services across the district.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on the activities to be conducted during the campaign, which will include Swachhta drives, health camps, social outreach initiatives, plantation drives, and beautification of educational institutions, besides digital literacy camps, and awareness campaigns on flagship government schemes.

DC directed all departments to prepare a holistic calendar of activities and submit it to his office within two days to ensure smooth implementation of the programme at the grassroots level.

He also instructed the ACD and Municipal Council Ganderbal to launch intensive Swachhta drives, waste seg-

regation campaigns in all Panchayats and municipal wards, and plantation drives around Amrit Sarovars.

For the plantation activities, DFO Sindh Forest Division was tasked with

Chief Medical Officer was instructed to organize health check-up camps, blood donation drives, and screening camps for anemia, water-borne diseases, TB, and cancer, along

with participation of private health institutions to strengthen healthcare services during the Seva Parv.

DC also emphasized the need for extensive awareness campaigns on flagship programmes, including Nasha Mukta Abhiyan, disaster management, and government welfare schemes like PMJJBY, APY, PMJDY, PMSBY, among others.

He called for organizing capacity-building and digital literacy camps to educate citizens about welfare schemes as well as awareness about various social security schemes.

Underscoring the importance of inter-departmental coordination, DC urged all officers to work in close synergy to ensure that the programme is impactful and benefits every section of society.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihag; CEO SDA, Bilal Mukhtar; Programme Officer ICDS, ACR, SDM Kangan, ACD, DSWO, CMO, and other officers from concerned departments.



ensuring the availability of sufficient numbers of plants; while all educational institutions, including the Central University of Kashmir, were directed to undertake initiatives under the education-focused component of the programme, such as school beautification, wall painting, and donation of textbooks, stationery for needy students

Similarly, the Programme Officer ICDS was asked to focus on nutrition-related activities and AAPA ID generation in Anganwadi centres.

## SBI Life Eases Claim Paperwork for J&K Flood Victims

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**Srinagar:** In light of the recent floods in Jammu & Kashmir, SBI Life has announced special relief measures

other authorized government databases will be accepted as valid proof.

Claims can now be registered with minimal documentation, requiring only the duly filled claim form, policy document, and the claimant's KYC along with bank account details.

To ensure seamless assistance, SBI Life has appointed dedicated Nodal Officers across all flood-affected regions, in Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Punjab.

For any claim-related support, family members can contact SBI Life through: Email: claims.assistance@sbilife.co.in, Toll-Free Number: 1800 267 9090 (available 24x7) Nearest SBI Life Branch

SBI Life expresses deep sorrow over the loss of lives in the floods and reiterates its unwavering commitment to standing by the families in this time of grief.

Note: SBI Life reserves the right to call for more documents if warranted by facts. Death certificate may be required for high cover amounts.



to support affected policyholders and their families.

To ensure timely financial assistance during this difficult time, SBI Life has simplified the claims process and relaxed documentation requirements.

Recognizing the emotional distress families face in such tragedies SBI Life will not insist on submission of a death certificate from claimants. SBI Life will consider evidence of death from official government records, entries in municipal registers, e-governance portals, or

## DC Srinagar conducts performance of Banks under various Credit Linked Govt Schemes

### FE NEWS NETWORK

Emphasizes expeditious sanctioning of eligible cases, urges bankers to facilitate common public in taking timely benefits through such schemes

**SRINAGAR:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Thursday chaired a comprehensive meeting with branch heads of various Banks here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and expedite the sanctioning of cases approved by multiple District Level Implementation Committees (DLIC) under various Credit Linked schemes of the Govt. including HADP, Mission YUVA, APY, PM-JBY, PMJSY, Agri Credit schemes etc.

He also assessed the progress of Banks under various Financial Inclusion schemes

in the district.

At the outset, DC took a branch-wise review of the banks and evaluated their



performance in sanctioning of cases approved by the District Level Implementation Committees under various credit linked schemes of the government.

On the occasion, DC instructed the Banks to ensure the swift sanctioning and disbursement of credit facility to the eligible beneficiaries by strictly adhering to the

set timelines.

Labroo emphasized the need to minimize the gap between DLIC-approved and bank-sanctioned cases and instructed banks to accelerate disbursement processes to facilitate the eligible beneficiaries in the district. He also urged banks to provide proper handholding and support to the common public and help them in taking timely benefits of the

credit linked schemes of the government. During the meeting, DC also reviewed the progress of Banks under various Financial Inclusion schemes including Atal Pension Yojna (APY), PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY) and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) in the district.

He stressed upon them to sanction & disburse benefits to eligible beneficiaries in a time bound manner and work towards saturating all government-sponsored Financial Inclusion schemes in the district so that the target population is benefited. He urged the Bankers to proactively intensify outreach efforts and maximize enrolments under these schemes.

DC asked the bankers to prioritize the Mission YUVA & HADP initiative aimed at empowering youth through self-employment.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; Zonal Head Jammu and Kashmir Bank, Layek Ahmad Jan; LDM (Banks), Nilofer Jan, officers of various line departments, Managers of various Bank Branches in the district and other concerned.

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## Kupwara admin conducts surprise Inspections of Government offices

### FE NEWS NETWORK

Action initiated against absentee employees

**KUPWARA:** On the directions of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, a series of surprise inspections were carried out during this week across various Government offices in the district to check the punctuality and attendance of employees.

The inspection teams were led by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC), Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), SDMs and Tehsildars, who visited offices under their respective jurisdictions during working hours.

During the inspections, around 48 employees were found absent from duty without authorization. Taking a serious note of this lapse, the district administration has issued show-cause notices to all the erring officials, directing them to explain their absence within the stipulated time.

DC has reiterated that strict disciplinary action will follow in cases of habitual absenteeism and dereliction of duty. He emphasized that government employees are public servants, and their foremost responsibility is to ensure punctuality and provide efficient services to the citizens.

DC further directed all controlling officers to regularly monitor the attendance of their subordinates, adding that surprise inspections will continue in the coming days to enforce discipline and accountability in the functioning of Government offices.



### National Forest Martyrs Day- 2025

## Rana pays glowing tributes to Martyrs

Says upcoming Ecotourism Park, other infrastructure to be named in their memory

### FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Jal Shakti and Tribal Affairs Javed Ahmad Rana today paid rich tributes to the martyrs of the Forest Department who laid down their lives while

sources, the Minister said that the survival of humankind depends on forests and water and the world simply cannot sustain without them.

Encouraging the department to continue its mission, the Minister said that efforts are on to further strengthen the department and enhance facilities for all staff engaged in protecting our natural resources.

Announcing key initiatives, the Minister said that a new roadmap is being prepared to restore the lost glory of the Forest Department, with plans to develop an ecotourism park and other infrastructure in memory of the martyrs. He also announced the introduction of group insurance facilities for employees. In his welcome address, Conservator of Forests, North Circle, Irfan Ali Shah highlighted the challenges faced by frontline staff and

reiterated the department's commitment to their welfare and safety.

The event also witnessed speeches by representatives of forest associations and organisations, who underlined the crucial role of forest officials in conservation and the sacrifices they make.

The Minister, on the occasion, also released a publication titled "Green Hearts". He also felicitated the family members of the martyrs for their sacrifices.

Commissioner Secretary, Forest Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda; PCF & Head of Forest Force, Suresh Kumar Gupta; MD J&K Forest Development Corporation; CCFs, Conservators, DFOs, Range Officers, Foresters, Forest Guards, representatives of various forest organisations, families of martyrs, environmental activists and senior government functionaries were also present on the occasion.

Earlier in the day, a tribute ceremony was held at the Forest Martyrs Memorial, Shankaracharya Hill, Srinagar, where floral wreath was laid in honour of the martyrs.

In Jammu, the day was observed at the Foresters Memorial, FRMC (ICT Lab), Narwal, with wreath-laying ceremonies by forest officers and staff. Similar observances were held across the J&K, including at Kashmir Forest Training School, Chittarnar.



protecting J&K's green wealth.

Presiding over the National Forest Martyrs' Day-2025 function at Tagore Hall, here, the Minister acknowledged the unwavering commitment and supreme sacrifices of forest personnel in safeguarding the region's precious natural resources.

The event was organised by the J&K Forest Department to commemorate National Forest Martyrs' Day and honour the courage and dedication of forest officials and frontline staff who sacrificed their lives in the line of duty while protecting forests and wildlife.

Speaking on the occasion, Rana said that the sacrifice of these martyrs is a testament of their dedication towards preserving our natural heritage for future generations.

"The supreme sacrifices made by our brave forest personnel will always be remembered. We must all feel proud of those who laid down their lives for the cause of protecting nature," he said.

He underlined that forests are the lungs of the planet, and the green guardians who protect them are real heroes.

"It is our collective duty to ensure their sacrifice does not go in vain and we continue their mission with renewed commitment," the Minister said.

Emphasising on the importance of natural re-

New criminal

the Jammu Kashmir Police to continue organizing public awareness camps on new criminal laws, in collaboration with the Information Department, Education Department and Legal Services Authority. He also stressed the importance of capacity building at all levels.

“For the first time since independence, terrorism has been defined within the criminal justice system. The new criminal laws will strengthen the country’s policy of zero tolerance against terrorism,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Nalin Prabhat, DGP; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; Vidhi Kumar Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Sujit Kumar, IGP Security, J&K; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration, civil society members, teachers and students in large number were present. (DIPR)

Act Tough

on the current security situation in the Union Territory. The DGP was also briefed about the recent developments regarding anti-terrorist operations and actions taken in response.

The discussion further focused on recent security issues, ongoing challenges, and strategies to address them. DGP J&K stressed the importance of reviewing and strengthening security plans, as well as developing effective counter-insurgency measures to ensure the smooth and peaceful execution of upcoming events, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

Prabhat directed the officers to intensify surveillance on anti-national elements and ramp up area domination efforts in their respective areas. He emphasized the importance of bolstering security around vulnerable targets and ensuring foolproof security measures.

Additionally, DGP J&K urged district heads to closely monitor social media platforms to prevent the spread of misinformation that could jeopardize public safety and order.

The DGP J&K also addressed the issue of rising general crime in certain areas of the UT and directed district heads to strengthen community policing initiatives and improve public outreach programs.

He stressed the need for targeted operations to disrupt criminal networks and maintain a sense of safety and security among the public. Underscoring the critical need for a coordinated approach to combat the growing menace of narcotics, the DGP directed the officers to take stringent action against those involved in the drug trade.

The meeting concluded with a strong commitment to enhance vigilance, strengthen coordination, and ensure the effective implementation of security measures to uphold peace and safety throughout the valley—(KNO)

Court Rejects

“Today, both the accused persons have been produced...Both the accused persons have submitted in open court that they are not willing to undergo polygraph or narco analysis test,” the court said in its six page order.

According to its August 29 order, the details of which have come to light only now, the NIA’s chief investigating officer approached the court seeking permission to carry out a polygraph test and narco analysis of the two.

The Deputy Legal Aid Defence Counsel also rebutted the NIA’s claims that the Jothad and Ahmed had voluntarily agreed to the tests. It asked that the NIA’s plea be rejected because “no voluntary consent statement of the accused in the custody of prisoners was taken by the agency”.

“...involuntary administration of scientific techniques such as narco-analysis, polygraph examination test would violate the ‘right against self-incrimination enumerated’ in the Constitution,” the court said while dismissing the NIA’s plea.

In the order, the court also cited a Karnataka High Court judgment and National Human Rights Commission guidelines on polygraph test, narco analysis and brain electrical activation profile.

According to the guidelines, the consent of the accused for such scientific tests should be recorded before a judicial magistrate and the actual recording of a lie detector test be done by an independent agency, like a hospital, and conducted in front of lawyers.

According to the NIA, the two arrested knowingly harboured three armed terrorists at a seasonal dhok (hut) at the Hill Park before the attack targeting tourists in the picturesque Baisaran valley in the upper reaches of Jammu and Kashmir’s Pahalgam town.

“The two men had provided food, shelter and logistical support to the terrorists, who had, on April 22 afternoon, selectively killed the tourists based on their religious identity, making it one of the most gruesome terrorist attacks ever.

“Both Parvaiz and Bashir have been arrested under Section 19 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967. Further investigation in the case is going on,” the NIA had said in a statement after their arrest.

On that day, terrorists attacked tourists at Baisaran meadows, also known as mini Switzerland, and killed 26 people — 25 tourists belonging to different states and a local Syed Adil Shah who attempted to save tourists by snatching the rifle of one of the attackers.

On July 28, the army eliminated all the three terrorists who were involved. (PTI)

Heavy Rains

1,002 kanals of horticulture land being severely affected. Infrastructure took a major hit as well as four bridges were damaged. Besides, 29 panchayat ghars and community information centre buildings were also affected due to the disaster.

Authorities evacuated 210 people from vulnerable areas to ensure their safety, the officials said.

Rescue and relief operations, led by Deputy Commissioner Sharma, were swift and timely, not only saving lives but also preventing widespread infrastructure damage, they said.

Assessment teams are conducting ground-level surveys to determine the full extent of the devastation, the officials added. (PTI)

First Apple-Laden

New Delhi will bring huge relief to apple growers. My deepest gratitude to the Prime Minister and Union Minister for Railways, Ashwini Vaishnav Ji,” the office of the LG said on X.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Minister for Railways for his support in making this initiative possible. A post on his official X handle said, “The Chief Minister has expressed gratitude to Railways Minister Ashwini Vaishnav for his support, as train parcels have now reached Kashmir. The horticulture department is coordinating the transportation with the fruit growers.”

Varun Mital from Fine Valley Agri Farms, whose consignment was among the first dispatched on Thursday, told news agency—

Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the initiative has come at a critical time. “Earlier, sending fruit to Delhi used to take around 36 hours. Now the same work will be done in just 20 hours. This will directly improve the quality of fruit reaching the markets,” he said.

He noted that the continued closure of National Highway-44 had badly affected growers. “The highway, considered the lifeline of Kashmir, has remained shut for 14 days. We lost 30-60 percent of our produce in trucks that got stranded. In plums, we faced a 100 percent loss, and in pears nearly 70 percent,” he said.

According to Mital, Thursday’s trial included two cargo coaches carrying about 3,000 apple boxes—around 36 tons. Each railway container, he added, can carry up to 23 tons of fruit. “Today, two of our trucks with 1,500 boxes each were loaded. In future, the number of trains and cargoes will increase, with proper scanning and other facilities in place,” he said.

Mital credited the government for introducing the service at short notice. “This is a great initiative, and it will benefit not only us but also other growers. It reduces our dependency on the highway and opens a more reliable route through the railways,” he said.

Daily VP Train with 8 coaches from Budgam to Delhi to run daily

Meanwhile, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Railways, Wasem Qadri, on Thursday said that from September 15, a special daily VP train will operate from Budgam railway station to Adarsh Nagar, Delhi, carrying eight parcel coaches with fruits, especially apples.

Qadri as per KNO while talking to media persons at Budgam railway station said that the service comes at a crucial time for fruit growers. “What we had originally scheduled was from the 15th of September. But since the highway continues to remain closed and people’s fruit consignments are getting damaged, we have preponed the process. That’s why today, a double-coach parcel train carrying apples has been dispatched,” he said.

He added that from September 15 onwards, the operation will be a continuous process with eight coaches running daily. “The VP train will transport fruits from here, especially apples, and on its return it will also carry consignments from Delhi,” the SSP said.

On security arrangements, he noted, “Security will be fully intact. Both Jammu and Kashmir Police and the Railway Protection Force will jointly ensure the safe operation of this service.”

Officials said the step is expected to significantly reduce losses suffered by orchardists due to highway blockades and provide a reliable corridor for Kashmir’s apple economy.

KTMF welcomes move  
Kashmir Traders and Manufacturers Federation (KTMF) has welcomed the facilitation of apple transportation through train services in view of the frequent closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway.

KTMF President Mohammad Yaseen Khan extended heartfelt gratitude to Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for personally intervening and ensuring that the horticulture sector, particularly apple growers and traders is provided with a viable alternative to keep the supply chain

active—(KNO)

CS Dulloo

assets, the Chief Secretary directed for the early roll-out of the e-SAM portal in J&K. The system will ensure comprehensive inventorization of all IT assets and strengthen their security and monitoring.

During the meeting, Secretary, IT Department, Dr. Piyush Singla, briefed that out of 250 websites, security audit of 175 has been completed and are live, while the remaining 40 are under vulnerability testing. He added that 1-2 websites are being cleared daily and the entire process will be completed within the ensuing month.

It was also informed that of the 53 portals hosted by JaKeGA, 50 have already been secured and made live, with just 3 pending. Further, 19 redundant websites have been decommissioned after consultation with the concerned departments.

Dr. Singla apprised that EDR and UEM have been successfully deployed across the Civil Secretariat complexes in Jammu and Srinagar, covering around 5,100 devices. The process is now being extended to Head of Department (HoD) offices.

The meeting was further informed that the census of IT assets had been completed by 23 departments, and the J&K instance of the e-SAM portal is in the testing phase. Once operational, it will provide a unified, end-to-end inventory of IT assets to strengthen cyber resilience.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the status of Cyber Crisis Management Plans (CCMPs) submitted by departments, the adoption of official government email IDs (which now stands at 1.61 lakh users), and the growing use of Gov Drive for secure storage. The meeting further discussed measures regarding whitelisting/disabling of USB/pen drive usage, which has largely been restricted with whitelisting allowed only in exceptional cases.

Other key discussions included the migration of certain applications to the national Meghraj cloud, amalgamation of SICOP and JPDCL data into the State Data Centre, and operationalization of the Single Window System, which is expected to go live by the end of this month. The augmentation of SDC, operationalization of Mini SOC at Jammu which eventually is going to be upgraded into a full-fledged SOC, and phased migration of websites from IPv4 to IPv6 by year-end were also deliberated upon.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of a proactive approach to cyber security, underlining that robust digital safety measures are integral for ensuring efficiency and reliability in governance. He directed all departments to work in close coordination with the IT Department to plug gaps, adopt best practices, and complete all pending tasks within stipulated timelines. (DIPR)

Kashmir Highway

lifted from my chest,” said Gull Mohammad Bhat, another driver from Pampore.

The convoy’s slow but steady movement brought visible relief to the faces of those who had been waiting in long queues stretching from Anantnag outskirts to the Qazigund tunnel.

“It was not just about business losses; we were living on the roadside, away from our families, in the scorching sun and rain. I don’t remember such a long blockade in recent years,” said Ashiq Hussin Shah, a driver from Baramulla—(KNO)

CSIR IIIM distributes 430 Apiculture Units under CSIR Floriculture Mission

DC Pulwama highlights significance of initiative for rural livelihood upliftment

**PULWAMA:** In a major outreach for strengthening the apiculture sector in the J&K UT, CSIR - Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine Jammu, distributed 430 apiculture units to 43 farmers of districts of Pulwama, Baramulla, Budgam, Shopian and Ganderbal under CSIR Floriculture Mission today at its Field Station, Bonera, Pulwama.

The event was organized as part of the culmination of the 10 days programme on ‘Entrepreneurship Development and Farmer Empowerment through Capacity Development’ under the CSIR Floriculture Mission.

The programme witnessed the participation of Dr Basharat Qayoom, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama; Dr Zabeer Ahmed, Director CSIR IIIM; Er Abdur Rahim, Head CSIR IIIM Branch Lab Srinagar; Dr Shahid Rasool Principal Scientist and Scientist Incharge CSIR IIIM Field Station Bonera, Pulwama; officers and researchers of CSIR IIIM and 80 farmers and agri-entrepreneurs and eminent citizens of the area.

Speaking at the event, DC highlighted the significance of initiative for rural livelihood upliftment and fostering apiculture oriented product development and their marketing. He informed that Apiculture holds immense potential in Pulwama and other parts of Kashmir owing to huge availability of varied nectar rich floral biodiversity.

The collaborative efforts of CSIR-IIIM with local farmers and agri-entrepreneurs through its multiple farm based mission programmes has strengthened the agri-oriented income generation opportunities and promoted rural bio-entrepreneurship in the region besides contributing to the sustainable economic growth in the district, he added.

Dr Basharat congratulated the Scientists of CSIR IIIM for the development of India’s first monofloral Lavender Honey thereby bringing the district on the global focus for production of the specialty honey and informed that the novelty honey will be registered for geographical indication tagging.

Director CSIR IIIM in his address highlighted the Institute’s commitment to farmer centric innovations, development and grassroots level translation of technologies. He said that through the CSIR Floriculture Mission, they are working to empower farmers by diversifying their income sources by production and utilization of commercial floriculture crops and their value added products.

“Our scientists have been actively working on diversification of farm enterprises and apiculture for its unique niche in the food value

chain, which has been our priority. Beekeeping generates direct economic benefits and also improves pollination efficiency in crops, thereby enhancing overall productivity and sustainability of fragile agro-ecosystems,” he added.

Addressing the participants, Head, BLS, underlined the market prospects of quality honey and other apiculture products. He stated that adopting scientific protocols in apiculture will enable farmers to maximize income while ensuring high quality produce that meets national and international market standards.

The initiative reflects the CSIR IIIM’s broader goal of creating a holistic model for sustainable farming and rural empowerment in Jammu and Kashmir, he added.

Earlier, Principal Scientist and Incharge, Field Station Pulwama presented a detailed technical overview of the CSIR Floriculture Mission, a pan India initiative for strengthening the floriculture sector through area expansion under region specific commercial floricultural crops and their effective marketing.

The programme included technical demonstrations on modern beekeeping practices, disease management in apiaries, and integration of apiculture with floriculture to enhance crop productivity and farmer income.

As part of the initiative, 430 honey bee boxes, technical manual on scientific beekeeping and certificates were distributed to 43 trained beneficiaries to support them in adopting beekeeping as a source of income and livelihood generation.

The event concluded with an interactive session between experts and farmers. (DIPR)

Mission Shakti Bandipora Wraps Up 10-Day Awareness Campaign with SKUAST Exposure Visit

**Bandipora:** The SANKALP Hub for Empowerment of Women (HEW) Mission Shakti, Department of Social Welfare Apiculture, on Thursday concluded its 10-day special awareness campaign under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative with an exposure visit to the Faculty of Agriculture (FoA), SKUAST-Wadura Sopore.

An official spokesperson said the visit was organised in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Bandipora for girls from Hajin block identified by the Jammu and Kashmir Association of Social Workers (JKASW), who have shown interest in agriculture and allied sectors.

The programme began with an informative session led by the faculty of SKUAST-Wadura, featuring a detailed PowerPoint presentation on modern farming techniques, career opportunities in agriculture, and the growing role of women in agri-entrepreneurship.

Dean Faculty of Agriculture, Prof. Shakeel, Head KVK Bandipora Dr. Tariq Sultan, District Mission Coordinator SANKALP HEW Mission Shakti Bandipora Ms. Tahira Tabasum, and expert scientists interacted with the participants. They urged the girls to explore agriculture as a viable and sustainable livelihood option and highlighted the need for more women entrepreneurs in the sector. (DIPR)

UNITION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR,  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
JAL SHAKTI PHE MECHANICAL DIVISION SRINAGAR

GIST  
NOTICE INVITING TENDER  
e-NIT No. AMRUT/JSMD/JS/e-NIT-17 of09/2025-26Dated: 10-09-2025

For and on behalf of LT. Governor of UT of J&K, “Executive Engineer, JS PHE Mechanical Division Srinagar” invites e-tenders on EPC/Turnkey basis from reputed and resourceful Principal Pump Manufacturers or their authorized dealers/ Contractors/Firms/Companies/Joint Ventures registered with JKPWD/JS/CPWD/Railways or any other state/Central Government Department for: “Work of Development of 24x7 Water Supply Systemin Ward 2 of Nishat area of Srinagar Municipal Corporation by way of Survey, Design, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of separate pipe network including all work of Mechanical, Electrical, SCADA, Household Connections, Consumer Water Meter Fittings and Construction of pontoon based Horizontal Centrifugal Pumping Station and associated Electro-Mechanical and Civil works at Harwan (Sarband), with three months trial run and post completion management of 24 x 7 Water Supply in DMA and pumping station for a period of 5 years under Amrut. 2.0 on Turnkey/EPC basis”. The bidding process shall be completed online in two cover system with Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of Qualification Criteria, Tender fee, Bid Security, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications etc. Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid (BOQ) in the prescribed format.

| Sr No | Particulars of the work                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Estimated Cost (Lacs) | Cost of Bid document (Rs) | Earnest money (Lacs) | Bid Validity | Time of Completion of work (days) |
|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1     | 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 5                     | 6                         | 7                    | 8            | 9                                 |
| 1.    | “Work of Development of 24x7 Water Supply Systemin Ward 2 of Nishat area of Srinagar Municipal Corporation by way of Survey, Design, Laying, Testing and Commissioning of separate pipe network including all work of Mechanical, Electrical, SCADA, Household Connections, Consumer Water Meter Fittings and Construction of pontoon based Horizontal Centrifugal Pumping Station and associated Electro-Mechanical and Civil works at Harwan (Sarband), with three months trial run and post completion management of 24 x 7 Water Supply in DMA and pumping station for a period of 5 years under Amrut 2.0 on Turnkey/EPC basis”. | 928.89                | ₹ 2500/-                  | 18.58                | 180 days     | 12 Months                         |

Position of funds: Approved Under Amrut 2.0  
Position of AAA: Accorded by Competent Authority  
Tender Accepting Authority: Chief Engineer, Kashmir, JS PHE Department Srinagar.  
Key/Critical Dates:

|    |                                   |                                                                                                              |
|----|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Publish Date                      | 11-09-2025                                                                                                   |
| 2. | Document Download/sale start Date | 11-09-2025 (10:00 AM)                                                                                        |
| 3. | Clarification start date          | 11-09-2025 (10:00 AM)                                                                                        |
| 4. | Bid submission start date         | 11-09-2025 (10:00 AM)                                                                                        |
| 5. | Clarification end date            | 17-09-2025 (04:00 PM)                                                                                        |
| 6. | Pre-bid Meeting date              | 18-09-2025 (11:30 AM) (in the office chamber of Chief Engineer, Kashmir Jal Shakti PHE department, Srinagar) |
| 7. | Document Download/sale end Date   | 25-09-2025 (04:00 PM)                                                                                        |
| 8. | Bid submission end date           | 25-09-2025 (04:00 PM)                                                                                        |
| 9. | Date and time of Bid opening      | 26-09-2025 (04:00 PM)                                                                                        |

The NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, and specifications, Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in).  
No: JSMD/CC/AMRUT/2365-74  
Date:10-09-2025

Sd/-  
Superintending Engineer

DIPK-6153/25 Dt: 11-09-2025

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR  
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER  
JAL SHAKTI (PHE) DEPTT.  
Ground Water Division Srinagar  
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDERS  
GIST of Detailed e- NIT No. - 42/JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26.

For and on behalf of Government of UT - J&K, e-tenders from reputed and resourceful Firms/Companies/drilling agencies/Joint Ventures etc for: “**registered experienced Contractors of Machine Drilled Hand pump wells**” as per details given below. The bidding process shall be completed online on [www.jktenders.gov.in](http://www.jktenders.gov.in) in two covers viz. Cover 1<sup>st</sup> consisting of Pre Qualification Criteria, General Terms and Conditions and Technical Specifications and Cover 2<sup>nd</sup> shall consist of Financial Bid in the prescribed BOQ.

| S.No | Name of work                                                                    | Est. Cost Rs. in Lacs | Earnest money (EMD) | Cost of Tender Document | Time of completion                               | Class of Contract               | Major Head /Program me                                             | Technical Sanction                                                 | Tend er Call    |
|------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1.   | Installation of Bore wells at different Spots Chuntwailwar District Ganderbal.  | Rs. 9.36 Lacs         | Rs.28,100/-         | Rs.5,00/-               | 10 Days each well (after identification of site) | Machine Drilled Hand Pump wells | (ABDP) District 2025-26                                            | JS- PHE/GWD S/ Dist. Capex Budget - 108 of 09/ 2025, Dt:10-09-2025 | 1 <sup>st</sup> |
| 2.   | Installation of Bore wells at different Spots of Block Gung District Ganderbal. | Rs.7,398 Lacs         | Rs.22,200/-         | Rs.5,00/-               | 10 Days each well (after identification of site) | Machine Drilled Hand Pump wells | JS- PHE/GWD S/ Dist. Capex Budget - 109 of 09/ 2025, Dt:10-09-2025 | 1 <sup>st</sup>                                                    |                 |

Position of Funds: - Available:  
➤ Accord of Administrative Approval issued by the by the District Development Commissioner Ganderbal Vide Order No: 88-DDCG of 2025, issued under endorsement No. DDCC/ABDP-APDP/2025-26/3385-89, Dated: 08-09-2025 (Fig. at Sl. No. 2 & 1.).  
The Bidding Documents and other details can be downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>  
From 13.09.2025 (10:00 AM) UPTO 22.09.2025 (11:00 AM)  
The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (If any), Bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: <https://www.jktenders.gov.in>  
As per Critical Dates/Information scheduled given below  
Table-II

|    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                    |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 1. | Publishing Date                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 13-09-2025 (10:00 a.m)                             |
| 2. | Period of Downloading of Bids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 13-09-2025 (10:00 a.m) upto 22-09-2025 (11:00 a.m) |
| 3. | Period of Submission of bids                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 13-09-2025 (10:00 a.m) upto 22-09-2025 (11:00 a.m) |
| 4. | Date of opening of Tender.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 23-09-2025 (11:00 a.m)                             |
| 5. | Tender Receiving Authority: Executive Engineer , Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Srinagar Kashmir-190011                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                    |
| 6. | Cost of Tender Document : Non-Refundable should be in form of DD /TR/e-challan deposited to Account Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer (Jal Shakti) PHE Ground Water Division Srinagar at Sadar Treasury Srinagar) (The firm shall specify the name of work for which apply)<br>NOTE: In case the firm/agency/contractor submits/uploaded scanned copy of tender document fee in the shape of DD/e-challan, the hard copies shall have to be submitted in the divisional office before opening of cover 2nd (Financial Cover) of e-NIT. |                                                    |
| 7. | Bid Validity Period: 180 Days                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                                    |
| 8. | The bids can be downloaded or uploaded on <a href="http://www.jktenders.gov.in">www.jktenders.gov.in</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                    |

Bids must be accompanied by bid security viz: Earnest Money in shape of CDR/FDR and (The date of CDR/FDR etc must **not be prior to 03 months from the date of issuance of this e-Nit and Treasury Receipt** (mentioning therein the NIT No., S.No. of work and Advertised Cost as per the NIT) as cost of Tender Document under Account Head 0215 to be pledged in favour of the Executive Engineer Ground Water Division Srinagar (as specified in the table (I) (Page 1st). Bid security will have to be in any one of the forms as specified in the bidding documents and shall be valid for 180 Days after opening of bid. Bids will be opened in the Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Ground Water Division Srinagar (H.Q. Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar) on **23.09.2025 at 11:00 am**. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids will be opened on the next working day at the same time and venue.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp/6430-40  
Dated: 11-09-2025

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer

DIPK-6187/25 Dt: 11-09-2025

## India's Good Governance Practices Earning Global Recognition: Dr. Jitendra Singh

NEWDELHI: Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances, and Pensions MoS (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology; Earth Sciences; Minister of State PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh, inaugurated the 2-day National Conference on "Holistic Development of Districts", organized by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) in collaboration with the Government of Bihar.

Lauding the Aspirational District model introduced by the Modi Government replacing the backward district, the Minister said, "The Aspirational District model is not about backwardness; it is about competitiveness and convergence. Districts are ranked through real-time monitoring, scientific benchmarks, and a participatory, citizen-centric approach."

The conference aims to exchange innovative governance practices, enhance officer-to-officer learning, and promote citizen-centric development across India. Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Chaudhary also joined the deliberations.

Addressing the gathering, Dr. Jitendra Singh praised Bihar's steady progress, resilience, and economic growth, especially in the post-Jharkhand era, when



the state lost both mineral resources and cadre strength. He credited the state government under Chief Minister Nitish Kumar for effective collaboration with the Centre and hailed Patna's rich legacy of good governance—from the days of Pataliputra and Samrat Ashok To modern democratic institutions—as both an inspiration and a challenge to meet citizens' rising expectations.

Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Maximum Governance, Minimum Government", Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized the Aspirational Districts Programme, which has replaced

the outdated term "Backward Districts" with a more positive, prestige-oriented, and aspirational identity.

"The Aspirational Districts model is

not about backwardness; it is about competitiveness and convergence. Districts are ranked through real-time monitoring, scientific benchmarks, and a participatory, citizen-centric approach," he said. He explained that this model has transformed mindsets among administrators and citizens alike, turning governance into a dynamic, competitive mechanism.

Dr. Singh outlined the five guiding pillars for holistic district development, emphasizing that progress must be comprehensive and inclusive. He said that development should begin with the

saturation of government schemes to the last mile, ensuring benefits reach every eligible citizen. This must be supported through convergence of efforts by the Centre, State, and Panchayati Raj Institutions, creating a seamless framework for delivery. Equally important is the active participation of all stakeholders, including citizens, to make governance truly people-centric.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also highlighted the need for innovation in governance to address local challenges and stressed that successful models should be replicated across districts, thereby fostering a culture of sustainable and inclusive growth nationwide.

He shared examples of officers devising innovative, citizen-driven solutions, such as ensuring timely Ujjwala gas cylinder delivery in flood-prone areas through local panchayat coordination.

The Minister highlighted that India's governance reforms have drawn international attention, citing Madagascar's request to adopt CPGRAMS (Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System) and the Digital Life Certificate model. (PIB)

## Amit Shah Launches Fast Track Immigration Programme at Five More Airports

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation, Amit Shah, on Thursday inaugurated the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme (FTI-TTP) at Lucknow, Thiruvananthapuram, Trichy, Kozhikode, and Amritsar



airports through video conferencing, extending the facility to 13 airports across the country.

Speaking at the launch, Shah said the initiative marks a new phase in enhancing passenger convenience while simultaneously strengthening national security. He added that the programme aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Speed, Scale, and Scope," and will ensure faster immigration processes with minimal manual checks.

"With the Fast Track Immigration-Trusted Traveller Programme, travellers will no longer have to face long queues and delays. Immigration clearance can now be completed in just 30 seconds," Shah said. He stressed that convenience must reach the maximum number of passengers, and efforts should be made to enable registration while issuing passports and Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cards.

The Home Minister pointed out that the FTI-TTP, launched in 2024 at Delhi and later expanded to Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata, Bengaluru, Kochi, and Ahmedabad airports, has received encouraging feedback. With the inclusion of five new airports, the facility now covers 13 airports, with plans to extend it to Navi Mumbai and Jewar airports once operational. Around three lakh passengers have registered on the dedicated portal so far, of which 2.65 lakh have already used the facility.

Shah highlighted the sharp rise in international passenger traffic since 2014, noting that the number of Indians travelling abroad increased from 3.54 crore in 2014 to 6.12 crore in 2024, while foreign visitors rose from 1.53 crore to 2 crore during the same period. The combined passenger traffic jumped 60 percent, from 5.07 crore in 2014 to 8.12 crore in 2024. "Our goal is to ensure that all Indian citizens and OCI cardholders benefit from this facility," he said.

The FTI-TTP can be accessed through the portal <https://ritp.mha.gov.in>. Travellers need to register online, upload documents, and provide biometrics at the Foreigners Regional Registration Office (FRRO) or during airport clearance. At the airport, registered passengers can scan their boarding pass and passport at e-Gates, where biometric verification is done before the gate opens automatically, completing the immigration process.

Senior officials, including the Union Home Secretary and the Director of the Intelligence Bureau, were also present at the inauguration. (PIB)

## Health Minister Nadda Reviews Dengue, Malaria Situation; Asks States To Stay Vigilant

NEWDELHI: Union Health Minister, Jagat Prakash Nadda reviewed the current Dengue and Malaria situation in the country with a view to galvanise preventive activities being undertaken by the States on 10 September 2025. The meeting was attended by



Union Health Secretary, Smt. Punya Salila Srivastava and senior officers of the Union Health Ministry.

During the review, Nadda took stock of the current status and key challenges in the prevention and control of Dengue and Malaria. He urged States, local bodies and communities to intensify preventive and control measures, particularly during this high-risk period, to safeguard public health and sustain the gains made in reducing the burden of vector-borne diseases.

The Union Health Minister also issued an advisory to all Chief Ministers urging them to remain vigilant in the coming months and to intensify preventive measures as well as community awareness activities for effective control of Dengue and Malaria.

Nadda stressed the need for urgent and coordinated action against vector-borne diseases. He advised State Health Ministers to personally review the situation and prepare action plans within 20 days, while Municipal Corporations, Panchayats and local bodies were asked to intensify community awareness drives. Hospitals, including those under the Central Government, must ensure adequate drugs, diagnostics, beds and mosquito-free premises. With water stagnation from recent rains creating breeding sites, States and local bodies were asked to step up preventive measures. Intensive IEC and social media outreach

will continue to promote community participation and personal protection. He also instructed that a high-level review meeting also be undertaken specifically for Delhi and NCR to closely assess the dengue situation and ensure advance preparedness.

The Union Health Minister underlined that India has made significant progress in combating Malaria. The country has achieved a reduction of over 78% in malaria cases and nearly 78% in malaria-related deaths between 2015 and 2024. Further, 160 districts have reported zero malaria cases between 2022-24, and 33 States/UTs have achieved API (Annual Parasite Incidence) less than one, except three states.

The Government of India has launched multiple initiatives towards malaria elimination, including the National Strategic Plan for Malaria Elimination (2023-27), implementation of the Integrated Health Management Platform (IHMP) for real-time monitoring, enhanced ASHA incentives, large-scale distribution of Long-Lasting Insecticidal Nets (LLINs), refresher trainings for laboratory technicians, and recognition of districts achieving "Zero Malaria" status. India has set the goal of eliminating malaria by 2030.

On Dengue, Nadda noted that all States/UTs (except Ladakh) are endemic to Dengue and Chikungunya, and the risk of outbreaks is highest in the monsoon and post-monsoon period. The National Dengue Control Strategy is being implemented through State Vector-Borne Disease Cells with focus on surveillance, case management, vector control, inter-sectoral coordination and community awareness. Government of India has also strengthened diagnostic capacity with 869 Sentinel Surveillance Hospitals and 27 Apex Referral Laboratories providing free testing facilities. During 2025 (till date), more than 5,520 Dengue and 2,530 Chikungunya diagnostic kits have been supplied to States. Intensive IEC activities, observance of Anti-Dengue Month (July) and National Dengue Day (16th May), and illumination of India Gate on World NTD Day (30th January) were part of the nationwide campaign to accelerate preventive measures. (PIB)

## Rajnath Singh Flags Off World's First Tri-Service All-Women Circumnavigation Voyage

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Thursday virtually flagged off Samudra Pradakshina, the world's first Tri-service all-women circumnavigation sailing expedition, from the Gateway of India in Mumbai. Ten women officers of the Army, Navy, and Air Force will

confide in defence innovation and maritime strength. He also noted that the team's port interactions would showcase not just the Armed Forces but also India's cultural values and traditions.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan,



sail onboard the indigenously-built Indian Army Sailing Vessel (IASV) Triveni for the next nine months, covering approximately 26,000 nautical miles.

Describing the expedition as a "glowing symbol of Nari Shakti, Armed Forces unity, Aatmanirbhar Bharat and India's global vision," the Defence Minister said the mission was not just a maritime voyage but a spiritual sadhana of discipline, endurance and willpower. "Our officers may face numerous challenges, but their flame of determination will pierce through the darkness. They will return home safely, showing the world that the valour of Indian women is beyond limits," he remarked.

According to Defence Spokesperson, the 10-member crew, led by Lieutenant Colonel Anuja Varudkar with Squadron Leader Shradha P Raju as Deputy Leader, will circumnavigate the globe on an easterly route, crossing the Equator twice and rounding the three great capes – Leeuwin, Horn and Good Hope. The officers will sail through the treacherous Southern Ocean and Drake Passage, regarded as the toughest test of seamanship, and make international port calls at Fremantle (Australia), Lyttelton (New Zealand), Port Stanley (Canada) and Cape Town (South Africa) before returning to Mumbai in May 2026.

Calling Triveni—a 50-foot Class A yacht built indigenously in Puducherry—an embodiment of self-reliance, Singh said every nautical mile of the journey would reflect India's growing

Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Navy Chief Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi and Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh joined the Raksha Mantri during the virtual flag-off from South Block, while senior naval officers attended the ceremony in Mumbai.

The crew, which has undergone three years of rigorous training, including smaller offshore expeditions and an international voyage from Mumbai to Seychelles earlier this year, will also conduct oceanographic studies in collaboration with the National Institute of Oceanography. Research will focus on micro-plastics, marine biodiversity, and awareness on ocean health.

The circumnavigation will follow the strict World Sailing Speed Record Council norms of crossing all longitudes, covering over 21,600 nautical miles under sail alone without powered transit. The most formidable phase will be navigating Cape Horn during December 2025–February 2026, when freezing winds and giant swells test endurance to the extreme.

India has previously achieved global recognition in sailing expeditions, including Captain Dilip Donde's solo circumnavigation (2009-10), Commander Abhilash Tomy's non-stop voyage (2012-13), and the Indian Navy's Navika Sagar Parikrama expeditions on INSV Tarini. With Samudra Pradakshina, the Armed Forces are now set to script another golden chapter in maritime adventure, led entirely by women officers. (PIB)

## Australia stands with Indian migrants, will effectively deal with occasional incidents: Envoy

MUMBAI: In the wake of some recent racial incidents, Australian High Commissioner to India Philip Green on Thursday affirmed his country's commitment to the safety of Indian migrants.

Australian authorities will "effectively" deal with the occasional incidents that happen, he assured.

Pointing out that more than half of his country's population consists of migrants or their children, Green asserted that Australia is a multicultural society.

Stating that Australia is among the "very safest parts of the world for anyone", he said over 10 lakh people of Indian origin have made the country their home.

"That (presence of Indian migrants) means there will be occasionally incidents as there will be anywhere in the world and we deal with them very effectively," he added.

Acknowledging that there have been demonstrations recently focusing on the number of migrants coming into Australia and focusing "to some extent" on people of Indian origin, Green said the Australian government has been "very clear" that there is no place in their society for religious or ethnic discrimination.

"...Australian ministers at the most senior level have responded to these demonstrations. People in Australia are entitled to have demonstrations but we would say this very clearly, we

stand with migrants, including migrants of Indian origin and we stand very much for multiculturalism in Australia," he said.

It can be noted that there has also been reports of a brutal assault on an Indian student in Ad-



elaide in late July.

"...for the most part, Australia is a place where Indians can enjoy themselves in peace and tranquillity," Green told reporters on the sidelines of an event here.

Meanwhile, speaking about trade ties, Green said Australia and India share a very complementary relationship where they don't compete but aid each other.

Many of the inputs required for India's future growth, including critical minerals, can be sourced from Australia, the envoy said.

Green said he met Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal on Wednesday to discuss deepening of trade ties, but did not give a timeline by when he sees the next phase of the trade ties getting finalised. (PTI)

## Nepal's President appeals for peace, says making efforts to find solution to current crisis

KATHMANDU: Nepal's President Ramchandra Paudel Thursday appealed to all sides to cooperate in maintaining peace and said he was making efforts to find a solution to the current political situation within the constitutional framework.

It is the first time the president spoke about the current turmoil. He was not seen in public after the Gen Z agitating groups burnt the president's office and his private residence on Tuesday.

Paudel, who is currently under military protection, also urged people and all stakeholders to show patience and help maintain law and order in this critical situation.

"I am making every effort to protect democracy and to find a way out from the present political impasse within the constitutional framework while at the same time maintaining law and

order," said President Paudel.

He called all the sides to show trust in his efforts to find a solution to the problem at the earliest.

"I appeal to all parties to be confident that a solution to the problem is being sought as soon as possible to address the demands of the agitating citizens and to cooperate in maintaining peace and order in the country with restraint," he added.

Many people were expecting that the president would publicly appear and address the nation after the incident.

Earlier, President Paudel and Army Chief Ashok Raj Sigdel met with the representatives of the protesting 'Gen Z' group at the army headquarters in Bhadrakali to pick



a leader to run an interim government, sources said.

Former chief justice Sushila Karki, Kathmandu Mayor Balendra Shah and two others were among those being considered by the protesting Gen Z group to lead the interim government, they added.

The interim leader will replace Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli, who resigned on Tuesday following a violent student-led agitation.

An Army spokesperson confirmed that discussions are ongoing with various stakeholders. He, however, did not provide any names. "We are holding rounds of

talks with different stakeholders. The talks are mainly focused on finding a way out from the current stalemate and at the same time maintaining law and order situation in the country," an Army spokesperson said.

A similar meeting was held on Wednesday, but it yielded no results. "The new executive head will be the one who will conduct fresh elections within a specified time frame," the sources added.

Apart from Karki and Shah, the other two names under consideration are the former CEO of Nepal Electricity Authority Kulman Ghising and Mayor of Dharan Harka Sampang.

Nepal plunged into a political crisis as Oli resigned on Tuesday in the face of massive protests, prompting the Nepal Army to take over the law and order situation. (PTI)

# WAZWAN DELIGHTS

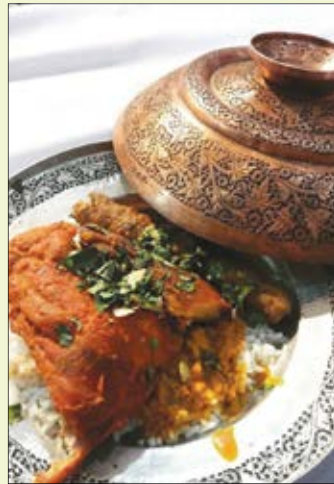
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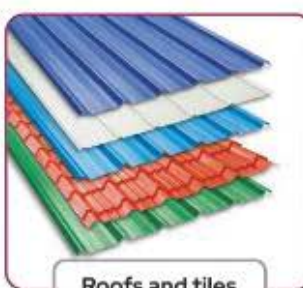
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