



Unity And Peace Key To India's Robust Growth: LG Manoj Sinha

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- Delivers keynote address at national Seminar on 'Integration in Indian Languages' at NIT
- LG calls upon the youth to transcend linguistic differences and unite the nation to transform India into Viksit Bharat
- You have to create a glorious and developed India by completely eliminating every trace of colonial mindset: LG to Youth

SRINAGAR: With the peace and stability, with the spirit of unity and common goals, and fostering a strong collective identity, India will achieve robust development, the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Friday. He was speaking at a national Seminar on Integration in Indian languages organised by National Institute of Technology, Srinagar and Bharatiya Bhasha Samiti.

The Lieutenant Governor said India's rich linguistic landscape is a source of strength. He said hundreds of languages and dialects have helped in building a cohesive society, which is driving transformation and develop-

ment. "Despite diverse background, languages, dialects and ideas, a common national identity and shared consciousness unite us all. We must harness the

society must also strive to preserve, and promote the rich cultural heritage inherent in all Indian languages.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon youth to transcend linguistic differ-

ences and unite the nation to transform India into Viksit Bharat. "You have to create a glorious and developed India by completely eliminating every trace of colonial mindset," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the entire world is looking towards India with hope for future prospects. "The 21st century is India's century.

It is written in stone. Consistent growth and productivity will make India a dominant global power," the Lieutenant Governor said. He also encouraged the young students to learn new languages, broaden perspectives and drive innovation.



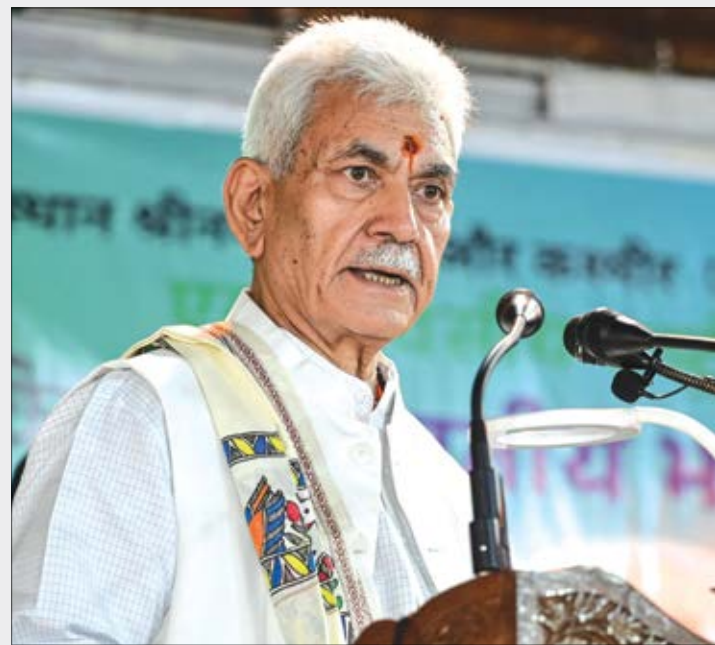
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The Lieutenant Governor commended the NIT Srinagar for establishing the Official Language Cell and organising numerous activities for promotion of Hindi language.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated writers, scholars,

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power of unity in diversity for nation-building. Our effort should be to ensure that Hindi continues to serve as an essential bridge, connecting people from different linguistic backgrounds, motivate people to learn other languages, enhancing mutual cooperation and economic integration," the Lieutenant Governor said.

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'Govt stands with you' Centre Announces Relief Package For J&K Flood Victims

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JAMMU: Assuring the flood-hit farmers in Jammu region that the Centre is with them, Union Agriculture Minister Shivrang Singh Chouhan on Friday said that PM Modi-led government is concerned about their plight and will extend all necessary assistance.

The Union Minister, visited flood-hit areas of Jammu to assess damage to crops and infrastructure. "The Centre is with you. We will spare no effort in providing assistance to the farmers. I have come here to see the situation myself and understand the loss," the Union Minister told the farmers and displaced residents.

Chouhan said, "The Centre has already sent inter-ministerial teams from the Ministries of Home Affairs, Jal Shakti, Rural Development, and Agriculture to survey the flood affected areas. The state

administration is compiling its assessment reports, which will be sent to the Centre for final evaluation and decision-making."



After his visit to Badyal Brahmana, the Minister returned to Jammu city and chaired a review meeting with the J&K government.

Later, he addressed the media and announced a slew of relief measures. Chouhan announced that one instalment under PM-Kisan would be

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No dual govt in J&K; LG, CM like brothers: Ravinder Raina

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SRINAGAR: Senior Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader, Ravinder Raina on Friday sought to put to rest speculation about a "dual government" in Jammu and Kashmir, asserting that both the Lieutenant Governor and the elected government



led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah are working in complete coordination for the welfare of the people.

"There is no dual

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India Forging Its Own Destiny with Decisiveness, Preparedness: Rajnath Singh

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NEW DELHI: Asserting that India shapes its destiny through decisive action and preparedness, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday said that success of 'Operation



Sindoor' has sent a clear message to the world that victory is a routine outcome for Bharat in any operation.

Speaking at an event held in South Block,

New Delhi, to mark 60 years since the 1965 India-Pakistan war, the Defence Minister, referred to the military response to the April 2025 terror attack in Pahalgam. "The Indian armed forces acted with firm resolve during 'Operation Sindoor'."

Pertinently, the operation was launched to avenge the Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. Indian armed forces destroyed the headquarters of terror outfits deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK). The skirmishes between the two countries continued till May 10. Indian forces hit 13 military and airbase targets and eliminated over 100 terrorists at nine separate locations. The hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) called his Indian counterpart and requested for a ceasefire.

Singh said, "The Pahalgam terror

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Industrial Growth Must Translate Into Jobs, Livelihoods For Youth: CM

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Reviews functioning of Industries & Commerce Department



SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah directed the Industries & Commerce Department to adopt a proactive and inclusive approach in strengthening Jammu and Kashmir's industrial ecosystem, with a special focus on employment generation, sustainability and competitiveness.

Chief Minister emphasized the

need for handholding of MSME units which are in distress but still revivable with minimal government intervention. He asked officials to identify such units at an early stage

so these do not become defunct. "Such units can generate significant employment if supported in time," he said.

Chief Minister expressed concern on slow progress under capital expenditure during current fiscal particularly under PMEGP & REGP schemes asking the department to at least match the last year's prog-

ress. Chief Minister also reviewed the New Central Sector Scheme aimed at encouraging new investments



"Industrial development in J&K must not only attract **investment** but also ensure it translates into jobs, livelihoods, and **sustainable growth** for our youth and artisans," **Omar Abdullah** said.



and incentives provided under the scheme. CM assessed the claim wise progress achieved under the scheme and called for completion

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Pahalgam attack: Special court extends period of probe, accused's custody



JAMMU: A special NIA court in Jammu has extended by 45 days - beyond the stipulated 90-day period - the custodial remand of two accused arrested for allegedly harbouring Pakistani terrorists involved in the deadly Pahalgam terror attack in April.

Special NIA judge Sandeep Gandotra on September 18 extended the investigation and remand period of Bashir Ahmad Jothat, who hails from Baisaran in Pahalgam and Parvaiz Ahmad from Batkote in Pahalgam.

The court held a prima facie case in favour of the extension of the remand and the investigation in view of the allegations, progress of investigation and pending forensic and DNA profiling reports.

"Accordingly, the extension for a period of 45 days is given to the investigating

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Bottimline

Chief Secretary Chairs Meeting To Bolster J&K Food Safety Plan

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SRINAGAR: In a significant step aimed at safeguarding public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality



food products, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired an inter-departmental coordination meeting to review the comprehensive action plan on food safety across the Union Territory.

The review comes in the backdrop of recent seizures of substandard meat and dairy products in different parts of the UT, raising serious concerns over food adulteration and public safety.

During the deliberations, the Chief Sec-

retary directed the Food and Civil Supplies Department to take stringent action against unlabelled and non-standard packaged food items, particularly imported products that fail to specify ingredients and prod-

uct details, terming such practices as blatant violations of law.

He took a detailed appraisal of the action plan prepared by the Food Safety Wing in collaboration with key departments, including Housing & Urban Development, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, and District Administration. The plan lays out both immediate and long-term measures to eradicate the entry of substandard food items into J&K and ensure strict

compliance with food safety norms.

Key Features of the Action Plan, as laid out by the Commissioner, DFCC constitutes formation of joint inspection teams and flying squads for surprise checks, particularly targeting high-risk sectors

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such as meat, milk, and bakery products. It also envisages accomplishing district-wise mapping of food businesses, including primary producers, processors, and vendors, to enable targeted

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Operation Sindoor Heralded New Kind Of Warfare: CDS Chauhan

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RANCHI: Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan, said Operation Sindoor heralded a "new kind of warfare", and ensured that India



beat Pakistan decisively in every escalation during the strike.

Unlike traditional warfare, this was fought on land, in air and sea, electromagnetic space and cyber domains, where the adversary was seen only through the help of satellite and electronic images or signal intelligence, he said.

The top military officer also said the first strikes during the operation

were conducted at 1 am to avoid civilian casualties across the border.

"It was a new kind of warfare... Till now, we have assumed victory in terms of capture of territory, the number of equipment destroyed, or the number of prisoners of war you have captured or soldiers you have killed... These were associated with traditional ways of fighting warfare.

"One of the matrices of victory over here is the sophistication of our attack, which was demonstrated there... Precision strikes for long-distance targets during the night required special efforts... We beat Pakistan decisively in every escalation during Operation Sindoor," Gen Chauhan asserted.

The first strikes took place between 1-1.30 am on May 7 on nine identified terrorist targets to prevent civilian casualties, he said during an interaction with school children on Operation Sindoor at the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday.

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Northern Railways to re-operate trains in Jammu from Sep 21

JAMMU: Northern Railways on Friday announced that several trains cancelled due to continuous rains and water logging in the Jammu division will resume services from September 21 onwards.

Officials said the decision follows safety inspections and a phased restoration plan.

Northern Railways have informed that Train No. 12238 (Jammu Tawi-Varanasi), Train No. 12332 (Jammu Tawi-Howrah) and Train No. 12356 (Jammu Tawi-Patna) will restart operations on September 21, while Train No. 12920 (Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Dr. Ambedkar Nagar) will resume on September 22.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager Uchit Singhal said the trains are being re-operated after ensuring the safety and continuity of tracks and bridges. "These trains are being operated in the third phase. Earlier also, trains were re-operated in two phases. As soon as the technical work on the railway track and railway bridge is completed, the train operations in the division are being gradually normalised,"

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Deputy Commissioner Doda reviews progress of District Capex works

DODA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh chaired a comprehensive review meeting in the DC Office to assess the progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting brought together key officers and sectoral heads to evaluate physical and financial achievements, identify bottlenecks, and ensure the timely execution of developmental projects across the district.

The meeting focused on a comprehensive review of the progress made under District Capex 2025-26, including assessment of the number of works sanctioned, tendered, allotted and taken up for execution across different sectors and grant-wise divisions.

The meeting also deliberated on the financial status of ongoing projects and the current status of works uploaded on the E-compedium.

Further, the discussions covered the closure of works on the BEAMS portal for PV validation, constituency-wise details of works executed under the Constituency Development Fund (CDF)

and other relevant issues. Senior officials, including the

line departments were also present with updated data on works accorded,



Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal; ACD Din Mohd Afaqi; CPO Manesh Kumar Manhas; Superintending Engineers from PWD, JPDCL and Hydraulic Circle, as well as sectoral officers from Agriculture, Education, Youth Services & Sports, Medical and Forest Departments, participated in the review. Executive Engineers of REW and the Ground Water Division joined the meeting through virtual mode. Block Development Officers, representatives of JAKEDA and other

tendered, allotted and executed.

The CPO presented a detailed overview of progress under the District Capex Budget 2025-26 through a PowerPoint presentation.

The meeting reviewed the number of works sanctioned, tendered, allotted, and taken up for execution. Detailed discussions were held on the financial status of ongoing projects, non-feasible works with justifications, uploading of works on the E-compedium, closure of projects on BEAMS for the PV portal

and constituency-wise status of works under CDF. The DDC emphasized transparency, timely tendering and strict quality monitoring to ensure effective utilization of resources and faster delivery of public assets.

The DDC issued directions to departments lagging behind schedule to adhere to strict deadlines, prioritize people-centric and community-demanded works and ensure third-party monitoring for quality assurance.

The review included detailed assessment of departments such as RDD, Health, Power Development Department, School Education, PWD (R&B), Jal Shakti, PHE Division, Irrigation & Flood Control and CDF grants. A block-wise review of CDF works was conducted with respective BDOs, along with an examination of physical and financial progress reports regarding the Capex 2025-26 budget.

The DDC directed all concerned stakeholders not to compromise on quality while executing developmental works and to complete all pending projects within stipulated timelines.

Arrangements for Navratra, Dussehra & Maha Navami discussed at Udhampur

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of officers and civil society members to discuss arrangements for upcoming holy festivals, including Navratra, Dussehra and Maha Navami.

Detailed discussions were held on the arrangements related to security measures, provision of safe drinking water, power supply, first-aid services, sanitation, checking of rates, Fire safety measures, deployment of police personnel and the management of traffic in the town.

The stakeholder departments were asked to take advance measures for comprehensive arrangements in their respective domains.

Special emphasis was placed on security arrangements to prevent any untoward incidents during the festive season.

A Committee was instructed to maintain continuous power supply throughout the



market inspection to prevent overcharging by shopkeepers. The general public was advised not to park their vehicles on the roadside.

The representatives of Shopkeepers were urged to display the approved price list of the essential commodities for the information of the general public. The Executive Engineer PHE was directed to ensure the uninterrupted supply of drinking water, while the Xen PDD was

festival period.

To maintain the cleanliness of the town, the Municipal Council was directed to take all necessary actions.

Additionally, civil society was encouraged to cooperate in keeping the town clean and presentable during the festivities. The Traffic Department was directed to deploy an adequate number of traffic personnel to prevent congestion during the festival.

Sewa Parv 2025 Day 3: District Kishtwar hosts disaster management drills, health camps & awareness rallies

KISHTWAR: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025 campaign, a series of impactful activities and awareness programs were organized across District Kishtwar today featuring awareness camps on



disaster management, health and wellness, fisheries sector, nutrition, community welfare and others.

The SDRF team conducted a Disaster Management Demonstration and Workshop on fire safety at Government Higher Secondary School. The session included live demonstrations on fire evacuation, handling extinguishers and adopting preventive safety measures. Mock drills on earthquakes, fire and other emergencies were also carried out to equip students

with practical knowledge and preparedness.

The Health Department organized snakebite awareness drives across the district, where medical staff educated people about timely medical assistance,

avoiding harmful traditional practices and preventive measures. Alongside, medical check-up camps were also held. The Fisheries Department launched outreach programs for the Fishermen Community, spreading awareness about government welfare schemes like PMMSY, HADP, KCC and ATMA support services.

The initiative encouraged Fishermen to avail scheme benefits for socio-economic empowerment. The Municipal Council

Kishtwar conducted awareness among street vendors regarding registration under the PM SVANidhi Scheme to ensure their inclusion in livelihood benefits.

Meanwhile, a spirited anti-drug and anti-tobacco rally was organized at HS Sigdi Bhata under the theme "Say No to Drugs, Say No to Tobacco."

The ICDS Department carried out multiple activities under Sewa Parv and Poshan Maah.

These included sensitization sessions on reducing sugar, salt and oil intake to combat obesity, father-led complementary feeding recipe competitions, and community pledges on nutrition.

Similar activities were held across Sub-Division, Tehsil, and Block levels by Health, RDD, ICDS, Forest, Education, Social Welfare and Agriculture departments, ensuring widespread participation and awareness.

The day's events highlighted the spirit of Sewa Parv 2025—uniting communities through awareness, preparedness and collective responsibility for a healthier, safer and more resilient society.

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DDC Poonch reviews implementation of Aadhi Karamayogi Abhiyan

Stresses village-wise planning, close monitoring of developmental initiatives

POONCH: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress of Aadhi Karamayogi Abhiyan in the district.

The DDC sought detailed feedback from concerned district officers on the status of implementation, while emphasizing the importance of raising awareness among villagers about the objectives of the initiative and the developmental works undertaken by the government including improvement of road connectivity, augmentation of school infrastructure, electricity, water supply and other essential facilities.

The DDC directed officers to identify and fill the infrastructural gap by formulating comprehensive village-wise development plans. He stressed the need for close village-level monitoring and seeking of Gram Sabhas approval for all such plans to ensure community participation and transparency.

The meeting was attended by CPO, Mohammad Iqbal Zargar, PO ICDS, Khalid Hussain Wafa, ACP, PO IWMP, ACD, CEO Education, CAO, CHO, DAHO, Xen JPDCL, DSWO, DPO, DSHO, BDOs, besides block master trainers who joined virtually.

Labour Commissioner J&K hosts online Webinar on Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan under Sewa Parv 2025

JAMMU: Labour Commissioner J&K Charandeep Singh today chaired an online webinar as part of the ongoing activities of Sewa Parv 2025. The webinar was organised on the theme "Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan" and witnessed vibrant participation from across the Union Territory. More than 1000 participants joined the programme online, including representatives from the civil administration, police administration, private employers and employees, as well as various NGOs.

The programme began with a welcome address by S. Sukhpal Singh, Deputy Labour Commissioner (Jammu), followed by introductory remarks by Labour Commissioner J&K, Charandeep Singh. He highlighted the proactive role of the Labour Department in implementing welfare measures, particularly those aimed at women welfare. He also led the participants in taking the Shramik Shakti

Pledge, affirming collective commitment to empowering women workers.

The webinar featured a galaxy of distinguished speakers who shared valuable insights on women's empowerment and child protection.

Dr. Ellina Samantroy, Fellow at V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (Noida), delivered a thought-provoking address on advancing gender equality in the world of work, with special reference to labour laws and international labour standards.

Prof. Renu Nanda, Dean, Faculty of Education, University of Jammu, emphasized the pivotal role of women as change makers in promoting hygiene, education, and social well-being, underscoring their contribution to building healthier families and communities.

Further, Nimisha Rajput, President of the Child

Welfare Committee Samba, highlighted the legal frameworks and welfare schemes aimed at protecting and empowering young girls. Najwan Nazki, Deputy Labour Commissioner Kashmir, elaborated on women's empowerment through the effective implementation of labour laws and social security measures, while Amit Kumar, Assistant Labour Commissioner Ramban, spoke in detail about addressing the persistent challenge of child labour. The programme concluded on a gracious note with a vote of thanks presented by Roopali Gandotra, Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central).

The session served as a meaningful platform for dialogue on women's empowerment, protection of children, and the importance of collective responsibility in building stronger families and communities under the vision of Sewa Parv 2025.

International snakebite awareness day observed in Udhampur District

UDHAMPUR: International snakebite awareness day was observed today in Udhampur District with a series of awareness activities across all six health blocks of Basantgarh, Chenani, Majalta, Panchari, Rammagar and Tikri. Special programmes were organized in schools where health teams sensitized children about snakebite prevention, recognition of symptoms, and the importance of timely medical treatment. Health institutions in rural areas also actively engaged with the community, spreading awareness about the risks of snakebites and informing them about locally



available medical resources. As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, medical camps were held in different areas, guiding people on preventive measures such as wearing protective footwear and avoiding movement through tall grass. To build empathy and awareness, stories of snakebite survivors were shared with the community.

Arrangements reviewed for Navratra, Dussehra and Rammavami festivals at Reasi

REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Navratra and Dussehra celebrations in the district.

Representatives of Durga Natak Mandli, Reasi, also attended the meeting, apprised the DC about their scheduled programmes during the festival, including staging of Ram Leela, Dussehra Festival and the Parikrama Yatra of Mata Vaishno Devi Parvat.

The meeting deliberated in detail on the arrangements for sanitation, security, power and water supply, besides repair of streetlights to ensure the smooth conduct of the festivities.

DC Nidhi Malik directed BDOs and the EO MC to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation in the town and rural areas during the festivals. She instructed the Chief Medical Officer to depute adequate medical staff and an ambulance at the General Zorawar Singh Sports Stadium on Dussehra day. She also directed the Fire Department to deploy a fire tender at the venue as a precautionary measure.

In addition, the PDD department was directed to ensure availability of electricity during the Ram Leela events. The PHE department was asked to deploy water tankers to provide safe drinking water for the participants. The Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti was tasked with making barricading arrangements at the Ram Leela Ground. DC Reasi assured that the District Administration is fully committed to providing all necessary facilities in a safe and festive manner. She also urged the Durga Natak Mandli to spread awareness on the theme of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan during the Ram Leela performances and on Dussehra day to sensitize the public against the menace of drug abuse. SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, ADC Rakesh Kumar, CMO, XEN PWD and the President and Members of Durga Natak Mandli, along with other officials were present.

DC Samba reviews preparedness for Amavasya & Navratri celebrations

SAMBA: Deputy Commissioner Samba Ayushi Sudan convened a crucial preparedness review meeting to ensure seamless arrangements for the upcoming Amavasya at Purmandal and Navratri celebrations at Chichi Mata, underscoring the administration's commitment to facilitating safe and memorable religious festivities for devotees.

Recognizing the spiritual significance and massive public participation expected during these sacred occasions, the Deputy Commissioner issued comprehensive directives to all departments to guarantee thorough arrangements encompassing every aspect of devotee convenience and safety.

The administration's proactive approach reflects its dedication to preserving the sanctity of these religious celebrations while ensuring modern amenities and security protocols are firmly in place.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the critical importance of robust inter-departmental coordination, directing officials to establish seamless communication channels to address any challenges swiftly,

Special focus was placed on implementing comprehensive security arrangements, ensuring round-the-clock medical facilities with emergency response capabilities, maintaining uninterrupted water



and power supply throughout the celebration period, orchestrating smooth traffic management to prevent congestion, organizing

vibrant cultural activities and decorations to enhance the festive atmosphere and establishing proper sanitation facilities to maintain cleanliness standards.

Ms. Sudan stressed that the upcoming religious events must be conducted in an atmosphere of complete safety, operational smoothness and festive joy, ensuring that every devotee experiences the spiritual essence of these celebrations without any inconvenience. The administration's meticulous planning demonstrates its unwavering commitment to upholding the rich cultural and religious traditions of the region while meeting contemporary standards of public service.

The meeting was attended by SSP Samba Virender Singh Manhas, ADDC Samba Champa Devi Thakur, ADC Samba Jagdish Singh, ACR Samba Ajay Bharti besides senior officers from Health, PHE, PWD and other concerned departments, reflecting the multi-departmental collaborative approach adopted for these significant religious celebrations.

CS for strengthening Nursing Education; Calls it backbone of healthcare system

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo chaired a meeting to comprehensively review the quality and standards of nursing education across the Union Territory, emphasizing that nursing forms the backbone of the healthcare delivery system.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health & Medical Education; Principals of GMC Jammu and Srinagar; Chairperson, J&K Allied & Healthcare Council (A&HCC); Registrar, J&K Nursing Council; Principals of Nursing Colleges, and other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took stock of the functioning of newly established Nursing Colleges across districts, including the range of courses offered and the enrolment of students. He directed that diploma-level courses should be progressively upgraded to degree and postgraduate programmes in order to build advanced capacities in the nursing sector.

He further instructed for early completion and operationalization of Nursing Colleges at Sopore, Kulgam, Shopian, and Budgam, besides exploring the feasibility of establishing such colleges at few left out districts. The Chief Secretary also stressed on the need to phase out obsolete courses that do not contribute meaningfully to patient care, and to introduce new courses aligned with emerging healthcare needs.

Highlighting the crucial role of quality teaching, he underscored that only well-qualified faculty should be engaged in these institutions. He called for framing Recruitment Rules for Nursing Colleges, filling up vacancies through recruitment agencies, and creating posts wherever required to ensure that standards of teaching and training



remain uncompromised.

Reviewing the functioning of the recently established J&K State Allied & Healthcare Council (SA&HC), the Chief Secretary directed that it be further strengthened with adequate manpower and robust monitoring mechanisms, in line with the National Commission for Allied & Healthcare Professions (NCAHP) guidelines and checklists for institutional readiness.

The Secretary, H&ME, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, while presenting

an overview, informed that significant progress has been achieved in nursing education.

Over the past year, 360 new B.Sc Nursing seats, 80 Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, and 25 M.Sc Nursing seats have been added across colleges in the UT. From the next academic session, Nursing College Jammu will also offer 60 additional Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, he added.

It was further revealed that J&K presently has around 50 Nursing

Colleges with a total intake capacity of 3,040 seats. In addition, 8 institutions are offering 233 M.Sc Nursing seats, 14 institutions 805 Post Basic B.Sc Nursing seats, while dozens of institutes collectively cater to more than 5,600 GNM, 5,200 FMPHW, and 2,300 MMPHW students across the UT.

Registrar, J&K Nursing Council, Dr. Sandeep Singh, apprised that examinations for 14,738 candidates in paramedical courses had been successfully conducted. He also reported recognition of 28 new Pharmacy institutions with an intake of 1,800 seats in Diploma in Pharmacy, which is now a mandatory qualification for obtaining drug licenses.

Chairperson, J&K A&HCC, Dr. Sabhiya Majid, elaborated on the mandate of the NCAHP Act, 2021, which came into force as per the Hon'ble Supreme Court's directions. She explained that the NCAHP and State Councils are responsible for regulation and maintenance of standards in allied and healthcare education and services, assessment of institutions, maintaining central and state registers of professionals, and fostering research and adoption of latest scientific advancements.

She further elucidated that presently, 10 recognized categories spanning 57 professions fall under its ambit, with the scope set to expand in order to uphold the quality, dignity, and recognition of allied healthcare professionals nationwide.

Reiterating the government's commitment, the Chief Secretary emphasized that strengthening nursing education and allied healthcare systems is pivotal for enhancing patient care, meeting the growing healthcare demands, and creating a skilled workforce to serve the people of J&K.

Series of activities continue on day-3 of Sewa Parv 2025 across Bandipora

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BANDIPORA: On day 3rd of Sewa Parv 2025, a series of activities were organised across Bandipora district by various departments and institutions to promote community service, cleanliness, social responsibility, and public awareness.

At GDC Hajin, NCC and NSS units launched a donation drive aimed at collecting essential items for underprivileged sections of society. The initiative witnessed active participation of students, faculty, and volunteers who mobilised contributions and spread awareness about helping the needy.

In Gurez, a large-scale cleanliness drive was conducted under the leadership of SDM Gurez and ZEO Gurez, with participation from the Social Welfare department, tehsil staff, and other officials. The activity highlighted the importance of maintaining hygiene in public offices and surroundings.



Municipal Committee Sumbal carried out a series of activities, including market cleanliness drives, a plog run at CHC Sumbal, CT/PT sanitation drives, and the distribution of cloth bags to reduce single-use plastic. Awareness campaigns on waste segregation and PM SVANidhi were also conducted to engage citizens at the grassroots.

Likewise, PHE sub-division Sumbal organised awareness and cleanliness drives at water supply schemes, emphasising source-level waste management.

Municipal Council Bandipora undertook cleanliness drives at the Main Market near SBI and Hashmi Chowk, along with a door-to-door plastic collection campaign. Awareness drives also extended to ITI College Bandipora, ensuring wide student and community involvement.

Meanwhile, MC Hajin organised a PM SVANidhi awareness camp and sanitation activities against Single-Use Plastic at Govt.

ITI Bandipora, while a door-to-door awareness drive

was carried out in Ward No. 02 Bandipora in collaboration with Swachhta Ambassadors of HKM Degree College.

Additionally, several workshops and awareness sessions on fire safety, earthquake preparedness, and disaster management were held across educational institutions in the district, sensitising students about essential safety measures and resilience practices.

GDC Sumbal, in collaboration with the Municipal Committee, conducted activities under Sewa Parv including donation of chairs to a middle school, campus plantation and beautification, launch of the 'Catch Them Young' initiative, and an orientation programme highlighting the aims of Sewa Parv.

The day-long initiatives under Sewa Parv 2025 highlighted the spirit of collective responsibility, with communities, institutions, and government bodies working together for a cleaner, safer, and socially responsible Bandipora.

IRP 10th Battalion Organises Sports Events At Mattan Under Civic Action Programme

FE News Network

ANANTNAG: As part of the ongoing Civic Action Programme (CAP), IRP 10th Battalion organised Kho-Kho Tournament at Govt. High School Kheribal Mattan here.

A total of eight teams comprising boys category and girls category from 07 schools namely GHS Kheribal, GHS Seer, HS Akad, HS Gopalpora, HS Salia, HSS Seer, and HS Fohar of Zone Mattan Anantnag participated in the tournament.

In the boys' category, Govt. High School Gopalpora emerged winner and was awarded cash prize of 5,000 along with a trophy, while as runner-up team was awarded with cash prize of 3,000 and a trophy.

Similarly, in the girls' category, Govt. High School Kheribal secured the first position and won cash prize of 5,000 and trophy, while the runner up team Govt. High School Akad was awarded cash prize of 3,000 and a trophy.

In addition, medals and participation certificate were distributed to all participants.

Addressing the students on the occasion, Commandant IRP 10th Battalion, Rajinder Katoch highlighted that the event is part of the ongoing efforts of J&K Police to strengthen the Police-public relations. He urged the



youth to refrain from drug abuse, harmful practices, and focus on education and building their bright future.

Yesterday, the IRP 10th Battalion in collaboration with DYSSO Anantnag also held Final of Volley Ball Tournament under Civic Action Programme of J&K Police at Sports Ground Tik Bagh Mattan here.

Total eight teams had participated in the tournament namely GHSS Mattan, GHSS Wanpoh, GHSS Dethu, GHSS Chittergul, GHSS Y.K. Pora, GHSS Vessu, GHSS Dialgam and GHSS Brakpora of district Anantnag.

The Final Match was played between GHSS Wanpoh and GHSS Mattan at Sports

Ground Tik Bagh in which GHSS Wanpoh secured victory with an impressive 3:1 win.

DDC Chairman Anantnag, Choudhary Mohd Yousuf was chief guest on the occasion. Commandant IRP-10th Bn, Rajinder Katoch; Dy. CO IRP-10th Bn, Fahad Tak; DYCO IRP-10th Bn, Imtiyaz Ahmad;

ZPEO Mattan, SHO Mattan, president Aulaf Committees Mattan/Akoura and other respectable members of the society also witnessed the tournament.

The winning team was awarded with cash prize of Rs. 15000 while as runner up team was awarded Rs. 7000, besides trophies were presented to both teams.

Dy. CM visits affected stretch of NH-44 at Thard Udhampur

Directs authorities to expedite restoration process

FE News Network

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary visited the affected stretch of the NH-44 at Thard here and held on-spot assessment of ongoing restoration works.

During the visit, Regional Officer, NHAI, R.S. Yadav, briefed the Deputy Chief Minister about the status of ongoing restoration works, including widening as well as restoration of the second tube of NH-44. He also apprised him about the laying of WBM layer so that the traffic movement can smoothly run and surface is maintained properly.

The Deputy Chief Minister, while interacting with officers of NHAI, directed them to expedite the restoration process for the convenience of commuters and the general public. He further instructed the executing agencies to mobilize

men and machinery and work in double shifts for restoration of second tube to ensure timely completion of the works. He stressed that the restoration of safe and smooth connectivity of National Highway remains the top priority of the Government.

Choudhary also appreciated the efforts made Regional Officer NHAI and his entire team for restoration of NH-44.

During the visit, the Deputy CM also enquired about the stranded vehicles on NH-44 and directed for smooth facilitation of all these vehicles. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister also interacted with the local residents at Thard, listened to their grievances regarding the damage caused to houses. He assured them that every possible effort is being made by the Government to compensate and rehabilitate the affected families.

Surinder Choudhary along with Sakeena Itoo visit DH Pora Kulgam

Lay foundation stone of Rest House



FE News Network

KULGAM: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, along with Minister for Education, Health and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo visited Damhal Hanji Pora and laid foundation stone of Rest House which will come up with an estimated cost of 2.94 crore.

Addressing a large gathering, the Deputy Chief Minister said the government is committed towards

improving infrastructure across all sectors to provide better services to the people. He directed the concerned engineering wing to ensure timely completion of the Rest House and other projects while maintaining quality standards.

The Deputy CM said that the government led by Omar Abdullah is determined to fulfil all promises made to the people. He further stated that several projects are going on to boost

connectivity, public amenities, and holistic development, in line with the government's vision of inclusive growth across Jammu & Kashmir.

The Deputy CM added that transparency, accountability, and a pro-people approach remain the government's top priority.

Speaking on the occasion, Sakeena Itoo said that under the leadership of the Omar Abdullah, the government is working with a clear vision to ensure holistic development across all regions of J&K.

She further stated that the establishment of the Rest House will add to development profile of this area.

The Health Minister highlighted that the current government has restarted several long-pending projects, besides many new projects have been sanctioned, particularly in health sector, to improve overall well-being of the people.

NIT Sgr committed to promoting linguistic unity: Director

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Director National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia on Friday said the institute is honoured to host a seminar of national relevance at a time when preserving linguistic heritage is critical.

He was speaking at the inaugural session of the national



seminar on "Bhartiya Bhashaon Mein Ekaatmata", organised by the Rajbhasha Cell of NIT Srinagar with academic support from Shiksha Sanskriti Utthaan Nyas, Bhartiya Bhasha Manch Nyas and the Department of Hindi, University of Kashmir.

"Indian languages are not just a means of communication but also a reflection of our collective history, culture and identity. This seminar will serve as a platform to deepen our understanding of linguistic unity and strengthen the values of national integration," Prof. Kanaujia said.

He stressed the seminar provides an opportunity for scholars and students to engage in meaningful dialogue on how language diversity can be harmonised to reinforce national solidarity.

Prof. Kanaujia also highlighted that NIT Srinagar has made significant progress in promoting Hindi and other Indian languages on campus. "We have enhanced the use of bilingual documentation under Section 3(3) of the Official Languages Act, 1963, rising from 0.05 percent to 75 percent," he said.

He further noted that the institute has been advancing digital initiatives such as e-office systems and the establishment of an innovation hub, reflecting its commitment to modernisation, inclusivity, and cultural integration.

Prof. Kanaujia lauded the Rajbhasha Cell for organising various events during Hindi Pakhwada (September 14-28) including essay writing, poetry recitation, debates, workshops and quizzes aimed at promoting the use of Hindi in official work and everyday communication.

He also shared the NIT Srinagar's commitment to fostering an inclusive environment that respects India's linguistic diversity and contributes to building a culturally vibrant and united nation—(KNO)

DC Bandipora visits Sumbal sub-division, inspects Naninara Bridge



FE News Network

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, visited Sumbal sub-division to review key infrastructure

and traffic management concerns.

During the visit, DC inspected the functioning of the Naninara Bridge, which serves as an important link for the movement of vehicles in the area.

While interacting with officers and locals, DC took stock of the existing traffic scenario and discussed possible measures to ease congestion in the busy stretch near the bridge.

She directed the concerned departments to explore the feasibility of allowing two-way traffic movement on the bridge, with necessary safety measures in place, to reduce frequent traffic jams that causes inconvenience to commuters.

DC further emphasized the need for coordinated efforts between the traffic police and Roads & Buildings (R&B) department to streamline vehicular movement and ensure smooth passage for both private and public transport. She also instructed officials to submit a detailed report on the present status of the bridge and suggestions for its optimal utilization.

DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Husson Shawl; SDM Sumbal, Tehsildar Sumbal and other concerned officers.

Editorial

Addressing Apple Transport Crisis

The utilization of 55 Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) trucks to the apple mandis of Sopore and Shopian was a much needed, albeit late, rescue effort in a situation that has been very difficult - and affecting Kashmir's horticulture economy - for weeks. This welcome step into the situation was encouraged by direct government directive after organizations, such as, the fruit growers associations, reached a state of desperation and provided urgency calling for government intervention - which is essentially what this is. A simple and positive first step into the situation that is not a full solution to the situation but hopeful if followed-up with further actions. Do not recognize the initial action as a solution to an economic crisis. The crisis identified a serious vulnerability in an economic lifeline to Kashmir that will require a response that is fundamentally systemic and will need to be more robust.

For weeks, the closure of the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway resulted in a perfect storm situation, when thousands of trucks were stranded and private transporters were engaged in all out profiteering, basically doubling freight charges to exorbitant levels. Without reliable - govt backed transport options, cargo growers were stuck in a position of submitting themselves to the exploitative fake free market system, due to the highly perishable nature of their produce. Many were forced to a point of choosing how to incur a damaging economic loss and sell, or to watch all their work rot in the mandis. This problem is easily defined as a logistical challenge, but should be considered more broadly as an agricultural emergency, and a challenge to the livelihood of hundreds, if not thousands, of affected families.

However, as the farmers have noted, this is only a first step. The President of the Sopore Fruit Mandi points out that while it does help, 40 trucks simply aren't enough to meet the daily needs which are between 200 to 300 per day to not only move the backlog, but ensure continuous movement. A one day effort is only a stop gap; they need a long-term, recurring effort. This crisis highlights the need for an urgent long-term solution. In need of action, the government needs to institutionalise its response. To institutionalise means that the horticulture transport ecosystem needs to be developed to include a large, dedicated JKRTC truck fleet at a large scale before the crisis rather than responding to it. Then, the all-weather integrity of the National Highway should not be viewed as simply an infrastructure project, but as an important economic problem. The government should also seriously explore contingency plans, such as alternative routes and air-lifting for highly perishable produce when the National Highway is closed for such extended periods.

Kashmir's economy fundamentally depends on apples. Distress within this industry resonates throughout the region. The recent action taken by authorities shows they are hearing the cries, but it is now time for the authorities to demonstrate that they have listened. Growers are naturally patient, but they cannot afford to exercise patience when it comes to orchards. A sustainable, strategic and swift action is the only way to prevent this season's relief from turning into next season's regret.

Progress Forged By Purpose And Solution



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

The story of human progress has always swung between lofty purposes met and tangible problems solved. A purpose represents vision—the destination we aim for—while problem-solving represents the step-by-step challenges overcome on the way. Both are essential,



yet societies and nations often confuse one for the other.

In India and across the globe, history offers countless examples where big purposes were declared, but the struggle of solving problems made—or broke—the success. As Jawaharlal Nehru once said: “Great causes and little men go ill together.” Purposes need visionaries; problems need resolvers. Progress demands both.

Purposes Met: The Big Picture of History India's independence in 1947 remains a shining example of a purpose met. Decades of resistance, sacrifice, and unity among Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, and others culminated in freedom. Yet independence did not erase poverty, inequality, or illiteracy—the problems that still required careful solving.

Globally, the formation of the United Nations in 1945 symbolized another great purpose met: the collective prevention of another world war. But since then, countless

conflicts, refugee crises, and humanitarian challenges have shown that solving problems requires continuous effort, not just a one-time declaration.

A timeless couplet reminds us: “Safar kehar mod pe rukawataat hai, Maqsad wohi paate hain jo mushkilein suljhate hain.”

(At every turn, obstacles appear; only those reach their purpose who solve each problem along the way.)

Problems Solved: The Steps That Build Nations

A grand purpose is hollow without problem-solving. India's Green Revolution (1960s–70s) illustrates this perfectly. The purpose was food security for a hungry nation. But the

Abhiyan, Atmanirbhar Bharat. These capture the imagination of the nation. But the real test lies in problem-solving:

- Digital India seeks to empower every citizen with internet access. The purpose is noble, but solving rural connectivity gaps, affordable devices, and digital literacy are ongoing challenges.
- Swachh Bharat Abhiyan inspired millions with its purpose of a cleaner India. Yet waste management systems, recycling technologies, and behavioural changes are the problems still being solved.
- Make in India aims to make India a global manufacturing hub. But issues of ease of doing business, supply-chain logistics, and skilling the workforce are the critical

highlighted unresolved issues of sovereignty and economic imbalance.

3. COVID-19 Pandemic
 - o Purpose met: Rapid development of vaccines (a miracle of science).
 - o Problems solved: Distribution in many countries, temporary control of waves.
 - o Problems unsolved: Global inequity in access, vaccine hesitancy, fragile health systems.
- These examples show that purposes inspire—but problem-solving sustains. Quotations to Reflect On
- “We are kept from our goal not by obstacles but by a clear path to a lesser goal.” — Robert Brault
 - “First say to yourself what you would be; and then do what you have to do.” — Epictetus
 - “Boond boond se sagar bant hai” — Indian Proverb (Drop by drop, the ocean is formed).

Poetic Insight
The destination of new aspirations must be reached,
The roads must be cleared of sharp stones.
A purpose is not just a slogan of dreams,
Real victory lies in solving each problem.

Conclusion

The story of human progress is never linear. Nations and individuals alike move forward by constantly balancing between the grand vision of purposes met and the practical grind of problems solved. India's rise—from the struggles of independence to the triumphs of the Green Revolution, from Chandrayaan-3 to the promise of Make in India—shows that no purpose can be achieved without first confronting and resolving countless challenges. Similarly, global achievements like eradicating smallpox, advancing climate action, or building resilient economies are testimonies to the same truth.

Purposes inspire us; problems ground us. One without the other is incomplete. To dream without solving problems is to sketch castles in the air. To solve problems without a larger purpose is to fix roads that lead nowhere. The two together form the architecture of true progress.

As an Indian proverb reminds us, “Boond boond se sagar bant hai”—drop by drop, the ocean is formed. Each problem solved is a drop, each purpose met is the ocean. Our task, as individuals and as nations, is to keep both in sight: to dream big, and to solve patiently. That is the only way to ensure that humanity not only survives its trials but thrives in its purposes.

Author Can Be mailed At
reyaz.ahmad@hu.ac.ae

Lapwing: The Landscape's Quiet Distress Signal



DR. SATYAVAN SAURABH

Rural life in India has been in deep dialogue with nature for centuries. Farms, weather, and animals together influence both a farmer's daily routine and future. Amidst all this, the lapwing is a small bird, seemingly insignificant to the naked eye, but in the memories of farmers and folklore, it is considered a sentinel, an accurate weather forecaster. It is not just a bird, but a medium of communication between earth and sky, a silent messenger that foretells both crisis and prosperity.

Rural experiences show that the lapwing's behavior provides important clues for determining the weather and agricultural direction. If it lays four eggs, it is believed to bring good rainfall for four months. When it lays eggs at a height, people believe that there will be more rainfall than usual. If it is forced to lay eggs on a roof or tree, it is considered a sign of a severe flood. However, if it does not lay eggs, it is the most frightening situation, as people consider it a harbinger of famine. Farmers say that the fields where the lapwing lays eggs are never empty; they are sure to yield crops. Thus, this bird not only provides clues related to rainfall and weather, but also serves as a warning of extreme conditions such as fertility and famine.

Another folk belief is that the dead body of the lapwing is never seen anywhere except in Kurukshetra. Whether this is fact or symbolic, this belief makes it a symbol of the protection of life and existence. A farmer who sees the lapwing understands that this bird protects his soil, crops, and future. This is why the lapwing is also mentioned in rural folk songs and proverbs. It is one of those creatures whose activities have been relied upon for generations.

Now the question arises: when science has developed sophisticated tools like satellites, radar,

and computer models for weather forecasting, what role do birds like the lapwing have? The answer is that science and folk experience complement each other, not contradict each other. Scientifically, birds like the lapwing are

is that farmers expressed these signals in their own language and symbols.

Today, as we are immersed in the glare of urbanization and industrialization, the biggest crisis is that we have almost stopped listening



highly sensitive to environmental changes. Air humidity, temperature fluctuations, ground moisture, and water table rises and falls—all of these impact their behavior. This is why, in scientific parlance, they are called “ecosystem indicators.” That is, creatures that, through their behavior, provide us with timely information about environmental changes.

Our ancestors, without resorting to the tools of science, understood these signals empirically and capitalized on them. For centuries, farmers have monitored the movements of the lapwing. If it delayed its egg-laying season, farmers would become alert. If it left the ground and moved to higher ground, they would become aware of increased rainfall and potential flooding. Thus, what folk experience has revealed is actually rooted in scientific reasoning. The only difference

to this silent language of nature. Urban dwellers often don't notice when a bird's habits are changing, when its numbers are dwindling, or when its voice is changing. This carelessness leaves us helpless in the face of sudden disasters. If we take the messages of the lapwing and other birds seriously, our capacity for disaster management could increase exponentially.

It is also said of the lapwing that this bird never leaves a field empty. Its laying eggs there is a symbol of reassurance for farmers. This belief itself holds a profound message: nature never disappoints humans, provided we respect it. But when we break nature's rules and tamper with it, even its guardian birds are forced to change their signals. This is why, at times, we can foresee a situation like a flood or famine in advance through the lapwing's behavior.

The importance of this bird isn't limited to rural life. It reminds us that every form of life is intertwined with the vast fabric of the environment. When a tiny bird can project a vision of the future through its eggs, it also serves



as a warning to us not to tamper with this system. Science also tells us that even the smallest changes in the environment are first felt by birds and small creatures. If we listen to them in time, we can avoid major tragedies.

From an editorial perspective, it's appropriate to say that the lapwing is no ordinary bird. It teaches us that knowledge comes not only from laboratories and satellites, but also from farms and the behavior of animals. While modern science is based on data and technology, the lapwing offers warnings based on instinct and natural connection. Building a bridge between the two is the greatest need today.

The most important question today is conservation. If birds like the lapwing disappear from our midst, not only will popular belief be shattered, but a vital part of the environmental

warning system will also be lost. To conserve them, we must reduce excessive pesticide use in fields, protect natural habitats, and conserve water sources. This will not only be the conservation of a bird, but also a safeguard for our own future and survival.

The conclusion is that while science relies

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on data and machines, birds like the lapwing provide instinctive warnings. Science may be late in its warning, but the lapwing warns in advance. Our greatest challenge is to listen to this silent communication and act accordingly. If we ignore this call, not only will the lapwing disappear, but the message it conveys will also be lost from our lives.

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

PDD Launches Massive Parallel Training Sessions Across J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: With a view to foster safety-first culture in the power sector, and in line with the Government's emphasis on conducting employee training in a structured and regular manner, the Electrical Inspectorate of the Power Development Department (PDD) has launched massive parallel training sessions across all districts of J&K.

The training programs are carefully structured so that each district is covered, ensuring that all linemen and contract workers engaged on the electrical system are trained with the basic safety practices, during this first phase.

This initiative marks a significant step toward institutionalized capacity building, aimed at improving operational efficiency and prioritizing safety, aligning with the department's future plan of establishing dedicated Power Training Institute for all power employees across J&K.

The said training sessions, which commenced last month, are currently in progress and so far, 780 linemen have been trained through a combination of theoretical sessions and hands-on demonstrations, with a special focus on use of safety gears and other essential workplace precautions. These sessions have

so far been conducted in the districts of Budgam, Srinagar, Pulwama, Shopian, Bandipora, Jammu, Kathua, while the remaining districts are scheduled for the coming weeks.



Considering human safety a top priority, line staff have also been instructed to raise awareness among the general public regarding electrical hazards—particularly those arising from weather vagaries such as snapped wires or infrastructure damage caused by flash floods. A general safety advisory, along with detailed Do's and Don'ts, has been clearly communicated during the training to ensure electrical safety not only for humans but also for animals across the UT.

The entire schedule has been prepared under the guidance of Principal Secretary, PDD, H. Rajesh Prasad, who

reiterated that human safety must always remain a top priority. He firmly underscored the importance of adhering strictly to SOPs, with no tolerance for shortcuts during work execution. He

Further stated that regular monthly reviews on safety compliance will be conducted by each corporations and detailed reports in this regard will be submitted to the department for monitoring purpose. Highlighting the challenges faced by linemen in J&K, he mentioned that these linemen operate in challenging environments, including harsh weather conditions, snow-bound areas, and tough mountainous terrains often during emergencies and time-constrained situations. The recent restoration of power in record time during the incessant rains in Jammu stands as a testament

780 Linemen Receive Hands-On Training on Electrical Safety

to their commitment and resilience. Such a dedicated workforce must be provided with specialized trainings and adequate facilities to enable expeditious restoration of the system in difficult terrains while ensuring that their safety remains uncompromised.

The training sessions were organized and conducted by officers of the Electrical Inspectorate. The master trainers for the training sessions were Er. Anil Abrol in Jammu, and Er. Manzoor Ahmad & Er. Adil Bashir in Kashmir—all three from the Electrical Inspectorate J&K. Additionally, Er. Gulshan Bhagat, Er. Sanjeev Pathania, Er. Navneet Singh Raina, Er. Mudasar Amin Tibet, Er. Sajad Tariq, Er. Sandeep Kohli, Er. Divya Gupta, along with other officers, officials, and supporting staff of the Inspectorate, actively participated in conducting the proceedings. The Chief Electrical Inspector, Sanjay Sharma, in his opening remarks during the session, stressed the critical importance of electrical safety both in execution of works as well as in managing day to day operations. He further highlighted that power sector of J&K is currently undergoing complete transformation with conventional systems rapidly being replaced with modern technologies to ensure better service delivery to the consumers.

DC Ganderbal Chairs NCORD Meeting, Reviews Measures To Curb Drug Menace

FE NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee on Narco

peddlers through coordinated and intensified efforts and emphasized awareness programs in schools regarding the harmful effects of drug abuse.

Chief Education Officer was

jurisdictions.

Discussions were also held on identification of drug hotspots, wherein Police was directed to remain extra vigilant in such areas by establishing nakas and intensive surveillance.

Random scanning of courier services was also deliberated upon, and it was decided that special nakas shall be established at all entry points of the district to prevent transport of drugs through courier services.

The meeting also reviewed the functioning of the Drug De-addiction Centre, and the Chief Medical Officer briefed the chair about its status.

Furthermore, DC took stock of the ongoing wild cannabis destruction drives, status of Nasha Mukta Panchayats, implementation of computerized billing systems by chemists, and installation of CCTV cameras in medical shops.

District Drug Inspector was directed to submit a detailed report regarding suspension of drug licenses of shops found violating norms during inspections.

DC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to make Ganderbal a drug-free district through coordinated efforts of all stakeholders, and sought active cooperation of the public in this regard.



Coordination Centre (NCORD) here to review the measures being undertaken to curb the drug menace in the district.

The meeting discussed key issues, including intensifying anti-drug awareness campaigns, strengthening enforcement measures against drug peddlers and its trafficking to curb drug abuse more effectively.

During the meeting, DC stressed the need for strict action against drug

directed to ensure regular sensitization sessions in schools. It was further instructed that no tobacco products should be sold within 100 meters radius of schools, and violators must be strictly fined. DC directed constitution of joint inspection teams comprising officers from the Health Department, Revenue (Tehsildars), Police, and Rural Development (BDOs) to conduct surprise checks within their respective

Sewa Parv-2025: DC Srinagar initiates work on Public Toilet Complex at DC office

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing fortnight-long Sewa Parv campaign, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday initiated

welfare.

The public convenience includes separate washrooms for male, female and persons with special abilities.

Speaking on the occasion, DC reaffirmed the district administration's commitment to ensuring improved cleanliness, hygiene, and accessibility for both office employees and visiting citizens and said that this was initiated under the Sanitation & Hygiene vertical of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025.

Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Additional



construction work on Public Toilet Facility complex at DC office Complex.

The new facility is being constructed to enhance public sanitation and civic amenities within the complex to promote cleanliness, hygiene and public

Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineer R&B, citizens, stamp vendors and other associated persons were present on the occasion.

RTC trucks roll out to valley mandis after transport, freight crisis

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: After weeks of anxiety for Kashmir's apple growers, the Jammu and Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) has rolled out 55 trucks to major fruit mandis in Sopore and Shopian after weeks of crisis marked by a shortage of vehicles and soaring freight charges.

General Manager, Loads & Cargo, JKRTC, Bashir Ahmed Sofi, speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the deployment followed direct instructions from the government after persistent appeals from growers.

"The minister instructed us to ensure there is no shortage of trucks for fruit transportation. Today, we have mobilised 55 vehicles, including 14 big trailers and other small trucks, to Sopore mandi and 10 trucks to Shopian. These will carry fruit to Delhi, Punjab, Haryana, Chandigarh and other stations," he said.

He said concessional freight had been

fixed to protect growers. "For Delhi, the charge is Rs 130 per box and Rs 120 for Punjab, compared to the usual Rs 240–250. A margin of Rs 10 has been left so that



labourers can be paid directly," GM explained.

For the past several weeks, apple growers had struggled with no transport availability, as frequent closures of the Srinagar–Jammu National Highway left thousands of fruit-laden trucks stranded. With RTC absent from the scene, private transporters exploited the situation by hiking freight abnormally. Freight to Delhi and Punjab nearly doubled, forcing many growers to sell their produce at throwaway rates or risk losses as apples

piled up in mandis.

The President of Asia's second-largest, Sopore Fruit Mandi, Fayaz Ahmed Malik @Kaka Ji, said the relief came late but was

welcome. "Thousands of apple boxes were lying stranded here with no vehicles to lift them. Private truckers were charging at will. The 40 RTC trucks that have come today will help, but our requirement is at least 200–300 trucks daily to clear the backlog", he said, urging the government to prioritise horticulture transport the way it does during the Amarnath Yatra.

Orchardists voiced relief but stressed that the crisis was far from over.

"At least now there is some support from RTC. But unless trucks are deployed consistently every day, our losses will continue", said Ghulam Rasool, a grower from Rafiabad.

Similarly, Abdul Majid, another grower, said they cannot afford highway closures.

"When fruit doesn't reach Delhi or Kolkata on time, buyers turn elsewhere, and it is the grower who bears the loss," he said.

General Manager Sofi said the corporation will closely monitor the situation and increase the fleet as more vehicles become free from food supply duty.

"The minister has instructed that strict action be taken against any private trucker found overcharging. RTC will continue deputing trucks daily so that the fruit industry, which is the backbone of our economy, is not made to suffer," he said.

Private Secretary to Minister Satish Sharma, Sanjeev Sharma, said the government has issued strict directions to prevent any exploitation of fruit growers during the apple season.

He said private truckers will face action if found overcharging, particularly during highway closures when freight rates often shoot up. "The minister has made it clear that strict action will be taken against such practices," he said.



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ECI Delists 474 Registered Unrecognised Political Parties

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Election Commission of India (ECI) continues its efforts to clean up the electoral system by delisting another 474



Registered Unrecognised Political Parties (RUPPs) and initiating proceedings to delist 359 more RUPPs.

Political parties in India, registered under Section 29A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, enjoy privileges such as election symbols and tax exemptions. However, parties that do not contest elections continuously for six years are subject to delisting, spokesperson said.

As part of this ongoing initiative, the ECI identified and delisted 334 RUPPs on August 9, 2025. In the second phase, 474 more RUPPs were delisted on September 18, 2025, for failing to contest elections for six consecutive years, bringing the total delisted in the last two months to 808.

Additionally, 359 RUPPs from 23 States and Union Territories have been identified for further action due to non-submission of Annual Audited Accounts for the financial years 2021-22, 2022-23, and 2023-24, and failure to file Election Expenditure Reports despite contesting elections. Show-cause notices have been issued to these parties, giving them an opportunity for hearings with the respective State/UT Chief Electoral Officers.

The ECI will make the final decision on delisting based on the reports from these hearings, reinforcing its commitment to maintaining a clean and transparent electoral system.

DAY-3 of Sewa Parv: Budgam conducts wide range of activities

FE NEWS NETWORK

BUDGAM: District administration Budgam observed Sewa Parv with a series of activities focusing on cleanliness, nutrition, environmental awareness, social inclusion, and community responsibility.

The day-long programmes were organized across different sectors with enthusiastic participation from students, locals, social organizations, and government departments.

To spread the message of Swachhata, a comprehensive cleanliness drive was organized in block Budgam, Chadoura, SK Pora, BK Pora and all other blocks of the district, where officials, volunteers, students, and community members actively participated.

The drive covered public spaces and community areas, reinforcing the importance of sanitation and individual responsibility in keeping surroundings clean.

As part of its environmental protection campaign, District Pollution Control Board Budgam carried out an anti-polythene drive at tehsil Budgam, where traders, vendors, and the general public were sensitized about the harmful effects of polythene use. Officials also urged citizens to adopt eco-friendly alternatives and pledged to minimize plastic consumption in daily life.

In collaboration with NIFT Budgam, another cleanliness campaign was carried out at important locations, where students and youth volunteers came forward to contribute their efforts. The initiative highlighted the crucial role of educational institutions in nurturing a culture of responsibility towards environmental sustainability.

Pir Panjal Forest Division (Soil Range Budgam) conducted an eco-awareness programme at Govt. Higher Secondary School Soibugh, attended by a large number of students and staff. Resource persons from the Forest department spoke on issues like biodiversity conservation, sustainable lifestyles, and protection of natural resources.

The interactive session encouraged students to adopt small but impactful measures in their daily lives for safeguarding the environment.

Under Poshan Abhiyan, the Poshan Project or-

ganized multiple awareness programmes across ICDS centres. During the sessions, nutritious recipes and food demonstrations were presented to pregnant women, lactating mothers, and children, stressing the importance of balanced diets, use of locally available food, and healthy cooking methods.

Adding a strong social welfare dimension, Social



Welfare department held games and recreational activities for senior citizens, providing them an opportunity for interaction, enjoyment, and a sense of inclusion in community events. These activities aimed at promoting the well-being of the elderly while acknowledging their valuable role in society.

In another significant programme, men from different localities were brought together for awareness and pledge-taking, where they were sensitized about their responsibilities in safeguarding the dignity and protection of women and children. The initiative not only created awareness but also encouraged men to become proactive allies in building a safe and respectful social environment.

The diverse activities organized today under Sewa Parv reflected the essence of observance of selfless service, awareness, and active citizen participation.

The events also underlined the collective resolve of the people of Budgam to work together for a cleaner, healthier, and more inclusive district.

Unity

and researchers for their important contribution to the promotion of diverse languages.

Atul Bhai Kothari, National Secretary, Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; Prof. Binod Kumar Kanojia, Director, National Institute of Technology, Srinagar; Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Dr GV Sundeeep Chakravarthy, SSP Srinagar; members of Shiksha Sanskriti Utthan Nyas; prominent literary personalities, scholars, faculty and students were present. (DIPR)

Centre

released immediately to the farmers affected by the floods in the Union Territory. “In flood-hit areas, workers will get an additional 50 man-days under MGNREGA,” he said, raising the total from 100 to 150 man-days,” he said.

The Union Minister also announced compensation for farmers who lost domestic animals due to the flood. As per the Jammu and Kashmir administration’s preliminary data, approximately 5,000 houses have been damaged. “We will provide Rs 1,30,000 under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for rebuilding each house. Each will include a separate toilet,” he said.

Addressing losses faced by local Self Help Groups, Chouhan said Rs 76,000 crore will be released to support them.

He said that the sand deposited in fields by floodwaters should be retained by the farmers for personal use, and suggested that the Jammu and Kashmir Mining Department relax regulations to allow this. “The Jammu and Kashmir Government currently has Rs 2,499 crore available under the disaster management fund. These funds will be used for immediate relief and rehabilitation. He added that if the need arises, the Centre will provide additional support,” he said, adding, “Damaged irrigation canals and embankments will also be repaired in coordination with the Centre.”—(KNO)

No dual

government, but there are two brothers – one elder and one younger,” Raina, told reporters during his visit to Asia’s second-largest fruit mandi in Sopore.

“The LG wishes for the betterment of the people of Jammu and Kashmir, and so does the elected government led by Omar Abdullah. Both the brothers are working together and when they do, the betterment efforts become stronger,” he said.

On Chief Minister Omar Abdullah’s remarks that he has “nothing in his hand,” be it road or security, Raina said, “Omar sahib might have made this statement out of anger. The concerned minister and NHA are ensuring restoration on a war footing. Yes, steps taken a few days ago should have been initiated 20 days earlier.”

The BJP leader said that in the last 24 hours alone, over 10,000 fruit-laden trucks had crossed Jammu and the pace would increase further in the coming days. “Hopefully, within the next 10 days, packed apples will be transported to different parts of the country,” he assured.

Raina admitted that apple growers and traders suffered huge losses due to prolonged highway blockages caused by heavy rains and landslides. “The mandi leadership has put forth their demands, including priority for the national highway. I have witnessed lakhs of apple boxes ready for transportation. These issues will be taken up with the government, including the LG and if required, I will take up them with Home Minister Amit Shah.”

Reiterating the central government’s resolve, Raina said both Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah have consistently assured that the people of Jammu and Kashmir will not be allowed to face hardships. “A special cargo train was mobilised earlier and if required, more such measures will be taken. Whatever possible efforts the Centre has to undertake, they will, to ensure smooth transportation and ease the pain of people,” he said.

Raina said that both essential supplies and apple transportation were moving smoothly again. “The last few days were tough, but now the weather is favourable, transportation is moving and the efforts will continue. Whatever the issues are, we will ensure their early redressal,” he added—(KNO)

Pahalgam attack

officer for the investigation of the case beyond the period of 90 days in favour of accused Bashir Ahmad Jothat and Parvaiz Ahmad with direction to complete the investigation of the case as soon as possible,” the order said.

The court directed the investigating officer to expedite and complete the investigation at the earliest. The 90-day period of remand for investigation as well as 10 days of judicial remand in respect of the two accused persons was due to expire on Friday.

After the expiry of the earlier remand, Parvaiz Ahmad Jothat and Bashir Ahmad Jothat were produced through virtual mode

on September 18 before the court, which extended their period of investigation and remand to enable the NIA to carry out its probe, officials said.

The judge observed the plea for a 90-day extension of investigation was “well-founded” and “deserved acceptance” as the crucial stage of the probe.

The court noted several witness statements and forensic reports were pending.

“The report of DNA profiling of accused persons for comparison is also awaited. A prima facie case is made out for extension of remand and detention of accused beyond the stipulated period of 90 days,” it said.

Public Prosecutor Chandan Kumar Singh, representing NIA, had moved an application seeking extension of custody from 90 to 180 days under provisions of UAPA.

The prosecution argued that crucial evidence, including statements of witnesses, forensic reports, DNA profiling of seized blankets and shawls, and analysis of mobile data linked to Pakistani numbers, was still awaited. More suspects and underground workers were claimed to have surfaced during the probe, besides recoveries from a July 28 encounter, in which three terrorists were killed, pending expert examination.

“Some Pakistani numbers have been recovered from the mobile phones of the accused and their details have to be ascertained. Three terrorists have been killed and some recoveries have been made from them, which have been sent to NFSU Gandhinagar, the report of which is still awaited. Some arms and ammunition have also been recovered from the killed terrorists in the encounter on July 28, and the details of the FSL report are still awaited,” the prosecutor said.

Singh said some blankets, shawls and bed-sheets were recovered at the behest of Jothat and Ahmad, and were sent to CFSL Chandigarh for extraction of DNA to be matched with the killed terrorists.

“The report of the same is still awaited,” he added. The case, re-registered by the NIA, pertains to the killing of tourists from a particular community at Baisaran meadow, Pahalgam, on April 22, 2025. The accused, Bashir Ahmad Jothat and Parvaiz Ahmad, were arrested on June 22 and have been in judicial custody at Amphalla Jail in Jammu.

According to the NIA, the accused disclosed the identities of the three armed terrorists involved in the attack and confirmed that they were Pakistani nationals affiliated with the banned terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

The federal agency alleged that Parvaiz and Bashir had knowingly harboured the terrorists at a seasonal “dhok” (hut) in Hill Park in Pahalgam before the April 22 attack that left 26 people, mostly tourists, dead and 16 others injured. (PTI)

India Forging

attack pushed the entire nation into mourning but did not weaken the country’s will to act. The leadership decided that those responsible must face consequences that would be remembered by one and all.”

Singh said, “Operation Sindoor reflects a broader shift in the country’s approach towards national security. India’s growing focus is on modernising its defence infrastructure, improving training, and equipping the forces to deal with any challenge. This preparedness is intended to prevent resource constraints during future operations.”

He said the response to the Pahalgam terror attack demonstrated that India decides its own course through action and preparation. “The retaliation proved that the country’s armed forces operate with a sense of duty that places national sovereignty above all else,” Singh added.

The Defence Minister recalled the 1965 conflict with Pakistan. “India at the time was facing uncertainty but managed to withstand the pressure. The leadership under then Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri provided clarity and direction during a difficult phase and kept national morale intact.”

He said, “Wars are not won only through armed confrontation, but through unified national effort. The events of 1965 exhibited how collective decisions and unity among citizens contributed to the country’s ability to overcome military threats.”

The Defence Minister said that the government continues to pay attention towards the needs of serving soldiers, ex-servicemen, and the families of those who lost their lives in duty.

The ceremony was attended by war veterans, families of fallen soldiers, and senior military officials including Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi, Western Army Commander Lieutenant General Manoj Kumar Katiyar, and Delhi Area GOC Lieutenant General Bhavnish Kumar—(KNO)

Industrial

of targets fixed under the NCSS.

He also asked Industries Department to prioritize setting up of industries for which either raw material is readily available or the market is locally available for finished products.

Calling for a review of the land policy in

industrial estates, Omar Abdullah stressed on ensuring early allotment of land to Units which have deposited premium but their proposals for land transfer remain in limbo. CM gave directions for early completion of 46 new Industrial Estates and to take up development of existing industrial estates to ensure judicious and productive use of industrial land.

On improving the business climate, the Chief Minister urged the department to explore what J&K can itself do to enhance the Ease of Doing Business, beyond national benchmarks. He further instructed officials to develop policies that attract new industries in the wake of new GST rate slabs announced by Central Government, with a clear differentiation of how J&K can uniquely position itself compared to neighboring states.

To ensure stronger policy implementation, Omar Abdullah asked the department to seek structured feedback from new industries that have applied under Single Window Clearance or begun operations under the SWC system, so that operational gaps can be identified and addressed.

With regard to GI certification of crafts, the Chief Minister called for augmenting GI certification testing facilities so that dealers do not suffer due to limited capacity of Handicrafts department, cautioning that without adequate systems in place, the very purpose of GI tagging would be undermined.

“Industrial development in J&K must not only attract investment but also ensure it translates into jobs, livelihoods, and sustainable growth for our youth and artisans,” Omar Abdullah said.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce Vikramjit Singh made a detailed presentation highlighting the department’s progress.

He informed that investment realization in J&K during FY 2024-25 has reached 4145 crore, nearly 10 times higher than the pre-2021 average, while the current fiscal (up to August 2025) has already seen 4001 crore worth of projects grounded, generating 5,111 jobs in the formal industrial sector. For the first time, multiple units with investment exceeding 500 crore have been set up across sectors such as metals, plastics, pharmaceuticals, textiles, and food processing.

The presentation further revealed that MSMEs contribute 8% to J&K’s GDP and employ over 10.88 lakh people, including 15% women. Initiatives such as the MSME Health Clinic, Udyam registration drives across 4914 blocks, and capacity-building programmes under the RAMP scheme have been launched to support this backbone of the economy.

On the startup ecosystem, Singh informed that registrations have surged from just 69 in 2020 to 1,127 in 2025, with a marked shift towards technology and service-based ventures. The meeting was informed that J&K is also set to host a Startup Summit in collaboration with Startup India, MEITY, and SIDBI in October this year in Srinagar.

The meeting was also informed that 4.39 lakh artisans are registered across J&K, with exports more than doubling to 1163 crore in 2023-24. Srinagar has been designated as a World Crafts City by the World Crafts Council and recognized by UNESCO under its Creative Cities Network. A QR-based certification mechanism for craft products, the first of its kind globally, has also been introduced.

The review meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, who is also Minister Incharge Industries & Commerce, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Heads of the Departments of Industries & Commerce and other senior officers. (DIPR)

Northern

he added, urging passengers to check schedules on the Northern Railway website or helpline numbers before travelling—(KNO)

Chief Secretary

inspections.

One more feature of this robust action plan is the strengthening of infrastructure & surveillance. It involves establishment of checkpoints and cold-chain facilities at toll plazas, entry points, and major transport routes for high-risk food consignments. Besides strict monitoring of consignments from outside states to prevent import of substandard products.

It also encompasses addressing the deficit of nearly 257.5 lakh kg of meat through regulated and safe supply mechanisms and development of modern slaughterhouses with frozen storage facilities for scientific meat processing and distribution.

Another pillar of the strategy is enforcement of mandatory sanitary and hygiene practices at meat shops and other food hubs and deployment of qualified veterinary officers for routine inspections.

Launch of mass awareness campaigns in collaboration with NGOs, SHGs, and

cooperatives to educate citizens on food safety and hygiene. Additionally, initiatives to encourage public reporting of food adulteration and related malpractices would also be encouraged.

Monthly meetings of District-Level Advisory Committees (DLACs), comprising officials from multiple departments, to review progress and address challenges.

Food Safety Wing to lead licensing, inspections, and traceability, while Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Departments promote good agricultural and veterinary practices. District Administrations will expedite legal proceedings against violators.

Chief Secretary Dulloo emphasized that effective inter-departmental coordination will be the cornerstone of this initiative. He directed all concerned departments to work in close synergy to ensure that only safe, hygienic, and quality food reaches the markets.

This comprehensive strategy is not just about regulation but also about building awareness, accountability, and trust. This comprehensive action plan is a comprehensive initiative to protect the public health and ensuring the availability of safe and quality food for all. The administration urges all citizens and food business operators to support this initiative for the collective well-being of the Union Territory. (DIPR)

Operation Sindoor

Operation Sindoor was launched in the aftermath of the Pahalgam terror attack, which claimed the lives of 26 people, mostly tourists.

“Earlier, we did the Balakot operation, but we didn’t have satellite images or photos... But what we did at 1 am now (Operation Sindoor), despite difficulty in collecting evidence in the darkness of night, was due to twin reasons — first, we had confidence in our capabilities that we could take imagery, and the second, we wanted to avoid civilian casualties.

“The best (option) would have been the time of 5.30 am or 6 am... But that time of the first Azan or Namaz... many civilian lives would have been lost. We wanted to avoid that completely,” Gen Chauhan said.

He said that India was monitoring the neighbouring nation’s flying activities for some time and chose the strike on

the night of May 7, as the weather was clear with no rain prediction.

Contrary to the general notion that the army was engaged at seven targets and the air force at two, the “navy was also involved in the strikes with S400 and S120, and deployment of navy commandos in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab in addition to the Arabian Sea”, he said.

“During Uri and Balakot, we chose land and air medium, but in this operation, a surprise element was there as we adopted a new strategy, which was needed for success, and used drones, the capability of which we acquired,” Gen Chauhan said.

He said the evolving character of warfare is now driven more by technology than the sheer number or territorial occupation.

“Modern warfare demands that we fight today’s conflicts with tomorrow’s technology. The battlespace is no longer limited to traditional domains of land, air, and sea and has expanded to include space, cyber, the electromagnetic spectrum, and even the cognitive domain. In recent operations, this shift was evident.

“India was able to strike deep into enemy territory with long-range precision weapons, guided by satellite imagery, electronic surveillance, and signal intelligence, often without direct visual contact with the adversary. These were non-contact, multi-domain operations where success was not measured by the ground captured, but by the level of dominance and sophistication displayed across all levels of escalation,” he emphasised.

Giving an example of the strike on Sarjal village in Pakistan’s Punjab, he said that though it appeared to be an unremarkable location comprising merely an old primary health centre, technical intelligence confirmed it had been a base for repeated terrorist infiltrations.

The precision strike neutralised a key node in the adversary’s network, reflecting the effectiveness of a technology-led approach, the chief of defence staff said.

This paradigm shift in warfare requires rethinking traditional metrics of victory. Success is no longer solely defined by body counts or territorial gains, he said.

Instead, it is measured through strategic deter-

rence, operational sophistication and information dominance. The army, navy, and air force have learnt many lessons from Operation Sindoor to ensure higher levels of preparedness and integration, Gen Chauhan said.

He added that the armed forces made maximum efforts this year to rescue citizens amid a high number of natural calamities. (PTI)

Ashok Koul chairs organizational review meeting of BJP Bandipora

BANDIPORA: BJP General Secretary (Organization) J&K, Ashok Koul, chaired an organizational review meeting with the District Bandipora team at the BJP Office, Bandipora.

The meeting witnessed the presence of District Office Bearers, Former District Presidents, and Senior Leaders, reflecting the party’s growing strength and commitment at the grassroots level.

J&K BJP General Secretary Anwar Khan, State Secretary Mudasir Wani, District Prabhari Rafiq Wani, and District President Mudasir Farooq Jan were among the prominent present in the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Ashok Koul emphasized the need to further strengthen the organizational structure of the party in every nook and corner of Bandipora. He called upon the cadre to dedicate themselves to the service of the people, ensuring that the policies and programmes of Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government reach every household.

He said that the BJP’s strength lies in its committed workers, and it is our responsibility to connect with the common man, listen to their concerns, and resolve them with utmost sincerity. He urged the district team to focus on booth-level activities, youth engagement, and outreach to marginalized sections.

Anwar Khan, while addressing the meeting, highlighted that Bandipora has emerged as an important political and social hub. He said that the primary task is to convert this people’s trust into organizational strength by reaching out to every voter and ensuring the party’s presence at all levels. (PR)

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

Corrigendum (I) to this office e-NIT NO:JSMDS/e-NIT-13 of 08/2025

Name of Works: Construction of platform/Shifting of two No. of water storage tanks along with allied works near MFC building at GMC Srinagar by way of Shifting /relocation of WSS MC2 Medical college Srinagar and reinstallation of electromechanical equipment’s at new site identified by the medical authorities of GMC Sgr

Due tono response, the critical dates extended as below.

01.	Bid down load end date	25-09-2025 up to 4:00 PM
02.	Bid Submission end date	25-09-2025 up to 4:00 PM
03.	Date and time of opening of bids	26-09-2025 at 2:00 PM

Rest all the terms and conditions shall remain the same as laid down in the e-NIT No. referred to above

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer
PHE Mech. Circle South Sgr.
Addl. charge of Executive Engineer,
Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Div. Sgr

No: JSMDS/CC/2474-77
Dated: 18/09/2025

DIPK-6405/25 Dt: 19-09-2025



GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar
Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

Extension Notice 2nd

For Sr.No.16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28 & 30

- Subject:** 1. Construction of Bore Well Near Masjid Shareef Khanday Mohalla at Salia District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Salia-B.
2. Construction of Bore Well at Gund Shumhall District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Shumhall.
3. Construction of Bore Well at Yall Bon Mohallah District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Shumhall.
4. Construction of Bore Well at Kasana Mohalla District Anantnag (Block Khoveripora) Panchayat Vainagbal-A.
5. Construction of Bore Well with motor NHO Mushtaq Sheikh Kutbal Shelipora District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Shelipora.
6. Construction of Bore Well with Motor near Masjid Shareef Ganiepora Shelipora District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Shelipora.
7. Construction of Bore Well with motor NHO Haji Gul Mohd Sheikh Herpora Shelipora District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Shelipora.
8. Construction of Bore Well at Maqdampora NHO Mohd Hussain Ganie, Shabir Ahmad Wani, Ali Mohd Wani and Others District Anantnag (Block Achabal) Panchayat Halqa Akingam-A.

Reference: This office e-NIT No. **40-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26**, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./6037-48, dated: **30-08-2025**. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_286326_16, 17, 18, 19, 26, 27, 28 & 30.

Due to **"NO Response"** for the above mentioned works advertised vide e-NIT No. and **Tender ID 18-09-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM** are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	03-10-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	04-10-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE:

All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./7199-7208

Dated: 18-09-2025

DIPK-6399/25 Dt: 19-09-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

India Poised for Bio-Driven Future Economy, Says Dr. Jitendra Singh

PUNE: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, underlined that

the launch of the Bio-E3 policy—biotechnology for environment, economy, and employment—which, he said, is aimed at creating sustainable solutions and jobs for India’s growing youth population. He added that India’s biotech sector has grown from USD 10

worldwide looked to Ayurveda and homoeopathy during the crisis. He also called for nurturing a skilled workforce through startups and entrepreneurship in life sciences, describing biotechnology as a sector that could generate both jobs and innovation. Prevention, he stressed, must remain a priority, guided by the “three A’s” formula—awareness, accessibility, and affordability of screening.

Pointing to policy-driven achievements such as the HPV vaccine, India’s first indigenous antibiotic, and large-scale tuberculosis gene sequencing trials, Dr. Jitendra Singh said these milestones showed that India was now contributing not just to its own health needs but also to global medical progress.

Addressing the changing health landscape, Dr. Jitendra Singh observed that India faces the dual challenge of tackling communicable diseases like tuberculosis while also witnessing a rise in lifestyle-related disorders such as diabetes and fatty liver among younger populations. He underlined the importance of awareness and preventive care to preserve the energies of India’s youth, who will be the “torchbearers of 2047 India.”

On the integration of technology and healthcare, Dr. Jitendra Singh shared his ministry’s experiment with AI-driven mobile health clinics, which provide hybrid medical consultations combining physical and AI doctors, including regional language interfaces for rural patients. He also called for greater synergy between public and private sectors, as well as between traditional knowledge and modern medicine, citing lessons from the pandemic.

Concluding his address, the Minister urged students and researchers to take advantage of the flexibility provided under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, pursue interdisciplinary studies, and align their work with national priorities in science and technology. (PIB)



biotechnology will be the key driver of India’s future economy and healthcare solutions, calling it the “next industrial revolution.”

Dr. Jitendra Singh was speaking after inaugurating SYMRESEARCH 2.0: International Conference on Bioengineering for Global Health at Symbiosis International University, Pune. He said India had already established itself as a global player in biotechnology through breakthroughs such as the indigenous COVID-19 vaccine, HPV vaccine for cervical cancer prevention, the development of new antibiotics, and gene sequencing initiatives. “Future economy, in fact, belongs to biotechnology, just as the last revolution in the 1990s was driven by information technology,” he noted.

Highlighting government initiatives, he pointed to

billion in 2014 to USD 130 billion today, with targets to reach USD 300 billion in the next five to seven years.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also underlined India’s growing engagement with space-biotech research, citing experiments by astronaut Shubhanshu Sharma on the International Space Station which studied muscle wasting, the cognitive effects of electronic gadgets, and the growth of algae and proteins in microgravity. He said these initiatives, which led to an MoU between the Department of Biotechnology and the Department of Space, point to the emergence of new fields such as space medicine.

Emphasising the need for holistic healthcare, the Minister noted that the COVID-19 pandemic had reinforced the value of integrating traditional Indian systems of medicine with modern science, as doctors

“Absolutely no role for third-party mediation in India, Pakistan issues”: MEA

NEWDELHI: The Ministry of External Affairs on Friday strongly affirmed the stance that issues between India and Pakistan will be resolved bilaterally, with no role for any third-party mediations. He also reminded how Pakistan continues to remain a hotbed of terrorism, with a close nexus between terrorists, Pakistani state and the military.

MEA Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal made the remarks during the weekly press briefing.

When asked about the recent interview of Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar, where he said that the US had proposed a ceasefire along with discussions in a third country, and India was not ready for it, Jaiswal firmly said, “There is absolutely no role for third-party mediation in India and Pakistan issues. I want to underline it and make it clear again.”

During an interview with Al Jazeera, Pakistan’s Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar on Monday contradicted claims made by US President Donald Trump, who asserted that the US brokered a ceasefire between the two nuclear

armed nations.

Dar stated Pakistan sought a ceasefire after India’s strikes, with US Secretary of State Marco Rubio informing him India doesn’t support outside involvement.

“Incidentally, when the ceasefire offer came through [US] Secretary [of State] Rubio to me on the 10th of May... I was told that there would be a dialogue between Pakistan and India at an independent place... When we met on the 25th of July during a bilateral meeting with Secretary Rubio in Washington, I asked him ‘What happened to those dialogues?’, he said, ‘India says that it is a bilateral issue,’ Dar said. (ANI)

Nepal observes 10th Constitution Day, PM Karki calls for dialogue for finding solutions

KATHMANDU: Nepal Prime Minister Shushila Karki on Friday said the protection and successful implementation of the Constitution adopted 10 years ago is the responsibility of all Nepalis, asserting that democracy is a system of dialogue and finding solutions.

Ramchandra Paudel, who was the chief guest, and Prime Minister Shushila Karki, the function was attended by Chief Justice Prakash Man Singh Raut, Speaker Devraj Ghimire, National Assembly Chairman Narayan Prasad Dahal and other dignitaries.



Karki was speaking at the main event organised here in view of the Constitution Day, also celebrated as the National Day across Nepal. However, unlike in the past, the celebrations this year are scaled down as the country mourns the death of 72 people in the violent protests by Gen Z that led to regime change last week.

Nepal’s Constituent Assembly delivered the Constitution on Asoj 3, 2072 Bikram Samvat, as per the country’s national calendar, or September 20, 2015, years after the erstwhile monarchy was abolished.

“Listening to the voice of the people is the soul of democracy,” Karki, Nepal’s first woman prime minister, said.

Recalling that the Constitution of Nepal is the result of “the sacrifice, struggle, and movement” of the Nepali people, Karki said “its protection and successful implementation is the common responsibility of all Nepalis.”

The recent Gen Z movement was a result of the dissatisfaction and expectations of the younger generation, Karki explained and made it clear that her government is committed “to listening to and addressing the voices of the people, as democracy is a system of dialogue and finding solutions.”

Karki, 73, became prime minister on September 12, ending days of political uncertainty after the ouster of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli following youth-led Gen Z protests against his government over corruption and a ban on social media. The main celebrations were held at Tundikhel Open Ground here. Besides President

President Paudel said the present Constitution has integrated Nepali society having ethnic, lingual, religious, cultural and geographical diversities into the broader national unity by ending all forms of discrimination and oppression resulting from centralised state systems.

He also called on all Nepalis to stay united to realise the aspirations of sustainable peace, good governance, development and prosperity through the federal democratic republic systems.

“The Constitution has set a broader goal to create an egalitarian society based on social justice and socialism-oriented economy,” he pointed out.

Separately, a group of Gen Z members too organised a rally at Maitighar Mandala, the same place where the protests had gathered on September 8 and 9, and vowed to safeguard the achievements made by the Gen Z movement.

The two main political parties, the Communist Party of Nepal-Unified Marxist Leninist (CPN-UML) and the Communist Party of Nepal-Maoist Centre also organised separate programmes at their respective party head offices in Kathmandu.

While former Prime Minister Pushpakamal Dahal ‘Prachanda’ addressed the programme at the Maoist Centre party’s central office, deposed Prime Minister Oli was absent during his party’s programme.

Later in the afternoon, President Paudel hosted a special function at the President’s Office, which was attended by Prime Minister Karki, ministers and other dignitaries. (PTI)

Markazi Roma Reshi Centre Rahmoo Celebrates Annual Dastarbandi Ceremony



■ DAR MUKHTAR

PULWAMA: The Markazi Roma Reshi Centre, Rahmoo, Pulwama, Thursday organized its annual Dastarbandi Ceremony, honoring the achievement of completing the memorization of Holy Quran, wherein four students were acknowledged for this accomplishment after years of religious study.

The ceremony marks a significant achieve-

ment for the students involved, with the completion of the memorization of the Holy Quran representing hard work and dedication to religious study. The event hosted several Islamic scholars, members of the community, teachers, and families of the students who accompanied the students to celebrate the day.

Tariq Ahmad, head of the Markazi Roma Reshi Centre, noted the significance of the

day. He said in comments to the media, “It is a day of joy and ceremony for the students and the parents, teachers, and community.”

Tariq pointed out the greater meaning of the day, stating, “It is an occasion of significance that highlights the centuries old tradition of valuing knowledge and learning in Islam, whilst also reinforcing the bonds of the community in faith, unity and shared responsibility.”

The ceremony included thought-provoking speeches by prominent Islamic scholars, who served to enlighten the students as they are now ready to take their places as religious leaders and provide community service.

In addition to traditional education in religion-related subjects, the Markazi Roma Reshi Centre is also recognized for its progressive models of learning. The Centre is equipped with advanced computer technology and con-

temporary learning modules, providing hundreds of children access to elementary computer education, digital literacy and religious learning modules. This cross learning methodology recently inaugurated by Rouble Nagi Art Foundation was intended to help equip students with the tools necessary for a successful transition to modern education and workforce environments.

(ADVT)

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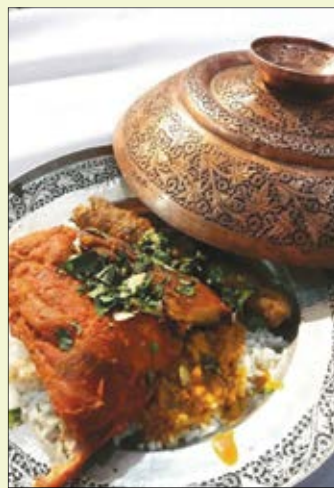
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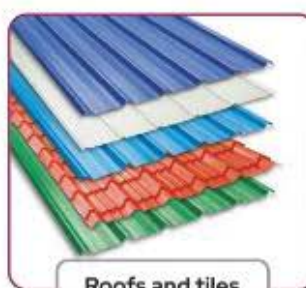
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