

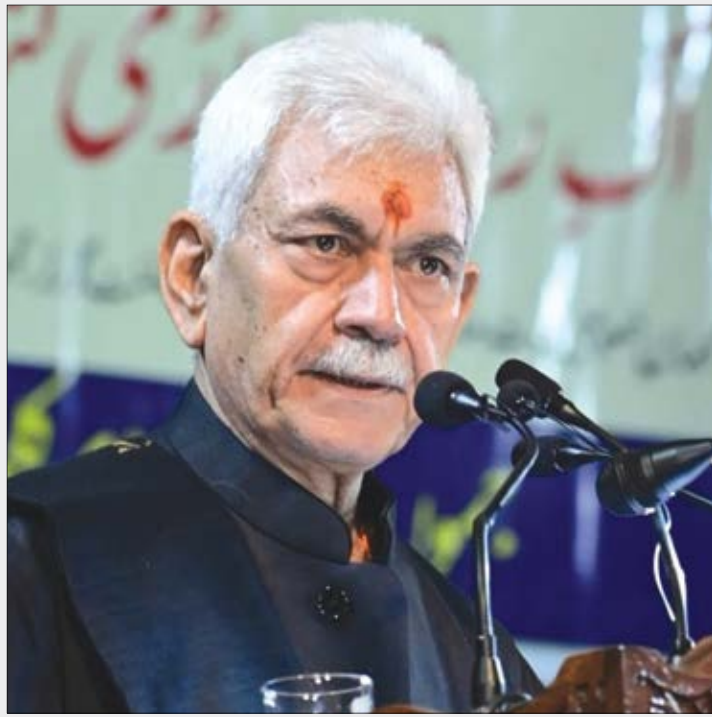


LG Sinha Vows to Crush Terrorism, Says Separatist Ecosystem Breathing its Last

FE NEWS NETWORK

Graced award ceremony, 'Pride of J&K', Organised by Network 18 Group

SRINAGAR: Congratulating the security forces, Jammu and Kashmir Police and intelligence agencies for recent successful anti-terror operations, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday said that war against terrorism is not over yet in the Union Territory. Chairing the marathon Unified Headquarters (UHQ) meeting which lasted for more than two hours at Raj Bhavan here, LG Sinha discussed the situation across J&K with the security top brass. "Threadbare discussions were held on counter infiltration and counter terrorism operations," said an official. The meeting, he said, discussed winter preparedness, recent LoC escalation by Pakistan and other key issues. "War against terrorism is not over yet. Kinetic and non-kinetic operations must continue. We must maintain the momentum and take stringent action against terrorism and its entire ecosystem," LG Sinha told the officers, during the meeting.



GoC9 Corps Lieutenant General Rajan Sharawat, Air Vice Marshal Vikas Sharma, Army Ordnance Corps, Jammu and Kashmir, S J M Gillani, Special Director General Coordination PHQ, Principal Secretary Home Chandraker Bharti and Additional DGP CID Nitish

The Lieutenant Governor directed the **security apparatus** to proactively adapt to evolving **threats**, and called for "Whole of Government Approach" for effectively **tackling radicalisation** and drug menace.

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The meeting was attended by Northern Army Commander Lieutenant General Pratik Sharma, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat and General Officer Commanding (GoC) 15 Corps Lieutenant General Prashant Srivastava. GoC 16 Corps Lieutenant General P K Mishra,

Kumar were also among other officers present.

Pertinently LG Sinha had chaired the last UHQ meeting in May this year after the success of 'Operation Sindoor.' During that meeting LG Sinha had directed the security agencies to conduct "precise, intelligence-led operations" in order to neutralise terrorists and dismantle their "support cells." Meanwhile, an official spokesman said that after a thorough

LG Sinha Thanks Centre For Sanctioning 5,000 Houses For Flood-Hit Families

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Centre has sanctioned the construction of over

5,000 houses which were damaged in the recent floods in Jammu and Kashmir, the Union territory's Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday. Sinha expressed gratitude to the central government for

■ See On P/6

Terrorists Awaiting Infiltration at LoC, BSF on High Alert: IG Yadav

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Inspector General of Border Security Force (BSF) Kashmir Frontier, Ashok Yadav, on Saturday said security forces along the Line of Control (LoC) are maintaining a high level of readiness to prevent any infiltration attempts by terrorists.

Speaking at the BSF headquarters in Humhama here during the unveiling of a T-shirt for the upcoming Wular Half Marathon 2.0 on October 12, 2025, Yadav said, the BSF has made its highest efforts to secure the border areas.

"The BSF is working closely with the Indian Army to monitor the LoC effectively and has successfully stopped two infiltration attempts so far this year," he said, adding that the use of advanced surveillance tools and equipment has strengthened the security presence along the border.



According to Yadav, infiltration attempts tend to rise in the period leading up to winter when harsh weather conditions make crossing more difficult.

He said terrorists try to cross the border before snowfall blocks the mountain passes, which usually happens by November. "With two months remaining before winter fully sets in, security agencies are anticipating possible attempts and have prepared accordingly," he added.

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LG Manoj Sinha Calls J&K Assembly Session On Oct 23

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, has summoned Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly to meet in Srinagar on October 23, 2025, at 10 AM.

As per the summons issued by Secretary J&K Legislative Assembly, the Lieutenant



Governor of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, in exercise of the powers conferred under Section 18(1) of the Jammu and Kashmir

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"Matter Of Pride": Union MoS Jitendra Singh Lauds Expansion Of IIT Jammu



JAMMU: As Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stones for the expansion of IIT Jammu, Union Minister of State Jitendra Singh called it a matter of pride.

Speaking to reporters, Jitender Singh said, "It is a matter of pride that a leading institute like IIT is being developed in Jammu at a quick pace. Even before 2014, people of Jammu have demanded a high-standard institute. Engineering college in Srinagar, which became an NIT afterwards, even with that, people demanded a high-level institute." "An IIT for Jammu was announced in 2014, in the first interim budget by the late Arun Jaitley. Jammu IIT has developed the most among the new IITs, and this is a matter of pride for us. In the NIF index, IIT

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Traders Hail Reopening Of 12 Sites, Demand Wider Access

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: The trade bodies in Kashmir on Saturday welcomed the Jammu & Kashmir administration's decision of reopening 12 more tourist destinations from Monday (29th



September), terming it a positive move for the Valley's struggling tourism sector.

However, the trade bodies including the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Kashmir (CCIK) appealed for the

immediate reopening of all destinations to prevent further economic losses.

The decision was taken during a high-level review meeting chaired by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Seven destinations in Kashmir Division—including Aru Valley, Rafting Point Yanner, Akkad Park, Padshahi Park, and Kaman Post—and five in Jammu Division—including Dagan Top (Ramban), Dhaggar (Kathua) and Shiv Cave in Salal (Reasi)—will reopen for visitors.

KCCI President said the reopening was a "timely step" to revive business sentiment. "We are grateful to the Lieutenant Governor for considering the concerns of the business community and taking measures to support the tourism ecosystem," he said.

CCIK President Tariq Gani also welcomed the announcement, calling it a much-needed measure. "It is a positive step, but the government must also ensure that

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Govt Building Ecosystem For Youth Jobs, Entrepreneurship: Dy CM Choudhary

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: In a landmark initiative to empower the youth of Jammu and Kashmir, a Mega Job Fair was

enthusiastic participation from all stakeholders including job seekers, employers, government officials, and academic institutions.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy

remarked.

He reiterated that the government under the leadership of CM Omar



organized today under the Mission YUVA at the Convention Centre, Jammu by Employment Department J&K.

The event was inaugurated by the Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary which witnessed

Chief Minister encouraged the youth to fully utilize the opportunities offered under Mission YUVA. "This is not merely a scheme, it is a transformative movement aimed at building a self-reliant and empowered generation," he

Surinder Choudhary maintained that this Mega Job Fair under **Mission YUVA** stands as a milestone in the government's continued efforts to equip the youth of **Jammu & Kashmir** with the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to **succeed** in a rapidly evolving socio-economic **landscape**.

Abdullah is committed to open new avenues for the unemployment educated youths and enhanced job opportunities for them.

Surinder Choudhary

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Bottimline

Vision Of A Sustainable Growth Will Shape Brighter Future Of Tribal Community: LG

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: "For Viksit Bharat and rapid growth we must maintain ecological integrity and economic integrity," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said. Securing the biodiversity should become the national mission and all sections of society must work together for protection, restoration and regeneration of natural resources. He was speaking at the award ceremony, 'Pride of J&K', Organised by Network 18 Group at Srinagar. The award honored stalwarts and champions of Jammu Kashmir who shaped the region's development and always stood as pillars of hope in times of disaster.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the Army, NDRF, SDRF, J&K Police personnel, NGOs and Civil Administration officials for their exceptional and selfless service during the recent natural catastrophe in J&K UT.

These heroes offered hope and aid in the face of destruction and Network 18's 'Pride of J&K' Award recognised their

selfless act in rescue and relief and their conspicuous courage under extremely dangerous circumstances, the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said the Network 18's initiative will



motivate citizens to actively engage in community development.

The Lieutenant Governor said the Government of India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi, is firmly committed to speedily revive Jammu and Kashmir's development momentum and resuming normal life.

He called upon the citizens to support the police force and army personnel in

"The ecosystem of separatist elements is now breathing its last. Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and all security agencies have been given free hand to decisively crush the terrorists and their sympathisers," the Lieutenant Governor said.

the fight against terrorism and separatism. "The ecosystem of separatist elements is now breathing its last. Army, Jammu and Kashmir Police and all security agencies have been given free

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Sonam Wangchuk Being Probed For Pak Links: Ladakh Police Chief

FE NEWS NETWORK

LEH: Ladakh Director General of Police SD Singh Jamwal on Saturday said Sonam Wangchuk is being probed for allegedly having links with Pakistan on the back of last month's arrest of a Pakistani Intelligence Operative who sent videos of his protests across the border.

Jamwal described Wangchuk as the key person behind Wednesday's violence that claimed the lives of four people and injured scores of others.

On Friday, Wangchuk was detained under National Security Act and sent to a jail in Jodhpur in Rajasthan.

"What has been found in the investigation (against Wangchuk) cannot be disclosed at this moment. The process is going on and if you look at his profile and history, it is all available on YouTube. His speech worked as instigation as he talked about the Arab spring and the recent unrest in Nepal, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka.

"He had his own agenda. There is a probe of foreign funding, violation of

FCRA against him ... We have a PIO with us who was reporting across the border, sending videos of the protests led by Wangchuk.

The police chief also cited some of



Wangchuk's foreign visits, and termed them as suspicious.

"He attended an event by The Dawn in Pakistan and also visited Bangladesh," Jamwal told reporters here.

Wangchuk has been the main face of the agitation spearheaded by the Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance for statehood and extension of sixth schedule to the Union Territory.

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Pak Military Pleaded For Cessation Of Fighting During Operation Sindoor: India

UNITED NATIONS: India has said Pakistan's military "pleaded" with it for a cessation of fighting during Operation Sindoor and that there is no room for any third party to intervene in any issue between New Delhi and Islamabad.

The remarks were made by First Secretary in India's Permanent Mission to the UN Petal Gahlot on Friday after Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, in his address to the General Debate of the 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA), credited President Donald Trump with averting a war between the two nuclear-armed neighbours.

"This Assembly witnessed absurd theatrics in the morning from the prime minister of Pakistan, who once again glorified terrorism that is so central to their foreign policy," Gahlot said, delivering India's Right of Reply at the UNGA.

In his address, Sharif said Pakistan was ready for a

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Sakeena Itoo chairs mega Public Darbar-cum Grievance Redressal Camp at Kulgam

KULGAM: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today held a mega Public Darbar-cum-Grievance Redressal camp at Chawalgam here to provide a direct platform for locals to voice their concerns, seek redressal of grievances and put forth developmental demands before the government.

ACR Kulgam, ACD Kulgam, SDM DH Pora, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Sheep Husbandry officer, DFO, Executive Engineers of PHE, I&FC, PWD, PDD and PMGSY and other officers of district administration were present during the camp.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from cross-section of people of Kulgam district including local citizens community elders, social activists and youth.

They raised varied issues related to healthcare, education, road connectivity, water supply, power infrastructure, and employment avenues before the Minister.

While listening patiently to the delegations, the Health Minister reiterated

She also instructed the concerned officers present to take time-bound and



the government's commitment to responsive, transparent and accountable governance system. She assured the public delegations and citizens that their genuine concerns would be addressed on priority and time bound manner.

immediate action on some grievances projected by the people.

Minister Sakeena assured the public delegations and citizens that no voice will go unheard, and no genuine grievance will remain unaddressed.

Highlighting the government's focus on people-centric policies, the Minister underlined that public darbars bridge the gap between administration and citizens by taking governance to the doorsteps of people. She further emphasized that health and allied sectors remain top priority, noting that substantial investments are being made to upgrade health infrastructure, improve diagnostics, and strengthen primary healthcare delivery in rural and far-flung areas of Kulgam district.

During the camp, the Minister also reviewed the status of ongoing development projects in the district and took feedback from the public regarding the quality of service delivery.

She directed officials to enhance monitoring mechanisms to ensure speedy completion of works and equitable distribution of benefits under various welfare schemes.

The Minister appreciated the active participation of the people and assured that such grievance redressal camps would be held regularly to foster stronger government-public engagement.

Aadi Karamyogi campaign: DC Bandipora engages with tribal community at Chandaji village

Awareness programs & Seva Kendras boost participatory governance across Bandipora under Seva Prav 2025

BANDIPORA: As part of the ongoing Aadi Karamyogi Abhiyan under Seva Prav 2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, along with a team of officers from various departments, visited the remote tribal village of Chandaji on Saturday and attended a public darbar with the local community.

During the program, Block Level Master Trainers (BLMTs) presented a detailed status report of the village covering education, health, agriculture, dairy and sheep farming. They informed that door-to-door surveys were conducted and awareness was generated among households and youth about different welfare schemes aimed at improving socio-economic conditions.

Students of Government Middle School Chandaji actively participated in the event by delivering speeches on the Aadi Karamyogi Abhiyan, describing it as a transformative movement for tribal empowerment. They also presented cultural performances showcasing the rich tribal heritage, and staged a skit highlighting challenges in education, particularly the absence of a nearby secondary school, which they cited as a major cause of dropouts.

Locals raised several demands before the DC including better internet connectivity, electricity supply, drinking water facilities, and inclusion of Chandaji on the

tourist map given its natural beauty and tourism potential.

In her address, DC praised the talent of school children and lauded the efforts of school management. She directed the Chief Education Officer to prepare a plan for providing pick-and-

been inaugurated in all 31 villages across six blocks of Bandipora. These Kendras serve as single-window platforms to provide easy access to government services and welfare schemes, while also acting as hubs for grievance redressal, information dissemination,



drop facilities to middle-pass students so they can pursue secondary education without interruption. She further assured that network, electricity, and other civic issues would be taken up for early resolution.

DC also highlighted government initiatives like Mission YUVA and Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), encouraging youth to start businesses and become self-reliant. She directed the Assistant Labour Commissioner to organize a Labour Card Saturation Camp in Chandaji next week.

Notably, in a significant step towards strengthening grassroots governance under the Aadi Karamyogi Abhiyan and Seva Prav 2025, Seva Kendras have

and participatory governance. Their operationalisation marks a decisive move towards responsive and inclusive service delivery in the district.

Meanwhile, as part of the campaign under Sewa Parv 2025, awareness programs were simultaneously organized across the district. ADC Bandipora attended an event at Panchayat Ghar Aragam, ACR Bandipora visited Panchayat Ghar Chattibandi, and the Chief Planning Officer joined a program at High School Kudara.

Officers at these locations highlighted the role of education, livelihood, health, and self-employment in achieving sustainable progress, while urging villagers to actively participate in government schemes.

Govt Polytechnic Reasi hosts 2-day Udyam Yuva Fest

REASI: A two-day youth empowerment fest was organised by the Department of Skill

the youth can feel confident to take risks, innovate and build businesses. His words inspired

expression.

Preeti Sharma won top spot in Quiz competition, while 2nd position went to Vikram Singh and 3rd to Shuriti Sharma.

In Essay Competition, Diksha Devi bagged first position, while 2nd and 3rd Positions went to Nikhil Kumar and Tanish Bharti.

The winner of the speech competition was Pryanish Manontra, while Pooja Devi and Satyam Sharma ended as 1st and 2nd runner-ups. First Position for the Painting Competition was bagged by Anil Kumar, 2nd by Nazia Akhter and 3rd by Preeti Sharma.

The winners and runners up were provided certificates and attractive cash prizes of Rs.5000/-, Rs.3000/- and Rs.2000/ respectively.

Other highlight of the event was the display of innovative project models by students, which were highly appreciated by ADDC Reasi. A special talk on skill development and digital literacy was delivered by Ritu Devi from the Social Welfare Department, while a career counseling session on employment opportunities was conducted by Employment Officer Ajay Kumar. Sunil Kumar gave a detailed presentation on various scholarship schemes for students.

The event concluded on a high note, leaving the students inspired, motivated and better informed about the opportunities and responsibilities that lie ahead. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks by Incharge Training and Placement cell Ajay Dogra.



Development and Employment here at Government Polytechnic Reasi.

The Udyam Yuva Fest witnessed Quiz competition, Speech competition, painting and Essay writing competitions, providing students a platform to showcase their talent, creativity and innovative ideas.

The Chief Guest for today's programme was ADDC Sukhdev Singh Sambyal.

Among others present included Principal Govt. Polytechnic Reasi Er Arun Bangotra; Superintendent ITI Reasi Rajesh Bansotra and District Officer JUDA Jaffer Azad. The event began with lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a soulful recitation of Saraswati Vandana by students that set a serene and inspiring tone for the day.

The Students presented a scintillating cultural programme, featuring thought-provoking skits on "Nasha Mukht Bharat" and "Mission Yuva Bharat."

Addressing the students, the Chief Guest delivered an insightful address on Mission YUVA and emphasized creating an encouraging environment where

the participants by offering a comprehensive overview of the project and emphasizing the importance of the culture of entrepreneurship. He appreciated the College administration for executing the project and generating widespread entrepreneurial impact.

Earlier, the Principal Er Arun Bangotra, in his welcome address, shed light on the core concept of Mission Yuva and appreciated the active participation of students in the two day fest. He advised them to continue engaging in such constructive activities which nurture confidence and a spirit of innovation.

Later, a felicitation ceremony was held, where certificates were awarded to winners of different competitions and participants of the 10 day Mission Yuva capacity building Hybrid Training Courses. The Udyam Yuva fest witnessed massive participation of 196 students in Quiz competition, 67 in Painting competition, 41 in Essay competition and 30 in Speech competition. The competitions reflected the enthusiasm of the youth and their commitment towards learning and self-

KVK-Anantnag empowers farmers through JKCIIP Rural Credit Workshops



ANANTNAG: Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Anantnag, SKUAST-Kashmir successfully concluded a series of Kisan Sampark Abhiyan Rural Credit Workshops under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture & Allied Projects (JKCIIP).

The workshops were organized across five identified blocks of the district viz. Achabal, Anantnag, Chattergul, Hiller Shahabad, and Sagam.

Commencing from 12th August 2025, the campaign comprised 18 workshops, covering more than 90 Panchayat Halqas of the district. Each programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of farmers, entrepreneurs, Self Help Group (SHG) and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) representatives, taking the total outreach to diverse groups of stakeholders.

The events also recorded the active participation of MLAs and DDCs, ensuring strong community linkage and policy-level support.

During the workshops, scientists of KVK-Anantnag, officers from Agriculture and allied departments, and officials from J&K Bank delivered detailed lectures on schemes and programmes under JKCIIP. The participants were sensitized about the 50% subsidy available on every scheme enlisted under JKCIIP, motivating them to avail benefits for strengthening farming systems, establishing enterprises, and boosting rural livelihoods.

This series of workshops created a robust platform for knowledge sharing, credit linkage, and capacity building enhancing the sustainability of agriculture and allied sectors in Anantnag district.

Sewa Parv: Cultural programme on promoting cleanliness held at Wakura Ganderbal

GANDERBAL: Cultural Unit Srinagar, in collaboration with District Information Office Ganderbal, today organised a cultural programme on cleanliness drive as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv campaign at Government Boys Higher Secondary School, Wakura Ganderbal.

The event was aimed at spreading awareness about the significance of cleanliness, civic sense, and collective responsibility in society. Students, artists, and members of the local community participated with great enthusiasm, showcasing cultural performances, skits, and songs that highlighted the values of hygiene and service to humanity.

Speaking on the occasion, Cultural Officer Kashmir underscored the importance of Sewa Parv and elaborated on the Government's vision and initiatives to promote cleanliness under this nationwide drive. He also appreciated the efforts of the Department of Information and Public Relations in organising such awareness programmes, which help to engage the youth and foster a culture of responsibility towards society.

The programme concluded with a pledge by the participants to actively contribute towards maintaining cleanliness in their surroundings and to carry forward the message of Sewa Parv in their daily lives.

World Tourism Day 2025 celebrated at Patnitop with focus on sustainable transformation

UDHAMPUR: In a vibrant display of community and environmental stewardship, Patnitop Development Authority celebrated World Tourism Day 2025 with a series of events centered on this year's theme "Tourism & Sustainable Transformation."

The celebration brought together various government departments, local stakeholders, and members of the public and tourists to highlight the importance of responsible tourism and ecological preservation.

The day's events included an Eco Walk, a Painting Competition, a Sanitation Drive, and a Plantation Drive, all designed to foster a greater appreciation for the region's natural beauty and promote sustainable practices.

The Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority along with SDM Chenani and Tehsildar Chenani and Accounts Officer, PDA officially flagged off the Eco Walk event, setting the tone for a day dedicated to environmental consciousness.

The presence of key officials from the local administration underscored the importance of the collaborative partnership between the PDA and the District Administration Udhampur in promoting sustainable tourism.

Chief Executive Officer Patnitop Development Authority Virender Kumar Manyal spoke passionately

about the significance of the event. He provided a detailed overview of the day's activities and underscored the critical role that sustainable tourism plays in the long-term prosperity of the region.

He emphasized that the "Tourism & Sustainable



Transformation" theme is particularly relevant to Patnitop, as it calls for a collective effort to preserve its pristine environment for future generations. The CEO highlighted the collaborative spirit that made the event possible, thanking all participating organizations for their unwavering support.

A key highlight of the celebration was the Painting Competition, which saw enthusiastic participation from students of Government High School (GHS), Karlah.

The young students expressed their creativity and

understanding of the event's theme through their vibrant artwork. Prizes were awarded to the top three winners, with first, second, and third place prizes distributed among the talented students and all other students were awarded a certificate of participation. In a heartwarming moment, a special prize was also given to a pre-nursery student for her exceptional and inspiring painting, showcasing that a love for art and nature can start at any age.

The event was a collaborative effort, organized by the Patnitop Development Authority in association with the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, District Administration Udhampur, Forest Department, Hoteliers, other stakeholders of Patnitop, and tourists to ensure its success. This multi-agency collaboration showcased a shared commitment to developing tourism in a way that benefits both the local economy and the environment. The hands-on participation in the Sanitation and Plantation Drives further solidified this commitment, with participants working together to clean up designated areas and plant new trees.

The CEO PDA extended his sincere gratitude to Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur and Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu, for their crucial support in making the celebration a resounding success. Their leadership and assistance were instrumental in orchestrating the event.

District Kishtwar marks day 11 of Sewa Parv 2025 with inclusive community welfare activities

KISHTWAR: On the direction of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Day 11 of Sewa Parv 2025 was observed across the Kishtwar district with a series of impactful initiatives dedicated to healthcare, cleanliness, environmental conservation and citizen empowerment.

The Animal Husbandry Department, Kishtwar organized a Farmers' Awareness Camp at Jawallapur Bunjwah, where mineral supplements and dewormers were distributed among cattle breeders.

They were also imparted awareness on best livestock care practices during the winter season.

The Municipal Council Kishtwar hosted a Lok Kalyan Mela & PM Awas Mela - Shehri at Dak Bungalow. The PMAY-Urban Beneficiaries were felicitated with Greh Pravesh and



Appreciation Certificates. In addition, a blood donation camp was organized at District

Hospital Kishtwar, where eight employees of the Municipal Council donated blood.

A Mega Community Service and Donation Drive was held at Government High School Sigdi Bhata, where students were gifted stationery, books, clothes and toys, instilling in them the spirit of Seva and social responsibility.

The Health Department carried forward the Swasth Nari, Sashakt Parivar Abhiyaan through health camps and counselling sessions held in different parts of the District.

The locals were made aware about nutrition, iron and calcium supplementation and family planning.

The Marwah Forest Division conducted a plantation drive at Lopara, reaffirming the district's commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable growth.

GDC Ramban hosts Inter-College competitions to celebrate Sewa Parv, Gandhi Jayanati

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, today presided over a grand event at Government Degree College (GDC) Ramban organised as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv and Gandhi Jayanti-2025 celebrations.

The programme featured a series of inter-college competitions, including a declamation contest on the theme "Gandhian Life & Philosophy", an on-spot painting competition and a quiz competition.

Students from all five degree colleges of the District including GDC Ramban, GDC Banihal, GDC Ukhral, GDC Gool and GDC Batote enthusiastically participated in the event, showcasing their creativity, knowledge and understanding of Gandhian values.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy

Commissioner highlighted the timeless relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's principles of truth, non-violence, tolerance and perseverance in contemporary society. He urged the students to imbibe these values in their daily lives and motivated them to work hard to achieve their goals and contribute positively to nation building. Later, he distributed medals and certificates among the winners of various competitions.

Speaking on the spirit of Sewa Parv, the Deputy Commissioner underlined that the fortnight-long celebration across the district aims to promote community service, social awareness and sustainable development through diverse activities and youth participation. Earlier, Principal GDC Ramban, Prof. Satish Kumar, welcomed the

DC Ramban as Chief Guest and briefed him about the series of activities organised by the College under Sewa Parv and Gandhi Jayanti celebrations. In the declamation contest, Rashida Beig (GDC Ramban), Neha Devi (GDC Batote) and Nishika Bhutyal (GDC Ramban) secured the first, second and third positions respectively. In painting, Hameera Arshad (GDC Gool), Junaid Khatib Ganaie (GDC Ramban) and Mobasher Ahmed (GDC Gool) bagged the top three spots. In the quiz competition, teams from GDC Ramban, GDC Batote and GDC Gool stood first, second and third respectively. The quiz was coordinated by Prof. Ram Parkash and Dr. Anuj Gupta. The formal vote of thanks was presented by Dr. Jawaid Sarver, while the programme was moderated by Dr. Vishal Balaria, HoD History.

Seva Parv-2025...

DC Srinagar Presides Over Mega Awareness/ Public Grievance Redressal Camp At Harwan

Hands-over sanction letters to beneficiaries under various govt. schemes; urges youth to avail benefits from Mission YUVA, other schemes

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Saturday presided over mega awareness cum public grievance redressal camp at Harwan, aimed at bringing governance to the grassroots and empowering citizens through on-the-spot redressal and awareness.

The mega awareness cum grievance redressal camp was attended by a large number of people from Harwan, Dara, Fakir Gujri, Darbagh, Mulfaq, Khimber, Syedpora, Shalimar and other adjoining areas.

Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildar North, BDO Harwan, BMO Hazratbal, and officers from Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development, J&K Bank and other Sectoral/Zonal officers of the district were also present on the occasion.

During the camp, DDC members, public delegations and scores of individuals projected various issues and demands before the DC along with other local development concerns.

After giving patient hearing to the



grievances and demands of the public, DC assured the people of Harwan block that all genuine demands and issues projected by them will be addressed on priority.

DC added that issues relating to the provision of a degree college, hospital, horticulture mandi, and jurisdictional matters will be taken up with higher authorities. He

also issued directions to concerned officers of line departments for timely resolution of public issues.

Addressing the gathering, DC urged the local youth to avail benefits from government schemes in Agriculture, Horticulture, and other self-employment initiatives under Mission YUVA and HADP to secure dignified livelihoods

for themselves and their families

During the camp, DC handed-over sanction letters under different schemes to the beneficiaries for the establishment of income-generating units, thereby promoting self-employment and financial independence among the local population. Earlier, DC inspected various stalls set up by departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Industries, Animal Husbandry, Health, Social Welfare, Employment, and Banks as part of Sewa Parv-2025, aimed to showcase Government flagship schemes and enable on-the-spot beneficiary registrations. DC also encouraged the participating students of a painting competition organized by School Education Department and felicitated the participants of a Cycling event held under Swachhta Hi Seva Hai, part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 activities.

Furthermore, DC led the participants in reciting the Swachhta Pledge, aligning with the broader objectives of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and the spirit of the Sewa Parv, which promotes volunteerism and community engagement. He emphasized the importance of individual accountability in maintaining cleanliness and conserving the environment.

Div Com Kashmir reviews flood mitigation plan

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Divisional Commissioner (Div Com) Kashmir, Anshul Garg convened a meeting of officers to review flood mitigation plan and river management.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner SMC, Fazlul Haseeb; VCLCMA, Chief Engineer I&FC besides other officers of ERA, JTRP, SDA, UEED & other concerned departments.

At the outset, I&FC officers gave a detailed presentation regarding Topography & Flood issues in Kashmir, Highest Yearly Gauge Recording at Sangam (1955 TO 2025),

September 2014 Flood & Rainfall Analysis, Flood Management Plan of Jhelum Basin,

Prioritization for Execution of Comprehensive Flood Management Plan Works after September 2014 Floods, CWC Recommendations on the CWPRS and EPTISA Model Findings.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on the diversion channel from Jhelum near

Sangam to Wular Lake, raising flood walls at selected locations in Srinagar, re-sectioning of Flood Spill Channel, choked portion of



Jhelum in Srinagar, Sediment Control basin(s) on identified Jhelum tributaries, Flood zoning and land use regulations besides erosion and sediment control measures on land.

Cultural programme on social issues held under Sewa Parv at Budgam



FE News Network

BUDGAM: District Information Centre Budgam, in collaboration with the Cultural Unit Kashmir of the Department of Information & Public Relations J&K, and the Chief Education Officer Budgam organized a cultural programme under the ongoing Sewa Parv theme.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of school children from various institutions across the district, alongside artists from the Cultural Unit Kashmir. Through a series of thought-provoking performances including skits, songs, and cultural items, the participants highlighted various pressing social issues such as the menace of drug abuse, dowry system, importance of girl education, cleanliness under Swachhta Abhiyan, and several other themes of social importance. Speaking on the occasion, District Information Officer Budgam, Erum Aziz Khan, underlined the significance of Sewa Parv and the need for every citizen to play a constructive role in society. She

said that Sewa Parv is not just a campaign but a collective responsibility, where people must selflessly come forward and contribute towards the betterment of the community. She stressed that activities focusing on awareness, cleanliness, education, and social harmony uplift society at large.

he also highlighted various social security schemes launched by the Government, urging school children to become ambassadors of change and to actively participate in awareness programmes under Sewa Parv. She emphasized that young minds, when nurtured with the values of service and responsibility, can play a pivotal role in shaping a progressive and drug-free society.

The programme was highly appreciated by the audience as it effectively combined art, culture, and social awareness to spread the message of service, responsibility, and community well-being in line with the objectives of Sewa Parv.

LG Sinha appeals tourists to visit 'crown jewel of India'

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday appealed to the people of the country to visit Jammu and Kashmir, saying the 'crown jewel of India' is a



cherished year-round destination that offers breathtaking beauty and unmatched hospitality.

The LG's appeal comes on World Tourism Day amidst a bleak tourism season in J-K.

"On World Tourism Day, I invite you all to visit Jammu and Kashmir. Blessed with stunning landscapes, a rich cultural heritage & unmatched hospitality, the crown jewel of India is a cherished year-round destination, offering breathtaking beauty & spiritual experience," the LG said in a post on X.

Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a sluggish tourism season in the aftermath of the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed. (PTI)

4th District Cooperative Development Committee meeting held at Budgam



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BUDGAM: The 4th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting was convened at Budgam under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Budgam, Mehraj-ud-Din Shah.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the agenda of making Primary Cooperative Societies economically vibrant entities. The officers discussed ways to strengthen the cooperative ecosystem in the district with special

focus on agriculture, dairy, and fisheries cooperatives.

ADC stressed on the timely updation of the National Cooperative Database, preparation of district-level plan for setting up new multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Dairy and Fishery Cooperative Societies, and ensuring that every Panchayat and village in Budgam is covered under the cooperative framework.

He directed the concerned officers to work in coordination with District Central Cooperative Banks,

and other block/district-level federations, so that linkages of existing and new cooperatives are effectively established.

Shah emphasized facilitating the registration of new cooperative societies, dovetailing of various Government of India schemes with PACS and primary cooperatives, and ensuring provision of infrastructure, logistics and land allotment where required.

The meeting also discussed steps for establishing district-level cooperative federations in coordination with the UT government, wherever feasible, and stressed the need for capacity building, financial inclusion, and viability assessments to strengthen grassroots cooperative institutions.

The ADC exhorted all stakeholders to extend full support for effective ground-level implementation of cooperative development plans and called for collective efforts to transform primary cooperatives into engines of rural economic growth in Budgam.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Budgam, Chief Agriculture Officer Budgam, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Budgam, Deputy Registrar Cooperatives Budgam, besides other concerned officers and stakeholders.

Pulwama District Administration Wins Public Praise for Proactive Governance and Transparent Development Efforts

Mushtaq Ul Islam

PULWAMA: District Administration Pulwama has garnered widespread praise from residents for its proactive and transparent approach towards development, public service delivery, and enforcement of law—setting a commendable benchmark in local governance.

District Mineral Officer (DMO) Dr. Khurshid has been at the forefront of these efforts, earning public appreciation for his uncompromising crackdown on illegal mining activities across the district. His firm and timely actions have not only curbed environmental degradation but have also ensured a steady and lawful supply of construction materials for various government projects. This has significantly improved the pace and quality of infrastructure development in the region.

Under Dr. Khurshid's active supervision, efforts of flood control department critical work such as the repair and reinforcement of River Jhelum's embankments in areas like Zoonipora, Pampore, and nearby localities has been completed efficiently. Residents have expressed deep gratitude for these efforts, recognizing the embankments as essential to safeguarding lives and property from seasonal floods. The timely completion of this work stands as a testament to the DMO's dedication and Junior Engineers



of Flood department's -oriented approach.

Equally noteworthy is the honest and diligent role played by the contractors engaged in the riverbank restoration project. Their transparent practices and commitment to quality have been widely acknowledged, setting an example for others involved in public works.

The leadership of District Development Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, has further strengthened the trust of the people in the district administration.

Known for his people-centric and responsive style of governance, Dr. Qayoom has

consistently prioritized public welfare, accessibility, and quick resolution of citizens' issues. His compassionate engagement with local communities has won admiration across all sections of society.

Together, the coordinated and efficient efforts of officials Dr. Basharat Qayoom have positioned the Pulwama district administration as a model of responsive governance and developmental commitment. Citizens view this phase of administration as a turning point towards long-term progress, environmental accountability, and institutional transparency in the region.

Sewa Parv-2025: DC Ganderbal presides over mega awareness/ grievance redressal camp at Kangan

Distributes sanction letters, revenue certificates, sports kits among beneficiaries; also inspects Sub District Hospital Kangan

FE News Network

GANDERBAL: As part of the ongoing fortnight-long Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, district administration Ganderbal organized a mega awareness-cum-grievance redressal camp at Kangan subdivision, which witnessed overwhelming participation of the general public.

The camp was presided over by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, who interacted with the locals and took stock of various developmental concerns and grievances raised by the people.

On the occasion, President Traders Association Kangan projected demands related to upgradation of basic amenities in Kangan market, including installation of street lights, addressing menace of stray dogs, improvement in drainage system, additional staff for J&K Bank, uninterrupted power supply.

Similarly, representatives from other areas raised issues such as maintenance of roads, macadamization of Kangan-Wangath road, development of parks, establishment of a Horticulture zone at Tehsil Gund, augmentation of potable water supply, removal of encroachments, poor mobile connectivity in Naranag, upgradation of school infrastructure in Naranag and Kawcherwan, and construction of check dams in flood-prone areas.

Addressing the public, DC gave on-spot directions to concerned departments for prompt redressal of grievances in a time-bound manner, reiterating the administration's commitment to provide basic facilities at people's doorsteps.

Regarding sanitation in Kangan market, DC assured that necessary measures would be taken to maintain cleanliness and sought the cooperation of locals in the drive.

During the camp, DC inspected departmental stalls, interacted with officials about on-spot registration of beneficiaries, and reviewed awareness activities regarding various Government schemes.

SWD Shopian Organizes Mega BBBP Programme

Chairperson DDC stresses upon community-level awareness & participation to make BBBP campaign successful

FE News Network

SHOPIAN: A grand Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme was organised by the Social Welfare department (SWD) here at Sports Stadium Batapora Shopian.

The function was presided over by Chairperson, DDC Shopian, Bilqees Jan and



Member Legislative Assembly (MLA), Shopian, Shabir Ahmed Kulley.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone; DDC members, Addl. SP, Dy. SP, Dy. LADC, DLSA, TSWO, Central Administrator, One Stop Centre for Women, District Mission Coordinator, BBBP, representatives from DLSA and officers/officials of SWD, police, students and others participated in the event.

DDC Chairperson, in her address, stressed upon community-level awareness and participation to make the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao campaign successful on the ground.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA underlined the need for collective social reform to eradicate gender bias and ensure equal opportunities for girls in every field.

ADDC spoke on the importance of the

BBBP programme, stressing on the need to empower the girl child and ensure gender equality and sensitise society towards women's rights and welfare.

Earlier, DSWO briefed about the objectives of the BBBP scheme and the initiatives being taken in Shopian to ensure the empowerment of the girl child through education, health

and protection.

Other speakers focused on issues of women empowerment, giving women the power to stand equal to men in every field, make their own decisions and live with respect and dignity. They further said that women should also be provided equal access to quality education so that they can become self-reliant and skilled, besides spreading awareness against gender discrimination. Representatives from DLSA highlighted the legal safeguards and rights available to women and girls under various laws and assured free legal aid to the needy.

They also urged parents to encourage their daughters to pursue education and career opportunities without hesitation, eliminating gender discrimination and ensuring safety and justice.

Editorial

Era of Peace and Progress

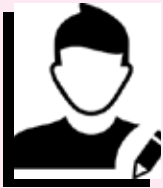
The metaphor used by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, Saturday is clear and significant. His statement that the ecosystem of subversive and anti-national elements in the Union Territory is in the “ICU” highlights a major shift that has been happening for several years. It shows not only the success of security operations but also a deep change in public sentiment. The LG’s follow-up call, to ensure these elements receive no “oxygen from any side” is the important next step that requires a united effort from society.

For decades, the story of Jammu and Kashmir was marked by violence and instability. Today, as LG Sinha pointed out, the focus is now on development and economic growth. The fact that J&K’s economy has doubled in the last five to six years, reflecting India’s status as the world’s fastest-growing economy, shows this change. The images of Tiranga rallies in Pulwama and Lal Chowk, areas once known for conflict, are strong reminders of this new reality. This progress, however, seems to be hard for some vested interests, both within and across the border, who continue their desperate attempts to provoke violence.

The LG rightly pointed out that “one dirty fish spoils the entire pond.” This highlights the responsibility of every citizen. The security forces are committed to protecting the innocent and punishing the guilty. The LG also mentioned two other key areas for a prosperous J&K, humanitarian service and environmental conservation. However, we cannot achieve lasting peace through force alone, it requires active participation from everyone. When influential figures choose to mislead instead of guide, they contribute to damaging the region’s future. The call for people to report suspicious activities is an appeal for society to stand against the threat of extremism.

The path ahead is clear. We must keep pursuing both development and a strict stance against terrorism. The people of J&K, having seen the benefits of peace, are becoming more involved in this effort. The message from the administration is clear: everyone is welcome to help build a developed Bharat, with J&K as a proud and essential part of it. The time of fear is giving way to a time of opportunity. Our current task is to ensure that the patient in the ICU, the lingering network of violence and hate, has no chance to recover. This way, the next generation can inherit a future filled with endless possibilities, not the conflicts of the past.

Forests: The Planet’s Breathing Apparatus



■ BY-MOOL RAJ

Forests, often described as the lungs of our planet, are indispensable to the health of our environment, weaving a complex tapestry of ecological, climatic, and societal benefits that sustain life as we know it. These vast expanses of greenery, teeming with biodiversity, serve as critical pillars in maintaining the delicate balance of Earth’s ecosystems. Their importance extends far beyond their aesthetic appeal or recreational value, touching every aspect of environmental stability, from regulating the climate to preserving soil integrity, purifying water, and fostering life in all its forms. In an era where environmental challenges like climate change, deforestation, and biodiversity loss dominate global discourse, understanding the multifaceted role of forests is not just an academic exercise but a clarion call for action to protect these vital ecosystems.

At the heart of forests’ environmental significance is their role in carbon sequestration. Trees absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere during photosynthesis, storing carbon in their biomass and releasing oxygen as a byproduct. This process acts as a natural buffer against climate change, mitigating the accumulation of greenhouse gases that drive global warming. A single mature tree can absorb significant amounts of carbon dioxide annually, while large forest systems, like the Amazon or the boreal forests of Canada and Russia, sequester billions of tons of carbon over their lifetimes. This capacity to act as carbon sinks makes forests indispensable in the fight against rising global temperatures. Without them, the concentration of greenhouse gases would accelerate at an alarming rate, exacerbating extreme weather patterns, rising sea levels, and disruptions to agricultural systems. Yet, this function is under threat as deforestation, driven by logging, agriculture, and urban expansion, releases stored carbon back into the atmosphere, turning these natural allies into sources of emissions.

Beyond their role in climate regulation, forests are vital to maintaining biodiversity, hosting an astonishing array of species that depend on these ecosystems for survival. From the towering canopies of tropical rainforests to the dense undergrowth of temperate woodlands, forests provide habitats for millions of plants, animals, fungi, and microorganisms. These ecosystems are not

just collections of species but intricate networks of interdependence, where each organism plays a role in maintaining the health of the whole. For instance, pollinators like bees and butterflies rely on forest flora, while predators like jaguars or wolves maintain ecological balance by controlling herbivore populations. The loss of even a single species can ripple through the ecosystem, disrupting food chains and weakening resilience. Tropical forests, which house over half of the world’s terrestrial biodiversity despite covering less than ten percent of the land surface, are particularly critical. Their destruction not only threatens countless species with extinction but also



diminishes the genetic diversity that underpins ecosystem adaptability and human advancements in medicine, agriculture, and technology.

Forests also play a crucial role in regulating the global water cycle, acting as natural sponges that manage water flow and quality. Tree roots absorb rainfall, reducing runoff and preventing soil erosion, while their canopies intercept precipitation, slowing its descent to the ground and allowing for gradual infiltration. This process stabilizes water tables, recharges aquifers, and ensures a steady supply of freshwater to rivers and streams. In regions like the Amazon, forests generate atmospheric moisture through transpiration, creating “flying rivers” that transport water vapor across continents, influencing rainfall patterns far beyond their borders. This hydrological function is vital for agriculture, as many farming regions depend on forest-driven rainfall. Moreover, forests act as natural filters, purifying water as it passes through layers of soil and roots, removing pollutants and sediments. In contrast, deforested areas often experience increased flooding, reduced water quality, and diminished groundwater reserves, underscoring the indispensable role of forests in water management.

Soil health, another cornerstone of

environmental stability, is deeply intertwined with forest ecosystems. Tree roots anchor soil, preventing erosion caused by wind and rain, while fallen leaves and organic matter enrich the soil with nutrients, fostering fertility. This process supports not only forest vegetation but also agricultural systems in surrounding areas. Deforestation disrupts this cycle, leading to soil degradation, desertification, and reduced agricultural productivity. In tropical regions, where soils are often nutrient-poor, the loss of forest cover can render land nearly unusable within a few years, as the thin layer of fertile topsoil washes away. By preserving forests, we safeguard the foundation of terrestrial ecosystems, ensuring that soils remain productive and capable of supporting both natural and human systems.

The cultural and economic dimensions of forests further amplify their environmental importance. Indigenous communities, who often serve as stewards of forested lands, rely on these ecosystems for their livelihoods, cultural practices, and spiritual beliefs. Their traditional knowledge of forest management offers valuable lessons in sustainable living, demonstrating how humans can coexist with nature rather than exploit it. Economically, forests provide timber, non-timber products like fruits and medicines, and ecotourism opportunities, all of which contribute to local and global economies. However, unsustainable exploitation threatens these benefits, as short-term gains from logging or land conversion often come at the expense of long-term environmental stability. Balancing economic needs with ecological preservation requires innovative approaches, such as reforestation, sustainable forestry, and payments for ecosystem services, which recognize the intrinsic value of forests beyond their immediate resources.

Forests also contribute to air quality and human health, filtering pollutants and producing oxygen that sustains life. Urban forests, though smaller in scale, provide shade, reduce heat islands, and improve mental well-being by offering spaces for recreation and connection with nature. In rural areas, forests buffer communities against environmental extremes, such as landslides or floods, by stabilizing landscapes. The psychological benefits of forests, often overlooked, are profound—studies show that time spent in green spaces reduces stress, enhances mood, and fosters a sense of connection to the natural world. As urbanization accelerates, these benefits become even more critical, highlighting the

need to integrate forests into planning and development.

The threats facing forests—deforestation, illegal logging, wildfires, and climate change—underscore the urgency of collective action. Deforestation alone accounts for a significant portion of global greenhouse gas emissions, rivaling the transportation sector. Climate change exacerbates these challenges, as rising temperatures and altered precipitation patterns weaken forest resilience, making them more susceptible to pests, diseases, and fires. Protecting forests requires a multifaceted approach: strengthening conservation policies, supporting reforestation initiatives, and promoting sustainable land-use practices. International cooperation is essential, as forests transcend national boundaries, and their benefits are global. Initiatives like REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) incentivize forest preservation by compensating countries for maintaining their forest cover, but these efforts must be scaled up and paired with grassroots action to be effective.

Public awareness and individual action are equally vital. Educating communities about the value of forests fosters a sense of responsibility, while choices like reducing paper consumption, supporting sustainably sourced products, and advocating for conservation policies amplify impact. Reforestation projects, even at a local level, can restore degraded landscapes, sequester carbon, and revive biodiversity. Urban tree-planting initiatives, meanwhile, bring the benefits of forests closer to home, enhancing cityscapes and improving quality of life. Every action counts, from planting a single tree to supporting global conservation efforts, as each contributes to the broader goal of environmental sustainability.

The importance of forests extends to their role as a bridge between present and future generations. They are not just resources but legacies, ensuring that the planet remains habitable for centuries to come. Their ability to regulate climate, sustain biodiversity, manage water, and enrich soils makes them indispensable to environmental stability. Yet, their survival depends on our willingness to prioritize long-term ecological health over short-term gains. By protecting and restoring forests, we invest in a future where clean air, abundant water, and thriving ecosystems are not luxuries but certainties. The stakes could not be higher—forests are not just part of our environment; they are its foundation, and their preservation is a shared responsibility that demands our attention, creativity, and commitment.

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Global Dialogue: Digital Communication from the Standpoint



DR. REYAZ AHMAD

In the rapidly evolving digital age, collaboration and communication have undergone a dramatic transformation. The widespread adoption of digital technologies has revolutionized the way individuals, businesses, educational institutions, and governments interact. From video conferencing to cloud-based project management tools, digital collaboration and communication have bridged geographical divides and created a global village. However, the trajectory and challenges of this digital transformation differ between regions, especially between India and other parts of the world.

The Global Landscape of Digital Collaboration

Globally, digital collaboration tools like Microsoft Teams, Zoom, Slack, Trello, and Google Workspace have become indispensable. Multinational corporations manage teams across time zones, educational institutions offer virtual learning environments, and governments use digital platforms for public service delivery. During the COVID-19 pandemic, digital communication became a lifeline, enabling businesses to function and individuals to stay connected.

Developed nations, with their robust infrastructure, high internet penetration, and advanced digital literacy, quickly adapted to these tools. Remote work, e-governance, and virtual education systems were seamlessly integrated into daily routines. Innovations in artificial intelligence, cloud computing, and 5G technologies continue to expand the scope of global digital collaboration.

The Indian Perspective: Growth, Challenges, and Opportunities

India’s journey in digital collaboration has

been remarkable, particularly in the last decade. Government initiatives like Digital India, BharatNet, and Startup India have laid the groundwork for a digitally connected society. The rise of platforms like JioMeet, Koo, and DigiLocker are examples of India’s ambition to

employment and economic opportunities.

However, challenges persist. Digital illiteracy, uneven internet penetration, language barriers, and infrastructure gaps—especially in rural areas—continue to hinder seamless digital communication. Cybersecurity threats and data



build indigenous alternatives to global digital giants.

In the education sector, platforms like SWAYAM and DIKSHA have enabled millions of students to continue learning, even in remote regions. Similarly, the rise of gig economy platforms (e.g., UrbanClap, Zomato, and Upwork) has demonstrated how digital collaboration fosters

privacy concerns also pose significant hurdles.

Steps Taken by the Government of India

The Government of India has recognized the strategic importance of digital collaboration in driving growth, inclusion, and governance. Several bold and structured steps have been taken:

1. Digital India Mission (2015): This

flagship initiative aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy. It focuses on digital infrastructure, digital services, and digital literacy for all citizens.

2. BharatNet Project: Aiming to provide high-speed broadband to over 250,000 Gram Panchayats (village councils), this project is the backbone for rural digital connectivity and collaboration.

3. PMGDISHA (Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan): A nationwide campaign to make at least one person per household digitally literate in rural areas, empowering citizens to participate in the digital economy.

4. National Policy on Software Products (2019): Encourages the creation of a vibrant Indian software product industry, including digital communication tools that are Made-in-India and Made-for-India.

5. UMANG App (Unified Mobile Application for New-age Governance): Integrates over 1,200 government services on one digital platform, allowing citizens to collaborate and communicate with the government seamlessly.

6. E-office and E-governance Platforms: Ministries and departments are increasingly adopting paperless workflows, enabling inter-departmental digital collaboration and transparency.

7. 5G and AI Initiatives: The government is promoting 5G adoption and AI integration to ensure India remains competitive in next-generation digital collaboration and communication technologies.

These steps underscore India’s strong and serious realization of the importance of digital transformation, not just as a tool for convenience, but as a means to empower its people and reshape its economy.

Comparative Insights: India vs. the World

- Access and Infrastructure: While developed countries enjoy near-universal high-speed internet access, India still grapples with rural-urban divides in connectivity.

- Language and Localization: India’s multilingual diversity requires platforms to support vernacular content—unlike many global platforms that primarily use English.

- Digital Culture: In Western countries, digital collaboration has been ingrained for years. In India, the shift is more recent and often met with a learning curve, especially among older or less-educated demographics.

- Policy and Regulation: Countries like the EU have stringent data protection laws (e.g., GDPR), whereas India is still in the process of refining its data governance framework.

The Road Ahead

India is poised to be a major player in the digital collaboration space. With its young population, booming IT industry, and government support, the future is promising. To truly compete on a global level, India must:

- Strengthen digital infrastructure across all regions.
- Promote multilingual, user-friendly tools.
- Increase digital literacy through grassroots initiatives.

- Enforce stronger cybersecurity and data protection regulations.

Globally, as digital collaboration becomes more immersive—with the integration of metaverse technologies, virtual reality, and AI—the focus will shift to ethical use, inclusion, and sustainability.

Conclusion

Digital collaboration and communication have become central to how we work, learn, and interact. While global platforms lead in innovation, India is rapidly catching up with homegrown solutions and adaptive strategies. The Government of India’s proactive policies and technological investments are a clear sign of its commitment to building a robust digital ecosystem. The goal, both in India and worldwide, is to create an equitable digital environment that bridges divides and empowers all. The future of digital collaboration lies in inclusivity, adaptability, and cross-cultural understanding, and both India and the global community have pivotal roles to play in shaping that future.

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Chief Secretary Reviews Developmental scenario In Anantnag

FE NEWS NETWORK

Calls for effective implementation of self-employment initiatives

Emphasizes quality education and improved service delivery in key sectors

ANANTNAG: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo visited Anantnag and chaired a comprehensive meeting with the concerned officers at Dak Bangalow Khanabal to review the overall developmental scenario of the district along with the implementation of various government schemes and welfare initiatives.

Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, SF Hamid, Principal, GMC Anantnag; ADCs; DPO; GM, DIC; ACR; ACD; SDMs, and other district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner presented an overview of the overall developmental landscape and welfare schemes besides the progress on deliverables and key initiatives like Mission Yuva, NMBA, TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyaan, HADP, PMSGMBY, and JK

Samadhan, among others, of the district. He briefed the chair about the status of beneficiary schemes in different departments, along with the progress

benefits to the people. He noted that schemes and programmes such as PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojna, PM Vishwakarma, Mission Yuva, and HADP

the concerned officers to ensure effective implementation of self-employment schemes, adding that banks should ease the credit lending process in order to



of ongoing infrastructural projects in Health, Education, RDD, R&B, PHE, Power, and other key sectors.

Addressing the meeting, the Chief Secretary instructed the officers to ensure effective implementation and saturation of various Central and UT-sponsored schemes, especially in Health, Education, Social Welfare, Horticulture, and Agriculture, adding that their time-bound execution is vital for extending essential

are beneficial, and that the concerned departments should strive to extend their benefits to the citizens.

While reviewing the health and education sectors, the Chief Secretary remarked that appreciable progress has been made in building infrastructure; however, the quality of education and health care must be prioritised to achieve further improvement in these key sectors.

The Chief Secretary impressed upon

generate meaningful livelihoods for youth.

Recognising the potential of the district in agriculture and allied sectors, the Chief Secretary stressed that the concerned departments shall ensure enhanced productivity and the establishment of profitable and sustainable units across the district to generate sustainable livelihood for the youth here.

Sewa Parv Day-11: DC Pulwama attends Udyam YUVA fest

FE NEWS NETWORK

Urges youth to become job providers instead of job seekers

PULWAMA: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv celebrations, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, attended the Udyam YUVA fest at Pulwama, organised by the Employment department in collaboration with ITI Pulwama.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of ITI students enrolled in different courses, as well as alumni who have successfully completed skill-based training programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said that entrepreneurship is a gateway for youth to transform their energy and ideas into productive ventures. He encouraged young people to become job providers instead of job seekers and stressed that new ideas and skills will shape the future of Pulwama and help the whole society progress.

Dr. Qayoom further informed the gathering that Mission YUVA is designed to transform local youth into successful entrepreneurs by providing not only financial assistance but also continuous mentoring and handholding support. He highlighted that a door-to-door comprehensive survey has already been conducted across Pulwama to identify potential entrepreneurs and

enterprises and for further handholding different committees such as YUVA Doots at Panchayat Level, Business Help Desks (BHDs) at block level and Small Business Development Unit



(SBDU) at district level have already been constituted.

He further directed officials to develop curated and skill-oriented courses regarding Mission YUVA initiative, so that the training is directly linked with emerging livelihood opportunities and market demand.

On the occasion, ITI alumni also shared their entrepreneurship journeys, motivating current students to pursue innovation, self-reliance, and enterprise building. A Mission YUVA Facilitation Zone was also set up at the venue to provide participants awareness about the scheme, handholding support for applications, and on-the-spot grievance redressal.

The two-day fest featured a range of activities. On the first day,

competitions such as quiz, essay writing, speech, and painting were organised on themes including entrepreneurship, financial literacy, Mission YUVA, and the future of youth-led enterprises.

Earlier, Superintendent ITI Pulwama, in his address, informed the gathering about the wide range of courses offered by the institute in various trades. He further mentioned that two special batches under Mission YUVA have already been completed and the process for launching additional batches is underway.

Later, Dr. Qayoom distributed certificates and cash prizes among the winners of the competitions, appreciating their talent and creativity.

Meanwhile, as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv activities across the district, plantation drives, cleanliness drives, and awareness camps continued with active community participation. Special assemblies were also organised in schools, where students took a pledge to develop Green School Campuses by protecting the environment and adopting eco-friendly habits.

In addition, under the Swasth Nari Sashakt Parivar Abhiyan, free medical camps were organised at PHCs, CHCs, and Ayushman Arogya Mandirs. These camps provided free screening for anaemia, tuberculosis, sickle cell disease, blood pressure, and other lifestyle-related illnesses, along with

Javid Dar inaugurates District Level U-19 Cricket Tournament at Baramulla

FE NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: Minister for Agriculture Production, Animal & Sheep Husbandry, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, and Election departments,



Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated the Inter-School/Inter-Zonal District Level Under-19 Cricket Tournament (Boys) at Showkat Ali Stadium, Khawaja Bagh, here.

The tournament was declared open by the Minister in presence of Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport Department, Satish Sharma; MLA, Wagoora-Kreeri,

Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone and MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar.

Addressing the gathering, Minister Javid Dar underlined the importance of sports in developing physical fitness, discipline, team spirit and leadership among the youth. He reiterated the government's commitment to strengthen the sports ecosystem at the grassroots level and provide ample opportunities for young players to excel.

Speaking on the occasion, Sports Minister Satish Sharma highlighted the department's initiatives to promote sports culture across Jammu and Kashmir. He said that regular tournaments in various disciplines are being organized to encourage mass participation of students, adding that such events help nurture young talent and contribute to building a healthier and more vibrant future generation.

On the occasion, the Ministers also distributed sports kits and equipment among students from 18 zones of the district and felicitated students who performed in the cultural programme.

During the inaugural ceremony, students presented colourful cultural performances showcasing the vibrancy and talent of Baramulla's youth.

Orientation session for Principals, ZEOs & Headmasters held to strengthen Vidya Samiksha Kendra initiatives

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SRINAGAR: A comprehensive orientation session for Principals, Zonal Education Officers, Headmasters, and Zonal Nodal Officers of Vidya Samiksha Kendra was held at the auditorium of GGHSS Kothibagh.

The session organized by Chief Education Officer Srinagar, aimed to enhance the implementation of data-driven educational initiatives under the Vidya Samiksha Kendra, a transformative program by the School Education department and Literacy to revolutionize educational outcomes through advanced data integration and analysis.

The session was attended by Chief Education Officer Srinagar, Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Bhat; District Education Planning Officer, Srinagar, Anjum Raja; Incharge Samagra Shiksha, District Cultural Coordinator, DNO and ZNOs of VSK from all eight zones of Srinagar.

In his address, CEO Srinagar emphasized



the transformative potential of Vidya Samiksha Kendra, which integrates systems like UDISE, NAS, and DIKSHA to monitor and improve the performance of schools, teachers, and students.

He underscored VSK's role in promoting data-driven decision-making through comprehensive data analysis, artificial intelligence, and machine learning to enhance student learning outcomes, teacher accountability, and resource optimization.

He issued strict directives to Cluster Heads, ZEOs, and Headmasters to ensure 100% compliance with daily student attendance submission on the JK Attendance Chatbot and weekly practice tests for students from Classes 1 to 8 on the JK Study Buddy Chatbot.

He urged Heads of Institutions (Hols) to analyze average scores to track students' educational progress and collaborate with teachers to adopt innovative teaching methodologies to improve learning outcomes.

Anjum Raja, DEPO Srinagar, provided an overview of the progress made under VSK, highlighting key achievements in data updation of students and teachers, daily attendance submission on the JK Attendance Chatbot, and metrics related to student registrations, practice tests conducted, and average scores on the JK Study Buddy Chatbot.

A technical session by DNO Vidya Samiksha Kendra Srinagar, demonstrated the user-friendly features of the JK Study Buddy Chatbot and its supporting videos, which are designed to elevate students' learning levels.

A detailed presentation on VSK's operations highlighted how students scores can be used to track class-wise learning outcomes, enabling teachers to design effective teaching strategies. The session also included an interactive segment where participants raised technical queries, which were promptly addressed by DNO.

Dr Jitendra Singh Directs Administration To Expedite Kishtwar Relief, Rehabilitation Work

FE NEWS NETWORK

DODA: Union Minister Dr Jitendra Singh reviewed the implementation of Modi government's flagship schemes like Jal Jeevan Mission, PMAY, PMGSY, PM-Kisan and Sansad Khel Spardha in Kishtwar district.

The Minister directs the administration to expedite relief, rehabilitation works in the aftermath of recent cloudbursts and flash floods.

The Union Minister told the Deputy Commissioner to project requirement of funds under Central Road and Infrastructure Fund for Kishtwar so that allocation is made for the district by Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Dr Jitendra Singh highlighted the importance of addressing public grievances, improving health and education infrastructure, and strengthening livelihood opportunities for the youth through skill development



While chairing the DISHA meeting with the entire district administration led by Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kumar Sharma, Dr Jitendra Singh said effective delivery of essential supplies like water and power must be the top priority of the administration, with special focus on far-flung parts of Kishtwar. He said steps must be taken to ensure ease of living for common masses. He said the Modi government is focussed on improving the lives of citizens.

Dr Jitendra Singh reiterated that public representatives should accompany district officers during their visits to rural habitations. He said their coordination would help address public issues more effectively and in a time-bound manner.

During the meeting, Dr Jitendra Singh assured that he would take up with the Ministry of Civil Aviation construction of the air strip in Kishtwar under Udaan scheme sooner. He asked the Deputy Commissioner to furnish a report on the status of the air strip for which a proposal has already been approved by the Government of India. He said with the development of a full-fledged airstrip, the district would get round-the-year facility, especially during harsh winter season.

and entrepreneurship initiatives. He urged the district administration to conduct training programmes for upskilling of the local youth who can be engaged in the ongoing projects of the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation (NHPC) in the district.

The Minister also called for creating awareness about Sansad Khel Spardha youth. He said camps should be organised for on-the-spot enrolment of interested youth in the coming days. The Minister said the scheme offers sports persons an opportunity to participate in competitions at the national level.

The Deputy Commissioner gave a presentation on the implementation of various schemes. He informed that 100 per cent targets have been met under PMAY (Gramin). He said 120.48 crore rupees have been disbursed to farmers under PM Kisan and 147.34 crore under Kisan Credit card scheme. He also informed that under PM Surya Ghar scheme, subsidy has been disbursed to 208 beneficiaries so far.

Today's DISHA meeting was attended among others by the Leader of the Opposition in J&K Assembly and MLA, Padder-Nagseni, Sunil Sharma; DDC members from Bonjwah, Nagseni, Drabshalla A, Drabshalla B and NHPC officials.

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Employment deptt Kashmir organizes Flag Rally, raises awareness on Mission YUVA scheme at Pokhribal Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: In pursuance with the observation of 'Sewa Parv - 2025,' Employment deptt Kashmir organized a Flag Rally (Water Sports) event with the objective of promoting the spirit of service, physical fitness, raising environmental awareness and community participation at Boat Club Pokhribal, Kathi Darwaza, Srinagar.

More than 250 participants from across all the districts of Kashmir Valley took part in a range of exciting water-based activities including Kayaking, Canoeing, Ergometer Race, Paddle boating etc. and witnessed an active involvement from students, local residents, sports enthusiasts.

The event is organized to create awareness about Mission YUVA which is a flagship initiative aimed to transform Jammu & Kashmir into a thriving hub for entrepreneurship and employment by fostering an entrepreneurial mindset and empowering individuals to drive economic growth and self-reliance in J&K, unlocking its inherent potential for transition towards sustainable economy, livelihood and empowered youth.

Mission YUVA ensures financial aid, skill-building, and market linkages for entrepreneurs while simplifying access to government schemes.

The programme concluded with the distribution of certificates and prizes to the winners and participants



LG Sinha

security review and discussion in UHQ meeting, the Lieutenant Governor announced the reopening of 12 tourist destinations across Jammu Kashmir, which were temporarily closed as precautionary measures after the heinous April 22 Pahalgam terror attack which left 26 civilians, mostly tourists dead. Of these tourist spots and religious places, 5 are in Jammu and 7 in Kashmir Division. Aru Valley, Rafting Point Yanner, Akkad Park, Padshahi Park Bijbehara, Dara Shikoh Garden in Anantnag, Kaman Post, Eco-Park Khadniyar. (DIPR)

Terrorists

The IG further outlined the challenges associated with the upcoming winter months, highlighting the continued presence of terrorist training camps across the border. These camps, located opposite sectors such as Bandipora, Kupwara, and Baramulla, are under close observation, he said.

Yadav said the forces are monitoring these activities carefully to prevent any disturbances to peace in the area.

Regarding changes in infiltration tactics, the IGP BSF said terrorists are now minimising their communication to evade detection. This, he said, has made intelligence gathering more complex. “However, agencies are carefully analysing every piece of information, which assists in tracking terrorists and uncovering their hideouts,” he added.

The IG said BSF has implemented a layered security approach that includes tools such as thermal imaging, ground sensors, night patrols, and coordinated operations with the Army. This cooperation among different forces has enhanced their ability to respond swiftly and effectively to any infiltration bids, he said.

Meanwhile, the BSF, in a statement, said the Kashmir Frontier will host the “Save Wular Run with Borderman” marathon on October 12, 2025, as part of its environmental preservation initiative.

The event aims to promote environmental awareness, strengthen ties with the local community, and encourage youth to focus on constructive activities.

The T-shirt for the marathon was unveiled at the Hangul Officer’s Institute, BSF Frontier HQ Humhama, in the presence of senior officials, including IG Ashok Yadav, IG Shashank Anand, IG Solomon Minz, and ADG Satish S Khandare.

The marathon will feature 5 km, 10 km, and 21.1 km races, open to all participants, with free registration already underway. Around 3,000 runners from across the country, especially the Kashmir Valley, are expected to take part.

The BSF added that the event will help identify local talent and sponsor them under the Khelo India scheme for further training and participation in national and international competitions—(KNO)

LG Sinha

Reorganization Act, 2019, has summoned the Jammu and Kashmir legislative Assembly to meet at Srinagar on Thursday, the 23rd October, 2025 at 10.00 AM.

The summon further reads that in terms of Rule 3 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, all the Members are requested to kindly make it convenient to attend the Session of the Legislative Assembly on the appointed date, time and place. (DIPR)

Govt Building

maintained that this Mega Job Fair under Mission YUVA stands as a milestone in the government’s continued efforts to equip the youth of Jammu & Kashmir with the tools, resources, and opportunities necessary to succeed in a rapidly evolving socio-economic landscape.

Deputy Chief Minister said that Mission YUVA is a flagship and first-of-its-kind initiative of the J&K government, envisioned to holistically empower the youths by providing a robust ecosystem for employment, entrepreneurship, and skill development.

He added that it offers strong institutional support and financial assistance under credit-linked schemes to support new and existing enterprises, capacity building for entrepreneurial and employability skills, career counseling, guidance, market linkage, etc.

The Job Fair attracted an overwhelming response with over 2,200 job seekers in attendance and more than 55 prominent companies participating, collectively offering 1,500+ vacancies across various sectors such as IT, manufacturing, finance, retail, and healthcare. The fair served as a dynamic platform for employment generation, bridging the gap between skilled youth and potential employers.

A major highlight of the event was the inauguration of the three major Platforms on Mission YUVA app and Portal by the Deputy Chief Minister viz Online Job Matching Platform, enabling the job search and recruitment process through real-time interaction between employers and job seekers, Enterprise Mentorship Initiative providing mentorship to budding entrepreneurs and ONDC-based E-commerce platform enabling enterprises to showcase and sell their goods online across wider markets.

Nearly 83 Employers, 17 job posts and 631 applications submitted on Online Job Matching Platform and about 228 Enterprises applied for mentorship under Enterprise Mentorship Initiative till date.

The event also marked a significant step toward entrepreneurship promotion in the region, with sanction letters handed over to 55 young entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA’s credit-linked schemes. These beneficiaries will be establishing ventures under the Nano Enterprises and Business Acceleration of Existing Enterprises categories, transforming their ideas into sustainable businesses with financial and institutional support.

The occasion also saw the culmination of the YUVA UDHYAM FEST, a celebration of youth potential through various competitions such as speech, essay writing, painting, and quiz. Twenty-four outstanding

youth were felicitated by the Deputy Chief Minister with cash prizes and certificates in recognition of their talent and creativity. A total of 264 students were declared winners in the FEST throughout the UT.

At the outset, Shahzad Alam, Director Employment and Managing Director of Mission YUVA, in his welcome address, provided an insightful overview of the various components and the vision behind the initiative. The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Paramjeet Singh Joint Director Employment, Jammu. (DIPR)

Matter Of Pride

Jammu is in the top 60 engineering institutes in India,” he added.

Union MoS Singh added that a research park, like in IIT Madras, will also be established at IIT Jammu.

“A research park will also be established here, which will be a new concept for North India. The first research park was established in IIT Madras,” he said. (PTI)

LG Sinha

sanctioning the construction of 5,061 houses, saying it would bring back safety and stability in the lives of the affected families.

“Grateful to Hon’ble PM Shri @Narendramodi Ji & Hon’ble Union Minister of Rural Development, Shri @ChouhanShivraj Ji for sanctioning the construction of 5,061 houses which were damaged due to the recent natural calamities across rural areas of J&K,” the LG said on X.

He said this approval under special project of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin will bring back safety and stability in the lives of thousands of households.

“A new home will enable the families to regain the economic stability significantly improving the family’s well-being,” he added.

Traders Hail

other destinations are cleared and reopened at the earliest. The entire tourism chain depends on the full revival of these spots,” he told KNO.

The trade bodies said that the continued closure of other sites, shut since April 22 after the Pahalgam attack, should also be lifted. “Hotels, houseboats, guest houses and transporters are reporting negligible occupancy and earnings. Traders, artisans, ponywalas, shikarwalas and guides are equally affected. The losses are mounting by the day,” the Chamber noted.

Traders linked with handicrafts and travel also pressed for a broader revival package. “We need marketing campaigns and special incentives for businesses linked to tourism. Without comprehensive support, the sector will take much longer to recover,” a Srinagar-based trader told KNO.

The Chambers also reiterated their commitment to work with the government and stakeholders. “Tourism remains a key pillar of J&K’s economy and a lifeline for thousands. We will continue to extend full cooperation to strengthen it further,” they said—(KNO)

Vision

hand to decisively crush the terrorists and their sympathisers,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

Brajesh Kumar Singh, Group Editor-Convergence, Network 18 Group, editors and members of Network 18 Group; senior officials of Army, Civil and Police administration, representatives of various NGOs and prominent citizens from different walks of life attended the felicitation ceremony. (DIPR)

Sonam Wangchuk

hijack the platform and tried to scupper the dialogue between the Centre and Ladakh representatives.

The Centre has invited the leaders for a fresh round of talks on October 6.

Jamwal said Wangchuk continued his hunger strike, despite knowing that an informal meeting between the two sides was going to take place on September 25.

“Just a day before the informal meeting, a deliberate attempt was made to vitiate the peaceful atmosphere through provocative videos and statements which culminated with violence on Wednesday and unfortunate deaths,” he said.

On Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta’s remarks about foreign conspiracy in Wednesday’s violence, he said three Nepal citizens were admitted to the hospital with bullet injuries and involvement of some others have also come to light.

He said, in all, 50 people have been taken into custody in connection with Wednesday’s violence. At least, half-a-dozen of them are suspected to be ringleaders, he said.

“Obviously, Wangchuk, who was the main instigator, has been lodged in an outside jail,” the DGP said. (PTI)

Pak Military

“composite, comprehensive and result-oriented” dialogue with India on all outstanding issues, as he criticised New Delhi over the situation in Kashmir. Sharif praised Trump, saying his “efforts for peace helped avert a ... war in South Asia”.

“In recognition of President Trump’s wonderful and outstanding contribution to promote peace in our part of the world, Pakistan nominated him for the Nobel Peace Prize. This is the least we could do ... I think he truly is a man of peace,” he said.

India targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir as part of Operation Sindoor launched on May 7 in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 civilians.

India has consistently maintained that the understanding on cessation of hostilities with Pakistan was reached following direct talks between the Directors General of Military Operations of the two militaries. (PTI)

Promotion of PETs, special packages for ReK on cards: Satish Sharma

SRINAGAR: Minister for Sports and Youth Affairs, Satish Sharma, on Saturday said that the government is moving forward with long-pending promotions for physical education teachers, seeking a special package for Rehbar-e-Taleem (ReT) employees.

He also said that the government is working to fill gaps in sports infrastructure, while stepping up measures to ensure uninterrupted winter supplies across Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking at an event in Baramulla, Sharma, said the long-pending promotions of physical education teachers (PET) are under scrutiny and assured that “every teacher will receive what they deserve.”

He further stated that the government has sought a special package for Rehbar-e-Khel employees from the Centre. “Like flood-affected areas, we are hopeful of receiving a package to address employment and wage-related challenges under the Rehbar-e-Khel,” he added.

About sports development, Sharma said that the government is actively working to fill gaps in sports infrastructure in a phased manner. “Under the directions of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the projects have been identified at multiple levels. We urge local authorities and residents to provide land where necessary, so new facilities can be established,” he said.

The Minister also highlighted initiatives to promote winter sports, marathons and other youth activities, aimed at channelling young people’s energy into constructive avenues and professional opportunities.

On the issue of essential commodities, Sharma said the government has stepped up measures to ensure smooth winter supply. “Winter stocking of LPG and other essentials has been prioritized. Despite natural calamities and highway blockades, agencies have been instructed to ensure uninterrupted supply throughout the Valley,” he said.

The Minister also addressed public safety concerns, particularly road accidents. “Life is precious and awareness is crucial. The Government of India has announced financial assistance for those who transport injured accident victims to hospitals and we will ensure this provision is effectively implemented here,” he added—(KNO)

World Tourism Day 2025 celebrated at Patnitop with focus on sustainable transformation

UDHAMPUR: In a vibrant display of community and environmental stewardship, Patnitop Development Authority celebrated World Tourism Day 2025 with a series of events centered on this year’s theme “Tourism & Sustainable Transformation.”

The celebration brought together various government departments, local stakeholders, and members of the public and tourists to highlight the importance of responsible tourism and ecological preservation.

The day’s events included an Eco Walk, a Painting Competition, a Sanitation Drive, and a Plantation Drive, all designed to foster a greater appreciation for the region’s natural beauty and promote sustainable practices.

The Chief Executive Officer, Patnitop Development Authority along with SDM Chenani and Tehsildar Chenani and Accounts Officer, PDA officially flagged off the Eco Walk event, setting the tone for a day dedicated to environmental consciousness.

The presence of key officials from the local administration underscored the importance of the collaborative partnership between the PDA and the District Administration Udhampur in promoting sustainable tourism.

Chief Executive Officer Patnitop Development Authority Virender Kumar Manyal spoke passionately about the significance of the event. He provided a detailed overview of the day’s activities and underscored the critical role that sustainable tourism plays in the long-term prosperity of the region.

He emphasized that the “Tourism & Sustainable Transformation” theme is particularly relevant to Patnitop, as it calls for a collective effort to preserve its pristine environment for future generations. The CEO highlighted the collaborative spirit that made the event possible, thanking all participating organizations for their unwavering support.

A key highlight of the celebration was the Painting Competition, which saw enthusiastic participation from students of Government High School (GHS), Karlah.

The young students expressed their creativity and understanding of the event’s theme through their vibrant artwork. Prizes were awarded to the top three winners, with first, second, and third place prizes distributed among the talented students and all other students were awarded a certificate of participation. In a heartwarming moment, a special prize was also given to a pre-nursery student for her exceptional and inspiring painting, showcasing that a love for art and nature can start at any age.

The event was a collaborative effort, organized by the Patnitop Development Authority in association with the Directorate of Tourism Jammu, District Administration Udhampur, Forest Department, Hoteliers, other stakeholders of Patnitop, and tourists to ensure its success. This multi-agency collaboration showcased a shared commitment to developing tourism in a way that benefits both the local economy and the environment.

The hands-on participation in the Sanitation and Plantation Drives further solidified this commitment, with participants working together to clean up designated areas and plant new trees.

The CEO PDA extended his sincere gratitude to Saloni Rai, Deputy Commissioner Udhampur and Vikas Gupta, Director Tourism Jammu, for their crucial support in making the celebration a resounding success. Their leadership and assistance were instrumental in orchestrating the event. (DIPR)

Sewa Parv 2025 celebrated across Doda District with Multi-Sector activities

DODA: As part of the ongoing nationwide Sewa Parv campaign, a series of events and initiatives were today organized across Doda district with active participation from various departments, schools, and institutions. The celebrations focused on promoting community service, environmental sustainability, health awareness and youth empowerment.

The District Employment & Counselling Centre, under Mission Yuva, hosted the Udyam Yuva Fest 2025 at Town Hall Doda, with Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh as the Chief Guest. The fest inspired youth towards self-

reliance, entrepreneurship and innovation through Yuva Career Compass, Facilitation Zones and Skill Expo Stalls.

A Swachhta pledge was also administered, while students from schools, colleges, Polytechnic and ITIs showcased their talent and entrepreneurial ideas. Winners were felicitated by the DC at the conclusion of the event.

Educational institutions also marked the occasion with enthusiasm. GHSS Dradhu and GHSS Malothi organized Green School pledge-taking ceremonies, where students and staff committed themselves to environmental protection, cleanliness and sustainable practices.

The Health Department, under the leadership of CMO Dr. Om Kumar, organized health outreach camps at Assar, Bhaderwah, Ghat and other blocks. Services included free medicines, immunization, TB and NCD screening, Hb testing, menstrual hygiene awareness, hand-washing demonstrations and ABHA card generation.

The Ayush and Agriculture Departments also contributed through awareness drives, wellness activities and farmer-focused programs promoting sustainable agricultural practices and herbal medicine awareness. Collectively, these initiatives reflected the true spirit of Sewa Parv—service to society, service to nation—by strengthening health, education, environment and youth development across the district. (DIPR)

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER SRINAGAR

Old Secretariat, Jahangir Chowk Srinagar

Subject: Notification for inviting fresh applications from the deserving candidate/ Class IV employees (Orderlies/Jamadars) for conducting of Type Test under the relevant rules framed under SRO-20 of 1992 amended vide SO-334 of 2022.

NOTIFICATION

In pursuance to the circular issued by the Government vide no, 15-HME of 2024 dated: 24-06-2024 forwarded by director Health Services Kashmir vide communication no. DHSK/Est/NG/E-7509487/5814-48 Dated: 27-06-2024 for implementation of Jammu and Kashmir decentralization and Recruitment Act/Rules-2010, where under DDO's/CMO has been authorized to conduct the DPC for District Cadre posts (non-Gazetted) including Type test, accordingly in pursuance of the same, Fresh application are inviting from the deserving candidate for conducting of Type Test under the relevant rules framed under SRO-20 of 1992 recently amended as SO-334 of 2022.

Therefore, all the deserving Matriculate Class IV employees (Orderly/Jamadar) are invited to file the fresh representation through their controlling officers/DDO/ZMO's within seven days positively for further course of action under rules In vogue.

Sd/- Chief Medical Officer Srinagar

No: CMOS/TT/Notif./4106-15
Dated: 19-09-2025
DIPK-6625/25 Dt: 27-09-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore

Short term e-Tender

NIT No: PHE/MDNS/NIT/E-21 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Lieutenant Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, sealed e-tenders in two covers are invited from experienced, reputed and registered firms/ genuine manufacturer/authorized distributors/ dealers/ workshop holders / SSI Unit holders for the following work:

S. No.	Name of work	Cost of tender document	Estimated Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest money	Time of completion	Programme Head	Technical Sanction No.	AAA No. and Date
1.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of submersible pumping unit of 5000 GPH, 120 M head and MUG 30 for WSS Shishermari Kupwara under District-Capex	Rs 100.00	Rs 1.30		45 Days	District Capex	11 of 09/2025	
2.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of submersible pumping unit of 3000 GPH, 50 M head with corresponding head motor and MUG 20 for WSS Drugmulla Old under District-Capex	Rs 100.00	Rs 1.00		--do--	--do--	12 of 09/2025	
3.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of submersible pumping unit of 4000 GPH, 130 M head and 100 KVA Voltage stabilizer and allied works for WSS Lassipora under District-Capex.	Rs 100.00	Rs 2.39		--do--	--do--	13 of 09/2025	
4.	Providing, fitting, testing and commissioning of 75 KVA Voltage stabilizer and MUG 30 and other allied works for WSS Kupwara under District-Capex.	Rs 100.00	Rs 1.65	02% of the estimated cost	--do--	--do--	14 of 09/2025	95-DDCK of 2025, 28-08-2025
5.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of single phase submersible pumping unit of 1000 GPH, 90 M head with corresponding head motor and desired switch gear protection equipment along with cable, MCCB and 10KVA manual voltage stabilizer at WSS Krumbhoora under District Capex	Rs 100.00	Rs 0.86		--do--	--do--	15 of 09/2025	
6.	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of open well submersible pumping unit of 10000GPH, 45M Head for WSS Jaggerpora under District-Capex	Rs 100.00	Rs 0.65		--do--	--do--	16 of 09/2025	
7.	Supply installation, testing and commissioning of Automatic FASD Starter MUG-50 for WSS Nagri Shatwari under District Capex.	Rs 100.00	Rs 0.65		--do--	--do--	17 of 09/2025	
8.	Supply installation, testing and commissioning of submersible pumping unit of 3000GPH, 130M head with corresponding head motor with allied works for WSS Magam Danastan under District Capex	Rs 100.00	Rs 1.50		--do--	--do--	18 of 09/2025	
The tenders consisting of qualifying/eligibility criteria, technical specifications, general and commercial terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website https://iktenders.gov.in from 24-09-2025 (04:00 pm) . The bids shall be submitted in electronic format on the website https://iktenders.gov.in from 24-09-2025 (04:00 pm) to 02-10-2025 (6:55 pm) . Prequalification bids shall be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North) Sopore on 03-10-2025 at 02:00 pm after which the financial bids of qualifying bidders shall be opened. In case offices happen to be closed due to holiday, or any other reason, on the schedule date of opening, the bids will be opened on the next working day. The complete bidding shall be online. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 180 days from the date of opening of bids.								

No. PHE/MDNS/DB/3397-3402
Dated: 24-09-2025

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (PHE) Mechanical Division (North)
Sopore

DIPK-6590/25 Dt: 27-09-2025

Ministry of Tourism Marks World Tourism Day with Focus on Sustainable Transformation

NEW DELHI: The Ministry of Tourism celebrated World Tourism Day 2025 on Saturday with the theme “Tourism and Sustainable Transformation,” bringing together stakeholders from government, industry, academia, and civil society. The event reaffirmed India’s commitment to cultural exchange, economic growth, and sustainable practices in the tourism sector.

According to PIB, the celebration was held in New Delhi and was graced by Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog, as the Chief Guest.

Suresh Gopi, Minister of State for Tourism, Petroleum and Natural Gas, presided over the programme. Shri Suman Billa, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, welcomed the participants.

In his address, Suman Bery said that tourism is not just leisure but a driver of economic transformation, environmental stewardship, and social inclusion. He stressed that India must put sustainability at the centre of its tourism strategy.

“To unlock the sector’s potential, we need convergence. Transport, digital technology, infrastructure, and urban

development must move in harmony,” he said. He added that seamless connectivity across roads, rail, air, and waterways will ease access to destinations,



spread benefits to new regions, and reduce pressure on overcrowded sites.

The Minister of State for Tourism underlined the government’s sustained efforts to embed sustainability across initiatives. He highlighted Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and PRASHAD schemes, promotion of eco-friendly accommodation, rural and village tourism, and technology-driven visitor services.

He said tourism cannot thrive in isolation. “We have placed connectivity at the heart of our tourism vision. Investments in airports, highways, waterways, and railways are making

travel seamless for visitors,” he stated. Initiatives such as UDAN and improved last-mile connectivity to tourist sites, he added, are transforming tourism into a driver of balanced regional development.

A key highlight of the event was the signing of MoUs with Netflix, Atithi Foundation, and leading Online Travel Agencies. The partnership with Netflix will showcase Indian destinations through cinematic storytelling to a global audience.

The MoUs with Atithi Foundation and OTAs will strengthen research, innovation, capacity building, and post-travel visitor feedback collection, helping States and Union Territories frame data-driven tourism policies.

The Ministry also launched a Project Management Information System (PMIS) to digitally monitor and manage tourism infrastructure projects in real time, ensuring efficiency and transparency. It released the 66th edition of the India Tourism Statistics Compendium, which recorded growth in domestic and international arrivals, job creation, and economic contributions. Officials said India now ranks 20th globally in

international tourist arrivals.

A booklet, Guide to MUDRA Loans for Homestays, was unveiled, offering a step-by-step guide for stakeholders to apply for loans through the Jan Samarth portal.

The celebration also featured a high-level panel on transportation and connectivity, with senior officials from road, aviation, railways, and shipping ministries. The panel emphasized the need for seamless, multimodal travel links to achieve sustainable tourism growth.

Thematic sessions showcased case studies such as Mahakumbh 2025 and the Statue of Unity, while experts discussed the role of Destination Management Organizations and the use of AI, AR/VR, and digital twins in enhancing tourism planning and visitor experiences.

The Ministry said the event reaffirmed India’s resolve to transform tourism into a people-centric movement for sustainability, inclusivity, and prosperity. Officials stressed that India is positioning itself as a global leader in tourism while embracing innovation and cross-sectoral partnerships. (PIB)

IBSA voices serious concern over discriminatory & coercive trade measures

NEW YORK: In a thinly veiled criticism of Washington’s tariff tussle, India, Brazil and South Africa have expressed serious concern over imposition of unilateral tariff and other coercive measures as they risk destabilising world markets and trigger instability.

At a meeting held under the framework of IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa), the three

level playing field for international trade,” it said.

The ministers expressed “serious concern over the imposition of unilateral tariff and other discriminatory and protectionist measures, particularly measures used as a means of coercion, noting that such actions are inconsistent with the WTO and risk undermining the rules-based



countries held that the “discriminatory” measures are “inconsistent” with the norms of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

It was attended by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, Brazilian Foreign Minister Mauro Vieira and South African minister Sindisiwe Chikunga.

The IBSA also made a strong call for the transformative reform of the UN Security Council, Jaishankar said.

The IBSA emphasised the need for nurturing a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial global trading system and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthen the centrality of the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, fair and inclusive multilateral trading system, according to an IBSA readout.

Last month, the US slapped 50 per cent tariffs on India and Brazil.

The ministers emphasised that fair, balanced and mutually beneficial trade must be nurtured and protected,” the IBSA said in a statement.

“They (the ministers) reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen the centrality of the rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory, fair, equitable, open, and inclusive multilateral trading system, with the World Trade Organization (WTO) at its core and its role in promoting predictability, stability, legal certainty and a

multilateral trading system as well as destabilising world markets fostering greater fragmentation and instability,” it said.

The three nations said they remained committed to working constructively to the reform and strengthening of the multilateral trading system.

“The ministers noted with regret that the commitment made at the 13th WTO ministerial conference to have a fully and well-functioning dispute settlement system by December 2024 has not been fulfilled,” according to the statement.

The ministers emphasised that they remain committed to the urgent restoration of an accessible, effective, fully-functioning, two-tier binding WTO dispute settlement system.

Interestingly, the three nations also highlighted the need for agricultural trade to be free from protectionist unilateral measures contrary to WTO rules.

“The members underscored that transparent, open, reliable, non-discriminatory, and uninterrupted international trade in agriculture and its inputs is one of the important avenues to address the global food security crisis,” the statement noted.

“The ministers also reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening even further agricultural cooperation among IBSA, including within multilateral organisations,” it said. (PTI)

Entire Mumbai-Ahmedabad section of bullet train project will open by 2029: Vaishnaw

SURAT: The 50-km stretch of India’s first bullet train project between Surat and Bilimora in Gujarat will open in 2027, and by 2029, the entire section between Mumbai and Ahmedabad will be operational, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said here on Saturday.

After becoming operational, the bullet train will cover the distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in just two hours and seven minutes, he said, stressing that India’s first bullet train project is progressing very well.

Vaishnaw visited the under-construction Surat bullet train station and inspected track installation works and its first turnout installation.

“Overall progress of the first bullet train project is very good. The first 50-km section of the project between Surat and Bilimora will be open by 2027. We are preparing for that. By 2028, the entire Thane-Ahmedabad section will be commissioned, and by 2029, the entire Mumbai-Ahmedabad section will open,” he told reporters.

Vaishnaw stated that the speed potential of the main line is 320 kmph and 80 kmph for the loop line.

The railway minister stated that the most modern technologies are being utilized to ensure the safe and efficient movement of trains.

“This is a very complex movement of trains, that’s why the most modern technologies are being used. Several vibration mechanisms have been created here. The utility cable will take the vibrations whenever the train is moving at 320 kmph,” he said.

Even within the tracks, many mechanisms have been put in place to absorb any vibration, he added.

“There are very special safety features on the track so that the train is very stable, even if there is a very heavy gust of wind or a sudden earthquake,” said Vaishnaw.

Vaishnaw said the entire heavy work for Surat station is completed, and finishing and utility works are progressing faster along with the track link.

“Today, the first turnout has been installed here in the Surat station on the bullet train project. Turnout is the place where the track either joins or separates. A lot of new technologies have been used here, for example, these roller bearings on which the tracks will move. This is again a totally new technology that we are using. The sleepers are made of composite material,” he said. (PTI)



MSME Ministry to Host ‘Seva Parv-2025: Virasat se Vikas’ from September 28–30

VARANASI: The Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) will celebrate MSME Seva Parv-2025: Virasat se Vikas in Varanasi from September 28 to 30, showcasing India’s heritage industries, traditional skills,



and community service spirit.

The three-day event will be held at the Rudraksh International Cooperation and Convention Centre and will feature exhibitions, cultural activities, loan disbursement ceremonies, and interactive sessions with entrepreneurs.

Union MSME Minister Jitan Ram Manjhi will preside over the inaugural ceremony on Sunday, while Minister of State Sushri Shobha Karandlaje will attend as the Guest of Honour. Senior dignitaries including Shri Manoj Kumar, Chairman of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), Uttar Pradesh Minister for Industrial Development Shri Nand Gopal Gupta, and Varanasi Mayor Shri Ashok Kumar Tewari are also expected to participate.

According to PIB, more than 1,500 beneficiaries of flagship MSME schemes—including PM Vishwakarma, Khadi and Gramodyog Yojana, Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP), and the National SC/ST Hub—are expected to attend. A three-day exhibition-cum-sale will run alongside the conclave, providing local artisans and craftspeople a platform to showcase and sell their products.

As part of the celebrations, a Swachhata Karyakram will be held at Namohat on

September 28 at 7 am to encourage cleanliness and community participation. The event will also see the signing of a memorandum of understanding between KVIC and NSIC for marketing support, the distribution of loan certificates to PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, toolkits under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana, and subsidies under PMEGP.

On Saturday, the Ministry organised a Mahila Parishad session, where women entrepreneurs and members of women’s self-help groups shared their experiences and challenges with Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje. The interaction highlighted the role of women-led enterprises in local economies and their growing participation in MSME schemes.

The Prime Minister’s Vishwakarma Scheme, launched in September 2023, has emerged as a flagship initiative to uplift traditional artisans across 18 trades. Within two years, the scheme has achieved its 100 percent registration target, with 30 lakh artisans registered, 23 lakh trained, and 5 lakh receiving subsidised loans worth over 4,300 crore. India Post has also delivered more than 8.33 lakh toolkits directly to artisans’ homes.

The Ministry said inclusive growth remains a central focus, with the National SC/ST Hub Scheme supporting over 1.5 lakh entrepreneurs since 2016 and driving a 36-fold rise in procurement from SC/ST-owned enterprises. Similarly, Khadi and village industries have recorded strong growth in the last three years, with production up 47 percent and sales rising by over 41 percent.

Under PMEGP alone, financial support worth 28,533 crore has been extended to over 10.6 lakh units, generating more than 86.5 lakh jobs across rural and urban areas.

Officials described the Seva Parv as not only a celebration of India’s cultural and industrial heritage but also a reaffirmation of the government’s vision of Virasat se Vikas—building a future rooted in tradition while empowering communities with opportunities for entrepreneurship, skill development, and self-reliance. (PIB)

Andhra’s Tourism Sector Attracts Rs 10,600 Crore Investments: CM Naidu



AMARAVATI: Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu on Saturday said the state’s tourism sector has attracted Rs 10,600 crore in investments, underscoring its vast potential for new projects.

Addressing ‘World Tourism Day’ celebrations here, Naidu noted that approvals and incentives are being extended to the sector under the state’s “speed of doing business” initiative.

“Andhra Pradesh received Rs 10,600 crore investments in the tourism sector. Ten thousand homestays will be available at Araku, Paderu, Visakhapatnam, Tirupati, Rayalaseema and

other regions,” Naidu said.

He added that 50,000 hotel rooms will be made available in the next three years, along with the creation of experience centres reflecting Andhra’s culture and traditions. The chief minister said the government is emphasising temple tourism and eco-tourism, and is also planning to develop wedding destinations at Tirumala and Annamaram, among other initiatives.

By 2027, Naidu said, the state will be transformed into the best tourism hub in the country, adding that the sector will play a crucial role in achieving ‘Swarna Andhra’ (Golden Andhra). (PIB)

Intelligent Swadeshi 4G Network Launched by BSNL connects 26,700 More Villages

Tata Consultancy Services, C-DOT, and Tejas Networks Consortium successfully deploy integrated indigenous Telecom Technology Stack for BSNL

SRINAGAR: Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) in partnership with Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) (BSE: 532540, NSE: TCS), Center for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), and Tejas Networks Limited (BSE: 540595, NSE: TEJASNET), today unveils the Bharat Telecom Stack, a modern, secure solution designed and developed entirely in India. This initiative draws inspiration from Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s vision of a digitally connected and self-reliant India.

With this launch, India becomes the fifth country in the world to have built a self-reliant, indigenous telecom technology stack supporting 4G and beyond. As a mission mode program, TCS spearheaded its execution by establishing data centers, installing and commissioning C-DOT’s EPC Core Application, Tejas’s Base Stations and Radio infrastructure over 100,000 sites and leveraging TCS’s Cognitive Network Operations (TCS CNOPSTM) platform for 24/7 real-time network management.

Delivering this required deep engineering expertise and seamless collaboration across public and private partners. The project is governed in ‘mission-mode’ by TCS, BSNL, Department of Telecommunications, active McKinsey & Co, C-DOT, Tejas, I&C Partners, among others.

It was completed within two years, making it one of the fastest 4G network deployments with full integration into the existing 2G/3G network infrastructure at BSNL. This rollout strengthens India’s national security and enables equitable access to both urban and rural India making online education, citizen services, telemedicine, e-governance et al., accessible at the tap of a button.

A Robert J Ravi, CMD, BSNL said, “Today, we celebrate a monumental achievement for national pride. The nationwide rollout of our indigenous 4G network, built on the strength of

collaboration with TCS, Tejas Networks, and C-DOT, is a resounding declaration of an Atmanirbhar Bharat. This ‘Made in Bharat’ stack, brought to life by the



relentless dedication of Team BSNL, secures our digital future and ensures that the fruits of connectivity empower every citizen, bridging the digital divide like never before.”

Sandeep Govil, Director (Consumer Mobility - CM), BSNL said, “Our customers will now experience a new standard of connectivity, powered by a network that

is truly our own. This Swadeshi 4G technology, a result of brilliant innovation by C-DOT, Tejas, TCS, and the tireless efforts of BSNL’s workforce, is engineered for excellence and scalability. It is a cornerstone for building a digitally inclusive society, ready to evolve to 5G and beyond, ensuring that India’s growth story is powered by sovereign, homegrown technology.”

NGanapathy Subramaniam, Advisor - Telecom Strategic Initiatives at TCS & Chairman, Tejas Networks said “We are proud that we have put India on the map of only a handful of countries to have developed a comprehensive, trusted and software upgradable telecom technology stack. The successful deployment at BSNL is historic and significant in ushering the benefits of a powerful data and voice network to all corners of the country. It

once again reflects TCS’ commitment to building India’s digital infrastructure and continuously supporting the country’s digital aspirations. The stack, built in compliance to 3GPP standards lays the foundation for India’s further contribution to standards.”

For nearly six decades, TCS has played a pivotal role in driving India’s tech revolution, executing several nation-building programs, creating digital public infrastructure, and touching millions of lives. As a trusted partner to several government bodies, TCS has delivered large-scale transformation programs that make citizen services more accessible, efficient, and inclusive touching nearly every citizen. From modernizing India’s leading stock exchanges and financial institutions to enhancing passport issuance, health insurance, and pension systems for defence personnel, TCS continues to bring high-impact, citizen-centric services to every corner of the country. (PR)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

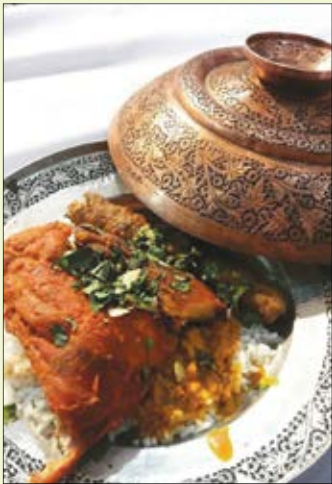
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