



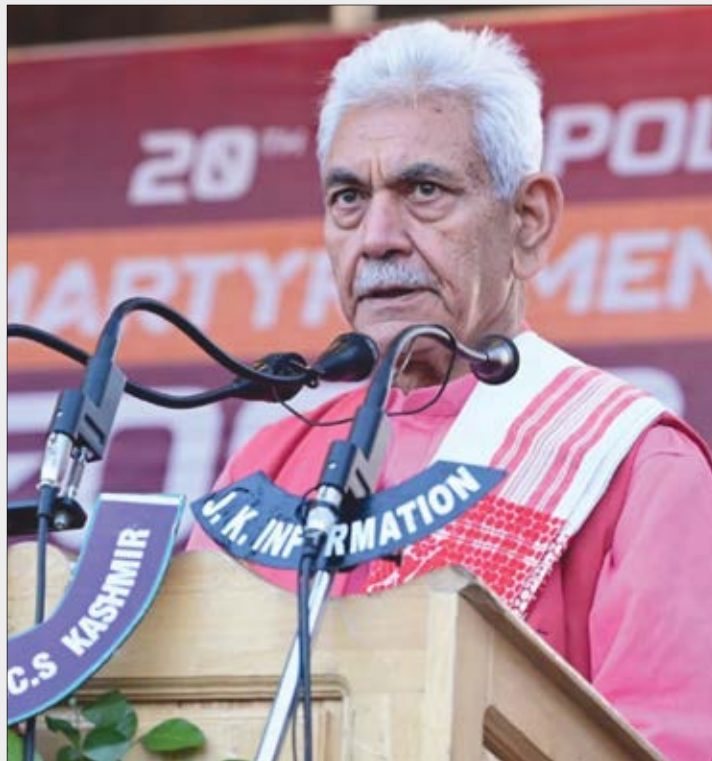
Those Echoing Terrorist Propaganda Will Face Strict Action: LG Sinha

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: "Those who speak the language of separatists and terrorists insult the sacrifices of our martyrs and hurt their soul and strictest possible action as per law of the land will be taken against such elements," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday. He said the land of UT of Jammu Kashmir is saturated with blood and sacrifice of J&K Police, Army, CAPFs martyrs for the nation's integrity and if anyone disrespects the sovereignty of India and the memories of police martyrs, he will not be spared. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the Closing Ceremony of 20th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament.

The Lieutenant Governor saluted the self-less service and supreme sacrifice of J&K Police brave hearts and their crucial role in security, stability and safe environment for progress and prosperity of J&K.

"Jammu Kashmir is a symbol of the tradition of sacrifice of our brave warriors from army, police and CAPFs, hence preserving the memories of the martyrs is the responsibility not only of the forces but also of the entire pub-



Our brave hearts gave up their lives to fulfill the dreams of society. The peace, progress and prosperity have been made possible by their ultimate sac-

rifice. Society can never repay the debt of soldiers' immense sacrifices for the country but they must ensure to honour our fallen heroes and their family members," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor commended the J&K Police Force for empowering youth through the Civic Action Program.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted

with the players and handed over trophies and cash prizes to the winning, and other top performing teams and the players who excelled in the tournament.

In the finals, J&K Bank defeated the Kashmir Avengers Football Club and



The **Lieutenant Governor** Saluted The Self-Less Service And Supreme Sacrifice Of **J&K Police** Brave Hearts And Their **Crucial Role** In Security, Stability And Safe Environment For **Progress And Prosperity** Of J&K.



emerged as the winner of 20th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament.

DGP, Nalin Prabhat; S.J.M. Gillani, Special DG Coordination PHQ; ADGP Armed, Anand Jain; senior officials of Police and Civil Administration; members of Football Association and clubs; prominent sports personalities, and youth in large number attended the closing ceremony.

Rajnath Singh Credits 'Triservices Synergy' For Decisive Results During 'Op Sindoor'

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Tuesday said that Operation Sindoor demonstrated the effective synergy of the Tri-Services through a unified real-time operational picture, which enabled timely decisions, enhanced situational awareness and reduced the risk of fratricide.

This operation is a true example of jointness, Rajnath Singh, said during a seminar organised by the Indian Air Force at Subroto Park, New Delhi.

He stated that the Indian Air Force's Integrated Air Command and Control System (IACCS) worked in unison with the Indian Army's Akashteer and the Indian Navy's Trigun, forming a joint operational backbone during Operation Sindoor.

Singh said the government's objective

is to further promote jointness and integration among the Tri-Services, describing it not only as a matter of policy but as a matter of survival in the fast-changing



security environment.

The path to jointness lies in dialogue, understanding and respect for traditions, he said, adding that the services must honour each other's challenges while building new systems together.

The Defence Minister

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India Won't Bow To Nuclear Blackmail: CDS Gen Chauhan

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: India won't bow to nuclear blackmail, Chief of Defence Staff, General Anil Chauhan said on Tuesday, asserting that the military must be ready to respond to nuclear and biological threats.

The Army, he said, must also be ready to respond to "low-probability but high-



impact nuclear emergencies".

Speaking at a scientific session held as part of the 100th Raising Day celebrations of the Military

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Anti-BJP rhetoric part of Omar Abdullah's election toolkit: LoP Sunil Sharma



SRINAGAR: Senior BJP leader and Leader of Opposition (LoP) Sunil Sharma on Tuesday said that anti-BJP rhetoric is part of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's election toolkit to befool

Sharma said that Omar Abdullah's remarks today are nothing more than an election stunt intended to deceive Kashmiris.

"During the 2024 assembly elections, Omar Abdullah portrayed himself as an anti-BJP warrior, but after the election, he went all out to shower praises on our leaders," Sharma said.

Addressing a gathering earlier today in South Kashmir, Omar Abdullah ruled out any political alliance with the BJP for statehood.

He said that after the last assembly elections, he too had the option

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Not Only Terror, J&K Police Fighting Drugs Also: DGP

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Tuesday said that Jammu and Kashmir Police are not only combating terrorism and narcotics but also actively engaging youth through sports and rehabilitation initiatives.

Speaking at the closing ceremony of the 20th J&K Police Martyr's Memorial Football Tournament 2025 here the DGP, highlighted the measures being taken by the police force, both on the security front and in social engagement.

Referring to the legacy of sacrifice within the force, the DGP said the tournament was held in memory of the 1,614 police personnel who have lost their lives in service. "Four personnel were killed this year in an operation in Kathua district. The families of the martyrs have received financial assistance, including ex-gratia and other relief through

state and central schemes, banks, and police welfare funds," he said.

"As part of the welfare measures," the DGP



said, "Each martyr's family receives Rs 1 lakh in direct support and additional assistance for marriage of daughters and education of children, including support for private schooling up to Class 12."

"Martyrs' children also get access to free education in police public schools

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CM Reaffirms Commitment To The Public

FE NEWS NETWORK

Inaugurates **15 Water Supply Schemes** worth **₹64 crore** in A'nag

ANANTNAG: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated that his government would fulfill the promises made to the people and that all efforts shall be made that citizens' expectations from the government would be met. He said this during his tour of Anantnag district where he inaugurated and dedicated fifteen Water Supply Schemes, constructed at a cost of 63.97 crore, to the people of the area.

The schemes inaugurated include Hardu Shichan, Dawoodpora Til-wanipora Kamad, Achabal Town, Andoo Pushroo, Deethu Khul, Shergund Aho Paisan, Ranipora

Chohar, Gadval, Kasana Mohalla, Narsangri Kachwan, Laigripora, Sangam Sethar, Pushkreeri, Bak-erwal Basti Chek I and Shalgan GB. These schemes, with an invest-



ment of nearly 64 crore, will provide safe and filtered drinking water to twenty-four villages and one town in the district, marking a major step towards strengthening rural

water supply infrastructure. Addressing a large gathering at Achabal after the inauguration,



He also **highlighted** the challenges of governance, stating that sitting outside, many people think it is easy to run a government in such **difficult circumstances**. "I tell some of them, for example, come and sit on my chair for **10 days**. If on the 11th day, you do not pull your legs, I'll concede the point," he said.



the Chief Minister underscored the significance of the achievement. "Today, we have handed over 15 water supply schemes to the people. Fifteen water supply

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Bottimline

LG Lauds Yuva Shakti Of J&K, Asks Them To Be A Catalyst For Change

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, attended the valedictory function of 'Viksit Bharat Ke Rang-Kala Ke Sang' at Jammu. During the program, the Lieutenant Governor addressed the school and college students. The vibrant art workshop was organised by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts (IGNCA) and Divisional Administration Jammu.

The Lieutenant Governor began his address by applauding Yuva Shakti of Jammu Kashmir and asked them to be a catalyst for change. He said the event is unique and special and provides opportunity to youth to imagine and paint Viksit Bharat of their dreams.

"The responsibility of creating a developed India not only on canvas but in reality, too is in their hands," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said, under

the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, we are committed to harnessing the potential of youth and providing them with the resources they need to achieve their full potential.

"Sewa Parv is preparing the young de-



mography to face the future challenges with a positive mindset. The creative and constructive spirit will make them future leaders, inventors, and builders and they will shape India's growth trajectory," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the Youth to take the leadership role and

set clear goals for nation-building. "Our youth are key to shaping the prosperous future, preserving cultural values and driving innovation. They have onerous responsibility of contributing to the growth and progress of society to propel

"Sewa Parv is preparing the young demography to face the future challenges with a positive mindset. The creative and constructive spirit will make them future leaders, inventors, and builders and they will shape India's growth trajectory," the Lieutenant Governor said.

the country forward.

He called upon the young generation and all sections of society to remain vigilant and unite against the divisive forces trying to destabilize the

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Chief Secretary Reviews Functioning Of GAD

FE NEWS NETWORK

Sets timelines for recruitment, transparency, and governance reforms

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo reviewed the overall functioning of General Administration Department (GAD) at a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here.

The meeting attended by Administrative Secretaries of all departments held threadbare discussions on various issues like accelerating reforms, enhancing transparency and strengthening service delivery across government departments.

While chairing the meeting, Atal Dulloo urged upon the officers to work in a mission-oriented, time-bound manner, with a strong emphasis on innovation, efficiency, and public trust to ensure that citizens must feel the difference through timely services, fair processes, and a clear framework of accountability.

Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on filling vacancies in a time-bound

manner and directed the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) to fill 1500 Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) posts within fixed timelines, noting that timely recruitment is vital for improving efficiency at the grass-



roots level.

Stressing the need to remove bottlenecks and ensuring time-bound and transparent recruitment process, Dulloo called upon the Public Service Commission and JKSSB to fast track recruitment process at all stages.

He said that no unnecessary delays will be tolerated and directed

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'J&K likely to require additional 4600 MW power in coming 9 years'

SRINAGAR: Amid 'unserved energy' predictions in coming years, Jammu and Kashmir is likely to require more than 4600 Megawatts (MWs) of power other than the planned capacities to meet electricity demands.

According to the official figures, Jammu and Kashmir will likely require 4625 MWs of power in the coming nine years amid the predictions of 'unserved energy'.

The official documents said, "As J&K is likely to have unserved energy in coming years there is a need to contract non-fossil capacities for meeting energy requirements other than the planned capacities. The additional quantum of capacities required (other than already planned) to be contracted is about 2438 MW from Coal, 1200 MW from solar, 987 MW of DRE till 2034-35."

It also states that the coal capacity PLF is expected to remain in the range of 46 percent- 81 percent for the years till 2035 (reducing from 81 percent in 2024-25 to 46 percent in 2034-35) ensuring higher absorption of higher

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Chief Secretary discusses education reforms with Union Education Secretary

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo held a meeting with Union Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Sanjay Kumar to review the ongoing education reforms in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The discussions focused on strengthening the education system, accelerating implementation of key initiatives, improving infrastructure and learning outcomes across the UT.

The meeting underscored the need to further raise the standards of school education in the UT, with a focus on bridging infrastructural gaps, streamlining human resource management and bringing out-of-school children into the mainstream education system.

Detailed deliberations were also held on aligning the education system in J&K with

the vision of National Education Policy 2020, which emphasizes holistic, inclusive and skill-oriented learning.



Chief Secretary underscored the importance of ensuring that reforms under NEP reach every classroom, from primary to higher education levels, and stressed on early adoption of digital tools, vocational training, and mother tongue-based foundational learning.

During the meeting, PM SHRI Schools in J&K also came up for discussion and plans

were discussed for expediting the process of upgrading identified schools with modern infrastructure, smart classrooms

and innovative teaching practices. These institutions will serve as model schools of excellence, showcasing best practices in pedagogy and student engagement.

Through PM SHRI schools scheme, already existing schools would be selected, strengthened, and upgraded and will aim towards delivering quality teaching to enhance the cognitive

development of the students.

Union Secretary said that idea of the scheme is to create nurturing, holistic and well-rounded individuals equipped with key 21st-century skills and Centre will provide all assistance to the UT of Jammu and Kashmir in this regard.

The Union Education Secretary appreciated the efforts being made in the UT and assured full support from the Centre in implementation of both NEP and PMSHRI. He highlighted the need for capacity building of teachers, integration of technology, and a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure the desired outcomes.

Chief Secretary emphasized that these initiatives would not only enhance quality of education but also equip students from Jammu and Kashmir with skills needed to thrive in a competitive global environment

RDD Shopian organises one-day Capacity Building Workshop on GIS Planning through Yuktdhara

SHOPIAN: Rural Development Department (RDD), Shopian/Pulwama jointly organised a one-day Capacity Building Workshop on GIS Planning through Yuktdhara and IT Initiatives under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA.

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone chaired the programme.

The objective of the workshop was to train officers and field functionaries on the use of digital platforms for scientific planning, monitoring and implementation of works under the MGNREGA scheme. At the outset, Assistant Commissioner, Development, Shopian, Mushtaq Ahmad Makhdoomi briefed about the objectives of the GIS Planning

and IT initiatives. ADDC in his address, emphasised the need to adopt modern IT solutions for better governance and timely execution of developmental works at the grassroots level. He said that GIS-based planning through Yuktdhara would help in ensuring scientific land use, avoiding duplication of works and promoting convergence with other schemes for sustainable rural development.

He further underlined that such workshops play a pivotal role in capacity building of field staff, enabling them to use technology effectively for planning and execution and urged all participants to apply the knowledge gained during the workshop to their day-to-day assignments.

Assistant Commissioner Development, Pulwama, Mohammed Farhat while speaking on the occasion exhorted for strengthening transparency, efficiency and real-time monitoring.

Resource persons provided extensive demonstrations on the Yuktdhara GIS-based planning tool, explaining how it helps in the preparation of perspective and annual action plans, identification of works and monitoring of asset creation in a transparent and accountable manner.

During the technical sessions, experts also highlighted various IT initiatives under MGNREGA, including geo-tagging of assets, use of mobile applications for field reporting, e-MB system, Aadhaar-based payment systems and

online monitoring dashboards all aimed at strengthening transparency.

The workshop witnessed active participation from officers of the Education Department, Rural Development Department, Shopian/Pulwama, technical staff and field functionaries, who also shared their experiences and suggestions for strengthening the implementation of MGNREGA in the district.

The day-long programme concluded with an interactive session where participants raised queries and received clarifications from the experts with a collective resolve to carry forward the learnings for effective and accountable execution of developmental works under MGNREGA in Shopian district.

DC Reasi reviews Adi Karma Yogi Abhiyan Progress

Adi Sewa Kendras functioning across all 44 Tribal Villages



REASI: Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a comprehensive review meeting with all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to assess the progress of the Adi Karma Yogi Abhiyan in the district.

The Abhiyan, scheduled from 24th September to 2nd October, aims at inclusive tribal development through grassroots participation and planning.

The meeting reviewed key activities under the Abhiyan, including the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) exercises, Transect Walks, habitation-level discussions, village-level meetings and identification of gaps.

A central focus was on the preparation of Village Action Plans (Vision 2030), ensuring that tribal communities actively contribute to the planning process.

Taking detailed reports from each BDO, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to intensify efforts at the grassroots level and to ensure maximum public participation in activities such as transect walks and the upcoming Special Gram Sabha. Highlighting a major milestone, DC Reasi announced that Adi Sewa Kendras have now been established in all 44 tribal villages of Reasi district. These centers are envisioned as a crucial step toward decentralized governance, improved service delivery and inclusive development in tribal areas.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed BDOs to submit draft village plans after thorough gap analysis and consultation with tribal communities. Special Gram Sabhas are planned on 2nd October for the approval of these Village Action Plans, aligning local priorities with the long-term Vision 2030 framework.

Emphasizing accountability and documentation, DC Reasi directed that all IEC activities related to the Abhiyan be uploaded on the official portal by the evening.

The meeting was attended by CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Vijay Kumar, while all BDOs joined virtually to ensure coordinated implementation across the district.

MoU signed for construction of Cultural Heritage Centre at village Thalwal-Jammu

JAMMU: A Memorandum of Understanding for Planning, Designing and construction of a Cultural Heritage Centre at Village Thalwal, Jammu by NBCC was signed in presence of Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar.

The MoU was signed between Dr Arvind Karwani, Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M) J&K on behalf of Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Mohammad Tariq, General Manager (Engg.) from National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited (NBCC).

The development of Bhadrakali Temple, located on the banks of the Nikki Tawi River in Thalwal village, as Cultural Heritage Centre is being financed by NHPC under CSR through Divisional Commissioner Office, Jammu. The total cost of the project is Rs 660.41 lakh. The Project envisages preserving the history and traditions, while providing a tangible connection to the past generations and allowing future generations to understand and appreciate their cultural roots. The Divisional Commissioner asked the executing agency NBCC to expedite the tendering process to start the project at the earliest.

DDC Poonch reviews implementation of Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan in tribal villages

POONCH: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma convened a review meeting in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to assess the implementation and progress of the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan, a flagship initiative of the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

The Abhiyan, which focuses on the holistic development and empowerment of tribal communities, is currently being rolled out in 58 tribal-dominated villages of District Poonch.

The programme aims to bridge developmental gaps and uplift the socio-economic status of tribal populations through targeted interventions.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned officers to organise special Gram Sabhas in

their respective areas to discuss and approve the Village Action Plan. The approved plans should then be compiled and submitted within the stipulated timeframe.



During the meeting, the DDC directed the concerned departments to formulate village-specific development plans to address critical infrastructure deficiencies. These plans are required to be endorsed by the respective Gram

Sabhas before being forwarded to the District Administration for onward submission to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. "Timely submission of these

strategies. He underlined the importance of community awareness and engagement, urging departments to deploy trained master trainers to sensitize villagers about the objectives and benefits of the Abhiyan. Highlighting the government's focus on inclusive development, the DDC stressed that information related to improvements in road connectivity, education facilities, sports infrastructure, electricity, drinking water supply and other basic amenities must be effectively communicated to the people.

The meeting concluded with a call for coordinated efforts from all stakeholders to ensure successful execution of the Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan and meaningful transformation in tribal areas of the district.

WDC-PMKSY (IWMP) organises community sensitisation workshop under Sewa Parv

JAMMU: Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayati Raj, Mohammad Ajaz Asad, inaugurated a one-day UT-Level Awareness-cum-Workshop here at Panchayat Bhawan, emphasizing the Sewa Parv campaign as a landmark initiative of the Prime



Minister aimed at fostering behavioural change and community-driven rural development.

The workshop, organized by the Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) as part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, was attended by over 250 youth.

In his address, Ajaz Asad urged officials to convene Gram Sabhas across all Panchayats on October 2 with maximum public participation. He stressed that the spirit of Sewa Parv must extend beyond the fortnight-long campaign and transform into a lasting pledge for the future.

"The creation of assets alone is not enough; their effective use depends on behavioural transformation in society. I am glad to see a visible positive change already taking shape," Secretary said.

He underscored the critical role of awareness programmes and workshops in the successful implementation of government schemes. Highlighting the significant achievements

under the IWMP in Jammu and Kashmir, Secretary pointed to remarkable progress in areas such as water conservation, rejuvenation of water resources, and plantation drives. He termed these interventions a source of satisfaction and encouragement.

Ajaz Asad also directed officials to expedite remaining developmental works, particularly in the Kashmir division, where activities are often affected by winter conditions.

Secretary informed that 95% of the targets under the Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) in J&K have been achieved. He directed all Assistant Commissioner Developments (ACDs) and Block Development Officers (BDOs) to complete the balance work at the earliest to ensure 100% saturation of the scheme.

On the occasion, Ajaz Asad distributed toolkits to IWMP beneficiaries and sanction letters under the PMAY-G to eligible beneficiaries.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Chief Executive Officer, IWMP, J&K, Rajnish Kumar, stated that Sewa Parv is not merely a ceremonial event but a mission to translate service into impactful ground-level action through active community participation.

The event was attended by Secretary in RDD, Rachna Sharma, Director General, Rural Sanitation, J&K, Anoo Malhotra, Director RDD Jammu, Shahnaz Akhter, Director Panchayati Raj Sham Lal, CEO Himayat Rajnish Gupta, Joint Director Planning, Kamal Kumar, senior officers, Project Managers, DLTEs, and a large number of beneficiaries.

Street Play on Sewa Parv organised at GGM Science College Jammu

JAMMU: The Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu today organised a special programme to mark the celebration of Sewa Parv at Government Gandhi Memorial Science College, Jammu.

On the occasion, a street play (Nukkad Natak) was presented by the artists of the Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations, Jammu, highlighting the values of service, dedication and community welfare. The play conveyed the significance of "Sewa" (selfless service) as a guiding principle in building a compassionate and progressive society and also aware the students regarding different schemes initiated by the Indian Govt.

Principal Dr Romesh Gupta, Dr Vandana Khajuria, staff members and a large number of students of the college witnessed the performance and appreciated the efforts of the artists in creatively spreading the message of Sewa Parv. The event not only entertained but also inspired the audience to imbibe the spirit of selfless service in their personal and professional lives.

The said programme was fully supported by the cultural team and Dr. Yasmeen Mughal, Convener cultural committee, GGM Science College, Jammu.

The Department of Information and Public Relations reaffirmed its commitment to using art and culture as effective tools for mass awareness and to promote positive social values through community outreach programmes.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information, Jammu and under the supervision of Cultural Officer

DM Ramban chairs District-Level NCORD meeting

Calls for intensifying drive against drug abuse

RAMBAN, SEPTEMBER 30: District Magistrate Ramban Mohammad Aliyas Khan today directed all stakeholder departments to intensify efforts to curb drug abuse and illicit trafficking across the district. He was chairing a meeting of the District-level NCORD Committee held in his office chambers.

The meeting was attended by SSP Arun Gupta; ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak; ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, SDMs, ACD, SDWO, CMO, BDOs, CEO, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

The DC instructed the Revenue, Police, Excise, Agriculture and Horticulture departments to ensure complete destruction of cannabis in their respective areas. He also reviewed the functioning of Drug De-Addiction Centres at District Hospital Ramban and directed its further up-gradation.

The Drug Inspector was directed to strictly check prescriptions, monitor stock status, ensure proper functioning of CCTV cameras and CBS in chemist shops, verify suspicious courier orders and keep strict vigil on unauthorized drug sales.

The District Magistrate asked departments to adopt a coordinated strategy with SDMs and Tehsildars to ensure a drug-free society. He also directed the ACD to formulate District Youth Clubs in all panchayats to channelize the energy of youth in constructive activities and towards building a drug-free society.

During the meeting, the SSP stressed conducting joint inspections to curb drug abuse and trafficking; including intensified awareness drives in educational institutions, strict surveillance in vulnerable areas, and coordinated action among police, civil administration, and health departments.

The Excise Department, DSWO and Drug Inspector were instructed to organize effective awareness programmes in schools, colleges and public places to sensitize youth about the ill effects of substance abuse.

Reviewing treatment facilities, the DM directed the CMO to ensure regular counseling and follow-up check-ups of identified and recovered patients to prevent relapse.

The District Administration reiterated its zero-tolerance policy against drug abuse. The DM also appealed to parents to remain vigilant about their children and guide them to stay away from drugs.

Deputy Commissioner reviews implementation of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan in Udhampur

Emphasizes intensified testing, community outreach & Ni-Kshay Mitra registration

UDHAMPUR: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting with officers of the Health Department to review the progress achieved in the implementation of TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan.

At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Anil Manhas and District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Anil Saloch gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation on the district's performance on the TB elimination front.

The DC also reviewed the implementation of the Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative, launched under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, which aims to provide additional support to TB patients and enhance treatment outcomes.

During the meeting, the DC assessed the status of testing, treatment success rates and Ni-Kshay Mitra registrations, directing authorities to expand TB testing and strengthen diagnostic facilities. She stressed the importance of enhanced counseling to ensure early detection and timely treatment of TB cases.

The DC called for intensified awareness campaigns, increased testing and collective action to achieve TB eradication. She instructed the concerned officers to work in close coordination to achieve 100% screening coverage by October 15, 2025.

The DTO was directed to organize dedicated health camps and conduct intensified awareness drives across the district to promptly identify and treat TB patients. The DC also urged the general public to voluntarily register as Ni-Kshay Mitras to support TB patients and contribute to the national mission of a TB-free India.

Horticulture Department bids farewell to retiring official

JAMMU: An impressive farewell function was organized by the Department of Horticulture Jammu to give a warm send off to Lakshman Sharma, Private Secretary at Directorate of Horticulture Jammu, who attained superannuation today after rendering more than 37 years of service in different departments.

The Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed, Joint Director Horticulture, Deputy Director Horticulture (Central) other senior officers and staff of Horticulture Department wished the retiring employee a happy, healthy and prosperous post retirement life.

Director Panchayati Raj reviews implementation of PAI 2.0, SabhaSaar, PPC campaign

JAMMU: Director Panchayati Raj Sham Lal chaired a meeting with Assistant Commissioners Panchayat (ACPs) to assess the progress of Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0, fund utilization, and new governance initiatives including SabhaSaar and the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) 2025-26.

The Director expressed concern over delays in data submission under PAI 2.0, pointing out that the progress is still pending with line departments. He asked ACPs to mobilize their teams and clear the backlog at the earliest, stressing that the Ministry of Panchayati Raj is closely monitoring the status.

Sham Lal asked officers to speed up data verification and ground-level follow-up. "Panchayat

secretaries need to be more proactive. The time has already passed and we cannot afford further delays," he remarked.

On fund utilization, the Director noted that although allocations had been made, expenditures were being held up due to incomplete billing and pending approvals.

He instructed ACPs to coordinate closely with district officers to resolve these issues and ensure timely financial reporting.

The meeting also reviewed the rollout of SabhaSaar, the AI-powered tool for automatically generating structured minutes of Gram Sabha meetings.

The Director expressed concern that only a few Panchayats had utilized the newly introduced SabhaSaar AI tool so far.

He underlined the importance of adopting the system widely, noting that SabhaSaar has been designed to ensure accurate, transparent and uniform documentation of Gram Sabha proceedings.

The Director instructed Panchayat Secretaries that during the October 2 Gram Sabha, audio or video recording of the entire proceedings must be done, either through a microphone system or mobile device.

These recordings are to be uploaded on the dedicated platform <https://sabhasaar.panchayat.gov.in>

gov.in

Additionally, preparations for the PPC Campaign were discussed, with instructions to intensify awareness drives to ensure rural communities are fully informed about developmental schemes and governance reforms.

Sham Lal, emphasized that the People's Plan Campaign (PPC) is the cornerstone of strengthening participatory democracy at the grassroots level.

He stated that the campaign is designed to ensure that planning by Gram Panchayats is genuinely inclusive and based on the actual needs of the community, thereby promoting transparency and accountability in all developmental works.

Union Secretary DoSEL reviews Education scenario in J&K

Calls for doing away with Class 11 Board exam, imparting quality education

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Union Secretary, Department of School Education and Literacy (DoSEL), Sanjay Kumar, along with a team of senior officers, today conducted a detailed review of the School Education Department in Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Secretary who chaired a high level meeting at SKICC Srinagar, stressed the need to improve quality of education throughout government schools in Jammu and Kashmir.

He encouraged for carrying out sustainable infrastructure upgradation to facilitate at all government schools for education.

At the outset, Sanjay Kumar called for a massive increase in student enrolment in government schools and directed the department to ensure quality education through vocational and skill-based learning across all institutions.

The meeting was attended by Secretary School Education J&K Ram Niwas Sharma, Director General School Education Kashmir GN Itoo, Director School Education Jammu Dr. Naseem Choudhary, senior officers from various wings of the Education Department including Samagra Shiksha, JKBOSE, SCERT, and Directorates of School Education Kashmir and Jammu were



present in the meeting.

During the review, Union Secretary issued directions to further strengthen the standards of school education in J&K and laid special stress on addressing infrastructural gaps, efficient human resource management, and mainstreaming out-of-school children.

Sanjay Kumar also underscored the importance of coordinated efforts by all stakeholders to ensure quality education and holistic development of children in Jammu and Kashmir.

During the review, Union Secretary highlighted the issue of student dropouts and directed officials to ensure that no student leaves school before completing Class 12.

He also emphasised the robust

functioning of pre-primary schools and called for large-scale enrolment of children in kindergarten classes.

Importantly, Sanjay Kumar instructed the department to reconsider the board examination of Class 11 and asked JK BoSE doing away with it.

The Secretary expressed concern over the comparatively low enrolment in government schools as against private institutions and directed officers to take measures to make government schools the prime centres of learning and career development.

At the outset, deliberations were held on the proposal for establishing a Regional Office of CBSE in J&K. Among other agendas, adoption of curriculum as per NEP-2020 across all classes,

Capacity building of teachers on NCF, CBSE curriculum, assessments, and conduct of board examinations, School education indicators of J&K, presented by DoSEL were also discussed.

At the outset, detailed review on implementation and progress under Samagra Shiksha & PM SHRI and other schemes was also held.

He also reviews progress under PARAKH and High-Powered Committee (HPC), Digital interventions including DIKSHA, VSK, and PM e-VIDYA channel usage. Union Secretary reviews functioning of DIET/ITEP institutions in J&K and stressed on capacity building of teachers under various training courses.

Senior Officers accompanying the Secretary included Anand Rao Patil, Union Additional Secretary Digital Education; A Srija, Economic Advisor, DoSEL; Pankaj KP Shreyaskar, DDG Statistics; Harikumar Janakiraman, Director Digital Education; Sreekala P. Venugopal, Director, UT; Ram Singh, Deputy Director, DoSEL, Abdul Momin, TSG Consultant J&K, DoSEL.

Dinesh Prasad Saklani, Director, NCERT, Rahul Singh, Chairperson, CBSE, Pankaj Arora, Chairperson, NCTE, Akhilesh Mishra, Chairperson, NIOS, Indrani Bhaduri, CEO & Head, PARAKH were present on the occasion.

Chairman DDC Kulgam presides over closing ceremony of Hindi Pakhwada at JNV

FE News Network

KULGAM: District Development Council, DDC, Chairman Kulgam, Mohammad Afzal Parrey, today presided the closing ceremony of Hindi Pakhwada at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, (JNV), Kulgam.

On the occasion, he distributed sports kits of cricket, badminton, and volleyball equipments along with certificates and prizes among students who excelled in various competitions during the fortnight-long celebrations.

Students who represented the institution at the national level were also honoured, including Bazila Baksh, who represented JNV in the National Volleyball Championship held at JNV Rajkot, Gujarat for the Regional Games.

In his address, Parrey highlighted the importance of Hindi as a language that acts as a bridge between different regions of the country. He added that Hindi is now being taught across the world, and expressed happiness that the students of JNV are actively learning and promoting it. At the same time, he underlined the significance of one's mother tongue, stressing that it should be equally respected and preserved.

Chairman lauded the achievements of the students and encouraged them to continue striving for excellence in academics, sports, and cultural activities. He further assured his continued support for youth development and extracurricular initiatives in the district.

Responding to a demand, he also assured

that a high-mast light would soon be installed in the Vidyalaya premises.

Principal JNV Kulgam, Ratheesh Kumar, expressed his gratitude to the Chief Guest for



his encouragement and acknowledged the dedicated efforts of staff and students.

He highlighted that Hindi Pakhwada, celebrated from September 14 to September 29, witnessed enthusiastic participation, making it a remarkable and memorable event.

Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Station House Officer Kulgam Subzar Ahmad, Inspector Manzoor Ahmad, Shabir Ahmad Parry, JSA, and Dr. Samiya Husain, TGT Physical Education & Sports Incharge.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks and appreciation for the collective efforts that contributed to the successful celebration of the event.

Rana reviews Water Supply and Irrigation issues in Sonawari



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the status of water supply and irrigation infrastructure in the Sonawari area.

The meeting was convened to evaluate ongoing projects, identify bottlenecks and formulate actionable solutions to enhance water accessibility in the area. MLAs Sonawari, Hilal Akbar Lone and senior officers of Jal Shakti Department were present during the meeting.

Officers presented detailed reports on the implementation of various water supply schemes, functionality of irrigation canals and measures being taken to address seasonal water scarcity.

The Minister stressed the need for timely execution of all sanctioned works, particularly in vulnerable and underserved areas.

He directed the concerned officers to expedite developmental projects, ensure equitable distribution of drinking water and promote efficient irrigation practices to support local agriculture.

MLA Hilal Lone raised several constituency-specific issues and urged the department to intensify efforts in addressing public grievances. The Minister assured full departmental support for improving service delivery and enhancing infrastructure, reaffirming Omar Abdullah-led Government's commitment to sustainable water management in Sumbal-Sonawari.

DC Srinagar inspects initiation of work on construction of SDM Office East, Tehsil Office Eidgah

Also conducts inspection of progress of work on construction of Tehsil Office, Khanyar, Bio-Medical Waster Shed at JLNM, Rainawari

FE News Network

SRINAGAR:- In order to augment the Revenue infrastructure in the district, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Tuesday inspected the initiation of works on construction of new Office for SDM East and Tehsil Office Eidgah in order to modernize & augment the Revenue setup to enhance public service delivery.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the progress of works on Construction of new Tehsil office, Khanyar.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, Executive Engineer R&B Core, Shuja Ahmad, Tehsildar Eidgah, Mohammad Iqbal, Tehsildar Khanyar Syed Shahid and other concerned Officers.

During the inspection, the DC reviewed the quality and pace of work on the key projects, emphasizing the importance of timely completion and adherence to quality works to ensure efficient functioning of these key Administrative.

He underlined that in order to create a more efficient and citizen-friendly work environment, Revenue infrastructure is being



further strengthened across the District.

While reviewing pace of construction works on Tehsil Office Eidgah, the DC was apprised that the upcoming Revenue Office Complex is being constructed at a cost of Rs. 63.51 lakh by R&B department.

He further was informed that the new Office building for Eidgah Tehsil will comprise of Tehsildar Room, Tehsildar court Room, Waiting Room/Area, Naib Tehsildar Room, Staff Room, Meeting Hall, Computer Room, Establishment Room and a modernised Record Room.

On the occasion, the DC directed the executing agency to expedite the pace of work while maintaining high construction standards and completing the project under set timelines.

The DC also took stock of ongoing works on the building of Tehsil Office Khanyar being executed by R&B Department at a cost of Rs

60 lakhs in Sheher-e-Khaas of the district. He reviewed the progress of structural work, finishing, internal services (electrical, plumbing, etc.) and directed for further accelerating the pace of remaining works so that Tehsil Office is made functional before the onset of winter season.

Adjacent to the Khanyar Tehsil Office, construction has commenced on a new building to house the Office of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) East.

The DC was informed that plinth work will be completed by the first week of October 2025.

Later, the DC visited JLNM Hospital Rainawari to inspect the ongoing works on Bio-medical waste shed being executed by R&B department to support the safe and scientific disposal of hospital biomedical waste, contributing to improved hospital hygiene and environmental safety.

Commissioner SMC reviews execution, functioning of EESL, ITMS in Srinagar



FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Haseeb, today chaired a review meeting to assess the execution, performance, and overall functioning of the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) projects and the Intelligent Traffic

Management System (ITMS) in Srinagar.

During the meeting, the Commissioner conducted a comprehensive evaluation of the progress achieved under EESL, which focuses on promoting energy-efficient infrastructure and sustainable solutions across the city.

The review included project implementation timelines, adherence to quality standards, and the long-term impact of energy conservation measures on urban services.

He also reviewed functioning of ITMS which is designed to modernize traffic management and enhance road safety. He also reviewed system integration, operational efficiency, traffic monitoring mechanisms, and the technology's role in ensuring smooth vehicular movement and reducing congestion. Faz Lul Haseeb emphasized the importance of timely execution, sustained performance, and proactive coordination among all implementing agencies and stakeholders.

He directed officers to promptly identify and address operational gaps, ensuring that both EESL and ITMS deliver maximum benefits to the residents of Srinagar.

DC Shopian chairs NCORD meeting

FE News Network

SHOPIAN: District Level Narco Coordination (NCORD) committee meeting was held today at Mini-Secretariat Shopian under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

On the occasion, DC reviewed department-wise action taken reports of Revenue, Police, Drug Controller, Rural development, Health, Social Welfare and others departments. He stressed on creating deterrence against the drug and substance abuse.

He called for comprehensive enforcement of drug dispensing norms by pharmacies with focus on conducting prescription audit and strengthening the fight against drug abuse by taking more strenuous efforts through conducting IEC activities, initiating the highest



degree of penal action on drug peddlers and keeping close vigil on educational institutions.

DC also reviewed the functioning of the Addiction Treatment Facilities at DH and focused on reaffirming the need to accelerate the action against the abuse. The alarming situation of substance abuse was highlighted and stakeholders instructed to take more result oriented action

on wild bhung destruction drives, enforcing implementation of norms in scheduled drugs & creating awareness along with other measures.

SSP Anayat Ali, ADC Dr Zakir Hussain, ACR, SDM, ACD, Tehsildars, concerned District officers from Health, Agriculture, Drugs, Excise, ATF, Social Welfare and others attended the meeting.

CS, NITI Aayog chart roadmap to strengthen dental healthcare in J&K

FE News Network

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, held a detailed discussion with Dr. V.K. Paul, Member NITI Aayog, on the measures required to enhance accessibility and availability of dental health services across the districts of J&K.

The meeting was coordinated by Secretary, Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah. Others who were present includes Principals of Dental Colleges in J&K along with other concerned officers.

During the deliberations, the Chief Secretary highlighted the pressing challenges in the dental health sector, including non-availability of services at New Type Primary Health Centres (NTPHCs),

shortage of essential equipment, inadequate infrastructure, and lack of dental specialists. He emphasized that the high burden of oral diseases in J&K often leads to excessive tertiary referrals, creating stress on higher institutions.

Dr. V.K. Paul appreciated the efforts of the UT Government and assured NITI Aayog's support in evolving a comprehensive plan to modernize and strengthen oral healthcare delivery.

The meeting discussed a multi-pronged strategy to expand services, including enhancing staffing across all levels of healthcare facilities and deployment of mobile dental units in remote and underserved areas.

The meeting also deliberated upon



establishment of dental clinics in far-flung areas through Public-

Private Partnerships, promotion of tele-consultation and tele-dentistry for pre-operative care, post-operative follow-up, emergency triage, and management of

chronic conditions.

It also encompassed strengthening community-level programs such as school oral health initiatives, awareness drives on oral hygiene and tobacco cessation, and integration of dental checkups with general

health camps besides encouraging home-based services and fostering partnerships with professional bodies.

The Chief Secretary underlined that adoption of innovative models like tele-dentistry would greatly reduce patient travel burden, ensure timely expert advice, and help in patient education, especially in hilly and border areas. Policy and funding recommendations were also deliberated upon, with a focus on creating specialized institutions for dental education in remote areas, bridging skill gaps, and ensuring long-term sustainability of oral health initiatives.

The discussions concluded with a shared commitment to work towards a robust, patient-friendly, and equitable dental health ecosystem in J&K.

Cultural Unit Srinagar, DIC Kulgam, MC Kulgam organise awareness programme under Sewa Parv

FE NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv 2025, the Cultural Unit Srinagar and the District Information Office Kulgam, in collaboration with the Municipal Council Kulgam, today organised an awareness programme at the Municipal Council Office, Court Road, Kulgam.

The event was aimed at informing the public about various government schemes and initiatives launched for the welfare and upliftment of society.

On the occasion, the Cultural Officer Kashmir and officials of the Municipal Council Kulgam underlined the government's keen interest in ensuring the benefit of the common people through developmental and welfare programmes. They further emphasized that cultural activities serve as a vibrant medium to create awareness about such schemes, inspiring greater participation of citizens in social and developmental causes under Sewa Parv.

Editorial

Uncompromising Stand

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha delivered what was as much a tribute as it was an admonition, delivering a strong and Very clear statement. In addressing those gathered for the 20th J&K Police Martyrs' Memorial Football Tournament, the LG could not be misinterpreted in relaying that the "strictest possible action under the law" will be taken by the administration against anyone speaking the language of terrorist outfits based in Pakistan or supporting a separatist concept. The statement leaves no misunderstanding about the real importance of the occasion, the importance of this moment in the history of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and the social and political environment in the regional territory. The statement did reinforced the situational importance of Jammu and Kashmir's zero-tolerance towards threats to the political and social stability the region's residents fought hard to earn through adversity.

His statement that the "soil is soaked with the blood of martyrs" is to put the security of the region, and its designation as a high-priority region, not as an abstract policy, but as an obligation to heroically honor and respect those who made the ultimate sacrifice for its unity and territorial integrity. His statement, that people who speak the language of separatists, "insult the sacrifice of martyrs and hurt their souls," is also a powerful rhetorical move intended to isolate anti-national forces from the larger regional population and in intimate proximity to a profound moral lapse against the region's heroes.

The editorial board maintains the view that this is a necessary confirmation of the state's belief. The narrative space in Kashmir has been contested by these elements for an extended period. During the pledge to educate the demographic to realize that these individuals "are being watched," it is indicative of the state possessing a strong and alert intelligence organization and is willing to back it with evidence in a court of law. In a healthy democracy, we value the freedom of speech as a key right, however, freedom of speech cannot be interpreted as condoning the promotion of violence, secession, or being an apologist for terrorist organizations. The law must be brought down upon these elements in the "most forceful manner" to preserve democratic society from being eviscerated, period.

Beyond the very stern warning, the LG's speech provided wisdom in highlighting the role of institutions as transformative in establishing normalcy. By calling attention to the "unique distinction" of the J&K Police and reiterating that 1.4 crore people live and breathe due to the sacrifices of the J&K police, he seeks to boost morale and create a sense of pride. Being a sport and mentoring the youth is important to invest in for the long run for more peaceful, productive outcomes, and to turn those appetites towards constructive nation-building rather than violence and destruction.

LG Sinha's thoughts on the "unprecedented development" and peace as the "cornerstone of progress," presents the other side of the same coin. Against separatist rhetoric is the shield of protection, followed by development and youth involvement providing the constituent elements of a progressive future. Sinha's implicit confidence in the youth whose "Tiranga is flying high" must also be seen as a marker of aspirational change in the region.

In short, the administration's unwavering position is an unambiguous sign of its current priorities. The space for poison-filled, Pakistan-centric narratives has been definitively squeezed. The way forward for J&K is through peace, prosperity, and participation in the mainstream. The combination of legal firmness toward enemies and significant care toward youth, as demonstrated in this very event where this speech was stated, seems to be a good plan to build a real vision for a prosperous and secure Jammu and Kashmir that is fully part of a Viksit Bharat.

More Than A Function: A Teachers' Day To Remember



■ WANI ARFAT

The 18th of September at Ramzaan College of Nursing and Paramedical Sciences was a memorable day. It was a day in the calendar, but a living thanksgiving of love, regard, and appreciation for the heart and soul

lights were plentifully scattered on the stage, and lovely decor imparted the hall with a glistening look of a garden of respect. The atmosphere was just the perfect balance of enthusiasm and respect, reminding one and all that teachers are dream builders and pillars of society. Each glint and every placement seemed to say thank you and love.

Proceedings were launched by a motivating address by Bushra, a student, who discussed the real spirit of teaching, reminding everyone that they should believe in the reality that teachers are not trainers but good educators are artists of character and the unseen pillars

"Bumbroo Bumbroo" mingling heritage and happiness. Showstoppers such as "Mai Aa Likhu Tu Aajayay" and "Aaz Roozei Saanay Dilbar Meanay" turned the hall into a musical universe, where laughter, longing, and pride mingled, reminding everyone that roots are the anchor even when education provides wings to fly.

The cream of the day was teacher-student interactive games. Laughter and bonhomie were encouraged by chits carrying funny one-liners, with formalism giving way. Zahid sir's sarcastic comment that the question was "out of syllabus" invited a quick reply:

Nazakat Mam received "Tu Hi Dildaar Mera," Rimsha Mam "Tere Chehre Se Nazar Nahin Hatti," and Ajaz Sir with the melodious "Tum Itna Jo Muskura Rahe Ho." Rabia Mam was felicitated with "Sadaagi To Hamari Zara Dekhiye," and Rayees Sir brought the atmosphere alive with "Zara Dil Ko Thaam Lo."

Mudasir Sir's liveliness was complemented by "First Class," Zahid Sir's enthusiasm thundered with "Apne To Jaise Taise," and Nighat Mam was crowned with "Surili Akhiyon Wale." Abid Sir's dynamism illuminated the floor with "Swag Se Kareng Sabka Swagat," while Rouf Sir's arrival was brought alive by "Dard-e-Disco." Rifat Mam's autonomy shone bright through "Banjaara." Aqib Sir's bravery resounded in "Galti se mistake," and Inayat Sir's benevolence was commemorated with "Ale Ale."

Asifa Mam's celestial beauty was accompanied by "Ilahi," Mahak Mam's robustness in "Kuch Pa Kar Khona Hai," Zeeshan Sir's youthfulness in "Ek Pal Ka Jeena," and Ubaid Sir's happiness in "Tu Kahan Se Aaya Hai." Even office aunties did not miss out on their own special numbers reminding one that no effort is ever too small to be noticed on this day of celebration.

Reflecting back on the day, one can clearly see that this Teachers' Day was not just an event but a golden page in the annals of this college's history. There was laughter, music, culture, respect, and devotion mingling into perfect harmony. For me, it was my first Teachers' Day ever celebrated on such a large scale, and I am sure it was one of the best seen ever. My heart gratefully bows to the management, all the voluntary students such as Yamin Yaqoob, Sadaf Jan, shaista, and above all to Faizan Turray, whose outstanding dedication, imagination, and tireless work as an organizer transformed every problem into triumph and made this celebration really unforgettable. A special thanks also to Faizan Javaid and Aanif, not only for their dedication and diligence, but also for being great DJs who made the energy and passion of the event go higher than ever.

This day will continue to live as a shining memory, a cultural treasure, and most importantly, an eternal hymn to the world's most noblest profession—teaching.

(Mohammad Arfat Wani, a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student from Kuchmulla Tral, is also a B.Sc. Nursing student at Ramzaan College of Nursing & Paramedical Sciences, Gander Pampore.

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givers—the teachers. Though the celebrations had been delayed due to the recent flood, the spirit of gratitude was undiminished, and when the day finally arrived, it shone with even greater warmth and joy. This Teachers' Day was not merely a function but a fete of religion, culture, and emotion, a reflection of the timeless association that the teacher shares with the taught. There was rejoicing in every corner of the college, every smile testified to appreciation, and every sound hummed with the awe of the wisest of professions on planet earth.

I entered the auditorium and was amazed at sheer beauty and warmth of decorations. Balloons floated gracefully in the air, twinkle

of countries.

Later on, Principal Maam, Professor Jamsheeda zaroo was also addressed by the public with powerful and motherly speeches, highlighting perseverance, discipline, and dedication as mantras of success. Her speeches kindled the fire of motivation in every student, highlighting potentiality, responsibility, and optimism. Ambreena and Salma later delivered speeches with grace, their speeches silky with experience, expertise, and genuine emotions lasting for decades.

No Kashmiri celebration is ever complete without its heritage. Soon, the auditorium reverberated to soulful Kashmiri songs—be it "Cholham Na Pooshai" or the energetic

"Now you understand how we feel in exams," which echoed down the hall of laughter. Mahak Maam jokingly proposed inserting "Nun Chai" into nursing, and snarky responses such as "Mei Gow Hearts Dam" rang innocence and engaging friendship. Such responses put everyone in the mindset that teachers are human, approachable, and part of the society that they build.

After lunch, there was a pleasant surprise. Every teacher was greeted with a special song, carefully selected to appreciate their uniqueness and contributions. Respected Principal Mam received "Tum Aaye Ho Noor Aa Gaya Hai," and Ishrat Mam's arrival was blessed with "Yeh Dil Tum Bin Lagta Nahi."

Highway Closure- The Dual Crisis Of Financial Hardship In Kashmir



BY MOHAMMAD HANIEF

The Kashmir Valley is in the grip of one of the most severe crises in recent years as the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, its only all-weather road link to the rest of India, remains disrupted by landslides and prolonged closures. Weeks of heavy rains and early snowfall have rendered long stretches impassable, trapping trucks, halting supplies, and crippling the economy at a time when the region can least afford it. From skyrocketing food prices in urban markets to rotting apple harvests in rural orchards, the blockade has touched nearly every household.

The highway, a 270-kilometre stretch winding through the Pir Panjal range, is more than a transport route; it is the artery through which Kashmir receives food, fuel, and medicines, while sending apples, walnuts, and other produce to markets across India. Every day the road stays closed sets off a chain reaction of scarcity and rising costs. Convoys of trucks carrying perishable goods remain stranded for days near Ramban and Banihal, and by the time traffic resumes, vegetables are spoiled, medicines are past their shelf life, and fruit consignments have lost their value. Ordinary Kashmiris feel the impact immediately in household budgets, as food and fuel prices soar and essentials vanish from shops.

In kitchens across the Valley, the price of onions, tomatoes, and leafy greens has nearly doubled since early September. Potatoes, typically a stable option, are also more expensive. Families have begun rationing purchases, and many small eateries have trimmed menus in an attempt to survive the spiraling input costs. Fuel shortages have intensified the crisis. Petrol and diesel supplies run low whenever the road is closed, and rationing at filling stations has become routine. Black-market sales flourish in such conditions, while transporters forced to endure

long waits and higher prices transfer the burden to consumers. Cooking gas cylinders are scarce, compelling households to turn to costlier or less sustainable alternatives. Even air travel, which might have provided relief, has become inaccessible for most, with ticket prices soaring to levels that



few can afford, leaving the Valley more isolated than ever.

The situation has been particularly dire for the medical sector. Pharmacies are reporting frequent stock-outs of essential medicines, especially those needed for chronic conditions like diabetes, hypertension, and respiratory illnesses. Insulin, antibiotics, dialysis consumables, and pediatric drugs are arriving late or in limited quantities. Hospitals have postponed non-emergency procedures and rationed sterile equipment, while patients and families struggle to locate life-saving medicines or travel long distances in search of treatment. The blockade has thus become not just an economic burden but a health emergency, where the failure of a single road corridor translates into heightened anxiety and risk for thousands of patients.

For the Valley's horticultural economy, the blockade has struck at the worst possible moment.

The autumn harvest, or harud, is the peak period for apple exports, which form the backbone of rural incomes. Trucks filled with apples, pears, and walnuts are stranded on blocked stretches, while in orchards and cold storages, fruit is left to rot. Losses are running into thousands of



crores of rupees, as apple boxes that would normally fetch good prices in northern and western Indian markets are being sold for a fraction of their value or not sold at all. Packaging costs have risen sharply, and many farmers, unable to absorb these losses, are being forced into debt. Beyond the immediate financial blow lies the longer-term damage to Kashmir's reputation as a reliable supplier. Buyers in Delhi and Mumbai demand predictability, and each season of missed deliveries weakens growers' standing in an already competitive market.

A modest but important intervention has provided some respite. In September, Indian Railways launched a daily parcel train between Budgam and Delhi, equipped with refrigerated vans capable of transporting perishable goods in under twenty-four hours. The service has moved significant quantities of apples and walnuts, shielding some produce from spoilage. Yet its

scale is limited. A single train carries only a fraction of the Valley's daily harvest, and while the service has been welcomed, it cannot compensate for the thousands of truckloads normally dispatched during peak season. Without additional refrigerated wagons, extended routes to other markets, and stronger cold-chain infrastructure, the parcel train remains more a stopgap than a solution.

Government agencies have attempted other temporary measures. Fair-price shops continue to distribute subsidised grains, limited airlifts of essentials have been organised, and hospitals have been urged to manage inventories more tightly. Officials are monitoring markets to prevent hoarding. But these steps, though helpful at the margins, cannot offset the closure of the Valley's primary supply line. Business groups have voiced deep frustration, accusing the administration of indifference and negligence, while opposition leaders have criticised the slow pace of response and demanded long-term investment in alternative routes. The blockade has thus evolved into a political flashpoint, feeding mistrust between people and institutions and reinforcing a sense of isolation.

The larger problem lies in Kashmir's structural dependence on a single corridor. Alternative surface routes such as the Mughal Road and Sinthan Top remain closed for much of the year due to snowfall and lack of infrastructure. Air freight is prohibitively expensive for bulk commodities, making it impractical for fruit consignments. The long-delayed Banihal-Katra railway tunnel, which would directly link the Valley to the national rail grid and allow large-scale freight movement year-round, is still under construction. In the meantime, climate change has added urgency to the crisis. Meteorologists warn that precipitation in the western Himalayas is becoming increasingly unpredictable, with heavier storms and more intense snowfall likely in the years ahead. Already this year, unseasonal rains, floods, and hailstorms have battered orchards even before the blockade, compounding losses for farmers.

The lessons of this crisis are clear. The Valley

needs a more resilient and diversified system of supply and export. Investment in greenhouse farming and protected cultivation would reduce dependence on imports during the winter months. Expansion of cold-storage facilities and the creation of regional pharmaceutical depots would provide buffers during transport disruptions. Scaling up the railway parcel service, with more refrigerated wagons and multiple routes beyond Delhi, could help insulate horticulture from road blockades. Hospitals and pharmacies require better forecasting and stock management to prevent life-threatening shortages. Above all, there is an urgent need to accelerate infrastructure projects that would provide alternate routes and year-round connectivity, from the Banihal-Katra tunnel to the long-delayed upgrades of the Mughal Road.

Until such measures are realised, Kashmir will remain caught in a recurring cycle of scarcity and inflation each time the highway is blocked. The current blockade has shown how quickly shortages ripple through the social fabric, pushing families into debt, preventing students from reaching schools, forcing daily wage workers off jobs, and leaving small businesses on the verge of collapse. Orchardists, the backbone of the rural economy, are seeing the labour of an entire season wasted in a matter of days.

The Budgam-Delhi parcel train has demonstrated that alternatives are possible when there is focused investment and coordination, but it is no substitute for a comprehensive strategy. For now, Kashmir remains at the mercy of geography, weather, and one fragile road. Each blockade is more than a transport problem; it is a crisis that reaches into every kitchen, every pharmacy, and every orchard. Unless resilience is built into the system, the Valley will continue to lurch from one disruption to the next, bearing costs measured not only in rupees and tonnes of fruit but in the daily hardships and anxieties of its people.

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Sakeena Itoo Advocates Student Friendly Model At KU

FE NEWS NETWORK

Reviews academic, administrative functioning of Varsity

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo underscored the need for higher education institutions of Jammu and Kashmir to align themselves with aspirations of students and modern academic standards.

The Minister made these remarks while chairing a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review academic and administrative functioning of the Kashmir University (KU).

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellor KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan; Registrar KU, senior officers of KU and Higher Education department.

During the meeting, the Minister took a comprehensive assessment of university's progress across multiple fronts, like teaching and research output, infrastructure development, student welfare measures and other initiatives of the university.

She emphasized that the student community must remain at the core of every policy and reform initiative, as

they are the true stakeholders of the education system.

The Minister observed that many

"Students should be the top priority of all our academic institutions. They should feel that their concerns are heard

ness in decision-making and clarity in procedures will reduce grievances, prevent delays, and enhance the credibility of the university in the eyes of its students and society.

Highlighting that regular interaction forums between students, faculty, and administrators is necessary to build dialogue and trust, she encouraged the officers to develop dedicated student grievance redressal cells with clear escalation mechanisms.

Acknowledging the rich academic legacy of Kashmir University, Minister Sakeena said that this prestigious institution carries a responsibility to set benchmarks for higher education in the region.

"Kashmir University must aspire to be more than just a centre of higher learning, it should be a hub of opportunity, innovation, and growth, where every student feels empowered to achieve their dreams," she noted.

The Minister urged upon the University authorities to work collaboratively with students and faculty to implement these reforms in a time-bound manner. She assured her continued support in strengthening the institution and making it a beacon of academic excellence and student welfare.



challenges faced by students stem from delayed administrative processes, lack of timely communication. She called on the university administration to adopt a student-friendly model that ensures smoother functioning of academic and administrative services.

and addressed promptly," she said.

Stressing the importance of building trust, Minister Sakeena urged the university leadership to institutionalize transparent systems for examinations, admissions, financial management and research programs. She added that open-

DDC Pulwama chairs DLRC meeting of banks

FE NEWS NETWORK

Stresses financial inclusion, social security benefits

PULWAMA: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting for the first quarter of the financial year 2025-26 at the circuit house Pulwama to assess the performance of banks and line departments across various financial and developmental parameters.

At the outset, the Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation covering the banking profile of the district, including deposits, advances, sector-wise credit flow under the District Credit Plan, performance under priority and non-priority sectors, as well as progress under government-sponsored schemes.

The meeting was apprised that Pulwama has recorded a year-on-year growth of 6.44% and 9.12% in deposits & advances while CD ratio grew by 2.52%. The district's CD ratio at the end of the 1st quarter stands at 110.81%, ranking among the highest in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

A major focus of the meeting was on the implementation of social security

schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana



(APY). The DDC reviewed the status of bank-wise progress across these schemes and directed branch managers to maximize the enrolments in a time-bound manner. Dr. Qayoom further directed cluster heads of banks to monitor the daily progress of enrolments under these schemes and ensure that saturation under these schemes is achieved on priority.

He also instructed banks and line departments to hold special awareness and enrolment camps at block and panchayat levels to accelerate coverage under PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, and APY.

In addition to social security schemes, the meeting also reviewed progress under Mission YUVA, NRLM, RSETI skill development programmes,

and KCC financing for farmer operating families while DDC stressed banks to reduce pendency in disbursement of credit and ensure timely support to eligible beneficiaries.

He further directed all the stakeholders to improve priority sector lending in different Government sponsored schemes so that unemployed youth can attain self-sufficiency through various self-employed schemes of central and UT Govt.

"All banks and departments must work in close coordination to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every eligible person. Particular focus should be laid on the economic empowerment of youth through greater access to credit and employment opportunities," the DDC said.

The DDC urged all stakeholders to adopt a mission-mode approach to ensure that Pulwama achieves the targets under the District Credit Plan and benefits from holistic socio-economic growth.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI); General Manager, DIC Pulwama; Lead District Manager Pulwama (J&K Bank); and other district officers from various line departments and representatives of various banks forming part of the committee framework.

DC Bandipora chairs NCORD, NDPS cases' review meeting

FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, on Tuesday chaired the District Level Narco-Coordination Centre (NCORD)/NDPS cases review meeting at Mini Secretariat, Bandipora, to review the measures being taken to curb drug abuse and related crimes in the district.

On the occasion, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl, presented the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) from various line departments. The meeting reviewed in detail the enforcement drives, community sensitization programmes, rehabilitation of affected individuals, and measures undertaken to address vulnerable hotspots across the district.

DC stressed upon all line departments to work in close coordination to eradicate the menace of drugs from society. She directed officers to intensify awareness and outreach programmes, particularly involving

youth and students, while ensuring proper rehabilitation measures for victims of drug abuse through community-level interventions.

During the meeting, DySP Bandipora, Lateef Ahmad,

gave a detailed briefing about the action taken by District Police, including sealing of properties belonging to drug peddlers, intensification of awareness campaigns, updates on acquittal cases, and the status of Regular Departmental Actions (RDA) initiated against government employees involved in drug abuse.

He further impressed upon officers to adopt a multi-pronged and sustained approach combining enforcement, prevention, and rehabilitation, assuring full support of the district administration in this regard.

Among others, the meeting was attended by Assistant Commissioner Development Bandipora; Chief Agriculture Officer Bandipora; Deputy Chief Medical Officer Bandipora; heads of educational institutions (virtually); and other concerned officers.



Javid Dar chairs consultative meeting with Fruit Mandi Associations to boost J&K Horticulture

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative & Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a consultative meeting with Presidents and office bearers of Fruit & Vegetable Market Associations of Kashmir Division at the Directorate of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K, to review and address key issues pertaining to the horticulture sector.

Director, Horticulture Planning & Marketing, Gh. Jeelani Zargar, along with senior officers of the department, presented an overview of the ongoing activities and initiatives aimed at strengthening post-harvest management, improving market linkages, and enhancing efficiency in the marketing of horticultural produce.

During the interaction, stakeholders raised issues including the need for additional



Controlled Atmosphere (CA) storage facilities, availability and standardization of packaging

material, smoother transport along the National Highway and Mughal Road,

optimize the potential of the horticulture sector.

establishment of processing units, crop insurance coverage, strengthening of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS), promotion of e-NAM trading, and improved functioning of mandis.

The Minister gave a patient hearing to the concerns and assured that necessary steps would be taken for their resolution. He emphasized the adoption of modern and high-tech practices in horticulture to boost the economy of J&K.

Javid Dar reiterated the Government's commitment to collaborative efforts to

Shahid Iqbal inaugurates first of its kind Immersive Virtual Reality Lab at SKUAST-Kashmir

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Secretary Science & Technology Department, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Chowdhury inaugurated the Immersive Virtual Reality Lab (IVRL) in the Division of Veterinary Anatomy at Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama SKUAST-Kashmir.

The Secretary was accompanied by distinguished dignitaries, including Vice Chancellor SKUAST Kashmir Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai at the event along with other University Officers and faculty members from various Medical Colleges of Kashmir Division.

It is worth to mention that the newly created facility is one of the finest curriculum based laboratories in world and stands as first of its kind developed in any University across India. The new lab. hosts world class equipment's on AR (Augmented Reality), VR (Virtual Reality) and other 3D facilities that can be used in the fields of Medical, Veterinary and other related sciences in its different sub-disciplines like Anatomy, Physiology, Pathology, Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Medicine, Surgery, Radiology and other clinical subjects. The facilities will be of great help to students, researchers and other clinician in better understanding of their subjects and its applicability on diverse range of skill subsets added to their kitty. The newly established facilities will further overcome ethical constraints faced in upholding the sessions on real/ practical subject items with the presence of bestin class material at ones finger tips. The Division of Veterinary Anatomy has named the Lab and it's adjoin facilities rightly as Skills Hub Centre and is being majorly funded by National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, (NABARD).

In his address, Dr. Shahid Iqbal congratulated the University for its Innovative Projects and assured all the support from his Department for the Research and Developmental projects. Dr. Shahid Iqbal laid stress to overcome the prevailing disconnect between different institutions in their scientific discourse by reducing the existing gaps through effective planning.

Dr. Shahid Iqbal further emphasized on the growing need of introducing new innovative methodolo-

gies in teaching and research as seen in most parts of the developed world.

Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai in his address highlighted the achievements of university and complimented the Veterinary faculty for new facility developed at its campus. He further appreciated the efforts of Dr. Firdous A Dar, PI of newly establishing IVR Lab developed at Division of Veterinary Anatomy with the help of NABARD. Prof. Nazir Ahmad highlighted the importance of this new lab. for competitive grooming of students in an



effective manner. He also invited the students, researchers and other faculty members from different related institutions to this lab. for the utilization of available services in a regulated manner. He further impressed upon the Faculty to take a lead in similar scientific ventures in their respective fields and work for the development of UT as bio-economic model of rest of the country.

Earlier, Prof. Riaz A Shah Dean FVSc & AH formally welcomed the guests and other participants at the event and hoped that new facility will improve the practical skills of students and foster innovations among them. Afterwards, Dr. Firdous Ahmad gave a detailed demonstration of the Virtual lab to the audience in quite impressive manner. The event ended with vote of thanks presented by Head Division of Veterinary Anatomy, Prof. A.R. Chowdhury while the session was handled by Dr. Andleeb Rafiq, Assistant Prof. in host Division at FVSc & AH, Shuhama.



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Sewa Parv-2025: DC Ganderbal Presides Over Mega Awareness Program Against Drug Abuse

FE NEWS NETWORK

Flags off bike rally from Town Hall under NMBA

GANDERBAL: As part of the ongoing Sewa Parv-2025 celebrations, the District Administration Ganderbal today organized a mega awareness program against drug abuse at Town Hall Ganderbal, presided over by Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore.

The event witnessed the presence of Additional Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Syed Fahim Bihaqi, Executive Officer Municipal Council Ganderbal, besides a large gathering of students and locals.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized that Sewa Parv is being observed with a special focus on an intensified campaign against drug abuse. He described substance abuse as a deeply concerning issue, noting that its symptoms often appear at later stages, making recovery extremely challenging for the victims.

DC urged society to change its perception towards drug addiction, stressing that victims must not be stigmatized but rather supported with compassion and treated as patients in need of care, not as criminals. He also informed that a De-addiction Centre is functional in Ganderbal, ensuring anonymity, privacy, and rehabilitation facilities for those seeking help.

While appreciating the contribution of the Excise Department, Police, health professionals, and other resource persons in spreading awareness, the DC appealed to parents to strengthen communication with their children and encourage them towards adopting healthy lifestyles to keep them away from the menace of drugs.

Earlier, the DC flagged off a bike rally from Town Hall Ganderbal, organized with special focus on the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA). The rally marked the continuation of a series of awareness programmes being held across the district under Sewa Parv-2025 to sensitize people about drug abuse and highlight various government initiatives aimed at its prevention.

Rajnath Singh

said the evolving nature of warfare and the complex interplay of traditional and non-traditional threats make jointness a core operational necessity. “While each of our services has the capacity to respond independently, the interconnected nature of land, sea, air, space and cyberspace makes collaborative strength the true guarantor of victory,” he said.

Referring to the recent Combined Commanders’ Conference held in Kolkata, Rajnath said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had underlined the importance of jointness and integration. “This reflects the government’s commitment to ensuring that the Armed Forces are among the best in the world in terms of values and traditions, and pioneers of future-ready systems,” he said.

Singh also spoke about the strides made in digital domains. He mentioned the Army’s Computerised Inventory Control Group (CICG), the Air Force’s Integrated Materials Management Online System (IMMOLS), and the Navy’s Integrated Logistics Management System as examples that have transformed logistics by bringing automation, accountability, and transparency.

He announced that work has begun on the Tri-Services Logistics Application to integrate these systems, provide shared visibility of stocks, optimise cross-service resources, and reduce redundant procurement.

Rajnath pointed out that over the decades, each service had developed operational practices, inspection frameworks and audit systems based on their distinct experiences, but these often remained confined within individual services. This compartmentalisation, he said, has limited the cross-sharing of valuable lessons and must now give way to open sharing and collective learning.

He stated, “The world is changing rapidly. Threats have become far more complex, and no single service can operate in isolation. Interoperability and jointness are essential for success in any conflict.”

The Defence Minister warned that divergence in standards in critical domains like aviation safety and cyber warfare could be harmful. He said, “Even a minor error in inspection can create cascading effects, and if our cyber defence systems differ across services, adversaries can exploit the gap. We must close these vulnerabilities by harmonising our standards.”

At the same time, he said integration must respect the uniqueness of each force and that the challenge is to create a shared baseline preserving uniqueness while building interoperability and trust. “Achieving jointness requires not only structural reform but also a change in mindset, calling on senior leadership to communicate the value of integration continuously,” he said.

Rajnath said, “We will face challenges as we move towards jointness, but through dialogue, understanding and respect for traditions, we can overcome these hurdles. Every service must feel the others understand their challenges, and every tradition must be honoured as we build new systems together.”

He urged the Armed Forces to study international best practices and adapt them to India’s context. He added, “We can learn from others, but our answers must be Indian answers shaped by our geography, needs and culture. Only then can we build systems that are sustainable and future-ready.”

Singh reaffirmed the government’s commitment to supporting jointness in every possible way. He called upon all services and institutions, including the Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force, and Directorate General of Civil Aviation, to move decisively on this path.

He said, “Only when our Armed Forces operate in unison, in harmony, and in perfect coordination can we counter adversaries across all domains and lead India to new heights of glory. This is the need of the hour, and I am confident we will achieve it.”

Before his address, Rajnath paid condolences to Director General Territorial Army Lieutenant General Raju Bajjal, who passed away that morning.

Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Director General (Inspection and Safety) Air Marshal Makarand Ranade, senior officials of the Armed Forces, Indian Coast Guard, Border Security Force, Directorate General of Civil Aviation, and veterans were present.

The seminar reached consensus on the need for greater commonality in inspection processes and explored opportunities to enhance interoperability among services in aviation. The session on Joint Aerospace Safety underlined the importance of a unified approach to safety standards and addressing emerging challenges. The seminar concluded as a step toward enhanced collaboration and sharing of expertise—(KNO)

India won’t

Nursing Service (MNS) at the Manekshaw Centre in Delhi Cantt, General Chauhan said that while the possibility of nuclear weapons use in the Indian context remains low, it is necessary to factor it into security planning.

He said radiological contamination would require separate treatment protocols, and training must include these aspects to ensure operational readiness.

Referring to recent developments, he mentioned that following Operation Sindoor, the Prime Minister had made it clear that nuclear blackmail would not deter India. Preparedness against such threats, he said, is an important element of deterrence.

General Chauhan further said that biological threats, whether arising from deliberate action, accidents, or natural causes, are expected to rise in the future. “The lessons from the COVID-19 pandemic have shown the need for updated and specialised treatment protocols to deal with infectious disease outbreaks,” he said.

The nursing force, according to him, will play a central role in responding to such scenarios and must be trained accordingly.

The Chief of Defence Staff said the Military Nursing Service has been a consistent part of the armed forces’ medical infrastructure and has served in various operational and humanitarian environments. The nurses are not only central to delivering medical care but also to providing comfort and support during difficult times, he added.

He also noted that the focus must not only remain on developing professional capabilities, but also on ensuring the psychological well-being of medical staff, including nurses. According to him, those who provide care also require care, and emotional support systems should be part of institutional planning.

General Chauhan said the Military Nursing Service is currently the only organisation in the armed forces structured to function jointly across the Army, Navy, and Air Force. He said nurses can be posted across all three services without administrative or structural hindrance, setting an example of the kind of jointness the armed forces must aim for in other areas as well.

The Military Nursing Service was established in 1926. It is one of the oldest uniformed medical services in the country and continues to serve across operational, maritime, aerial, and humanitarian missions—(KNO)

DGP

and scholarships for higher education including postgraduate, medical, and doctoral studies. In 2025, five family members of martyrs received appointment letters for government service,” he added.

The DGP said the police have also been organising sporting events regularly, including the upcoming cricket tournaments in Kathua and Kishtwar. Past initiatives include Jashn-e-Dal, Pedal for Peace, and Marathon Run for Peace, with a “Run for Fun” scheduled in Jammu. National-level tournaments hosted in recent years include All India Police Football, Hockey, and Water Sports Championships.

The police are also running 10 drug de-addiction centres across the Union Territory, treating over 200 inpatients this year alone.

DGP Prabhat said legal action continues against drug traffickers, but the force is equally focused on rehabilitation.

He said 981 students were sent this year on educational and cultural tours across the country, up from 781 last year, as part of efforts to expose youth to national progress and diversity.

Mentioning achievements in sports, he named several police athletes who have won medals in national and international competitions.

The DGP thanked officers involved in organising the tournament and acknowledged the Lieutenant Governor for continued support to the police.

“J&K Police is committed to its responsibilities. We will continue our work,” he said—(KNO)

Anti-BJP

of aligning with the BJP. “Like Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and Mehbooba Mufti did in 2015 and 2016, I could have chosen to form a government with the BJP. Forming a government with the BJP might have expedited the restoration of statehood. But I chose the other path—to keep the BJP away from power in J&K. We may have to wait longer, but I will never allow them to enter government through us,” he said.

The LoP said Omar Abdullah will intensify such utterances in the coming days to mislead people in the upcoming by-elections, especially in Budgam segment.

“Omar Abdullah and his government have failed on every front in the past 11 months. They have failed to deliver on pre-election promises like free electricity, 12 gas cylinders, one lakh jobs, etc.,” he said.

Coming down heavily on the CM, Sharma said that Omar Abdullah be-fooled the people of Kashmir in the name of Article 370.

He said the BJP is not desperate for power, unlike those who were making frantic attempts to form an alliance with the party in 2014.

“Everyone knows who was desperate for an alliance with us after being rejected by Kashmiris in 2014 election,” he said, adding that Omar Abdullah himself served as a minister in Atal Bihari Vajpayee’s government.

Sharma said that every political party in Kashmir has aligned with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the past.

He added that the BJP will continue to play the role of a constructive opposition and highlight the misdeeds and failures of the NC-led government. (KNO)

LG Lauds

country.

The Lieutenant Governor felicitated the students who excelled during the ‘Viksit Bharat Ke Rang-Kala Ke Sang’ programme. He also called for making this initiative a regular feature.

Jugal Kishore Sharma, Member of Parliament; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu; Dr Rakesh Minhas, Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ms Shruti Awasthi, Regional Director, IGNCA, senior officials, heads of various educational institutions and youth in large number attended the valedictory function. (DIPR)

J&K likely

renewable energy.

“In the alternate resilient scenario, coal requirement increases by around 287 MW compared to the base case in terminal year 2034-35. The STOA requirement in 2024-25 increases by around 144 MW in case of Alternate Resilient scenario in comparison to the base case,” reads the document.

Besides, the document also states that J&K and Ladakh are likely to have surplus capacity available from April to September (in the range of 230-740 MW for 2027-28) which can be shared with other states.

A day before KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness an energy deficit ranging from more than 4,200 Megawatts (MWs) to 10,000 MWs in next ten years. “J&K and Ladakh is likely to witness energy deficit ranging from 4293 MU to 9929 MU in different years from 2024-25 to 2034-35 with the existing and planned capacity addition.”

Pertinently, in April this year, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh is likely to witness around 62 percent of share from non-fossil fuel-based capacity in mixed electricity generation by 2034-35.

The news agency had reported that “The share of non-fossil fuel-based capacity in the generation mix is projected to be around 62% by 2034-35 with higher contribution from non-fossil fuel-based capacities in alignment with Renewable Purchase Obligation (RPO) trajectory.”—(KNO)

Chief Secretary

the concerned to adopt a proactive approach in filling vacancies, ensuring that positions are filled efficiently and without administrative lag.

Chief Secretary emphasized that addressing human resource (HR) issues of employees is as critical as other administrative priorities.

Atal Dulloo stressed the importance of leveraging technology, instructing officials to make the process of framing and amending recruitment rules fully online, thereby eliminating delays and ensuring transparency.

He said that digitisation of recruitment rules would allow for smooth, exclusive, and real-time online operas, ensuring better monitoring and

accountability.

Recognizing the need for continuous skill development in governance, Atal Dulloo ordered the creation of a dedicated Capacity Building Unit (CBU) under Mission Karmayogi.

CBU, he said will be responsible for systematic training and upskilling of employees, with the aim of fostering a culture of innovation, efficiency, and accountability in public administration

Chief Secretary also raised concerns over the non-compliance of employees in registering on the Karmayogi portal, designed to enhance core competencies for effective public service delivery.

Highlighting the importance of transparency and accountability, Chief Secretary reiterated the government’s commitment to openness in governance. He directed all departments to ensure proactive disclosure of information within 15 days under relevant norms, so that citizens have easy access to key decisions and policies.

Atal Dulloo also called for the expeditious disposal of pending RTI cases, noting that timely response to information requests is a cornerstone of accountable governance.

Regarding Departmental Promotions and Service matters, Chief Secretary called upon the Administrative Secretaries to streamline service matters and instructed each department to formulate a concrete action plan detailing how many pending Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) cases will be cleared within fixed timelines. He stressed that promotions are an important aspect of employee morale and organizational effectiveness and delays in the process must be eliminated.

As part of citizen-centric governance, the Chief Secretary directed the development of the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) portal within one week.

He said that the portal will act as a single-window platform to monitor the delivery of public services, reduce delays and provide greater accountability in ensuring time-bound citizen services.

Regarding the Regular Departmental Action Cases, Atal Dulloo called upon the administrative departments to review the progress of pending RDA cases on regular intervals for swift disposal of the

cases.

Regarding the compassionate appointments in favour of the kin of deceased employees under SRO-43 and newly christened Rehabilitation Assistance Scheme (RAS), the Chief Secretary underscored the need of further accelerating the process. He directed the concerned to put the cases before the designated committees for their clearances and issuance of orders in favour of the applicants. (DIPR)

Omar Abdullah

of four assembly segments. And clean drinking water, filtered water would be delivered to your homes. The schemes that are left, we will complete those schemes as well,” he said.

The Chief Minister further assured the people that development would not be confined to water supply alone. “The work of other departments, whether it is education, health, roads, industry, tourism, social welfare, tribal affairs, wherever you have expectations from the government, I promise you that we will meet those expectations. And we will fulfil the promises made to you. Have faith in us. The rest of the work is our responsibility,” he said.

He also highlighted the challenges of governance, stating that sitting outside, many people think it is easy to run a government in such difficult circumstances. “I tell some of them, for example, come and sit on my chair for 10 days. If on the 11th day, you do not pull your legs, I’ll concede the point,” he said.

Referring to the financial liabilities inherited by his government, the Chief Minister noted that thousands of crores of rupees in pending payments had burdened contractors and service providers. “This is not my

fault or Mr. Rana’s fault. We got this situation in inheritance. But we never made an excuse for this. We did not say that this is not our liability and we will not do anything about it. On the contrary, we tried to solve it quietly. I sat with the minister in charge to find a solution to this. I don’t do politics of deceit. I have never used the situation as an excuse despite the fact that I know how difficult it is to work in these circumstances. But we will present ourselves to you only after we do our work. This is my promise to you,” he declared.

Touching upon the political aspirations of the people, Omar Abdullah reiterated his stand on restoration of statehood. “But my colleagues will also have to be courageous. They will have to face the powers that only want destruction in Jammu and Kashmir. We will fight. We will fight in democratic ways. We will fight in peaceful ways. We will get our rights within the realm of Constitution. But I am not ready to bring destruction and destruction in the homes of the people here. But I still believe that there is no despair in Allah’s court, we will get it. And we will get our rights. But for now, the work will continue,” he said amidst loud applause.

The function was also addressed by Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, and MLAs Abdul Majeed Bhat (Anantnag West), Dr Bashir Ahmad Veeri (Srigifwara-Bijbehara), Altaf Ahmad Kaloo (Pahalgam), Reyaz Ahmad Khan (Shangus-Anantnag) and Zafar Ali Khatana (Kokernag), who lauded the inauguration of the water supply schemes as a landmark step for Anantnag. (DIPR)

اطلاع عام

بجلی کنکشن ایگریمنٹ زیر آئی، ڈی نمبر 0209010024064 جو کہ میرے پاپ بمقابلہ کوکا ولد محمد صدیق کے نام پر درج تھا، لیکن اب اسکو وکیل احمد کوکا کے نام کرنا مطلوب ہے، اس بارے میں اگر کسی کو کوئی اعتراض ہو تو وہ ایک ہفتے کے اندر پی ڈی ڈی سب ڈیڑن سمجھا کے دفتر میں پیش کرے، بعد میں کوئی بھی اعتراض قابل قبول نہیں ہوگا۔

وکیل احمد کوکا ولد مرحوم محمد مقبول کوکا ساکنہ مومن سمجھاڑہ

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER (R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA

NOTICE INVITING FRESH TENDERS

ENIT NO. 53 OF R&B / CHADOORA/ 3329-38 of 2025-26 DATED: 29/09/2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT J&K, fresh e-tenders (In double cover system) are invited on **Percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/ Central Governments for the following works:-

SN	Nome of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees}	Earnest Money (In Rupees}	Time of completion (days)	M.H OF Account	Class Of Contact or
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	Link road from Neegu to Sheikhpora near filtration plant Panchayat Halqa Neegu Block Sursary District Budgam.	8.00	300.00	16000.00	25	UT Capex Budget (Infrastructure for welfare of Tribal	C/D

Project Authority: DDC Budgam
Position of AAA : Accorded, Position of TS: Sanctioned

- The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29/09/2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	29/09/2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	29/09/2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	06/10/2025 upto 05.00 PM.
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids	06/10/2025 at 5.00 PM in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (deposited in Mh: 0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender inviting authority) and Earnest money / Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (tender receiving authority).

Note:- The Date of Treasury Challan and Earnest Money / Bid security must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date. **Any deviation shall render the bidder as Non-responsive.**

- The 1st lowest bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG** in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt of letter of acceptance and shall be released after successful completion of DLP. The Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period.
- At the time of tendering, all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority, i.e., Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora.** Besides that, the successful bidder will have to provide Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG @ 5% at the time of contract award, strictly in accordance with the Government’s circular instructions from time to time. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of a Performance Security of 5% of the total cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period. In case of failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non responsive and case for debarring of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- All other terms conditions are as per PWD Form 25 (Double agreement Form).

No. 3329-38 Dated: 29/09/2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer

DIPK-6696/25 Dt: 30-09-2025

DIPK-6708/25
Dt: 30-09-2025

No: MDSK/TS/2942-45

Date: 30-09-2025.

Corrigendum 01 for Date Extension

Name of work: Providing and fitting of delivery line to dewatering station and desilting of sump, drains at MHED Kashmir.

Reference: - This office e-NIT No.: - MDSK/TS /2025-26/44 Date:22-09-2025
(Tender ID: 2025_PWDJK_289312_1)

Due to no response, the critical dates of the above referred e-NIT is extended as under:-

S.No.	Description	Previous Dates	New Dates.
01.	Last date of downloading/ submission of bids	29-09-2025 upto 09:00AM	09-10-2025 upto 09:00AM
02.	Date of opening of bids online	30-09-2025 at 02:00 PM	10-10-2025 at 02:00 PM

All other terms, conditions and specifications as stipulated in the e-NIT shall remain unchanged.

Sd/
Executive Engineer
Machinery Division, Kashmir.

Amit Shah assures Centre's full support for flood-affected residents in Punjab

NEW DELHI: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah has said that Modi government is standing shoulder to shoulder with the people of Punjab and committed to provide all possible help to flood affected people of the state.

The Chief Minister of Punjab Bhagwant Mann met Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Amit Shah in New Delhi this evening and apprised him on the extent of damages caused in the State in the aftermath of floods during the Monsoon season. He also made a demand for sanction of additional funds for the state for disaster relief and restoration.

During the meeting the Chief Minister was apprised that in the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), State has sufficient funds to the tune of Rs. 12,589.59 crore, which can be utilized for the relief and immediate restoration to the affected people as per Government of India norms.

The Central Government has provided all possible assistance from central agencies to the state administration, in search, rescue and immediate restoration during the recent floods in the State.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji had



visited Punjab on 9th September 2025 and reviewed the flood situation and damages caused in state. Out of the financial assistance of 1,600 crore announced by the Prime Minister, Rs 805 crore (including 170 crore under sanction by NHAI) has already been released to the State Government/ intended beneficiaries under various schemes and rest will be released on receipt of relevant information from the State.

Further, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) was constituted on 1st

September 2025, without waiting for the receipt of memorandum from the State of Punjab. The Central Team visited the affected areas for on-the-spot assessment of damages in the State from 3rd - 6th September 2025. However, the State Govt. is yet to submit a detailed memorandum. After receipt of the memorandum, the same will be considered by the Central Government as per the Government of India approved norms.

Besides this, State can prepare a recovery and reconstruction plan for

restoration of livelihood and damaged infrastructure. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has already issued guidelines for Recovery and Reconstruction (R&R) Funding Window under SDRF and National Disaster Response fund (NDRF) on 14.08.2024. As detailed in the guidelines, in the aftermath of a severe disaster, the State Government needs to conduct Post Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) in consultation with SDMA/NDMA (if need be) for assessment of recovery and reconstruction needs. (PIB)

Ukraine begins sharing drone expertise with Denmark deployment, Zelenskyy says

KYIV: The Ukrainian military is sharing with European countries its expertise in fighting Russian drones, sending a mission to Denmark for joint exercises, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday.

"Our military has begun deploying a mission in Denmark to disseminate Ukrainian experience in drone defence," Zelenskyy said.

European defence ministers agreed last week to build what they called a "drone wall" along their borders with Russia and Ukraine to better detect, track and intercept drones violating Europe's airspace.

Europe's readiness and technology are lagging far behind Ukraine and Russia, however, as cutting-edge drone warfare has become a hallmark of their three-year war since Moscow's full-scale invasion of its neighbour.

"Ukrainian (drone) experience is the most relevant in Europe right now, and it is our experience, our specialists, and our technologies that could become a key element of the future European drone wall" — a large-scale project that will guarantee safety in the sky," Zelenskyy added in a post on Telegram.

Denmark has in recent days reported drone sightings at military facilities and over Danish airports.

Danish intelligence officials, though careful not to directly accuse a specific country, said they regarded the risk of Russian espionage and sabotage in Denmark as high.

Poland has also turned to Ukraine for expertise after Russian drones entered Polish airspace.

"The results of the (Ukrainian) mission in Denmark will shape the framework for cooperation with other European countries as well," Zelenskyy said.

The NATO military alliance is troubled, too, by European airspace violations by Russian warplanes that are further straining relations with Moscow and fueling fears that the fighting could spill beyond Ukraine's borders.

At the same time, there is uncertainty about peace negotiations that were set in motion by the United States months ago but appear to be making no headway.

Ahead of two summits in the Danish capital Copenhagen this week, NATO is stepping up aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea, while France, Germany and Sweden are bolstering Denmark's air defences. (PTI)



Centre Issues Comprehensive Guidelines for Timely Pension, Retirement Dues to Central Employees

NEW DELHI: The Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW) on Tuesday issued a comprehensive set of guidelines aimed at ensuring timely payment of retirement dues, including pension and pensionary benefits, and the issue of Pension Payment Orders (PPOs)/e-PPOs at the time of retirement of Central Civil Services employees.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB), the reforms, covering eight major interventions, are designed to eliminate delays, strengthen accountability, and promote digitisation in pension processing.

The measures include digitisation of service records, universalisation of the Bhavishya portal, clarification on vigilance clearance norms, institution of an inter-ministerial oversight mechanism, auto-flagging and escalation of delayed cases, intensive capacity building through i-GOT Karmayogi, and deputation of Pension Mitras/ Welfare Officers for handholding of retiring employees.

The government has underlined that PPOs must be issued in both physical and electronic forms (e-PPOs) to further accelerate the shift towards digitisation. To achieve this, ministries and departments have been instructed to adopt e-HRMS for complete digitisation of service records, which is expected to substantially reduce errors and cut down processing timelines.

A key reform relates to vigilance clearance (VC), often cited as a reason for delay in pension processing. The DoPPW has clarified that no pension can be delayed on account of pending VC, in line with provisions under the CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021.

Ministries have been directed to ensure issuance of VC at least three months before retirement, as the clearance is valid for that duration.

For monitoring, a robust Oversight Mechanism will be introduced under the Bhavishya portal. This includes a High-Level Oversight Committee (HLOC) chaired by the Secretary (Pension) and comprising the Controller General of Accounts (CGA), Director

General (CGHS), Director General (NIC), Principal CCAs of MHA and MoF, and CPAO as members. Ministries will also nominate Nodal Officers (not below Joint Secretary rank) along with Pension Disbursing Banks for oversight.



The system will be strengthened by auto-flagging and auto-escalation of cases breaching prescribed timelines through upgrades in the Bhavishya portal. The revamped platform will map every employee's workflow—from Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) to Pension Disbursing Authority—creating a smart monitoring dashboard with transaction trails, data prompts, and accountability checkpoints.

To build capacity, training modules on Bhavishya and pension processing will be rolled out on the i-GOT Karmayogi platform, developed with the Capacity Building Commission. These will target officials at all levels, including DDOs, HoOs, HoDs, PAOs and CPAO.

In a significant step towards pensioner support, each retiring employee will be assigned a Pension Mitra/ Welfare Officer, deputised by the Head of Office, to guide them through form-filling and formalities.

In the event of a pensioner's death, the Welfare Officer will also assist dependents in completing documentation and claiming family pension. A detailed circular on their roles and responsibilities will be issued separately.

According to the DoPPW, the reforms aim to achieve a clear benchmark: issuance of PPOs/e-PPOs 60 days before retirement, settlement of retirement dues a day after retirement, and first pension disbursement by the last day of the following month. (PIB)

India's Pharma Exports Near \$30 Billion, Domestic Market Set to Double by 2030: Dr. Jitendra

NEW DELHI: India's pharmaceutical exports, currently valued at nearly \$27.8 billion, are expected to cross \$30 billion by the end of this year, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said on Tuesday.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB), minister added that the country's domestic pharma market, now worth \$60 billion, is projected to double to \$130 billion by 2030, underscoring India's growing role in the global healthcare sector.

The Minister made these remarks after the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Department of Biotechnology (DBT), Government of India, and the Government of Uttar Pradesh. The pact, executed through DBT's Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC) and the Uttar Pradesh Promote Pharma Council (UPPPC), aims to accelerate innovation, entrepreneurship, and investment in the pharma, biotech, and MedTech sectors under a centre-state partnership model.

Highlighting the momentum of the MedTech industry, Dr. Singh pointed out that India currently has around 800 medical device manufacturers, and the sector is witnessing annual growth of 15 to 20 percent.

He said the collaboration with Uttar Pradesh will focus on research and innovation, building a startup ecosystem, skill development, knowledge exchange, strengthening SME and MSME linkages, and attracting investment.

Dr. Singh underlined the sharp expansion of India's biotech ecosystem, which has grown from about 50 startups in 2014 to over 11,000 today. "India is now recognized as a global supplier of vaccines, manufacturing more than 60 per cent of the world's vaccines and supplying doses to over 200 countries," he said.

He credited this success to policy support and a whole-of-government approach that encourages states to partner with DBT for innovation-led growth.

Calling the DBT-UP agreement a step towards realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, Dr. Singh said the initiative would reinforce India's position as a provider of affordable, accessible, and globally relevant healthcare solutions.

DBT Secretary and BIRAC Chairman Dr.

Rajesh S. Gokhale described the agreement as an opportunity to "unlock innovation pipelines and scale up affordable technologies."

Senior officials from the Uttar Pradesh government said the state was committed to becoming a hub for pharma, biotech, and MedTech industries, citing the Biotech Park in Lucknow,



Medical Device Park in Greater Noida, and Bulk Drug & Pharma Park in Lalitpur as flagship projects that would be scaled up with DBT-BIRAC's support.

Awanish Kumar Awasthi, advisor to the Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister, noted that the partnership would nurture startups and strengthen research collaborations to transform healthcare delivery in the state and beyond. BIRAC Managing Director Dr. Jitendra Kumar emphasized the focus on skill development, incubation, and commercialization, ensuring that innovations reach markets faster and deliver wider socio-economic benefits.

The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Amit Kumar Ghosh and senior officials from DBT, BIRAC, and the Uttar Pradesh government, underscoring the centre-state commitment to expanding India's biotechnology and pharma landscape.

With India's bioeconomy already valued at around \$165 billion, officials said partnerships such as the DBT-UP agreement are critical to positioning India as a global hub for accessible biopharma and MedTech solutions. (PIB)

Tomahawk missiles in Ukraine not to change battleground situation: Russian FM Lavrov

MOSCOW: The Tomahawk cruise missiles will not affect the situation on the battleground in Ukraine in any way, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Tuesday, noting that Washington may be spreading the reports about the supply of these long-range missiles to Kyiv to reassure its European allies.

"The Kremlin has already stated quite clearly that even if Tomahawks emerge in Ukraine, this will not change the front-line situation," Lavrov was quoted as saying in the Black Sea resort of Sochi by TASS.

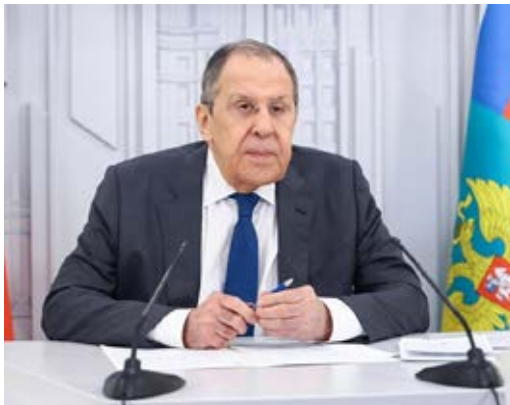
The Ukrainian leadership's statement about the possibility of carrying out long-range strikes deep inside Russia can be perceived only negatively, the Kremlin Spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters in Moscow on Tuesday.

In a statement released by TASS on Tuesday, Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service (SVR) has warned that the Zelinsky regime, in the face of "inevitable military defeat," is using Europeans as a cover to take extreme measures even at the risk of sparking a "major war".

"According to information obtained by Russia's SVR, the Kiev regime, following its attempts at provocations with unmanned aerial vehicles in Poland and Romania's airspace, continues its

efforts to draw European NATO countries into an armed confrontation with Moscow," it said.

The statement said that another provocation is being prepared that "revolves around a sabotage and reconnaissance group allegedly made



up of servicemen from Russia and Belarus' special forces."

It claimed that the Ukrainian intelligence service, with the collaboration of the Polish counterparts, has enrolled militants of anti-government Russian and Belarusian legions raised by them for enacting terror strikes in Poland, to accuse Moscow and Minsk of attempting to destabilise the situation in a NATO country. (PTI)

Hardeep Singh Puri Inaugurates IGL's New Office and Smart Gas Meter Facility in New Delhi

NEW DELHI: "Over the last 11 years, India has witnessed a transformative journey in the petroleum and natural gas sector—expanding LPG connections from 14 crore before 2014 to more than 33 crore today, strengthening the natural gas pipeline network from 14,000 km to over 22,500 km, and positioning India as one of the fastest-growing refining hubs globally," said Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Hardeep Singh Puri. He was speaking on the occasion of inaugurating the new office of Indra-prastha Gas Limited (IGL) at World Trade Centre, Nauroji Nagar, New Delhi.

The Minister also inaugurated a new Smart Gas Meter Manufacturing facility set up by IGL in partnership with Genesis Gas Solutions. The plant will be able to produce about one million gas meters every year, including smart and prepaid meters. With production expected to start in October 2025, this initiative will help make India self-reliant in gas meter manufacturing and support

IGL's efforts to provide modern, efficient, and affordable services to customers.

Highlighting IGL's achievements, the Minister said that the company has extended PNG connections to 250 villages in Delhi, bringing urban amenities such as clean cooking fuel to more than 1 lakh rural households. He stressed that this expansion is not just about infrastructure, but about transforming lives, improving air quality, and reducing emissions while bridging the rural-urban divide.

Reflecting on India's energy journey, the Minister noted that before 2014, accessing LPG cylinders was a challenge for many households, while today LPG connections cover the entire population. He added that on the first day of Navratri, 25 lakh new LPG connections were announced under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, which provides clean cooking fuel to economically weaker sections. With this, the total number of connections under the scheme will rise to around 10.60 crore.

The Minister also underlined the success story of IGL, incorporated in 1998, which has become a key player in the city gas distribution sector by supplying



CNG to the transport sector and PNG to households, industries, and commercial establishments. IGL today operates 966 CNG stations—nearly 12% of India's total, has connected over 30.7 lakh households with PNG, supplies clean energy to 5,300 industries and 7,100 commercial establishments, sells 9.3 MMSCMD of natural gas, and refuels 22 lakh CNG vehicles daily.

Puri highlighted that India's natural

gas pipeline network has grown significantly. He expressed optimism over India's exploration and production efforts, citing promising results from recent finds in the Andaman region. He recalled that between 2006 and 2016, exploration activities had come to a halt as the perception prevailed that oil and gas were easily available in global markets. However, he expressed confidence that India's geological potential is strong and new discoveries are reinforcing this belief.

The Minister further noted that India is rapidly increasing its refining capacity and is already the world's fourth-largest refining hub. With further expansion, India is poised to become the third-largest, and eventually one of the global centres of refining activity as smaller standalone refineries elsewhere may struggle to remain viable. He said this expansion not only strengthens India's energy security but also creates jobs, supports MSMEs, and enhances regional economic growth.

Puri also appreciated IGL's adoption of state-of-the-art technologies including SAP-ERP, GIS, advanced analytics, business intelligence dashboards, integrated security and vehicle tracking systems, prepaid and self-billing apps, chatbots, e-billing, and automated meter reading. He said that these innovations strengthen operations, improve efficiency, and enhance customer service, setting benchmarks for the city gas distribution sector.

Looking ahead, he said that India's green energy transformation will involve a diversified mix including biogas, LNG, hydrogen-enriched CNG, EV charging, and swapping infrastructure. He was informed that IGL has already installed EV charging facilities at 40 stations and has a time-bound plan to expand further. He added that while CNG and electric vehicles will see increased adoption, traditional fuels like petrol will continue to play a role, especially in rapidly growing economic hubs such as the National Capital Region. (PIB)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

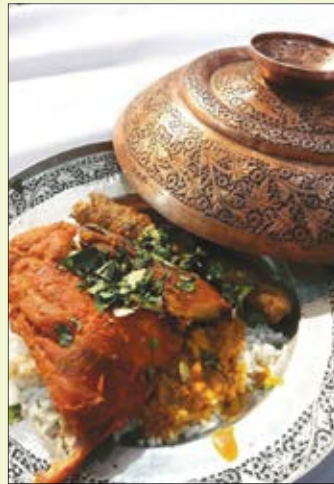
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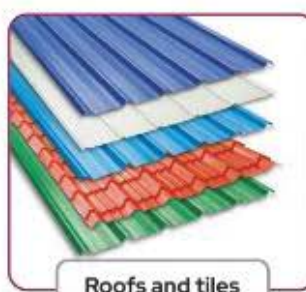
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