



## India Set To Emerge More Powerful By Beating Created Hurdles: LG Sinha

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Addresses 45th Foundation Day of J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra's School

JAMMU: "Inclusion is the key for prosperity," the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said on Monday. He said in the past few years, the government's efforts were focused on ensuring all members of society participate fully in J&K's developmental journey and people with special abilities are able to unlock their potential and contribute to greater prosperity and social stability. The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the 45th Foundation Day of School for the hearing impaired run by J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra.

The Lieutenant Governor also observed that several forces based abroad and also in India are trying to stop the progress of the country. He said this conspiracy has been hatched by certain elements but no power can stop our march towards developed India.

"India will emerge more powerful defeating the challenges and hurdles created by certain elements. No one can stop our rise," the Lieutenant Governor said.

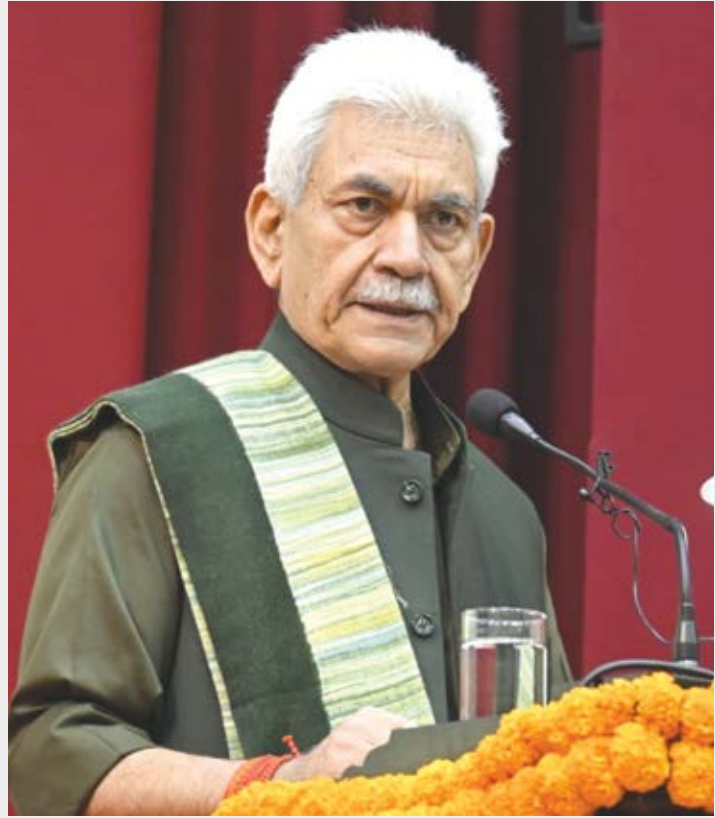
The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, called for implementing inclusive rehabilitation measures for people with special abilities and ensur-

ing equal opportunities for them in education and employment.

thinking and taking independent decisions, thirdly, to provide full support

mended all the members of the organisation for their selfless service to the society.

He assured every possible support and assistance to J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra for the smooth functioning of the school. He called upon the corporate houses, business community, and citizens to come forward and contribute to this noble endeavour.



The Lieutenant Governor highlighted the four important aspects for empowerment of people with special abilities. First, identifying their strengths and promoting them, secondly, to create an inclusive environment that helps them in independent

to their decision-making abilities and fourthly, to create a conducive environment for self-learning and self-improvement.

The Lieutenant Governor also paid homage to Dr. R.R. Khajuria, founder of J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra and com-

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The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the children with special abilities for presenting enthralling performances to mark the occasion.

K.B. Jandial, President, J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra; Dr. Rakesh Khajuria, Vice President; J.K. Vaidya, General Secretary, and other members of J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra, special

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## 11 Years of Modi Govt Put J&K First: Dr. Jitendra

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JAMMU: Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh Monday said that Jammu and Kashmir has received special attention from the Government of India over the past 11 years since Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power.

Dr Singh was present with the three BJP candidates nominated for the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections when they filed their nomination papers.

Speaking to reporters, he said that the Bharatiya Janata Party has fielded three candidates and expressed full confidence of winning all the three seats and ensuring strong representation for Jammu and Kashmir in the Upper House of Parliament.

He said the Rajya Sabha holds a significant place in the country's democratic system, as it traditionally sends experienced individuals for representation.

"Over the past 11 years, since Modi Ji became the Prime Minister, Jammu and

Kashmir has been given special priority. Under the leadership of the BJP and Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has improved. Our caravan has once again set out on



the path of prosperity," Dr. Singh said.

He added that strong representation in both Houses of Parliament is essential for safeguarding the interests of future generations, strengthening the Prime Minister's hands, and ensuring

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## India's system driven by justice rather than punishment: HM Shah

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JAIPUR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday described the implementation of the three new criminal laws as a historic reform and the biggest overhaul of India's criminal justice system in the 21st century.



He also said more than 50 per cent of chargesheets are now being filed on time in the country.

Speaking at a function See On P/6

## Won't be part of campaigning for NC in Budgam: Ruhullah



SRINAGAR: Citing the incomplete fulfillment of promises and commitment to uphold his principles over political expediency, MP Srinagar and National Conference leader Agha Ruhullah on Monday said

that he will not take part in campaigning for the party in the upcoming Budgam Assembly bypolls.

Ruhullah said that while the party will ultimately decide on the candidate, he sees no reason to actively campaign under the current circumstances.

He added that his engagement with voters has always been guided by trust, accountability, and the delivery of commitments rather than party pressure.

Ruhullah, who has represented the Budgam Assembly constituency multiple times

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## Congress Stays Out; NC, BJP Face Off in Rajya Sabha Polls

7 key candidates in fray; forms of 2 non-locals to be rejected

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Battle lines have become clear for the Rajya Sabha polls in Jammu

and Kashmir. The Secretary of the Assembly, Manoj Pandita, is serving as the RO for the polls.

According to details, National Conference's Choudhary Muhammad Ramzan and BJP's Ali Muhammad Mir filed nomination papers for the first notification, under which the election will be held for one seat. A candidate named Prabhakar Dada also filed nomination papers.



& Kashmir, with nine candidates-four from the National Conference and three from the Bharatiya Janata Party-filing nomination papers on Monday, the last date for nominations.

A total of nine candidates submitted their nomination papers before the Returning

Officer of the election. The NC-led alliance comprises 53 MLAs. He is likely to secure the seat even without the support of Congress, which is reportedly upset over the denial of a safe seat.

For this seat, the BJP commands the support of its 28 MLAs. The non-BJP

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## CM Omar Stresses On Strengthening Manufacturing Base In J&K

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SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday reiterated

the meeting was attended by FIEO President S.C. Ralhan, Vice President Shrikant Kapoor, DG & CEO Ajay Sahai, regional chairpersons,



his government's commitment to addressing infrastructural and other constraints to make Jammu and Kashmir a more attractive destination for investment and manufacturing.

He was speaking during an interactive session with the Federation of Indian Export Organizations (FIEO) held in Srinagar.

past presidents, board members and other dignitaries.

The session discussed various opportunities of collaboration between J&K government and key representatives of India's export community.

Welcoming the FIEO delegation to Srinagar, the Chief Minister said that the organization's decision to

hold its Board of Management meeting in the city was "an important vote of confidence" in Jammu and Kashmir. "Your presence here is very reassuring for us," he re-

The Chief Minister emphasized several advantages that could support renewed industrial growth in the region, including competitive electricity rates, an educated young workforce, and favourable policy frameworks...

marked, adding that J&K has always valued its long-standing association with India's trade and export community.

During his address, Omar

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## SMVDU to Focus on Skill, Research, Digital Transformation: LG Sinha

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Chairs 36th meeting of Executive Council of SMVD University

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha chaired the 36th meeting of Executive Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, at Raj Bhawan.

The meeting was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Nilofar Khan, Vice Chancellor Kashmir University; Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor and Chairman, Board of Management, Ahmedabad University; Prof. A.S.K. Sinha, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Amethi; Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT, Jammu; Dr. Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Sachin Kumar Vaishya, CEO, SMVDSB; Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU and other members of Executive Council.

The Executive Council discussed sev-

eral important academic and administrative issues and gave in-principle approval to various agenda points presented during the meeting.



The Lieutenant Governor directed the University to take a comprehensive review of the various important initiatives and programmes to regularly update the curriculum to meet the objectives of National Education Policy-2020 and transforming SMVDU into a premier educational institute at the National level.

He highlighted the need for a dedicated focus on lifelong learning skill and community engagement, increasing enrolment, industry collaboration and networking, Skill enhancement through short term

He highlighted the need for a dedicated focus on lifelong learning skill and community engagement, increasing enrolment, industry collaboration and networking, Skill enhancement through short term courses, research, innovation and incubation, patents, strengthening of faculty and staff, and the introduction of new programs from the upcoming academic year.

The Lieutenant

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## Chief Secretary Reviews Functioning of JKRLM

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Stresses on convergence of livelihood schemes to empower rural women

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Monday chaired a high-level meeting to review the functioning of the Jammu & Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) and directed for effective convergence of the Mission with Mission YUVA, PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME), and the Lal Ded Stree Shakti Scheme to maximize employment generation and ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities for women across rural areas of the UT.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance; Secretary, Rural Development Department; Managing Director, JKRLM, Subhra Sharma; and representatives from J&K Bank.

The Chief Secretary emphasized that the core objective of JKRLM is to empower rural women through

creation of sustainable livelihoods, and this goal can be best achieved by enhancing their access to credit and entrepreneurial support. He stressed upon adopting a convergence-



driven model, ensuring that the benefits of various women-centric and employment generation schemes complement each other to deliver tangible outcomes on the ground.

He directed the Mission to cover at least 5,000 women under the Lal Ded Stree Shakti Loan Scheme during the current year and further enhance credit linkage for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer

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## Gulmarg stuns global riders with scenic, challenging trails

SRINAGAR: Gulmarg has once again captured global attention as the world's top mountain bikers concluded the first-ever international-standard downhill mountain biking event, praising the destination for its stunning landscape, smooth organisation and welcoming atmosphere.

The event, part of the MTB Downhill - Zabarwan Legends Series, brought together 23 professional athletes, including 9 international participants from Australia, Italy, Brazil, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Czech Republic. The competition featured a challenging 2.5 km high-difficulty trail through Gulmarg's steep slopes, combining technical precision with breathtaking scenery.

Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma, who presided over the closing ceremony, hailed the global participation and called the athletes "ambassadors of peace". He said the event reflected a new and confident image of Jammu and Kashmir before the world.

"The participants from across

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## DC Ramban reviews Tobacco Control measures, implementation of COTPA 2003

**RAMBAN:** Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan chaired a meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee for the implementation of National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) and reviewed control measures being taken, including the enforcement of the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA), 2003.

The meeting was attended by Additional SP Ramban Majeed-Ur-Rehman, ACD Ashfaq Ahmed, CMO Kamal Je Zadoo, Divisional Coordinator NTCP Shiveta Raina, BMOs, CEO MC



Ramban and officers from School Education, Higher Education and other departments.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized strict enforcement of the COTPA Act to eliminate tobacco usage particularly in public places across the district. He directed the concerned officers to install mandatory signage in educational and health institutions as well as public areas like bus stands and government offices to raise awareness about the prohibition and harmful effects of tobacco use.

The DC directed all stakeholders to launch an intensified enforcement-cum-awareness drive to effectively implement the NTCP in the district. He instructed BDOs, BMOs and ZEOs to work in mission mode to make all schools, colleges, other institutions and villages tobacco-free as per prescribed parameters.

Further, the Deputy Commissioner asked CEOs and institutional heads to strengthen anti-tobacco campaigns and administer anti-tobacco pledges to students during morning assemblies. He also instructed designated officers to actively participate in enforcement drives to ensure all educational and health institutions become tobacco-free zones.

Reviewing the progress made by stakeholder departments, the DC directed them to launch a comprehensive IEC campaign to sensitize the public about the harmful effects of tobacco use and the provisions of COTPA-2003.

Earlier, in a detailed presentation, the CMO and Divisional Coordinator NTCP provided insights into the tobacco usage scenario in Jammu and Kashmir, explained the penal and enforcement provisions under COTPA-2003 and discussed strategies for implementing the Tobacco Free Youth Campaign 3.0.

## Operation Sadbhavana: Indian Army organises girls archery, shooting competition at Doda

**DODA:** Under the aegis of Operation Sadbhavana, the Indian Army (10 Rashtriya Rifles Rajput) today organized a Girls Archery and Shooting Competition at Sports Stadium Doda.

The event aimed to encourage young girls to actively participate in sports and inspire them to represent the nation on global platforms.

Themed "Let's Rise, Aim & Reach the World Stage," the competition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various schools across the district.

The programme was graced by Sheetal Devi, the pride of Jammu & Kashmir and India's Para-Archery Champion as the Chief Guest.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, officers of the Indian Army (10 RR) and dignitaries from civil and police administration were also present on the occasion.

A highlight of the event was the inspiring presence of Sheetal Devi, whose exceptional achievements at national and international levels have brought immense glory to the nation. Her journey of determination and success served as a source of great motivation for the young participants, encouraging them to dream big and pursue excellence in their chosen fields.

During the event, a Pledge for a Tobacco-Free Life was also administered to all participants and attendees, reinforcing the message of health, discipline and positive lifestyle choices among the youth.

Speaking on the occasion, Ms. Sheetal Devi shared her inspiring story with the students and said, "When I tried, I won medals in archery at both national and international levels. Every child has the ability to achieve great things if they try with dedication and confidence."

She encouraged the students to believe in themselves, work hard, and never give up on their dreams despite challenges.

Addressing the gathering, Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh appreciated the Indian Army for organizing such a meaningful and motivating event under Operation Sadbhavana. He lauded the Army's continuous efforts in nurturing local talent, fostering sports culture and promoting youth empowerment across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner Doda further remarked that "Sheetal Devi has brought immense pride and recognition to Doda and erstwhile district Kishtwar (Jammu and Kashmir) at the national and international level. If all children try and dedicate themselves with the same passion and determination as seen in this shooting and archery competition, Doda will continue to produce champions who can make the entire nation proud."

An Indian Army Officer also addressed the participants, emphasizing that Operation Sadbhavana is not only a symbol of the Army's commitment to peace and development but also a bridge of trust and cooperation between the Army and the local populace. He encouraged the youth, especially girls, to make the best use of such opportunities and contribute to the progress of the nation.

## CM Omar Abdullah chairs review meeting at Pulwama

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Progress of development works reviewed, stresses on timely execution of projects & optimum utilization of funds

**PULWAMA:** Chief Minister Omar Abdullah chaired a review meeting of District Pulwama to assess the status of development works and implementation of various government schemes in the district.

During the maiden district review meeting, the Chief Minister called upon officers to accelerate the pace of project execution and enhance expenditure levels under both District Capex and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). He expressed concern over the low percentage of expenditure against the approved outlay and urged the departments to step up efforts for timely utilization of funds.

"First of all, I would like to thank the DDC Chairman and MLAs for their valuable suggestions and ideas. I have already given several on-spot directions during the review, but I have one overarching request—please pay more attention towards execution. There is lot of need for overall improvement," the Chief Minister said, while addressing the officers.

"We are now in mid-October, and if we fail to utilize the first instalment under the new SASCI scheme by December, further funds will be withheld—which would be a huge loss for us," he cautioned.

Omar Abdullah directed the Deputy Commissioner to closely monitor progress of

approved projects and ensure that any lapses are immediately corrected. "Please keep reviewing the projects regularly. Wherever there are delays, address them promptly. We have restarted the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for Hon'ble MLAs, but a lot more needs to be done in terms of expenditure," he said.



Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Pulwama Dr. Basharat Qayoom presented a detailed overview of the District Capex Budget 2024-25, CSS 2024-25, and physical and financial achievements under Capex 2025-26, CDF, and MPLADS. He gave details of approved capital outlay of the district for 2025-26 and the details of works for which administrative approval has been accorded so far. The DC also gave department-wise, scheme-wise, and sector-wise performance reports covering Public Works (R&B), PMGSY, PMAY(G), Urban Development, School Education, Jal Shakti, Irrigation & Flood Control, Agriculture and allied sectors, Power, Cooperatives, Social Welfare, Employment, Youth Services & Sports, SDRF, Tribal Affairs, Revenue and Food & Civil Supplies.

The DDC Chairman and MLAs raised

several public issues concerning their respective constituencies, including irrigation and flood mitigation measures, drinking water scarcity, beautification of Pulwama, Pampore and Tral towns, road connectivity, crop insurance, desilting of rivulets, revenue settlement, illegal mining, completion of the Degree College building at Rajpore, and upgradation of health centres.

The Chief Minister and Ministers gave on-spot directions to the concerned officers for immediate redressal of the highlighted issues.

Taking serious note of illegal mining, Omar Abdullah directed the Deputy Commissioner and concerned departments to initiate strict measures to curb such activities. "If complaints are being received, action must be taken immediately. Whatever has to be done to stop illegal mining, should be done," he asserted.

Expressing concern over the absence of toilets in certain schools, particularly for girls, the Chief Minister directed MLAs to allocate funds from their CDF to such institutions, stressing that lack of basic facilities contributes to higher dropout rates among girl students.

He urged all departments to expedite ongoing works and ensure completion within the stipulated timelines.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also laid foundation stone of a new Shopping Complex at Pampore in virtual mode.

## DC Kathua Reviews Dengue Control Preparedness Measures In Kathua District

**KATHUA:** Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma convened a meeting of stakeholder departments to review the preparedness and response measures put in place to contain the spread of Dengue in the district.



At the outset, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Vijay Raina briefed the meeting about the prevailing situation. He informed that a total of 527 dengue cases have been reported in the current year so far, with no casualties. He further stated that September and October are the most vulnerable months for the spread of Dengue and sampling of suspected cases has been intensified to ensure early detection and timely treatment.

Highlighting the identified hot spots, the CMO informed that in Kathua urban areas, Ward No. 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11 and 12 have reported increased activity. Simi-

larly, the vulnerable locations have also been identified in Parole, Barnoti, CTM, Hatlimorh, Saktachak, Govindsar, Hamirpur, Dyalachak, Mela (Billawar), Ramkote, Lakhri (Basohli), Mahanpur, Bani town, Backon, Ghatti and Rolka.

It was informed that blood sample collection centres have been established at block levels with samples being transported to GMC & Associated Hospital Kathua for testing. Two dedicated beds with mosquito nets have also been designated for dengue-positive patients in each Sub-District Hospital at Parole, Hiranagar, Billawar, Basohli and Bani.

The CMO further informed that Gambusia fish, known for controlling mosquito larvae have been introduced in 134 permanent ponds across the district as part of vector control measures. The meeting also discussed the functioning of Rapid Response Teams at both district and block levels to ensure swift response to any reported outbreak.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to work in close coordination to ensure effective prevention and control measures. He laid emphasis on the Municipal Council Kathua to intensify fogging operations, sanitation drives and awareness

campaigns through public announcements and jingles.

He directed the Principal GMC Kathua to ensure daily update of dengue cases and to keep separate provisions for dengue patients. The CTM was asked to maintain sanitation and activate the health unit for quick response.

The Education Department was instructed to create awareness among students about dengue prevention during morning assemblies, while the Jal Shakti Department was directed to repair leaking water taps and ensure regular testing of water sources. The PWD was asked to ensure proper disposal of materials and prevent water stagnation near construction sites.

The Rural Development Department was directed to raise awareness among rural masses about preventive measures, while the Information Department was tasked to intensify information dissemination through print, electronic and social media platforms.

The DC urged all departments to remain vigilant and adopt a proactive approach to ensure a dengue-free Kathua through community participation and coordinated action.

ADC Vishavjeet Singh; ACD Akhil Sadotha; SE PWD, Medical Superintendent GMC & AH Kathua and other concerned officers were also present.

## DC Kishtwar finalizes arrangements for Deepawali Festival

**KISHTWAR:** The District Administration Kishtwar, under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma, on Monday convened a meeting in the Conference Hall of the New DC Office Complex to finalize arrangements for the smooth and safe celebration of the Deepawali (Diwali) - the festival of lights.

At the outset, the Deputy Commissioner directed officers of the line departments to take all necessary precautionary measures to prevent any untoward incidents during the celebrations and emphasized the need to raise public awareness—particularly advising parents to ensure that children do not use firecrackers without proper supervision.

The departments were directed to strictly adhere to the guidelines and ensure timely implementation of the arrangement plans. Stress was laid on synergy and close coordination among stakeholder departments for maintaining law and order, sanitation, uninterrupted essential services and effective crowd management to ensure a peaceful and joyous Diwali across the district.

The Police Department, along with the CRPF 52 Bn was directed to make adequate security arrangements across the town, its adjoining areas and all religious temples. Similar arrangements would be ensured

in all Sub-Divisions and Tehsils of the district to maintain peace and order.

The Jal Shakti Department was directed to take advance measures to maintain uninterrupted drinking water supply across



the town and its suburbs during the festival days. Meeting decided to deploy Water tankers at Chowgan Ground, ITI Ground and other identified locations to supplement the supply. Barricading of Chowgan Ground for the sale of crackers was also assigned to the Jal Shakti Department.

Similar directions were given to ensure uninterrupted power supply in the town, adjoining areas and all religious places, establishment of First Aid Camps at Chowgan Ground and keeping all PHCs, CHCs and Sub-Centres functional 24x7 with adequate medical staff, ambulances and medicines.

The Health Department was also directed to ensure the availability of emer-

gency equipment and treatment facilities for burn victims and respiratory patients.

The Municipal Council was directed to conduct special cleanliness and sanitation drives around all religious and public gathering places, with the instructions to ensure functioning of all streetlights and illumination of dark spots. Similarly, all Block Development Officers (BDOs) were instructed to carry out cleanliness and sensitization drives in rural religious sites where congregations will be held.

The DC laid special emphasis on ensuring the availability of quality commodities and preventing black marketing. A joint Market Checking Team comprising Tehsildar, Assistant Director FCS&CA, CEO Municipal Council, SHO, District Food Safety Officer and Assistant Controller Legal Metrology was constituted and directed to conduct regular market inspections from today onwards.

The team shall ensure the display of rate lists, the quality of sweets and the food items and take strict action under the Food Safety and Standards Act against violators. The AD FCS&CA was directed to ensure an adequate supply of LPG cylinders, atta and rice and to make home delivery of LPG available across the district to prevent inconvenience to the public.

## Cultural Unit DIPR Jammu sensitizes students about Dengue prevention, swachtha

**JAMMU:** Continuing its efforts to raise public awareness on health and hygiene, the Cultural Unit of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu today organised awareness programmes on "Dengue" and "Swachh Bharat" at Government High School Pakhiyaan Jammu and Government



Degree College Paloura.

At GHS Pakhiyaan, the event featured an array of engaging performances, including folk songs, theme-based songs and patriotic numbers presented by the artists of the Cultural Unit, Information Department, Jammu. Their energetic and informative performances inspired the audience to maintain cleanliness and adopt preventive measures against vector-borne diseases like dengue.

Adding to the enthusiasm, students of the school also actively participated by presenting speeches on the theme, effectively conveying key messages about cleanliness, hygiene and community responsibility in controlling mosquito-borne infections.

The Chief Guest and Headmaster of the School, Vandana Sharma addressed the gathering and appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for organising such a meaningful and socially relevant programme. She lauded the efforts of the Cultural Unit for using music as a powerful medium to educate and inspire young minds—the true future of the nation.

Another awareness event was organised at Government Degree College Paloura.

The Chief Guest and Principal of the College Kulvinder Kour appreciated the Department of Information and Public Relations for conducting such awareness drives that combine education with cultural engagement. He also encouraged students to act as ambassadors of cleanliness and health awareness in their communities.

The entire programme was conducted under the guidance of Joint Director Information, Jammu and supervised by the Cultural Officer. The programmes successfully conveyed the message that collective efforts, community awareness and personal responsibility form key to keeping our surroundings clean and preventing diseases like dengue.

## DC Kathua reviews progress of development works

Emphasizes timely completion of PWD sector projects

**KATHUA:** A review meeting to assess the physical and financial progress of the development schemes under different sectors was held



in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma.

The meeting reviewed the status of ongoing works under the PWD (R&B), including schemes funded under NABARD, UT Capex and City & Town infrastructure development, besides projects under Urban Development and Samagra Shiksha.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned engineers to expedite completion of road connectivity, bridge and building construction works taken up under different funding heads. He emphasized the need for ensuring quality parameters and timely completion of projects to provide maximum public benefit.

The Deputy Commissioner took note of the delays in execution of certain works due to flash floods, incessant rains and landslides which affected the pace of work in several areas. It was also informed that some projects are awaiting forest clearance and other administrative approvals.

The DC directed all executing agencies to address forest clearance issues and other bottlenecks on priority so that the developmental momentum is maintained. He stressed close coordination among departments for effective monitoring and timely delivery of public assets.

ADDC Kathua, Surinder Mohan Sharma, CPO Kathua Ranjit Thakur and officers from PWD (R&B), Urban Development, Education, RDD and other line departments attended the meeting.

# CEO visits Budgam; reviews preparedness for Bye-Election to AC-27 Budgam

**BUDGAM:** Chief Electoral Officer (CEO), Sanjeev Verma, today visited Budgam district to oversee preparations for the Upcoming bye-Assembly Elections 2025 to 27-AC Budgam.

The CEO chaired a meeting with all stakeholders and reviewed polling station wise arrangements and preparations for the smooth conduct of Bye-election in 27-AC Budgam in the district.

District Election Officer (DEO) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat presented the overall scenario of bye-election preparations in the district via presentation.

Joint Chief Electoral Officer, Anil Salgotra; ADC Budgam, ASP Budgam, ACR/RO to 27-AC Budgam, Deputy DEO Budgam, CPO Budgam, CEO Budgam, CMO, all other district nodal officers related to bye- Election to 27-AC Budgam were present in the meeting.

During the detailed review meeting, DEO apprised the CEO about the district's comprehensive preparedness for the upcoming bye-elections.

Addressing the officers, the CEO stressed on the importance of strict adherence to guidelines, timelines for the Model Code of Conduct and media monitoring.

He urged all stakeholders to maximize voter turnout through door-to-door

campaigns under the SVEEP initiative.

The CEO also directed the district administration to formulate booth-level committees and emphasized on



expenditure monitoring. He also laid emphasis on popularization of all election related apps of ECI among the general public.

The CEO further directed the district administration that activities under SVEEP be taken up including plantation, sanitation and distribution of voter slips among the electors for massive involvement of public in the festival of democracy.

The CEO, during the meeting, also took assessment of AMF, transport, material distribution, deployment, training of staff,

webcasting, home voting facility and other related preparations in the district.

While presenting overall view of preparedness, the DEO informed that,

thoroughly examined and cross-verified with concerned departments. He also informed about other aspects of election process like readiness of polling staff, EVM and VVPAT functionality, material storage and dispatch logistics, accessibility features for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), and functioning of the Control Room and Help Desk established at the DC Office Complex Budgam.

The DEO apprised the CEO that all arrangements have been made in strict conformity with the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI) and reiterated that District Administration Budgam is fully geared to ensure a smooth, transparent, and inclusive electoral process. He also informed that adequate deployment of security and polling personnel has been planned, and continuous coordination with law enforcement agencies is being maintained to ensure peaceful conduct of elections.

The DEO assured the CEO that every polling station will reflect the ECI's commitment to voter facilitation, accessibility, and transparency, thereby reaffirming the district's readiness to conduct free, fair, and participative bye-elections in Budgam.

During the meeting, concerned RO and Nodal Officers also briefed the CEO about election related arrangements.

## JKRERA conducts awareness programme with Realtors on RERA Act, 2016

**JAMMU:** The Jammu & Kashmir Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA) today organised an Awareness Programme with real estate promoters and developers to spread awareness about the provisions of the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016 (RERA Act) and interact directly with stakeholders to understand their concerns and suggestions.

The programme was aimed at enhancing understanding of the roles, duties, and obligations of promoters and real estate agents under the Act, and encourage greater participation in the registration process of projects and agents.

It was explained that the objective of RERA is not only to regulate but also to promote and strengthen the real estate sector through transparency, accountability, and timely completion of projects. Promoters were advised to register their projects and agents with JKRERA as mandated under the Act, and to ensure compliance with all statutory provisions, including financial discipline, escrow

account maintenance, and quarterly disclosures on the RERA portal.

the real estate sector was also held. A constructive dialogue was held on the way forward



More than 20 promoters and developers from Jammu attended the programme.

The authority patiently listened to their issues and suggestions like request for developing a single-window system for faster approval and registration of projects, clarifications regarding ongoing projects and process of regularisation under RERA. Detailed discussions on registration procedures, requisite documents, and compliance obligations, roles, duties and responsibilities of promoters and real estate agents, and measures on how to increase registration and improve transparency in

for improving coordination between the Authority and the developer community to ensure smooth implementation of RERA in Jammu & Kashmir.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Secretary emphasised that JKRERA remains committed to fostering a transparent, fair, and growth-oriented real estate environment in the Union Territory. The Deputy Secretary said that regular interactions and awareness programmes will continue to ensure that all stakeholders, promoters, agents, and homebuyers benefit from the safeguards and opportunities provided under the RERA framework.

## J&K shines at CII Chandigarh Fair 2025 through JKTPO's vibrant display of unique regional culture, craftsmanship

**JAMMU:** The Jammu and Kashmir Trade Promotion Organization (JKTPO) marked a significant presence at 28th edition of the CII Chandigarh Fair 2025, held from October 10 to 13 at Parade Ground, Sector 17, Chandigarh.

The Fair was inaugurated by Minister of Industries & Commerce, Investment Promotion, NRI Affairs & Power,

Minister of Industries & Commerce, Investment Promotion, NRI Affairs & Power, Government of Punjab, also visited the J&K pavilion, commending the rich diversity of products and the spirit of innovation on display—testament to the region's vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Visitors to the JKTPO stall had the opportunity to not only witness these exquisite products but also to engage with the artisans themselves. The stories behind each creation and the dedication of the craftspeople were shared with enthusiasm, creating a unique and immersive experience for attendees. The fair provided a platform to bridge cultures and connect local artisans with a broader audience, contributing to the economic growth and empowerment of the region's skilled workforce.

JKTPO's participation in the CII Chandigarh Fair 2025 was a resounding success, reaffirming its commitment to promoting, preserving, and globalizing Jammu & Kashmir's heritage and craftsmanship. JKTPO continues to champion the cause of local artisans and entrepreneurs, fostering economic growth, empowerment, and cultural pride across the region.



Government of Punjab, Sanjeev Arora.

The event served as a vibrant platform to highlight Jammu & Kashmir's cultural legacy and exquisite craftsmanship, leaving an indelible mark on visitors.

Under the visionary guidance of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah and Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary and active support of Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, JKTPO facilitated and sponsored the participation of 25 exhibitors from the Union Territory in the

## Divisional Commissioner calls for systematic regulation of traffic on NHs

Decongestion measures in Jammu City ahead of festival season

**JAMMU:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar directed enforcement agencies to ensure systematic regulation of traffic on National Highways and take effective measures to decongest city roads in view of the ongoing festival season. He directed the concerned departments to ensure smooth vehicular movement and hassle-free commuting for the public.

The Divisional Commissioner Jammu was chairing a meeting of Deputy Commissioners, Traffic Officers, representatives of the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and other concerned departments to review the traffic related issues in Jammu city and vehicular movement on the National Highways.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner took a detailed review of the prevalent traffic scenario in Jammu city as well as along the National Highways viz Lakhnapur to Banihal NH, Jammu Pooch road, Mughal road, Doda Kishtwar and other major roads.

He expressed concern over the frequent traffic jams in the city that are causing inconvenience to the public. He directed the traffic regulating authorities to take immediate and effective measures to ensure smooth

vehicular movement, particularly during peak hours and in the busy market areas of the Jammu city.



The district administrations and Traffic department were asked to intensify patrolling and deploy additional personnel to facilitate smooth movement during the festival season. He also instructed to facilitate movement of fruit laden trucks, essential supplies and seasonal migration of Nomads.

"Facilitate movement of supplies and fruit-laden trucks at all transit point to avoid unnecessary halts and delays. Also devise a well-coordinated movement plan for the seasonal migration and movement of nomads along with their cattle and livestock," he said observing that it often leads to traffic congestion on the highways.

Referring to upcoming and new infrastructure projects, the Div Com directed the executing agencies to expedite the completion of formalities to fast track construction of four new proposed bridge projects. He

in areas prone to traffic jams.

The Div Com laid special emphasis on effective traffic management and enforcement, instructing the officers to identify critical congestion zones and take timely remedial measures. He called for strict action against illegal parking, roadside encroachments and violation of one-way routes. The Div Com also stressed on public cooperation, urging commuters and transporters to follow traffic advisories and extend support to the administration in maintaining order on the roads.

The meeting was attended by Deputy Commissioners of concerned districts, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic), officers from NHAI, BRO, PWD and other line departments. The Div Com directed all the participating departments to maintain close liaison and submit periodic progress reports to his office for continuous monitoring.

## Speaker Rather reviews arrangements for forthcoming annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA)



**BUDGAM:** Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather Monday chaired a high level meeting at Town Hall, Char-i-Shareef here to review the arrangements for upcoming annual Urs of Hazrat Sheikh Noor-ud-Din Noorani (RA) at holy Char-i-Shareef Shrine.

During the meeting, the Speaker directed the officers to ensure that no inconvenience is caused to the devotees during the Urs celebrations. He emphasized on the need for proper arrangements of essential services like transportation, clean drinking water, electricity, availability of essential commodities, and adequate security.

The Speaker urged the concerned departments to work in close coordination to provide a peaceful and comfortable environment for the devotees, enabling them to participate in the spiritual gatherings of the Urs with devotion and reverence.

Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Chadoora, other district and sectoral officers were present in the meeting.

## Ashok Koul chairs meeting in Srinagar

Discuss BJP's strategy for upcoming Budgam Assembly Elections

**Srinagar:** Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a meeting at the party office in Srinagar to review organizational preparedness and devise a comprehensive strategy for the upcoming Assembly elections in Budgam district.

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), J&K BJP, chaired the meeting, which was attended by Sofi Yusuf, Arif Raja, Altaf Thakur, Hakeem Rohullah Ghazi, senior party leaders, district office bearers, and constituency-level team members.

During the meeting, Ashok Koul conducted an in-depth review of the district's political landscape and organizational structure. He emphasized the need to strengthen booth-level management, enhance grassroots communication, and ensure effective public outreach in every village and constituency of Budgam. Addressing the party functionaries, Ashok Koul said that the forthcoming Assembly elections are an opportunity for the BJP to strengthen its footprint in Budgam and across Kashmir. Every activist must work with full dedication, coordination, and discipline to carry the message of development, good governance, and inclusiveness to every household. The people of Budgam are ready for change, and it is our collective responsibility to reach them with the vision of the Prime Minister for a prosperous and empowered Jammu & Kashmir.

He also urged party workers to stay connected with the people at the grassroots level and to highlight the central government's initiatives that have transformed the region over the past few years. Koul also prompted for the resolve to intensify mass contact programmes and strengthen the organization at every level to ensure BJP's strong performance in the upcoming elections.

District President Budgam, Hakeem Rohullah Ghazi, in his brief remarks, assured that the Budgam district unit is fully prepared for the elections and that the team is working tirelessly to expand the party's base. Every booth is our priority. We are committed to carrying BJP's message to every voter of Budgam with sincerity and hard work. Ghazi added.

## All our candidates will emerge victorious in Rajya Sabha polls: NC's Mubarak Gul

**Srinagar:** National Conference senior leader and MLA Eidgah, Mubarak Gul on Monday exuded confidence that all the party candidates will emerge victorious in the upcoming Rajya Sabha elections. Speaking with reporters, Mubarak Gul,

## JKCIP's five days IFAD Start-up Mission commences at SKUAST-K

**SRINAGAR:** The IFAD Start-up Mission under the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) commenced today at SKUAST-Kashmir.

The five-day mission (Oct 13-17) aims to strengthen implementation readiness and foster coordination among project teams and stakeholders.

The inaugural session was chaired by Mission Director, HADP/JKCIP, Sandeep Kumar, in the presence of Prof. H.R. Naik, Director Research SKUAST-Kashmir, representatives from IFAD, line departments, faculty from SKUAST-Jammu, and JKCIP coordinators.

In his address, Sandeep Kumar outlined the project's vision and stressed interdepartmental

synergy vital for effective implementation. Meera Mishra, Country Coordinator, and James Marc de Sousa Shields, Country



Director, IFAD, reaffirmed IFAD's commitment to building a resilient, market-led, and inclusive agri-development ecosystem in J&K.

Several publications were unveiled during the session, including Bimonthly JKCIP Newsletter; Training Curriculum for Capacity Building; Farmers' Scheme Guide (Revised Edition)

and Curriculum on Horticulture Promotion.

Technical presentations by Dr. Rizwan Qureshi, Gitika Goswami,



and Anil Gupta covered project progress, mainstreaming themes (gender and youth), and climate-smart, market-led production approaches.

The Mission will continue through the week with thematic deliberations on institutional frameworks and sustainable agricultural competitiveness across J&K

## NC sidelines Congress from very beginning: MLA Dooru

Anantnag: Senior Congress leader and MLA Dooru, Ghulam Ahmad Mir on Monday said that before finalising seats for the Rajya Sabha, the ruling National Conference should have consulted like-minded political groups in Jammu and Kashmir including the PDP to develop a consensus on the proper division of seats in the Upper House of Parliament.

Mir said that since the formation of the coalition government, Congress had been sidelined and its views were not considered by the ruling partner.

"When the coalition came into existence and the government was formed, the coordination and unity that should have been there among the partners were missing. The oath-taking ceremony was held without prior discussions between the coalition partners. Because of this, even then, Congress's issues were not included in the power-sharing agreement," Mir said.

He added that during the year that followed, many contentious issues for which the coalition was formed were ignored. "We had gone before the people, sought their votes, and received a strong mandate. Matters of public interest should have been deliberated upon from time to time, but that never happened," Mir said.

He said that Congress had sought one safe seat for the Rajya Sabha, and the issue was taken up with the National Conference at the highest level. "Their top leadership had agreed in principle that one safe

seat would be given to Congress. We asked them to work out the details with us, but there was no response from their side. Instead, we were told that Congress could field a candidate for the fourth seat," Mir said.

"However, there was no concrete vote bank for the fourth seat. The roles that leaders like Chief Minister or Dr Farooq Abdullah could have played in securing that seat were not something Congress could ensure alone. So, we repeatedly asked them to nominate Congress for any one of the first three seats if they had assured us a safe one. They did not agree," he said.

Mir added that after detailed discussions, Congress decided not to field any candidate for the Rajya Sabha elections. "No one can deny that the National Conference received a big mandate, and the government is with them. It was their responsibility to take a call on this matter," he said.

He further said that the National Conference should have brought the PDP and Independents—those not likely to support the BJP—on board to create a combined vote bank of 60 seats.

"With such coordination, the division of seats could have happened smoothly, and there would have been no issue over which party got which seat. Like-minded partners should have been called together and taken into confidence. That initiative should have come from the National Conference, but it did not," Mir said—(KNO)

per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said that the strategy of the party can't be revealed before media. "Our three candidates have filed nomination papers, still there is time till 3 pm and the decision on the fourth seat for Rajya Sabha will be taken accordingly," he said while

replying to a query over deadlock with the alliance partner Congress over seat-sharing. Ge said that the papers of all the three candidates have been accepted and the scrutiny process is set to take place tomorrow. "We expect all our candidates will emerge victorious," he said—(KNO)

Editorial

**Mirage of Merit: Coaching Centre Conundrum**

The landscape of our valley is becoming increasingly decorated with a new and often horrible view, banners. These banners are placed on every second wall and pole in letters too large to ignore with only one simple and apparent statement: "Your Child, the Next Doctor or Engineer!" Fortunately, there's no mention of journalism, as of now! This annually troubling event has turned into more than a marketing campaign; it mirrors a normalized level of societal anxiety that has been creatively monetized. The streets of Kashmir, in addition to these fragments of success, become a prism for the hopes of parents and, to a degree, the well-being of a whole generation.

In the shade of these roadside banners, coaching centres, like mushrooms after rain, have popped up philosopher among the (un)educated all promising their own secret sauce to the apparently elusive promise of academic nirvana. In the frantic process of providing for their children, parents pour their life force (many even sell land, bury jewellery or, even worse, accept a loan they may never pay back.)

Nevertheless, an unsettling new trend has taken root within this competitive ecosystem. Opening a new coaching centre has now become a grand affair. Institutions spend a significant amount of money on a social media spectacle, often paying a few bucks to new social media portals for glossy coverage and inviting the best faculties (bay for them, from outside the region, often) for an opening ceremony. This whole circus is essentially a marketing strategy to attract enrolments, projecting a phenomenal quality and exclusivity that often never materialise.

Within the encumbered classrooms, the reality is far different. In rooms full of children, with no space to stretch an elbow, and with bricks of anxiety on faces, students are reduced to crazy rote learning and method. Formulas are memorised; shortcuts are provided, and the sheer delight of learning dissolves in the effort to simply clear exam after exam. The only aim is about clearing the entrance exam. For every "topper" that these institutions boast about, there are innumerable invisible children left behind, financially broken and emotionally wounded.

The issue raises an important, and arguably a discomfiting, question of our education system and society: Why has private tuitions to be an essential condition of any success when we have a system of government schools with qualified teachers? The answer is complicated. It demonstrates either a quality and accountability issue, real or perceived, with our formal education system. It shows a societal herd mentality, where fear of "falling behind" the neighbour's child often leads to irrational purchasing decisions. But most importantly, it shows how a multi-crore business has mastered the art of selling dreams, exploiting fear and aspiration in equal parts.

We need to look beyond the flashy billboards and social media hype. We should be asking ourselves whether we are building a generation of learners, or just an entire generation of test-takers.

**Game of Recovery: How Sports are Reshaping Kashmir's Youth**



■ AFTAB JAN

The snow-clad peaks surrounding the Kashmir Valley witnessed a new kind of energy as the 69th National School Games 2025 were inaugurated at the historic TRC Stadium in Srinagar by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, marking a moment that symbolises not just a sporting event but a profound social transition.

More than four thousand young athletes from every corner of India have gathered in this breath-taking region to participate in football, wushu, taekwondo, and table tennis, filling the valley with the sounds of whistles, cheers, and the unifying language of sport.

This grand gathering is not merely a display of athletic excellence; it represents the emergence of a new culture in a region that has, for decades, grappled with instability, disconnection, and the erosion of organised recreational life. For years, playgrounds remained silent, stadiums underused, and structured sports activities were rare.

In that void, a more dangerous challenge took root: a growing drug menace that silently spread among the youth, threatening families, communities, and the very future of the valley. In recent years, Kashmir has witnessed a sharp rise in drug addiction, particularly involving heroin and synthetic substances, with health experts and local authorities raising alarm over the speed at which the problem has grown.

Factors such as unemployment, prolonged uncertainty, lack of structured engagement, and peer pressure have contributed to this crisis, leaving many young people vulnerable to the destructive pull of addiction. Families across both rural and urban Kashmir have felt the devastating impact: homes torn apart, youth drifting away, and communities struggling to cope with a challenge that is both medical and social in nature.

Against this bleak backdrop, sports have emerged as an unexpected but deeply powerful response. Recognising the critical need to offer youth meaningful engagement, the Youth Services & Sports Department of Jammu and Kashmir embarked on a mission to revive sports not as an occasional luxury but as a structured, accessible, and inspiring way of life.

Their approach has been both strategic and compassionate, building a sporting culture brick by brick, reaching into schools,

panchayats, and remote villages, and ensuring that no child is left without the opportunity to play, train, and dream. By organising tournaments at every level, reviving school competitions, and creating regular sporting calendars, the department has turned silent grounds into vibrant spaces of activity.

Fields that once lay deserted now echo with the sounds of evening football matches, children's laughter, and the disciplined rhythm of training sessions. Parents speak

achievements that extend beyond winning medals.

The 69th National School Games epitomise this transformation. Hosting a national-scale event in Kashmir is not merely a logistical accomplishment; it is a statement of resilience. Bringing thousands of athletes to the valley allows local youth to see themselves as part of a larger national sporting fabric.

Competing alongside peers from every state fosters a sense of unity and identity

experts have also observed that regular physical activity has profound effects on both body and mind, strengthening immunity, improving cardiovascular fitness, and reducing stress and anxiety—factors crucial in a region where psychological strain has long been a hidden challenge.

In this context, the integration of sports and wellness is not merely recreational; it is preventive, protective, and empowering. The National School Games, broadcast under the theme "Khel Khel Mein," have captured public imagination. They are inspiring countless children watching from their homes and villages to pick up a ball, a racket, or gloves and step onto a field.

For many, this inspiration marks the first step away from idleness and vulnerability toward confidence and ambition. Visiting athletes have expressed admiration for the hospitality, discipline, and professionalism with which the event has been conducted. The seamless management of logistics, security, and competition has projected a new image of Kashmir to the rest of the country and beyond: one of capability, warmth, and youthful energy.

This is more than an event; it is a powerful narrative of transformation that international audiences can appreciate—how a region emerging from decades of challenges is using the universal language of sport to heal wounds, rebuild communities, and offer its young generation a path filled with dignity and hope. If these initiatives continue with the same vision and support, Kashmir has the potential to become a national sporting hub and a model for how sports can serve as a social stabiliser.

The Youth Services & Sports Department deserves recognition for its unwavering dedication to this cause. Its work is not confined to policies and paperwork; it is lived daily on fields, in schools, and in the lives of young people whose futures are being reshaped. By investing in sports, the department is investing in resilience, unity, and peace.

The story unfolding in Kashmir today is therefore not merely about medals and trophies; it is about reclaiming lost spaces, redirecting youthful energy toward positive goals, and showing the world that even in regions marked by turbulence, transformation is possible when vision meets action.

The 69th National School Games will be remembered not only as a sporting milestone but as a turning point in the social landscape of Kashmir, where sports are becoming a shield against drugs, a bridge across divides, and a powerful engine of hope.

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of children who once spent aimless hours on streets now waking up early for practice, their lives reshaped by a sense of purpose.

Teachers report improved attendance, discipline, and emotional well-being among students engaged in sports. Communities that had grown weary of constant social pressures now find joy in gathering around their local teams, cheering, and participating in positive collective experiences.

This sports revival has been deliberately positioned as a strategic counter to the drug crisis. While law enforcement and rehabilitation remain essential, sports offer something those mechanisms cannot: they give young people a structure that fills their time, occupies their minds, and strengthens their bodies and spirits. Engaging in a sport demands focus, teamwork, perseverance, and discipline—qualities that naturally build resistance against destructive habits.

By integrating sports activities with health awareness campaigns, counselling, and community outreach, the Youth Services & Sports Department has transformed playing fields into shields against addiction. In many communities, young people who once stood at the edge of despair now find belonging in teams, guidance from coaches, and pride in

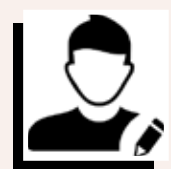
that transcends regional divides. For the visiting teams, the experience of competing amid Kashmir's serene beauty and witnessing its hospitality dismantles stereotypes and builds bridges of understanding.

Every match played in the stadium is more than a contest—it is a demonstration that Kashmir's youth are vibrant, talented, and ready to shine on national platforms. The presence of national media, the meticulous organisation, and the enthusiastic participation have positioned the Youth Services & Sports Department as a driving force behind this renaissance. Their work extends beyond organising events; they are shaping a sustainable ecosystem.

Equipment distribution, coaching camps, rural outreach, and inter-panchayat competitions are all part of a comprehensive plan to ensure that sporting engagement reaches the grassroots. Parents, teachers, and community leaders are now actively demanding the continuation and expansion of these programmes.

They are urging authorities to make sports a permanent and central feature of education and community life, recognising its role not just in physical fitness but in mental health, character building, and social stability. Health

**Forging the Future: Education as the Catalyst for National Renewal**



VIJAY GARG

Education is not merely a system of instruction—it is the architecture of a nation's future. Yet this grand edifice stands fragile when

achieved through rhetoric or reform alone. It thrives only when human intellect, systemic efficiency, and structural support align seamlessly. The first and most vital pillar is the teacher. A qualified teacher does far more than complete a syllabus—they spark curiosity, nurture critical thought, and mould young minds. But true qualification extends beyond degrees; it includes emotional intelligence, pedagogical skill, and adaptability in an evolving world.

The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

The 2023 UNESCO Global Education Monitoring Report notes that over 85 per cent of Indian secondary teachers meet qualification norms, but fewer than half can effectively integrate interdisciplinary or digital learning. This gap—qualification without competence—reduces teaching to a mechanical act. The OECD's Education at a Glance 2023 found that nearly one-third of new teachers in the U.S. leave within five years, driven by stress and lack of recognition. The message is clear: no curriculum can succeed



its three foundational pillars—qualified teachers, their effective utilisation, and adequate infrastructure—are fractured. Quality education, the true engine of national progress, cannot be

rightly emphasises continuous professional development, yet many teacher training institutions still function as mere degree factories, offering certificates rather than competence.

without inspired and empowered teachers. Education systems must treat teachers not as executors of policy but as the intellectual architects of national growth. The second pillar—proper

“ A qualified teacher does far more than complete a syllabus—they spark curiosity, nurture critical thought, and mould young minds. But true qualification extends beyond degrees; it includes emotional intelligence, pedagogical skill, and adaptability in an evolving world

utilisation of teachers—is equally critical but often ignored. India's education system reflects a paradox of plenty and poverty: urban centres overflow with educators while rural and tribal schools face acute shortages. The UDISE+ 2022 report revealed that over 1.2 lakh schools still operate with only one teacher. Even where teachers exist, mismatches persist—postgraduates teaching primary classes while less-qualified staff handle senior grades. Such inefficiencies waste talent and dilute outcomes.

Global models offer lessons. Finland recruits teachers from the top 10 per cent of graduates, gives them autonomy, and assigns them roles based on expertise rather than administrative convenience. The result is excellence grounded in trust and respect. India must similarly embrace data-driven deployment, transparent transfers, and decentralised decision-making to ensure teachers serve where they are needed most. The third pillar—robust infrastructure—forms the silent scaffolding of learning. While policy narratives highlight digital classrooms, realities on the ground remain sobering.

The ASER 2023 survey shows that 28 per cent of rural schools lack functional toilets, and nearly 40 per cent face classroom shortages. The pandemic further exposed the digital divide. Infrastructure is not a luxury; it is the great equaliser of opportunity. Yet bricks and bandwidth alone cannot transform education. True quality emerges when trained teachers work in supportive environments that empower innovation. Classrooms must evolve into laboratories of curiosity where learning is co-created, not dictated. The triad of qualified teachers, equitable utilisation, and strong infrastructure must move from aspiration to action. To build enlightened citizens for a complex world, nurturing this triad is not a choice—it is an obligation. Only when competence, conscience, and context unite in the classroom will education truly become the force of transformation India needs.

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## CS Directs Geo-Tagging Of All Water Bodies For Their Effective Conservation

FE NEWS NETWORK

Reviews implementation of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign

**SRINAGAR:** Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, directed the Forest Department to compulsorily undertake geo-tagging of all water bodies across Jammu and Kashmir to facilitate their protection, conservation, and scientific management. He issued these directions while chairing a high-level meeting convened to review the progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign being implemented throughout the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF); Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, School Education; Secretary, Rural Development Department (RDD) and other senior officers. Deputy Commissioners of all districts participated through video conferencing.

The Chief Secretary underscored the need for seamless coordination between the Jal Shakti Department,

Forest Department, and RDD to ensure comprehensive identification and geo-referencing of all water bodies both in



forest and non-forest areas within the next month. He stressed that this exercise is crucial to formulating future strategies for conservation and must be completed before the onset of snowfall in the winter zone areas.

Calling for concerted and time-bound action, the Chief Secretary maintained that we must act with urgency to mitigate the challenges posed by climate change and ensure that our water resources are secure for future generations. Every department must play its designated role under the key interventions of the Catch the Rain programme.

Speaking on the occasion, ACS, Jal

Shakti Department, Shaleen Kabra, highlighted that the Jal Shakti Abhiyan provides a robust platform to assess and



accelerate progress in water conservation and management across the region.

He observed that the campaign is now transitioning from the planning phase to intensive, community-driven implementation, emphasizing that water security and sustainability form the core objectives of the initiative.

The ACS informed that 100% District Water Conservation Plans (DWCPs) have been prepared and uploaded for all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir on the JSA Portal. This achievement, he said, provides a scientific framework for effective and sustainable management of water resources across the UT.

The meeting also reviewed the progress made in districts including Doda, Ganderbal, Jammu, Bandipora, and Ramban. It was briefed about the post-monsoon visit reports of Central Nodal Officers, which have already been uploaded on the JSA portal.

It was reiterated that the Jal Shakti Abhiyan continues to align its activities around the five key interventions constituting Water Conservation and Rain-water Harvesting, Renovation of Traditional and Other Water Bodies, Reuse of Water and Recharge Structures, Watershed Development, and Intensive Afforestation.

Officials apprised the Chief Secretary that the campaign emphasizes inter-sectoral convergence, with works being undertaken through existing resources and funding channels such as MGNREGS, Finance Commission Grants, and local funds—ensuring that no separate JSA funds are utilized.

It was noted that the 'Catch the Rain' campaign forms a key pillar in the Government's strategy to combat water scarcity and ensure long-term sustainability. The initiative seeks full convergence of departmental efforts with the guiding principle of "Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls."

## DC Ganderbal reviews implementation of HADP, JKICIP & KKGs

FE NEWS NETWORK

Approves 499 cases under various schemes

**GANDERBAL:** In order to take thorough review of the implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKICIP), besides Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore Monday convened a meeting here.

The meeting aimed to strengthen inter-sectoral coordination and ensure timely and effective execution of key government initiatives to benefit the farming community.

Addressing the meeting, DC stressed scaling up schemes covering Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture, Horticulture Planning & Marketing, and Sericulture. He emphasized extending benefits to more beneficiaries to maximize the outreach and impact of these programmes across the district.

The DC directed to focus on revenue generation and proper reporting of actual income generated by KKGs through Krishi Udyamis. He also directed timely issuance of fertilizer

licenses to those who have completed the training course.

The concerned departments were directed to take proactive steps to remove deficiencies and ensure



maximum coverage under these schemes.

Earlier, District Nodal Officer HADP through a Power Point presentation briefed the chair regarding the overall performance achieved under various projects of HADP and JKICIP in Ganderbal district.

Officers present also provided a detailed overview of the progress achieved under HADP, JKICIP and KKGs including farmer registration and enrollment through the Daksh Kisan Portal, completion of training courses, established units and fund utilization. Progress on the Kissan Sathi, KCC scheme status, PMFME and PMFBY

status besides distribution of Kissan Smart Cards under HADP was also reviewed.

The DC reviewed the set targets, achievements so far, and identified implementation gaps. He directed the concerned departments to take proactive measures to bridge any deficiencies and ensure maximum acceptance of application and farmer coverage under these schemes.

Later, the DC reviewed and accorded approval to cases submitted under HADP, JKICIP and IDDS in the district.

After a thorough review of submitted applications, the DC approved 268 HADP cases, 224 JKICIP cases and 07 IDDS cases, empowering the farming community and promoting sustainable agricultural practices in the district.

The meeting was attended by GM DIC, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Planning Officer, AGM NABARD, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Horticulture Officer, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, District Sericulture Officer, Sr. Scientist KVK Ganderbal, Assistant Director Fisheries, Area Marketing Officer Horticulture (P&M) and Lead District Manager.

## DC Baramulla reviews Progress of Developmental Works under District Capex 2025-26

FE NEWS NETWORK

**BARAMULLA:** Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired a meeting to review the physical



and financial progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

During the meeting, sector-wise progress of works taken up by various departments was discussed in detail.

The DC took a comprehensive review of ongoing projects and directed the concerned officers to ensure timely completion of all works while maintaining quality standards. He emphasized strict adherence to timelines and called for regular monitoring to address bottlenecks hampering progress.

The DC further instructed departments to expedite the completion of works having significant public impact, particularly in key sectors such as education, health, rural development, and infrastructure.

While stressing judicious utilization of funds, the DC directed the officers to achieve 100% expenditure targets well before the closure of the financial year.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Development Commissioner, Superintending Engineers, District Officers, Tehsildars, Block Development Officers, Executive Engineers, sectoral officers, and other concerned officials.

## Javid Dar inaugurates Kisan Mela-cum-Exhibition at Khanabal Anantnag

FE NEWS NETWORK

**ANANTNAG:** Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election departments, Javid Ahmad Dar inaugurated Kisan Mela-cum-Exhibition at Khanabal here.

The mela was organised by Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare, district Anantnag, under the SMAE-ATMA 2025-26 scheme to aware, educate and motivate farmers about various welfare schemes available with the department.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Minister emphasized on the importance of Kisan Melas and exhibitions, as they provide a platform to create awareness among farming community about Modern technology equipments and other schemes. Highlighting the department's plans to conduct similar events across J&K, the Minister added that



the Mela will educate the farmers about latest technologies available to boost agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors.

Javid Dar highlighted that the subsidies are available for farmers to purchase farming equipment, with over 50% subsidy in various

schemes. He emphasized that the agriculture sector is a prosperous field for humanity, offering vast opportunities for growth, employment, and sustainable livelihoods.

The Minister underscored the government's commitment to prioritizing agriculture and supporting farmers to enhance productivity, income, and overall well-being. He noted the region's potential for fisheries, oilseeds, fruits, and vegetables, as well as allied activities like beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, and floriculture, offering farmers vast opportunities to enhance income and ensure sustainable livelihoods.

During the event the Minister also inspected various stalls established by Horticulture, Fisheries, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Cooperative, Labour and Employment departments showcasing various schemes and services available for farming community.

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## Bandipora hosts T20 Championship Promoting Sportsmanship, Cleanliness

FE NEWS NETWORK

**BANDIPORA:** The Harvest Hitters T20 Cricket Championship kickstarted today, organized at Adnan Ground, Vattapora Bandipora, by the Bandipore Cricket Initiative in collaboration with the District Administration Bandipora and the Municipal Council Bandipora.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from local cricket teams and sports enthusiasts, drawing wide appreciation for its unique blend of sports and social responsibility.

Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Bandipora, and Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Bandipora, graced the occasion along with Padma Shri Awardee Faisal Ali Dar, Brand Ambassador of Swachhta Seva.

Faisal Ali Dar interacted with the young players and motivated them to channel their passion for sports toward nation-building, fitness, and cleanliness. He highlighted the importance of maintaining clean surroundings as an extension of personal discipline and teamwork learned through sports. A notable feature of the championship was a 10-minute cleanliness drive organized before the start of the match, wherein players and volunteers collectively cleaned the venue, reinforcing the message of "Play Clean, Live Clean."

The organizers of the tournament expressed gratitude to the District Administration and Municipal Council Bandipora for their support in organizing the event. They said that such initiatives not only nurture sports talent but also promote the ideals of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and community participation among the youth.

The event concluded with a renewed pledge from players and officials alike to promote cleanliness and fitness as integral parts of everyday life, echoing the vision of a cleaner, greener, and healthier Bandipora.



## Director Sericulture Flags off Silkworm Rearers to Himachal Pradesh under Inter-State Farmers Training programme

FE NEWS NETWORK

**SRINAGAR:** As part of the ongoing Skill Development Programme of the Sericulture Development



Department, Director Sericulture J&K, Ajaz Ahmad Bhat, flagged off a group of Silkworm Rearers for four-day Inter-State Farmers Training Programme to Himachal Pradesh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - ATMA (2025-26).

The programme commenced on 13th October, marking another significant step by the department towards strengthening farmers' technical knowledge and promoting sustainable sericulture practices across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

A total of 35 progressive sericulture farmers, representing all districts of the Kashmir Division, are participating in this exposure-cum-training programme. The key objective of this initiative is to familiarize the farmers with the latest technological advancements, modern equipment, and innovative practices being adopted in other states, thereby improving the quality and productivity of silk in J&K.

During the four-day programme, the farmers will visit some of the most reputed research and sericulture institutions in Himachal Pradesh, including the Agriculture University and Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), and the State Sericulture Department's Grainage, Palampur. The itinerary also includes visits to the Regional Extension Centre (REC), Oak Tassar, Central Silk Board, the Divisional Office of the State Sericulture Department, State Farm for Mulberry/Eri cultivation, Post-Cocoon Reeling Units at Nadaun and Ghumarwin, as well as the Sericulture Museum at

Nalagarh.

These institutional visits have been meticulously planned to impart hands-on training in both pre-cocoon and post-cocoon technologies, helping farmers to gain

practical exposure to scientific sericulture practices. The interactions with experts and field professionals will enable participating farmers to adopt advanced methods that can be replicated in local conditions across J&K.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director highlighted that the department is deeply committed to empowering sericulture farmers through continuous skill upgradation, exposure visits, and training programmes. He emphasized that such initiatives under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme ATMA play a crucial role in bridging the knowledge gap and encouraging farmers to embrace modern technologies and improved rearing techniques.

The director further informed that the Department is also working on introducing Seri-Tourism in J&K and in this connection the instructions have been already issued to the officers of the department to ensure all the arrangements necessary for the purpose are made and wide publicity is given to the Seed Station Manasbal for attracting sizable number of tourists from within and outside.

The Sericulture Development Department reiterated its mission to build a sustainable and profitable sericulture sector in Jammu & Kashmir by ensuring that farmers remain at the forefront of innovation, skill development, and best practices that contribute to the overall growth of the silk industry in the Union Territory.

## India

educators and students were present.

Dr Ashok Bhan, Ms Gunjan Rana and Suresh Kumar Sharma - Members of Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; BR Sharma, Chairman, Indian Institute of Public Administration, J&K and senior officers also attended the foundation day ceremony. (DIPR)

## Dr. Jitendra

that the voice of Jammu and Kashmir reaches the highest levels.

"Jammu and Kashmir is moving towards normalcy. Our children are now achieving top positions. They are excelling in all competitive exams, whether in civil services, NET, JEE, or startups," Dr. Singh said.

He noted that last week, a startup program was held in Jammu and Kashmir to encourage innovation among youth. "Our children have always been intelligent, but their potential was held back. Now, the world has started to realize that the era when India followed others is over. Today, India leads by example," he said.

Dr. Singh said India's success stories are being acknowledged globally. "Our best practices are being emulated worldwide, whether in the space sector or in vaccine production. Even today, India supplies vaccines to 200 countries. If you look at our warfare capabilities or advancements in electronics and quantum technology, the world now accepts that the coming era belongs to India," he said—(KNO)

## India's

here, Shah said that after the implementation of the new criminal laws, the conviction rate in Rajasthan has increased from 42 per cent to 60 per cent.

Earlier, he inaugurated an exhibition showcasing the shift in India's criminal justice system from a punitive approach to one focused on justice and transparency.

"Under the old system, cases would drag on for 25 to 30 years without sentencing, depriving people of timely justice. The new system will change that," Shah said.

He said that the three new laws will provide easy and timely access to justice for all. "Through new criminal laws, our criminal justice system will be driven by justice rather than punishment."

"The image of the judicial system is such that people often feel discouraged. These new laws will make justice simpler, faster and more accessible," he said.

On time-bound procedures introduced under the new laws, Shah said there was initial scepticism about meeting the deadlines, such as filing chargesheets within 60 days for regular offences and 90 days for serious crimes.

"However, within a year of implementation, over 50 per cent of chargesheets are now being filed on time in the country. I am confident that this figure will rise to 90 per cent in another year," he said.

The Union home minister said that in Rajasthan, the conviction rate has significantly increased after the implementation of the laws.

"Earlier, the conviction rate in Rajasthan was 42 per cent. After these laws came into effect, it increased to 60 per cent. Once the implementation (of the new laws) is complete, I believe it will rise to 90 per cent," he said.

Shah exuded confidence that after the complete implementation of these laws, India's criminal justice system will become the "most modern in the world".

The new laws - Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam - came into effect on July 1, 2024, replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, Code of Criminal Procedure, and Indian Evidence Act.

The government has trained lakhs of police personnel, thousands of judicial officers and staff from forensic labs and prisons to ensure effective rollout of the new system.

Shah said the reforms will also reduce the need for physical appearances in court.

"Accused persons will be presented via video conferencing from jail... police officers, bank employees, doctors and forensic experts will also be able to appear through video conferencing. This will save both time and money," he said.

This will also reduce the chances of undertrial prisoners escaping from police custody, he added. Shah also said provisions for filing e-FIR and Zero FIR are aimed at simplifying the initial stages of filing complaints.

Chief Minister Bhajanlal Sharma said that the central government has been working for the welfare of people and under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India is on the path of becoming third largest economy in the world.

Deputy CMs Prem Chand Bairwa and Diya Kumari, acting Chief Justice of Rajasthan High Court Sanjeev Prakash Sharma, Chief Secretary Sudhansh Pant, and DGP Rajeev Sharma were also present at the event.

At the exhibition, Shah witnessed a series of presentations by policemen on how the new laws have reduced investigation time and enhanced productivity. The victim-centric approach of the new laws was also demonstrated.

The exhibition will conclude on October 18. The Union home minister, however, suggested that the state government extend it so that more people can visit.

Shah also presided over a virtual ground-breaking ceremony of various development projects, for which memoranda of understanding (MoUs) were signed during the 'Rising Rajasthan' investment summit here last year.

Ground-breaking ceremony was held for projects worth Rs 4 lakh crore out of the total Rs 35 lakh crore committed during the summit.

The BJP government delivers what it promises, Shah said.

The exhibition features live demonstrations spread across 10 zones, depicting the three stages of the judicial process, from reporting of a crime to the final judicial verdict.

During the programme, the Union home minister also flagged off 56 Forensic Science Laboratory vehicles and 100 patrol two-wheelers for women's safety. (PTI)

## CM Omar

Abdullah outlined the government's ongoing efforts to expand investment opportunities in J&K.

"That is something, as a conscious effort, my government is trying to address so that we can attract more investment into Jammu and Kashmir, more manufacturing. Recognizing the constraints that we have, we are trying to address the infrastructure gaps," he said.

He acknowledged the unique challenges that J&K faces due to its geography and limited resources, stating that the government's focus is on leveraging sectors where Jammu and Kashmir holds inherent advantages. These include agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, pharmaceuticals, IT services and electronics.

Speaking about the overall business environment, Omar Abdullah highlighted that confidence continues to play a crucial role in shaping the region's industry. He noted, "Confidence is one of the most vital elements for business, and regrettably, Jammu and Kashmir has been deprived of it for the past 30 to 35 years." He added, "We are doing everything possible to ensure that this lack of confidence does not define our future."

Highlighting the resilience of the local economy, he said, "Given the extent of the challenges that we face and the disadvantages inherent to doing business in Jammu and Kashmir, we are still an economy that is growing reasonably well. Our own estimate is that our GDP will grow in the double digits, around 10-11% this year."

At the same time, the Chief Minister expressed concern over the economic repercussions of recent events, noting that tourism has suffered a serious setback. The impact, he said, has spilled over into agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts sectors and also impacted exports.

He underlined the government's priority to position Jammu & Kashmir as a hub for MSMEs and high-value, low-volume industries, mentioning that the region once had a budding high-tech manufacturing base before militancy disrupted progress in the late 1980s. "Prior to the militancy breaking out in 1989, Kashmir was emerging as a hub for new high-tech manufacturing industries. We believe those are the areas of economy that remain ripe for revitalization," he noted.

The Chief Minister emphasized several advantages that could support renewed industrial growth in the region, including competitive electricity rates, an educated young workforce, and favourable policy frameworks. However, he acknowledged that the perception of the region as a risky business destination has to change for the better.

Concluding his remarks, Omar Abdullah thanked the FIEO delegation once again for their presence in Srinagar, stating:

"Your presence here does, to a large extent, enable us to try and change the perception of Jammu & Kashmir being too unsafe to visit. I thank all of you for choosing Srinagar for your Board of Management meeting, and I look forward to more such engagements that can help J&K move forward." (DIPR)

## SMVDU

Governor directed the University to establish a specialized faculty for languages to offer integrated courses in Hindi, Dogri, French, and German. He emphasized on encouraging students enrolled in foreign languages and technical courses to also pursue Hindi and Dogri languages.

He also instructed the SMVDU to implement the complete digitalization of all University records.

The meeting also reviewed the ongoing projects and construction works in the University, implementation of NEP-2020, important matters pertaining to admissions, recruitment, faculty career advancement, non-functional promotions for non-teaching staff, end to end digitisation of student life cycle management process and utilization of e-Samarth dashboard.

The chair was informed that the university has now been designated as a 'TCS Priority College' by Tata Consultancy Services for a period of three years as part of their campus placement program.

Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented various Agenda items before the Executive Council for approval and ratification. (DIPR)

## Chief Secretary

Organisations (FPOs), and Custom Hiring Centres being established under the Mission.

He also called for strengthening the capacity-building ecosystem by establishing community-managed training centres (CMTCs), identifying local resource persons, and fostering an environment of collective learning and participation.

Managing Director, JKRLM, Subhra Sharma, presented an overview of the Mission's major achievements and initiatives aimed at strengthening rural livelihoods and promoting women's economic independence.

She informed that under the UMEED Programme, JKRLM has successfully mobilized 7.66 lakh rural households into 94,962 Self-Help Groups (SHGs) across 20 districts and 265 blocks of the UT. A total capitalization support of Rs528.86 Cr has been provided to community-based organisations, while the SHGs have collectively accessed Rs2,806.06 Cr in bank credit since 2013-14 reflecting strong financial inclusion and repayment capacity.

Under the Start-up Village Entrepreneurship Programme (SVEP), 7,280 rural enterprises have been established across 14 blocks, with 16.53 crore disbursed through the Community Enterprise Fund (CEF). The progress indicates a robust credit culture, with several SHGs now availing multiple doses of credit owing to their proven repayment track record.

The Mission is also expanding its digital financial footprint through the Banking Correspondent (BC) model. Presently, 710 SHG members are working as BCs - 553 with J&K Bank and 157 with J&K Grameen Bank who have together facilitated financial transactions worth 123 crore during the current fiscal year.

JKRLM has also launched the "Lakshpati Didi" initia-

tive, aiming to transform SHG members into micro-entrepreneurs earning over 1 lakh annually. So far, 17,811 women have been trained under this initiative in collaboration with institutions like it is, NIIFT, and the Central University of Jammu.

The Mission's efforts to enhance market linkages have also borne fruit, with SHG products now featured on e-commerce platforms such as Flipkart, Amazon, and Meesho. In addition, nine district-level Haats and Retail Outlets have been established, including sales counters at airports, while SHG members have participated in seven SARAS Melas and exhibitions across the country.

To deepen livelihood opportunities, 39,450 women members have been linked with various income-generating activities in Agriculture, Horticulture, and allied sectors, in collaboration with line departments. The Lal Ded Stree Shakti Scheme, recently launched to provide easy credit to women entrepreneurs, has already facilitated 285 disbursements.

Further, 8,820 Mahila Kisans have been brought under Agro-Ecological and Livestock Management Practices to promote sustainable and eco-friendly farming.

In line with the Chief Secretary's direction, the Mission is also working to integrate entrepreneurship promotion with Mission YUVA and the Lal Ded Stree Shakti Loan Scheme, which share the common goal of economic empowerment through self-employment and skill development.

JKRLM has recently signed a MoU with the National Resource Organisation (OMPLIS) to strengthen its implementation capacity through Model Cluster Level Federations (CLFs) and Community Managed Training Centres (CMTCs). The partnership aims at conducting Training Needs Assessments (TNA), developing modules on Governance, Finance, and Gender, and enhancing leadership and financial systems within the CLFs.

Additionally, the Mission has initiated exposure visits for SHG members and officials to successful livelihood models in states like Andhra Pradesh, to learn from best practices and replicate them in J&K.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the Mission's efforts and urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to scale up livelihood interventions, promote financial literacy, and ensure the economic self-reliance of rural women across Jammu and Kashmir. (DIPR)

## Congress

opposition bloc, comprising seven MLAs, has kept its cards close to its chest.

According to details, NC's Sajad Kichloo and BJP's Ali Muhammad Mir have filed nomination papers for the second notification, under which elections will be held for one seat. Kichloo is expected to win, given that the voting pattern is likely to mirror that of the first seat.

Under the third notification, for which a combined election will be held for two seats, NC's Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, Imran Dar, and BJP's Sat Pal Sharma have filed nomination papers. A non-local candidate named Kante Sayanna has also filed nomination papers for this seat.

The two candidates who receive the highest number of votes will win these two seats.

The NC-led alliance is expected to ensure the victory of Gurwinder Singh Oberoi alias Shammii Oberoi by securing a minimum of 29 votes for him, while allocating the remaining 24 votes to Imran Dar. Meanwhile, BJP MLAs are expected to cast all 28 votes in favor of Sat Sharma.

Sources told KNO that the nomination forms of both non-local candidates are likely to be rejected by the Returning Officer due to the absence of mandatory proposers—(KNO)

## Won't

and has a long-standing history with the National Conference, expressed disappointment that promises made during the last Assembly tenure have not been implemented.

"If the party wants me to go in front of people, there are a few points I want to see immediately. Only after that will I consider my participation," he said, adding that his decision is based on principle and not political strategy.

Recalling his previous election campaigns, Ruhullah said his responsibility was always towards the institution he worked for and the people who trusted him with their votes.

Ruhullah questioned the party about follow-up actions on prior commitments, including the manifesto and other promises to constituents. "I asked them, what work did you do on the Assembly? What commitments did you make for yourselves? Until these are addressed, why should I go in front of people?" he said.

On speculation regarding NC fielding outsider on Budgam assembly seat, Ruhullah said that he will exercise his right as a voter independently. "Whoever wants to contest from here, let them contest. I have a vote. I am the owner of my vote. I will make my decision and work with the people," he said, adding that his commitment is to letting constituents decide their representatives rather than blindly following party directions.

Ruhullah also said that the conditions under which he might reconsider campaigning are concrete action on issues like Cabinet decisions on reservation and fulfillment of commitments made to the constituency.

"If I see serious intention from the party to act on these issues, then I will evaluate my participation. Until then, I cannot involve myself in any campaign," he added.

He also said that his political principles and ideological commitments have always guided his actions. "I have followed the principles of politics. That is what I want to do. I do not want to break my principles and break my commitments. I promised people that I would support them only if commitments made were honored. I will not leave that promise for anyone," Ruhullah said.

Speaking on the autonomy of voters in Budgam, Ruhullah said that they are the true owners of their votes. While he may provide advice if asked, he will not dictate or influence voting decisions, he added. (KNS)

## Gulmarg stuns

the globe are our ambassadors of peace. They should tell the world that Jammu and Kashmir, especially Kashmir, is safe," Sharma said. "We have come up with the odds and are messengers of peace. Through sports, we will tell the world that everything is safe here".

The minister said the government was determined to promote sports tourism and generate employment through such initiatives. "We are committed to uplifting sports tourism in Jammu and Kashmir. We will not bow down before challenges. We should always stay hopeful", he said, lauding the efforts of the Gulmarg administration and all stakeholders involved in hosting the event.

Gulmarg CEO Tariq Hussain credited Zabarvan for taking the initial initiative and said the event's success showed that Gulmarg has the infrastructure and capability to host world-class sporting events.

"It was Zabarvan who came up with the idea of hosting an international-standard downhill mountain biking event. We worked together to make it a reality," Hussain said. "The event's success reflects the teamwork between the government, the organisers and the sponsors. It shows Gulmarg's potential and readiness for global adventure tourism".

The CEO said the weather conditions played a crucial role in the event's success, calling it "a perfect blend of nature and human effort". "The message is clear, Gulmarg is ready for the world. Its natural terrain, infrastructure and hospitality make it one of the most promising adventure destinations," he added.

Athletes from various countries expressed joy and admiration for Gulmarg. "The venue was amazing and challenging. We enjoyed every bit of it," said a group of international riders. An athlete from Australia said, "I am very surprised to be here. The place is beautiful. I will remember this race forever". Others echoed similar feelings, saying, "We will be back to explore more".

## Ahsanul Haq Chishti assumes charge of CEO, WMDA

BANDIPORA: Ahsanul Haq Chishti Monday officially assumed his responsibilities as the new Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Wullar Manasbal Development Authority (WMDA) on Monday.

Chishti's appointment to the position follows a recent order from the administration transferring and posting him to lead the key development body after serving

the department of Information and Public Relations.

Upon his arrival at the authority, the new CEO was warmly welcomed by officials and local stakeholders, who expressed their support for his leadership.

Demonstrating a hands-on approach from the outset, Chishti later conducted an extensive inspection round of various assets and properties under the Authority's jurisdiction. During the visit, he emphasized the importance of their proper upkeep and issued necessary directives for their maintenance.

The Wullar Manasbal Development Authority is tasked with the conservation, management, and overall development of the vital Wullar Lake and Manasbal Lake ecosystems, which are of significant environmental and economic importance to the region.



## Government of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer, Water Works Division Srinagar HQ:-Kothibagh Srinagar

### NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short Term E-NIT.No. 22/WWD/Sgr/Civil of 2025-26 Dated 11.10.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of UT of J&K e-tenders are invited from Registered/Approved and valid Civil Class of Contractors/Agencies/Firms registered with J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments and whose registrations are renewed for current financial year for the following works on Percentage Basis in Two Cover System:

S. No	Name of Work	Estd. Cost (Rs. in Lacs)	Earnest Money (InRs.)	Tender Doc. Fee (InRs.)	Head of Account	T.O.C	Class of Contractor	Tender Call
1	Improvements of water supply to Lanker Gali and adjoining of Malabagh.	1.02	2040/-	100/-	CDF	15 Days	D	1 <sup>st</sup>

Position of AAA:-Accorded Position of Funds:- Available with Competent Authority

The Bidding documents consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings (if any), Book of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms, conditions of contract and other details can be seen / downloaded from the website: [www.iktendersgov.in](http://www.iktendersgov.in) As per schedule of dates given below

Table (II)		
01	Date of publishing of Tender Notice	11.10.2025
02	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 11.10.2025 10:00 A.M. To 20.10.2025 04:00 P.M.
03	Bid Submission Start Date	11.10.2025 10:00 A.M.
04	Bid submission End Date	20.10.2025 Upto 04:00 P.M.
06	Date and time of opening of Bids (Online)	21.10.2025 at 2:00 P.M. in the office of the Executive Engineer Water Works Division Srinagar

No:-WWW/Sgr/CC/4264-86  
Dated:11.10.2025

Executive Engineer  
Water Works Division Srinagar

DIPK-7125/25 Dt: 13-10-2025

## Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir Office of the District Development Commissioner Anantnag

### PUBLIC NOTICE

**Whereas**, in pursuance to this office Notification No. ADDC/ANG/2025-26/478-80 dated 23.07.2025, online applications were invited for engagement against contractual positions in Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and Business Help Desks (BHDs) under the Mission YUVA initiative; and,

**Whereas**, through the online mechanism established by Mission YUVA, this office received a total of **292** applications from aspiring candidates; and,

**Whereas**, out of the total applications received, **75** candidates were shortlisted as qualified through an automated scrutiny process; and,

**Whereas**, during the preliminary examination of applications processed through the automated scrutiny mechanism, it was observed that many candidates had inflated their marks at various qualification levels and/or misrepresented the relevance of their degrees with respect to the eligibility criteria; and,

**Whereas**, upon cross-verification of credentials and certificates, only **52** candidates were found to possess authentic and accurate documentation; and,

**Whereas**, vide this office reference No. ADDC/ANG/2025-26/811-14 dated 18.09.2025, the aforementioned candidates were called for physical verification of documents before the Oversight Committee, wherein only **46** candidates appeared and presented their documents for scrutiny.

**Now, therefore**, the details of the candidates are hereby annexed with this Public Notice comprising:

**Annexure A**- List of 292 candidates who applied online;  
**Annexure B**, List of 75 candidates shortlisted through automated scrutiny;  
**Annexure C**, List of 52 candidates whose credentials were found correct upon cross-verification; and  
**Annexure D**, List of 46 candidates who appeared for physical verification before the Oversight Committee.

Accordingly, all candidates listed in the above **Annexures** to this Public Notice are hereby informed that the detailed list is available on the official website of Anantnag ([anantnag.nic.in](http://anantnag.nic.in)) and also for any queries or representations may be submitted in person at the office of the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Anantnag/District Employment & Counselling Center, Anantnag by or before 15 October 2025 between 2:00 and 4:00.

Sd/-  
Addl District Development Commissioner  
(Nodal Officer Mission YUVA)  
Anantnag

No; -ADDC/Ang/2025-26/988-90 Dated; -08/10/2025

DIPK-7117/25 Dt: 13-10-2025

## Nitin Gadkari to lay foundation for Rs 436 cr elevated corridor in Pondy

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister for Road Transport & Highways Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stone for 3 National Highway projects worth over 2,000 crore along with Lt. Governor of Puducherry Shri K. Kailashnathan, Chief Minister Shri N. Rangaswamy, Union Minister Dr. L. Murugan, State Ministers, Member of Parliaments, MLAs, and senior officials in Puducherry.

This includes the foundation stone laying for the construction of a 4 km elevated corridor between Indira Gandhi Square and Rajiv Gandhi Square on NH-32, improvements to the 14 km ECR Road on NH-332A, and the inauguration of the 38 km four-lane Puducherry-Poondiyanakuppam section of NH-32.

These projects are designed to enhance road safety and ease traffic congestion within the urban stretch from Indira Gandhi Square to Rajiv Gandhi Square, reducing travel time from 35 minutes to just 10 minutes. They will also decongest Puducherry's urban areas, resulting in significant fuel savings, reduced vehicular emissions, and lower operating costs.

The improved road network will offer better connectivity for pilgrims visiting the Manakula Vinayagar Temple, Natarajar Temple, Navagraha Temples, and Sri Aurobindo Ashram. Motorists travelling from Vilupparam towards Cuddalore, Chidambaram, and Nagapattinam will now be able to bypass the busy Puducherry town, saving approximately 50 minutes of travel time.

Overall, these projects will provide a substantial boost to tourism and trade in the Union Territory,



while ensuring seamless travel to key destinations such as Auroville and Pichavaram, thereby strengthening Puducherry's position as a vibrant hub of culture, commerce, and connectivity.

Nitin Gadkari emphasized the importance of infrastructure development for national prosperity, recalling John F. Kennedy's statement that "America is rich because American roads are good." He noted that since 2014, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Government of India has prioritized infrastructure development.

Highlighting achievements in the sector, the Minister stated that India's National Highway network has

become one of the largest in the world. He stressed on adopting innovation, science, technology, and best global practices, underscoring the philosophy that "no material is waste and no person is waste," and announced initiatives to use municipal waste for road construction.

The Minister informed that 80 lakh tonnes of municipal waste have already been used in road projects, including in Delhi, where the height of the Ghazipur waste mound was reduced by 7 metres. He reiterated the government's commitment to environmental protection and sustainable infrastructure.

He highlighted ongoing efforts to create lakes using National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) resources, which help in water conservation and improve water storage capacity.

The Minister noted that India's economy is currently the fourth largest in the world and reiterated the Prime Minister's vision to make India the third largest global economy. He pointed out the need to diversify agriculture into the energy and power sectors and cited successful examples of biofuel and ethanol-based technologies.

He mentioned that tractors and other farm machinery are being adapted to run on ethanol, CNG, or electricity, potentially saving farmers up to 1.5 lakh annually. The Minister added that electric mobility and alternative fuels would play a vital role in reducing logistics costs and increasing export competitiveness. (PIB)

## Indian Railways neglected for 50 years, now being revamped: Vaishnaw

**VALSAD (GUJARAT):** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw on Monday said the Indian Railways remained neglected for over five decades, but now it is undergoing total transformation under the NDA government.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion of the 41st Raising Day of the Railway Protection Force

general coaches is currently underway. The Railways is working with a focus on providing services to all sections of society, especially to low-income and middle-income families," he said.

The Kavach system has already been installed on nearly 1,200 locomotives, Vaishnaw informed.



at Valsad in Gujarat, the Minister for Railways also announced that recruitment for RPF personnel will now be conducted every year, instead of every four to five years.

"For 50-60 years, the Railways remained neglected in the country. Today, the Railways is undergoing a total transformation. In the past 11 years, nearly 35,000 kilometres of tracks have been laid. This is unprecedented in the history of Railways. As a result, more trains are running today," Vaishnaw said in his address.

He informed that 1,300 stations are currently undergoing redevelopment. Of these, 110 stations have been inaugurated after the completion of work, while work on the remaining stations is underway.

"Around 60,000 kilometres of tracks have been electrified. When people around the world look at these enormous achievements of the Railways, they are astonished, as even prosperous countries have not been able to achieve such electrification in such a short time," said the minister.

Based on the experience gained from the first two Namoo Bharat services, mass production of Namoo Bharat trains will now begin, he said, adding that mainline EMU trains, which are in demand, are also being inducted.

"Approximately 3,500 general coaches have been added to trains, and production of 7,000

Kavach is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection (ATP) system to prevent train accidents by automatically applying brakes.

On the modernisation of RPF, Vaishnaw said all its officers and field staff will soon get VHF (very high frequency) walkie-talkie sets as requested by the RPF director general recently.

"Just a few days back, the director general of the RPF requested that all officers and field personnel in the force should have VHF sets. I assure you that the chairman of the Railway Board will soon approve this, and once approved, you can purchase as many VHF sets as you need," said the minister.

Last year, 452 sub-inspectors were recruited in the RPF, and the recruitment process for 4,208 constables has now been completed, he said.

"We were all concerned that if recruitment happens only once every four or five years, it creates issues for candidates who aspire to join the Railways. Thus, we have taken a decision so that a fresh batch of constables can join the Railways every year," the minister said.

"Now, the Staff Selection Commission will recruit constables, sub-inspectors and inspectors every year. Allowing a new batch to join each year will help the force to move towards proper cadre management," he added. (PTI)

## Centre launches Employees' Enrolment Campaign 2025 to expand EPFO coverage

Scheme to be Operational from Nov 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026

**NEW DELHI:** The Ministry of Labour and Employment has announced the 'Employees' Enrolment Campaign, 2025' (EEC 2025), a significant initiative to bring a large number of workers under the ambit of organized social security through EPFO. The scheme shall be operational from November 1, 2025, to April 30, 2026. This scheme is a continued effort of the Ministry, after successful similar enrolment campaign conducted in the year 2017 for enrolment of left-out eligible employees from



2009 to 2016.

This campaign is intended to encourage employers, both already registered and those newly coming under the purview of the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, to voluntarily declare and enroll eligible employees. Employers can enroll all existing employees, who joined the establishment between July 1, 2017, and October 31, 2025, and who are alive and employed on the date of the declaration, but were not enrolled in the EPF scheme earlier due to any reason, whatsoever.

In a major relief, the employee's share of provident fund contribution for the past period (from July 1, 2017, to October 31, 2025) shall stand waived, provided it was not deducted from the employee's wages. The employer is only required to pay their own share for such period.

Employers availing this scheme shall be liable to pay a nominal Penal Damage of Rs. 100 only as a lump sum, a significant reduction from the standard penalties for non-compliance.

All establishments are eligible to participate in the proposed Scheme irrespective of the fact whether any establishment is facing inquiries under section 7A of the Act or under paragraph 26B of the Scheme or under paragraph 8 of the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995.

No suo moto compliance action shall be initiated by the EPFO against the employers who avail the benefits of EEC, in respect of such employees who have already left the establishment as on the date of declaration.

All the employers who get registered under the EEC, 2025 or declare additional employees under the EEC, 2025 shall be eligible to avail the benefits of Pradhan Mantri-Viksit Bharat Rojgar Yojana, subject to certain terms and conditions under that scheme. (PIB)

## Shivraj Singh Chouhan Reviews Progress In Agriculture Sector During A High-Level Meeting

**NEW DELHI:** Union Minister for Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, and Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan chaired a high-level meeting today to review the progress of the agriculture sector. The meeting covered a comprehensive assessment of

tomato and onion is progressing smoothly. The area under onion cultivation has increased from 3.62 lakh hectares in 2024-25 to 3.91 lakh hectares now, while potato cultivation has expanded from 0.35 lakh hectares to 0.43 lakh hectares. Similarly, tomato sowing has grown



Kharif crop conditions, Rabi sowing preparedness, crop situation in flood-affected areas, price trends, fertiliser availability, and reservoir storage levels. The Union Minister also issued necessary directions to concerned officials during the meeting.

Officials informed that the total area under Kharif crops has increased by 6.51 lakh hectares compared to the previous year. The total sown area stands at 1,121.46 lakh hectares, as against 1,114.95 lakh hectares in 2024-25. The meeting noted that sowing of major crops such as wheat, paddy, maize, sugarcane, and pulses has recorded an increase over the previous year. It was further informed that the area under urad (black gram) cultivation has risen by 1.50 lakh hectares — from 22.87 lakh hectares in 2024-25 to 24.37 lakh hectares in 2025-26.

The Union Minister also reviewed the situation in flood-affected regions. Chouhan, who recently visited districts impacted by floods and landslides in some states, was briefed that while excessive rainfall has affected crops in certain areas, other regions have benefited from a good monsoon, resulting in healthy crop growth that is expected to boost Rabi sowing and overall production.

Officials further informed that sowing of

from 1.86 lakh hectares during the same period last year to 2.37 lakh hectares this year. The meeting noted that the sowing of potato, onion, and tomato has progressed well in line with the set targets.

Officials also apprised the Union Agriculture Minister that the current rice and wheat stock levels are higher than the prescribed buffer norms, indicating a stable supply position. Regarding water availability, Chouhan was informed that reservoir storage levels across the country are significantly better compared to the same period last year as well as the average of the past decade. As of now, the 161 major reservoirs hold 103.51 per cent of last year's storage and 115 per cent of the ten-year average storage, reflecting a positive outlook for agricultural productivity.

Chouhan also reviewed the availability of fertilisers and directed officials to ensure smooth and timely supply in the coming months. He instructed that close coordination be maintained with the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers to prevent any disruptions. Officials informed the Union Minister that continuous coordination is being maintained with states to assess and meet fertiliser requirements for the upcoming agricultural season. (PIB)

## Australia's Minister For Climate Change And Energy To Visit India This Week

**NEW DELHI:** Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy, Chriss Bowen will travel to India this week for portfolio meetings, as shared by the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water of Australia.

As per the official statement, Bowen will travel to India and China this week.

In New Delhi, he will have a range of meetings with Indian and Australian representatives and meet Pralhad Joshi, Minister of New and Renewable Energy and Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, to convene the first Renewable Energy Partnership Ministers Meeting.

As per the statement, he will also meet Minister Manohar Lal, Minister of Power and Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, for the 5th India-Australia Energy Dialogue.

The high-level visit comes shortly after Defence Minister Rajnath Singh was in Australia and met the top brass of the country - PM Anthony Albanese, Foreign Minister Penny Wong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defence Richard Marles and Assistant Minister of Defence Peter Khalil.

Singh said this during his bilateral meeting with Australia's Assistant Minister of Defence Peter Khalil, while co-chairing the maiden India-Australia Defence Industry Business Round Table in Sydney, reaffirming the growing

synergy between the two nations across strategic, industrial, and technological domains.

India and Australia inked key defence agreements during the visit of the Defence



Minister.

Marles has described the newly signed defence agreement with India as a "hugely significant step" in strengthening the operational partnership between the two nations' armed forces.

Speaking exclusively to ANI, Marles said, "I think the significance of today is that what we are seeing in terms of deep trust and strategic alignment is now being expressed in a much deeper operational level of engagement between our two defence forces. The Agreement that we have signed in terms of staff talks between our operational commands is hugely significant... We are very excited about that." (ANI)

## Amit Shah Inaugurates ₹4 Lakh Crore Projects in Jaipur

**NEW DELHI:** Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah inaugurated a state-level exhibition on new criminal laws in Jaipur, Rajasthan, and performed the ground-breaking for investment proposals worth 4 lakh crore on Monday.

Besides, Shah also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various development projects of the Government of Rajasthan. On this occasion, Rajasthan Chief Minister Shri Bhajan Lal Sharma, Union Home Secretary Shri Govind Mohan, and many other dignitaries were present.

In his address during the programme, Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperation Shri Amit Shah said that today's event is an occasion that synergizes development and justice. He said that a state-of-the-art exhibition is being launched here today to introduce three new criminal laws that bring fundamental changes to the country's criminal justice system and make the rights



granted by the Constitution accessible to the people in a simple manner. He added that to boost Rajasthan's development, of the 35 lakh crores in the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed at the Rising Rajasthan event, 3 lakh crores worth have already been executed, with the ground-breaking for an additional 4 lakh crores in MoU occurring today.

Amit Shah said that everyone associated with the criminal justice system must visit this exhibition, as it accurately showcases the significant changes that will occur in our criminal justice system in the coming days. He said that through this exhibition, people will learn how the three new laws introduced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, replacing 160-year-old laws, will ensure justice

within three years for any FIR filed after 2027. Shri Shah emphasized that the new criminal laws will deliver timely, accessible, and simplified justice to the people of the country. He added that Prime Minister Modi has introduced numerous changes in the country for Ease of Living, and with the implementation of these new laws, there will also be a significant transformation in Ease of Justice.

Union Home Minister said that through the three new laws, our criminal justice system will operate with a focus on justice rather than punishment. He said that these laws have been precisely implemented across the country, and the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) is providing guidance to all states for their implementation and follow-up. He emphasized that replacing laws made by the British, passed in their parliament, and designed to protect British rule with laws made by Indians, passed in the Indian Parliament, and aimed at delivering justice to Indians is a historic achieve-

ment.

Amit Shah said, that in the new criminal laws, a separate chapter has been added for crimes against women and children. Provisions have been made for e-FIR and zero FIR, videography has been made mandatory for all seizures, and forensic investigation has been made compulsory for offenses carrying a punishment of more than seven years. He said that in Rajasthan, the conviction rate was 42 per cent, which has increased to 60 per cent within just one year of implementing these laws. He expressed confidence that once these laws are fully implemented, this rate will rise from 60 per cent to as high as 90 per cent. Shri Shah further said that for the smooth implementation of these laws, the National Forensic Science University (NFSU) was established in 2020, and affiliated colleges are being opened across the country to create a new workforce of youth trained in scientific investigation. (ANI)

# WAZWAN DELIGHTS

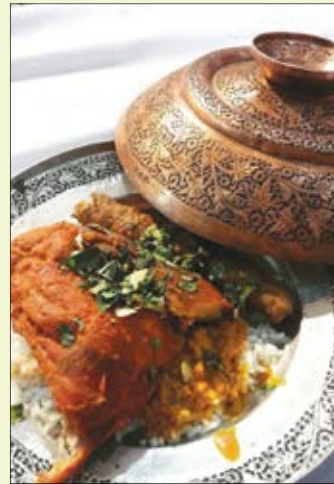
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