



CM Omar Overhauls CDF, Adds New Flexibility, Revisions

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah announced a series of significant reforms in the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) scheme aimed at making it more flexible, transparent and responsive to local development needs in the constituencies.

Recognizing the hardship faced by families affected by natural calamities, the Chief Minister announced a one-time relaxation permitting utilization of up to 50 lakh from CDF for the construction and repair of houses for calamity-affected families during the current and next financial year (2025-26 and 2026-27).

In another major reform, the earlier clause requiring MLAs to utilize at least 80% of funds in a financial year—failing which next year's release was withheld—has been deleted to enhance operational flexibility.

The Chief Minister said the revised guidelines will align the CDF Scheme more closely with the MPLAD funds model while retaining certain permissible activities unique to the CDF that cater to local exigencies and social welfare.

He said that activities such as construction of temporary shelter sheds for people affected by natural calamities like earthquakes, floods, and droughts will continue to be permissible under the CDF. Similarly, financial assistance to old age homes, orphanages, and shelters for purchasing essential items like bedding, utensils, books, and uniforms—subject to a ceiling of 3 lakh—will also remain part

of the scheme.

The Chief Minister added that youth clubs and sports organizations will be eligible for grants up to 3 lakh for purchasing sports equipment through

droughts, either through the concerned Deputy Commissioners or to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund with specific stipulations for use in the affected regions.

The revised guidelines will also allow



sible under the CDF. Similarly, financial assistance to old age homes, orphanages, and shelters for purchasing essential items like bedding, utensils, books, and uniforms—subject to a ceiling of 3 lakh—will also remain part

government-recognized agencies.

He further said that MLAs from non-affected areas can recommend works or contribute funds up to 10 lakh in areas hit by natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, or

H E FURTHER SAID THAT MLAS FROM NON-AFFECTED AREAS CAN RECOMMEND WORKS or contribute funds up to ₹10 lakh in areas hit by natural calamities such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes, or droughts, either through the concerned Deputy Commissioners or to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund with specific stipulations for use in the affected regions.

Amit Shah accuses Congress of protecting Article 370 for 70 years

FE NEWS NETWORK

Says PM Modi led regime removed provision, **crushed terrorism** in J&K

SRINAGAR: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Wednesday launched a scathing attack on the Congress party accusing it of "protecting" Article 370 for seven decades in Jammu and Kashmir and allowing terrorism to flourish, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi removed the provision and crushed terrorism.

Speaking at election rallies in Darbhanga and Samastipur, Shah, accused the grand old party of sheltering the constitutional provision and linked its removal to a shift in the government's response to terrorism. "Earlier terrorists used bleed India and go unpunished. Now, under Prime Minister Modi India enters into terrorists' homes and eliminates them," he added.

Shah said, "PM Modi initiated the tradi-

tion of giving a strong and befitting response to terrorism."

Shah said the government had mounted several responses to cross-border threats, naming surgical strikes, air strikes and Operation Sindoor. "Earlier, terrorists



would attack India and escape. Today, under PM Modi's rule, India conducts surgical strikes, air strikes, and Operation Sindoor to eliminate threats inside Pakistan," he said.

On the issue of the Popular Front of India, Shah said the previous

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Significant Terrorist Casualties in 'Operation Sindoor': Rajnath Singh

FE NEWS NETWORK

DARBHANGA: Asserting that India taught a lesson to neighbouring Pakistan for killing innocent citizens in Pahalgam, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Wednesday said a "sizeable number of militants" were neutralised during Operation Sindoor. Addressing an election rally in Bihar's



Darbhang, Singh said the number of militants killed in the operation was "sizeable" as "we were seething in

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Over 17.22 lakh kanals of land encroached in J&K: Govt

'Over 14.27 lakh kanals retrieved'



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that a total of over 17.22 lakh kanals and 15 marlas of land are under encroachment

across the Union Territory, while 14.27 lakh kanals and 7.5 marlas have so far been retrieved.

In a written reply to a starred question tabled by MLA Ranbir Singh Pathania, the Revenue Department, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said the encroachments include State, forest, custodian and JDA land.

According to the official reply, the encroached State/Kahchharai land is 17,22,249 kanals and 15 marlas. Out of this, 14,27,841 kanals and 7.5 marlas have been

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29,767 Homes Completed Under PMAY-U Initiative in J&K: Govt

FE NEWS NETWORK

'Over **Rs 518 cr** financial assistance released; **3,230 beneficiaries** await fund disbursement'

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that nearly 40,000 houses have been sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana—Urban (PMAY-U) scheme across the Union Territory, of which 29,767 units have been completed, while 1,843 remain non-starters.

The Housing and Urban Development Department detailed the district-wise progress and fund utilisation under both PMAY (Urban) phases, before the Legislative Assembly. This was in response to a question by MLA Mir Mohammad Fayaz.

About the construction status, the reply states that out of the 39,153 sanctioned houses, 13,995 are at roof level, 3,405 at intel and 1,843 are yet to start construction.

Budgam leads the UT with 4,805 sanctioned houses, followed by Jammu (3,558), Kathua (2,456) and Pulwama (1,157). Districts with fewer houses include Kishtwar (554) and



Shopian (477).

About the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme, the reply mentions: "Under the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS), a total of 3,432 beneficiaries have been given subsidies worth rupees 70.82 crore." The highest disbursement was recorded in Poonch

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Direct Rail Service For Kashmir Coming Soon: Official

FE NEWS NETWORK

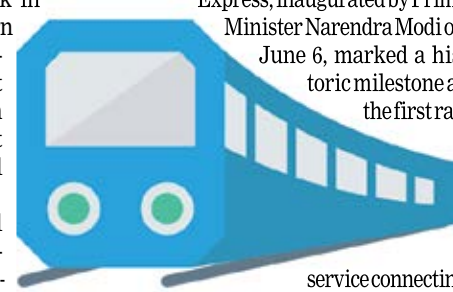
REASI/JAMMU: After starting the twin Vande Bharat trains on Srinagar-Katra route, marking the completion of Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla rail link in June, the northern railways is now eyeing to provide direct connectivity between Kashmir and the rest of country, an official said.

Senior Divisional Commercial Manager of Jammu division Uchit Singhal said the work is underway to address the operational and security hassles to achieve another milestone in Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to news agency after introducing a two-minute stoppage for semi-high speed Vande Bharat

trains running between Katra and Srinagar at Reasi station this morning, he said it was a dream project to bring Kashmir on the railway map.

"The Katra-Srinagar Vande Bharat Express, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6, marked a historic milestone as the first rail



service connecting

Kashmir with Kanyakumari. The beginning has been made with the launch of rail service between Katra to Srinagar.

"The work is progressing smoothly to address operational and security hassles to provide a direct train service between Kashmir and

other parts of the country soon,"

Singhal said.

Starting Thursday, the Srinagar-Katra Vande Bharat Express, train number 26401 and 26402, will have

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"The work is progressing smoothly to address operational and security hassles to provide a direct train service between Kashmir and other parts of the country soon," Singhal said.

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a two-minute stop at Reasi railway station.

The train will depart from Katra railway station at 8.10 am and arrive at Reasi railway station

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CS Reviews Different Welfare Measures Taken For The Migrant Populations Of J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today reviewed the progress of key milestones for welfare of the migrant popula-



tion of J&K in a high-level meeting of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R) here.

The meeting besides ACS, PWD and Principal Secretary DMRR&R was attended by Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD;

Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir; Secretary, IT; Secretary, Law; Development Commissioner (Works); Relief Commissioner; CEO, ERA and other concerned officers.

The meeting reviewed the implementation of the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP-2015) and measures for improving service delivery to Kashmiri Migrants, Jammu Migrants, and other Displaced Persons (DPs).

The Chief Secretary reviewed the physical and financial progress of Transit

Accommodations under construction across the Kashmir Valley. Expressing concern over earlier delays, he directed the Department to ensure strict adherence to revised timelines for all ongoing projects.

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Against the target of 688 flats for the July-September 2025 quarter, 248 units have been completed. The meeting noted that 881 PM Package employees have been handed possession so far, with

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2.81 lakh consumers availed power amnesty scheme in J&K: Govt

SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir government has said that over 2.81 lakh domestic consumers have availed benefits under the first power Amnesty Scheme, which provided relief on surcharge and interest accumulated up to March 31, 2022.

In response to a question by legislator Tariq Hameed Karra, the Power Development Department, stated that there is no proposal under consideration to introduce Amnesty Schemes for industrial unit holders regarding electricity liabilities.

Under the first Amnesty Scheme, 1,64,729 consumers under JPDCL and 1,17,237 under KPDCL benefited from the initiative, realizing a total revenue of 322 crore — 164 crore from JPDCL and 158 crore from KPDCL," it said.

The department further informed that under the second ongoing Amnesty Scheme, which began on August 4, 2025, and will continue till March 31, 2026, 18,854 consumers have availed the benefit so far — 547 under JPDCL and 18,307 under KPDCL. It said that the schemes waive only interest and surcharge

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Central Bureau of Investigation. Government of India, Anti-Corruption Branch, Srinagar.
Near Guest House No. 6, Near MLA Hostel, MA Road, Srinagar-190001.
Phone/ fax : 0194-2455514, email :- hobacsgr@cbi.gov.in

MESSAGE;

DO NOT PAY BRIBE TO ANYONE, IF ANY OFFICER OR OFFICIAL OF ANY GOVERNMENT OFFICE DEMANDS BRIBE OR IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON THE CORRUPTION OR IF YOU ARE A VICTIM OF CORRUPTION, PLEASE MAKE A COMPLAINT TO DIG, ANTI-CORRUPTION BRANCH, CBI SRINAGAR NEAR MLA HOSTEL SRINAGAR PHONE NO'S (LAND LINE) 0194-2455514 AND (MOBILE NO.) 9419900977. YOU CAN ALSO SENT YOUR COMPLAINT ON EMAIL ID:- HOBACSGR@CBI.GOV.IN SAY NO TO CORRUPTION. BE A LEADER TO ERADICATE THE MENACE OF CORRUPTION. ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST. OF INFORMATION,

Sincerely,
(Raman Kumar Meena) IPS
DIG & Head of the branch,
CBI ACB Srinagar

District NCORD Committee discusses anti-drug measures in Kathua

DC call for multi-pronged approach to curb drug menace

FE NEWS NETWORK

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to discuss and review measures aimed at curbing drug abuse and the narcotics trade



in the district.

The meeting held extensive deliberations on identification of areas of concern, and hotspots of drug abuse. The measures undertaken by the enforcement and social welfare agencies to combat the menace were also thoroughly reviewed.

The DC emphasized the need for a multi-pronged strategy including education, enforcement and awareness to effectively tackle the problem. He directed concerned departments to intensify awareness campaigns, particularly among youth and to share success stories of drug de-addiction to motivate others towards positive rehabilitation.

The Chief Education Officer was instructed to launch an extensive awareness campaign across schools through special sessions and morning assemblies to highlight the ill effects of drug abuse. Directions were issued to conduct similar awareness drives in colleges, tuition centers and rehabilitation centres for wider coverage.

The DC further directed the Excise and Taxation Officer to heighten alert to thwart any attempt of trafficking and smuggling across the district. The Assistant Controller Drugs and Food Control Organization was asked to closely monitor the sale of over-the-counter drugs and syringes having potential misuse for substance abuse.

He also stressed ensuring that awareness activities reach both urban and rural areas of the district, involving PRIs, youth clubs and community organizations for wider outreach.

Among others, SSP Kathua Mohita Sharma, ADC Kathua Vishavjeet Singh, SDM Hiranagar Phulail Singh, ACD Kathua, CMO, CEO, DSWO Kathua and officers from BSF and concerned departments were present in the meeting.

Capacity Building Program on Art, Craft held at DIET Kishtwar



KISHTWAR: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and the Director Handloom and Handicrafts Jammu, a Capacity Building Program on Art and Craft was organized at DIET Kishtwar by the Department of Handicrafts and Handloom.

The Assistant Director, Handloom and Handicrafts Pradeep Shan hailed the rich art, craft and handmade heritage of Kishtwar. He emphasized the importance of preserving the local traditional crafts that reflect the cultural identity of the region.

The AD apprised the participants about various departmental schemes and Centrally Sponsored Programs, including the National Handloom and Handicrafts Development Programme (NHDP).

He also briefed the trainees on the registration process with the department, enabling them to avail the benefits of various Artisan and Weaver Welfare Schemes.

A major highlight of the event was the exhibition of local handloom and handicraft products, featuring wheat straw craft, crochet, sozni, crewel, staple, carpet weaving, cutting, tailoring, woolen blankets, etc by local artisans and weavers.

The exhibition beautifully represented the rich handmade heritage of Kishtwar, and several products were successfully sold during the event.

The program was attended by the Principal DIET Tirath Lal, senior lecturers, teachers, AHTOs, instructors and staff members of the Handloom and Handicrafts Department.

POSH Committee GCOE organises Screening of Movie on Gender Sensitivity

JAMMU: The POSH Committee of Government College of Education Jammu, under the guidance of the Principal Dr. Jyoti Parihar organised a Movie screening on Gender Sensitisation. The objective of the event was to address gender based discrimination, promoting a safe and respectful environment on campus; Challenge stereotypes and promote a culture of respect and inclusivity, besides Empower and encourage assertiveness especially among women.

The movie was watched by about 20 students. In the end Dr. Davinder Kour, Convener POSH addressed the students and emphasized the importance of gender sensitivity in the society, institution and at the workplace.

DC Poonch hands over Micro ATMs, Biometric Devices to Krishi Udyamis to boost digital financial Inclusion

FE NEWS NETWORK

An HADP's initiative 'Innovative Approaches under Agriculture Extension' to empower farming community

POONCH: Under the aegis of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) project "Innovative Approaches under Agriculture Extension", the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today gave away Micro ATMs and Biometric devices to CSC Krishi Udyamis (KUs) to promote Digital Financial Inclusion and enhance the outreach of agricultural and allied services in the far-flung areas of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC encouraged the Krishi Udyamis to expand their activities by including other agriculture and allied sector services to better cater to the rural population. He emphasized that the initiative will empower KUs to provide doorstep digital financial services, including Aadhaar-enabled payments, fund transfers, and other online government services, thus bringing ease and transparency to rural financial systems. He highlighted that integrating digital technology into agriculture aligns with the vision of Digital India and Atmanirbhar Bharat ensuring inclusive and sustainable rural development.

The event also featured on-spot grievances redressal, where issues related to the functioning of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) raised by the Krishi Udyamis were promptly addressed.



Chief Agriculture Officer Jograj Singh Slathia informed the participants about various government initiatives launched to extend handholding to Krishi Udyamis and the welfare of the farming community. He briefed them about the availability of several online departmental services,

including PM-KISAN, Digipay CSC Cash Withdrawal/ Deposit All Banks self-registration, registration for input licenses and registration under the HADP portal, which encompasses 29 projects across agriculture and allied sectors.

Major initiatives include Farm Mechanization, Alternate Agriculture Systems, and Promotion of Vegetables and Exotic Vegetables with components like Hi-Tech Poly Green Houses, Low-Cost Poly Houses and area expansion under open vegetable cultivation.

He further apprised that the process of on-boarding Krishi Udyamis on the Common Service Centre (CSC) platform has been successfully completed for all those appointed to establish Kisan Khidmat Ghars. This integration, he said, will make the KKGs viable business units and empower Krishi Udyamis as 'Digital Service Providers' for rural communities.

The event was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik; District Manager CSC Intiaz Ahmed; Subject Matter Specialist-DL S. Harvinder Singh and other officers and officials of the Agriculture Department.

Rashtriya Ekta Diwas...

Kathua Admin Finalises Arrangements For Padyatra To Commemorate Birth Anniversary Of Sardar Patel

DC reviews preparations for smooth conduct of the event

mobilize participation of students and NSS volunteers, while the Youth Services and Sports Department was directed to facilitate active involvement of youth clubs and sports

asked to give adequate media coverage and highlight the message of unity and patriotism associated with the occasion.

Earlier, Nodal Officer from GOI Khushal

KATHUA: Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma chaired a meeting of the officers from line departments to review arrangements for the Padyatra being organized on November 1, 2025 to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel as part of Rashtriya Ekta Diwas celebrations.

The meeting discussed in detail key aspects for smooth conduct of the event including route plan, security arrangements, traffic regulation, sanitation, medical aid, water supply and participation of students and citizens.

It was decided in the meeting that the Padyatra would commence from Government Degree College Boys and culminate at Government Degree College Women.

The DC directed all departments to make coordinated efforts for the successful organization of the Padyatra, emphasizing that the event symbolizes the ideals of unity, integrity and national integration championed by Sardar Patel. He called for wide public participation and awareness activities to make the event more impactful.

The Education Department was asked to



associations. The Police and Traffic authorities were instructed to ensure foolproof security and seamless traffic movement along the Yatra route.

The DC directed the Municipal Council to ensure cleanliness and sanitation along the route and the Health Department to deploy medical teams and ambulances for emergency support. The Information Department was

Gupta Deputy Director (MY Bharat, Kathua) briefed the meeting about the SOPs and protocols for the commemoration events under Sardar@150 campaign.

Among others, SSP Kathua, ADC Kathua, ACD, CPO, SDM Hiranagar, CEO, CMO, CEO MC Kathua besides officers of Youth Services & Sports and other concerned departments attended the meeting.

Block Diwas organised at Panchayat Dassal

DDC Listens To Public Grievances, Assures Quality Redressal

RAJOURI: The District Administration Rajouri organised a Block Diwas programme at Panchayat Dassal to bring administration to the doorsteps of the people and ensure time-bound redressal of their grievances. The event was presided over by District Development Commissioner Abhishek Sharma.

A large number of people from adjoining panchayats participated in the programme and raised demands, seeking construction of bunkers, completion of PMGSY roads, development of a playground, forest clearance for the road to Shiv Guffa Dassal, wool shearing facility, PM Kisan registration and implementation of the Forest Rights Act.

The District Development Commissioner gave a patient hearing to the public and redressed several issues on the spot. He assured the people that the district administration will always stand with the residents of border areas and work for their holistic development.

DDC Rajouri directed the officers to ensure regular monitoring of developmental works and to invite successful local entrepreneurs to Block Diwas programmes for experience sharing and inspiring the local youth. He also stressed on close coordination among departments for better public service delivery.

The DC highlighted the vast scope of

the Jammu and Kashmir Community Infrastructure Project (JKCIP). He further informed the public about the Jeevan

ensure that the information reaches the public effectively. Speaking on the occasion, Additional District Development



Pramaan certificate, which can be generated online for seeking pension benefits. He also directed the Assistant Labour Commissioner to enhance awareness on Schemes of the labour department.

Awareness regarding various schemes of departments including Social Welfare, Agriculture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Health and Rural Development was also disseminated by the concerned officers in Pahari and Gojri languages to

Commissioner Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq assured that all grievances raised will be addressed in a time-bound manner.

Among others present were POICDS Harpal Singh; CPO Maqsood Ahmed; Deputy Director Employment Mohd Nawaz; ACD Auqil Naveed; DSWO Abdul Raheem; Ex En PWD Aftab Anwar; Ex En PMGSY, Ex En PDD DD Abdul Rasheed; DFO Naveed Mughal and other district and block-level officers.

Capacity Building Training on 'Roll-out of e-Office 2.0' held at DC Office Rajouri

RAJOURI: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, a capacity building training programme on the roll-out of e-Office 2.0 up to the block and tehsil level was held at the Conference Hall of the DC Office



Rajouri. The training was conducted under the close supervision of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Malikzada Sheraz ul Haq.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC highlighted that the implementation of e-Office 2.0 would significantly enhance efficiency, transparency and accountability in functioning of government offices. He said the system will promote a paperless environment and ensure faster processing and tracking of files and applications, thereby improving service delivery to the public.

The training session witnessed the participation of district officers, master trainers, nodal officers and e-desk officials nominated by different departments. The participants were sensitized about the features, workflow and operational procedures of the upgraded e-office platform to ensure smooth and uniform implementation across all administrative units.

The initiative marks another step towards the digital transformation of governance in the district, in line with the vision of achieving a transparent and efficient administrative setup.

One-Day Vigilance Awareness Program on "Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers" held at GCW Gandhi Nagar

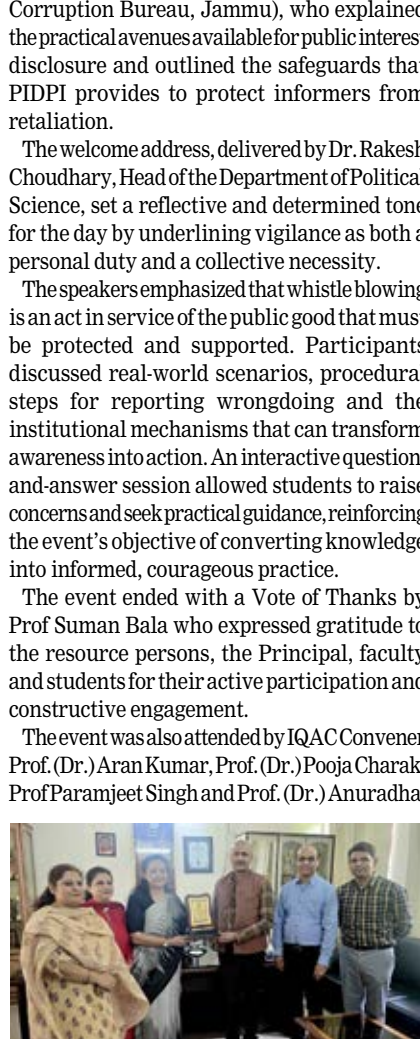
JAMMU: Padma Shri Padma Sachdev Government College for Women, Gandhi Nagar on Wednesday hosted a One-Day Vigilance Awareness Program on "Public Interest Disclosure and Protection of Informers (PIDPI)." The event was held under the guidance of the College Principal Prof Dr. Geetanjali Andotra and organized by the College IQAC and the Department of Political Science in collaboration with the J&K Science Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science & Technology, UT of Jammu & Kashmir. The programme, held at the Smart Classroom, drew an engaged audience of students, faculty, and administrative staff who came together to strengthen understanding of whistle-blower protection, institutional transparency and the ethical responsibilities of citizens and public servants.

The event opened with the symbolic gestures including the presentation of planters to the Chief Guest Kamal Sangra Dy.SP; Guest of Honour Shruti Khanna Assistant Director (JKSTIC); Special Guest Ieshita Choudhary Accounts Officer and Principal Dr Geetanjali Andotra, served as reminders of growth, purity and the nurturing of strong civic values. The Principal, in her opening remarks reaffirmed the College's commitment to cultivating integrity and civic responsibility among students. The proceedings featured an illuminating session by the Chief Guest and resource person, Kamal Sangra (Dy.SP, Anti-Corruption Bureau, Jammu), who explained the practical avenues available for public interest disclosure and outlined the safeguards that PIDPI provides to protect informers from retaliation.

The welcome address, delivered by Dr. Rakesh Choudhary, Head of the Department of Political Science, set a reflective and determined tone for the day by underlining vigilance as both a personal duty and a collective necessity. The speakers emphasized that whistle blowing is an act in service of the public good that must be protected and supported. Participants discussed real-world scenarios, procedural steps for reporting wrongdoing and the institutional mechanisms that can transform awareness into action. An interactive question-and-answer session allowed students to raise concerns and seek practical guidance, reinforcing the event's objective of converting knowledge into informed, courageous practice.

The event ended with a Vote of Thanks by Prof Suman Bala who expressed gratitude to the resource persons, the Principal, faculty and students for their active participation and constructive engagement.

The event was also attended by IQAC Convener Prof. (Dr.) Aran Kumar, Prof. (Dr.) Pooja Charak, Prof Paramjeet Singh and Prof. (Dr.) Anuradha.



CM Omar Abdullah releases ‘Durr-e-Naayaab’, Minister Sakina Itoo’s tribute to her father

Book penned by Minister Sakina Itoo captures life, service, sacrifice of former Speaker and Minister Late Wali Mohammad Itoo

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah released ‘Durr-e-Naayaab’, a biography of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo, authored by his daughter and Minister in the Chief Minister’s Council of Ministers, Sakina Itoo.

The book chronicles the life and contributions of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo, former Minister and Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly — who was assassinated on March 18, 1994, in Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah paid rich tributes to the late leader, describing him as “a brave, capable, honest and hardworking person who sacrificed his life for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.”

“I had met Late Itoo Sahib, though I never had the opportunity to work with him,” the Chief Minister said.

“His personality, his way of working and his relationship with the people are evident from the love and respect seen in this hall today.”

The Chief Minister recalled how Late Itoo remained steadfast to his principles and his party despite the turbulent times of militancy. “Many of our colleagues had to move to Jammu during those years, but even there, Itoo Sahib never sat idle. Being a lawyer, he used his legal knowledge to help

those who were in distress. He continued serving the people till his last breath,” Omar Abdullah said.

alive today, he would be proud of Sakina ji. In Noorabad, Kulgam, and across Jammu and Kashmir,

— that of a writer. Through this book, she has ensured that future generations know about the life and mission of a leader who dedicated himself to his people and his land.”

The Chief Minister congratulated Minister Sakina Itoo and also on behalf of former Chief Minister and National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah, appreciating her effort to preserve the legacy of her father for posterity.

During the event, Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly Abdul Rahim Rather, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Advisor to the CM Nasir Aslam Wani, former Minister and MLA Khanyar Ali Mohammad Sagar, former Speaker J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Eidgah Mubarak Gul, MLA Kulgam M. Yousuf Tarigami and former legislator Rattan Lal Gupta also spoke about the life, legacy and deep connection of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo with the common people.

The function was attended by Minister Javid Dar, Satish Sharma, newly elected Rajya Sabha Member of Parliament G.S. Oberoi, several MLAs, and a large number of people from Kulgam, Noorabad, D.H. Pora and adjoining areas, reflecting the enduring affection and respect for the martyred leader.

On the occasion, a short film was also played, depicting life of Late Wali Mohammad Itoo.



Paying heartfelt tribute, the Chief Minister said that while Wali Mohammad Itoo left an indelible mark through his selfless work, he also “did the community another great favour by giving us a brave daughter.” “A brave father gave a brave daughter to this community. If Itoo Sahib were

her service and commitment stand as a living tribute to her father’s ideals,” he said.

Lauding Minister Sakina Itoo’s literary accomplishment, Omar Abdullah said, “I always knew Sakina ji as a capable MLA and an able minister, but today I discovered another dimension to her

Saffron ‘golden heritage of Kashmir’s agriculture’

Government committed to extend full support to growers: Javid Dar



SRINAGAR: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Shri Javid Ahmed Dar, chaired a high-level meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review and deliberate upon issues confronting saffron cultivation in Kashmir valley.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, Shailendra Kumar; Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Chief Engineer, Mechanical and Hospital Engineering Department, Kashmir, Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir, Chief Warden, Wildlife Department, Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Horticulture (P&M), Director Research SKUAST-K, Chief Agriculture Officer Pulwama, and representatives of the Saffron Growers Association.

Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Basharat Qayoom, also attended the meeting through video conferencing.

During the meeting, threadbare discussions were held on key issues including mitigation strategies to tackle climate-induced stresses, measures for assured irrigation facilities, availability of quality saffron corms, and management of wild animal attacks affecting saffron fields.

Speaking during the meeting, Javid Dar reaffirmed the Government’s commitment to safeguard and promote Kashmir’s world-famous saffron crop. He termed saffron as “golden heritage of Kashmir’s agriculture” and assured that full support will be extended to growers for improving productivity, quality, and market linkage. “Our saffron is not just a crop but a global brand of Kashmir’s identity. The Government is committed to its protection, promotion, and prosperity,” the Minister stated.

He directed the concerned officers to ensure that every saffron farmer is well informed about various departmental schemes and programmes, and field-level officers proactively assist growers in availing the benefits of these initiatives.

Additional Chief Secretary, Shailendra Kumar, during the meeting, emphasized on the need to enhance both area and quality of saffron cultivation, adding that the government is providing substantial subsidies under irrigation and related schemes to support saffron growers.

During the meeting, the Minister was informed about ongoing measures to curb illegal soil extraction from saffron fields and prevent conversion of fertile saffron land for non-agricultural purposes.

Restoration works on Pahalgam-Aru road to be completed by end of December 2025: Deputy CM



SRINAGAR: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary said that the restoration work on Pahalgam–Aru road, at an estimated cost of Rs. 25.40 lakhs is in progress and will be completed by end of December 2025.

The Deputy CM said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator, Altaf Ahmad Wani in Legislative Assembly today.

He informed the house that the culvert on Pahalgam–Aru road was damaged due to flash floods on 26th August 2025 and the connectivity was promptly restored within two days by constructing a temporary diversion.

The Deputy CM further informed the house that around 60 different kinds of works have been undertaken by the department for restoration of infrastructure damaged due to recent floods and landslides across various districts of Jammu and Kashmir. He also informed the house that around 200 works under PMGSY have been undertaken for permanent restoration in Jammu division.

MLA Veeri withdraws Bill after assurances from govt

SRINAGAR: MLA Bashir Ahmad Veeri on Wednesday withdrew his Private Member’s Bill that sought government initiatives to create employment opportunities in public and private sector and promotion of agro-based businesses.

The Bill proposed that in view of opportunities for employment in private sector, generation of employment avenues in public and private sector, like other States of Union of India, be explored and agro-based business opportunities be sponsored by Government. However, later the MLA withdrew the Bill after the government assured the House that it is implementing a wide range of initiatives to skill the youth under various national and regional schemes, aiming to boost employability, entrepreneurship and industry-aligned capabilities across Jammu and Kashmir. The government said that steps were being taken to fill vacant posts in various government departments on a fast-track basis. It also assured that the concerns and suggestions raised by MLA would be taken into consideration while framing future employment-related policies.

Satish Sharma lays foundation stone for key developmental projects in Tangmarg



TANGMARG: Minister for Youth Services and Sports, Transport, Information Technology, and Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Satish Sharma, laid foundation stone for several key development projects during his visit to Tangmarg

At Kunzer Cricket Ground, the Minister inaugurated new construction works aimed at expanding sports infrastructure in the region. He also laid foundation stones for various developmental initiatives in Sarai and adjoining areas of Tangmarg.

The Minister was accompanied by MLA Gulmarg, Pirzada Farooq Ahmad Shah, along with senior officers of district administration and concerned departments.

Speaking on the occasion, Satish Sharma said that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is fully committed to strengthen sports infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir. “Our youth possess immense talent. It is our responsibility to provide them with modern sports facilities so that they can hone their skills and bring laurels to the Jammu and Kashmir,” he stated.

He further announced that an indoor sports stadium will soon be established in Tangmarg and upgradation of existing grounds and sports amenities will be taken up in a phased manner.

Highlighting the government’s broader developmental agenda, the Minister said, “all ongoing projects will be completed within the stipulated time to ensure maximum benefit to the public.” He also revealed that smart bus services will be introduced soon to enhance connectivity and transport facilities, particularly in remote and hilly areas. Responding to media queries regarding the regularization of Rehbar-e-Kheel employees, Minister Sharma said that the matter is under active consideration of the government.

Department to modernize existing Irrigation-cum-De-watering Schemes: Jal Shakti Minister Javed Rana

Says network of 112 canals, benefiting nearly 20,625 households in Sonawari Constituency

SRINAGAR: Minister for Jal Shakti Department, Javed Ahmad Rana said that the government intends to augment and modernize the existing Irrigation-cum-De-watering Schemes in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by legislator, Hilal Akbar Lone in the Legislative Assembly.

The Minister said that the Department under augmenting and modernizing the existing Irrigation-cum-De-watering Schemes, four (04) schemes have already been completed under AIBP and District Capex in Sonawari Constituency.

Rana said that there is a network of 112 canals, comprising of approximately 245 km of main canals and 90 km of distributaries with a command area of about 21,416 acres, benefiting nearly

20,625 households in the Sonawari Constituency.

He further said that twenty-



one works also have been executed during the last five years under PRI, DDC, and Capex grants for strengthening the existing irrigation infrastructure in the IFC Division Sumbal.

In addition to this, eight DPRs under NABARD and Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram (PMJKV) Schemes have been

prepared and are presently under examination for the modernization and augmentation of various Lift Irrigation and De-watering Schemes in the Sonawari Constituency.

He said that these projects aim to promote Agricultural Development and ensure the smooth provision of irrigation facilities to the beneficiaries.

However, the project “Construction of LISODina” – has been proposed for funding under RIDF–XXI (NABARD).

The scheme is proposed to be executed in two stages, wherein water will be lifted from River Jhelum and discharged into Nallah Amir Khan.

“This Nallah, which traverses several villages and supports multiple irrigation schemes, will ensure wider benefits to the farming community” the Minister added.

Sakeena Itoo addresses two days National Conference at GCOE Srinagar

Emphasizes on aligning education system with rapid technological transformations

SRINAGAR: Minister for Education, Social Welfare, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo Wednesday emphasized on the urgent need of aligning education system with the rapid technological transformations shaping the society.

The Minister made these remarks while delivering the inaugural address at the Two Days National Conference on ‘Integrating AI and 21st Century Skills in Education’ at Government College of Education (GCOE/IASE) here today.

The Conference is being organised by Innovation and Action Research Cell/IQAC of the GCOE/IASE in collaboration with School Education Department, Kashmir.

Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education, Shantamanu; Vice Chancellor Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin; Head, ICT and Project Management, NIEPA, Ministry of Education, New Delhi, Prof. K. Srinivas; Director General School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N Itoo; Director Colleges, Dr.

Sheikh Aijaz; Nodal Principal Kashmir Division Colleges and Principal, GCOE/IASE, Dr. Seema Naz; faculty members of college,



researchers and large number of students were also present on the occasion. In her inaugural address, Minister Sakeena

emphasized on the urgent need to align the education system with the rapid technological transformation shaping the world. She highlighted that Artificial Intelligence is not just a subject of study, but a vital tool to enhance creativity, critical thinking, collaboration, and problem-solving among learners. “Education today must prepare our students not only for the jobs of the future but also for the challenges of the present. Integrating AI and 21st-century skills will empower our

youth to innovate responsibly and contribute meaningfully to a knowledge-driven economy”, she stated. She also lauded



the institution’s efforts in organizing such a forward-looking conference.

The Minister also released the “IASE Mentorbot”, an AI-based educational chatbot on the occasion, designed to support learners and teachers.

While delivering keynote address, Prof. K. Srinivas emphasized the transformative role of AI in modern education systems and the necessity for educators to embrace digital innovation. Additional Chief Secretary in his address, emphasized on policy-level perspectives and administrative efforts to integrate AI into educational planning while as

VC, Cluster University Srinagar, Prof. Mohammad Mobin appreciated the initiative and encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration to meet NEP-2020 goals.

Director General, School Education Kashmir underlined the department’s commitment to enhancing digital competency among teachers and students alike while as Director Colleges in his address highlighted the growing significance of AI-driven pedagogies in Higher Education.

In her welcome address, Principal GCOE, Dr. Seema Naz highlighted the importance of integrating artificial intelligence and 21st-century skills in education to make learning more dynamic and future-ready.

On the sidelines of the conference, the Minister also inspected stalls at AI/Robotics Exhibition, exploring innovative AI-based educational tools and projects displayed by students and researchers. Earlier, Sakeena Itoo inaugurated newly constructed Science Laboratory Block of Government College of Education, Srinagar.

DC Srinagar visits SMHS and Super Specialty Hospitals to review Traffic Decongestion & Management measures

Takes stock of proposed plan of Nawab Bazar–Kak Saraie Corridor

SRINAGAR: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Wednesday conducted a visit to Shri Maharaja Hari Singh (SMHS) Hospital, Super Specialty Hospital and Dental Hospital at Shreen Bagh to assess parking facilities, explore modalities for alternate vehicular route and implement sustainable parking solutions along the corridor of main City Hospitals.

During the visit, the DC was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle North, Shabir Ahmad; DSP Traffic Police, Suhail Ahmad; Medical Superintendent, SMHS Hospital, Dr Andleeb; Medical Superintendent, Super Specialty Hospital, Dr Rubina; Executive Engineer R&B, Abdul Qayoom; Tehsildar South, Sajad Rasool, and other Officers and Engineers. During the visit, the Deputy

Commissioner took an onsite assessment for dedicated and designated parking facility and alternate vehicular route in and around the main City hospitals



to prevent roadside congestion and facilitate smooth access for patients, attendants and emergency vehicles.

The DC took stock of the comprehensive plan project worked out to decongest the Nawab Bazar–Kak Saraie Corridor through the Suner Kul route, aimed at ensuring smooth ambulance and vehicular movement.

On the occasion, the

DC directed the concerned departments to work out the modalities and plan of the first phase focusing on providing an alternate route and connectivity, traffic regulation, parking management and improved pedestrian movement to enhance convenience for the hospital staff, patients and attendants alike.

Emphasizing inter-departmental coordination, the DC urged the Hospital Administration, Traffic Police, and R&B department to work in synergy to streamline traffic flow in the hospital zone and ensure hassle-free access for patients and emergency vehicles.

During the visit, DC also interacted with local Residents and Traders and assured them that the District Administration is committed to improving facilities and easing traffic congestion along the heavy load hospital junction particularly from Nawab Bazar–Kak Saraie corridor.

‘Dual power system’ hampering Govt functioning: Ali Sagar

Says promises made with J&K people yet to be fulfilled

Srinagar: Stating that the promises made with the J&K people are yet to be fulfilled, Member of Legislative Assembly

(MLA) Khanyar and National Conference (NC) General Secretary, Ali Muhammad Sagar Wednesday said that the dual power

system is hampering the functioning of the Omar Abdullah-led government in the region. During the Zero Hour, the

MLA Khanyar, while speaking in the House, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) accused Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of playing ‘divisive politics.’

“BJP legislators should listen to the issues pertaining to both the regions, Jammu as well as Kashmir,” he said. “Everybody knows there is a dual power

system in Jammu and Kashmir. The elected government has been facing obstacles,” he said.

Sagar while referring to the statehood restoration said that the promises made with J&K people are still unfulfilled.

The NC legislator also hailed the Speaker for ensuring smooth conduct of the assembly

proceedings, stating that the House has been focusing on real issues. Reacting to a statement made by a BJP legislator, Sagar said the MLAs should speak thoughtfully. “We should ensure that our words do not hurt the sentiments of any community,” said, Sagar, who spoke in the house for the first time—(KNO)

Editorial

Land Encroachment

The recent official response from the Jammu and Kashmir Revenue Department to a legislative question has exposed the sheer size of land encroachment across the Union Territory. Over 17.22 lakh kanals of state land is illegally occupied. This is not just a number it reflects governance problems and the blatant violation of law allowed to run rampant for years. The government's statement that they have retrieved a significant portion of that land (14.27 lakh kanals) is a start, but it reflects the scale of the problem which needs a sustained, transparent, multi-faceted approach.

The breakdown of the land encroachment, which includes state, forest, custodian, and JDA land, indicates that this is a systemic issue. The illegal encroachment of close to 19,501 hectares of forest land is devastating. Forests are not simply a state resource; they are a national ecological resource for biodiversity, water regulation, and climate regulation. The degradation of land through illegal encroachment has long-lasting environmental impacts that far exceed any lost revenue recovery.

While the government's claim that the eviction of encroachments is an "ongoing process" is comforting to some extent, the public asked for significantly more evidence. The effect of removing 242 encroachments and retrieving 55 hectares of forest land this year, while appreciated, is like asking a baby to steal a slice of apple pie and giving them a kiss while knowing all along they took the whole thing. The speed of retrieval must be increased. The government's stated policy of initiating proceedings against "habitual land grabbers" with the assistance of police is the appropriate remedy. This cannot be a campaign that targets only the weak, while the powerful and politically connected are able to escape free of cost.

The big factor of a government response is what is done to colluding officials. Cancelling four illegal mutations in Rajouri, and terminating two patwaris is a robust start that indicates restitutional accountability would also be applied internally. I take this to be perhaps the most important part of the entire task. Encroaching nationally happens on this scale, with revenue and forest officials involved, either in collusion or indifference. No eviction operation for encroachments can take place without a reputation for zero tolerance towards corruption in its administration.

Secondly, we need to determine what in the plan, should separate organized land mafia violated ways to make money off the land from a poor couple of cases from encroachments. As always, the law must take its course. But we do think organizations and communities working with governments to determine rehabilitation, transitional, and settlement resettlement policies into considerations also is a meaningful step. What authority decides the meaning it should pursue? These decisions or implementation of these decisions describe an agent behaviors, enforce good governance, democracy, and sustainable development generally, specifically in Jammu and Kashmir. It is a long way from eviction to recovery, but it is a principled path filled with determination.

Beauty Of Bad Words In An Ugly Virtual Reality



■ DR. PRIYANKA SAURABH

Until recently, I had the misconception that only vulgar or absurd content was seen on social media, especially in reels and videos.



I thought this was perhaps the influence of the visual medium—where glamour, bodies, and noise are what sell. But recently, after reading some longer posts, my illusion was shattered. Now, not only visuals, but language too has become marketable. Vulgarly is no longer just in front of the camera, but also on the tip of the pen.

The topics in these posts are the same old, "trending" ones—male-bashing, women's suffering in relationships, or the narrow-mindedness of society. But the most shocking thing is that the language used to express these thoughts seems less like language than a celebration of abuse. Likes and comments pour in, and crowds applaud—as if vulgarity has become the name of some new "literary genre."

It was once said that writing is harder than looking. Writing means thinking, contemplating, and speaking from the heart on a subject. Words were once a means of awakening society, not appealing to the crowd. But today, this balance has been overtaken

by a new hunger—the hunger for popularity. Now, whoever writes the sharpest, most incisive, and most controversial will be the most watched.

This race for "clicks" and "comments" has nearly sapped the dignity of words. Language no longer means expression, but rather provocation. And this trend isn't limited to the illiterate or insensitive—sometimes the very people who advocate for social reform, family values, and sweet relationships also pounce on these posts.

at home, but on virtual platforms, those same people send laughing emojis to posts containing abusive language. This means there's a vast difference between our real and virtual morality. Digital platforms gave us the opportunity for dialogue, but we've turned them into arenas for debate. Where once there was a clash of ideas, now there's a clash of words.

This trend isn't just a language problem, it's a sign of the erosion of social culture. When words become corrupted, thoughts

inadvertently encourage that trend. Digital platform algorithms only show what gets viewed the most. Therefore, vulgar content only grows when we promote it. If viewers become responsible, creators will be forced to improve. A sensitive and cultured society is one where the criteria for popularity is the dignity of words, not the provocation of words.

Social media is no longer a reflection of an individual, but of society as a whole. What

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The topics in these posts are the same old, "trending" ones—male-bashing, women's suffering in relationships, or the narrow-mindedness of society. But the most shocking thing is that the language used to express these thoughts seems less like language than a celebration of abuse. Likes and comments pour in, and crowds applaud—as if vulgarity has become the name of some new "literary genre."

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is written, said, and shared here is becoming our collective thinking. If we want to maintain decency and compassion in society, we must adopt the same discipline in our virtual behavior as we do in real life. The popularity of vulgar words is short-lived, but their impact is deep and long-lasting. The power of ideas lies in the dignity of words, not in their vulgarity.

So now is the time to pause and reflect—are we truly exercising freedom of expression, or simply celebrating the freedom of incivility? And if the answer is the latter, we must remember—language is the first hallmark of civilization, and when language declines, society declines too.

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Tainted Sky: To Breathe Is To Betray The Body



LALIT GARG

Once celebrated as the symbol of culture, energy, and progress, Delhi today stands shrouded in a suffocating haze of smoke and dust. The poisonous air has reached such alarming levels that even breathing has become a risk. Recently, Delhi's Air Quality Index (AQI) touched a dangerous level of 345, categorized as "severe." This is not merely a health emergency for the residents of the national capital but also a matter of grave concern for both the BJP-led Central government and the Delhi government. Each year, as October and November arrive, the city's skyline turns murky, and life begins to choke. The reasons are many — and the responsibility is collective — shared by the government, society, and individuals alike. Delhi's place among the world's most polluted cities is a damning commentary on our model of "development." The suffering of patients with respiratory diseases under such conditions is unimaginable, and the toxic air is a silent cause of many chronic ailments.

Among the key causes of this crisis is stubble burning. Farmers in Punjab, Haryana, and Uttar Pradesh set fire to crop residues, releasing microscopic particulate matter into the air. The seasonal wind direction blows this polluted air toward Delhi, pushing its pollution levels sharply upward. Adding to this are the millions of vehicles spewing exhaust fumes, dust from construction sites, open garbage burning, and the crushing population pressure — all of which deepen the disaster. It would not be wrong to say that Delhi, in the name of development, has begun devouring its own existence. Once again, this year, Diwali fireworks sent pollution levels soaring. Despite strong appeals from environmentalists and religious organizations — and the Supreme Court's decision to allow only "green crackers" — the reality on the ground shows that this

measure has failed. People burst polluting fireworks under the guise of green crackers, a clear reflection of our self-destructive mindset. Environmental experts have long maintained that calling green crackers "non-polluting" is a myth — and Delhi's current situation reinforces this truth.

However, it would also be unfair to say that

were introduced to promote electric vehicles, thousands of e-buses were deployed, smog towers were installed, and a "Green Delhi App" was launched to resolve complaints. Farmers were given alternative machines and subsidies to discourage stubble burning. Yet, despite these efforts, the root of the problem remains intact — because pollution is not merely an administrative



governments have done nothing. Both the Centre and the Delhi government have, over recent years, initiated several measures. After Rekha Gupta became Chief Minister and the BJP came to power, this problem was addressed as a top priority. The Graded Response Action Plan (GRAP) was implemented, providing phased measures based on pollution severity. Subsidies

issue; it is a social and psychological one. We may blame stubble burning or fireworks, but the deeper cause lies in systemic failure. It is shocking that despite all measures, the AQI in most areas has crossed the 350 marks. Even after Diwali, the toxic air refuses to clear. The Central Pollution Control Board's interventions have had little visible effect, and the enforcement of

GRAP-2 only reflects the gravity of the situation.

Every winter, as the temperature drops, Delhi's air turns deadlier. Despite court interventions and repeated government announcements, little changes on the ground — proof of our collective negligence. Strict laws exist, yet open garbage burning continues, dust covers the streets, and old vehicles keep running. Green cover is vanishing; trees are being felled while the culture

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Delhi's pollution is, in essence, a mirror of our failed development model — one where we multiplied comforts but lost the most basic element of life: clean air. This is not only a governmental failure but also the outcome of our collective insensitivity. If we do not awaken now, future generations will know clean air only through history books...

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of planting new ones fades away. This crisis cannot be solved by blaming governments alone; it demands citizen awareness and responsibility. The government can make rules, but unless people change their habits, controlling pollution will remain impossible. Compared to other metros, Delhi's condition is the worst — its pollution levels are often double those of Mumbai, Bengaluru, or Kolkata. This is partly because Delhi suffers not only from local pollution but also from emissions drifting in from neighboring states. Hence, only a regional approach can bring lasting results. The Central government must coordinate

with state administrations to develop a uniform and permanent policy on stubble management, industrial emissions, construction control, and vehicular norms.

At this point, pollution should no longer be viewed as a seasonal nuisance but as a national disaster. Environmental awareness must be spread through schools, institutions, and religious organizations. Each residential colony should develop "green zones," promote urban forests, and encourage every citizen to pledge to plant at least one tree a year. Public transport should be prioritized, and old diesel vehicles phased out rigorously. Undoubtedly, fireworks are not the sole cause of Delhi's choking air. Unchecked population growth, pollution from the construction of over one lakh new buildings each year, and emissions from millions of vehicles all play a part. As citizens, our irresponsibility continues to deepen the crisis.

Delhi's pollution is, in essence, a mirror of our failed development model — one where we multiplied comforts but lost the most basic element of life: clean air. This is not only a governmental failure but also the outcome of our collective insensitivity. If we do not awaken now, future generations will know clean air only through history books. It is time to rise above politics, blame games, and apathy — and unite for our right to breathe. The true mark of civilization lies not in exploiting nature but in preserving it. If we turn the air we breathe into poison, all symbols of progress will become meaningless.

Above all, until people realize that bursting toxic fireworks in the name of festivity is an act of collective suicide, no court order or government directive can save us. This is a moment that calls for a joint moral initiative by political, social, and religious leaders alike. The crisis is not confined to Delhi or the NCR — cities like Mumbai and Kolkata are already following the same dangerous path. Unless we act decisively now, the capital of India will remain a capital of smog — a living reminder of how human progress, without conscience, becomes self-destructive.

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Over 15.5 lac fruit plants imported to J&K in the last 2 years

FE NEWS NETWORK

Horticulture, SKUAST- K conduct field surveillance, pest monitoring, management to control leaf minor other diseases spread in orchards: Javid Dar

SRINAGAR: The Minister for Agriculture Production Department Javid Ahmad Dar said that a total of 15,51,863 fruit plants were imported by the empanelled agencies to Jammu and Kashmir during last two years.

The Minister said this while replying to a question raised by Legislator Shabir Ahmad Kullayin in the Legislative Assembly.

He said that the majority of imports comprise apple varieties such as gala, red delicious, and their improved strains, besides apple plants, limited quantities of walnut plants, and cherry apple root-stock have also been imported.

The Minister said that the Leaf Minor pest has shown a surge in past two to three years due to recent climatic changes, besides there has been a notable resurgence and increased severity of aphid infestation in various parts of

Kashmir valley.

He informed that the Department of Horticulture, in collaboration with



SKUAST, Kashmir, undertakes regular field surveillance, pest monitoring, and Integrated Pest Management (IPM) intervention to effectively control and contain such incidences.

Javid Dar said that, besides, regular awareness and capacity-building programmes are also being conducted

to sustain such community-based interventions.

He said that pests like leaf minor have a potential for a rapid horizontal spread and warrants integrated pest management approach with strategic incorporation of insecticide and bio control agents, including cultural practices with community participation.

Minister said that the community based IPM approach in the hot spots strategy is in place, including blanket cover in contiguous areas. Advisories in this regard are being provided by the Department of Horticulture in collaboration with SKUAST-K.

The Minister said that the incidence of pest outbreaks, such as leaf minor, necessitates coordinated interventions but large scale blanket spraying of insecticides through drones is not recommended by the research institutions due to environmental concerns and issues like fragmented land holdings, harm to non-target organisms, non-availability of ultra-low-volume formulation for the said pests.

Horticulture Departments intend to follow advisories issued by SKUAS-K CITH and ICAR in the matter

Javid Dar said that the Department of Horticulture is taking concerted steps to strengthen the local nursery sector and promote the production of quality indigenous planting material under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP—Project 21) and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP). The financial/subsidy support is being provided for the establishment of Mother Orchards, Rootstock Banks, and Plant Propagation Units across the districts to boost local plant nursery growers

He further informed that the Department of Horticulture has fixed district-wise targets for the promotion and supply of high-density planting material under various schemes, including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Revised Modified High-Density Plantation Scheme (RMHDPs), and the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement Project (JKCIP). An area of 5500 Ha has been proposed to cover under High Density plantation in JKUT in 10 years, subject to availability of resources.

DC Baramulla Chairs Block Diwas at Dangiwach, issues on-spot directions for Public Grievances

FE NEWS NETWORK

BARAMULLA: In an effort to reach out to the people and address their developmental concerns, Deputy

sections raised several issues and demands pertaining to their respective areas, including drinking water supply, macadamization of roads, construction of protection bunds along nallahs,

macadamization works, the Irrigation & Flood Control department to initiate necessary measures for constructing protection bunds, and the Health Department to address staff shortages and strengthen healthcare delivery. The DC also directed immediate assessment for restoration of the Sheikhpora–Hahachpora bridge.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the aim of conducting such public outreach programmes is to strengthen the connect between the administration and the people, ensure timely redressal of public grievances, and enhance awareness about various government welfare schemes meant for socio-economic upliftment at the grassroots level. He reiterated that public participation is key to effective, transparent, and responsive governance.

During the programme, the DC, in presence of ADC Sopore, ACD Baramulla, and the Principal of the college, released the college magazine and anthem, appreciating the institution's efforts in promoting academic and cultural excellence.

Earlier, the DC inspected various stalls set up by different departments showcasing government schemes and services aimed at public welfare and local development.



Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today presided over a Block Diwas programme at the auditorium of Government Degree College Dangiwach, Rafiabad. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from members of civil society, traders federation, transport association, and the general public. The general public and representatives from various

shortage of staff in key departments, healthcare facilities, and restoration of the bridge at Sheikhpora Hahachpora.

Responding to the issues, the DC gave a patient hearing and issued on-spot directions to the concerned officers for prompt action. He instructed the Jal Shakti department to ensure adequate drinking water supply, the R&B department to expedite

DC Kupwara inspects Transit Accommodations, Water Supply Schemes in Handwara Sub Division

FE NEWS NETWORK

KUPWARA: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse took an extensive tour of Handwara sub division to assess the progress of various ongoing developmental projects in the area.

He was accompanied by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic, Tehsildar Handwara, Executive Engineer R&B and other concerned officers.

During the tour, the DC visited Transit Migrant Accommodation at Nutnussa and took stock of the pace of work on different blocks of buildings. He was informed that out of 12 blocks approved, 9 blocks have been completed and work is undergoing on other 3 blocks which shall be completed by December 2025. He also inspected Transit Accommodation Kulangam in which 15 out of 18 blocks have been completed.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon the concerned officers to speed up the construction work

and ensure completion of the projects within the stipulated timeframe without compromising the quality.

Later, the DC inspected the Water Supply Scheme (WSS) Awathkul-Nutnussa work, which on commissioning



will provide clean drinking water to around 600 households of Nutnussa-A and Nutnussa-B panchayats. During the inspection, he also visited WSS Watayen and WSS Kulangam-Chowgol and directed the concerned agencies for completion of these key water supply projects so that the people get timely facilitated. He also inspected WSS Athrutoo which stands functional.

Additionally, the DC inspected the ongoing WSS project under AMRUT 2.0 for Handwara Town.

During the tour to Handwara, the DC paid a visit to high density Apple Nursery chogul, where he reviewed the ongoing activities of the department.

DC Kulgam visits far-off Waltengoo Kund area, Presides over Grievance Redressal Camp

FE NEWS NETWORK

Numerous Issues resolved On-the-Spot

KULGAM: Continuing the endeavour to provide governance at the doorstep of the people, the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, visited the far-off Waltengoo Kund area and chaired a Public Grievance Redressal Camp and listened to a wide range of public issues and developmental demands pertaining to the welfare of the area.

The programme witnessed overwhelming participation from locals of Nowbugh (Kund), Waltengo, Pachgam, Kraloo, Hukradan, Razloo, Chitirgam, Waripora Kund, Cheki Wazoo, Nigeeen Pora, Oriel, Batengo, Thathoo, and Kanchloo, who apprised the DC of their concerns and projected various developmental

requirements.

During the camp, several public delegations and individuals raised demands

and assured prompt action. He also informed the public about various approved projects that will be taken up shortly in the area.



including augmentation of staff at the local health centre, macadamization of link roads, smooth power supply during winters, and other development-related issues. The DC patiently heard all grievances

A number of grievances were resolved on-the-spot by the Deputy Commissioner during the camp.

Officers from different departments were also present and responded to sector-

specific issues, providing necessary clarifications to the public.

Earlier, the BDO briefed the DC about the progress of developmental works underway in the area.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC said that the administration is focused on ensuring efficient public service delivery and addressing the concerns of citizens on priority.

He emphasized that such outreach programmes play a vital role in strengthening the connect between the administration and the public.

He assured that all genuine demands raised will be taken up with the concerned departments for their timely redressal.

Among others, the camp was attended by ADDC, ADC, ACR, besides district and sectoral officers from various departments.

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District Admin Shopian holds Block Diwas at Imam Sahib

FE NEWS NETWORK

SHOPIAN: As part of the ongoing public outreach/grievance redressal programme under the Weekly Block Diwas initiative, the District Administration Shopian today organised Block Diwas at Block Headquarters Imam Sahib.

The event was presided over by the Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation of senior citizens, youth and a large number of locals who raised various demands and grievances of public importance which includes, construction/repairs of lanes and drains, providing of portable water facility, installation of Transformers and Solar lights in uncovered areas, road connectivity, especially Hendow High School road, Aadkhar Wasuwal link road, Tuldren DKpora road, desilting of Gund Nallah, etc.

During the proceedings, the ADDC listened to several public issues projected by the locals and directions were passed on the spot to the concerned departments for immediate action on various demands/grievances related to improvement of basic amenities, upgradation of roads, augmentation of drinking water supply, and strengthening of health and education infrastructure.

Speaking on occasion, the ADDC reiterated the commitment of the district administration towards ensuring time-bound redressal of public grievances and equitable development of all areas of the district. The ADDC also urged the officers to maintain close coordination with the public to ensure effective implementation of all developmental projects and welfare schemes.

Officers from various departments including Revenue, Rural Development, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Health, R&B, Jal Shakti, KPDCI, Poshan Abhiyaan and other line departments attended the event and briefed the public about different welfare and development schemes being implemented in their areas.

SDM Zainapora, Bilal Ahmad; CPO, Mukhtar Ahmad Dar; Tehsildar Imam Sahib, LDM, BDO, Ex-En R&B, Zainapora, AEEs, and other officers and officials participated in the block diwas programme.

Chief Secy reviews progress on BISAG-N Projects

■ Hails role of BISAG-N in digital governance and e-service delivery

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress of a series of technology-driven projects being implemented by various departments of the Jammu and Kashmir Government in collaboration with the Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-Informatics (BISAG-N).

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department; Additional Chief Secretary, Public Works Department; Principal Secretary, Home; Additional Director General of Police, CID; Commissioner Secretaries of Social Welfare and Industries & Commerce; Spl DG, BISAG-N; Secretary, Education; Secretary, Information Technology; Mission Director, Samagra Shiksha; Director, Employment; CEO, JaKeGA; SIO, NIC, and other senior officers.

The Chief Secretary commended the Department of Information Technology and BISAG-N for the successful rollout of several citizen-centric and administrative digital platforms under the Digital J&K initiative.

He observed that projects being implemented in sectors such as Education, Agriculture, and Revenue are pivotal in ushering modern reforms and directed their timely completion to ensure that the envisaged outcomes are achieved within set timelines.

Highlighting the transformative potential of technology, Dulloo emphasized that leveraging AI and audio-visual content for personalized and localized learning would significantly enhance pupil learning outcomes. He further noted that timely forecasts, advisories, and capacity-building measures for farmers would contribute to improved productivity and higher income levels.

On the modernization of land records, he remarked that digitization of revenue records forms the cornerstone of broader reforms aimed at creating a transparent and efficient governance system across the UT.

Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur assured the Chief Secretary of complete technical and operational support in the development of all IT modules and applications. He called for enhanced synergy and

regular coordination between the implementing departments and BISAG-N to expedite progress and remove bottlenecks in minimal time.

Secretary, Information Technology, Piyush Singla, briefed the meeting on the major achievements and progress made under various projects designed to enhance transparency, efficiency, and revenue realization.

Among the key initiatives reviewed were Integrated Mining Surveillance System (IMSS). It was divulged that the Phase-I of the satellite imagery-based system has been successfully implemented to detect and prevent illegal mining activities. Over 114 automated triggers have been shared with field officers and district administrations for prompt verification through a dedicated mobile application, the meeting was apprised.

With respect to the J&K Tourism App with AI Chatbot. It was added that this mobile and web-based application was launched on September 16, 2025 and it provides comprehensive information on destinations, itineraries, and travel assistance. Powered by BISAG-N's AI resources, the Chatbot enhances visitor experience and has already crossed 1,000 downloads.

About the AI-Based GST Fraud Detection module the meeting was informed that the High-priority analytical reports have been developed for the Finance Department, identifying potential tax evasion patterns such as GSTR mismatches, sequential invoicing, and discrepancies between invoice values and e-waybill generation.

A mobile application developed by BISAG-N facilitated a comprehensive survey of houseless and landless urban households. As of October 10, 2025, a total of 3.35 lakh households have been successfully surveyed across J&K completing the exercise in a minimum possible timeframe.

Moreover regarding the PM-Gati Shakti Integrations it was given out that dedicated mobile applications for Jal Shakti, PWD (R&B), and Industries & Commerce Departments are in final phases of completion, enabling efficient asset mapping of roads, bridges, water assets, and industrial estates with a Maker-Checker-Approver workflow.



CM Omar

“These changes are intended to make the CDF scheme more inclusive, responsive and development-oriented, ensuring that our MLAs are empowered to directly address the needs of their people,” Omar Abdullah added. (DIPR)

Amit Shah

government had not acted and that the PM Modi led government has taken measures. “The Popular Front of India (PFI) was formed here, but the then Congress government had not banned it. PM Modi led regime banned the PFI in a single night. Police conducted raids at more than 100 locations, and put the entire PFI network behind bars,” he said.

Shah said, “I promise that as long as there is even one BJP MP, we will not let a single PFI member out of jail.”

Addressing voters in Begusarai, Shah raised the issue of illegal migration and said his party would act if elected. “Should Bangladeshi infiltrators be included in the Bihar price payer list?” he asked, and urged voters to support BJP candidates to enable “the work of selecting and removing every infiltrator.”

Shah also listed actions he associated with his party’s agenda, including the abrogation of Article 370, the construction of the Ram Temple, and launch of schemes for the poor.

“This work done by the Modi government is the identity of the BJP,” he said. He asked the crowd, “Is Kashmir part of India or not? And should Article 370 have been revoked or not?” (KNO)

Significant

anger”. “Our neighbouring state, Pakistan, did not mend its ways. You have seen how, even after our surgical strikes, they did not learn their lessons. Terrorists from Pakistan targeted innocent Indian citizens — tourists who had simply gone to enjoy the beauty of Kashmir. They were killed after being asked about their religion,” he said.

“They were forced to remove their undergarments to confirm their religion. What a ‘tamasha’ of humanity! We were seething in anger...a fire burned within all of us. But you saw how India showed restraint,” he said.

Singh emphasised that India does not believe in the “politics of division”.

“We do not do politics based on caste or religion... Our politics is based on justice and humanity,” he said, noting that India’s response to the Pahalgam attack was both decisive and moral.

“When we launched Operation Sindoor, our goal was clear — to target terrorist camps across the border. They killed our people after asking their religion, we targeted only those responsible for terror,” he said.

Singh said India considers the whole world as one family, believing in the mantra of ‘Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam’.

“Our sages never taught hatred. They taught compassion,” he said.

“When PM Narendra Modi transferred money directly into women’s bank accounts, did he ask if she was Hindu or Muslim? When assistance was given to farmers, did he see their religion? No. Every Indian benefited. That is the spirit of this nation,” he added.

Singh said India’s strength lies not just in its power to strike back, but in its ability to act with humanity, justice, and restraint.

He lauded PM Modi for restoring India’s pride and stature on the global stage.

“Today, the PM has ensured that India’s head is held high before the entire world,” he said.

Indian armed forces targeted nine terror infrastructures in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, as part of Operation Sindoor, in May in retaliation for the April 22 Pahalgam attack.

Terrorists had shot dead 26 people in Pahagam’s Baisaran valley, a popular tourist spot in Jammu and Kashmir’s Anantnag district. (PTI)

29,767 Homes

(Rs 18.08 crore), followed by Kupwara (Rs 12.75 crore) and Bandipora (Rs 12.25 crore).

About PMAY-U 2.0 sanctions, the reply states that under the second phase (PMAY-U 2.0), the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs has sanctioned 1,250 dwelling units, including 206 in Kupwara, 231 in Kishtwar and 119 in Anantnag.

Additionally, 1,272 flats have been approved under the Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP) vertical — 60 EWS flats at Bhalwal, Jammu and 304 at Chakhar Sundli, and Udhampur, where verification of beneficiaries is underway.

On financial assistance, it states: “Under PMAY-U 1.0, the government has disbursed rupees 518.29 crore in financial aid, benefiting 35,923 beneficiaries so far.” However, 3,230 beneficiaries are yet to receive their entitled assistance. Kathua district alone has received rupees 40.13 crore, followed by Jammu (Rs 36.74 crore) and Budgam (Rs 22.51 crore).

The reply added that funds for PMAY-U 2.0 have not yet been released by the Ministry and the first instalment will be disbursed only after construction begins — (KNO)

Over 17.22 lakh

retrieved, while 2,99,407 kanals are yet to be retrieved. About forest land, 19,501.87 hectares are under encroachment as of 30 September 2025, according to the reply.

The department said that removal of encroachments is an ongoing process undertaken by the concerned field functionaries and that notices have been issued to encroachers under provi-

sions of the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

“Eviction drives are being conducted by the Forest Department, while proceedings against habitual land grabbers are being initiated with the help of police and civil administration,” the reply stated.

As per the Forest Department’s report, 242 encroachments were removed and 55 hectares of forest land were retrieved this year.

The reply further revealed that in the Rajouri district, four illegal mutations on state land were reported and cancelled, with the land escheated to the State. Two revenue officials — Mohd Aijaz (Patwari) and Farooq Ahmad (Patwari) — were penalised with the stoppage of two annual increments and the deduction of one month’s salary — (KNO)

2.81 lakh

components, while the principal amount must be paid by consumers as it is not covered under the amnesty.

It said that amnesty and disconnection are separate issues, with electricity lines being disconnected only in cases of huge arrears. “Connections are restored immediately even upon partial payment, and unpaid balances are reflected in future bills” — (KNO)

Assembly adopts

the resolution moved by Bhat urging that the university be set up in Srinagar suggesting that Srinagar’s central location and accessibility make it the most appropriate place for the university, ensuring greater benefit to students from all parts of the region.

MLA Sonawari Hilal Akbar Lone had earlier moved an amendment proposing that the university be established in his constituency. However, later he withdrew his proposal. (DIPR)

CS Reviews

additional allotments to be made upon completion of critical allied infrastructure such as boundary walls, internal roads, security pickets, and basic amenities.

To optimize utilization, the Department is examining revised allotment criteria to ensure effective use of around 1,600 un-allotted flats at select transit sites. New projects are also being initiated, including a proposed migrant housing cluster at Village Dhar Dharchon, Jammu, where feasibility studies are underway.

A major infrastructure milestone in the shape of construction of the Community Hall at Mini Township Jagti, Jammu is progressing steadily and is expected to be completed by March 31, 2026.

The meeting finalized measures to enhance the welfare ecosystem for registered migrants. This includes integration of approximately 48,000 migrant ration cards with the National Food Security Act (NFSA) database through the SMART PDS Portal, operational since August 22, 2025. Over 4,500 cards have already been integrated, with special camps being organized to expedite the process.

For comprehensive enrollment under Ayushman Bharat Sehat Scheme, the Relief Organization has launched a Pan-India outreach initiative. A successful camp held in the Delhi NCR region (October 12-19) registered more than 400 new families, while further camps are planned in Mumbai, Pune, Bengaluru, and Chandigarh beginning October 24, 2025. A Technical Appraisal Committee under the General Administration Department (GAD) has been constituted to vet the DPR for a new Integrated Online Services Portal. The platform will digitize migrant and DP records while offering end-to-end online services through the Relief Organisation.

Further, a feedback mechanism has been added to the RRCM Portal for migrants to record remarks on property grievance reports submitted by District Magistrates. The Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, will conduct random verification of at least 50 grievances per district per month to ensure authenticity.

In a governance reform measure, powers for issuing EWS, RBA, and Domicile Registration Certificates have been delegated to ensure prompt service delivery under the J&K Public Service Guarantee Act, 2011.

The employment component of PMDP remains a major priority, with 5,880 appointments (98%) completed against the sanctioned strength of 6,000 posts. The remaining vacancies are under active follow-up with the J&K Services Selection Board (JKSSB) and concerned departments for early advertisement and filling up.

Reaffirming the Government’s commitment, the Chief Secretary directed all stakeholders to maintain focus on timely completion, transparent implementation, and sustained welfare delivery for all affected internally displaced communities under DMRR&R’s purview. (DIPR)

Direct Rail

at 8.28 am. It will then continue its journey towards Srinagar. Similarly, train number 26402 will return to Reasi railway station at 4:34 pm.

“The stoppage at Reasi station was introduced on experimental basis (for one month) after getting approval from the railway board because Reasi station is located in the district headquarters and is considered as a very important location.

“The continuation of the stoppage at Reasi station will depend on passenger feedback and commercial viability,” he said, adding earlier, there was only one stop on the route at Banihal which is a very important trans-shipment point.

The decision to introduce the second stoppage at Reasi was taken following persistent demand from the locals and the political representatives, the official said.

He said the railway is making all out efforts to maintain connectivity and provide best services to the commuters.

“When the road connectivity was disturbed by

heavy rains (in August-September), railways introduced a special train for one month to ensure hassle free travel between Katra and Banihal,” he said.

He said the train service between Katra and Srinagar has received immense praise for its speed, comfort, and reliability.

“Adding Reasi as a stopover will further strengthen the region’s connectivity, benefiting pilgrims visiting the Mata Vaishno Devi shrine and tourists visiting the Chenab Bridge and surrounding tourist destinations,” he said.

Senior BJP leader and MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, who boarded the train at the station for Srinagar after flagging in ceremony, thanked the Prime Minister and the Railway minister Ashwini Vaishnaw for fulfilling the demand of the public.

Welcoming the step, BJP district president Rohit Dubey said they are hopeful of the railway ministry approving a special train between Reasi to iconic structures — the world’s tallest railway bridge over Chenab and the country’s first cable-stayed railway Anji bridge — to boost tourism and create employment opportunities. (PTI)

DC Ramban flags off group of 71 orchardists for Training-cum-Exposure visit to Srinagar

RAMBAN: Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan flagged off a group of 71 orchardists and farmers for a three-day training-cum-exposure visit to the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Srinagar and Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K).

The program is being organized under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)—Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH) and ATMA.

The orchardists were flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner from District Administrative Complex Ramban in presence of ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, ACD Sheraz Ahmed, Chief Horticulture Officer Ramban, Rajinder Kumar and other officers and farmers.

While interacting with the participants, the Deputy Commissioner and the Chief Horticulture Officer emphasized the importance of the training program and urged the farmers to make the most of this opportunity. They advised them to learn modern horticultural techniques, including high-density apple plantation methods, protected cultivation practices, and scientific orchard management to enhance productivity and profitability.

The DC encouraged the farmers to observe the advanced technologies and innovative practices being implemented at these prestigious institutions and apply them to improve the quality of produce and their socio-economic conditions.

During the visit, Horticulture Development Officer Ramban, Reyaz Bhat, will facilitate the farmers and coordinate lectures and field demonstrations to ensure that participants gain practical knowledge and exposure to the latest advancements in horticulture. The exposure visit aims to empower farmers with modern techniques and scientific insights, enabling them to strengthen the horticulture sector in Ramban district. (DIPR)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that in the school records of my daughter, Mahroon Fatima, her name has been incorrectly entered as Mahroon Fathma. Similarly, the father’s name has been entered as Javid Ahmed instead of Javaid Ahmed Bhat, and the mother’s name has been entered as Saima Begum instead of Sima Akhter.

Therefore, it is requested that the necessary corrections be made in the school records accordingly.

If any person has any objection to the above corrections, he/she may submit the same in writing to the concerned school within seven (07) days from the date of this notice.

No objections shall be entertained after the expiry of the said period.

Javaid Ahmad Bhat
(Father of Mahroon Fatima)
H. No. 267, Ward No. 2
Mohalla Radio Station, Poonch, J&K (UT)

NOTICE

I have changed my name from (Old name) Rafie Hamid to (New name) Rafie Hamid Malik. In future I will be known as (New name) Rafie Hamid Malik. If anybody is having any objection he/she may contact Passport Office, Srinagar within seven days. After seven days no objection will be entertained.

CS assesses preparations for 150 years of ‘Vande Mataram’ commemoration across J&K

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting of the Culture Department for the commemoration of 150 Years of National Pride – Vande Mataram, the National Song of India, being celebrated across Jammu and Kashmir as part of the nationwide campaign led by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Principal Secretary, Culture Department; Commission-

colleges, and public institutions throughout the UT. District and tehsil-level programmes will be conducted under the supervision of Deputy Commissioners, while year-long activities will be organized in collaboration with Central Government departments.

Moreover the meeting was apprised that the Department of Culture will serve as the nodal department, with the Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) acting as the



er Secretary, Youth Services & Sports; Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir; Secretary, Education Department, and other senior officers.

All Deputy Commissioners participated through video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the importance of organizing the celebration in a befitting manner to reflect the national spirit and cultural pride associated with Vande Mataram. He directed all departments to ensure meticulous preparations for the smooth conduct of the first phase of celebrations commencing on 7th November 2025, and to lay equal emphasis on subsequent phases extending through 2026.

The Chief Secretary underlined the need for large-scale public participation, especially from students and youth, to instill a deep sense of patriotism and national pride. He also instructed departments to undertake wide-ranging awareness campaigns to ensure mass participation and to designate nodal officers for effective coordination, implementation, and timely uploading of reports, photographs, and videos on the national portal.

Presenting the national framework, Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, informed the meeting that the commemoration marks 150 years since the composition of Vande Mataram by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay on 7th November 1875, later published in his celebrated novel Anandamath in 1882.

He added that the nationwide programme will be inaugurated at Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi, on 7th November 2025, featuring simultaneous mass singing of Vande Mataram across all States and Union Territories, along with the release of a commemorative stamp, coin, and a film on Vande Mataram.

A detailed action plan was presented for Jammu and Kashmir, outlining a series of activities and events to be held across all districts, tehsils, educational institutions, and public spaces. It was divulged that large-scale celebrations will commence on 7th November 2025, covering schools,

J&K Nodal Officer. Additional Deputy Commissioners will function as District Nodal Officers, Directors of Colleges and School Education (Jammu/Kashmir) as Education Nodal Officers, and the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) will handle publicity and media outreach.

Elaborating further it was given out that the celebrations will unfold in four distinct phases over one year. Phase I from 7th to 14th November 2025; Phase II from 19th to 26th January 2026 (around Republic Day); Phase III from 7th to 15th August 2026 (along with Har Ghar Tiranga); and Phase IV from 1st to 7th November 2026, marking the closing week.

The opening phase, was said to feature a grand celebration at the Convention Centre, Jammu, on 7th November 2025, organized by the Department of Culture. District and tehsil-level events will include mass singing, special assemblies, exhibitions, essay and quiz competitions, debates, and cultural programmes in schools, colleges, and public venues. Police and CAPF bands were also said to perform patriotic music and Vande Mataram renditions at public places. Screenings, concerts, and cultural evenings showcasing patriotic themes will also be held, while all nodal officers will document and upload photographs and videos of activities on the official campaign portal.

The campaign is going to continue through 2026 with a vibrant series of cultural and public initiatives. These include incorporating Vande Mataram themes in Republic Day and Independence Day events, organizing torch relays and youth marathons across districts, and conducting plantation drives titled Salute to Mother Earth. Extensive publicity campaigns will be carried out too through print, electronic, and social media, complemented by cultural evenings, exhibitions, and murals celebrating national unity. Additionally, “Vande Mataram Audio Booths” will be established under PPP mode to enable citizens to record and upload their renditions of Vande Mataram to the campaign portal all over the country. (DIPR)

Office of Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical Division Central Kashmir

eNIT.No :- R&B/MDCK/NIT/16 of 2025-26. Dt:- 29/10/2025

For and on behalf of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, e-tenders are invited in two cover system (Technical and financial) on percentage basis from OEM/experienced firms/authorized dealers of OEM registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railway and other State/ Central Government for the below mentioned work:

S.No	Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Rs.)	Cost of Tender Doc. (In Rs)	Earnest Money (in Rs)	Time of completion	Tender opening Authority	Position of Funds
01	Supply, installation, testing and commissioning of lifts at Transit accommodation at Kakani Maran	2,77,49,376	5500	5,54,988	06 months	Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle Budgam	Available with intending department

Position of AAA: Authorization conveyed vide no. 13030/21/2022-S (JKL) (Vol.II), Dated:- 05.08.2024 and No: 13030/21/2022-S (JKL), Dated: 08.08.2024 by the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh Affairs.

Position of TS: Accorded by Chief Engineer, Mechanical & Hospitals Engineering Department, Kashmir vide order no. MHED/K/TS/66. Dt:- 30.06.2025

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
01	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	29/10/2025
02	Period of downloading of bidding document	From 30-10-2025 To 18-11-2025 (10:00 hrs.) (16:00 hrs)
03	Bid submission start date	From 30-10-2025 To 18-11-2025 (10:00 hrs.) (16:00 hrs)
04	Bid submission end date	To 18-11-2025 (16:00 hrs)
05	Date and time of opening of technical bids (online)	19-11-2025 at/after 14:00 hrs in the office of Superintending Engineer, R&B Circle Budgam
06	Date and time of opening of Financial bid (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

No.XENMC/Sgr/1808-15
Dated:- 29.10.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
R&B Mechanical Division
Central Kashmir

DIPK-7595/25 Dt:29-10-2025

India’s maritime sector is advancing with great speed and energy: PM Modi

NEW DELHI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Maritime Leaders Conclave and chaired the Global Maritime CEO Forum at India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai, Maharashtra. Speaking on the occasion, Prime Minister welcomed all participants to the Global Maritime Leaders Conclave. He remarked that the event began in Mumbai in 2016 and expressed happiness that it has now evolved into a global summit. Modi highlighted that participation from over 85 countries sends a strong message. He noted the presence of CEOs of major shipping giants, startups, policymakers, and innovators, all gathered at the event. He further acknowledged the attendance of representatives from small island nations and stated that their collective vision has significantly enhanced the synergy and energy of the summit.

Noting that several projects related to the shipping sector have been launched at the conclave, Modi highlighted that Memorandums of Understanding worth lakhs of crores of rupees have also been signed in the shipping sector. The Prime Minister remarked that this reflects the global confidence in India’s maritime capabilities, adding that the presence of

participants at the event stands as a symbol of their common commitment.

“In the 21st century, India’s maritime sector is advancing with great speed and



energy”, emphasised the Prime Minister highlighting that the year 2025 has been particularly significant for the sector and shared key achievements. He remarked that Vizhinjam Port, India’s first deep-water international trans-shipment hub, is now operational, noting that the world’s largest container vessel recently arrived at the port, marking a proud moment for every Indian. Modi further stated that in 2024-25, India’s major ports have handled the highest cargo volumes ever, setting a new record. He announced that for the first time, an Indian port has launched a megawatt-scale indigenous green hydrogen facility, an achievement credited to Kandla Port. He added that another major milestone has been achieved at

JNPT, where Phase 2 of the Bharat Mumbai Container Terminal has commenced. “This has doubled the terminal’s handling capacity, making it India’s largest container port”, said the Prime Minister, emphasizing that this was made possible due to the largest FDI in India’s port infrastructure and expressed special gratitude to partners from Singapore for their contribution.

Prime Minister stated that this year, India has taken major steps towards next-generation reforms in the maritime sector. “The colonial shipping laws, over a century old, have been replaced with modern and futuristic legislation suited for the 21st century”, said the Prime Minister, remarking that these new laws empower State Maritime Boards, strengthen safety and sustainability, and expand digitization in port management.

Further noting that under the Merchant Shipping Act, Indian laws have been globally aligned with international conventions, Modi said, this alignment has enhanced trust in safety standards, improved ease of doing business, and reduced government intervention. He expressed confidence that these efforts will further boost the confidence of

stakeholders and investors.

Prime Minister stated that the Coastal Shipping Act has been designed to simplify trade and strengthen supply chain security. He emphasized that the Act ensures balanced development along India’s extensive coastline. Highlighting the One Nation, One Port Process, which will standardize port-related procedures and significantly reduce documentation requirements, Modi remarked that these reforms in the shipping sector are a continuation of India’s decade-long reform journey. Reflecting on the past ten to eleven years, he noted that the transformation in India’s maritime sector has been historic. Under the Maritime India Vision, more than 150 new initiatives have been launched, resulting in nearly doubling the capacity of major ports, substantial reduction in turnaround time, and a new momentum in cruise tourism. The Prime Minister added that cargo movement on inland waterways has increased by over 700 percent, with the number of operational waterways rising from three to thirty-two. He further stated that the net annual surplus of Indian ports has increased ninefold over the past decade. (PIB)

Rajnath Singh to Attend 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meet in Malaysia

NEW DELHI: Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will represent India at the 12th ASEAN Defence Ministers’ Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus), scheduled to be held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, on November 1, 2025. The Minister will address the plenary session on “Reflection on 15 Years of ADMM-Plus and Charting the Way Forward,” highlighting India’s vision for an open, stable and rules-based Indo-Pacific region.

The visit marks another significant step in deepening India’s engagement with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) — a regional grouping that plays a crucial role in maintaining peace, stability, and economic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

On the sidelines of the main event, Shri Rajnath Singh will also participate in the second ASEAN-India Defence Ministers’ Informal Meeting on October 31, being chaired by Malaysia. Defence Ministers from all ten ASEAN member nations are expected to attend. The meeting will deliberate on ways to further strengthen defence and security cooperation, enhance joint training and maritime security, and give fresh impetus to India’s Act East Policy, which seeks to promote deeper political, economic and cultural ties with the Asia-Pacific region.

During his two-day visit, the Raksha Mantri is also expected to hold bilateral meetings with Defence Ministers of several ADMM-Plus countries, as well as with senior Malaysian leadership, to discuss ongoing and emerging security challenges, regional stability, and avenues for enhanced collaboration in defence production, cyber security and counter-terrorism.

The ADMM-Plus is the highest defence consultative and cooperative platform in the ASEAN framework. It brings together the ten ASEAN nations — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam — along with eight dialogue partners: India, the United States, China, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Australia and New Zealand.

India became ASEAN’s Dialogue Partner in 1992, and the inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in Hanoi, Vietnam, in 2010. Since 2017, the meeting has been held annually, underscoring its importance in addressing regional security concerns ranging from maritime safety to humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Under the current ADMM-Plus framework, India and Malaysia are co-chairs of the Experts Working Group on Counter Terrorism for the 2024-2027 cycle. The two nations are also set to co-host the second ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise in 2026, which will focus on enhancing interoperability and joint naval operations to ensure a secure maritime environment in the Indo-Pacific.

The Defence Minister’s visit is expected to reaffirm India’s commitment to a free, open, inclusive and rules-based Indo-Pacific, promote regional security architecture, and reinforce its growing role as a responsible stakeholder in maintaining peace and stability across Asia. (PIB)

Myanmar rebels sign ceasefire with military after China-mediated talks

BANGKOK: A major ethnic rebel group in Myanmar announced Wednesday it signed a cease-fire with the military following China-mediated talks, easing months of intense

offensive.

The TNLA statement said the cease-fire began Wednesday.

The rebels said they would withdraw troops



fighting in the country’s northeast near the Chinese border.

The ceasefire with the Ta’ang National Liberation Army, or TNLA, marks a significant victory for Myanmar’s military government, which has regained territories ahead of elections scheduled to start Dec 28. Critics see the polls, which exclude the main opposition parties, as an attempt to legitimise and maintain the military’s rule.

The ceasefire was signed during talks mediated by China on Monday and Tuesday in Kunming, a Chinese provincial capital about 400 km from the border with Myanmar, the TNLA said in a statement Wednesday on the Telegram messaging platform.

Beijing has major geopolitical and economic interests in Myanmar and is deeply concerned about instability along its borders. China is also the most important foreign ally of Myanmar’s military, which took power after ousting the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021. The takeover led to nationwide peaceful protests that escalated into civil war.

Myanmar’s military government did not immediately comment on the ceasefire.

The ceasefire announcement came after the rebels gave up control of Nawnghkio, Kyaukme and Hisipaw, three strategic towns on a major highway linking central Myanmar to China, back to the army in a fierce military

from Mogok, the ruby-mining centre in the upper Mandalay region and the neighbouring town of Momeik in northern part of Shan state as part of the agreement, though no timeline was provided.

The two towns had been under the control of the TNLA, which represents the Ta’ang ethnic minority, since July last year.

In return, the military agreed to stop its ground offensives and airstrikes on the group’s remaining territories, the TNLA said. The rebels have no effective defence against airstrikes.

The TNLA is part of the Three Brotherhood Alliance, which also includes the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army and the Arakan Army. They have been fighting for decades for greater autonomy from Myanmar’s central government and are loosely allied with the pro-democracy resistance groups that emerged after the army takeover.

Since October 2023, the alliance captured and controlled significant swaths of northeastern Myanmar near the Chinese border and in western Myanmar. The TNLA alone seized 12 towns in an offensive.

Their advance slowed following a series of China-brokered ceasefires earlier this year, allowing the army to retake major cities, including Lashio city in April and Nawnghkio in July, as well as Kyaukme and Hisipaw in October. (PTI)

US draws down troops on NATO’s eastern flank as Europe frets about security vacuum

BRUSSELS: The United States has informed its NATO allies that it will scale back its troop presence along Europe’s eastern border with Ukraine as it focuses on security priorities elsewhere in the world, Romania’s defence ministry said on Wednesday.

The US Army later confirmed the move, but

numbers anywhere from 1,500 to 3,000 troops.

Romania’s Defence Minister Ionut Mosteanu said the decision reflects Washington’s shift “toward the Indo-Pacific” region, and that allied troop numbers would remain above the number before Russia’s full-scale invasion of neighbouring Ukraine.



denied it was a sign of lessened commitment to NATO.

Depending on operations and exercises, around 80,000-100,000 US troops are usually present on European soil. NATO allies have expressed concern that the Trump administration might drastically cut their numbers and leave a security vacuum as European countries confront an increasingly aggressive Russia.

The administration has been reviewing its military “posture” in Europe and elsewhere, but US officials have said that the findings of the review were not expected to be known before early next year.

NATO has recently been bulking up its defensive posture on its eastern flank bordering Belarus, Russia and Ukraine after a series of airspace violations by drones, balloons and Russian aircraft.

European build-up

The Romanian defence ministry said that the US decision will “stop the rotation in Europe of a brigade that had elements in several NATO countries,” including at a base in Romania.

It said in a statement that about 1,000 US troops will remain stationed in Romania. As of April, more than 1,700 US military personnel were estimated to be deployed there. A brigade usually

Depending on operations and exercises, around 80,000-100,000 US troops are usually present on European soil. NATO allies have expressed concern that the Trump administration might drastically cut their numbers and leave a security vacuum as European countries confront an increasingly aggressive Russia.

“Our strategic partnership is solid, predictable, and reliable,” he said in a news conference.

In a post on X, US Ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker said the US “remains committed to Romania.”

“Our strong presence in and enduring commitment to Europe remains steadfast, including support for Eastern Sentry,” a NATO operation along the eastern flank, he wrote. He did not mention the troop drawdown.

After the war started in 2022, NATO bolstered its presence on Europe’s eastern flank by sending additional multinational battle groups to Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria and Slovakia. Many more European troops are now stationed there. (PTI)

NITI Aayog Launches Roadmap To Make India A Global Leader In Advanced Manufacturing

NEW DELHI: NITI Aayog’s Frontier Tech Hub today unveiled a landmark roadmap titled “Reimagining Manufacturing: India’s Roadmap to Global Leadership in Advanced Manufacturing”, outlining a sector-focused strategy to make India one of the top three global manufacturing hubs by 2035.

The roadmap was released in Pune by Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis, Deputy CM Ajit Pawar, NITI Aayog CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam, and other dignitaries including CIIDG Chandrajit Banerjee and Debjani Ghosh, Distinguished Fellow at NITI Aayog.

The document identifies AI & ML, robotics, digital twins, and advanced materials as key frontier technologies to drive India’s industrial transformation across 13 priority sectors. It sets ambitious goals: increasing manufacturing’s share of GDP to 25%, generating over 100 million jobs, and strengthening India’s position as a global manufacturing powerhouse — key milestones toward Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

“Maharashtra will be the first state to fully align with the National Mission on Manufacturing,” said CM Fadnavis, calling the roadmap a “visionary step to drive automation, efficiency

and competitiveness.”

NITI CEO B.V.R. Subrahmanyam said the strategy provides a “decisive, time-bound course to become an advanced manufacturing powerhouse



by 2035.”

Developed in collaboration with CII and Deloitte, and guided by an expert industry council, the roadmap also warns that failing to embrace frontier technologies could cost India US\$ 270 billion by 2035 and US\$ 1 trillion by 2047 in potential GDP gains. (PIB)

Ayush Systems Can Complement Conventional Stroke Care Through Preventive and Rehabilitative Approaches: Union Ayush Minister

NEW DELHI: Marking World Stroke Day 2025, the Ministry of Ayush underscored the vital role of traditional Indian systems of medicine in providing preventive, holistic, and rehabilitative care for stroke — one of the leading causes of death and long-term disability in India.

Highlighting the theme of integrative health, the Ministry said that Ayush systems — including Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, and Homoeopathy — offer scientifically grounded approaches that complement conventional stroke management by promoting systemic balance, improving resilience, and supporting recovery.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush and Minister of State for Health & Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, said that the growing burden of stroke calls for comprehensive and integrative strategies. “Ayush systems, with their emphasis on preventive health and long-term rehabilitation, can significantly complement conventional

stroke management,” he said. “The Ministry of Ayush remains committed to promoting evidence-based traditional healthcare to enhance quality of life and reduce the national burden of stroke. Our focus is on strengthening research collaborations and raising public awareness to reduce stroke incidence and support sustainable recovery pathways,” he added.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, highlighted that the Ayush systems collectively provide a holistic framework for understanding and managing neurological disorders like stroke. “The Ministry continues to advance collaborative and translational research to scientifically validate and expand the therapeutic potential of Ayush-based interventions. This integrative approach strengthens stroke prevention, rehabilitation, and overall neurological well-being,” he said.

Ayush systems, rooted in harmony between body, mind, and environment,

focus not only on disease management but also on enhancing resilience, preventing recurrence, and improving overall



vitality. Their therapies — encompassing detoxification, restorative care, and lifestyle modification — are designed to strengthen circulation, nerve function, and recovery.

In Ayurveda, stroke (considered a manifestation of Vata dosha imbalance)

is managed through therapies that restore doshic equilibrium and promote neuromuscular regeneration. Homoeopathy,

medicine, can help reduce the burden of non-communicable diseases such as

Ayush systems, rooted in harmony between body, mind, and environment, focus not only on disease management but also on enhancing resilience, preventing recurrence, and improving overall vitality. Their therapies — encompassing detoxification, restorative care, and lifestyle modification — are designed to strengthen circulation, nerve function, and recovery.

stroke by fostering early prevention, holistic rehabilitation, and a sustainable model of wellness. (PIB)

WAZWAN DELIGHTS

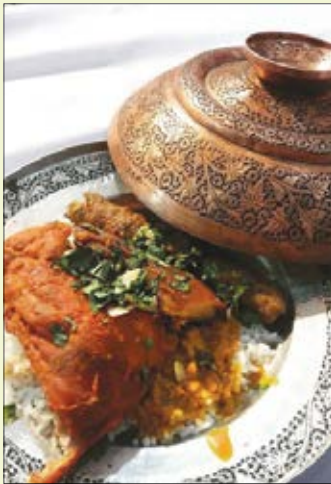
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