



‘No Justification’

Jaishankar Reiterates Zero Tolerance For Terror At SCO Meet

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Says 3 Evils Of Terrorism, Separatism, Extremism Serious Threats

SRINAGAR: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar on Tuesday said that Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) was founded to combat the three evils - terrorism, separatism and extremism. The remarks came days after deadly suicide blast claimed 15 lives and injured others near Delhi's iconic Red Fort.

Addressing the SCO Council of Heads of Government meeting at Moscow, Jaishankar said, that these three evils have become even more serious in the years that have passed.

He said that it is imperative that the world displays zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, and that there can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing. "As India has demonstrated, we have the right to defend our people against terrorism, and will exercise it," he said.

Jaishankar said that India believes that the SCO must "adapt to the changing global landscape, develop an expanded agenda, and reform its working methods. We will contribute positively and fully to these objectives".

"We assess the global economic situation to be particularly uncertain and volatile currently. Supply side risks have been

aggravated by demand side complexities. There is consequently an urgent requirement to de-risk and diversify. This

this process be fair, transparent and equitable."

"India's endeavours to conclude free

pertinent," he said.

As SCO continues to evolve, India "strongly supports" its reform-oriented agenda.

"We welcome centres addressing challenges such as organised crime, drug trafficking, and cybersecurity. As the organisation becomes more diverse, the SCO must be more flexible and adaptable," the EAM added.

"We must never forget that the SCO was founded to combat the three evils of terrorism, separatism and extremism. These threats have become even more serious in the years that have passed," he said.

"It is imperative that the world displays zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing," the EAM said.

To this end, the "long-delayed decision" to make English an official language of the SCO must be prioritised, he stressed.

In his address, he underlined that "we all recognise" that SCO must keep up with contemporary changes.

"It is imperative that the world displays zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing. As India has demonstrated, we have the right to defend our people against terrorism and will exercise it," he added.

He further said that as

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is best done by as many of us, forging the widest possible economic links," he said.

"For that to happen, it is essential that

trade agreements with many of us here are relevant. And, India's long-standing ties with SCO members makes it particularly

“It is imperative that the world displays zero tolerance towards terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. There can be no justification, no looking away and no whitewashing,” the EAM said.

Nowgam Blast: Omar Abdullah Promises Thorough Investigation

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that those involved in the Delhi blast should get the harshest of punishment, but innocents must not be looked at with suspicion.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the Nowgam blast injured, the CM said, that he highlighted the issue of J&K people in yesterday's Northern Zonal Committee meeting that every Muslim should not be looked at with suspicion.

"Those responsible for the Delhi blast should be caught and given the harshest punishment. But, innocents, who have nothing to do with it and have always raised their voices against the violence, should not be dragged into this," Omar said.

Meanwhile, reacting to the Nowgam blast, the Chief Minister said that the people expect full clarity. He said the investigation has started to ascertain how and why the blast occurred. "I hope the people will get the answers. This should not have happened. A large amount of explosives was brought here. We will start

getting the answers on how it was brought here and how it was handled," he added.

On a query, Omar said the compensation has been provided through the CM's Relief



Fund. "But since the blast occurred in the Police Station, the Home Department should also come forward to help the victims," he said.

"The compensation for jobs will also be provided to the affected. I will direct the officers to complete the necessary

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About 80 lakh e-passports issued till date in India

FE NEWS NETWORK

NEW DELHI: In a major upgrade of its passport-related system, the government has introduced a next-generation "e-passport" that combines both paper and electronic elements, a step that also seeks to detect and check forgery,



impersonation and other fraudulent acts. A senior official of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Tuesday said old legacy passports, which have

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CIK detains doctor, wife in Kashmir over alleged unlawful activities



SRINAGAR: The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) on Tuesday launched a major crackdown across Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag, detaining a doctor and his wife for

allegedly using their professional positions to promote online radicalisation and propagate extremist narratives.

In a statement, The Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) conducted coordinated searches at four locations across the districts of Srinagar, Kulgam and Anantnag, acting on search warrants issued by the Hon'ble Designated Court under the NIA Act, Srinagar, in connection with FIR No. 05/2025 under Sections 196, 152, 351(2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and Section 13 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, Police Station CIK.

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Locker Checks Widen...

Admin Targets Jammu Hospitals After Srinagar

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: The administration of Government Medical College and Sri Maharaja Gulab Singh



(SMGS) hospitals on Tuesday checked the lockers belonging to staff, students and doctors.

An official said, that the lockers were checked as part of a drill amid tight security arrangements. "Keys were sought from the holders. Lockers will be checked and re-allotted," the official added.

Last week authorities conducted a locker

checking exercise at the Government Medical College and SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, to identify and label the personal lockers. The circular to conduct the checking was issued by the Administrator, Associated Hospitals, Srinagar, after an AK rifle was recovered from the locker of a doctor in Anantnag.

Pertinently, a few doctors were found involved in a major terror module and the subsequent carblast near the Red Fort in Delhi on November 10, and the recovery of arms and ammunition, including an AK rifle, from the locker of a doctor at GMC Anantnag on November 8.

Notably, the investigations and the DNA test had revealed that a doctor from South Kashmir's Pulwama district Dr Umar Mohammad carried out a suicide attack near Red Fort on November 10 by blowing off the i20. In the blast more than ten people were killed.

A few days before the blast,

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CM Omar Conducts Review of Development Works in Ganderbal

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GANDERBAL: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah inaugurated and laid foundation stone of a number of vital

Fatehpura-Gadoora road worth ₹5.2 crore and the upgradation of various link roads in Sherpathri Block costing ₹8.9 crore. He also e-inaugurated several major water supply projects,



infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing civic amenities and accelerating development across District Ganderbal.

He inaugurated the upgradation and widening of the Dak Bungalow

including a 70,000-gallon capacity slow sand filtration plant with allied structures at WSS Gaganeer completed at a cost of ₹119.16 lakh; a 30,000-gallon capacity slow sand filtration plant with reservoirs and

treatment units at WSS Fraw Haknar completed with an investment of ₹108.09 lakh; and a 60,000-gallon capacity slow sand filtration plant

He Also Emphasized The Urgency Of Addressing Traffic **Congestion** In Ganderbal And Directed The Deputy Commissioner To Prepare An Ideal **Long-Term Solution** In Consultation With The R&B Department...

at WSS Rezan along with its pipe network and related infrastructure completed at a cost of ₹121.20 lakh.

The Chief Minister later laid foundation stone for

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CS Dulloo Reviews Efforts Under ‘Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan’

FE NEWS NETWORK

Directs for formation of Rehabilitation Task Force and training of Counsellors across J&K

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, chaired a high-level meeting to thoroughly assess the multi-departmental efforts and progress under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) across the districts of Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting concluded with several critical directives aimed at intensifying the campaign, streamlining coordination, and establishing a robust mechanism for the rehabilitation of addiction-affected individuals.

Highlighting the urgency of tackling the drug menace, the Chief Secretary issued a slew of instructions including constitution of a dedicated Task Force under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Home, with Administrative Heads from the Information, Social Welfare, and Skill Development Departments as members. This force will focus on formulating comprehensive, age-group-wise rehabilitation

proposals for treated individuals.

Chief Secretary underscored the vital need for training counsellors for every Panchayat, Health Center, High/Higher Secondary School,



and College across J&K. He asked for training of Master Trainers at IMHANS Srinagar/Jammu, who will then be utilized to conduct decentralized training sessions in their respective districts. Videography of these training sessions was suggested for clarity and wider dissemination across tehsils and blocks.

The Information Department was designated

as the nodal agency for coordinating the NMBA activities across all departments and was directed to explore the possibility of seeking financial assistance from the Department of Revenue (DoR), Government

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All departments were instructed to meticulously dovetail their NMBA-related activities and ensure their coordinated

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J&K's Power Grid to be Tested by 50% Demand Surge

FE NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR: While the power sector continues to function with 'decades old infrastructure', Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness growth in power demand by nearly 50 percent in a decade.

According to the official documents, authorities have projected that Jammu and Kashmir will likely have an extra power demand by the year 2034-35.

The official further clarified that the peak demand will be more than the average growth saying that the region may likely witness an increase in power demand by 6 percent each year from 2025-26 to 2034-2035.

Stating the year wise growth rate in power demand, authorities have said that in the year Jammu and Kashmir will likely have a five percent extra demand in the year 2025-26 followed by four percent in the year 2026-27, four percent in 2027-28, three percent in 2028-29.

It also said that in the year 2029-30, the region may experience growth rate in power demand by five percent followed by four percent in 2030-31, four percent in 2031-32, three percent in 2032-33, five percent in 2033-34 and four percent in the year 2034-35 respectively.

"Peak and Energy Demand for the UT of J&K and Ladakh has been taken as per the projections provided by the UT department.

The Demand estimation by J&K was higher than projected by 20th Electric Power Survey of India (EPS). Therefore, the studies have been carried out using projections given by the J&K UT

department," it reads. The documents further reveal that the future demand profile for the year 2034-35 has been projected using the demand profile of J&K for the year 2022-23 as the base profile. "The actual solar generation profiles and

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Apni Party Condemns Delhi Blast

Urges Centre To Address ‘White-Collar’ Radicalisation

SRINAGAR: Condemning the recent Delhi blast, the Jammu and Kashmir Apni Party (JKAP) on Tuesday said the perpetrators must be punished and urged the Centre to identify and address the root cause of "white-collar" radicalisation. The party, headed by former minister Altaf Bukhari, voiced deep concern over the November 10 incident in New Delhi that left 13 people dead and the revelation that some well-educated people were involved.

Addressing a press conference here after the party's working committee meeting, Bukhari said the attack was horrific and demanded the toughest possible punishment for those responsible.

He said, during the meeting, party leaders unanimously passed a resolution condemning the car blast while urging the Central government to begin a meaningful public outreach and dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kashmir to ensure long-lasting peace and stability in the region.

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Islamia College holds seminar on 'Tech Innovative Intervention in Kashmir Handicrafts'

SRINAGAR: The Innovation and Incubation centre of the Islamia college of Science and Commerce Srinagar in collaboration with the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) PPDC,



Extension centre Srinagar organised a one day seminar on 'Tech Innovative intervention in Kashmir Handicrafts' in the college.

The seminar was attended by HOD Arts IASE, Srinagar, Arshad Sauleh, and renowned artist of Kashmir; Ajaz Hussian, Faculty Robotics and Automation Ministry of MSME

PPDC Srinagar, Faculty NIFT Srinagar, Designer and Founder of Studio Kilab, artisans of paper mache of shah-er-Khas, faculty and students of the college, and the staff of Design Innovation Centre (DIC), Central University of Kashmir.

The seminar's focus was to educate artisans on integrating technology in Paper Mache, anticipating and overcoming challenges by exploring innovative designs for newer product possibilities.

Principal of the college, Prof. (Dr.) Tehmina Yousuf, lauded the seminar for its educative and transforming role for artisans of Kashmir Handicrafts. In her address, she reiterated the commitment of the college to support the Handicraft artisans of the Kashmir in general and that of shah-er-Khas in particular for value addition of their products to remain market relevant and sensitized the students for future endeavour in handicrafts with integration of technology.

Convenor IIC of the college briefed the audience of the activities and programs that the college has been holding since the inception of the IIC in the college for promotion of the culture of entrepreneurship, innovation and start-ups among the student community. He presented a thorough introduction about the Paper Mache craft in the Kashmir valley.

During the programme, the participants were apprised about already existing technology like 5 axis CNC machine and Wire EDM machine that are used to make Paper Mache moulds and designs.

Meanwhile, an interactive session was held which witnessed a threadbare discussion about the existing technology for Paper Mache and its pros and cons. The artisans identified the problems they faced while using existing technology. In the light of discussions held, the experts pointed out ways that should be incorporated in the existing technology for its optimisation and result orientation.

IWMP Udhampur hosts awareness programme at Kallar

UDHAMPUR: The Integrated Watershed Management Programme IWMP Udhampur organised an awareness programme at Kallar as part of the month-long Watershed Mahotsav 2025, being observed from November 17 to December 16, 2025.

The programme was presided over by Project Manager IWMP Dr Ashwani Hansa and witnessed active participation from the stakeholder departments and community representatives.

The programme was attended by BDO Shahbaz Choudhary; Panchayat Secretaries, Panchayat Account Assistants, RDD staff, Anganwadi workers of the Social Welfare Department, members of Self Help Groups and staff of IWMP.

The participants were sensitised on the importance of soil and water conservation, afforestation, community participation and sustainable agricultural practices.

Resource persons highlighted the role of integrated watershed management in ensuring ecological balance and long-term water security for rural communities.

A special pledge ceremony was also organised, wherein all attendees vowed to save water, save earth, while reaffirming their commitment to environmental protection and responsible resource management.

The programme aimed at increasing public awareness and encouraging community-driven initiatives to protect natural resources, a key objective of Watershed Mahotsav 2025.

DC Rajouri receives National Honour from President of India for Excellence in Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari

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RAJOURI: In a moment of immense pride for District Rajouri, Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma was honoured by the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, for the district's outstanding performance under the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative. The award recognises Rajouri's exemplary achievements in promoting community-led water conservation and sustainable resource management.

Despite challenges during the implementation phase, including incidents of Pakistani shelling in border areas and the concurrent Operation Sindoor, the district administration—supported by the unwavering spirit of Jan Bhagidari, completed and geo-tagged all water recharge structures well before the 31st May deadline. This accomplishment stands as a testament to the resilience and determination of both the administration and the public.

As part of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari programme, Rajouri successfully geo-tagged 4,208 rainwater harvesting structures, including 132 Amrit Sarovars, 894 ponds, 510 bowlis, 2,270 harvesting tanks and 408 dugwells.

These efforts have significantly enhanced the district's rainwater harvesting capacity and strengthened long-term water sustainability.

The national recognition highlights the

district administration's innovative and result-oriented approach in mobilising public participation, rejuvenating traditional water bodies, expanding



community awareness and prioritising grassroots engagement. Under the leadership of DC Abhishek Sharma, Rajouri adopted a holistic strategy to improve water security through collaboration and community ownership.

"This honour belongs to the people of Rajouri," DC Abhishek Sharma said, expressing gratitude for the prestigious recognition. He emphasized that the

district's success was driven by collective commitment, strong community participation and consistent on-ground efforts.

Guided by the Prime Minister's vision of ensuring water security for all, Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari promotes conservation through a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. The initiative empowers communities to protect and restore water bodies, adopt sustainable practices and build resilience against water scarcity.

Rajouri's people-centric model—anchored in sustainability, collaboration and active citizen participation—has now gained appreciation at the highest national level. The award has also infused renewed motivation among district officials, community groups and the general public to continue their efforts toward creating a water-secure and environmentally sustainable Rajouri.

This national honour marks a significant milestone, positioning Rajouri as a leading example of innovative governance and effective public participation in water conservation across the country.

Chairman DDC Kathua reviews progress under District Capex Budget 2025-26

Council lauds district admin for effective mitigation measures during August rains, floods

efforts to create durable public assets within set timelines. He stressed on the need for

implementation of the District Capex Plan. The Council unanimously passed a resolution



KATHUA: Chairman District Development Council Col. (Retd), Mahan Singh chaired a meeting of the Council to assess the physical and financial progress of works being executed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

The meeting was attended by DDC Vice Chairman, Raghunadan Singh; DDC members from Nagri, Billawar, Bani, Keerian Gandyal, Marheen, Gujroo Nagrota, Dinga Amb and Barnoti, besides ADDC Surinder Mohan Sharma and district and sectoral officers.

At the outset, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur briefed the Council about the status of 1810 works approved under PRI, BDC, DDC, ABDP and APDP grants. The meeting was informed that out of 1810 works, 1633 have been allotted.

The DDC members emphasised the need to accelerate progress of works and ensure timely redressal of public demands. They also highlighted gaps requiring focused intervention for the effective implementation of schemes at the grassroots level.

The DDC Chairman called for coordinated

close collaboration among departments to ensure quality outcomes for the benefit of the public. The DDC Vice Chairman also highlighted the importance of working in unison to improve service delivery and infrastructure across the district.

The ADDC Kathua called upon the executing departments to maintain close liaison with the Council members to ensure smooth

to place the demand for permanent restoration of public assets damaged due to August rains and floods.

The meeting concluded with acknowledgement of the dedicated efforts of the district administration and frontline staff during the recent spell of floods, cloudbursts and continuous rains, ensuring timely response and mitigation measures.

District Kishtwar vows for drug-free future on 5th Anniversary of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan

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KISHTWAR: The District Administration Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare, observed the 5th anniversary

presided over the function as the Chief Guest.

At the outset, District Social Welfare Officer, Tariq Parveaz Qazi, extended a warm welcome to the guests and participants.

The programme featured a vibrant lineup of

Anand and a powerful theme-based Nukkad Natak presented by the talented team of Kishtwar Act Production were highlights of the event.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the collective responsibility of all stakeholders in guiding the district toward a healthier, drug-free future. He emphasized that the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan is not merely a government programme but a people's movement, requiring sustained vigilance, compassion and coordinated action from every segment of society.

Highlighting the crucial role of parents, educators, community leaders and youth, he called upon them to remain proactive in identifying early signs of substance abuse and promoting constructive avenues for personal development.

The Deputy Commissioner also administered the "Nasha Mukti" pledge to all attendees. Simultaneously, an e-pledge campaign was conducted across the district, facilitated through scanner-based wall posters installed at all Sub-Divisional and Tehsil offices by the Social Welfare Department.

Further extending the outreach, the School Education Department conducted parallel awareness activities in educational institutions across the district. The event was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACP Neeraj Sharma; DTO Showket Ibrahim; AD Handloom Pardeep Shan and others.



of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan with a mega district-level event held in the Conference Hall of the New DC Office Complex.

Deputy Commissioner, Pankaj Kumar Sharma

awareness-oriented activities, including Debate and Painting Competitions with enthusiastic participation from students of different schools.

A graceful solo dance performance by Tavishi

Udhampur observes 5th anniversary of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan

UDHAMPUR: District Administration Udhampur organized an impressive awareness event and pledge-taking ceremony to mark the 5th anniversary of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan, a nationwide initiative aimed at combating substance abuse. The event was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The programme was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai and was attended by ADDC Jugal Kishore, PO Poshan Subash Dogra; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; ACR Dr. Umesh Shan and other senior government functionaries.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner appreciated the impactful presentation by the artists of the Satya Rishi Group on the theme of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan. She emphasized that the district has conducted a series of awareness and enforcement activities under the campaign to sensitize the public about the catastrophic consequences of drug abuse. She highlighted the importance of community involvement in the fight against drugs and underscored the crucial role of youth in building a healthy, progressive society. The DC further stated that the primary objective of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan is to educate participants about the harmful effects of drug and substance abuse. Stressing the urgent need for collective action, she reiterated that awareness and education are the most powerful tools in the fight against drug abuse. She urged all institutions to act as strongholds of discipline, awareness and social responsibility in the journey towards a drug-free India.

The artists of the Satya Rishi Group presented a powerful Nukkad Natak on the theme, which was highly appreciated by all participants.

Later, participants took a solemn pledge to support the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan and remain committed to creating a drug-free society.

Kupwara Celebrates 5 years of Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan across District

KUPWARA: District Administration Kupwara celebrated five years of the Nasha Mukti Bharat Abhiyan across all subdivisions, blocks, and tehsils of the district.

As part of the commemoration, a series of pledge ceremonies were organized to strengthen the district-wide commitment to eliminating drug abuse and promoting a healthier, drug-free



society.

The main pledge ceremony took place at the Meeting Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office, Kupwara, presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shrikant Suse. He administered the Nasha Mukti pledge to officers and officials from various departments, reiterating the administration's dedication to ensuring a safer and healthier future for the youth.

In his address, the DC stressed the urgent need to curb the rising challenge of drug addiction and emphasized the responsibility of every individual in promoting awareness and preventive efforts.

A similar pledge event was held at the Sub-District Handwara, where Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Javaid Naseem Masoodi, led officers and employees in reaffirming the district's collective resolve against drug abuse.

Pledge-taking ceremonies were simultaneously conducted across all government offices and educational institutions in the district.

The widespread participation reflected strong community commitment and helped amplify the message on the detrimental effects of drugs and the importance of preventive measures.

Massive Unity March held in Doda to Mark 150th Birth Anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

DODA: A grand Padyatra (Unity March) was organised in Doda to celebrate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the officers of line departments, the Sports Department, students, NGOs, general public and NCC cadets, reflecting a powerful message of unity, patriotism and national integration.

The march was flagged off by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur along with Deputy Director Mera Yuva Bharat—MY Bharat Khushal Gupta, from the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, the officials from district administration and students recited the National Anthem creating an atmosphere filled with patriotic energy.

The march was led by a van beautifully decorated with the Tricolour and a portrait of the Iron Man of India, while students from the government and private institutions raised inspiring patriotic slogans.

The Unity March concluded at Town Hall, where a colourful and heartfelt tribute was paid to Sardar Patel. The participants took a solemn pledge, reaffirming their commitment to foster unity, national integrity, aligning with the ideals of Sardar Patel.

Starting with the lighting of the traditional lamp by ADC Anil Kumar Thakur, ASP Headquarters Mohammad Aslam and Khushal Gupta, the programme unfolded into a cultural celebration. Students from Government Girls Higher Secondary School, GDC, ITI and other institutions presented vibrant cultural and patriotic performances showcasing India's unity in diversity.

Addressing the gathering, the ADC highlighted the remarkable role of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel in unifying India into a single strong thread of integrity and harmony. He emphasized that Patel's legacy must continue to inspire younger generations to work for peace, unity and national development.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Khushal Gupta, who appreciated the collective efforts of the administration, institutions and the people of Doda in celebrating the spirit of Ekta Diwas and honouring the Iron Man of India.



DDC Budgam chairs 3rd DLIMC meeting on PACS Computerisation

Emphasis Laid on Transparency, Efficiency, Strengthening of Cooperative Institutions in district

BUDGAM: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat chaired the 3rd meeting of the District Level Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DLIMC) to review the progress of the Computerisation of Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies Budgam, Additional Managing Director J&K State Cooperative Bank, and the Assistant Registrar Cooperative Societies Budgam, along with other concerned officers.

During the meeting, it was informed that 24 new Multi-Purpose Agricultural Credit Societies (MPACS) have been established in Budgam district, of which 10 MPACS have been identified for coverage under the PACS Computerisation Project.

Officials further briefed that under the scheme, dedicated IT hardware including computers, printers, scanners, biometric

devices, and networking equipment is being provided to eligible PACS to enable seamless digital transformation.

operational efficiency across cooperative institutions.

The DC said that, the shift to digital



During the meeting, the DC laid emphasis on ensuring that the computerisation initiative leads to greater transparency, accountability, and

systems will not only enhance financial management but also ensure real-time record keeping, allowing PACS to function more efficiently and with improved service

delivery. He stressed that the project must translate into enhanced access to credit, faster processing, and better outreach to farmers and rural communities, enabling them to benefit more effectively from cooperative services.

The DC further underlined that stakeholder coordination, timely installation of equipment, and capacity building of PACS staff must be ensured so that the objectives of the project are achieved within set timelines.

He directed for accelerated implementation, regular technical monitoring, and stringent oversight to ensure full digital readiness of identified PACS across Budgam district.

The DC said that the computerization project, once fully realized, is expected to significantly strengthen the cooperative credit structure in Budgam, bringing long-term benefits to rural households, farmers, and small borrowers.

DC Bandipora reviews process for Revision of Stamp Rates 2026

Stresses accuracy, justification, multi-departmental assessment

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a meeting to review the process for the Revision of Stamp Rates for the Calendar Year 2026.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to submit reports strictly based on actual ground requirements, ensuring that each recommendation is supported by ample justification.

She emphasised that the process should not be hurried or approached mechanically and stressed that there must be "no jump in values without clear reasoning." Officers were directed to keep all relevant parameters in mind including development patterns, ongoing works, and demographic changes while determining the proposed rate revisions.

On the occasion, the DC further directed that all line departments must be involved in the assessment process, and their feedback and technical

inputs should form an integral part of the final proposals. She asked officers to

The DC reiterated that accurate rate revision is essential for transparency, revenue



factor in circumstances such as new projects in the area, infrastructure expansion, or impacts of natural calamities, so that the revised stamp rates reflect a fair and realistic valuation.

During the meeting, the DC directed the Sub-Divisional Committees to submit their complete reports within a week, ensuring that the assessment is thorough and based on updated field verification.

consistency, and safeguarding public interest.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; Tehsildar Bandipora and Sumbal; CEO MC Bandipora; EXEN R&B Bandipora and other concerned officers, while SDM Sumbal, SDM Gurez, Tehsildar Gurez and Tulail, EO MC Hajin and other concerned officers attended the meeting virtually.

District Budgam Observes 5 Years of NMBA with District-Wide Pledge, Signature Campaign.

DC Calls for Unified, Sustained Action Against Drug Abuse across District

BUDGAM: District Budgam marked the completion of five years of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) with

counter the growing threat of drug abuse. He stressed that the success of NMBA depends on the combined and sincere



a comprehensive pledge and signature campaign organised across the district, highlighting the administration's strong commitment to fight substance abuse and safeguard the youth.

A central event was organised at the District Headquarters where the pledge was administered by the Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat.

During the occasion, the DC emphasised on strengthening institutional coordination, enhancing community vigilance, and ensuring consistent awareness programmes to

efforts of families, educational institutions, civil society groups, and enforcement agencies, and that every individual in the district bears a responsibility in nurturing a drug-free environment.

The DC also highlighted that early identification, counselling, rehabilitation support, and youth engagement initiatives must continue to be prioritised to prevent vulnerable individuals from falling prey to addiction.

He further underlined that strict enforcement against drug peddlers shall continue, while equal focus will be maintained on supporting affected persons

through compassionate rehabilitation measures, ensuring that NMBA's objectives are implemented at both preventive and corrective levels.

The DC reiterated that NMBA will continue to be implemented vigorously throughout Budgam with expanded outreach, stronger inter-departmental coordination, and community-driven initiatives aimed at prevention, awareness, enforcement, and rehabilitation.

The event witnessed active participation from the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Budgam, all SDMs, DSWO, and other senior district officers, who joined the signature campaign and reaffirmed their departmental commitment to contributing to a drug-free Budgam.

Simultaneously, the Nasha Mukht pledge was conducted in all colleges and educational institutions across District Budgam, engaging thousands of students, teachers, and staff members. Awareness sessions, interactions, and sensitisation activities were also organised to educate youth about the harmful consequences of substance abuse and the importance of responsible decision-making.

The district-wide observance show-cases renewed collective resolve from all stakeholders to intensify efforts and work in complete unity to ensure a safe, healthy, and drug-free Budgam.

SMC Holds Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan Pledge at Headquarters



SRINAGAR: The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) organised a Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan pledge ceremony at its Headquarters, Karan Nagar, as part of its continued efforts to raise awareness against substance abuse and promote a healthier Srinagar.

The pledge was administered by Joint Commissioner (Adm), Nuzhat Qureshi, alongside Joint Commissioner, Suhail Ul Islam. During the ceremony, both officers highlighted the importance of collective responsibility in addressing the challenges posed by narcotic substances and stressed the need for sustained public awareness.

Senior officials and central office staff of SMC participated wholeheartedly, reaffirming their commitment to work proactively towards a drug-free and healthy Srinagar.

The staff pledged to support the national campaign by spreading awareness, encouraging community participation, and promoting preventive measures across all municipal wards.

The Corporation reiterated its dedication to the objectives of Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and emphasized that such initiatives will continue to be held regularly to strengthen the city's resolve against drug abuse.

Awareness programme on Mission YUVA-Udyam Jagriti 4.0 held at GCOE Srinagar

SRINAGAR: An awareness programme was held under Mission YUVA-Udyam Jagriti 4.0 at the Government College of Education (GCOE), M.A. Road, Srinagar, here on Tuesday.

Faculty and students from various city colleges attended the programme, including Women's College, M.A. Road, Srinagar; Government Sri Pratap College, Srinagar; A.S. College, Srinagar; and others.

Nodal Principal of Kashmir Division Colleges, Prof. (Dr.) Seema Naz, presided over the function, while Assistant Director Employment, Srinagar, Aaliya Amin., and Employment Officer, Tanveer Ahmad were the special guests on the occasion.

Dr. Seema Naz addressed the gathering and highlighted that Udyam Jagriti is a flagship awareness campaign under the Mission YUVA initiative in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at promoting entrepreneurship and skill development among the youth.

"Youth Empowerment directly targets young people, encouraging them to become

entrepreneurs rather than depend solely on jobs. Economic

matchmaking, training, monitoring, and provides



Growth creates enterprises, it aims to boost local economies and generate substantial employment", she added. Assistant Director Employment, Srinagar, gave a detailed overview of Mission YUVA-Udyam Jagriti 4.0. She briefed the participants about the registration process and the Mission YUVA digital platform, explaining that during awareness camps, youth are encouraged to register on the Youth Skill & Entrepreneurship App, a key component of Mission YUVA's digital infrastructure. The app facilitates

information about various support systems and government schemes.

The Employment Officer also briefed the participants about the campaign, explaining that it informs young people about the Mission YUVA app, various financial schemes, and online skill modules.

He emphasized that the primary goal of the initiative is to foster self-reliance and encourage entrepreneurship as a viable career path by promoting a culture of innovation and skill enhancement.

Deputy Commissioner Bandipora reviews progress of Semi Ring Road Phase-II

Directs NHAI to upscale parallel works to avoid delays

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the progress of the Semi Ring Road Phase-II Project, a key infrastructure corridor connecting Sumbal to Manigam as part of the 4-lane Ring Road.

During the meeting, representatives from NHAI presented a detailed PPT, outlining the current status of works, project components, plant and machinery deployed, and site-wise progress of structures.

On the occasion, NHAI informed that ongoing works were being affected by weather-related hurdles, particularly in earthwork and structure concreting.

The DC took note of these difficulties but directed the agency to adopt a more aggressive execution strategy.

She directed NHAI to run multiple activities simultaneously, emphasising that "work should not proceed in a slow manner" and must show visible scaling in manpower and machinery deployment.

During the meeting, the DC further directed the agency to flag issues immediately instead of piling them up and urged to ensure that no exercise becomes futile or delayed due to avoidable hurdles.

She emphasized to maintain strong coordination with Revenue, PWD, and district administration and urged to resolve field-level bottlenecks at the earliest.

Calling for community cooperation, the DC said that the Semi Ring Road is a transformative project for the district and urged people, particularly landowners and residents along the alignment to extend support so that the project is completed within the targeted timelines.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated that the administration remains committed to ensuring timely execution, transparent processes, and smooth inter-departmental coordination, noting that Phase-II holds significant importance in improving mobility, reducing congestion, and boosting regional connectivity.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Zaffar Hussain Shawl; SE PWD (R&B) Circle Bandipora; SDM Sumbal; Project Director NHAI, PIU, Srinagar; EXEN PWD (R&B) Sumbal; Tehsildar Sumbal and other concerned officers.

DSEK Leads Mega Enrolment Drive at BHSS Suresyar

Inaugurates Innovative Learning Hub "Rang-e-pare"

BUDGAM: A Mega Enrolment Drive was successfully organised at BHSS Suresyar, Budgam, presided over by the Director School Education Kashmir (DSEK), Naseer Ahmad Wani.

The event witnessed an impressive turnout of parents and community members, reflecting the growing public confidence in the government school system.

On the occasion, the Director participated in the 'Nasha Mukht' Pledge, reiterating the department's commitment to fostering a drug-free student community across Kashmir.

During the programme, the Director School Education Kashmir granted 85 on-spot admissions, further strengthening the ongoing enrolment campaign across the valley.

Parents expressed great satisfaction with the transparent process and welcomed the department's efforts to expand access to quality education.

A significant feature of the event was the formal

inauguration of "Rang-e-pare", an innovative, child-centric learning space conceptualized to

representing diverse domains such as foundational literacy and numeracy, vocational skills,



promote creativity, experiential learning, and joyful pedagogy. The initiative is in alignment with NEP-2020 and aims to reshape classroom learning environments into more engaging and activity-based models.

The event also showcased a series of thematic exhibition stalls set up by several schools from Cluster Suresyar, Chadoora,

reading promotion, and cultural heritage.

The programme recorded 100% parental participation, with parents actively engaging with teachers and appreciating the efforts of the school and cluster administration.

Director School Education Kashmir, commended the BHSS Suresyar, ZEO Chadura, staff, students, and community for

organising an impressive and meaningful event. He noted that the Mega Enrolment Drive at Suresyar stands as "a remarkable demonstration of collective commitment, academic excellence, and community partnership."

He added that the inauguration of "Rang-e-pare", the creative exhibits, and the on-spot admissions mark the occasion as an important milestone in the department's ongoing efforts.

The Joint Director School Education Kashmir, Muhammad Mushtaq also addressed the gathering and highlighted key departmental initiatives aimed at improving learning outcomes, strengthening school infrastructure, and fostering student-friendly environments.

The Directorate reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring equitable access to education and urged all stakeholders to continue supporting the enrolment campaign to achieve maximum coverage across all districts.

KVIB Shopian organises Mega Awareness Camp at Imamsahib

SHOPIAN: A Mega Awareness Camp was organised at Government Higher Secondary School, Barbugh Imamsahib by J&K KVIB Shopian with the objective of generating mass awareness among public regarding self-employment schemes of the board.

The programme witnessed active participation of locals, students, stakeholders and members of society.

District officer, KVIB, Shopian Ahmadullah graced the occasion as the Chief Guest who briefed the participants about schemes under

KVIB, employment generation programmes, financial support mechanisms, skill development initiatives and other welfare measures available for public benefit.

LDM, J&K Bank while speaking on the occasion, gave a brief description about the

banking facilities being provided to the youth for establishing income generating units to earn their livelihood.

The programme concluded with an interactive session during which officials responded to queries raised by the public.

Editorial

Battle For Minds

The recent detention of a South Kashmir couple by Counter Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) uncovers a disturbing, and increasingly familiar, trend in contemporary subversion. The situation surrounding Dr. Umer Farooq Bhat and his wife Shahzada Akhtar isn't simply the arrest of two people; it reveals how professional respectability and social legitimacy are being used to create a shadow war against the nation-state and social cohesion.

The CIK reports that the couple were using their professional positions, his as a doctor in a premier hospital and hers through social engagement in the community, as cover for activities that undermine the very foundation of the state's security. The allegations are serious: disseminating propaganda, radicalizing youth, targeting and engaging local women. All of this suggests a malignant and deliberate intention. When trusted community professionals, a medical practitioner and a community figure, abuse that trust to peddle divisive narratives, it is a significant violation of trust and a new front in the war for hearts and minds.

The pattern of operation described in the document is deeply worrying. The investigators suggest that the parties have complex and sophisticated knowledge of how to exploit distressed and/or vulnerable categories of individuals when embedding both online and in-person activities. By exploiting their "social position to disguise unlawful conduct," the accused (if proven) operated beneath a shroud of normalcy and thereby made their influence that much greater and more difficult to detect. The connection to organizations such as the 'Dukhtar-e-Milat', which has been banned and is currently under investigation is even more disconcerting, suggesting that there is a rational approach to restarting, reviving and spreading extremist ideologies through purportedly new and deceptive means.

This case creates multiple necessary reassurances. First, it demonstrates our continued and urgent need for vigilance and scrutiny in our own communities. The enemies of peace are no longer merely pervasive in the shadows on the mountains; they are perhaps right amongst us, and are exploiting their credibility to destroy our social cohesion from within. Increasing public awareness and partner collaboration with law enforcement in reporting any similar activity is critical to identifying and dismantling these threats.

Secondly, it emphasizes validating the need for strong cyber intelligence and forensic capabilities. The recovery of multiple digital devices and the current forensic investigation are vital. Untangling this "broader digital network" will be instrumental in exposing the entire community of collaborators and those that enabled them, often across the border, that fuel this cycle of propaganda and radicalisation.

Once the veil of deception is lifted, exposed is the ugly aspect of a threat that aims to manipulate our trust and our openness. As a community, we must remain vigilant and ensure that this malignant influence does not find any soil for growth. The peace and sovereignty of the nation are not negotiable, and the struggle to defend them will encompass our full resolve, on every front, both digitally and not.

The Structural Weakness of Global Peace



DR. SATYWAN SAURABH

The moral and institutional foundation of the United Nations Security Council, built on the turbulent soil of global politics, is more questionable today

collectively pledged to prevent any future major war.

Central to that dream was the Security Council, envisioned as a guardian of peace, a guardian of global justice, and a cornerstone of collective security. But today, nearly 80 years later, as the world convulses with conflicts like those in Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Yemen, Myanmar, and the Sahel, this institution often stands silent.

This silence not only signifies helplessness, but also a structural weakness that has eroded its

like the United Nations reduced to mere formal statements? These questions are becoming increasingly acute today, as media, civil society, and peace experts around the world increasingly feel that the UN's moral authority has eroded.

The second problem is the unrepresentative nature of this institution. The world has changed profoundly since 1945, but the UNSC's structure remains largely stagnant. Africa, a hotbed of conflict and a major contributor to peace, has no permanent representative. Even a large democracy like India,

deployment of peacekeeping forces was followed by a lack of political guidance, leading to a resurgence of violence shortly afterward. This failure is not just a matter of resources or capacity, but also of a lack of strategy.

The fourth problem is a lack of continuity. The UNSC often becomes active only at the beginning of a crisis, but then diminishes its presence as the situation stabilizes. This leaves conflict-affected countries teetering on the brink of political transition. This creates a "peace in limbo," which often ends in renewed violence.

The fifth problem is the erosion of trust in the United Nations due to these failures. Today, there is a growing perception in the Global South that the Security Council has become a political battleground for certain countries. This is why regional organizations such as the African Union, ASEAN, the Arab League, and the European Union are strengthening their own security structures, and this trend is increasingly limiting the role of the United Nations.

All this begs the question—what is the solution? Does the UNSC need to be replaced or revitalized?

The answer is – both.

Structural changes to the Security Council are necessary—new permanent members, a review of veto power, regional balance—but even more essential are operational improvements. The UN General Assembly could compensate for the Security Council's weaknesses by creating new institutions under Article 22. An institution like the Peace and Sustainable Security Board could ensure political continuity, monitor post-conflict reforms, and ensure that peace is not based solely on ceasefires but on long-term political stability.

The role of regional organizations must also be enhanced, as they better understand local culture, politics, and ground realities. Peacekeeping operations must be integrated with political strategies to calm not just guns but also minds.

Most importantly, the UN itself must restore its moral credibility. This is only possible if it is capable of making timely, impartial, and bold decisions in humanitarian crises. It must move beyond a culture of mere rhetoric and become a truly enforcement-based peacekeeping mechanism.

Today, the world is grappling with fear, polarization, technological conflict, terrorism, water scarcity, and the threat of war. At such a time, the inaction of the United Nations is disappointing humanity. The questions posed to this foremost guardian of peace will only be addressed when this institution reinvents itself for the 21st century.

It is time for the world to demand back from the United Nations the role it promised to play 80 years ago—Defense of peace, justice and humanity.

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than ever before. As wars escalate, the ultimate guardian of peace appears to be failing to fulfill its role.

The 1945-based structure of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is no longer capable of maintaining peace in today's multipolar and conflict-ridden world. Political abuse of veto power, unrepresentative membership, weak political continuity, disorganized peacekeeping operations, and inaction on major humanitarian crises have put the UNSC in a difficult position.

Growing discontent in the Global South and the evolving balance of power in the world order call into question the institution's relevance. The UN must adopt deep, practical, and functional reforms to salvage its legitimacy and effectiveness—otherwise, this greatest guardian of peace itself will become the focus of scrutiny.

The questionable UN Security Council is not just a crisis of one institution, but also a larger story of the erosion of global moral leadership. When the United Nations was born, the world was emerging from the ashes of World War II, and humanity

credibility over the years. When citizens around the world look to this institution for peace, it appears bound by geopolitical interests. This is why the greatest custodian of peace has itself become the subject of the greatest questions.

The biggest problem is the imbalance of power created by the veto. This power, concentrated in the hands of the five permanent members, empowers them to block any resolution, even one as essential as preventing a humanitarian catastrophe. This is why—whether it's the deaths of thousands of children in Gaza, the destruction of cities in Ukraine, or the dismantling of democratic institutions in Myanmar—the Security Council often appears paralyzed. It has become a doorway where millions of people stand, pleading for help, but the key to opening that door is held by a limited number of countries, which put their national interests above global peace.

The question then arises—can peace be more important than the interests of a nation? Should people suffering from murder and hunger be left to die because of the geopolitics of a permanent member? Is the purpose of a global organization

whose contributions range from peacekeeping to humanitarian assistance, has yet to secure permanent membership. This signals a global system disconnected from reality.

While the global power map has changed—China has risen, India has reached new heights economically and politically, Africa has become a continent of emerging possibilities, Latin America has become more politically assertive—the Security Council remains stuck in the mindset of 1945. As a result, many countries have come to view it as a mere relic of the "old order" rather than a "legitimate" one.

The third problem is the political failure of peacekeeping operations. UN peacekeeping operations have stopped violence in many places, but have failed to bring political stability. It is like painting the walls of a crumbling house but not repairing the cracks. Peace does not come simply by silencing the guns; it comes through dialogue, inclusion, governance reform, and building trust within society. But the UN system fails to integrate peacekeeping and political solutions.

For example, in many African countries, the

Timeless Threads: A Carnival Of Kashmiri Craft



MOHAMMAD HANIEF

Srinagar is preparing to host a vibrant celebration of its artistic soul as the Handicrafts and Handloom Department launches a three-day Artisan Carnival at Sher-e-Kashmir Park from November 20 to 22. Set against the canopy of autumn Chinars, the event is positioned as a major cultural highlight under the "Soulful Kashmir" initiative, which seeks to renew public engagement with the Valley's traditional crafts and strengthen the bond between artisans and audiences.

The carnival comes as a natural progression of the department's sustained efforts over the past year, particularly the "Know Your Artisan" campaign, which has reintroduced thousands of people to the richness of the Valley's handmade traditions.

Through a series of exhibitions, cluster-focused events, craft village safaris, and earlier festivals, these initiatives have significantly increased visibility for artisans and helped revive interest in the stories, skills and heritage behind Kashmiri craftsmanship. These earlier platforms also revealed a growing public curiosity about the fine techniques behind Sozni embroidery, papier-mâché, Pashmina weaving, copper repoussé, willow work and other crafts, making the upcoming carnival a timely extension of that enthusiasm.

The Artisan Carnival will bring together more than thirty distinguished craftsmen from across the region. Many among them are award-winning masters who have shaped the identity of Kashmiri craft both locally and internationally. Their participation ensures that the event will serve not only as an exhibition but as an immersive learning experience. Through continuous live demonstrations, they are expected to reveal the painstaking skill, patience and creativity that go into each handmade piece, allowing visitors to follow the intricate journey from raw material to finished artwork.

The carnival continues a pattern established by earlier events where visitors—especially students and young enthusiasts—showed an eagerness to understand the deeper history behind the crafts they often encounter only as final products. Craft Safaris conducted in Kanihama,

Ganderbal, and other notified villages also demonstrated how witnessing artisans at work within their own spaces transformed public appreciation.

Many families and tourists who participated in

for authentic handmade products continues to grow, yet artisans often struggle with market competition, low-cost imitations, rising raw material costs and the need to attract younger generations to continue the

visitor interactions, artisan experiences and market responses.

For artisans, the carnival represents both recognition and renewal. Many of them have inherited their skills

craftsmen—its "golden hands"—who have kept centuries-old practices alive despite shifting times. By bringing together artisans, locals, tourists and cultural enthusiasts within one space, the event embodies the spirit of Soulful Kashmir. It reaffirms that Kashmir's crafts are more than



these safaris developed a new respect for the labour and artistic discipline involved, and artisans themselves benefitted from increased sales and visibility.

The upcoming event draws inspiration from these earlier successes. The choice of Sher-e-Kashmir Park, with its central location and picturesque landscape, reflects the department's intention to create a space that is both accessible and emotionally resonant.

Here, visitors will not simply browse through stalls but engage with the ethos of craftsmanship in a more personal way. Every embroidered motif, every brushstroke on a papier-mâché object, every handwoven thread of Pashmina is expected to serve as a reminder that Kashmir's crafts remain living traditions shaped daily by skilled hands.

The present scenario of Kashmiri handicrafts is one of promise shaped by serious challenges. Global demand

craft.

Government interventions such as GI certifications, skill upgradation programmes, buyer-seller meets and design support initiatives provide some relief but require consistent public engagement to achieve long-term impact. It is in this context that the Artisan Carnival is being viewed not only as a cultural festival but as an important economic bridge that connects artisans with potential customers, mentors, researchers and markets.

For the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, the carnival is an opportunity to consolidate lessons learned from past initiatives and build a stronger roadmap for the future. The department envisions expanding craft villages, strengthening artisan cooperatives, enabling international outreach, and promoting craft tourism as an integral component of cultural travel. Events like the carnival help to test these ideas in real time by observing

through generations, often working quietly in their homes and workshops. Public spaces such as this provide them with a dignified platform to present their work, narrate their journeys and reestablish their identity as custodians of Kashmir's cultural heritage. For many young artisans, especially those navigating the rapidly changing global marketplace, the carnival offers visibility and validation at a crucial time in their careers.

As the countdown to the event begins, anticipation grows across Srinagar. With its blend of artistry, history, storytelling and natural beauty, the Artisan Carnival promises to transform Sher-e-Kashmir Park into a living gallery of Kashmiri heritage. Visitors will not only witness the refinement of traditional craftsmanship but experience the cultural continuity that binds the Valley's past to its present and future.

In essence, the carnival stands as a tribute to Kashmir's

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The Artisan Carnival will bring together more than thirty distinguished craftsmen from across the region. Many among them are award-winning masters who have shaped the identity of Kashmiri craft both locally and internationally. Their participation ensures that the event will serve not only as an exhibition but as an immersive learning experience.

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commodities; they are stories of resilience, memory and artistic devotion. Through this celebration of living heritage, the Artisan Carnival aims to inspire renewed pride, greater awareness and a stronger foundation for the future of the Valley's craft ecosystem.

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Chief Secy reviews functioning of the S&T Deptt

Calls for giving push to green energy, innovations and research across J&K

FE NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo reviewed the functioning of the Science & Technology Department and called for accelerated efforts to advance J&K's transition to green energy, expand renewable infrastructure, and strengthen science education and research among students.

The meeting was attended by Secretary S&T, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, CEO JAKEDA P.N. Dhar, and senior departmental officers. The Chief Secretary assessed the progress on small and mini hydropower projects and reviewed key renewable initiatives including the solarization of government buildings and the implementation of the PM-KUSUM scheme along with dozens of other initiatives taken by the department to promote clean energy and innovation across the UT.

The Secretary S&T, Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary informed that JAKEDA is working toward solarizing more than 8,000 government buildings with a cumulative capacity of 245 MW. It includes 70 MW under CAPEX across 30 departments and 175 MW under the RESCO model. He added that work orders for 1,300 buildings have been issued, while completed installations include the 10 kW system at TRC Kupwara and the 3 MW plant at the University of

Kashmir.

On agricultural empowerment through PM-KUSUM, the Chief Secretary was informed that the scheme has recorded



near-total success with all 4,224 applications allotted and 3,586 solar pumps installed, achieving an 85% completion rate. The intervention has enhanced irrigation reliability, replaced nearly 8.5 million litres of diesel annually, and enabled savings of Rs 20,000-Rs 30,000 per farmer per year.

With respect to the Small/Mini hydro initiative the Secretary apprised the meeting that the department is also expanding the initiative rapidly, with 35.25 MW operational in IPP mode and a total portfolio of 188.75 MW. The same includes 153.5 MW under development across 81 projects.

Upcoming projects include 4.65 MW scheduled for commissioning in 2026 and 49.70 MW in 2027-28. At full capacity, the hydro portfolio is expected to generate more than Rs 110 Cr annually in revenue

and create over 1,200 direct and indirect jobs.

The Department is further advancing decentralized renewable solutions,



including 15,000 biomass cook stoves, 25,000 solar streetlights, a 100 kW floating solar pilot, and EV charging stations.

Moreover a strict 120-day roadmap has been formulated to render the remaining 152.75 MW RESCO capacity across 6,700 buildings and to complete installation of the remaining 638 pumps under PM-KUSUM to achieve 100% saturation. Reviewing the functioning of the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), the Chief Secretary was briefed on major initiatives to strengthen the research ecosystem and scientific infrastructure.

Under the Sponsored Research & Extension Programme (SREP), 77 research projects were approved in 2025 with funding of Rs 775 lakh across over 20 premier

institutions including 40 projects in Jammu and 37 in Kashmir, covering nine key thematic areas such as AI/IoT, agriculture and climate resilience, biotechnology, energy, and water systems.

The Secretary also presented progress on the establishment of critical scientific infrastructure. Two Industrial Biotech Parks with a total investment of Rs 84.66 Cr are under development, with the Kathua park fully complete in civil works and the Handwara park 70% complete slated to be completed by April, 2026.

The meeting was apprised that Sub Regional Science Centre (SRSC) in Srinagar, being established at a cost of Rs 18.2 Cr, has achieved 75% progress. Work on the Rs 2.76 Cr Science Innovation Dissemination Centre (SIDC) had begun in November 2025 and will serve as an innovation, incubation, and technology dissemination hub, as was given out in the meeting.

In the domain of science outreach and human resource development, it was informed that JKSTIC conducted 120 IEC and public engagement events in FY 2024-25 with 99.97% fund utilization, including 42 science competitions and 18 teacher-training workshops. The council also awarded 125 merit scholarships in 2024-25 and plans to award 130 scholarships in the current fiscal year, with the meeting was apprised.

Awareness camp empowers backward classes with self-employment schemes in Bandipora

FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: In a significant initiative to promote economic empowerment, The JK Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes & Backward Classes Development Corporation Ltd., Bandipora, in collaboration with the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, organised a large-scale awareness camp here Tuesday.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from diverse communities, with a significant turnout of individuals belonging to Backward Classes. The primary objective was to disseminate information about the various self-employment schemes offered by the Corporation.

Nazir Ahmed Rather, District Manager, Bandipora, took the stage to elaborate on the low-interest loan schemes designed to uplift the marginalised sections of society. He reaffirmed the Corporation's unwavering commitment to individual empowerment and urged attendees to actively avail themselves of these benefits. "Spreading

awareness within your communities is key to ensuring these schemes have a broader

President, and officials from the Employment Department, Masood Ahmed and Showkat Ahmed. They



reach and deeper impact," he stated.

Adding valuable insights to the discussion, Sh. Sahil Rashid Bhat, Principal of ITI Bandipora, spoke on the practical aspects of establishing income-generating units through the Corporation's schemes. He placed special emphasis on the education loan scheme, highlighting its role in building a skilled workforce.

The event was graced by several dignitaries, including Abdullah Paswal, District

shared their views and collectively encouraged participants to leverage the available schemes for sustainable livelihood opportunities.

To facilitate easy access to information, informational brochures and handbills detailing the schemes were distributed on the spot. The program concluded with a vote of thanks presented by District Manager Nazir Ahmed Rather, who expressed gratitude to all participants for their cooperation and engagement.

Multiple Activities Mark 5th Anniversary of NMBA in Anantnag

FE NEWS NETWORK

Participants Reaffirm Resolve to Fight Drug Abuse

ANANTNAG: Multiple activities including pledge ceremonies, rallies, awareness sessions,



and debates marked the 5th anniversary of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan (NMBA) across Anantnag district.

These programmes were organised by the District Administration and witnessed enthusiastic participation from senior officers, officials, students, youth, and civil society members, who reaffirmed their resolve to fighting the menace of drug abuse.

The main event, held at Town Hall Anantnag, was presided over by Additional District Magistrate, Tariq Ahmad Malik and attended by the DEPO, DIO, CDPOs, TSWOs, and field officials from the Social Welfare, Health, ICDS, Education, MCA, and other departments.

Administering the NMBA pledge, the ADM urged participants to create community-led mass awareness against drug abuse by engaging officials, youth, civil society members, and other stakeholders so the menace is eradicated from society. He said the district schedule of events has been designed to enhance awareness and participation at the grassroots level, adding that departments are conducting activities in tune with it.

On the occasion, officials from the Social Welfare Department delivered key lectures highlighting the measures being taken to disseminate mass awareness against drug abuse under NMBA.

Similar programmes, including pledge ceremonies and awareness rallies, were held in subdivisions, tehsils, blocks, ULBs, public offices, educational institutions, and other locations in the district.

DC B'la inaugurates Recording Studio to Strengthen Awareness on Government Welfare Schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

Also Upgraded Info Office with Latest Equipment

BARAMULLA: Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, inaugurated a newly established Recording Studio at the District Information Office Baramulla, in presence of District Information Officer Iftikhar Naseem.

The facility marks a significant step towards enhancing public outreach on various Centrally Sponsored and UT Government welfare schemes. Content produced in the studio will be shared across social media platforms to ensure accurate, accessible, and wider dissemination.

To strengthen its communication capabilities, the Information Office

has also been upgraded with modern equipment, including a Digital Sound System (Mic System) and other essential

the department's efficiency in managing routine media activities and major government events.



broadcasting tools. The improved infrastructure is expected to enhance

their welfare.

The DC added that the role of the

Information Department extends beyond sharing scheme-related information and must also include highlighting developmental works, documenting success stories, and raising awareness on critical issues such as drug abuse, traffic rules, and other public concerns. He noted that the studio will serve as an important platform for producing meaningful and impactful content through pod Cast "Jhelum Se Chenab Tak" for the community.

It is pertinent to mention that the Chief Secretary, Jammu & Kashmir, recently launched the podcast series "Jhelum Se Chenab Tak" at Dakbanglow Baramulla. The podcast aims to provide citizens with clear and reliable information about government initiatives through conversations with concerned officers.

DC Bandipora holds first monthly interaction with beneficiaries under different schemes

FE NEWS NETWORK

BANDIPORA: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, chaired the first monthly interaction with beneficiaries of various sponsored schemes under HADP and other livelihood programmes at the Mini Secretariat.



Beneficiaries from different departments including Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Handloom, Handicrafts, DIC and other departments shared their progress and concerns.

A beneficiary from Authwato briefed the Deputy Commissioner about purchasing a tractor under HADP with a 5 lakh subsidy, while a CSC operator from Kehnusa highlighted his custom hiring services. The DC urged all to motivate others to avail benefits under HADP and NRLM.

On the occasion, a sheep farmer from Sumbal narrated how training at SKUAST-K inspired him to expand his flock to 70 after receiving 50 ewes under HADP. Another beneficiary from Ajas, also received 50 ewes and sought support for a wool scouring unit.

The DC directed the DSHO to conduct mapping and submit a detailed feasibility report on wool processing, emphasising buyer satisfaction and exploring value-added products from Tulaal sheep wool.

Entrepreneurs from Khan Flour Mills, Kaloosa and Bagh shared details of their flour processing, dairy, hydroponic, milk-processing and bag-manufacturing units.

The DC stressed the need for large-scale individual projects in Bandipora and urged banks to support high-value proposals.

A beneficiary from Gamroo, trained on the DAKSH portal, also shared progress on his dairy unit and heifer satellite component.

During the interaction, the DC said the monthly interactions would continue to provide a platform for reviewing grounded cases, promoting transparency, and strengthening departmental convergence to boost livelihood generation in the district.

Other beneficiaries also interacted with the Deputy Commissioner and shared their individual journeys of growth, challenges and expansion under various components of HADP and allied livelihood schemes. They spoke about the support received from different departments, the new opportunities created through training and subsidies, and their plans to scale up their units.

On the occasion, the DC appreciated their efforts and encouraged them to continue adopting innovative practices while motivating others in their communities to benefit from government schemes.

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WHERE DREAMS BECOME REALITY

Mass Awareness Rally Organized in Kulgam Under Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

FE NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), a rally was organised at Kulgam, flagged off by the Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam.

The rally commenced from the Mini Secretariat (DC Office) Kulgam and culminated at the Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam, aiming to spread awareness against drug abuse and encourage youth to stay away from substance addiction.

The rally witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, staff members, and representatives of various institutions.

Participants carried placards and raised slogans promoting a drug-free society. The rally moved through the main market areas of Kulgam, drawing public attention and reinforcing the message of "Say No to Drugs."

The event was presided over by Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar.

District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Kulgam, Sonabar Altaf and other officers also participated in the event and appreciated the collective efforts of students, teachers, and staff in combating the menace of drug abuse. Alongside the rally, an awareness programme was organised at the Conference-cum-Auditorium Hall of the Mini Secretariat, where students, teachers, and staff members participated actively.

A pledge-taking ceremony was also held, reaffirming commitment towards building a drug-free society.

Addressing the gathering, the officers stressed the importance of community-based awareness, early intervention, counselling, and cooperation from all sections of society to realise the vision of a Nasha Mukht Bharat.

They highlighted the vital role of youth in shaping a healthier and more responsible society.

The rally concluded at the Drug De-addiction Centre Kulgam, where participants were briefed about the available facilities for counselling, rehabilitation, and support for individuals affected by substance abuse.

Jaishankar

a civilisational state, India strongly believes that people-to-people exchanges lie at the core of any genuine relationship. "Facilitating greater interaction between our intellectuals, artists, sports people and cultural icons will pave the way for greater understanding across the SCO," he said.—(KNO)

Nowgam Blast

formalities so that the job compensation is provided to the victim's family," the CM said while reacting to a query over the tailor's death. Moreover, the Chief Minister lauded the Ujala Hospital staff for their prompt and committed response—(KNO)

About 80

not expired, will continue to remain valid till 2035 or until their expiry.

The MEA recently announced the successful rollout of the upgraded version of its flagship Passport Seva Programme (PSP), which includes the Passport Seva Programme (PSP V2.0), the Global Passport Seva Programme (GPSP V2.0), and the e-Passport, for citizens in India and those who are residing abroad.

The e-passport is a hybrid passport that combines both paper and electronic elements. It features an embedded radio frequency identification (RFID) chip and an antenna, which store and secure the holder's data in accordance with International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) standards, the officials said.

The passport's critical information is printed on its data page as well as stored in the chip, thus making it harder to forge, they said.

Pilot testing of the e-passport began at Regional Passport Offices in Bhubaneswar and Nagpur in 2024.

After the successful pilot launch and requisite certifications, subsequently, it was rolled out at the remaining Regional Passport Offices across India in a phased manner and completed in May 2025.

"Around 80 lakh e-passports have been issued in India, till date, since the beginning of the rollout. And around 62,000 e-passports, till date, have been issued through Indian missions and posts abroad since June 2025," another senior MEA official said.

The data stored in the embedded chip of an e-passport is "read-only" and gets accessed by the system when it is tapped on a platform used during the immigration process at an airport.

"This data cannot be retrieved by anyone else, in case a person's e-passport gets lost or stolen by someone. And in case of theft, once a police complaint has been filed, the entire data on the chip can be locked by authorities," the senior official said.

Also, the embedded data is matched with pre-stored biometric data during the course of application for a passport, as this is a "major upgrade" in the entire passport-related system using modern technology, the official said.

"So, if someone tries to forge a passport or attempts to impersonate someone or get a passport issued in someone else's name, the new system will first alert if a passport with that name and demographic data already exists, and then compare and match the data furnished by an applicant with stored biometric data, and alert in case someone attempts fraudulence acts," he said.

Besides, in an e-passport, the photo used will be compliant with ICAO standards, the other official said.

The PSP Version 2.0 is designed to create a digitally integrated ecosystem connecting all stakeholders involved in passport services, with a focus on efficiency, transparency, and user convenience.

With AI-powered chat and voice bots, citizens can get help while filling out applications or when they have passport-related grievances. The new and improved passport website and mobile app give users a better experience through features like auto-filled forms, simpler document uploads, and easy online payments using UPI or QR codes, according to the MEA.

The introduction of e-passports, alongside PSP V2.0, marks "another significant milestone" for the ministry, it said.

"Critical information printed on the data page is also stored electronically on the chip, enabling enhanced security and authentication. Going forward, all newly issued passports will be e-passports, while existing non-electronic passports will remain valid until their expiry," the MEA said.

PSP V2.0 was successfully implemented across all 37 Passport Offices in India, along with their respective 93 Passport Seva Kendras (PSKs) and 451 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras (POPSKs) on May 26, 2025.

Subsequently, GPSP V2.0 was launched across Indian embassies and consulates worldwide on October 28.

There are 202 Indian missions and posts abroad, the official said.

An e-passport carries a particular symbol, and nearly 100 countries have such facilities in their immigration system, he said, adding that, in countries where such facilities are not available, "machine-readable data" printed on the e-passport page can be read by the system at an airport.

The government has three "data centres", one each in Noida and Chennai and Bengaluru, and the system and data are "owned" by the central government, the official said.

Also, there is a seven-layer security control in the security architecture to avoid any attempts of hacking and other kinds of disruption, he said. (PTI)

CM Omar

multiple upcoming projects. These include a 4 MGD common pre-settling tank along with the revamping of the water treatment plant in Ganderbal Town with an estimated outlay of 384 lakh; the construction of a 33/11 KV, 1x6.3 MVA receiving station at Wangath, Kangan costing 417 lakh; the upgradation of the road connecting Spring Naga Mohallah Shallar to Dab at Batpora, Lar with a budget of 181.06 lakh; the establishment of a Model Floriculture Centre at Nunnar (FPO Park) costing 172 lakh; and the upgradation of earthen ponds at NFSF Manasbal with a total investment of 308.12 lakh.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Minister for Health & Medical Education, Higher Education, School Education Sakina Itoo, Minister for Jal Shakti Javed Ahmed Rana, Minister for Agriculture Javid Ahmed Dar, Minister for Transport Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Kangan Mian Mehar Ali, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Commissioner and SSP Ganderbal, heads of departments, district officers and other concerned officials.

These projects are being executed by Jal Shakti RWS Division Ganderbal, KPDCI Ganderbal and Public Works (R&B) Department, reflecting the government's commitment to strengthening infrastructure and public welfare.

Later, the Chief Minister chaired a comprehensive district review meeting and DC Ganderbal presented a detailed overview of progress across various sectors. CM gave instructions to ensure adequate awareness among farmers about Fasal Bima Yojana and other government schemes. CM exhorted that dropout rate at primary school level should be brought to nil and that teachers be deployed in such cases to understand the problem. He also asked for an assessment of whether the introduction of smart classrooms has led to qualitative improvement in the education being imparted in schools. He instructed the health authorities to immediately complete registration of the already procured ambulance through the hospital development fund and make it operational without delay. Similarly, he directed the concerned Health and R&B Electric wing to ensure early operationalization of the procured CT Scan machine by completing the pending civil and electrical works.

He also emphasized the urgency of addressing traffic congestion in Ganderbal and directed the Deputy Commissioner to prepare an ideal long-term solution in consultation with the R&B Department. He further stressed expediting utilization of funds, avoiding lapses and cutting down non-essential expenditure. Regarding the SASCI scheme, he directed the Deputy Commissioner to conduct fortnightly reviews to ensure that 80 percent expenditure by end of December is achieved, which is mandatory to secure the next instalment.

The Chief Minister instructed the concerned departments to make all necessary efforts to develop Sonamarg as another major winter tourism destination in Kashmir, saying that this year would serve as a learning experience as winter tourism expands beyond Gulmarg and Pahalgam. He also directed CEO Sonamarg Development Authority to check and stop any illegal construction in the eco-fragile zone of Sonamarg.

Responding to local demand for water tankers in the district, he sanctioned two tankers from his CDF for Ganderbal.

MLA Mian Meher Ali raised several issues such as the establishment of a degree college at Gund, road connectivity improvements, drinking water coverage upgradation of schools and other public concerns. The Chief Minister asked the concerned ministers to resolve these issues in a timely manner.

Earlier, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal Jatin Kishore delivered a detailed presentation on recent developments and ongoing projects in the district as of November 2025. The presentation highlighted progress in urban planning, road, water and power infrastructure, agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, education, social welfare and winter tourism development. It emphasized the modernization of Ganderbal town, the implementation of a 24.10 crore municipal work plan, significant upgrades in public amenities, expansion of health and educational institutions, improvements in the power and road sectors, and agriculture schemes benefiting thousands of farmers. The DC also gave details of steps being taken to enhance winter sports infrastructure and informed that Sonamarg would now function as a year-round destination. He further outlined progress under social security schemes, employment initiatives, industrial development and preparedness for winter operations and emergencies.

During the visit, the Chief Minister inspected a series of stalls showcasing departmental achievements and beneficiary schemes. These included the PM Suryaghar Muft Bijli Yojana stall of Electric Subdivision Tulamulla (KPDCI), PM Awas Yojana by MC Ganderbal, J&K KVIB, and stalls by the Horticulture, Agriculture and Animal Husbandry departments. He also viewed displays by Safawi Foods under the PMFME scheme, innovations presented by students under Atal Tinkering Labs, awareness stalls by Mission Vatsalya and Mission Shakti, a Bio-Floc demonstration by the Fisheries Department, capacity-building initiatives under Mission YUVA, local sozni and crewel art by NRLM-UMED, and an exhibition by the J&K Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

The Chief Minister also distributed welfare benefits including ten individual cheques and one grand cheque under BOCW welfare schemes amounting to 3,62,72,562 benefiting a total of 5,424 workers and beneficiaries. He handed over sanction letters to two beneficiaries under Mission YUVA and presented two scooters under the Social Welfare Department. He also issued an approval letter sanctioning 6 lakh as grant-in-aid assistance to a Self-Help Group under HADP. Under PMAY-I, he handed over a cheque of 2,20,326 to one beneficiary and issued a sanction letter to another under PMAY-U 2.0. He also distributed orders for the regularization of CPW/LFW workers as MTS in favour of 14 beneficiaries.

Later in the day, the Chief Minister visited District Hospital Ganderbal where he inaugurated a high-end USG machine procured under CDF and dedicated it to the public. The machine will become operational from Monday. Several issues concerning the hospital, including the establishment of a CATH lab, deployment of a cardiologist and the need for a PG Hostel facility, were raised during the visit. The

Chief Minister directed the Deputy Commissioner to incorporate the PG Hostel project under the CAPEX Plan. He also carried out a plantation drive within the hospital premises. (DIPR)

CS Dullo

upload onto the single reporting portal managed by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare, Sarmaad Hafeez, presented a detailed overview of the achievements under the Abhiyan, showcasing widespread outreach and collective departmental efforts:

Sarmaad Hafeez, highlighted the comprehensive outreach of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA). He added that cumulatively, the campaign has successfully reached 1,09,78,171 people across J&K through 12,565 activities. This extensive outreach included covering 24,166 educational institutions and 8,203 villages.

Additionally, he apprised that the efforts focused significantly on vulnerable groups, reaching over 11 lakh youth and nearly 98.63 lakh women. Furthermore, a special three-month campaign recently held by the Ministry of Social Justice saw the UT conducting 1,020 events, engaging an additional 2,22,565 people.

Commissioner Secretary further noted that during a special three-month campaign run by the Ministry of Social Justice, the UT conducted 1,020 events, reaching 2,22,565 people, including over 1.20 lakh youth.

The success of the Abhiyan was said to stem out from the joint efforts of several departments. The Information Department played a crucial role in awareness generation by conducting 5,361 events, reaching 3,83,259 persons. The Rural Development Department (R&B) also contributed significantly with 4,881 outreach events, engaging 3,08,841 participants.

Alongside events by Urban Local Bodies, the Health & Medical Education Department has focused on intervention and rehabilitation, registering 33,205 patients for treatment. Supplementing this, Drug Deaddiction Centres across the UT have provided substantial support by holding 1,12,884 counselling sessions.

On the strategy for the days ahead, the meeting emphasized awareness generation, rehabilitation of victims, imparting vocational training, education, and sustainable livelihoods as key tasks to combat the addiction menace.

The Health Department apprised the meeting that the training of Master Trainers would commence immediately at both GMC Srinagar and Jammu, with an initial batch of 30 from each district. The process is slated to continue for the next six months, aiming to create a comprehensive pool of approximately 4,000 counsellors covering every Panchayat, school, and health center.

The Chief Secretary concluded the meeting by administering a pledge to all participants, committing them to help achieve a drug-free India by abstaining from and preventing the use of narcotic substances. (DIPR)

Admin Targets

J&K, Haryana and UP Police had recovered a major cache of explosives, nearly 2,900 kg during a raid in Faridabad. Initially two Kashmiri-origin doctors were detained from Al Falah University in connection with that operation. "Dr Umar was associated with those arrested and may have gone ahead with the attack fearing imminent arrest," an official had said.

On November 14, the National Medical Commission (NMC) removed four doctors from the Indian Medical Register (IMR) and National Medical Register (NMR) with immediate effect following their involvement in a case registered under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA).

The doctors removed includes Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad (Reg. No. 14680/2017), Dr. Adeel Ahmad Rather (Reg. No. 15892/2019), Dr. Muzamil Shakeel (Reg. No. 15130/2018), and Dr. Shaheen Saeed (Reg. No. 45961/2022).

The Jammu & Kashmir Medical Council had already cancelled the registrations of Dr. Ahmad, Dr. Rather, and Dr. Shakeel based on evidence shared by investigating agencies.

Dr. Saeed, registered with the Uttar Pradesh Medical Council, was removed through a separate NMC order. The removal followed FIR No. 162/2025, lodged at Nowgam Police Station in Srinagar on October 19, under multiple sections of the UAPA, including provisions relating to unlawful activities, terrorist acts, raising funds, recruitment, and harbouring.

The NMC said the conduct of the doctors was "prima facie inconsistent with the standards of ethical propriety, integrity and public trust" required under the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002.

The order states that the four individuals "shall cease to practice medicine or hold any medical appointment till further orders". All State Medical Councils have been instructed to enforce the directive—(KNO)

J&K's power

CUFs have been taken as provided by J&K." It also said that according to the data provided by J&K, an additional 392 MW of Coal (Shakti Scheme), 620 MW of solar and 1206 MW of hydro is planned till 2030.—(KNO)

Apni Party

"Apni Party strongly condemns the recent blast near the Red Fort in New Delhi. We offer our deepest sympathy to the families who lost their loved ones in this horrific attack," Bukhari said, reading out the resolutions.

"This brutal act of terrorism must be condemned in the strongest possible terms by everyone, and those responsible must be punished severely so it becomes a clear example for all," Bukhari said.

The resolution said the party is deeply concerned by the reports suggesting the involvement of some well-educated individuals in the Delhi blast.

"We believe that this growing trend of white-collar involvement in terror activities is extremely worrying and must be stopped at all costs. While dealing with terrorism with a firm and decisive hand is necessary, it is equally important to reach out to people to win their hearts and minds," it said.

The party added that it believes that the government must thoroughly investigate and identify the root causes that push educated individuals toward radicalisation and

terror involvement, and then address these issues effectively.

"Firm action is essential to deal with terrorists, but strong outreach is equally important to prevent radicalisation in society," the resolution read.

The party said it believes there is a "mistrust" between New Delhi and the people of Jammu and Kashmir, which must be addressed, and the gap bridged.

"Such mistrust only creates space for violent activities to grow. Apni Party urges that the commitment made by the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Hon'ble Home Minister to reach out to the people of J&K and start a dialogue must be fulfilled without any further delay," another resolution said.

The party also expresses deep grief and sorrow over the accidental explosion at the Nowgam Police Station on Friday. Asserting that Jammu and Kashmir finds itself at a crossroads, the party said it is a very delicate time for the Union Territory and its people.

Criticising the National Conference (NC) government, the party said despite pledges made to improve governance, the ruling party has "manifestly failed in this regard".

Bukhari, the president of the JKAP, also demanded the immediate holding of Panchayat and Urban Local Body polls in Jammu and Kashmir, and the regularisation of daily wagers.

CIK details

These searches are part of an ongoing crackdown against social media abusers operating in connivance with handlers across the border, who have been deliberately engaged in furthering terrorist, secessionist, and separatist agendas.

By leveraging their professional status and societal standing, the involved individuals were allegedly using social media platforms to spread disinformation, radicalize youth, incite violence and disturb public order, posing a serious threat to the peace and sovereignty of the Union of India.

During the operation, two accused: Shahzada Akhtar, wife of Dr. Umer Farooq Bhat, resident of Bugam Kulgam and presently residing at Sheeren Bagh Srinagar, with her husband Dr. Umer Farooq Bhat, who is presently working in Super Speciality of SMHS Hospital, Sheerinbagh Srinagar were detained.

CIK teams seized multiple digital devices and incriminating material having direct relevance to the investigation. The recoveries include 5 mobile phones, 5 SIM cards, 1 tablet device, and additional digital and documentary evidence and literature.

Interestingly, Dr. Umer Farooq, who is a government employee, was found indulging in online unlawful

activities, misusing his official position and social legitimacy to engage in behavior detrimental to public order and national security.

Subsequently, during the course of the investigation, it has also emerged that the detained individuals were misusing their positions and social standing to mask unlawful activities.

The female suspect, Shahzada Akhtar, in particular, is alleged to have been involved in radicalizing local women through curated online and offline engagements, pushing divisive narratives, and influencing vulnerable groups under the pretext of community interaction.

Her affiliation with banned terrorist organization 'Dukhtaran-e-Milat', is currently under investigation. This dimension of the case highlights a concerning trend of the exploitation of social roles and professional facades to advance disruptive agendas.

All recovered devices are undergoing detailed forensic analysis, which is expected to unravel a broader digital network linked to organized propaganda efforts. Early leads indicate the possibility of a wider ecosystem of collaborators and sympathizers, whose activities were aimed at amplifying extremist content and manipulating public perception.

This operation sends a clear and unambiguous message that, No individual, irrespective of position or profession, will be allowed to weaponize social or digital influence to aid terrorism or disturb public order. (KNO)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that we, the parents of Abdul Mateen, are applying for a correction in the mother's name of our ward in the records of Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson School, Shajimarg, Tangmarg. The mother's name was incorrectly recorded as Sabiya, whereas the correct name is Sabiya Barkat. Now we have applied to make the necessary correction. Any person having any objection to this correction should contact the Headmaster of Tyndale Biscoe and Mallinson School, Shajimarg, Tangmarg, in writing, within 7 (seven) days from the date of this notice's publication. No objections will be entertained after the expiry of this period.

Abdul Mateen
Son of Barkat Ahmad Wani
Resident of: Narbal, Budgam
Admission No.: 1202-20T
Class & Section: 9th, GE
Roll No.: 36

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION
SRINAGAR

Subject:-1. Annual rate contract on account of refilling of Fire extinguishers installed at 500 Bedded Govt. Children Hospital, Bemina, Srinagar for year 2025-26.
2.Refilling of various fire extinguishers at Govt. LD Hospital, Srinagar
Ref :1. This office NIT No: MHDS/TS / 2025-26/98/e-tendering Dt 12.11.2025
EXTENSION

In view of No response, the Critical dates of above subject work(s) tendered vide above referred e-NIT are extended as follows: -

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	24.11.2025 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	24.11.2025 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division,
Srinagar.

No: M&HDS/TS/6168-71
DIPK-8229/25 Dt: 18-11-2025

Dated: 18.11.2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE MEDICAL
SUPERINTENDENT
DISTRICT HOSPITAL KULGAM

E-Tender Notice No: 13 of 2025-26
DATED: 18/11/2025

Sub: Abbreviated notice inviting e-tenders for supply of Commercial LPG cylinders at District Hospital Kulgam on annual rate contract basis.
For and on behalf of Government of Union Territory of J&K through the Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam, e-tenders are invited under two bid system (Technical bid and financial bid) from the Oil Companies/the irauthorized and registered dealers with sound financial back ground for supply of Commercial LPG cylinders for heating purposes at District Hospital Kulgam on annual rate contract basis for a period of one year.

Description	Tentative annual qty.
Refilling of Commercial LPG cylinders for heating purposes	350 Cylinders

The detailed tender document containing quantity and other terms and conditions, is available on www.iktenders.gov.in and complete bidding process will be online on said e-tender portal, as per following schedule:

S. No.	Activity Description	Schedule
01.	Tender fee in the shape of Demand Draft favoring Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam	Rs.500/-
02.	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) in the shape of CDR/FDR (pledged to Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam)	Rs.15000
03	Date & time for downloading of tenders	19/11/2025 (09:00am)
04.	Any clarification with regard to e-NIT shall be entertained only from (No representation/clarification shall be entertained beyond the stipulated period)	19/11/2025 to 22/11/2025 (During Office Hours)
05.	Start/Last date & time for submission of tenders	19/11/2025 (09:00am) to 25/11/2025 (06:00pm)
06.	Date & Time for opening of technical bids	26/11/2025 (10:00 am)

Complete bidding process will be online at www.iktenders.gov.in (Technical and Price bids shall have to be submitted in electronic format on the said tender portal and in no case be submitted in physical form.
The Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam reserves the right to accept/reject or cancel any tender or all tenders in full or part here of without assigning any reason.
The tenders should be submitted strictly in accordance with the provisions of the detailed eNIT.

Sd/- Medical Superintendent,
District Hospital Kulgam

No: MS/DHK/Est/2108-13 Dated: 18/11/2025

DIPK-8237/25 Dt: 18-11-2025

‘Space’ Will Ensure Global Space for India as a Frontline Nation: Dr. Jitendra Singh

NEWDELHI: “Space” will ensure global space for India as a frontline nation in the world, Union Minister of Science and Technology Dr. Jitendra Singh said.

Pointing out India’s expanding role in the global space order, the Minister said that India is fast emerging as a preferred global destination for Space sector engagement and investment. This is reflected in the growing interest from multiple international delegations visiting the country in recent months, he added.

Dr. Jitendra Singh said India’s space sector is undergoing a decisive transformation that directly reflects the theme of this year’s India International Space Conclave (IISC 2025) — “Expanding Horizons: Innovation, Inclusion & Resilience in the New Space Age.” Addressing industry leaders, global agencies, diplomats and start-ups at the event organised by the Indian Space Association (ISpA), he said the government’s reforms have created an enabling ecosystem where talent, technology and investment can converge to shape the future of India’s space economy.

The Minister noted that the theme

was “very thoughtfully coined” because it captures the new energy visible across India’s fast-growing space ecosystem.



The Minister said that while India always had scientific capability, the turning point came when policy makers created an environment that encouraged innovation and broad-based participation. Reforms introduced since 2019, including opening the sector to private players, establishing IN-SPACe as a single-window regulatory body, and releasing the space policy in 2023, have helped India expand its role in the global space landscape.

Highlighting the “inclusion” aspect of the theme, he said the unlocking of the space sector has brought start-ups,

students, industry and citizens into what was once a closed domain. Thousands now witness rocket launches in person,

of space technology for governance and citizen welfare. Nearly 70% of India’s space applications now support ease of living, he said, citing Gati Shakti for infrastructure planning, SWAMITVA for land mapping, satellite-enabled disaster management, telemedicine in remote regions and railway safety systems that can detect obstructions well in advance.

The Minister said this approach also strengthens “resilience,” another core element of the Conclave’s theme, as satellite-based services now support disaster response, agriculture, weather forecasting and connectivity across the country. India is extending these capabilities to neighbouring nations as well, with satellites supporting Bhutan, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Myanmar.

The Minister said the confidence shown by delegations from Japan, Italy and several others reinforce India’s position as a preferred global destination for space partnerships. He credited Prime Minister Narendra Modi for dismantling long-standing barriers in strategic sectors such as space and atomic energy, creating the policy environment required for India’s global expansion. (PIB)

Zelenskyy, US envoy will visit Turkiye in new bid to end Russia-Ukraine war

KYIV: Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said on Tuesday that he will travel to Turkiye this week in an attempt to jump-start negotiations on ending Russia’s invasion, which began nearly four years ago.

US special envoy Steve Witkoff will join Zelenskyy in Turkiye, a senior Turkish official told The Associated Press, but the Kremlin said that Russia won’t be sending anyone.

Turkiye provided a setting for low-level talks between Ukraine and Russia earlier this year, though the only significant progress in Istanbul was on exchanging prisoners of war. US-led international peace efforts have brought no breakthrough, either.

Zelenskyy said that he would be in Turkiye on Wednesday, a day after visiting Spain, where he hoped for pledges of new support on Tuesday.

“We are preparing to reinvigorate negotiations, and we have developed solutions that we will propose to our partners,” Zelenskyy said on social media, without providing details. “Doing everything possible to bring the end of the war closer is Ukraine’s top priority.”

US President Donald Trump has expressed frustration with Russian President Vladimir Putin’s refusal to budge from his demands for an end to the invasion.

Heavy new American sanctions on Russia’s all-important oil industry, devised to push Putin to the negotiating table, are due to take effect on Friday. The sanctions against oil companies Rosneft and Lukoil seek to starve Putin’s war machine of cash and halt its grinding war of attrition, which has claimed tens of thousands of lives in Ukraine.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Tuesday that “there will be no Russian representative in Turkiye” on Wednesday, although he insisted that Moscow is ready to negotiate.

“For now, these contacts are taking place without Russian participation. We will await information on what would actually be discussed in Istanbul,” Peskov said during his daily conference call with reporters.

The sanctions also carry the threat of secondary penalties against anyone violating them, raising the stakes for Putin. China and India are major importers of Russian oil.

Zelenskyy said that he would meet with senior officials in his government on Thursday, as well

as with the leadership of Ukraine’s Parliament and his political party, called Servant of the People.



The Ukrainian leader was meeting later Tuesday in Madrid with Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez and King Felipe VI, with a visit planned as well to Spain’s parliament.

Kicking off a busy week, Zelenskyy was in Paris on Monday, where he signed a letter of intent to buy up to 100 Rafale warplanes from France, along with drones and ground-to-air systems.

On the battlefield, Ukraine launched a surprise aerial attack on energy infrastructure in occupied parts of its eastern Donetsk region.

The Russian-appointed head of the partially occupied region, Denis Pushilin, on Tuesday morning reported an “unprecedented” Ukrainian attack that damaged two thermal power stations in the region and left many areas without power. A day earlier, Pushilin also reported Ukrainian drones attacking energy infrastructure in the region, denying power to around 500,000 consumers. The occupied part of the region has also endured water shortages.

Ukrainian forces, despite being heavily outnumbered, are fighting hard to prevent Russia’s army from capturing any more of Donetsk.

In Ukraine’s northeastern Kharkiv region, meanwhile, a 17-year-old girl was killed and 10 other people were wounded in a Russian missile strike on the town of Berestyn, located about 110 kilometres (70 miles) from the Russian border, regional head Oleh Syniehubov said.

Sardar@150 Unity March is the heartbeat of a united nation: Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya

NEWDELHI: To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, through MY Bharat, is organising the nationwide Sardar@150 Unity March padyatra with an aim to deepen national pride, civic engagement, and youth participation across the country. Inspired by the ideas of Sardar Patel and the vision of Viksit Bharat articulated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, the campaign encompasses a range of activities guided by the overarching theme of Ek Bharat, Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

The initiative was launched on 6 October 2025 by Union Minister for Youth Affairs & Sports and Labour & Employment, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, and Minister of State for Youth Affairs & Sports, Smt. Raksha Khadse, as part of the Government of India’s two-year celebrations (2024-2026), honouring the monumental contributions and enduring legacy of the Iron Man of India.

The campaign started with digital activities, which included a reel competition, essay writing, and the Sardar@150 Young Leaders Quiz. As a part of the on-ground initiatives, Padyatras are being conducted at the district level across the country, and at Assembly Constituency level in some states. A yatra of district representatives from all districts to Gujarat is also underway, building up to the national padyatra. The two-month-long campaign will conclude on 6 December 2025.

Briefing the media on the progress of the ongoing district-level padyatras and outlining the key highlights of the National Padyatra at a Press Conference in New Delhi, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya said, “From Kashmir to Kanyakumari and Kutch to Kohima, lakhs of people have walked together for national unity. This is a celebration of the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, while also being a national movement to channel youth energy into nation-building, towards the goal of Viksit Bharat.”

He further added, “Over the past few months, the entire nation has been moving in one spirit. From north to south and east to west, a total of 842 padyatras have been organised. This number is not just a statistic; this is the heartbeat of a united nation. The message of Swachhata, Swadeshi and Aatmanirbharta are at the heart of the padyatra.”

MoS for Youth Affairs & Sports, Smt. Raksha Khadse, was also present at the Press Conference. Dr. Pallavi Jain Govil, Secretary, Department of Youth Affairs, outlined key highlights of the digital phase, extensive grassroots mobilisation during district-level padyatras, and the roadmap for the forthcoming yatra of district representatives and National Padyatra through a presentation. (PIB)



President of India Presents Sixth National Water Awards and Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Awards

NEW DELHI: President Droupadi Murmu presented the sixth National Water Awards and the Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari Awards at a ceremony held in the national capital. Addressing the gathering, she underscored

appreciated several industrial units that have achieved zero liquid discharge through water treatment and recirculation.

Calling for a coordinated approach across all levels of governance — from the Centre



that the story of human civilisation has always been closely tied to rivers, lakes, and other water sources, adding that Indian culture accords deep reverence to water bodies. She noted that even the national song begins with the word Sujalam, signifying “abundant water”, reflecting the central place of water in the nation’s ethos.

According to Press Information Bureau (PIB), the President said that efficient water use has become a global necessity, and for India, with its large population and limited water resources, the challenge is even more pressing. She highlighted that per capita water availability is declining, while climate change is disrupting natural water cycles, making collective action indispensable. She stressed that the government and citizens must work hand in hand to ensure water availability and long-term water security.

President Murmu expressed satisfaction that under the Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari initiative launched last year, over 35 lakh groundwater recharge structures have already been created across the country. She said that circular water economy practices can greatly strengthen sustainability and

and states to district administrations, panchayats, and municipal bodies — the President praised educational institutions, citizen groups, and NGOs for their contributions to water conservation. She encouraged farmers and entrepreneurs to adopt innovative methods that enhance productivity while reducing water consumption. The President emphasised that every citizen must recognise the immense value of water, noting that tribal communities have long upheld a tradition of respecting natural resources. She called for integrating responsible water usage into everyday lifestyle choices, urging people to stay vigilant about conservation both individually and collectively. She reminded the audience that only through people’s participation can water truly be harvested and preserved.

The National Water Awards aim to spread awareness about the critical importance of water and promote best practices in water conservation. The Jal Sanchay-Jan Bhagidari initiative is helping develop scalable and replicable models for artificial groundwater recharge through community involvement and resource convergence. (PIB)

Bullet train’s inaugural run to cover 100 km between Surat and Vapi in August 2027: Vaishnaw

NEW DELHI: India’s first bullet train will now cover a 100 km distance between Surat and Vapi in Gujarat during its inaugural run in August 2027, Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said on Tuesday.

Earlier, Vaishnaw had said that the inaugural run would happen on a 50 km stretch between Surat and Billimora.

The country’s first 508-km long high-speed rail corridor is being constructed between Sabarmati (Ahmedabad) and Mumbai to operate a bullet train at 320 kmph, covering the entire distance in 2 hours and 17 minutes.

Its foundation stone was laid in 2017 and the entire project was initially proposed to be ready by December 2023. However, land acquisition and other issues delayed the ambitious project.

“The bullet train, in its inaugural run, will now cover 100 km between Surat and Vapi in August 2027. Earlier, the inaugural run was planned on a 50 km stretch between Surat and Billimora within the same deadline,” Vaishnaw told reporters at the Rail Bhawan here.

“The bullet train will cover the distance between Mumbai and Ahmedabad in 1 hour 58 minutes while stopping at four stations. However, if it stops at all 12 stations, the entire distance will be covered in 2 hours and 17 minutes,” he added.

Speaking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s recent visit to upcoming Surat station,

Vaishnaw said that the PM was very happy with the pace of construction.

“PM Modi said that whatever we have learnt from the project must be used elsewhere, not



only in Railways and other high speed projects, but in other different sectors as well. We have done one innovation after the other in this project,” Vaishnaw said.

“It is a complex project and the biggest challenge was its design,” He added, emphasising that the entire project will be operational by the end of 2029.

Despite Vaishnaw’s new commitment to the bullet train’s inaugural run, there remains a lack of clarity on the type of train which will operate on its first run.

While the Railway Ministry has awarded a contract to a Siemens-led consortium to install the signalling system on the corridor, industry experts say that this system might not support the Japanese Shinkansen bullet train. (PTI)

Government Streamlining FDI and FII Processes to Strengthen Investment Climate: Piyush Goyal

NEWDELHI: Union Minister of Commerce & Industry, Piyush Goyal highlighted manufacturing, skilling, investment and technology as the four key dimensions for India’s journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 at the Curtain Raiser of the 98th Annual General Meeting and Annual Convention of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI) in New Delhi today.

Piyush Goyal said that the first key dimension for India’s journey towards becoming a developed nation by 2047 is the need to transform the country into a domestic manufacturing and industrial hub. He stated that India must expand competitive manufacturing and strengthen self-reliance in goods that can be produced efficiently within the country. While noting that certain products may still have to be sourced from abroad due to gaps in technology, scale or capability, he cautioned that this must be accompanied by a careful assessment of supply-chain

vulnerabilities. He urged Indian industry to examine whether they are excessively dependent on a single geography or supplier, especially in a global environment



where trade can be weaponised. The Minister highlighted the risks associated with dependence on external suppliers for critical items and stressed that developing India as a global manufacturing hub must remain high on the national agenda.

He identified the second dimension as the need to convert the post-2000 “Amrit generation” into a highly skilled, performance-driven workforce. Goyal noted that India’s long-standing challenge has been underemployment rather than unemployment, and the solution lies in skilling the workforce in the right direction. He emphasised that the country must move beyond the aspiration for only white-collar jobs and instead focus on producing technically proficient workers whose skills meet industry standards. He said

that developing welders, electricians and technicians who work with discipline and accuracy will be essential, and called for a shift in mindset towards valuing training, practical capability and results over degrees alone.

The third dimension highlighted by

the Minister is the creation of an investment-friendly ecosystem that supports ease of doing business. He said that the Government is committed to removing bottlenecks, reducing compliance burdens, decriminalizing outdated provisions and eliminating obsolete laws to facilitate business activity.

Goyal underlined the Government’s commitment to creating an investment-friendly ecosystem through ease of doing business, deregulation, decriminalisation of laws and reduction of compliance burdens. He informed that the Government is undertaking continuous consultations to further streamline FDI and FII processes to enable faster and more efficient investment flows into the country.

He added that a robust investment ecosystem would generate employment, bring new technologies into the country, support research and innovation, and strengthen advanced sectors such as defence and security. He underlined that stable policies, a predictable business

environment, steady investment inflows and currency stability will be critical for India’s progress in the Amrit Kaal.

Goyal said that the fourth dimension centres on technology, innovation and the development of a strong knowledge ecosystem. He emphasised the importance of integrating cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing and machine learning into India’s growth model. With 2.3 million STEM graduates produced annually and rapid expansion in the setting up of Global Capability Centres, he noted that the country already possesses a strong talent base. He highlighted the Government’s continued support for startups and innovation, including the recently announced 100,000 crore Research, Development and Innovation (RDI) Fund.

Goyal also highlighted the transformative impact of the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, stating that it reflects the Government’s commitment to trust-based governance. (PIB)

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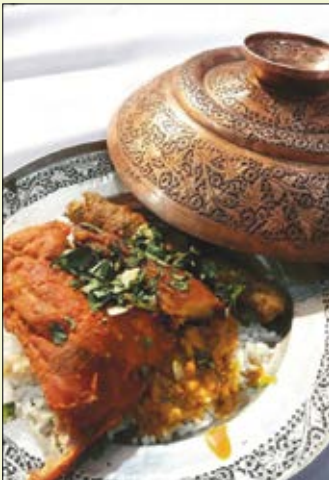
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