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## 73RD REPUBLIC DAY

# LG MANOJ SINHA LISTS UT GOVT'S ACHIEVEMENT



Jammu: Extending his greetings to all on the occasion of 73rd Republic Day, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha has said that that it is the day of introspection, an occasion when every citizen has to remind himself of his duty to protect and further nourish the ideals and achievements of the nation.

In his Republic Day address, LG paid tributes to the Jawans and officers of Jammu and Kashmir Police, Army and other Central Security Forces, 'who continue to make supreme sacrifice for unity and integrity of the motherland'.

"While saluting their valor and sacrifices, we should also take

a pledge to eradicate terrorism and terror ecosystem perpetuated by the neighboring country", said the Lt Governor.

He said that after the historic changes in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is poised to become the latest success story among Indian states and a model of Socio-Economic development for the country.

"The government is committed to build a strong Jammu and Kashmir and we will continue to march ahead with Mantra of 4 P's — Peace, Progress, Prosperity and People first. We are determined to ensure every single citizen of UT enjoys prosperous and

**Today Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a model for the entire country in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**With 100% vaccination of the eligible population, we have crossed the 20 million vaccine dose mark. In the 15-17 age group, the Union Territory has achieved remarkable 63% target of the vaccination and four districts of Anantnag, Ganderbal, Shopian and Poonch have achieved 100% target in this age group...**

peaceful life,” he said.

He highlighted the co-existence of various religions enriching and diversifying Jammu and Kashmir’s cultural heritage and making the Union Territory an example of immortal organic composite Indian culture.

Listing the developments made in the UT, the LG said that J&K is fast moving towards becoming a powerful and self-reliant Union Territory by improving the standard of living of farmers, youth, women, laborers and every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir. He said that under new industrial policy, investment proposals worth Rs 48,000 crores have been received so far, adding, the land use change policy which was a major impediment for the industrial development of the region has been simplified which is likely to attract more investment.

The Lt Governor assured the “land owners and farmers that all these changes have been effected with the sole aim of empowering them. There is a section in the society which has always been misleading the people about imaginary issues like demographic change, and on this pretext the most hardworking and needy class of people had been deprived of alienated their own land, or even using it as per their wishes or requirements.”

The Lt Governor reiterated administration’s commitment to promoting local businesses in real estate sector. Jammu and Kashmir recently hosted the first-ever historic Real Estate summit in December 2021, in which investment proposals worth Rs 18,300 crores were finalized.

He also highlighted the investments attracted by J&K in the recently concluded Dubai Expo saying and investment proposals worth Rs. 3000 crore were finalized in a short span of two days only.

“In total, a target of investment proposal worth Rs 70,000 crores has been achieved within a year”, the Lt Governor added.

He also spoke about Jammu and Kashmir Private Industrial Estate Development Policy, which incorporates mechanisms for Public-Private Partnership in the Industrial Sector.

On employment front, LG said that about 11,000 appointments have been made in various government departments in a fair and transparent manner, further, 20,323 additional posts at various levels have been identified and referred to the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board for recruitment.

“Besides, 1850 appointments have been made in J&K Bank at various levels in a fair and transparent manner. As many as 1,37,870 youths have been provided assistance in their entrepreneurial ventures under various self-employment generation schemes and programmes”, he added.

The Lt Governor underscored the initiatives taken for channelizing the enormous potential of our youth and ensuring their participation in the process of governance listing the initiatives under Mission Youth.

Maintaining that project delay which was earlier considered a norm is now a thing of the past, LG said that against 9229 projects completed in 2018 at a cost of Rs. 67,000 crores, around 21,943 projects have been completed at a cost of Rs. 63,000 crore only in the current year.

He said that J&K has become the first Union Territory/ State in the country to have District Good Governance Index for assessing the efficiency of public delivery system at district level and fostering transparency and accountability in the basic unit of governance.

While highlighting the milestones achieved in power generation, distribution and transmission sector to improve the power sector, the Lt Governor said that “this year we are going to add capacity of 3,015 MVA to our Power Transmission System as against the capacity addition of only 670 MVA last year. Likewise, in Power Distribution Sector, a capacity of 1286 MVA is being added this year as against the capacity addition of 690 MVA last year. In comparison to last year, the Kashmir Valley is getting 22 percent more electricity supply owing to improved infrastructure. We have tried to provide adequate electricity to the entire Union Territory during the recent winters and are also hopeful to provide more electricity to Jammu Division during the forthcoming summer season, he added.

He said that an amount of rupees one lakh crore is being spent on road and tunnel infrastructure. Jammu and Kashmir, which once stood at 10th, 11th position in the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), has secured the third rank in the country. Till the year 2018, on an average, 1500 to 1600 kms of road length used to be constructed each year; the same has now more than doubled to 3200 kilometers. Similarly, around 2200 to 2300 kilometers of road length used to be macadamized each year which also has more than doubled to 5137 kilometers. We will achieve the target of record 8000 km of road macadamization by the end of this financial year, the Lt Governor said.

He also spoke about the travel time reduced from 10 hours to 5 hours between Srinagar and Jammu and operation of Srinagar-Sharjah flights.

The Lt Governor expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all the doctors, nurses and healthcare workers who are engaged in selfless service to humanity.

“Today Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a model for the entire country in the management of the COVID-19 pandemic. With 100% vaccination of the eligible population, we have crossed the 20 million vaccine dose mark. In the 15-17 age group, the Union Territory has achieved remarkable 63% target of the vaccination and four districts of Anantnag, Ganderbal, Shopian and Poonch have achieved 100% target in this age group”, he added.

He also listed the achievements made in J&K’s health sector.

The Lt Governor observed that Peace in Jammu and Kashmir is a prerequisite for a vibrant tourism sector, which of late has set new employment and revenue generation records. Between August and November 2021, about 52 lakh tourists visited Jammu and Kashmir.

Retreating J&K Government’s commitment towards the welfare of the people of the tribal community who were neglected by the previous governments, the Lt Governor said while present dispensation trying to give physical shape to their hopes and aspirations, a tiny section is trying hard to provoke and mislead them.

The Lt Governor underscored the ground-breaking initiatives taken by the government towards empowering the women of J&K saying for the first time, 15% reservation in favour of women in non-gazetted police jobs has been provided.

Commenting about displaced Kashmiri Hindus, LG said: “We are committed to provide justice to the citizens who were forced to leave their homes due to onset of terrorism in 90s. So far, 7312 applications have been received through Kashmir Migrant Portal launched last year for addressing their grievances, out of which 4826 cases have been resolved.”

The Lt Governor urged the youth to be a part of this great journey of development on this beautiful land of peaceful coexistence, enlightenment, salvation and make invaluable contribution in the enormous intellectual capital of the Union Territory.

“On this auspicious occasion of Republic Day, people affected by the Covid-19 pandemic are in my thoughts and prayers. Every citizen has a very important role in building healthy and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir. We must follow Covid Appropriate Behavior and fight the pandemic with the spirit of a big joint family”, the Lt Governor observed.

# R-DAY PARADE: JK tableau depicts changing face of Union Territory

New Delhi The tableau of Jammu and Kashmir at the Republic Day parade on Wednesday depicted the changing face of the Union Territory in terms of the development scenario.

The Union territory consists of two divisions namely Jammu and Kashmir. While Jammu is known as city of temples, the Kashmir Valley is famous for its meadows, lakes, high altitude tourist destinations like Gulmarg and Sonamarg, beautiful Mughal and Tulip Gardens and ancient religious sites like Martand Sun Temple, Naranag, Mata Kheer Bhawani and Shankaracharya.

The front portion of the tableau showcased the world famous Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan located at Katra in the Trikuta Mountains of Jammu Division.

The rear portion depicted the Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Technology, AIIMS and International Airport being established.

Highlight of tableau was the recently constructed Banihal Qazigund highway tunnel which was thrown open to the traffic last year. It is one of the longest tunnels in India, with a length of 8.45 km.



The tunnel reduces the distance between Srinagar and Jammu by 16 km and travel time from 2-3 hours to 16 minutes

between Banihal and Qazigund. The tableau was further enriched with traditional folk music of J&K.

## Home Minister virtually launches District Good Governance Index in J&K

New Delhi: The Union Minister for Home and Cooperation, Amit Shah today said that a district is an important unit if good governance is to be taken to the grassroots level.

While virtually launching the District Good Governance Index (DGGI) in Jammu Kashmir, Shah said the way Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha is governing Jammu & Kashmir under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a big change has been seen in the UT, in line with the vision of a New India, a statement issued by Press Information Bureau (PIB) said.

“Today is an important day not only for Jammu & Kashmir but the country as a whole, because the new beginning that Jammu & Kashmir has made will reach every State and this will lead to healthy competition of good governance in every district of the country,” the statement quoted the Home Minister as saying.

As per the statement, the Home Minister said that a district is an important unit if good governance is to be taken to the grassroots level in the true sense and unless there is good governance at the district level, it has no meaning.

He further said that competition between districts through this Good Governance Index will be of great benefit to the general public of Jammu & Kashmir

Jammu & Kashmir District Good Governance Index covers

10 sectors of governance and 58 indices with 116 data items, which include, Agriculture Services, Commerce and Industry, Human Resources, Environment, Justice and Public Safety, Social Welfare and Development.

Meanwhile, a government communiqué issued here confirmed that in the composite ranking of first ever District Good Governance Index (DGGI) released today by Home Minister, Amit Shah here the Jammu district has managed to top the list followed by districts of Doda, Samba, Pulwama and Srinagar in the UT.

Under individual categories Kishtwar has been rated top in Agriculture sector, Jammu in 2 sectors of C&I and Citizen Centric Governance, Pulwama in HRD, Reasi in Public Health, Srinagar in Public Infrastructure, Ramban in Social Welfare, Ganderbal in Financial Inclusion, Doda in Judicial & Public Safety and Shopian in Environment.

In the overall ranking Ganderbal stands at 6th place, Anantnag at 7th then by Baramulla district at 8th place followed by Kathua (9th), and Kupwara at 10th place.

The last 10 district in the index includes Kishtwar ranked 11th followed by districts of Budgam, Udhampur, Reasi, Bandipora, Ramban, Kulgam, Shopian, Poonch and Rajouri being at the bottom of the index in the composite ranking.



# Many steps taken to give better opportunities to people of J&K, Ladakh: Prez

NEW DELHI: The Narendra Modi government has taken many important steps to provide better opportunities for education, health and employment to the people of “hitherto left neglected” Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, President Ram Nath Kovind said on Monday.

Addressing a joint sitting of both houses of Parliament at the start of the budget session, Kovind said at the “Amrit Kaal” of independence, the Centre’s resolve of “Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat” (one India, greatest India) is enabling the country to write a new chapter of development on the basis of democratic values and it is now making special efforts for the states and regions “hitherto left neglected”.

“The beginning of a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh region is a great example of this,” he said.

The president said the government has started a new central sector scheme for the industrial development of Jammu and Kashmir at a cost of about Rs 28,000 crore.

Last year, the Qazigund-Banihal tunnel was opened to traffic and international flights between Srinagar and Sharjah have also started, he pointed out.

“Many important steps have also been taken to provide better opportunities for education, health and employment to the people of Jammu and Kashmir,” Kovind said.

He said currently, work is in progress on seven medical colleges and two All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) — one in Jammu and another in Kashmir. The construction of IIT, Jammu and IIM, Jammu is also going on in full swing.

Kovind said the Sindhu Infrastructure Development Corporation has been set up to accelerate infrastructure and economic development in the Union Territory of Ladakh.

Another chapter in this development journey of Ladakh is being added in the form of Sindhu Central University, he said.

Article 370 of the Constitution, which gave a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir, was scrapped on August 5, 2019 and it was bifurcated into the Union territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh.

Both the Union territories are currently under central rule.



*The beginning of a new era of development in Jammu and Kashmir and the Ladakh region is a great example of this...*

# Lt Governor hoists National Flag at Republic Day function

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hoisted the National Flag at the Union Territory level function on the occasion of the 73rd Republic Day, here at Maulana Azad Stadium this morning.

The Lt Governor inspected the parade and took the ceremonial salute.

The Republic Day parade consisted of smart contingents from Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, IRP (Women & Male), J&K Police, JKAP, UT Disaster Response Force, J&K Fire, and Emergency Services, J&K Forest Protection Force, Excise Department, Ex-Servicemen, NCC Boys and Girls, Bharat Scouts and Guides (Girls & Boys), besides several school contingents, Brass & Pipe Bands of Army, BSF, J&K Police, J&K Armed Police.

The colourful celebrations of the Republic Day filled with patriotic fervor and celebratory mood was aptly reflected by a host of impressive cultural items presented by various schools and departments on the occasion, an official spokesman said.

The J&K Police displayed the Motorcycle Acrobatics, besides cultural pageantry based on the different themes were the main attractions of the programme. Scores of students from various schools presenting a cultural spectacle based on national integration and the glorious composite heritage of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir marked the day, said the spokesman.

Earlier, the Lieutenant Governor laid wreath at Police Martyrs Memorial & Balidan Stambh and paid homage to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the unity and integrity of our country, the spokesman said.

“Valor of the Jawans and officers of JKP, Army and other Central Security Forces and their unparalleled courage is an inspiration for all. The nation will always remain indebted to their sacrifices. We all must take a pledge to eradicate terrorism and terror ecosystem perpetuated by the neighboring country”, said the Lt Governor.

Among those who witnessed the Republic Day celebrations were Chief Justice Jammu and Kashmir High Court; Advisor to the Lt Governor; Judges of the J&K High Court; Mayor, Jammu Municipal Corporation; Member of Parliament; Chief Secretary; DGP; elected representatives of ULBs and PRIs; former Legislators; senior Civil, Police and Army officers; political and social activists; prominent citizens, media persons and the citizenry.

Meanwhile, LG slammed those inciting the people by spreading “rumours” about “imaginary issues” like demographic changes in the union territory and said land reservation has been done on the pattern of mountainous states.

Addressing the Republic Day function here, the Lt Governor said that peace in Jammu and Kashmir is a prerequisite for a vibrant tourism sector, which of late has set new employment and revenue generation records, and urged all to take the pledge of eradicating terrorism and terror ecosystem perpetuated by the neighbouring country.

“Some people are inciting public by spreading rumours about demographic changes in Jammu and Kashmir.

“There is a section in the society which has always been misleading the people about imaginary issues like demographic change, and on this pretext, the most hardworking and needy class of people had been alienated in their own land and were deprived of using it as per their wishes or requirements,” Sinha said.

The Lt Governor said that the government is committed to building a strong Jammu and Kashmir and will continue to march ahead with Mantra of “4 P’s — Peace, Progress, Prosperity and People first”.

“We are determined to ensure every single citizen of UT enjoys a prosperous and peaceful life,” he said.

Sinha asserted that land reservation has been done in the Union territory on the pattern of the mountainous states.

“I assure the land owners and farmers that all these changes have been effected with the sole aim of empowering them,” he said.

Several parties in J&K, including the NC and PDP, have been raising these issues.



The Lt Governor reiterated the administration’s commitment to promoting local businesses in the real estate sector.

He observed that the “central government under the strong and able leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi took the bold and decisive step of breaking the shackles erected in the path of development of Jammu and Kashmir.

“After the historic transformative changes in August 2019, Jammu and Kashmir is poised to become the latest success story among Indian states and a model of Socio-Economic development for the country.”

The Lt Governor highlighted the co-existence of various religions enriching and diversifying Jammu and Kashmir’s cultural heritage and making the UT an example of immortal organic composite Indian culture

# First ever J&K UT-level Tribal Awards announced on R-Day

Jammu: On the auspicious occasion of Republic Day, the Department of Tribal Affairs has announced awards for 26 institutions and individuals for their outstanding contribution to tribal welfare and achievements in different walks of life.

Earlier in the month, the Tribal Affairs Department has invited entries for the first ever Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory level awards.

After a multilevel screening process through panels of experts, the Department today announced awards on the eve of Republic Day.

Out of these 26 awards, 17 awards have been conferred to the Tribal individuals for their outstanding work in the field of sports, education, culture, literature and Science & Technology. Award under this category carries a cash prize of Rs 50,000, a citation and a Trophy. Six awards carrying a cash prize of Rs 50,000, citation and Trophy each have been conferred to the Institutions, NGOs and individuals for their exemplary services rendered to the Scheduled Tribes. In addition to it 03 more awards have been conferred to the best performing Gram Panchayat/BDC/DDC for their contribution towards the welfare of the Scheduled Tribes. Award under this category carries a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh, a citation and a trophy. The award money of Rs. 1 lakh shall be used by these Gram Panchayat/Block panchayat/District Panchayat for development Work.

More than 800 nominations were received out of which 139 nominations were recommended by District Level Screening Committees headed by concerned Deputy Commissioners. The UT level screening committee selected the nominees based on their outstanding contribution.

In individual categories, Aabida Akhtar, Ifrah Rafiq, Gulzar Ahmed and Mohammad Suhaib were selected for their outstanding contribution in the field of Sports, eminent gastroenterologist Dr. Shoket Mehmud Choudhary, senior cardiologist Dr. Nasir Ali, acclaimed paediatrician Dr. Choudhary Muzaffar Paswal have been conferred the award for their outstanding achievements in professional education while Dr. Saima Aziz and Dr. Banti Kumar got the award as individual Tribal achiever under the field of Education. Acclaimed artist Muneer Ahmad Khan and singer Begum Jan got the award for their contribution in the field of Culture. Recognising their contri-

bution in the field of literature Government awarded Dr Javaid Rahi, Ch Hassan Din Parwaz, Dr Rafiq Anjum and Dr Shazia Choudhary for their individual contribution. In Science and Technology eminent researcher and scientist Dr Zabeer Ahmed has been conferred with Special Award for Outstanding Excellence in Research while young boy Ashfaq Mehmood got the award for innovation.

In community services the awards have been conferred in three categories viz Institutions, NGOs and Individuals. Himalyan Education Mission Rajouri and Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust Jammu have been conferred the award for outstanding contribution in education and social services. Recognising the exemplary services rendered towards Scheduled Tribes Shakoor Foundation of Gurez and Sarimastan Tribal Welfare Foundation, Poonch got the award under the category of NGO

Yar Ali Khan and Sanya Khan got the award for the exemplary services rendered towards the Scheduled Tribes under individual category. Under the category of Panchayati Raj Institutions, Gram Panchayat, Chatroo Lower B, Kishtwar, DDC Kalaroos, Kupwara and DDC Hajin B, Bandipora.

Those who are awarded with commendation certificates include Salima Akhtar and Shaheem Aijaz Khan under Sports category, Sudesh Kumar, Kalsoom Akhtar and Shoket Naseem under Culture, Shabir Ahmad Paswal, John Mohd Gujjar and Liaqat Ali Choudhary under literature, KVK, Anantnag and Helping Hands Society Gurez for their Exemplary Community services rendered to the scheduled Tribes.

The UT Administration under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has launched a number of initiatives and schemes for welfare of tribal communities. The awards as recognition of outstanding achievements of tribal individuals and outstanding community services for tribal welfare have been instituted to recognise the achievements and encourage innovation, excellence in public service and inclusive development.

Advisor to LG Farooq Khan and Secretary Tribal Affairs Deptt Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary have congratulated the awardees and nominees. The award function will be organised shortly by the Government.

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## DGGI: A tool to assess status of governance in J&K

Jammu: The Government of Jammu & Kashmir under the aegis of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG) released District Good Governance Index (DGGI) on 22nd January at Convention Centre, Jammu.

This index was formally launched by Amit Shah, Home Minister in presence of Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS and Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of J&K and other senior officers including Administrative Secretaries of various departments, HODs, Deputy Commissioners and the teams from DARPG GoI, CGG Hyderabad and CPOs/DSEOs from Planning, Department and Monitoring Department of J&K Government.

The District Good Governance Index is a tool to assess the status of governance and impact of various interventions taken by the Central and State Governments including UTs.

In the UT of J&K, for this index, 10 sectors, 58 indicators and 116 data sets were identified keeping in view the central and the UT Government priorities. The ranking of districts under the index will bring about healthy competition amongst districts which in turn will benefit the citizens and improve their living standards.

This initiative which is first of its kind exercise in UT of J&K will leverage the districts to make improvements in the particular area of governance. The launch ceremony of District Good Governance Index

was webcast all over India. During the event, the core team involved in development of District Good Governance Index like V. Srinivas, Secretary, DARPG, Government of India, Saurabh Bhagat, Director General, J&K IMPARD and Dr. Reva Sharma, Director Training, J&K IMPARD, Jammu were felicitated. The efforts of Manoj Kumar Dwivedi, Principal Secretary, General Administration Department, J&K; Dr. Shabbeer Shaikh, Director Centre for Good Governance, Hyderabad as technical partner for the development of District Good Governance Index and Satvir Kour, Director General Economics & Statistics Department J&K were also lauded and they were also felicitated for their contribution.

On the occasion, the five top ranking District Development Commissioners of Jammu, Doda, Samba, Pulwama and Srinagar districts were also felicitated with award of appreciation certificates by the Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir.

The award of appreciation was also given to various districts for achievements made in 10 identified sectors like Agriculture, Commerce & Industries, Human Resource Development, Public Health, Public Infrastructure & Utilities, Financial Inclusion, Social Welfare & Development, Judicial & Public Safety, Environment and Citizen Centric Governance.

## LG lists initiatives taken for economic growth of J&K

Jammu: Listing his administration's "breakthrough steps" for economic growth and equitable development, Jammu and Kashmir Lt Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday said positive initiatives in the economic sector are imperative for improving the standard of living of all sections and creating a discrimination-free society.

He said the people have the biggest role in stopping the coronavirus and urged them to follow COVID Appropriate Behaviour (CAB) and say "no to third wave".

Sinha highlighted the success stories, and voiced invaluable suggestions and insights received from citizens in the monthly "Awaam ki Awaaz" radio programme aired on all local and primary channels of All India Radio (AIR) in the Union Territory and broadcast on Doordarshan Kashir.

During the first episode of the programme in 2022, the Lt Governor listed various breakthrough steps and initiatives that the administration has been taking for furthering the economic growth and equitable development of the Union Territory, bringing investment and creating a host of new opportunities for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

"The positive initiatives in the economic sector are imperative for improving the standard of living of all sections and creating a society free from any discrimination," he said.

Sinha said the first and historic real estate summit organised with the broader goals of ensuring economic prosperity, employment opportunities and financial strengthening of the local business groups, witnessed investment agreements to the tune of Rs 18,300 crore.

Highlighting the recent investment proposals worth Rs 17,000 crore signed between the J&K government and well-known business groups at the Dubai Expo at the beginning of this year, the Lt Governor noted that these initiatives are essential to accelerate the pace of economic and social change, thereby improving the lives of the common man.

He cited the example of growth story of Gurgaon- where a cluster of few villages was transformed into a vibrant industrial

ecosystem, today housing offices of 250 of the world's largest multinational companies bringing in massive investment, opportunities and prosperity for common citizens.

"Not only ideas but belief in development creates revolution in the society. All positive changes that have taken place in the society have been achieved by supporting and not opposing development", Sinha said.

The Lt Governor shared several success stories and the suggestions sent by the citizens from across the Union Territory.

He also congratulated the Sahitya Akademi Award-2021 awardees Raj Rahi, Khalid Hussain, and WaliMohdAseerKashtwari, from the region.

Sinha made special mention of success stories of young innovator, Tauseef Ali Malik who has converted the traditional bukhari into a portable room heater and has been awarded the National Innovation Foundation Award; and Masrat Farooq, a 27-year-old girl who is one of the youngest entrepreneurs in Srinagar.

"By successful cultivation of Saffron, Vishal Chandra Sharma of Kotedhara panchayat of Rajouri has scripted history by bringing in new areas on the Saffron map of J&K", he noted.

Commending the efforts of employees, especially the field staff of the Power Department, the Lt Governor said that despite heavy snowfall on January 8, KPDCL repaired 500 feeders of 11KV in just 7-8 hours, adding that, efforts are being made on a war footing to ensure better provision of electricity than the preceding years.

Concluding his address, the Lt Governor underlined that people have an important role in stopping coronavirus. He urged everyone to follow Covid protocol properly amidst the increased risk of omicron variant.

He also extended his greetings in advance to the citizens regarding the upcoming 73rd Republic Day.

"It is our responsibility that each and every step is beneficial for the society and the nation. Together we have to keep both the diversity and unity of the nation intact. With this determination, I wish you all the very best," the Lt Governor said.





# Lt Governor unveils 'Charkha' at Srinagar International Airport

Jammu/Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today virtually unveiled a Charkha (Spinning Wheel) at the Srinagar International Airport terming it as encouragement for public participation in the development framework of the UT and to meet the needs of the people by optimally utilizing social capital and other resources.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said that Charkha symbolized Mahatma Gandhi's idea of Self-Reliance and its installation was a befitting tribute to Bapu and to all the great freedom fighters of India. It was installed by the Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB).

"Charkha was made a symbol of economic self-reliance by Bapu in 1918 and became an important part of Swadeshi and Indian Independence movement like Non-violence, Satyagraha and Civil Disobedience", he added.

Terming the occasion as historic, the Lt Governor added that "today, when our country is celebrating Azadi ka Amrit Mohatsav and moving steadily towards the fourth industrial revolution, I believe Charkha will serve as a symbol of Atma Nirbhar Bharat campaign of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and will inspire the citizens of the UT and all countrymen to work towards building a self-reliant J&K, and a self-reliant India", the Lt Governor remarked.

The Lt Governor observed that J&K was making great strides in fulfilling the Prime Minister's vision of AtmaNirbhar Bharat and keep-

ing with this spirit, continuous efforts are being made for the revival and conservation of Khadi, Rural Arts & Crafts, besides expanding their reach to the international market.

The Lt Governor also called for collaborative efforts to preserve the identity of the world-famous handicrafts, art and culture of Jammu and Kashmir, on the occasion.

Highlighting the initiatives taken by J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) to create livelihood generation opportunities for the people of the UT, the Lt Governor said that in the last three years, 11,978 units have been established under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program and 1,803 units have been established under the Rural Employment Generation Program, besides 4,904 units have also been established for the deprived sections and women.

"Under all these schemes, about 1,50,000 people have been provided with viable employment opportunities", he noted.

The Lt Governor congratulated Dr Hina Bhatt, Vice-Chairperson, Jammu & Kashmir Khadi and Village Industries Board, and the members and officials of KVIB on this historic occasion.

The Prime Minister's slogan – 'Khadi for Nation, Khadi for Fashion' – has gained greater popularity and now international designers are using Khadi in New York and London fashion shows, he further added.

## Vaccination of 15-18 age group: Five J&K districts complete 100% coverage of 1st dose

Jammu: Five districts in Jammu and Kashmir have completed 100% coverage of 1st dose of Covid vaccination in the 15-18 years age group.

This was revealed in a Covid review meetings chaired by Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha here today.

The concerned officials informed the meeting that five districts – Kulgam, Shopian, Anantnag, Ganderbal and Poonch have completed the 100% coverage of 1stdose of vaccination in the 15-18 years age group while as 70% of the total targeted population in the 15-18 years age group has been inoculated with the first dose across the UT, an official spokesman said.

The meetings were attended by the members of Covid Task Force, DCs & SPs.

During the meetings, the Lt Governor reiterated the importance of Tele-consultation, expanding the services to far-flung areas and efficient monitoring of those in home isolation, said the spokesman, adding, he also underlined the importance of involving community in awareness campaigns to sensitize people on mask usage and Covid protocol.

"We need to protect healthcare personnel, patients and communities, and accordingly our focus should remain on ramping up healthcare infrastructure, availability of oxygen, ventilators, essential medicines, etc", the spokesman quoted LG as saying.

The spokesman said that the LG stressed that Testing, Tracing, Treatment,



Covid Appropriate Behaviour and Vaccination will continue to be the strategy to effectively fight the Covid-19.

He impressed upon the officials to ensure proper implementation of Covid Protocol and CAB among the people to effectively break the chain of transmission.

The Lt Governor was briefed about the Covid containment measures at the district level including functionality of War rooms, Covid help-lines, IEC campaign regarding Covid Appropriate Behaviour, distribution of Covid kits, besides facilities for extending assistance to people in need, said the spokesman.

The chair also took stock of the vaccination drive for the 15-18 years age group and the precaution dose vaccination for healthcare & frontline workers and those over 60 years of age with co-morbidities.

Deputy Commissioners and other

concerned officials were directed to widely publicize the COVID helpline numbers and other emergency contact numbers.

The spokesman said that Vivek Bhardwaj, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department gave a detailed briefing on the district-wise analysis of Covid-19 situation, status of testing, contact tracing and vaccination across the UT, besides the status of bed occupancy in the designated hospitals.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the Lt Governor; Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary; Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Finance Department; Shailendra Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Government, Public Works (R&B) Department; Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the Lt Governor; besides Senior officers of Civil and police administration attended the meeting, in person and through virtual mode, the spokesman said.

# LG reviews mega Jammu projects through camera-mounted drones via videoconferencing

Jammu: Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha on Sunday reviewed the progress of mega projects of Jammu division through camera-mounted drones via videoconferencing from his office at Raj Bhawan.

The review included three undergoing projects – AIIMS Jammu, IIT Jammu, and Jammu Zoo. The Lieutenant Governor lauded the efforts of implementing agencies for fast progress on the projects.

During the meeting, the chair was briefed about the physical and financial progress of the projects.

Rs 1661 Crores have been sanctioned for the AIIMS Jammu project at Vijaypur including Rs. 1452 cr for construction & Rs. 209 cr for Medical Equipment & Furniture, while works worth Rs 1253.78 Crores has been tendered so far, informed Prof. (Dr.) Shakti Gupta, Director, AIIMS Jammu.

Under Phase-I of the project, the prestigious project includes Hospital; Medical College; Nursing College; Staff Quarters; Student Accommodation; Auditorium, AYUSH building, Night Shelter and other development works.

It was informed that the manpower deployed at the site has been enhanced manifold for completion of the work within the stipulated time-period.

Briefing about the progress made on permanent Campus of IIT

Jammu, Dr. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director IIT Jammu informed the meeting that an amount of Rs 1283.94 Crores have been sanctioned for the project.

It was informed that completed works under Phase-1A and Phase-1B have already been inaugurated by Hon'ble Union Home Minister, while works under Phase 1C are in progress.

Giving details about the Jammu Zoo, Sh. Suresh Kr. Gupta, PCCF / Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, briefed that funds amounting to Rs 49.17 Crores have been approved under JKIDFC against the total project cost of Phase-I worth Rs 62.41 Crores.

Pertinently, Central Zoo Authority (CZA) was approached for approval of layout plan as required under the provisions of Central Act i.e Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 and revised layout and animal enclosure designs were submitted to CZA for approval.

Animal Enclosure Designs were approved by CZA on 27-08-2021. Master Layout Plan submitted to CZA on 12-08-2021 after incorporating the observations made by DIG CZA during her visit to Jammu, it was informed.

The expected dates of completion of the mega projects are March 2023 for phase 1 of AIIMS Jammu, September 2022 for phase 1 of Jammu Zoo, and April 2023 for phase 1C of IIT Jammu.

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## CS directs RDD to ensure training, placement of 60000 youth under HIMAYAT

Srinagar: Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today directed the Rural Development department to ensure training and placement of 60000 unemployed youth under HIMAYAT during the next fiscal year.

He asked RDD to identify 20 highly educated youth in each Panchayat. Assistance of DDCs and PRIs may be taken.

He said the trainings and consequent job placement of 60000 youth under HIMAYAT and other self employment initiatives launched by the Government will further the Government's objective of driving down the unemployment in J&K to below 5%.

Dr Mehta made this observation while reviewing the HIMAYAT scheme in a meeting attended by Administrative Secretary, RDD and COO, HIMAYAT.

The Chief Secretary said as the Scheme will close on 31st March, 2023, the department should target short term skill based courses spanning 3- 9 months.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary, RDD, Mandeep Kour in her presentation informed that around 19000 youth have been trained while around 4000 youth have been given job placements up until now since the inception of the Scheme.

She said most of the trainees have received training in sectors/ areas like healthcare, IT-TES, retail, telecom, tourism & hospitality etc. while emphasizing that there is also a need to arrange for trainings in domains like carpentry, masonry, plumbing etc in concert with ITIs as there is general shortage of technicians in these trades in the UT.

It was further informed that the plan for training and placing

60000 youth during the next financial year will be finalized in consultation with existing PIAs by end of February 2023.

She said that the department will engage with BRO to ascertain their requirement of skilled, semi skilled work force and based on their requirements, training courses will be got customized/tailor made to train/equip the youth for jobs in BRO.

The Chief Secretary directed the department to ensure that trainings under HIMAYAT are arranged in sectors like hospitality, industries, housing & urban development, tourism, medical labs, water testing labs in Jal Shakti department etc, as there is going to be increased demand in these sectors due to investment in industries, heightened infrastructure development in these sectors and increased tourist activity in J&K.

Dr Mehta advised the department to consult with the concerned authorities in the States which have excelled in the implementation of HIMAYAT like AP, TN and Orissa as well as the officials in the Ministry of Rural Development Department to further improve the implementation of the Scheme in J&K.

While directing the department to ensure that it does not engage such PIAs/TSAs as have failed to file reports with the Government or have not maintained proper accounts or don't have their own websites and have failed to monitor/conduct regular inspections, the Chief Secretary said only those PIAs which have the required capacity to deliver on mandate and which have neither been blacklisted by GoI nor are involved in any case in ACB should be engaged for training/ placement of the identified youth.

Dr Mehta advised the department to put in place a proper institutional mechanism for regular monitoring of the implementation of the HIMAYAT Scheme.



# LG announces 15% reservation for women in non-gazetted posts in JK Police

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday announced 15% reservation for women in non-gazetted posts in J&K Police.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha while making the announcement on Twitter, said the decision was “just the beginning” saying the government was “determined and committed to increase it further in the future”.

“On #NationalGirlChildDay, approved 15% reservation for women in non-gazetted posts of @JmuKmrPolice. This is just the beginning. We are determined and committed to increase it further in the future,” he said.

“For women and girls to be agents of change, J&K government is committed to ensure Nari Shaktis’ social and economic empowerment while redressing long-standing inequalities to build a more just and resilient society,” he said in the tweet.

The Lt Governor added that the 15% reservation is just the beginning and the government is determined and committed to increase it further in the future.

“For women and girls to be agents of change, J&K government is committed to ensure Nari Shaktis’ social and economic empowerment while redressing long-standing inequalities to build a more just and resilient society”, the Lt Governor said.

On the occasion of National Girl Child Day, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced 15% reservation for Women in the non-gazetted posts in the Jammu Kashmir Police, an official spokesman said, adding, this landmark decision will further strengthen women empowerment in J&K UT.

The step of 15 % reservation for women in JKP will give due representation to women in Police force and will ensure the availability of sufficient women personnel to engage exclusively in the matter of gender-based crimes. The move will lay the foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable society, the spokesman said.

He said that despite several assurances before 2019, the matter of reservation for women in J&K Police was never addressed. At present, without any exclusive reservation, women constitute 3% of the total strength of J&K Police and the numbers will increase after the reservation is implemented in future recruitments.

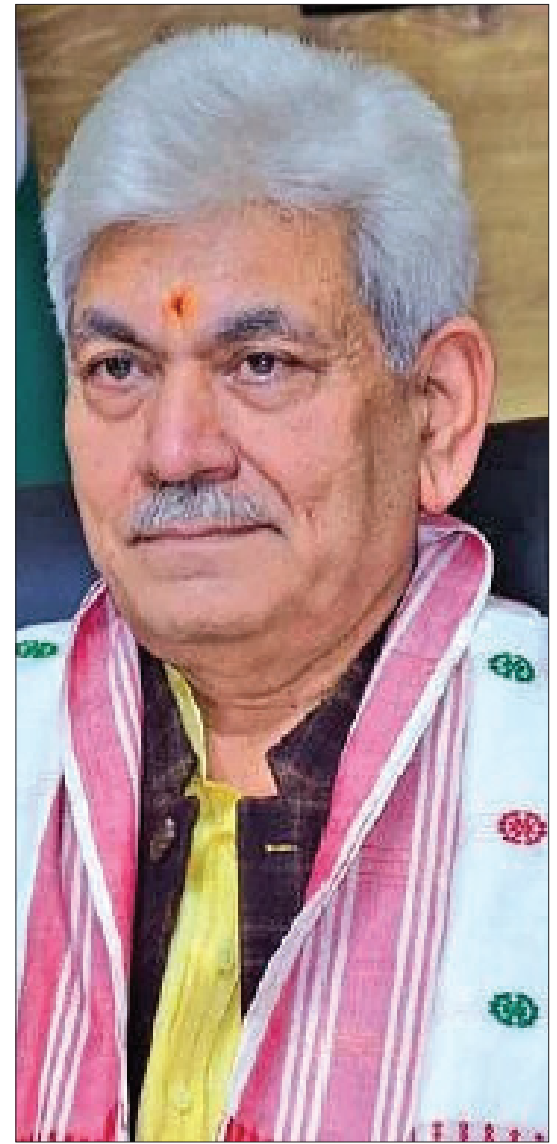
Earlier, saluting daughters of the country for their accomplishments in various fields on National Girl Child Day, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday called for securing equal rights for every girl child and empowering them with opportunities.

Sinha asked people to make collective efforts to promote awareness about the rights of the girl child and provide support and opportunities to girls.

“Let us reiterate our commitment towards securing equal rights for every girl child, empowering them with opportunities for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable society”, Sinha said in a tweet.

“I salute the daughters of the nation for their accomplishments in various fields. They are also the backbone of our health-care system fighting the global pandemic”, the LG said.

He said it is our social and moral responsibility to increase awareness on the importance of girls’ education, and their



health and nutrition.

The efforts put in by all those working towards empowering the girl child are commendable, the Lt Governor said.

The National Girl Child Day is being observed on January 24 with an objective to generate awareness about the rights of girl child and spread the message on the importance of their education, health and nutrition.

## J&K Govt signs MoU with Century Financial for \$100 million investment

DUBAI: The J&K government on Friday signed an MoU with UAE’s pioneering financial services company, Century Financial that will invest \$100 million in the Union Territory. The MoU was signed in a special event presided by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha.

The investment will cover 3 hotels and one commercial cum residential complex in Jammu & Kashmir. The owner of Century Financial Bal Krishen is originally a native of the Doda district of Jammu and has been a forerunner in supporting his home region.

The MoU was signed by Principal Secretary, Industries,

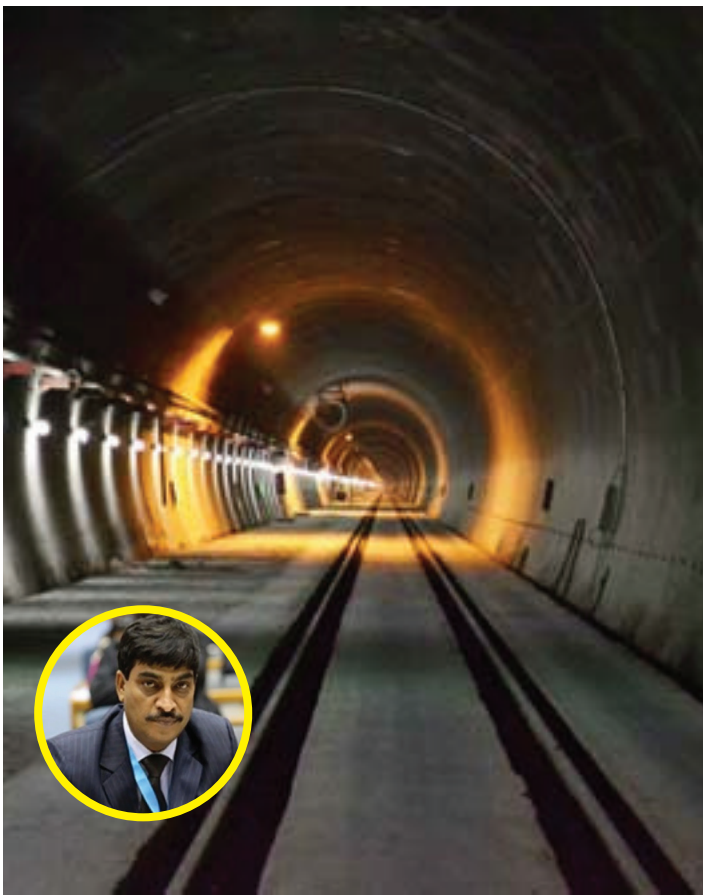
J&K, Ranjan Prakash Thakur and Bal Krishen, Owner of Century Financial in the presence of Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai and several distinguished UAE-based business owners, investors, and entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi was committed to the development of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

“We are happy to see the interest shown by UAE’s big business houses and leaders in supporting this vision of our honorable Prime Minister. Global business & industry are waking up to the vistas of opportunity in J&K,” LG said.

He said, “Despite challenges of global pandemic, neither the pace of economic and policy reforms nor the implementation of key infrastructure projects has slowed in any way in UT and we as responsive administration will continue to respond to business’s concerns.”

“I have always believed that Jammu & Kashmir has tremendous investment potential and there cannot be a better time than now. Making a significant contribution to my home region has always been my dream and today as I see this dream getting realized, it’s immensely gratifying” said Bal Krishen.



## CS directs opening of Panthayal Tunnel by 15th April 2022

Jammu: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today directed the NHAI to double its efforts and complete the pending works on Panthayal Tunnel by 15th April 2022.

While emphasizing the completion within the time frame, the CS said that once completed, the tunnel will provide reliable connectivity by-passing the current landslide-prone stretch of NH-44 and as such will provide safe and secure transit to vehicles.

The CS issued these directions while chairing a meeting to review the condition of the National Highway-44 connecting Jammu and Srinagar, and take stock of the traffic movement thereon.

Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, representative of NHAI, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, and district SP, Ramban participated in the meeting.

It was informed that the Department has prioritized construction and maintenance of the national highway-44 which has kept the highway open for vehicular traffic even during extreme weather vagaries.

The Chief Secretary was apprised of the recent traffic disruption on the highway due to the breakdown of an overloaded vehicle carrying 36-ton dry ration in violation of the laid down norms.

The Chief Secretary directed for ascertaining reasons for the incident to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future. He further directed the NHAI and traffic police to forthwith put in place a mechanism for calibrated checking of all load carriers to prevent plying of overloaded vehicles, which not only disrupts the usual traffic flow but also compromises the road quality.

Dr. Mehta maintained that all load-carrying vehicles are to be passed through weighing bridges at toll plazas in a staggered manner to avoid any jams and action against overloaded vehicles is to be initiated to ensure smooth flow of traffic.

Further, the concerned agencies were asked to submit daily violation reports and weekly action taken reports to the higher offices and establish zero tolerance to traffic violations and plying of overloaded vehicles. They were asked to conduct regular drives to check traffic violations.

To further facilitate smooth traffic flow on the Ramban- Banihal stretch of the National Highway, the traffic police and district administration were directed to properly demarcate single-lane driving zones and ensure lane-driving and traffic discipline among the commuters. Dr. Mehta also emphasized wearing of body cameras by traffic police.

## Kashmir Handicrafts to be promoted in Germany

SRINAGAR: The Union Territory administration is all set to take initiatives to promote Kashmir handicrafts in Germany.

In this connection, the Director Handicrafts and Handloom Kashmir, Mahmood Ahmad Shah held an extensive web meeting with Dr Suyash Chavan Consulate General of India (CGI), Germany. The online meeting dealt exclusively in reviewing the scope of developing end-to-end export linkages to provide quality handicraft products of Kashmir to the German Market in particular and rest of Europe in general so as to ensure quality products reach Germany to increase the handicraft exports to Germany, an official spokesman said.

Germany is the largest consumer of Kashmir carpets and in addition imports Chain Stitch, Paper Machie and Walnut furniture from Kashmir. As the weather of Germany is characterized by cold winters, this makes it a perfect destination for the use of Kashmiri Shawls, Rugs and Carpets.

“The tie-up shall also aim to connect art lovers and handicraft importers of Germany with exporters from Kashmir and also achieve a tie up of master craftsmen and artisans of Kashmir with art connoisseurs through digital platforms, which shall ensure long term sustainability for arts like Papier-mâché, sozni, kani shawl, basket weaving, khatamband, wood carving, silver and copper carving, carpet weaving, leather, silk and pashmina weaving amongst other crafts that Kashmir is known for in German markets,” said the spokesman.

He said that it was discussed in meeting that the participation of Handicrafts & Handloom shall be facilitated in upcoming Expos and Trade shows which shall provide an opportunity of international exposure as well as showcasing the Kashmiri art at international platforms besides selling their inventory which has



remained unsold due to COVID-19 pandemic.

“To begin with, GI certified products of Kashmir shall be presented to the Consulate General of India, Germany which includes Pashmina, Khatamband, Walnut wood carving, Sozni, Kani Shawl, Hand knotted carpet, Paper Machie and Saffron for display in the Consulate General Munich office and in the exhibitions at Germany,” said the spokesman.

The consulate general was briefed about the export incentive announced by the Government on GI certified goods and about the renewed focus on Handicrafts in view of the recent UNESCO Craft listing for Srinagar City, said the spokesman, adding, he was also apprised about initiatives taken to promote artisans through Craft tours. Consulate General was also apprised about the GI labeling of Kashmir carpets and adaption of block chain mechanism to check piracy and misbranding of Kashmir handicrafts

The Consulate General expressed his desire for cross platform exchange and promotion of Departmental social media handles in Germany. The Counsel General requested for digital content like films and photographs on Kashmir craft to be promoted by counsel handle and was assured that digital content like pictures videos, brochures will be provided to CG for disseminations in German Market, said the spokesman.

# All villages in UT to be digitally connected by March this year under NBM

JAMMU: The Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta today chaired the meeting of the UT Broadband Committee to review the implementation of National Broadband Mission in Jammu & Kashmir.

Administrative Secretaries of the Forest and Information Technology Department, along with officers from LSA, Department of Telecom, GoI, and BSNL participated in the meeting.

The meeting was informed that the National Broadband Mission (NBM) is fast tracking the growth of digital communication infrastructure to bridge the digital divide and facilitate digital empowerment and inclusion, while focusing on affordable and universal access of broadband, an official spokesman said.

It was further informed that the Mission aims to connect all villages to the broadband network by 2022, with only 100 such villages left in Jammu and Kashmir. The Chief Secretary asked the Department of Telecommunications to reconcile the data on unconnected villages with the concerned Deputy Commissioners and by referring to the village maps already uploaded on land records portal of the Union territory Government to ensure that all unconnected villages are brought on the digital network by the end of this financial year, said the spokesman.

He said that to facilitate universal and equitable access to broadband services, a Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) agreement has been signed to provide mobile coverage in 88 uncovered villages in the Union territory. Dr. Mehta directed early resolution of all pending issues for expeditious coverage of these far-flung areas and asked the Power Development Department to provide reliable electricity supply to the concerned IT installations.

The Chief Secretary directed the district administrations to review the district-level progress achieved under the National Broadband Mission and resolving the pending RoW issues/cases on regular basis, the spokesman further said.

# CS hands over trilingual Land Pass Books to farmers



Jammu: As a major initiative towards good governance and ease of convenience to the citizens, Chief Secretary, Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, today launched trilingual Land Pass Books in Hindi, Urdu and English making it an easy and simple document for reference and record, an official spokesman said.

Dr Mehta termed the initiative a historical step towards transparency and good governance. He complimented the Revenue, IT and Law departments for making this facility a possibility in a very short time. He asked them to dedicate the facility to all the landowners of the UT by Independence Day this year, said the spokesman.

He said, CS maintained that this document will decipher the revenue information to land owners in a very lucid form besides acting as a valid paper to present before financial and other institutions. He felicitated the farmers who received this vital document on the occasion.

The CS handed over Land Pass Books to landowners of village Chak Lal Din of Tehsil Jammu West of district Jammu and village Bagh-e-Mehtab of Tehsil Chanpora of district Srinagar respectively.

It was revealed that the Land Pass Books issued to landholders contains entry from the Jamabandi in revenue estate, so as to enable the landholder to make its use for credit facilities and for other matters connected therewith. It was therefore called a tool for redressal of different grievances, litigations, disputes at various forums and for reference.

It was also stated that the Land Pass Book prescribed by the Revenue Department is true to the record and can be generated online by landholder without visiting a Patwari or Tehsildar or any Revenue office thereby saving his time and energy.

With scanning and digitization of land records already under implementation for the convenience of citizens and under good governance initiative the department has also framed the Jammu and Kashmir Land Passbook Rules-2022 for online issuance of Land Passbook.

As far as its legality is concerned the Pass Book is an evidently valid entity carrying same evidentiary value as if being certified copies of Record-of-Rights (MisliHaqiat) for all intents and purposes before courts and financial institutions. It is an authoritative document for grant of financial assistance by a financial institution thereby saving the farmer from visiting revenue offices for securing fards and extracts, said the spokesman.

Moreover, the farmers were encouraged to provide their Aadhar and Mobile numbers for generating this document online by 15th of August this year. It was also stated that the Pass Books are being rolled out gradually in the areas where land records stand digitized. Seeding of Aadhar and Mobile numbers of landholders in the database will enhance transparency and help citizens in generation of Land Pass Books online, as was informed in the gathering, the spokesman said.

Meanwhile DC Srinagar handed over the pass books to landowners at Srinagar and all other DCs participated in the event through video conferencing.

# J&K Bank launches Special One Time Settlement scheme–2021



Srinagar: MD & CEO J&K Bank, Baldev Prakash launched the J&K Bank's Special One Time Settlement Scheme for NPAs today in presence of Executive President Sunil Gupta, President & Special Secy. to MD & CEO Karanjit Singh, President IAPM Syed Rais Maqbool, Vice President Aijaz Ahmad Bazaz and other senior officers here at the Bank's corporate headquarters.

All Zonal Heads from across the country also joined the inaugural function through video-conferencing mode along with senior officers.

Speaking on the occasion, MD & CEO said, "Through this Special One Time Settlement Scheme (SOTS-2021), the Bank provides a golden opportunity to all the eligible account holders to settle their accounts and avail the best possible concessions that can be offered." Calling the scheme good and practicable, he expressed hope that with the earnest efforts of all concerned the scheme will be successful.

While impressing upon the need to directly contact the borrowers individually to inform them about the scheme parameters, MD & CEO also directed the participants to work in close coordination with each other for effective implementation of the scheme. "Overall recoveries must continue alongside and gain momentum across our operational geographies to improve Bank's bottom-line as the financial year is closing in quite fast," he added.

Earlier, giving an overview of the NPA Scenario in the

banking industry President, Syed Rais Maqbool dwelt upon the Bank's NPA position and explained the need for coming up with SOTS-2021. He said, "In view of the Bank's NPA position, SOTS-2021 has been devised to provide an enabling environment to the operative levels to effect recoveries," adding, "The scheme is valid for 30 working days for which the sanction or otherwise will be conveyed within 7 working days of the receipt of application with a maximum repayment period of six months."

"To encourage faster payments of OTS amount, 5% incentive on OTS amount will be given to those paying the amount within one month from the date of sanction while as those paying within two months can avail 2% of the OTS amount as incentive," he said.

He expressed hope the operative levels will perceive it as an opportunity and will cover all the eligible borrowers under the scheme.

A detailed power-point presentation covering all the features of SOTS-2021 was made on the occasion. Notably, all the accounts classified as D3 and Loss Assets with an outstanding amount of more than Rs 15 lakhs and up to Rs 5 Crore as on September 30, 2021 shall be eligible. As per the terms and conditions of the scheme, other cases include the eligible ones pending before Courts/DRTs besides the cases wherein the Bank has issued notice under various sections of the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act (SARFAESI-2002).

## J&K gets top awards at 24th National Conference on e-Governance

Jammu: The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has got national level awards for Covid-19 Management and Panchayat Development Index at the 24th National Conference on e-Governance held at Hyderabad today, an official spokesman said.

The awards were presented by Dr. Jitendra Singh, MoS PMO and Ministry of Personnel in presence of K T Rama Rao, Telangana's Minister for Urban Development, Industries & IT; Ajay Prakash, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and IT, Govt of India, Somesh Prakash, Chief Secretary, Telangana and V Srinivas, Secretary DARPG, Government of India.

District Srinagar got first position in the category of Covid-19 management with effective use of technology.

The award was received by Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary Tribal Affairs and then Deputy Commissioner of Srinagar under whose guidance several innovative and effective



initiatives were taken by district administration for Covid-19 management, said the spokesman.

The spokesman said that Bandipora district was conferred the award for innovative digital product 'Panchayat Development Index (PDI)' launched by the district administration.

The award was received by Dr Owais Ahmad, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Imtiyaz Ahmad, Joint Director Planning Bandipora and Mala Ram DIO Bandipora.

# J&K GOVT FORMULATES RULES FOR 'OUTSTANDING SPORTSPERSONS'

Jammu: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has issued the Jammu and Kashmir Appointment of Outstanding Sportspersons Rules, 2022 through a notification by the General Administration Department.

In a press conference held today, Advisor to Lieutenant Governor and Vice-Chairperson JK Sports Council, Farooq Khan formally announced the new Rules, which have been framed under the aegis of Lieutenant Governor and Chairperson JKSC, Manoj Sinha.

Under the Rules, outstanding sportspersons, holding domicile of J&K, would be eligible to be appointed against gazetted (Level 8) and other non-gazetted posts. A detailed grading system has been mentioned in the notification which would help rank sportspersons applying under the quota.

The advisor informed that sportspersons from 44 recognized sports would be considered under the rules. Besides, 5 outstanding sportspersons would be appointed at gazetted posts, while another 25 would be appointed to non-gazetted posts every year, he added. All backlogs under this quota, since 2014, would also be cleared, he clarified.

Moreover, the gazetted officers would be given one 'out of turn' promotion, while the non-gazetted officers would be given two 'out of turn promotions' throughout their service careers.

They are also eligible for 5 special salary increments throughout their career.

It was informed by the Advisor that selection under the rules would be done by a high-level committee headed by the Chief Secretary and consisting of Home Secretary, Secretary Youth Services and Sports, Secretary GAD and Secretary Sports Council.

Advisor hailed the rules and said that through the rules, a framework has been established in which sportspersons with outstanding achievements would be ranked objectively thereby eliminating the chance of favouritism or prejudice.

Farooq Khan termed the rules as "incentive, not welfare" and added, "it is our way of acknowledging sports talent and their achievements."

"Sportspersons would be able to submit applications to the JK Sports Council which

would forward the cases to the high-level committee. The committee is permanent in nature and would verify and approve the appropriate cases within 3 months period, preferably around the month of March," informed the Advisor.

Olympics, Winter Olympics as well as Paralympics have been given the greatest weightage under the selection criteria. Such Olympians can score a maximum 60 marks, (including participation and winning medals). Mere one-time participation accounts for 46 marks under the rules. Maximum marks have been set as 100.

A similar marking system has been formulated for other national and international sports events like Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Cups, World University Games, International Cricket Matches, National Sports Championships, Inter-Zonal Championships, Senior National Championships etc under the rules.

For gazetted posts, minimum education qualification has been set as Graduation with only exception for Olympics medalists for whom the criteria has been set as class 12 or above.

The advisor said that the government is trying to incentivize and promote sports culture in J&K through such measures. "A number of sports infrastructure projects have been completed and many others are nearing completion here. Every district has at least one indoor sports stadium for encouraging participation in sports," he added.

"The government is establishing state of the art sports stadia all over J&K. The football stadium at Parade Ground Jammu is also about to complete," informed the Advisor.

While answering questions by the media persons, Advisor informed that the government is working to inculcate sports culture at the village level and has already ensured that each panchayat has one sports ground and minimum possible equipment. Besides, a grant of Rs 25 thousand per panchayat has already been given in this regard, he told. He also assured of setting up an indoor sports facility at Jagti and other sports facilities at Purkhoo and Muthi camps at Jammu.

Secretary J&K Sports Council, Nuzhat Gul, was also present in the press conference.



# MoUs signed with Al Maya Group, MATU Investments LLC, GL Employment Brokerage LLC & Noon to invest in J&K



Dubai: Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir today signed several MoUs with Al Maya Group, MATU Investments LLC, GL Employment Brokerage LLC & Noon to invest in J&K Expo-2020 Dubai.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, who presided over the signing ceremony said this will further strengthen J&K-Dubai's trade, investment ties. He also held a meeting with Chairman of DP world, H.E. Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem. The DP World, it may be mentioned here, is set to build an inland port in Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the Investors Summit at Dubai, the Lt Governor highlighted the strong business scenario in Jammu & Kashmir.

Disclosing that big business groups from UAE have shown interest in investing in J&K marking the beginning of a new and comprehensive partnership, the Lt Governor said: "Relationship between India and UAE has matured enough over the years to become enduring 'Global Partners' in the 21st Century. These are those times in the journey of Jammu Kashmir where opportunities are in plenty.

The Lt Governor said the UT of J&K now has a sage & conducive environment for the businesses to flourish, besides having a young population and a demographic dividend to its advantage.

We are devising new paths, new policies, creating critical infrastructure and unlocking the business potential of Jammu Kashmir to strengthen our business ecosystem for the post-pandemic world and embarking on the journey of growth and development, added the Lt Governor.

"J&K has the capability to provide opportunity to industries to compete, connect and collaborate with its readily available abundant resources. In the last 28 months, J&K has transformed from sleeping business destination to the land of opportunities & investment", the Lt Governor said.

He said that due to transparent policies, ease of doing business, the UT has been able to clock investment proposal worth Rs.45,000 Crore & additional Rs.18,300 Crore in real estate sector.

"Jammu Kashmir is rising. The best time to invest in J&K is 'now'. I have set the high target of economic growth for Jammu Kashmir, which is the crown jewel of India. With the ageless culture visible in the layers of history and as a witness to co-existence of almost all major religions known to humankind, Jammu Kashmir has created an inclusive cultural ecosystem for the country" the Lt Governor further added.

This is the new Jammu Kashmir determined to reverse the trend of the past 7 decades by pushing the targets for economic growth. Our aim is very clear- deepen the trust with business firms,

build the industrial base for the economy and strengthen social stability, he said.

"We are offering you a stake in the present and future of rich civilization, the land of curiosity for intellectuals, travelers, traders and historians", he said.

He said that there is an advantage of first-mover because Jammu Kashmir is an unsaturated market and one can build a brand new business network and tap rapidly growing opportunities in the Union Territory, adding, "I assure you, the government will be a facilitator, partner, provider, collaborator and promoter at every step to ensure sustainable, balanced, progressive and competitive business environment for traditional core sectors and new-age technology driven sectors."

India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) enjoy strong bonds of friendship and historical ties which was further strengthened by the strenuous efforts of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Lt Governor said.

"Taking this forward, J&K Government is working with enhanced cooperation in various other sectors. For serving the common interests of peoples of both the countries and creating more opportunities for growth and progress, we are also collaborating in setting up small and medium enterprises, educational institutions, space technology, health and closely working in the horticulture sector", added the Lt Governor.

On the occasion, the Lt Governor also expressed his gratitude to the Indian community living in UAE for playing a significant role in the economic development of UAE and immensely contributing to the growth of various sectors in India.

During his meeting with Group Chairman and CEO of DP World, Sultan Ahmed Bin Sulayem they discussed the investment opportunities in various sectors of J&K UT and potential areas of collaboration between the Government of J&K and DP World.

Dubai ports giant DP World is planning to build an inland port in Jammu and Kashmir as part of the firm commitment by the UAE to invest in J&K. The representatives of DP World would soon visit the 250 acre site earmarked for the inland port facility. The ambitious projects will be finalized soon.

The Lieutenant Governor also visited India Pavilion and took a guided tour during the participation of UT of Jammu and Kashmir in the UT floor of the pavilion.

Pertinently, the Lt Governor during his visit to Dubai is holding a series of meetings with potential investors for bringing investment in J&K, besides promoting J&K products at Gulf market.

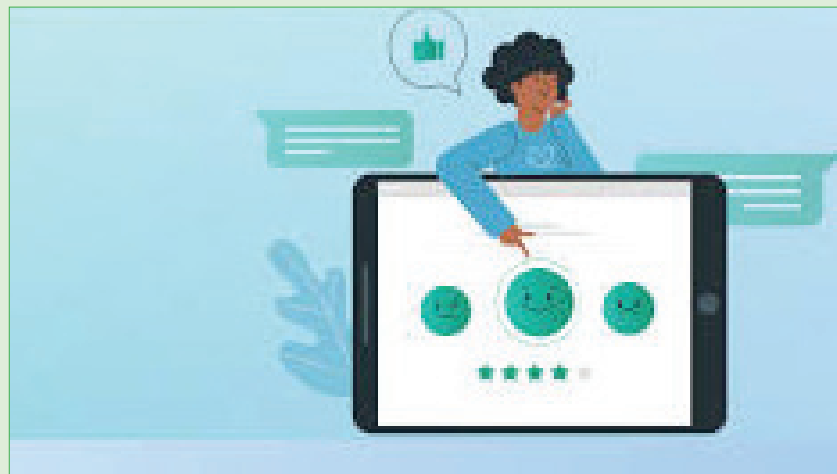


# J&K launches Rapid Assessment System with digital feedback mechanism

Jammu: Giving a big push to the end-to-end digitization of services, the Chief Secretary Dr. A K Mehta Thursday launched the Rapid Assessment System having an in-built digital feedback mechanism at the Civil Secretariat, Jammu, with eight new services, besides on boarding another 19 services, taking up the total tally to 27, an official press release said.

It said the Rapid Assessment System provides a platform for submitting the online applications to seek issuance of domicile certificate, benefits under the MUMKIN scheme, commercial water connection, license for selling fertilizers, license for pesticides, license for opening nurseries, and for reelers in sericulture, to be granted by respective departments.

It also has a user-friendly digital feedback mechanism that enables citizens to provide effective feedback on the services provided to them; through SMS and weblink, thereby enhancing transparency and accountability. The departments are also provided a graphical user interface (GUI) for assessing the feedback from citizens and incorporating suitable changes to further enhance efficiency in the



service delivery mechanism.

The Chief Secretary appreciated the efforts of the IT department to have developed the platform and advised expansion of the platform to cover more services from all departments in a time-bound manner.

“The IT-enabled delivery of government services will make the transactions prompt, efficient, and effective towards realizing the vision of Digital India,” he added.

Dr. Mehta further directed the department to integrate all 130 citizen centric services listed under Business Reforms Action Plan (ease of doing business) with the Rapid Assessment Portal within one month to completely overhaul the service delivery system in the Union territory

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department; Principal Secretary, School Education Department; Commissioner/Secretary, Revenue Department; Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Secretary, IT Department, and other senior officers were present on the occasion.

The system of citizens’ feedback is likely to be a game-changer in respect of quality of services, the press release said.

## EMPOWERMENT portal hosting dev works info a step towards increased transparency: Govt

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir government on Thursday claimed to have taken “path-breaking initiatives to promote transparency in execution of developmental projects” across the Union Territory.

In an official handout issued today, an official spokesman while referring to the recently launched web portal ‘EMPOWERMENT (Enabling Monitoring and Public Overview of Works Being Executed and Resources for Meaningful Transparency)’ or ‘Janbaghidari’ which “enables citizens to overview works/projects being implemented in their areas and become a partner in the process of development with the features of providing timely feedbacks and suggestions for improving expenditure outcomes”, termed it “unique in the country which provide latest updates on the projects with geo-tagged photographs and other project-related information”.

The portal, the government said, contains details of all UT and District Capex projects implemented in Jammu and Kashmir from 2020-21. The said website can be viewed on [www.janbaghidari.gov.in](http://www.janbaghidari.gov.in)

This web portal also contains links to MGNREGA, PMAY and SBM with real-time information on their implementation in Jammu and Kashmir. Similarly, progress of PMGSY is available on the website of J&K PWD through the given link on the Ministry’s website, it added.

“Moreover, the details for the projects executed during the past two years is available on various public platforms including the official website of the Finance Department, Government of Jammu and Kashmir and can be publically accessed on the url

<https://jakfinance.nic.in>.”

The web portal of the Finance Department is hosting information on projects implemented under Back to Village and JKIDFC. As per the displayed information, under the UT Sector, 9514 projects were completed during the financial year 2020-21 for which the complete information of district-wise projects along with timelines, cost, geo-tagged photographs, and number of beneficiaries has been compiled as a pictorial compendium and is available for public viewing.

Further, pictorial compendium of 2177 projects was completed under the Back to Village programme and is hosted on the website.

“In addition, details of 1100 projects which were earlier languishing for several years on account of various hurdles, were revived and completed by the Jammu and Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC); are also available on the portal”.

Similarly, the website is also hosting information on District Capex with 1676 completed projects along with their timelines, cost, geo-tagged photographs, and number of beneficiaries, the government said.

The J&K government in the handout said it is “committed to complete the developmental projects within stipulated timelines while maintaining highest level of transparency and accountability”. “Accordingly, the list of the above mentioned completed projects in addition to several others is readily available for the public along with the district-wise and sector-wise project details”.

# J&K Govt signs MoU with LuLu Group to set up food processing & logistics hub in Srinagar

Dubai: Today J&K Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with LuLu Group to set up a food processing & logistics hub in Srinagar, in the presence of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha and LuLu group Chairman, Yusuff Ali MA.

This agreement was signed by Principal Secretary, Industries & Commerce, J&K UT, Ranjan Prakash Thakur and Ashraf Ali MA, Executive Director, LuLu Group.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha also inaugurated Jammu & Kashmir promotion week at the LuLu Hypermarket, Dubai.

Speaking on the occasion, the Lt Governor said the MoU with LuLu group will further expand Jammu Kashmir-Dubai collaboration and Jammu Kashmir-LuLu Group partnership.

“Relations between India and UAE are long-standing & deep rooted. People-to-people contact and trade have seen momentum in the recent years under the leadership of Hon’ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi,” the Lt Governor said.

“The world-famous GI tagged saffron has been launched at LuLu Hypermarket, which I see as a major step towards boosting Jammu Kashmir and Dubai partnership. LuLu group is already importing apple from Jammu Kashmir and with saffron, we are adding Kashmir’s finest spice to the basket. I am certain this new beginning will take our trade to unprecedented levels,” the Lt Governor further added.

“Trade between Jammu & Kashmir and Dubai has remained steady, despite Covid-19 challenges and it reflects the resilience of our deep economic linkages. The MoU will further expand Jammu Kashmir-Dubai collaboration and Jammu Kashmir-Lulu Group partnership,” the Lieutenant Governor said.

It is pertinent to mention that Jammu & Kashmir is number one in the production of Saffron, Apple, Walnut and Almond in India. The MoU with the LuLu group will help the UT to reach out to shoppers at 190 LuLu Hypermarkets across the GCC and Egypt.

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## Dubai’s Emaar group to develop 5 lakh sq ft shopping mall in Srinagar

New Delhi: Dubai-based realty firm Emaar Properties on Monday said it will develop a five lakh square feet shopping mall at Srinagar in Jammu & Kashmir.

A memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been signed between the governments of Dubai and Jammu & Kashmir to facilitate investments into this proposed project, Emaar said in a statement.

This will be the first significant FDI investment in the union territory, it added.

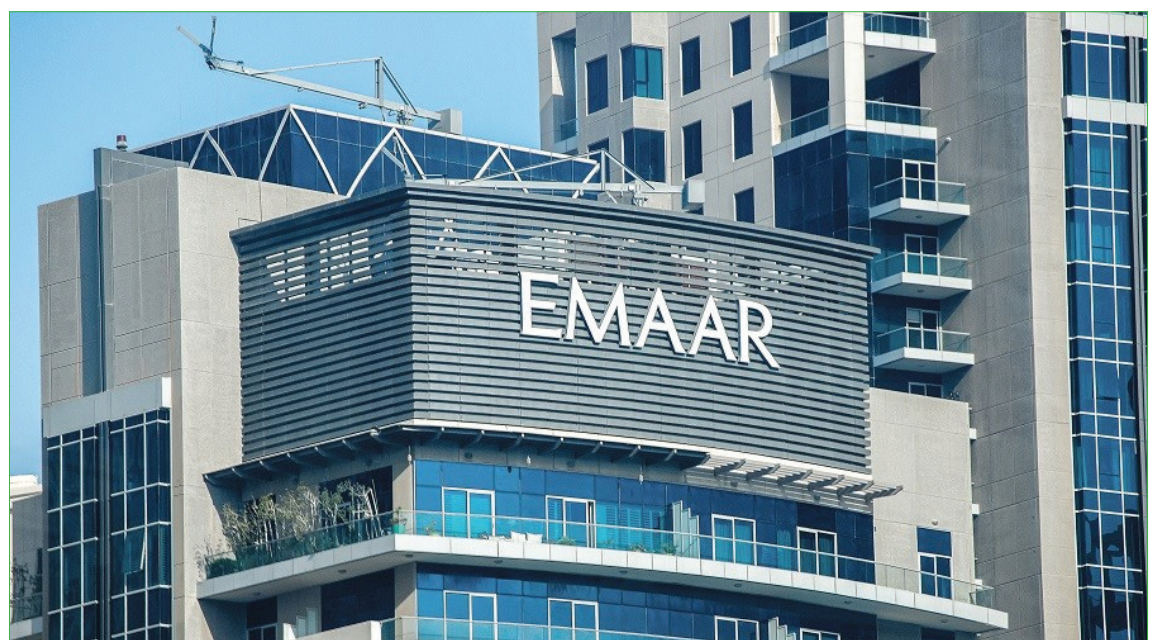
According to the MoU, Emaar will develop ‘Emaar Mall’ of 5,00,000 square feet in size in Srinagar.

“The UAE and India are comprehensive strategic partners and this project by EMAAR will be a landmark of Jammu and Kashmir. I would like to congratulate EMAAR and all the partners in this project, and am sure we will see many such projects coming up in the near future,” said H. E. Ahmed Abdul Rahman Albanna, the UAE Ambassador to India.

“The UAE and India economic partnership is at an inflection point and we will invite other UAE investors to look at this opportunity too,” he said.

Mohamed Alabbar, Founder of Emaar, said the company intends to bring a world-class mall experience to residents of Jammu and Kashmir and also the tourists.

“EMAAR is also considering other investments into real estate, hospitality and mixed use commercial and residen-



tial projects in Jammu and in Srinagar,” Alabbar said.

“The Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has created a very attractive investment landscape, and this FDI project is a reflection of the close brotherly relations between UAE and India. We are looking forward to several projects being announced in the near future and significant employment opportunities being created in the process,” said Aman Puri, Consul General of India in Dubai.

Last month, the Jammu and Kashmir government opened the union territory to the country’s real estate investors by signing 39 MoUs worth nearly Rs 19,000 crore at a real estate summit held in Jammu.

As many as 20 MoUs were signed for development of housing projects,

while seven were inked for commercial, four for hospitality, three infratech, three film and entertainment and two finance projects.

In 2005, Emaar Properties entered the Indian real estate market in partnership with India’s MGF group and invested Rs 8,500 crore through joint venture Emaar MGF Land.

However, in April 2016, it decided to end this joint venture.

In January 2018, the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) had approved the proposed demerger scheme of Emaar MGF Land, paving the way for two joint venture partners – Emaar Properties and MGF Development – to go separate ways.

Emaar India is developing real estate projects mainly in Delhi-NCR and Punjab.

# LG takes several decisions for safety of pilgrims during SMVDSB meeting



Jammu: Lieutenant Governor (LG) Manoj Sinha chaired a special meeting of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) here on Sunday, a day after 12 people died in a stampede at the shrine..

The meeting at the Raj Bhawan here, convened in the backdrop of an unfortunate incident of stampede that occurred at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Bhawan in the intervening night of 31st December, 2021 and 1st January 2022, and was attended by senior officials, including shrine board Chief Executive Officer Ramesh Kumar, an official press release informed.

It said Dr. Ashok Bhan; Justice (Retd.) Permod Kohli; Maj. Gen (Retd.) S.K. Sharma; K.K. Sharma; K.B Kachru and Vijay Dhar-members of SMVDSB, also attended the meeting which had Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to LG as special invitees.

The LG, who is also the Chairman of SMVDSB, reviewed the causative factors leading to the stampede incident and the various steps taken immediately thereafter by the management of Shrine Board.

The meeting appreciated the commendable post-incident efforts of the SMVDSB, district administration and police towards the quick rescue and timely shifting of injured to Shrine Board's Hospital at Kakryal. The meeting felt that as a consequence of these efforts, a number of lives were saved.

The SMVDSB was briefed by the CEO that 35,000 pilgrims were allowed to proceed for the Yatra on December 31 and January 01 as against the National Green Tribunal's cap of 50,000 a day, keeping in view the pandemic, the press release said.

While reviewing the status of release of compensation amount to the victims, the SMVDSB decided to provide an additional amount of Rs 5 lakhs each to the next of kin of the pilgrims who lost their lives in the unfortunate tragic incident. An ex-gratia of Rs 10 lakhs was already announced by the LG on January 01.

A slew of directives were issued for physical and systematic improvements wherever required after critical examination.

The SMVDSB directed the CEO for taking urgent action on diverse fronts including effective crowd management, augmentation of infrastructure, making booking of yatra 100 percent through online mode; working out plans for decongestion of the entire track, particularly the Bhawan area, separation of entry and exit routes at Bhawan.

The LG emphasized on appropriate use of technology and putting in place RFID tracking system for effective crowd and queue management.

The LG also advised for roping in technical experts and adopting best crowd management practices.

**THE SMVDSB DIRECTED THE CEO FOR TAKING URGENT ACTION ON DIVERSE FRONTS INCLUDING EFFECTIVE CROWD MANAGEMENT, AUGMENTATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE, MAKING BOOKING OF YATRA 100 PERCENT THROUGH ONLINE MODE; WORKING OUT PLANS FOR DECONGESTION OF THE ENTIRE TRACK, PARTICULARLY THE BHAWAN AREA, SEPARATION OF ENTRY AND EXIT ROUTES AT BHAWAN.**

The SMVDSB directed the CEO for making concerted efforts towards early implementation of the Master Plan for the Bhawan area in a phased manner strictly in accordance to the timelines and also reiterated for expediting construction work and early completion of Durga Bhawan for the pilgrims.

Directions were issued for carrying out required improvisations in 2nd and 3rd Phase of Master Plan to take care of all foreseen challenges.

The SMVDSB discussed the modalities for suspension bridge and skywalk for effective queue management, besides identifying more halting spots to cater to large crowd at Bhawan and Katra.

The SMVDSB also considered various suggestions for making requisite improvements that can be carried out to safeguard against similar mishaps in future.

Discussions were also held on exploring possibilities of ropeway from Katra for the aged and infirm pilgrims.

The CEO was asked to consider resumption of the token/group number system that was discontinued six years ago. The Board also directed for early undertaking of an exercise for critically examining the safety audit of physical infrastructure and fire safety at main Bhawan, shopping complex and other important areas. The Members of the Shrine Board will monitor the implementation of directions and works to be undertaken.

The meeting ended with two minutes of silence, praying for the pilgrims who lost their lives in the stampede, the press release said.



# GOOD GOVERNANCE

## TRANSFORMING JAMMU AND KASHMIR

# JKGAD on path of Good Governance: Govt

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir General Administration Department (JKGAD) in recent months has revolutionised the system of office culture in Jammu and Kashmir by introducing various e-Governance initiatives, bringing efficiency in disposal of work here, reads a communiqué issued by DIPR-JK.

With the adoption of e-Office, a Simplified, Responsive, Effective and Transparent paperless working culture in most of the Government offices of Jammu and Kashmir was established. The e-Office system is providing a convenient way for officials to access information related to every aspect of their working and knowledge sharing by presenting a single gateway to information and services.

The e-Office is helping government departments to improve the public service delivery by eliminating the delay of files in offices. The speed and efficiency of file disposal has not only increased by introduction of e-Office but timely and quicker decisions on various matters of public importance is also being achieved by it.

Moreover, to bring efficiency in the work of officers of J&K Administration, the GAD also introduced the Smart Performance Appraisal Report Recording Online Window (SPARROW) system to write and track Annual Performance Reports (APRs) of these officers.

The main purpose of introducing this unique system is to facilitate timely filling of APRs electronically in a way that is not only user friendly but also allows to fill the details from anywhere anytime as per the convenience of officers. The system is also expected to reduce delays in submission of completely filled APRs.

Apart from this, the department also launched Electronic Vigilance Clearance System. The system furnishes vigilance clearances through electronic/online mode in favour of all the Government employees as and when they require during their service career. The employees are also informed about the status of their applications through email/SMS by this system.

In order to establish citizen friendly-people centric governance, the JKGAD also launched the 'Satark Nagrik App' through which any ordinary citizen can lodge complaint with the Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) online. The mobile application has been developed with a purpose to facilitate seamless flow of information about corruption and enable citizens to submit their grievances with ease and mobility.

Keeping its commitment of institutionalising corruption free administration, the JKGAD launched online portal for e-filing of property returns (PRS-Portal). The new portal will facilitate access and monitoring of the property details of all the employees besides facilitate the employees in obtaining vigilance clearances. The portal will also assist the ACB in investigating the cases of disproportionate assets expeditiously against corrupt employees.

Apart from these unique e-governance reforms, the JKGAD

also introduced several Administrative and Human Resource Management reforms for improving the governance and administrative set up in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. More powers have been delegated to Divisional Commissioners/Deputy Commissioners/Sub-Divisional Magistrates for effective control over their subordinates.

To accelerate the path of development across J&K and to organise Public Outreach Programmes on regular basis, Administrative Secretaries have been allocated districts to monitor development schemes. The Administrative Secretaries also interact with public in these districts during these outreach programmes to get first hand appraisal of developmental works.

In order to fill up the vacant posts in departments, the JKGAD has initiated the process of fast track recruitment after identification of around twenty five thousand vacant posts across various departments. Around 54 Recruitment Rules of various departments/services have been finalized, besides 98 different rules have been amended/issued afresh to remove the ambiguity/anomaly due to reorganization.

To motivate the officers and officials at various levels, Departmental Promotion Committees were held in respect of various services manned by the GAD, resulting in promotion of around 500 Gazetted and 120 Non-Gazetted Staff members besides promotion of around 1000 officers of JKAS at different levels has also been done in recent months. A decade long seniority dispute amongst JKAS officers has also been settled with the issuance of revised seniority list in April, 2021 followed by substantive promotion of officers.

Keeping the officers and officials updated with latest introduction of technologies in office work and in order to hone their skills, around 2500 officials were imparted training at various Institutions, including J&K IMPARD. Also, online training was imparted to around 300 CPIO's through J&K IMPARD regarding RTI, Act 2005.

Notably, in a first of its kind initiative, this year around 60 senior officers of JKAS were deputed to National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG), of Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), GoI for capacity building training programme.

To monitor the progress of disposal of public grievances/complaints received by Lieutenant Governors office, the JKGAD has established Lieutenant Governor's References Monitoring Cell. So far, 13587 grievances/references have been disposed off by the cell out of 15886 received.

With the advent of new technologies and introduction of more robust office tools for better disposal of work, the JKGAD by virtue of its duties being the nerve center of the administration is evolving on regular basis to elevate the efficiency of governance in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.



## AYUSHMAN BHARAT-SEHAT:

### ‘A game-changer of health services for poor’

Jammu: Health has eminence over every other necessity in life and providing free medical care to people is the greatest welfare measure of mankind.

In order to provide this needful welfare measure to the people of Jammu and Kashmir, the SEHAT scheme was launched in convergence with Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

The AB-PMJAY was launched by Central Government in the year 2018 to provide free health services to economically weaker sections of country. In Jammu and Kashmir, the benefits of the scheme were extended to all the persons of Union Territory under SEHAT scheme. The scheme provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

Bashir Ahmad, a carpenter from Old town Baramulla, suffered heart attack and was shifted to territory care hospital at Srinagar where doctors suggested for surgery. “The procedure cost was expensive for us,” said Bashir’s wife. She added that if they had not obtained Golden card, they would have faced lot of trouble. “Golden card saved life of my husband,” she said.

Not only Bashir there are several other patients who have got the benefit from the golden card. The people from weaker sections of society who cannot afford better health care facilities and treatment in government or private health care institutions have benefitted from the golden card.

A patient, Manzoor Ahmad from Baramulla district recently went through an open heart surgery at SKIMS Srinagar. This surgery was possible only due to the benefits provided under the scheme.

Health being a fundamental human right is a significant indicator for all humans to live a better quality life and J&K is taking a lead in this direction. As per the data released by National Health Agency (NHA), J&K figures amongst the top five States/UTs with highest number of Ayushman Cards generated in the last six months. As per the data, J&K generated 19 Lakh Ayushman Cards in the last six months which makes it best performing State/UT.

The J&K Administration is making constant efforts to upgrade the health infrastructure here and in order to provide better health services under SEHAT scheme, several new private hospitals have been empanelled by State Health Agency (SHA) to extend better health services to locals. This addition of healthcare institutes in J&K is a step towards expanding and building a strong network of hospitals and health services.

Moreover, Governing Council of SHA recently approved the migration on Health Benefit Package issued by National Health Authority wherein rates of various packages have been enhanced. This will suffice the long pending demand of private



hospitals for enhancing the package rates and will boost the sustainability of private sector.

In addition, to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to the last prospective beneficiary, the SHA has embarked on a unique initiative ‘Gaon Gaon Ayushman’. The move aims at providing Golden Cards to the entire population within shortest period of time. To ensure all eligible beneficiaries are registered under the scheme, camps are set-up for on spot registration of beneficiaries by a network of more than 8000 Common Service Centres (CSCs). The virtual learning environment (VLE) are being stationed in villages for ensuring 100% registration and awareness activities at grassroots level in association with PRI representatives and ASHA workers. The SHA trained and also did handholding of these CSCs.

To reach the target population, campaigns in terms of installation of hoardings at empanelled hospitals, Camps through ASHA workers and other ground level workers were held to disseminate the word about the benefits of the scheme with active involvement of religious institutions.

In J&K, the importance of scheme can well be gauged by those who suffered in the past due to inaccessibility to medical care due to economic conditions. In this regard, Government’s sincere efforts ought to be applauded for making strenuous efforts in covering most population of the UT accompanied by commendable job by the field staff associated with the administration for reaching to far off places in J&K. Jammu and Kashmir, with a lot of demographical disadvantages and many inaccessible areas devised innovative practices to reach to the last mile.

For the successful implementation of scheme, J&K has received recognition several times. SKOCH order-of-merit award for innovative implementation of Ayushman Bharat in the month of February 2019 was granted to J&K. SHA, J&K also received 1st prize in Learning and Space Sharing event of Arogya Manthan organized by NHA. J&K has also been appreciated by National Health Authority for noteworthy accomplishments with Home Minister appreciating himself on the floor of the Parliament. (Feature written by DIPR-JK)

# 'GATEWAY OF INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENTS FOR J&K'

Jammu: The recently concluded Dubai Expo has opened the gateway for industrial investments for the entire Jammu and Kashmir which will be the 'Dawn of New Era' for the industrial development here.

While participating in the Expo, the Jammu and Kashmir government received an encouraging response from Dubai based industrialists for investment. Several Global investors are now eyeing the untapped market and industrial potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

During the Expo, J&K Government signed at least six agreements in potential sectors real estate, infrastructure, tourism, healthcare, food processing and others, generating large amount of investments which will be remarkable for the industrial growth of J&K.

While participating in Expo, several known UAE based companies like Al Maya group, MATU investments LLC, Century Financial, Noon e-commerce and others signed Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the government of Jammu and Kashmir. Apart from this, Letter of Intent (LoI) was also signed with Magna Waves private limited, Emaar group and Lulu international.

During the Expo, Emaar Group signed an agreement with the Jammu and Kashmir government to develop a 500,000 square feet shopping mall in Srinagar. Emaar is UAE's biggest real estate developer and the investment is expected to pave the way for further in-

vestments. Lulu Group has also pledged Rs. 600 million to develop a food processing unit in J&K.

Moreover, UAE's Century- Financial, whose owner is a son of soil and hails from Doda District, will also be investing \$100m to build three hotels and one commercial-residential complex in the UT of J&K. Dubai ports giant DP World is set to build an inland port in J&K and the 250-acre site for the project will be finalized shortly.

Interestingly, these projects will not only give considerable employment opportunities to the local youth will also benefit the Agriculture sector and uplift the economic conditions of farmers.

Under the J&K-Dubai partnership, world famous GI-tagged Kashmiri saffron has been launched at Lulu hypermarket in Dubai.

While participating in the investors summit at Dubai, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha in his address highlighted the strong business potential of J&K. He said that J&K has moved from a sleeping business destination to the land of opportunities and investment adding that J&K has the capability to provide opportunity to the industries to compete, correct and collaborate with readily available abundant resources.

In the recent months, the proactive approach taken by the UT government in attracting the investors is testimony of the fact that J&K has ushered on the

## OVER 1000 VILLAGES IN J&K BECOME 'HAR GHAR JAL'



Srinagar: The dawn of 2022 has brought joy in the lives of residents of over 1000 villages in Jammu and Kashmir, as every household

in these villages has been provided with tap water connection under governments's flagship programme Jal Jeevan Mission, reads a communiqué issued by DIPR-JK.

According to the statistics from the Jal Shakti Department, 1077 villages have been provided with Functional Household Tap Water Connections (FHTC).

The progress report of Jal Jeevan Mission in Kashmir division reveals that 593 villages have been provided with 100 % tap water connection. It includes 37 villages in Anantnag, 5 in Bandipora, 129 in Baramulla, 68 villages in Budgam, 147 in Ganderbal, 19 in Kulgam, 34 in Kupwara, 66 in Pulwama, 29 in Srinagar and 59 in Shopian.

Similarly, in Jammu division, 484 villages have been provided FHTCs under JJM.

According to the data, Samba tops the list with cent percent FHTC coverage of 109 villages, followed by Doda with cov-

erage of 105 villages and Jammu at third position with 100 percent coverage in 95 villages. Besides, 100 percent FHTCs have been provided in Ganderbal and Srinagar in the first phase which includes 11 blocks, 383 panchayats and 925 villages.

The department aims to provide tap water connections in the entire UT by the end of 2022, two year before the target.

According to the data, J&K has provided 4.64 lakh tap water connections since the launch of the scheme on August 15, 2019. The government has set a target to cover all the 20 districts of the union territory by September 2022.

Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission, Syed Abid Rasheed said 1000 villages becoming 'Har Ghar Jal' is a remarkable achievement by J&K's Jal Shakti Department and underlines the commitment made by the government to cover every rural household with FHTC before the deadline of 2024.

# JMU-BLA RAILWAY LINE

## 'A REVOLUTIONARY PROJECT FOR UPLIFTING THE ECONOMY OF J&K'

Jammu: Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla railway line, one of the most remarkable projects of the Indian Government, once completed, will be revolutionary for the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, as it will turnaround the economic landscape here.

The railway line will not only give the all-weather connectivity to Kashmir valley but also substantially reduce the transportation costs and will form the backbone of transport of J&K.

The logistics of the track faced many natural challenges as it had to be constructed through a major earthquake zone, battling extreme temperatures and hilly terrains. Though the sections from Jammu to Katra and Banihal to Baramulla have been built and are operational, the track from Katra to Banihal is yet to be completed. Moreover, the extension of the railway line up to Kupwara has also been approved.

Tracing back into the annals of history, the first railway track in the erstwhile state was laid in 1897 from Sialkot (Pakistan) to Jammu by the then colonial government. In 1947, with the partition of India, the Jammu-Sialkot line was closed since Sialkot went to Pakistan. As a result, the entire state of Jammu-Kashmir was disconnected from the Indian rail network and Pathankot in the Indian state of Punjab remained the nearest railhead.

Subsequently, in 1975, a rail link was established between Pathankot and Jammu and a renovated Jammu Tawi railway station was opened. It remained at the northern end of the railway line for the next 30 years until the Jammu to Udhampur line was opened in 2005.

The Jammu-Udhampur stretch has 20 tunnels, the longest tunnel is 2.5km long while the highest bridge measures 77m. Sensing the need to connect Kashmir Valley with the northern railway grid, the Government of India declared the Jammu-Baramulla railway line a national project in 2002.

Operationally, the Jammu-Baramulla railway line is divided into four sections:

Leg0: running 53km from Jammu to Udhampur and completed in 2005.

Leg1: running 25km from Udhampur to Katra, dedicated to the nation on 4th July 2014.

Leg2: running 111km from Katra to Banihal which is under construction and has 35 tunnels.

Leg3: running 135km from Banihal to Baramulla, dedicated for public use on 26th June 2013.

One of the significant achievement of Jammu-Baramulla railway line was completion of 11km long Pir-Panjal railway tunnel also

known as Banihal-Qazigund tunnel. This tunnel was extremely challenging and its completion was hailed as an outstanding achievement as it was India's longest rail tunnel. Its average elevation is 1760 m and is 440 m below the Jawahar tunnel. This tunnel gives all weather connectivity to Kashmir valley with the rest of the country.

As of now the construction on Katra-Banihal stretch is going on with full pace. The stretch is not more than 111 km but around 98 km of this stretch comprises bridges and tunnels. Among these bridges will be the one being built across the deep gorge of the Chenab River near the Salal hydroelectric dam. This bridge of steel arches is 1315 m long and at a height of 359 m from the ground. It is an engineering marvel which is 35 m more than the height of the Eiffel Tower.

The project rewards supernumerary benefits too, because it encompasses 262 km of accessory roads connecting 147,000 people in 73 villages. It will foster connectivity, besides strengthening the economy of the region whose innate potential still remains untapped.

This colossal project is the most strenuous rail project undertaken on the Indian subcontinent. The young Himalayas are geologically challenging and problematic. Numerous hindrances have been encountered while tunnelling. The track's alignment presents one of the greatest railway engineering obstacles ever faced. Only Tibet's Qingzang railway, completed in 2006 across permafrost and climbing over 5000 m above sea level, is comparable.

Provisions for future electrification for the track will also be made, although the rail line will use diesel locomotives initially. Passenger trains will be provided with high power diesel multiple units and heated, air-conditioned coaches with wide windows, sliding doors and reclining seats. Three aspect colour-light signaling is being installed on the route for safety, and GSM-R equipment may be installed in the future to improve its quality.

In brief, it can be undoubtedly said that the Jammu-Baramulla railway line, once completed, will pay huge dividends to the economy, connectivity, security and development of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

# FARM MECHANIZATION & CUSTOM HIRING CENTRE

## ‘A tool for improving socio-economic status of farmers’

Budgam: In order to promote the agricultural sector, the Government has launched various schemes, initiatives and other farmer empowerment policies from time to time.

Sub-Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM), is one such scheme under which farm machinery/equipment is issued to individual farmers or SHGs on subsidized rates and 40% and 80% subsidies are provided to the aspirants for the establishment of Custom Hiring Centres (CHC) and Farm Machinery Banks on the Unit Costs of Minimum Rs. 10.0 Lacs, subject to maximum subsidy of Rs. 4.0 Lacs and Rs. 8.0 Lacs, respectively.

Like other parts of Kashmir, the Agriculture department has also adopted it in Budgam district on a large scale benefiting small, medium and large size farms.

The CHC has not only helped farmers in enhancing productivity of different crops, but also improved their socio-economic status. In Budgam, there are as many as 50 persons who have established CHCs, upbeat about it, has resulted in better quality of operations and precision in the application of the inputs, thereby resulting in increasing farmers' income.

One among the beneficiaries is Abid Nazir, a 26-year old youth from Khanpora Budgam who along with other eight friends applied for CHC and successfully established it in the year 2020, under the brand name of The Turabi Group.

Nazir, who is doing his masters in History subject, was like many other unemployed educated youths, with no source of earning. However, establishing the CHC not only helped him to find a decent livelihood for himself and for his SHG friends but also provided employment to a couple of other youth, hired to operate the machinery.

He said that the utilization of the machinery has not only boosted their farming but also other farmers who hired it from them, has shown tremendous results in the farming sector.

He maintained that the use of the mechanization at their farms for various operations reduces the labour component, saves time and enables them to carry out various agricultural operations efficiently in the shortest possible time, thereby, improving overall socio-economic standards of farmers.

Nazir further said that through CHC they found a source of good earning for them and brought them out of a state of despair and turned them into job providers instead of seekers.

Agricultural mechanization implies the use of various power sources and improved farm tools and equipment, with a view to

reduce the drudgery of the human beings and draught animals, enhance the cropping intensity, precision and timelines of efficiency of utilization of various crop inputs and reduce the losses at different stages of crop production.

The farm mechanization has assured enhancement of overall productivity and production with the lowest cost of production. The contribution of agricultural mechanization has been well recognized in enhancing the production together with irrigation, biological and chemical inputs of high yielding seed varieties, fertilizers, pesticides and mechanical energy.

Sharing details, Chief Agricultural Officer, Budgam, Syed Tafazul Hussain Madni said that during 2020-21, Agriculture office Budgam has issued 4 Nos. Of Custom Hiring Centres and 4 Nos. of Farm Machinery Banks to individuals and SHGs with subsidy of Rs. 1.20 Crores.

He said that farm mechanization plays a critical role in increasing agricultural productivity. Mechanization has been well received in India as one of the important elements of modernization of agriculture, enhancing agricultural productivity and consequently rural prosperity.

Government has introduced several schemes and policies that support greater mechanization of Indian Agriculture and CHC is one such initiative, a commitment to transform the agriculture sector and double farmers' income by 2022-23.

The farm machinery enables farmers to quickly rotate crops on the same land and ensures improvement in the cropping intensity and making agricultural land commercially more viable.

Helps in conversion of uncultivable land to agricultural land through advanced tiling techniques and also in shifting land used for feed and fodder cultivation by draught animals towards food production.

Farm mechanization and crop productivity has a direct correlation as farm mechanization saves time and labor, reduces drudgery, cuts down production cost in the long run, reduces postharvest losses and boosts crop output and farm income.

The Sub Mission on Agricultural Mechanization (SMAM) is providing a suitable platform for converging all activities related to agricultural mechanization by providing a 'single window' approach for implementation with accelerated and inclusive growth of agricultural mechanization in India.





# 'PMJAY SEHAT SCHEME PROVIDES A RAY OF HOPE TO AILING POOR'



JAMMU: Jyoti Devi, a 40-year-old woman from Bari Brahmana, Samba district Jammu and Kashmir has extended her gratitude to the Government for providing assistance for her treatment under the PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

Narrating her ordeals, she said a few months back a fatal road accident landed her in the hospital with a fractured leg. The mishap shook her whole family as they knew they could not bear the treatment cost.

"The doctors at the hospital said that the estimated cost of the treatment was around Rs 50 thousand. My husband is a tailor and it was beyond his reach to meet the expenses," Jyoti said as tears rolled down her eyes.

"Somehow we come to know about the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) which came as a ray of hope for the family" she said.

For specialized treatment, they went to Pathankot, 100 kilometers from their residence and took the treatment under PMAY SEHAT card free of cost. "It was not less than a miracle," she said.

Jyoti said, "SEHAT card helped us a lot, as our financial condition is not good. It was impossible without this scheme," she added.

Expressions of relief and joy were mirrored on Jyoti's face, the happiness in the family has returned back. The four-member family is now happy and urged people like them to get benefits from central sponsored schemes.

"From that day, I am spreading awareness among my relatives and neighbors regarding the scheme. Now, most of the families have registered themselves for the PMJAY SEHAT and are getting benefits from it," she said.

Like Jyoti, there are many poor families who have received treatments under PMJAY scheme. The mission has brought happiness to many poor people. Now people are getting a treatment done at major hospitals of the country.

Ankush Kumar, a resident of R S Pura, Jammu says he was suffering from kidney problem and the doctors advised him for immediate surgery. "But the family was not in a condition to bear the costs. We are poor people as my father was a labourer who died last year, it became impossible for me to go for treatment" he said.

"Then I came to know about the AB-PMJAY, SEHAT scheme. I went to a private nursing home at Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The treatment cost was around 40 thousand rupees, and the same was done under the PMAY SEHAT card for free," he said.

"Now my health is good and I am doing a job in a factory at Gangyal and living happily with my family," he said with great satisfaction.

Kumar expressed gratitude to the central government and LG Manoj Sinha administration and stated that such schemes are the

IT IS PERTINENT TO MENTION HERE THAT AYUSHMAN BHARAT, A FLAGSHIP SCHEME OF THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, WAS LAUNCHED AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NATIONAL HEALTH POLICY 2017, TO ACHIEVE THE VISION OF UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE (UHC)....



need of the hour and a ray of hope for poor families like him.

"The whole process takes a few days. All is done online. There are other schemes also for the poor people and people should take benefit from such schemes," he added.

As per official figures around 29 Lakh beneficiaries have been registered so far in Jammu division. The Health Department has expedited the registration process as the Lieutenant Governor of J&K, Manoj Sinha has set the deadline for March 31, 2022 for completing the registration process.

It is pertinent to mention here that Ayushman Bharat, a flagship scheme of the Government of India, was launched as recommended by the National Health Policy 2017, to achieve the vision of Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

This initiative has been designed to meet Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its underlying commitment, which is to "leave no one behind."

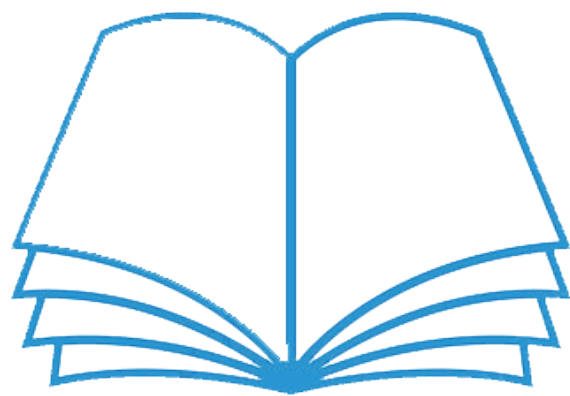
The main aim behind the scheme is to extend health insurance coverage to all residents of Jammu and Kashmir.

SEHAT stands for Social, Endeavour for Health and Telemedicine. It is a health insurance scheme for the Union Territory.

It provides free-of-cost insurance cover to all the residents of the UT of J&K. It also provides financial cover up to Rs.5 Lakh per family on a floater basis to all residents of the UT of J&K.

The benefit of Rs 5,00,000 is on a family floater basis. This means that it can be used by one or all members of the family.

It covers medical procedures including oncology, cardiology, nephrology etc, and up to three days of pre-hospitalization and 15 days post-hospitalization expenses like diagnostics and medicines are also included in the scheme.



# JKPI Publications

# The challenge is how to make ‘Dairy Farming’ environmentally viable

[A way to achieve that is to use better management practices and technologies.](#)

**ADEELA HAMEED**

Milk production takes place all around the globe. Worldwide demand for dairy continues to increase in large part due to population growth, urbanization, and rising incomes in India. And Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory is no exception. Yet, with an increasing demand for dairy, there is growing pressure on natural resources, including freshwater and soil.

Livestock is emerging as an important sector in the socio-economic development of Jammu and Kashmir. With almost 80% of the UT population residing in rural areas, about 60% of total revenue is generated by the agriculture and animal husbandry sector. As such, dairying has the potential to turn into an additional source of income for the citizens of J&K. Contribution of this sector to the national/state income is invaluable. As per expert opinion, it helps in increasing crop production by providing drag power, organic manure, and cash income on a regular basis.

“Dairy is a catalyst for boosting agri-economy” – Principal Secretary, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Navin Choudhary

The Union Territory produces 70 lakh liters of milk per day whereas Kashmir, alone, produces about 40 lakh liters of milk per day out of the total. South Kashmir leads in milk production.

In Jammu and Kashmir, thousands of farmers and budding entrepreneurs have been hugely benefited from dairy farming owing to its profitability and increase in demand. The government is also encouraging more youth to join this sector that is climatically viable too. There is a great demand for establishing dairy farming units in Jammu and Kashmir. According to an estimate, presently some 1,700 dairy units are required in Kashmir so the dependence on imports from neighboring states is cut permanently.

Dairy farming, thus, has the potential to generate jobs for thousands of unemployed youth. In view of this, the Milk Production Expansion Plan proposed that the Jammu and Kashmir Milk Producers Cooperative Limited (JKMPCL) will raise the capacity of JKMPCL from 50,000 LPD of milk production to 2.5 Lakh LPD in the next three years.

Several central and state-sponsored schemes have also been launched to help and uplift the marginalized farmers. The Integrated Dairy Development Scheme started has hugely benefited the farmers. Beneficiaries with 5 to 50 cow units can also avail several benefits from the government-run schemes. As of now, there are 476 single five cow units in Kashmir.

During the first wave of the Covid-19 pandemic, agriculture and allied sectors put up a spectacular performance with an annual growth of 3.4% while the economy shrunk by 7.2% in 2020-21. According to reports, in the farm-dependent population comprising cultivators and agricultural laborers, those involved in dairying and livestock constitute 70 million. However, given the nature of production and sale of milk in India, milk producers are highly susceptible to even minor shocks as the demand for milk and milk products are sensitive to changes in the employment and income of consumers.

According to reports, the dairy farmers need the following to continue their vocation:

1. Stable market and remunerative price (ignoring fat content or giving more weightage to the quantity of milk) for liquid milk;
2. Uninterrupted supply of fodder and cattle feed at a reasonable price;
3. Regular supply of veterinary services and medicines.

## Environmental Impacts

Overall, a quarter of global emissions come from food. With an increasing demand for dairy, there is growing pressure on natural resources, including freshwater and soil. Globally, millions of farmers tend approximately 270 million dairy cows to produce milk. Milk production impacts the environment in different ways. The

scale of these impacts depends on the practices of the dairy farmers and feed growers. The United Nations’ Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) figured that between 2005 and 2015, as demand for milk grew, the dairy cattle industry’s greenhouse gas emissions increased by 18%.

Dairy cows and their manure produce greenhouse gases, such as methane, nitrous oxide, and carbon dioxide, which contribute to climate change. Poor handling of manure and fertilizers degrade local water resources. And unsustainable dairy farming and feed production leads to the loss of ecologically important areas, such as wetlands, and forests. In some areas, they contribute to the conversion of natural habitat to agricultural land because of the increasing demand for feed crops such as, alfalfa, corn, and soy.

1. Dairy operations can be key contributors to water pollution and soil degradation when manure and feed crop production are poorly managed.

2. Airborne emissions of ammonia can damage downstream habitats, thus resulting in the loss of species diversity. The yield of particulate matter and odor from on-farm activities can negatively impact air quality.

3. Dairy can consume large volumes of water to manage manure, grow feed, water cows, and process products. Also, manure and fertilizer runoff from dairy farms can pollute water resources. Increased nutrients in local waterways contribute to the growth of algae, which reduces oxygen for aquatic plant and animal life.

4. Over 2/3rd of the world’s agricultural land is used for maintaining livestock, including beef and dairy cows. Livestock farming is one of the main contributors to soil erosion around the globe. One-third of the world’s land suffers desertification mostly due to deforestation, overgrazing, and poor agricultural practices. Overgrazing, turning forests into pasture or feed crop production areas, soil impaction from cattle’s hooves can lead to extreme loss of topsoil and organic matter that could take centuries to replace.

5. Improper handling of dairy cows decreases the productivity of cows due to stress and ill health, leading to increased greenhouse gas emissions. Disease in cattle may limit export options, pose supply risks, and contribute to production inefficiencies.

## Recommendations

Farmers, the world over, can profoundly reduce environmental impacts through the use of better management practices and technologies.

1. On average, a bovine animal weighs 400 kg and discharges 15-20 kg/day of dung and 12-14 liters/day of urine. Solid wastes produced from dairy farms and gaushalas are organic and non-hazardous in nature. So, proper handling and disposal are required.

2. Properly managed manure application and grazing can improve the soil health of pastures and croplands. In some conditions, dairy cows can also contribute to healthy habitats through well-managed grazing.

3. Ecologically sound and economically viable technological solutions can be promoted across the country to handle various types of bio-wastes for achieving targets of zero waste and maximum recovery of materials.

4. When it comes to dairy waste, which in itself is the world’s best organic fertilizer, only awareness among dairy owners combined with strict implementation by concerned local bodies, is required to prevent such a valuable resource from ending up in drains.

5. Cattle urine is a powerful natural pesticide and, if used properly, can save human beings from the harmful effects of pesticide residues.

6. Management of precious dairy waste can be done by using very simple technologies and in a very cost-effective manner depending upon the number of cattle heads, space, and budget. Biogas production, one of the renewable energy alternatives to fossil fuels, can be encouraged using this waste organic matter.



# Mapping Drinking Water Scarcity in Kashmir

**ZAHOOR AHMAD DAR**

The change in global precipitation, increasing global temperatures, melting of glaciers, rising sea level waters, displacement of people, erratic monsoons pose an unprecedented threat to human existence. Distribution of drinking water has also faced a cascading impact of climate change over the years. The structural imperatives causing paucity of drinking water cannot be discounted at all. However, the domestic factors also exacerbate the drinking water crisis within sovereign territorial borders. The valley of Kashmir, located in the Himalayan ranges and fed by perennial glaciers, has begun to experience acute scarcity of drinking water. The state of affairs is quite ironic, given that Kashmir has one of the longest total lengths of rivers and canals. An urgent drinking water discourse needs to be problematised in Kashmir and policy intervention required to address this emergent crisis.

This study delves into the various aspects of Kashmir's water scarcity and tries to locate the causality of drinking water scarcity in Kashmir through an impact assessment and evaluation.

### **Retreating Glaciers**

Reduced snowfall and retreating glaciers are aggravating the impending water crisis. The glaciers in the Kashmir Himalayas are melting at an alarming rate, threatening the region's water security. A study titled 'Linking the recent glacier retreat and depleting stream flow patterns with land system changes in Kashmir Himalaya (India)' examined changes in the Kolahoi Glacier between 1962 and 2018, and discovered that the glacier is receding at an affrightening rate. Since 1962, it has lost nearly 23 % of its area and fragmented into smaller parts.

Another study titled 'Satellite-observed glacier recession in the Kashmir Himalaya, from 1980 to 2018,' finds that glaciers have shrunk by 28.82 % from 1980 to 2018, and the glacier loss in the region is much higher than in other Himalayan regions. The Sind watershed has the most glacier recession.

### **Contaminated Water**

The increasing pollution of groundwater is also contributing to Kashmir's impending water scarcity crisis. Water supplied to

drinking water supply plants is contaminated not only by liquid or solid waste or human and animal faeces, but also by toxic chemicals such as organophosphorus, organophosphates, and other carbamates sprayed in orchids and fungicides sprayed in apple and vegetable farms, gardens, golf courses, and parks. The Doodh Ganga river, which flows from the Pir Panjal glaciers, becomes contaminated with pesticides drained into it from nearby apple orchards about 30 kilometers downstream. The municipal committee dumps tonnes of municipal solid waste on the Vishaw river banks in Kulgam every day. Even the Dal Lake in Srinagar has been contaminated by faeces from around 750 houseboats and residential houses. This is not only hazardous to humans, but also to fish, which Kashmiris consume in large quantities.

### **Freezing of water supply lines**

The freezing of water supply lines in the winter season also intensifies the problem of water scarcity. Lakes, water supply lines, taps, water tanks, and motors freeze as the temperature drops. Srinagar recorded a temperature of -8.8 degrees Celsius in 2021, the lowest in the previous 30 years. Supply lines are clogged in some areas due to subzero temperatures. In the higher latitudes of the valley due to sub-zero temperatures during winter, drinking water shortage leads to lack of water consumption in both humans and cattle.

### **Groundwater depletion due to infrequent rains**

The infrequency of rain in Kashmir is one of the causes of groundwater depletion. According to the Ground Water Year Book 2016-17, none of the 23 wells in Kashmir analyzed for the May 2016 report had a water level more than 20.0 meters below ground level (m bgl). The report further argues that water levels less than 2.0 m bgl have been recorded in 14 wells while seven wells have shown depth to the water level in the range 2-5 m bgl. Whereas 1 well has shown water level in the range 5-10 m bgl, and 1 well has registered deeper water level, i.e., 10-20 m bgl."

### **Impact assesment and valuation of water scarcity in Kashmir**

Paucity of drinking water is an established fact. However, merely focusing on the fact and not on its consequences brings out an incomplete picture. According to a UN report, 844 million people in the world do not have access to basic drinking water, out of the 2.1 billion people who do not have access to safely managed water.

A study found that nearly half of the schools and 30% of villages in Jammu and Kashmir, which is known for its glaciers, freshwater lakes, and streams, are being fed with contaminated drinking water. According to the assessment study conducted by the National Level Monitoring agency, nearly two-thirds of the villagers do not have enough potable water in their homes. According to the assessment report, only one-fifth (21%) of villagers have access to safe drinking water, while water treatment facilities are available in only 5% of the villages visited by NLM.

Drinking water has been linked to an increased risk of cancer and other diseases. According to a report published in the Indian Journal of Medical and Pediatric Oncology in October 2010, 389 of 432 cases of primary malignant brain tumors (excluding metastatic lesions) were reported to be those of orchard farm workers. While 61 percent of farmers/farm workers were directly exposed to various pesticides in apple farms, nearly 39 percent were indirectly exposed, which included drinking contaminated water. The study found that the most affected districts were Anantnag, Baramulla, Budgam, and Shopian. According to data collected under the Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP), acute diarrhea diseases (ADD) affected 5217 to 17,146 people in J&K in January 2017. Three months later, the figure had risen to between 12803 and 33291. According to the 2016 Statistical Report, the under-five mortality rate in J&K was 35 per 1000 births, which was higher than in many other Indian states.

Obtaining water for the locals requires a significant amount of time, energy and effort. According to the National Sample Survey Office (NSSO), household members in rural J&K spend an average of 21 minutes per day fetching drinking water from a source outside their premises. In addition, they spend an average of 12 minutes per day waiting at the main source of drinking water. However, in urban areas of J&K, a person spends 10 minutes fetching drinking water, on top of a seven-minute wait. Every day, women, especially girls, are forced to travel for miles through a dense forest to collect water for themselves and their cattle.

As a consequence of difficulty in obtaining potable water, high dropout rates were also observed. More than a dozen tribal girls have dropped out of school in the last two years in a remote hamlet in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district due to a severe lack of drinking water. "As per Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE) 2019-20 drop-out rate at secondary level was 16.68 percent across Jammu and Kashmir," according to the MoE document. Between 2017 and 2018, the dropout rate for female students was 1.6 in elementary and 2.5 in secondary school, and 6.9 and 17.7 in elementary and secondary school, respectively.

The excessive melting of Kashmir's largest glacier, the Kola hoi, has been found to have had a striking impact on the streamflow of the Jhelum's two largest tributaries, the Lidder and Sindh. The constantly depleting streamflow has resulted in major land system changes in the downstream areas of the Lidder watershed, where irrigation intensive rice cultivation is decreasing while land under orchards and build up areas are augmenting at an unprecedented pace.

For economic reasons, the majority of farmers in Kashmir have converted their paddy fields into orchards. Farmers are also planting other crops, such as maize. According to a Jammu and Kashmir government policy document, the region has seen a significant shift from rice cultivation to horticulture in recent decades. The area under fruit cultivation was only 12,400 hectares in 1953-54, but it has now grown to 325,000 hectares. According to a study, irrigation-intensive agriculture in the Lidder watershed area decreased by 39% between 1980 and 2017, while orchards increased by 177%.

#### **Lack of accountability**

The government has spent millions of rupees on the construction of water tanks and filtration plants, but many of these schemes are either defunct or do not function properly. Despite billions of rupees spent on the maintenance of Dal Lake over the last three decades, the Lakes and Waterways Development Authority, a government-owned body, is yet to find a solution to the pollution problem. Senior officers in the public health engineering department revealed that infrastructure remained underutilized in the major towns of Jammu and Srinagar, as well as hamlets spread across the Shivalik range, the Kandi belt, mountainous towns, and

Drinking water has been linked to an increased risk of cancer and other diseases. According to a report published in the Indian Journal of Medical and Pediatric Oncology in October 2010, 389 of 432 cases of primary malignant brain tumors (excluding metastatic lesions) were reported to be those of orchard farm workers. While 61 percent of farmers/farm workers were directly exposed to various pesticides in apple farms, nearly 39 percent were indirectly exposed, which included drinking contaminated water.



border districts. Unnecessary procrastination of infrastructure projects and lack of accountability is the biggest bottleneck from the government's side which needs to be addressed as soon as possible.

#### **Way forward**

The negative glacier mass balance threatens to drive glacier recession and a decline in glacier runoff, resulting in decreased stream flows; urgent efforts must be made to devise strategies to deal with glacial recession and the looming water scarcity, which could spell doom for the state's economy. In addition to traditional ground water structures such as dug wells and springs, shallow to medium depth tube wells can be built in the valley to develop the ground water resource.

According to the Central Ground Water Board, a governing body, 11 Indian states have a state groundwater department—a nodal agency for groundwater investigation and groundwater structure construction. Kashmir should also have a groundwater department to analyze groundwater quality and keep an eye out for illegal activities that degrade groundwater. Policies and plans should also aim to rejuvenate the catchment area of springs and ponds, as well as to recharge groundwater using artificial recharge structures such as check dams and contour farming techniques. Crops that require the least amount of rain are also an option, given that much of Kashmir's agricultural land is rain-fed. Massive vegetable cultivation is another option that farmers in various parts of Kashmir can successfully implement.

The J&K Pollution Control Committee plays an important role in preventing pesticide contamination of drinking water. JK PCC has the authority to take legal action against farmers who violate the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act of 1974 by discharging chemical fertilizers into drinking water sources. This should be done with the help of the Central Pollution Control Board. The CPCB must investigate whether the discharge of pesticides into Kashmir's rivers and lakes violates the Hazardous Waste Management Rules, 2016 with all four amendments from 2016 to 2019. The multi-stakeholder approach necessitates people's participation in all types of developmental activities. As a result, they must be educated on the proper use and conservation of available water resources. Furthermore, micro-level efforts are required for proper implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of development programmes.

# Climate Change and its effects on horticulture and agriculture crops in J&K



**SHIVANGI SINGH**

## **Abstract**

Climate Change has brought disruption all around us. Agriculture and Horticulture are one of the few sectors affected by it, however, are receiving less attention, despite having significant economic implications. The rising temperature continue to affect the agriculture and horticulture crops. Different crops have been impacted differently in terms of some getting costly to grow, soil quality getting depleted, temperature change, etc. Climate change and several supporting factors such as drought, hailstorms, excessive or no rainfall have affected the agriculture and horticulture crops and the overall production. In Jammu and Kashmir, the crops that require specific climatic conditions for them to grow and cultivate have been suffering lately, such as walnuts, saffron, apples, etc. Here in this paper, we discuss the agriculture and horticulture crops that have been poorly affected by climate change in Jammu & Kashmir. This study used secondary sources of key research studies, articles, journals to discuss the impact of climate change on the agriculture and horticulture crops in Jammu & Kashmir with a special focus on the cultivation of walnuts and saffron.

## **Introduction**

Increased temperatures, weather variability, shifting agroecosystem boundaries, invasive crops and pests, and more frequent extreme weather events are all examples of climate change's detrimental effects. Climate change is diminishing agricultural yields, lowering livestock output, and weakening the nutritional quality of main grains on farms (The World Bank). Each horticultural crop has specific climatic requirements. Unfavorable weather and climatic conditions produce stress, resulting in crop cultivation and production. Temperature influences all physiological activities by controlling Photosynthesis, Respiration, Enzymic activity, flowering, root development, quality, etc.

Light becomes another element for these crops' production, as low lights can cause poor quality of these crop produce. Every plant has its light requirement, affecting pollen viability and fruit set. Light intensity and duration are essential for crop growth and development.

Rainfall is another factor for the growth and quality of these horticulture crops as water comprises more than 80% of the living plants, providing structural integrity for the plant. Water is a significant determinant of crop productivity and quality and is required in large quantities for plant growth than any other growth

factor.

Water is a Solvent for nutrients and minerals and helps germinate seeds. From protecting cold temp (frost) to facilitating harvesting of underground crops in dry soils and cooling the leaves during respiration, rainfall becomes a significant factor in the growth of these crops. Over the years, waterlogging, droughts, storms have been deteriorating the cultivation and harvest of the crops in the J&K region.

Horticultural crops are adapted to wind and a wide range of soil types with specific requirements. These, along with some biotic socio-economic needs, are the factors that would enhance the production of these crops. "Many perennial and annual horticulture plants' development patterns and capabilities for flowering and fruiting will be altered as a result of climate change. Changed seasonal circumstances impacting dormancy, acclimation, and subsequent blooming and fruiting are anticipated to produce significant problems for perennial fruit crops in some areas. Elsewhere, these crops may benefit from the effects of climate change due to reduced cold damage and increased length of the growing season" (Dixon and Bhattacharya, 2019).

A warming world is affecting crops production across the globe-effects of climate change on food security. "Many horticulture crops can be grown in varied soils and climates in several agro-ecological zones across the world. Fruits, vegetables, flowers, and other ornamental plants, medicinal and aromatic plants, spices, condiments, plantation crops, and mushrooms make up a large portion of global agricultural production." (S. Datta) Rise in atmospheric temperature, changes in precipitation patterns, excess UV radiation and higher incidence of extreme weather events like heat, salinity, droughts, and floods are emerging major threats for horticulture. Several horticulture crops have been affected due to the rising temperature.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2009), rising temperatures, droughts, floods, desertification, and weather extremes would have a significant impact on agriculture, particularly in poor countries. Climate change convergence will have an impact on global food security.

## **Regional Context:**

Jammu and Kashmir is a region enriched with various agricultural production, which is also the predominant sector of its economy, supporting nearly 80% of the population. Jammu, Kashmir, and Ladakh are the three agro-climatic zones; each has its own unique geo-climatic conditions that influence cropping patterns and productivity (J&K Development Report). Climate change has brought in significant changes in the production and quality of these crops and in the lives of farmers who rely on these crops'

produce. According to the Directorate of Economics and Statistics, Government of Jammu and Kashmir's Annual publication 2013-14, climate change has affected the production of major crops in the region such as rice, maize, wheat, barley, pulses, and oilseeds, along with various fruits. These flowering crops are badly affected by the challenging climatic conditions. Recently floods destroyed the apple and other fruits quality and quantity in multiple parts of the state. The studies revealed that people's livelihood is worse due to the present climate. The fruits such as apple, saffron, and walnut are the major source of income for the Kashmiri population, which has led a large population to the brink of either opting out of farming these crops or changing their profession for livelihood (Wani & Bhatt, 2015).

The high temperature in Kashmir and the mid-temperature in Jammu have affected the horticulture crops. "Horticulture crops are plant agriculture dealing with garden plants (fruits, vegetables, and ornamental plants)." J&K horticulture production has been facing the brunt of climate change. Its effect can be seen in the decrease in crop production, quality of specific crops, and their market in recent years. Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare data Jammu and Kashmir data was reported at "3,912.910 Ton in 2020. This records a decrease from the previous number of 3,936.230 Ton for 2019." Walnuts, Saffron, and Apples are some of the horticulture crops in the valley that have declined rapidly due to change in climate, imports of a cheaper variety of crops, and poor irrigation.

#### **Impact of Climate Change on horticulture crops:**

The low precipitation and high temperature due to the rapid increase in the temperature due to climate change have brought down the produce and market of horticulture crops. In Jammu & Kashmir regions, the production of horticulture crops such as Saffron, Walnuts, Apples, and agriculture crops including wheat, maize, and rice have decreased. Many villages and farmers who were solely dependent on the horticulture crops and towns known for particular crop production have been in strain due to the change and loss brought by Climate Change. A detailed analysis of two such crops – Saffron & Walnuts is studied below –

Saffron – Pampore, a small town known as India's "saffron town/capital," has suffered badly due to climate change. Saffron production and the overall produce have deteriorated. Without rainfall, saffron production is sure to see a downfall in its production. In Kashmir, the saffron crop is primarily dependent on precipitation. If rains are received during the sprouting and pre-flowering stages, flowering is optimum, and saffron production is good," Ganaie and Singh observed in their study (2019). Insufficient rainfall has resulted in the state's lowest productivity in the last two to three decades. It was observed in the state which experienced severe drought from 1999 to 2003 (Alam, 2007), productivity fell from 3.12 kg/ha to 1.57 kg/ha during this time. However, in 2004-05, favorable rainfall improved productivity also to 2.96 kg/ha. As in the winter season, snow covers the saffron fields and continuously provides moisture to the corms up to the next spring season, and the corms do not get affected and remain healthy. During the winter (dormant) season, corms must have optimal moisture levels; otherwise, they will become infected and fail to produce the outgrowth. When the initial hoeing is done in the spring, the soil is aerated, and following the first hoeing, the fields require time to time rain showers till flowering. For precipitation, mountainous parts of the valley have shown a drastic decrease (10.3 mm/year). In contrast, flood plains have shown a relatively lower rate of decrease of 3.6 mm/year with foothills and Karewa's having moderate rate of decrease 6.3 and 5.8 mm/year, respectively (Shafiq et al. 2018). "Drought-like circumstances, erratic rainfall, and little irrigation are the key reasons for the drop in saffron output," said Dr. Amjad Hussaini, a SKAUST scientist, adding that the pattern of rainfall had changed owing to climate change, which had severe impacts on it.

The low production, changes in the quality of saffron, and the constant decline in its production have led many farmers to opt for other sources of livelihood and have changed their profession accordingly or have switched to farming some other crop. The production of Kashmiri saffron has decreased by 65 percent in the last two decades, from 16 metric tonnes to 5.6 metric tonnes, according to the Department of Agriculture Kashmir. Thus, the decline is visible to stakeholders, and efficient and effective

measures are required to secure saffron cultivation. From getting the people's attention and awareness on the current issue and its consequences to effective implementation of policies for the cultivation and production of the crop are required to protect these crops and the towns dependent on them.

Walnuts: Climate change menace has led to farming communities looking for alternate high-value cropping systems instead of existing crops such as walnuts. Jammu and Kashmir is the major production state of walnut in India, but its production has decreased due to the region's high temperature and less rainfall. Walnuts grow in cool climatic conditions with an 800mm annual rain suitable for optimum growth and yield. According to a study by Mir & Kottaiveeran (2018), "walnut production benefits from a temperate climate structure; otherwise, its trees are damaged in the cold winters and bloom flowering with immature nuts injured due to spring frosts." Jammu and Kashmir is India's most famous walnut and apple producer, and its average share of the total Indian production is growing. India is the world's eighth-largest walnut producer, with Jammu and Kashmir accounting for 92 percent of the total. The state benefits from its exclusive status as a producer of walnuts, pears, and almonds, among other things. The state produces over 75 percent of India's temperate fruits. Jammu and Kashmir produced 86,263 tonnes of walnuts over 61,723 hectares, exporting 92 percent of walnuts. The economy of Jammu and Kashmir is based on the export of fruits. In 2015, the state was the leading producer and exporter of walnuts, with a global market share of roughly 7% (Department of Horticulture). Data from the Directorate of Horticulture Jammu & Kashmir shows that although Kashmir has a walnut monopoly, problematic conditions are growing by the day. As a result, the walnut industry's expansion and enhancement have lost confidence in recent years. In 2007-08, the Kashmir valley, including the Ladakh districts of Leh and Kargil, had an output share of 82.92 percent, compared to 34.63 percent for Jammu Table 1. However, in 2016-17, the same Kashmir area shrunk its margin to 65.36 percent.

Source: Directorate of Horticulture Jammu and Kashmir (2017)

For the last two decades in this high altitude, states average mean temperature has risen from 1.450C to 2.320C, effecting verdant of high chill needing fruits like walnut (Mir & Kottaiveeran, 2018) and climate change causing droughts, depleting glaciers, increased temperature, changes in rainfall patterns, heavy snowfall are the factors affecting the cultivation and production of these crops which is a call for attention and urgent steps to be taken.

#### **Policymaking Suggestions & Measures:**

Jammu & Kashmir, with its immense potential for the productivity, quality, and expansion of horticulture crops such as saffron and walnuts, can act as a catalyst for the growth of these crops in India. With its enormous potential for the productivity, quality, and spread of horticulture crops like saffron and walnuts, Jammu & Kashmir can function as a catalyst for their growth in India. The results achieved would be beneficial not only for these agricultural production sectors, but it could also serve as a model for other parts of the world to adapt to climate change with the right policies and measures adopted in its cultivation and production to counter the effects brought on by climate change. Comprehensive knowledge of the causes and management strategies for various physiological disorders in tropical and subtropical fruits will not only help fruit growers produce higher-quality fruit, but it will also help researchers come up with new ways to control these disorders through biotechnological interventions, breeding strategies, or understanding the physiological basis to overcome them. With this information in mind, there is a pressing need to comprehend the physiological factors that cause these disorders, which are impeding our country's quality production and export potential, as well as the need to employ a different management approach, as described in this chapter, to address each disorder. (Kumar & Kumar, 2007).

- Awareness & Sensitization programs among farmers and the local community about climate change and how it is affecting the crops in their areas, what methods they can adopt to reduce the damage

- Use of best practices for water conservations such as sprinkle irrigation.
- Cultivation of crops suitable as per the climate change
- Efficient & Effective implementation of state/centre policies for climate change and agricultural production such as the National Saffron Mission, including inputs from the local farmers' community
- Engagement of stakeholders to protect these crops, overall efforts should be made by involving all segments of society and working closely with all stakeholders involved in this industry.
- Introducing Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice in the regions where crops & agricultural production is affected due to global warming & climate change
- Horticulture cultivators and experts should meet regularly to solve problems in the production fields.
- Allocation of scarcity resources in proper and timely method (Mir & Kottaiveeran, 2018)
- To enhance our preparedness for climate change and formulate a sound action plan, we need to identify gaps in vital information and prioritize research issues from farmers, policy planners, scientists, trade, and industry. It is imperative to visualize likely changes in the next 50-100 years. In this regard, all the stakeholders, viz., the state's farm universities (SKUAST-J & SKUAST-K), Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), and horticulture departments are already working in synergy. There is great hope that the state will usher on the path of progress and prosperity in horticulture with their efforts, which is the ultimate aim.
- According to the Jammu & Kashmir Development Report, "A comprehensive review of cropping patterns and shift to fruits and vegetables is required. For example, Punjab launched a crop diversification plan, and across the globe, several diversification, cultivation plans are being implemented that need to be done and applied here."

The threat of climate change can be converted by innovative research methods in agriculture, such as the development of heat-tolerant cultivars and adjustment in production system management (Singh 2018, Malhotra & Srivastava 2014).

To overcome the challenges and issues brought in the agricultural sector by climate change, from sensitization & awareness on the topic to innovative research & technology can be helpful and bring back the lost production and quality of a crop.

### Conclusion

Knowledge, Attitude, and Practice – these three steps are crucial



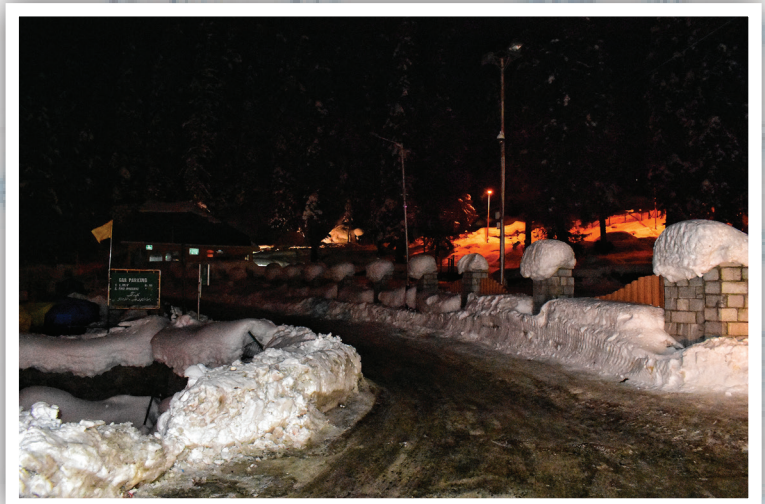
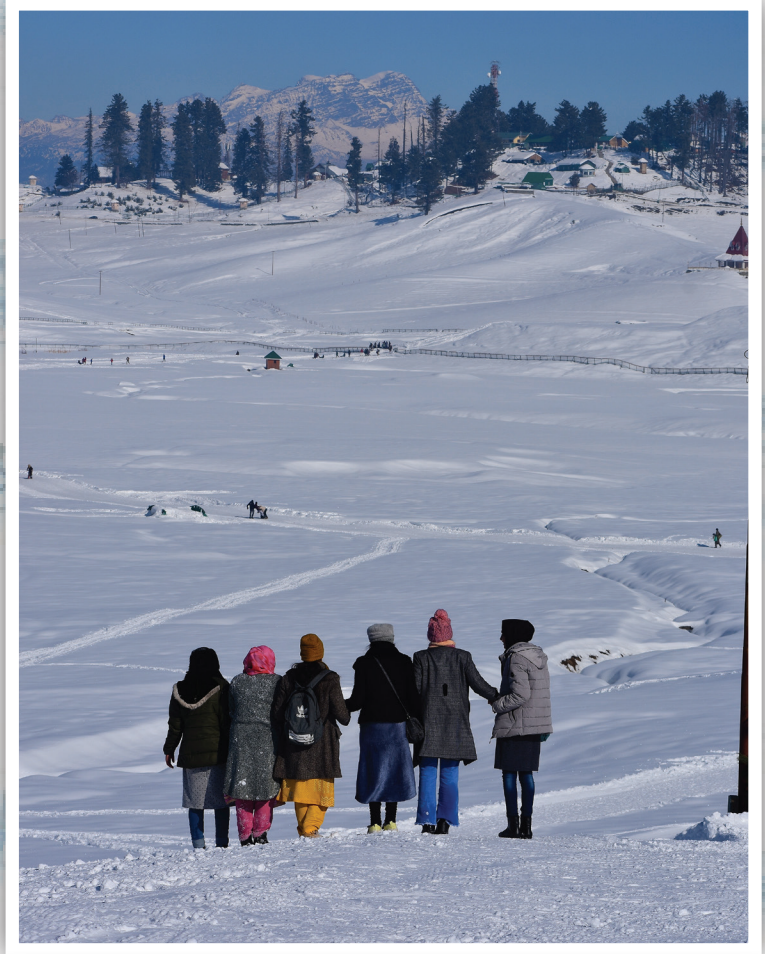
when bringing in a positive result. "Knowledge is the capacity to acquire, retain and use information; a mixture of comprehension, experience, discernment, and skill. Attitude refers to inclinations to react in a certain way to a certain situation, see and interpret events according to certain predispositions, or organize opinions into coherent and interrelated structures. By Practice, we mean applying rules and knowledge that leads to action. Good Practice is an art linked to the progress of knowledge and technology." (Bano, Rafia 2013). Once the knowledge is gained and passed on, all the stakeholders involved, from the local community to policymakers, adopt a certain acknowledgment attitude. Everyone involved would then do the practice of adapting to new changes and bringing in the new methods adopted to counter/reduce the effect of climate change damage on these crops.

Acknowledging the adversarial effect of Climate Change on agricultural production should be the first step in overcoming the challenges. Once we recognize the differences, we will be at a better stage to develop the solutions. Getting stakeholders' attention to the growing challenges can help establish policies and measures that can produce desirable results when implemented efficiently and effectively. The best methods such as greenhouse technologies, and developing heat-tolerant measures could save the agriculture and horticulture crops. Still, acknowledging the issues and challenges posed by the climate change is essential before these practices.



# SNOWFALL IN KASHMIR

Photos of the valley wrapped in a blanket of snow.



Photos by: Bilal Dar