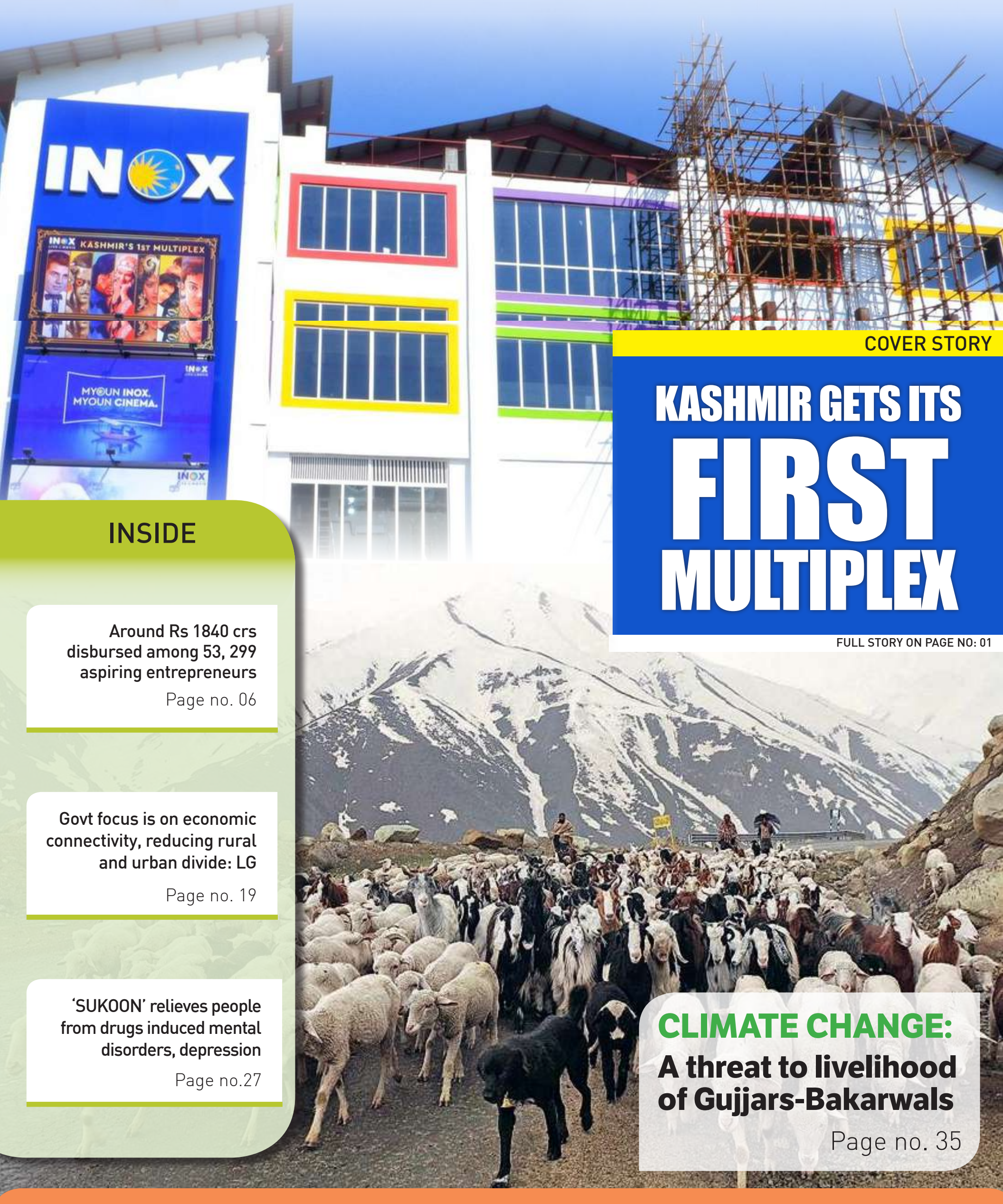


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COVER STORY

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# KASHMIR GETS ITS FIRST MULTIPLEX



Srinagar: After more than three decades, Kashmir has again got reconnected with the cinema as Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday inaugurated the valley's first multiplex in Sonawar area of the city.

Earlier, Sinha inaugurated multipurpose cinema halls at Pulwama and Shopian districts of south Kashmir and said that the UT administration is aiming to have such cinema halls in all districts.

"Inaugurated INOX multiplex theatre in Srinagar. Congratulations to the people, Sh. Vijay Dhar & INOX Group. A major socio-economic revolution is sweeping through J&K in the last 3 years," Sinha tweeted soon after inaugurating the multiplex.

He said, "It is a reflection of a new dawn of hope, dreams, confidence and aspirations of people."

Speaking on the occasion, the LG observed that the opening of multipurpose cinema halls in Shopian, Pulwama and the first-ever multiplex cinema hall in Srinagar today marks the revival of cinema culture in the Kashmir valley after three decades.

"Culture is a way of life and cinema being the powerful medium of sharing thoughts and ideas reflects societal values and change. Cinema brings people together. Apart from entertainment it gives hopes, dreams and inspiration to youth to pursue their dreams till they realise it," LG said.

He said the government is building multi-purpose cinema halls in all districts of J&K. "Young generation have a strong urge to see a better society, to learn about other cultures, to become part of interdependent world. And, it is the responsibility of the administration to provide them opportunities and support," the LG added.

The new cinema halls and ongoing film shootings will renew the beautiful bond between Jammu Kashmir and the Indian Film Industry, he added.

According to an official press release, the LG said that the new Film Policy has been rolled out with special provisions and incentives for encouraging local youth to take up film as a career.

"We are in talks with various stakeholders and have identified the land for developing Film City in the UT and the facility will come-up in the UT soon," the LG announced.

"Under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi we have accelerated the pace of implementation of numerous developmental initiatives. After August 2019, a new social order has been established in J&K

which promotes inclusive development, social harmony and equitable access to resources for all citizens without any discrimination. J&K UT is today stronger and more self-confident than ever before," the LG said.

Subhash Chandra, former Rajya Sabha member and chairman of Essel Group, congratulated the J&K government and everyone associated with the newly inaugurated multiplex on the occasion. He also lauded the UT administration for the transformation taking place in Kashmir, through opening of cinema halls, which has a great legacy of film-making and a massive film loving population, the press release informed.

Rajat Sharma, editor-in-chief and chairman, India TV, said that the cinema is the perfect medium to unite people. He appreciated the efforts of the LG and the UT administration for creating facilities to cater the needs of the Indian film industry and reviving a new-era of cinema in Kashmir.

Siddharth Jain, executive director, INOX Group, while speaking on the occasion, said that the launch of the new multiplex theatre in Kashmir will make the region a part of the country's creative economy and contribute to strengthening the soft power of the country.

"With 'MYOUN INOX, MYOUN Cinema', we are also looking to win the hearts of cinema lovers of Kashmir by offering them a world-class cinema-viewing experience, amalgamation of top-notch technology, great hospitality, best of cinema comforts, a blend of local designs, Dolby Atmos audio technology, latest 3D & projection technology and a professionally trained team. We are also looking forward to taking our artistic learning from Kashmir to the world," he said.

Vijay Dhar, chairman DPS and owner of Broadway theatre, expressed gratitude to the LG-led UT administration and the INOX group for bringing back the joy of movie-viewing in cinema halls to Kashmir. He also talked about the golden era of cinema and film-shooting in Jammu and Kashmir.

To mark the occasion, a special screening of the Aamir Khan-starrer 'Lal Singh Chaddha' was held.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC; Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Lt Governor; Dr Hina Shafi Bhat, Vice Chairperson, J&K KVIB; Pandurang K. Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar; senior officials of civil administration, police and army, besides prominent citizens were present on the occasion.



# Return of cinema in Kashmir to boost local economy, promote film shootings across valley

SRINAGAR: The return of cinema three decades after militancy forced it to shut down will help in boosting the economy in Kashmir besides encouraging the return of film shoots by big banners.

A major socioeconomic revolution is sweeping through J&K in the last three years which is a reflection of the new dawn of hope, dreams, confidence, and aspirations of people.

The opening of multipurpose Cinema Halls in Shopian, Pulwama, and the first-ever Multiplex Cinema Hall in Srinagar marks the revival of cinema culture in the Kashmir valley after three decades.

Culture is a way of life and Cinema being the powerful medium of sharing thoughts and ideas reflects societal values and change. Cinema brings people together. Apart from entertainment, it gives hope, dreams, and inspiration to youth to pursue their dreams till they realize them.

The administration led by Manoj Sinha is providing opportunities and support to the Young generation of Kashmir who wants to see a better society, learn about other cultures, to become part of an interdependent world.

The new cinema halls and ongoing film shootings will renew the beautiful bond between Jammu Kashmir and the Indian Film Industry as it was once known as filmmakers' turf.

Notably, the new Film Policy has been rolled out with special provisions and incentives for encouraging local youth to take up the film

as a career. The government has also identified the land for developing Film City in the UT and the facility will come up in the UT soon.

"In the new film policy there are a lot of avenues for local youths and if they will make small films they will get a lot of incentives and get self-employed," LG, Manoj Sinha said at the launch. He also said that Film Policy aims to facilitate the overall growth of the film industry in the region, including setting up of a film development council and revival of closed cinema halls besides providing hands-on access to a website for talent pool and all shooting destinations.

Remarkably, the Film Policy also facilitates the development of shooting locales, infrastructure for film screening, the revival of closed cinema halls, upgrading existing cinema halls, encouraging setting up of multiplexes and cinema halls, destination marketing, organising the J&K film festival, and restoration and preservation of films from the region.

Recently, the inauguration of INOX Multiplex marked a new beginning in the history of cinema in the Valley and it began with a Kashmiri message rolled out on the big screen, 'Myoun Cinema' (My Cinema). The first message also said: "The beginning of a new era and Kashmir's first multiplex. The trailers of films such as 'Vikram', 'Janwaar', 'Silsila', and 'Haider' were played on the screen as a major portion of these blockbuster films were shot in Kashmir.



# J&K receives felicitations for excelling in UN SDG during past couple of years

NEW DELHI: In yet another significant accomplishment, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir has received felicitations for its remarkable contribution towards achieving 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) during the last couple of years.

Secretary, Mining Department, Amit Sharma, received the honour on behalf of the J&K government during a felicitation ceremony held in this regard. He also participated in a power-packed panel discussion, along with Secretaries of States like Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Goa, and Maharashtra, on achieving carbon neutrality and sharing perspectives towards eco sensitivities in respective states and UTs for saving planet earth.

Also, Goa Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, and Uttar Pradesh were also felicitated on the occasion.

Amit, while speaking on the occasion, shared significant achievements of J&K towards the goal of Carbon Neutrality wherein Panchayat Palli has been fully powered with solar energy with a 500 KW solar plant. Several works are being carried out in Palli Panchayat only through power supplied by this solar plant. He mentioned that this unique initiative was inaugurated by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi,

in April this year in J&K as a follow-up of the UN Climate Change Glasgow Conference.

Secretary also talked about public awareness and mass campaigns reaching grass root level in J&K in multiple sectors like Health, Jal Shakti, and Urban Development through Swacch Bharat Mission. He further disclosed that there has been a significant achievement in improving J&K's ranking in UN Sustainable Development Goals over the last couple of years. He also mentioned that recently, the J&K government approved the Rooftop Solar Scheme for residential households towards reducing over 5 million tonnes of carbon emission which reflects the resolve of the UT administration of contributing substantially toward UN Sustainable Development Goals well within the target year 2030.

The felicitation ceremony was followed by a panel discussion which was led by Union Ministers, Smriti Irani, and Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. It was inspired by NITI Aayog and organized by the Times Group vertical Economic Times who acknowledged the contribution of J&K towards obtaining success in achieving UN SDG and improving its ranking by leaps and bounds in the last couple of years.



## To ensure transparency, Govt fully digitizes Ladli Beti Scheme

### ► 'Rs 75 cr disbursed to beneficiaries through DBT this Financial year'

SRINAGAR: To ensure that the objective of the Ladli Beti Scheme reaches maximum beneficiaries with transparency, the J&K Government has fully digitized this social assistance scheme.

The Government has set a timeline of 45 days for the officers dealing with the scheme to complete the status of the application. The Social Welfare department has asked all the officers to do away with physical applications anymore.

Chief Secretary, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta has launched an end-to-end digitized e-service for the Ladli Beti scheme designed and developed by NIC, a single window platform for submission and tracking of applications with no human intervention.

This service enables the applicant to apply, check and track the status of the application which will be forwarded online by the stakeholders to the next level. Also, the sanctioned applications and letters digitally signed will be forwarded to the bank online.

Under this scheme, all the girl-child born on or after 01-04-2015 and whose parents/guardians income does not exceed Rs

75,000 per annum is eligible to be covered. The beneficiaries get Rs 1000 per month credited into the bank account through DBT Mode of the Girl Child up to the age of 14 years and after attaining the age of 21 years, the girl child will get an amount of approximate amount of Rs 6.50 lakhs.

The Child Development Protection Officers (CDPOs) have been asked to reject/revert the application (in case of deficiency) after duly recording the reasons for the same or forward the application within 15 days to DPO for approval.

Similarly, the District Programme Officer (DPO) can reject/revert after duly recording reasons (in case of deficiency) or forward the application within 10 days to Deputy Commissioner for the sanction.

The Deputy Commissioners can reject/revert after duly recording the reasons (in case of deficiency) or sanction the application within 20 days and forward it to Director Finance/FA&CAO, Social welfare Department for disbursement of financial assistance.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha recently said that till 2018, only 26,050 girl children got the benefit of the Ladli Beti scheme while in the last three years, more than 1 lakh girl children had been linked with this programme.

The Government has also approved Rs 150 crore for this Financial Year and till date Rs 75 cr has been transferred to the beneficiaries through DBT in this Financial year.



# We aim to increase livestock productivity and production in sustainable manner: LG

## Pledges scheme for social security for sheep breeders; insurance cover, disease prevention and control measures for livestock

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday said his administration aims to sustainably increase livestock production and focus on the untapped potential of exports and value-added products.

Addressing the demands and issues of the tribal community, the LG announced that the UT government will build 1,000 sheds for livestock of the tribal community.

Inaugurating a workshop on 'New Horizons in Sheep & Goat Husbandry among Tribal Community: Challenges & Opportunities' here, he said the Tribal Affairs Department will extend financial assistance of Rs one lakh each to 1,500 Self Help Groups for wool shearing machines and skilling.

As many as 50 Self Help Groups will receive Rs 3 lakh each for genset and solar power-based shearing machines, he said.

According to an official press release, sharing the government's plan for bringing out a scheme for social security for sheep-breeders and providing insurance cover to the livestock, he said a comprehensive policy will also be prepared for health cards and monitoring of health for disease prevention and control measures.

"Our aim is to increase livestock productivity and production in a sustainable manner and focus on untapped potential for the export and value-added products," he said.

The LG also highlighted the reforms introduced by the government for modernisation and promotion of the sheep farming sector and strengthening of commercial activities and output of the sector which provides the means of livelihood to about 12 lakh families in the UT.

He said J&K holds the distinction of having the highest per capita consumption of sheep and goat meat in the country and therefore to meet this huge demand the state imports around 40 percent of its requirements from other states.

The UT government has partnered with New Zealand to develop a model sheep farming system through better breeding practices, technology transfer, doubling wool and meat production, marketing, capacity building and ensuring additional income for sheep-breeders, the LG said.

J&K is also the second largest producer of wool in the country and number one in terms of quality of wool produced, the LG said, adding Common Facilitation Centres – one each in Kashmir and Jammu division will be established for the collection, grading, sorting and packaging of wool.

Further, a top-level apex committee under the chairmanship of Mangala Rai, has been constituted for holistic development of agriculture and allied sector.

The committee has started deliberations and is on a job to present a futuristic roadmap in the next three months for inclusive growth, value addition, marketing strategies and sustainable production of the sector, he added.

On the occasion, the LG also congratulated the J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans and UT's Sheep Husbandry Department for organizing the important workshop to explore new opportunities, and identifying necessary interventions to make the Sheep & Goat Husbandry sector more lucrative for the stakeholders.

The outcomes from today's brainstorming session of agricultural scientists, experts and tribal community members will be assessed objectively and incorporated in government policies to be implemented on the ground for benefit of all the stakeholders, he said.



Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to LG said that the UT administration is committed for the holistic development of the tribal community of Jammu & Kashmir. The administration is taking revolutionary reforms and various welfare measures for improving the standard of living of the members of the tribal community, he added.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, talked about the future goals of the department for promoting sheep rearing sector, encouraging export and marketing, and increasing the wool production. He said every possibility is being explored for tapping the vast potential of this sector.

Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST Kashmir, speaking on the occasion remembered Padma Shri Dr. Ghulam Ahmed Bandey for his valuable contribution in the sector of sheep and animal husbandry in Jammu Kashmir.

He also briefed on the development of foot-rot vaccine by the SKUAST Kashmir. The VC further shared details of various other programs, research activities being conducted in the University for developing vaccines, and policies for wool processing.

Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department highlighted schemes and programmes formulated for the welfare of the tribal population by the UT administration in the last two years. He further informed that the 865 Tribal Asha posts have been sanctioned by the central government last month.

Bashir Ahmad Khan, Director Sheep Husbandry Kashmir highlighted the achievements, services and schemes of sheep husbandry. 446 sheep extension centres are functional across the UT for facilitating the sheep and goat breeders, he informed.

Abdul Hamid Wani, Secretary J&K Kisan Board gave a detailed introduction about the workshop.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between SKUAST Kashmir and Department of Sheep Husbandry for Foot-rot vaccine to mitigate the suffering of animals and owners of the livestock.

Progressive farmers and entrepreneurs also shared their success stories. Ch Mohammad, Member of J&K Kisan Board expressed gratitude to the administration for implementing farmers-centric progressive policies.

A detailed presentation was given on the evolution of sheep husbandry in Kashmir. Documentary on tribal people and seasonal migrating nomadic population associated with sheep and goat rearing was also shown.

The LG inspected stalls installed by various stakeholders and also released various publications including "Sheep breeders' diary" and "Sheep breeders' Manual" on the occasion.

# J&K registers improvement in maternal, child health

Jammu: Jammu and Kashmir has achieved “remarkable improvement” in multiple indicators related to maternal and child health in recent years, officials said on Sunday.

In a single year, the Under Five Mortality Rate (U5MR) in the Union Territory has decreased from 21 to 17 points per 1,000 live births, they said quoting the Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2020 released on September 22 by the Registrar General of India (RGI).

The officials said the neo-natal mortality rate dropped from 15 to 12, early neo-natal mortality rate from 10 to 8 while sex ratio at birth increased from 918 to 921.

Jammu and Kashmir has already achieved the global target of reducing under-five mortality rate to less than 25 per 1,000 live births, they said.

The officials said the UT showed an “incremental performance” in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of good health and wellbeing of people.

The Health and Medical Education Department with active support from National Health Mission (NHM) has put strenuous efforts

to provide essential newborn care at public health institutions across J&K through facility-Based and home-based newborn care interventions, they said.

They said the progress in scaling up the interventions to save the lives of the newborn has substantially accelerated during recent times leading to a significant improvement in various health Indicators.

One of the comprehensive measures in this regard includes an action plan devised by the Health and Medical Education Department with support from the Union Health Ministry in the form of road map for reducing the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) in J&K to single digit, the officials said.

Moreover, adequate infrastructure is being built under the Emergency COVID Response Package which in the long run will help to further improve various health indicators across the Union Territory, they said.

Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department, Bhupinder Kumar appreciated the efforts of field functionaries for their continued efforts to improve maternal and newborn care, which has resulted in landmark achievement in further reduction of child mortality rates.

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# J&K emerging as a leader under implementation of PMEGP

## UT establishes 21640 units with capital of around Rs 2100 crore

SRINAGAR: After the Centre’s major push to local manufacturing, J&K Government has established 21,640 units under the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Program (PMEGP) exceeding the target by a massive 544% with total capital of Rs 2101 crore across Jammu and Kashmir.

The PMEGP has worked wonders for Jammu and Kashmir and the UT leads ahead of all other states in self-employment opportunities under the PMEGP.

In 2021-22, KVIC had set a target of 3,360 PMEGP units in J&K but buoyed by the government’s major push to local manufacturing, it exceeded the target by a massive 544 per cent and J&K now stands way ahead of bigger states.

In 2021-22, a majority of the PMEGP units in J&K have been set up in districts like Baramulla, Badgam, Pulwama, Anantnag, Ganderbal, Kupwara, Bandipora and Doda. As many as 16,807 (78 per cent) of the 21,640 PMEGP units in J&K belong to the service sectors like beauty parlour, boutiques, embroidery, mobile/computer repair shops, and food outlets.

This is followed by 1,933 units (9 per cent) under rural engineering and biotechnology like steel fabrication and steel furniture, artificial jewelry making, vermicompost and bio-fertilizers units.

With record 21,640 manufacturing and service units, J&K stands way ahead of bigger states like Uttar Pradesh (12,594 units), Madhya Pradesh (8082 units), Tamil Nadu (5972 units), Karnataka (5877) and Gujarat (4140 units). A massive 1.73 lakh new employment in J&K in 2021-22, under PMEGP alone, is also the highest across all states and UTs in India.

The Central Government approved the introduction of a new

credit-linked subsidy programme called PMEGP by merging the two schemes that were in operation like Prime Minister’s Rojgar Yojana (PMRY) and the Rural Employment Generation Programme (REGP) for the generation of employment opportunities through the establishment of micro-enterprises in rural as well as urban areas.

PMEGP is a central sector scheme administered by the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MoMSME). The Scheme is implemented by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC), a statutory organization under the administrative control of the Ministry of MSME as the single nodal agency at the National level.

KVIC scripted a golden chapter of industrial growth and employment boom in Jammu & Kashmir. In the year 2021-22, KVIC in J&K has established the highest number of manufacturing and service units under its flagship scheme PMEGP and created the highest number of jobs in comparison with all other states and UTs in India.

Shabir Ahmad Khan, owner of MK Steel fabrications of Anantnag district is one of the successful contractor with J&K Small Scale Industries Development Corporation Limited (SICOP) after setting up unit under PMEGP and is earning a good income.

“I worked with SICOP for five years, as a contractor. The work was good, but I always wanted to establish an independent business,” said Shabir Ahmad Khan.

Similarly, Nardeep Singh’s is also one of the success stories under PMEGP. When you’re desperate for something, it’s easy to cut corners, compromise your values and deliver an inferior product or service. But the businesses that manage to weather their growing pains and stick to their guns are the ones that last longest and shine brightest. Nardeep Singh is the founder of Singh Hydraulic equipments, a manufacturing unit of Hydraulic Equipments and other parts for vehicles.

Recently, J&K Bank was ranked number one by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (GoI) under the Khadi India Awards for its excellent performance in implementing the Prime Minister’s Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) in North India.







## Around Rs 1840 crs disbursed among 53, 299 aspiring entrepreneurs

**Mumkin, Tejaswini, Rise Together, Parvaaz, Hausla, Saath, Umeed making livelihood sustainable for youth of J&K**

Srinagar: To give wings to the young generation of J&K and make them able to take entrepreneurship journey, the J&K Government with the help of banks has disbursed around Rs 1840 crores in favour of 53,299 aspiring entrepreneurs this fiscal.

The government has worked out a two-pronged strategy for establishing an entrepreneurship ecosystem across J&K. Several investors from reputed organisations are investing here and hand-holding young entrepreneurs to make them job providers.

The Ministry of Home Affairs recently said that 29,806 people had been hired by the J&K administration and it was estimated that 5.2 lakh jobs have been created through self-employment programmes in the last three years across Jammu and Kashmir.

The government has introduced a variety of self-employment programmes during the last three years to aid young people in starting their businesses.

One of the J&K administration's most fruitful efforts has been the Mission Youth programme.

Under Mission Youth, opportunities are being provided to young boys and girls to become entrepreneurs through schemes like Mumkin, Tejaswini, Rise Together, and Parvaaz. J&K made significant strides towards making urban and rural women financially independent through Hausla, Saath, Umeed and House Stay programmes. As many as five lakh rural women have been empowered through Self Help Groups, thereby neutralizing the sense of insecurity and despondency.

A sustainable livelihood line in the transportation industry has been established for unemployed youth with the help of the 'Mumkin' (livelihood generation) programme run by Mission Youth.

The 'Spurring Entrepreneurship Initiative' programme is built on the idea of the Youth Enterprise with Innovation (YouWiN) and Champion for an Innovation initiative, which aims to inspire young people, especially young women, to start and grow innovative businesses.

Dentists are receiving tailored financial help for opening dental clinics under the sector-specific programme for dental professionals. Under this programme, around eight lakh rupees is given as financial support for starting their business.

Another initiative called 'Rise Together' aims to foster community-based entrepreneurship in the Himalayan region in the best possible way to create jobs and income, and foster a sense of social service among the new-age young business people.

Under the programme, qualified youth groups receive financial support of Rs 20 lakh, which is made up of a loan from the bank for Rs 17.50 lakh or 70 percent of the project cost and an upfront subsidy component minimum of Rs 2.5 lakh or 10 percent of the project cost.

Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha recently said that 30 thousand government jobs have been provided to the youth in the last three years with complete transparency.

"Self-employment opportunities have been provided to 5.2 lakh young boys and girls under various programmes. Under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Program, Jammu and Kashmir has been successful in establishing 21,640 manufacturing and service units in the last financial year, thereby emerging as the best performing region in the country. Under this Programme, 1.73 lakh new job opportunities were created, which is the highest among all the states and Union territories of India," he said.





# TVDP to mobilize socio-economic landscape across J&K

## 181 villages to be rejuvenated by Mission Youth under this prog

SRINAGAR: The initiative of Tourist Village Development Programme (TVDP) has the potential and propensity to mobilize the diverse geographical and socio-economic landscape of the entire Jammu and Kashmir.

The ambitious programme under the Mission Youth initiative, which aims at developing 181 villages having distinction in terms of scenic beauty, adventurous terrain, art and cultural significance, history and archaeology, is gaining tremendous momentum with heavy tourist influx thronging the new destinations.

The main objectives of the programme are to develop new tourism destinations which will integrate social, cultural and spiritual characteristics with economic contours having requisite infrastructural facilities for tourists within such selected villages.

The villages that are part of the programme were selected on the basis of their rural tourism potential in consultation with the Tourism Department by an expert committee of Mission Youth.

The scheme has twin benefits of promoting rural tourism and employment generation for local youth. For the youth who want to set up their ventures in the tourism and hospitality service sector, the gamut of financial assistance is worth Rs 10 lakh including Rs 8.50 lakh from a banking partner, Mission youth J&K will provide a number of Rs 1.5 lakh or 15% of project cost (whichever is minimum) as a special upfront incentive (subsidy); under the scheme, a special subsidy of Rs 3.5 Lakh towards repayment of loan also.

Similarly, for developing Home Stays under the Programme, financial assistance to the tune of Rs 1 Lakh including 0.85 Lakh

from a Banking partner. Mission Youth shall also provide an amount of 0.15 Lakh or 15% of the project cost (whichever is minimum) as a special upfront incentive, 25% project cost as an upfront subsidy in case of women applicants besides a special subsidy of 0.35 Lakh loan towards repayment of the loan.

Moreover, the beneficiary must be unemployed and registered with the concerned District Employment and Counselling Centre. The initiative is destined to promote homestays across the UT and will strengthen the rural economy in the region, and turn youth into entrepreneurs besides empowering women by offering them numerous opportunities for employment.

The initiative has also been launched keeping in view the potential of J&K for film shooting purposes. The initiative is also aimed to promote the shooting of films and offering financial aid to the villages for their sustainable development.

There are several regions in J&K that despite having greater tourism potential have not been able to garner requisite attention due to infrastructural bottlenecks. Destinations which lag behind in the sphere of tourism infrastructure can overcome the downsides by introducing homestays as a means of accommodation facilities for tourists which do not require heavy investment.

The government also started the movement of promoting homestay tourism in the UT by launching Panchari, a village in the Udhampur district with mesmerizing beauty as the first tourist village with home stay facility.

To seek assistance for Home Stay, the applicant needs to submit an application and required documents to the district nodal officer and the format of the application can be downloaded from the official website (<https://missionyouth.jk.gov.in>).

To seek assistance for self-employment activities in the Tourism and Hospitality service sector the applicant needs to submit a simple application along with the DPR of the proposed activity and requisite documents with the district nodal officer. For complete details, interested youth can visit for knowing scheme guidelines on the Mission Youth website. <https://Youth.gov.in>.



# LG-led Admin working solely for welfare of common masses

SRINAGAR: For the last two years Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha-led administration has set up a system that works for the welfare of the common masses.

The government has initiated several measures to uplift the economic conditions of the people here which in turn has shown great signs of improvement on a daily basis.

During the past three years, the Government has introduced numerous self-employment schemes to help youngsters to set up their ventures. Mission youth has been one of the most rewarding initiatives on behalf of the J&K administration.

Self Employment has become a Government's priority area and the Mission Youth is working at it. Various reports of different national surveying agencies including NITI Aayog showed Jammu and Kashmir well ahead of the national average and can be rightly described as changing Jammu and Kashmir.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hailed the Jammu and Kashmir Budget for the financial year 2022-23 and said that it will meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

He also added that the main goal of the Budget for 2022-23 is the economic development of every region in the Union Territory. "The Budget for 2022-2023 is going to meet the needs and aspirations of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. This is a development-oriented budget and economic development of every region is the main goal of this Budget. This Budget is going to bring a change in J&K at a polemic pace," Sinha remarked.

Remarkably, Jammu and Kashmir is the first to launch District Good Governance Index. Tourism has gone all-time high in the last

6-7 months. During last year, 11,578 recruitments were made taking a total to 30,000 in three years. There has been the highest-ever air traffic at Jammu and Srinagar airports. Among all 4290 Panchayats, barring 8-10 where land is not available, every Panchayat has a playfield.

The UT also stood out best in transparency and COVID management. fill in the gap between demand and supply of skilled workforce and to create a strong environment for professionals and technical skill development in Jammu and Kashmir, the Government has roped in prominent organisations like ICICI Foundation, Tata Technologies Ltd, Primal Foundation, Wipro, among others for working on upgrading skills of youth in the sectors having high employability potential like banking and financial services, digital marketing, media management, etc.

Another initiative of stopping Durbar Move has saved Rs 400 crore expenditure every year by ending the bi-annual practice. Rs 1000 crore worth of works on National Highways and tunnels are going on in Jammu and Kashmir while as Distance from Jammu to Srinagar has been reduced from 10 hours to five and half hours and after completion of some works, it will further come down to four and half hours to four hours.

There has also been a significant increase in revenue generation in Jammu and Kashmir. The GST, Excise, ST, and other taxes have recorded 25 percent growth due to proper tax planning, effective monitoring, and efficient implementation of the tax statutes aimed at bringing transparency and accountability in the system which contributed towards scaling up the momentum of revenue collection in J&K.

## J&K bags best performing UT award for enrolment under AB-PMJAY

SRINAGAR: With substantial health insurance coverage for the populace of the Union Territory, Jammu and Kashmir has bagged the best performing Union Territory award in the category of enrolment under Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY).

Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, presented the prestigious award to State Health Agency during a two-day Arogya Manthan held in New Delhi to commemorate the completion of four years of implementation of Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana and one year of completion of Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

All the states and Union Territories participated in the Manthan.

During the event, the State Health Agencies exhibited the best practices adopted in their respective states and UTs towards making these schemes a great success.

Secretary Health & Medical Education (H&ME), J&K, Dr Bhupinder Kumar, who represented J&K State Health Agency, showcased the best practices adopted in the UT resulting successful implementation of AB-PMJAY.

He also highlighted the progress achieved, so far, by J&K in beneficiary identification and feedback mechanism under Ayushman Bharat.

Dr Bhupinder Kumar; Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency J&K, Ayushi Sudan, and State Nodal Officer J&K, Sanam Mansoor received the award from Union Health and Family Welfare Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya at Vigyan Bhawan.

Pertinently, J&K has been recognized for its best practices in the booklet on best practices and innovations which was launched by CEO, NHA, Dr R S Sharma at the event.

Union Health Minister, while addressing the valedictory func-



tion, appreciated the J&K administration for the generation of golden cards.

Notably, J&K has covered 90 per cent of the beneficiary families in terms of golden card generation, so far. The innovative practices adopted by the UT government in the generation of golden cards has resulted in better utilization of services by the beneficiaries. The State Health Agency has rolled out an ambitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT has crossed a major milestone of providing 5 lakh free treatments to the citizens of J&K recently.





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## NEP will bring creativity, inquisitiveness, scientific temper, entrepreneurial & moral leadership among students: LG

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Srinagar: As a part of the National Education Policy (NEP), a new enrolment drive to bring the children to schools under 'Aao School Chalein Campaign' witnessed 14.5 percent increase in the enrolment in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Sunday.

"About 1,65,000 students have been enrolled in various schools of J&K UT. Under the unique initiative of the School Education Department, TALAASH Survey was launched. Through this initiative 20 lakh children have been surveyed and out of which, 93,508 students have been found out of schools or never enrolled. Mainstreaming of out-of-school children has been initiated in the appropriate age schools. We are committed to provide education with a value system to all meritorious students," the LG said.

According to an official press release, the LG said that the focus is also laid on vulnerable segments for enrolment of students in pre-primary classes and primary classes which includes nomadic children, children of far-flung areas, girls and SC & ST categories.

He said at least 100 best teachers, lecturers of J&K UT are being sent outside UT for training this year, who shall act as master trainers, mentor teachers, and will work to improve the cognitive skill of the mapped children.

"For capacity building of Teachers, a student mentorship programme, Student & Teacher Engagement for Educational Reinforcement (STEER) has been launched in the UT which focuses on student performance in academics and to strengthen the learning outcome. As a Unique Initiative, MatriBhojan Yojana has been implemented in UT, whereunder mothers are visiting the schools to ensure quality of cooked meals. MoU has been signed with Akshaya Patra for Community Kitchen in Jammu & Samba and it will be replicated in other districts

too," the LG added.

Some 70,000 students enrolled in 714 government schools are being imparted vocational education in 14 different trades. 803 vocational labs have been established and 1122 more labs and 1352 smart class rooms are being established during the current financial year. A revolutionary step has been taken to establish 127 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and 1420 Computer Aided Learning (CAL) Centres. 500 additional Atal Tinkering Labs to be established this year to translate commitment into action, the press release informed.

"An MoU has been signed with HCL TechBee, for providing skill training to the class 12th pass out students in the UT. Our effort is to instill creativity, inquisitiveness, scientific temper, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students as per the recommendation of National Education Policy," the LG said.

The LG also said the quality education is being ensured in every school through various reforms and the dream of universal education is being realized through community participation.

"It is not only about going to any school but a good school. In order to achieve this goal, quality education is being ensured across the schools in UT and it is one of the paramount goals for us. The government is also determined for effective implementation of other interventions," the LG added.

Emphasis is given on building cognitive abilities of students, better learning transactions using toy based learning, experiential and competency based learning.

Under "Each One Teach One" campaign, primary and upper primary students are teaching their neo-literate family members so that they could become literates and a module and material has already been developed and distributed by Samagra Shiksha among the beneficiaries, the press release said.



# LG Admin announces one-time amnesty for domestic power consumers



Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir administration has approved amnesty scheme for domestic power consumers of the Union Territory.

An official spokesman, in a statement said that Administrative Council (AC) which met here under the chairmanship of the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, approved the amnesty scheme for domestic power consumers in the J&K.

The decision is going to benefit more than 5.50 lakh domestic consumers by waiving off an amount of Rs. 937.34 crore, accumulated as surcharge or interest, on account of non-payment of timely dues.

The Administrative Council has provided this last opportunity to the consumers in view of not being able to avail the benefits of the last scheme due to spread of Covid-19 pandemic during

the scheme period.

The new scheme envisages that the outstanding principal arrears accumulated upto March 31, 2022 after waving off 100 percent interest/surcharge shall be paid in a maximum of twelve (12) monthly installments.

The scheme further entails that the failure of payment of any installment/ installments within the prescribed 12 months period shall invite penalty and legal action under Electricity Act, 2010, in addition to the accrual of compound interest on the outstanding dues.

The consumers who fail to pay the current bill simultaneously with the payment of monthly outstanding installments shall forfeit the benefits of the amnesty scheme besides disconnection of power supply.

An independent Project Management Agency will be hired for overseeing efficient implementation of the scheme, the press release said.

Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to the LG, Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, and Nitishwar Kumar, Principal Secretary to the LG attended the meeting, spokesman said.

## 1200 youth shortlisted, 150 selected for training at Mega Job Fair

### 15 others handed over on-the-spot offer letters

SRINAGAR: A divisional-level Mega Job Fair was inaugurated by Commissioner Secretary Labour and Employment, Sarita Chauhan, at Amar Singh College.

This was a first-of-its-kind Mega event where a platform was provided to educated unemployed Youth of Kashmir Division who came face to face with Job providers like private sector companies.

More than 40 companies participated in the event and around 2000 Job seekers from all 10 districts of the Kashmir division participated in the event and also interacted with company representatives.

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of the job fair, Sarita Chauhan spoke at length about bridging the Gap between the demand and supply in the job market. She impressed upon stakeholders to counsel and guide the students to take up skill-oriented courses to enhance their employability.

While addressing the industry representatives, she

emphasized the registration of private companies as job providers on the Employment portal([www.jakemp.nic.in](http://www.jakemp.nic.in)). She further directed the private company representatives to list out the skill requirements in their respective sectors and notify the vacancies available to them from time to time.

The Commissioner Secretary further instructed the Director Employment to strengthen and diversify the Counselling of youth and try to build a connection with the industry. The representatives from various companies and industries also spoke at the occasion and showed enthusiasm in this step of getting connected with youth through the Department.

The Director Employment, Nisar Ahmad Wani, informed the gathering that such Job fairs will be replicated in all the districts of UT of J&K.

Pertinently, during the fair, 1200 youth were shortlisted/registered by private companies, 15 youth were handed over offer letters on spot and 150 youth were selected for training in hotel management after which they will be recruited in the same field.

During the fair, Help desks and Registration counters were also established by the Employment Department where more than 1000 on-the-spot registrations were done.





# 'Aao School Chalein' campaign improves enrollment ratio in Govt Schools across J&K

## Student mentorship prog STEER launched to strengthen learning outcome

SRINAGAR: The efforts of the J&K Governments School Education Department (SED) are bearing results as a new enrolment drive 'Aao School Chalein Campaign' for bringing children to schools has witnessed a 14.5% increase in the enrolment in 2021-22 as compared to 2020-21 under National Education Policy.

After the unique initiative of the School Education Department, the TALAASH Survey, 1,65,000 students have been enrolled in various schools of J&K UT.

Through this initiative, 20 Lakh children have been surveyed and out of which, 93,508 students have been found out of school or never enrolled. Mainstreaming of out-of-school children has been initiated in the appropriate age schools. Government is committed to providing education with a value system to all meritorious students.

The focus is laid on vulnerable segments for enrolment of students in pre-primary classes and primary classes which includes nomadic children, children of far-flung areas, girls as well as children of SC & ST communities.

More so, around 100 best teachers and lecturers of J&K are being sent outside UT for training this year, who shall act as master trainers, and mentor teachers, and will work to improve the cognitive skill of the mapped children.

For capacity building of Teachers, a student mentorship programme, Student & Teacher Engagement for Educational Reinforcement (STEER) has been launched in the UT which focuses on student performance in academics and strengthens the learning outcome. Also under the unique initiative, Matri Bhojan Yojana implemented in UT, where mothers are visiting the schools to ensure the quality of the cooked meal.

The education department has also signed MoU with Akshaya Patra for Community Kitchen in Jammu & Samba districts which will be replicated in other districts too.

Around 70,000 students enrolled in 714 government schools are being imparted vocational education in 14 different trades. 803 vocational labs have been established, 1122 more labs and 1352 smart classrooms are being established during the current financial year. A revolutionary step has been taken to establish 127 Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) and 1420 Computer Aided Learning (CAL) Centres. Around, 500 additional Atal Tinkering Labs will be established this year to translate commitment into action.

To provide technical skills class 12th pass outs in the UT, an MoU has been signed with HCL TechBee, for providing skill training inquisitiveness, scientific temper, entrepreneurial and moral leadership among students as per the recommendation of National Education Policy.

The quality of education is being ensured in every school through various reforms and the dream of universal education

is being realized through community participation. Government is not only ensuring students go to school but a good school having all kinds of facilities. To achieve this goal, quality education is being ensured across the schools in UT and it is one of the paramount goals for the government which is determined for effective implementation of other interventions.

The government also gives emphasis on building the cognitive abilities of students, better learning transactions using toy-based learning, and experiential and competency-based learning. Under the "Each One Teach One" campaign, primary and upper primary students are teaching their neo-literate family members so that they could become literate, a module and material has already been developed and distributed by Samagra Shiksha among the beneficiaries.

The thrust of the J&K Government on the education sector with different policies and interventions have led to an increase of over 7 percent and 1 percent Gross Enrollment Ratio (GER) in higher secondary and secondary level respectively.

The encouraging figure was revealed by the Government of India's latest Unified District Information System for Education Plus (UDISE+). Since 2018, J&K's GER has increased to 7.7 percent in the higher secondary level in 2021 and 1.7 percent in the secondary level in the past three years.

"In 2018-19 J&K's GER in higher secondary level was 42.4 percent and in 2020-21 the figures reached 50.1 percent. Similarly for the secondary level, in 2020-21, J&K recorded 59.8 percent against 2018-19's 58.1 percent", a report reads. "In 2019-20, J&K's GER in higher secondary level was recorded at 38.4 percent and in the same period, GER in secondary level stood at 58.7 percent," it adds.

Earlier, J&K ranked 17th in the National Achievement Survey and J&K ranks 6th in the survey. Education Department is working on an action Plan which will ensure that student enrollment in schools increases in the next two years and no student drops out of school.

Lieutenant Governor recently said that student enrolment in government-run schools has increased by more than 14 percent in the past two years.

Sinha said, "If you will see three years before 2019, the enrolment in schools was reducing. However, in the past two years, enrolment has increased by 14.2 percent in government schools."

"As you all know that after a long time the Government of India under PM Narendra Modi's efforts, New Education Policy has been implemented and under that scheme, early childhood care and education has been started to prepare the students for better and quality education," he added.

The LG further said, "Despite two years of COVID-19, Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has done tremendous work and 1.24 Lakh boys and girls have been enrolled for early childhood care and education."

"2000 Kindergartens have also been established and 12,000 teachers have been trained and more than five Lakh students have been given new learning materials," he said. Sinha further added, "1588 computer labs and 1420 vocational training labs have also been established in Jammu and Kashmir, and in past two years, 28 residential girl hostels have also been established."



# 68755 left-out households in J&K brought under PDS ambit during 2021-22

## All deserving households, beneficiaries to be covered under National Food Security Scheme

SRINAGAR: The Department of Food, Civil Supplies, and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) in J&K has, during the financial year 2021-22, brought a whopping 68755 households under the ambit of the National Food Security Scheme.

“This is the outcome of the extensive exercise launched by the Department last year to bring all the deserving left-out households and beneficiaries, under the ambit of the Public Distribution System,” a spokesman of the FCS&CA said.

He said out of 68755 households added during 2021-22, 3780 have been registered under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana category (AAY) and 64975 under the Priority Household Category (PHH). The spokesman said that through a recent communication, FCS&CA Department has once again requested the Divisional Commissioners of Jammu and Kashmir divisions to initiate an appropriate exercise at the District Level, in coordination with FCS&CA Department, to include the left-out eligible households/beneficiaries, if any, in PDS network, in light of the criteria notified by the FCS&CA Department and TPDS Control Order-2015, issued by the Government of India. He said the fresh request was made to the Divisional Commissioners in order to ensure that no deserving beneficiaries or households remain outside the ambit of the PDS network.

The spokesman said that the officers and officials of the Department are regularly sensitized about this issue and the progress is reviewed periodically.

The spokesman said that in order to streamline and make the Public Distribution System more credible and transparent, the Department vigorously pursued Aadhar seeding of beneficiaries in all categories in a mission mode so that all the genuine beneficiaries get identified and avail their entitled quota in a smooth and transparent manner. “In the event of any beneficiaries being without Aadhar; the department has notified other means of authentication to be adopted for such beneficiaries, so that they don’t remain without ration.

The Department, he said, has introduced a nominee policy last year to handle the failure of authentication in case of old ages persons/ workforce that has worn out fingerprints, differently-abled persons, minors, bed-ridden persons with no physically able person in the family to draw rations, so far 6600 households have availed this facility. He urged all such families, who are eligible under the policy to avail of this facility in order to get their rightful entitlement of rations and avoid their dependence on dealers or salesmen for availing of their rations.

The spokesman further informed that while fortified rice for ICDS & PM Poshan schemes is being supplied to all the districts, the distribution of fortified rice under the PDS Schemes has also started in three (03) districts of J&K in accordance with directions of the Government of India. “These include Kupwara, Baramulla and Udhampur. Fortified rice is nutrition-rich rice meant to beat malnutrition. The extra nutrients including vitamins and minerals are added to broken rice and shaped into a rice-like kernel using an extrusion process. Normally, in the post-harvesting phase, many essential nutrients and minerals are lost during milling and the polishing process which are later added to make the rice nutritious. This is a well-known process of fortification.” The spokesman has urged the public not to believe in rumours being spread in this regard.





# Shopian, Kulgam, Gbl become 100% saturated under ABPMJAY – SEHAT scheme

SRINAGAR: Shopian, Kulgam, and Ganderbal districts have achieved 100 percent saturation under the AB PM-JAY SEHAT scheme.

The Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government and provides a cover of Rs five lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization, they said.

These districts achieved the milestone due to continuous efforts by District Administration and special registration drives organized by the State Health Agency (SHA) aimed to cover all families under the ABPMJAY SEHAT scheme in the district.

Chief Executive Officer SHA Ayushi Sudan complimented the districts and SHA officials for the achievement.

"This will inspire other districts also to join the league of 100% saturation districts. It is good to see our different strategies for cent percent Golden Card registrations are working," she said. "At Least one member of every family in these districts has received a Golden card."

Notably, State Health Agency recently launched a citizen-friendly facility for citizens to avail Golden cards in the comfort of their homes

The citizens visit the address [Setu.pmjay.gov.in](http://Setu.pmjay.gov.in) and register themselves and their families with details of the ration cards issued by the Food and Supply Department, J&K, and download their Golden cards.

The initiative has been taken to ensure all the citizens get golden cards which provide 5 Lakh health insurance coverage.

Earlier also State Health Agency (SHA) recently rolled out an ambitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT has crossed a major milestone of providing 5 lakh free treatments to the citizens of J&K UT recently.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT Scheme has become a ray of hope for poor families who couldn't afford health treatment at prestigious and well-known medical institutes in the country.

Recently a special initiative was launched for women and their families associated with JKRLM to provide them with free treatment.

To provide much-needed relief to the people of J&K, the SEHAT Scheme was launched in convergence with AB-PMJAY by the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi.

Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir 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 of post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

Under the initiative of 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman, State Health Agency' (SHA) has also started to reach out to even last-mile villages which remain cut off from the rest of the world due to adverse weather conditions so as to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to every beneficiary.

## TAD-CWDB wool project to benefit 30,000 tribal sheep farmers in J&K

SRINAGAR: Tribal Affairs Department (TAD) and Central Wool Development Board (CWDB), Ministry of Textiles, Government of India have finalised a project aimed at benefitting nearly 30,000 tribal sheep-farming families over a period of three years by providing Skilling, financial assistance, infrastructure, and marketing support.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Dr Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, and Executive Director, CWDB, Ministry of Textiles finalised the project components after detailed deliberations between the department and the board. Secretary in Tribal Affairs Deptt, Harun Malik, Director, Tribal Affairs, Mushir Ahmed Mirza, Jt Director Planning, Shama un Ahmed, Deputy Director TRI, Dr Abdul Khabir, Deputy Director TAD Kashmir Dilshada Akhter and senior officers from the department and central board were present in the meeting.

The proposal of the Tribal Affairs Deptt being supported by the CWDB includes the establishment of two Common Facility Centres (CFC) at an estimated cost of Rs 10.00 Cr. One CFC each in Jammu and Kashmir provinces will be equipped with state-of-the-art machinery for wool sorting, processing, grading, and

packaging.

TAD is rolling out a plan to train nearly 30,000 tribal sheep farmers in mechanised sheep shearing which will lead to an increase in wool production, improvement in quality of wool, and reduced cost of shearing. Mechanical shearing units worth Rs 2.00 Cr have been included in the project which will be provided to tribal Farmer groups. Each group will be provided machinery upto Rs 3.00 Lakh.

The establishment of wool mandis at three locations and more than 40 centres for wool collections and transit support have been approved under the project. Other components include the market intervention and support scheme as well as the development of a portal for expanding the wool sale network. Farmer Produce Organisations and SHGs are to be constituted under the project to avail benefits under various components of the project.

Dr Shahid Choudhary, in a detailed presentation, shared the huge potential of tribal wool as a sheep population of nearly 25 Lakh migrating to highland pastures and in absence of value addition and marketing facilities the tribal farmers do not receive attractive returns. Interventions

under the project will provide massive opportunities for the sale of wool and wool products with direct benefit to the sheep breeders.

Executive Director, CWDB, Ministry of Textiles along with Technical Director Anurag Purohit briefed about collaboration between the board and J&K tribal affairs department for effective implementation of the project to cover maximum tribal sheep farmers and specifically the migratory population to improve their economic status. Specific support is being extended for marketing support and value addition.

The tribal affairs department has already provided 20,000 sheep to tribal farmers over the last year and a half under specific intervention through mini Sheep Farms through Sheep Husbandry Deptt. Apart from expanding the sheep population, the department is focusing on the marketing of wool to ensure an organised market for optimum returns to sheep farmers. The trainings will be conducted by the Tribal Research Institute in collaboration with Universities and institutes of excellence in the sheep husbandry sector. The project is being launched from October 2022.



# Digital measures establishing transparent, accountable, responsive governance system across J&K

## 'AAPKA MOBILE HAMARA DAFTAR' providing citizen-centric services through mobile mode



SRINAGAR: Jammu and Kashmir government, led by Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, is taking comprehensive digital measures for establishing a transparent, accountable, and responsive governance system for the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

In a short span of three years, J&K Government has introduced reforms in every sector, thereby giving a significant push to the growth and development trajectory here. The results are visible on the ground as J&K is now moving ahead to be one of the leading regions in sectors like IT, Industries, Tourism, Revenue, Women Entrepreneurship and Youth Empowerment.

The nightmare of seven decades is over and a corruption-free Jammu and Kashmir is emerging.

A multitude of good governance reforms have been initiated in J&K by the Modi Government like the Prevention of Corruption Act, Abolition of Interviews for Group C and D posts besides more than 800 Central Laws have been made applicable to J&K after it got the status of Union Territory. The long-pending cadre review, the establishment of CAT benches, Extension of RTI Act, CPGRAMS, and conduct of common eligibility test through the National Recruitment Agency at every district headquarter in the UT besides other similar pro-people measures.

J&K has launched many e-governance initiatives to promote transparency, accountability and responsive working culture in departments. In this regard, the Mobile Application 'Satark Nagrik' and Departmental Vigilance Officers (DVO) Portal of J&K Anti-Corruption Bureau has been launched by Lieutenant Governor which is combating corruption to a great extent.

The 'Satark Nagrik' application has been developed with the purpose to facilitate the seamless flow of information about corruption and enable citizens to submit their grievances with ease and mobility. Any citizen having an android based device can download the application from the play store. A unique ID number will be allotted at the

time of registration of the grievance which later can be used to track the status of the grievance.

Similarly, the DVO portal has been designed to enable an online communication channel with the DVOs of various departments. In certain cases, the complaints are related to ongoing works, current recruitments and payments yet to be made against contracts etc. By referring these matters to DVOs, violations and shortcomings can immediately be rectified and loss to the state exchequer can be prevented. Other measures of this system included an Electronic Vigilance Clearance System for furnishing vigilance clearances through electronic or online mode for all government employees.

Also, UMANG's unified mobile application for new-age governance is a multi-lingual mobile platform for providing 'anytime-anywhere governance'. In sync with the vision of 'AAPKA MOBILE HAMARA DAFTAR' the Government of J&K is committed to providing citizen-centric services through the mobile mode. This will enhance the accessibility of services and add to the convenience of citizens while availing these services.

The services on the UMANG platform are end-to-end digitized and provide a one-stop solution to the citizens starting from the application for a service and its processing to the receipt of certificates/permissions. The services being provided have been integrated with an online payment gateway and Rapid Assessment System (RAS) of digital feedback.

Several popular services like birth certificates, death certificates, marriage certificates, income certificates, character certificates, dependent certificates, SC/ST/ RBA certificate and related documents can be accessed by the public at <https://web.umang.gov.in> or by downloading the mobile app 'UMANG' which is available on 'Andriod' and 'IOS' platform.

With the adoption of e-office, a simplified, responsive, effective and transparent paperless working culture across all the departments is being achieved. With the implementation of e-office initiative, the disposal rate of files has touched an all-time high of 96 percent. Besides, 305 Head of Departments are now on e-office and E-files are accessible to all officials irrespective of their locations.

J&K is first among UTs in the e-office disposal of files. Currently, 200 services are online which have been linked with a feedback mechanism. All HoDs have been brought on e-office portal while the "Annual Performance Reports" of JK Administrative Services (JKAS) officers have been shifted to online mode on SPARROW Portal.

The ranking of UT of J&K has improved significantly and has achieved the number one rank among all the UTs in the NeSDA-2021. The UT Portal has higher compliance to the assessment parameters like accessibility, 'Information Security and Privacy', 'Content Availability' and 'Ease of Use'.





## Concerted effort to generate awareness about govt schemes yielding desired result: LG

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha in the 18th edition of the 'Awaam Ki Awaaz' programme today termed trust and transparency as the heart of good governance.

According to an official press release, recalling his recent visits to three districts of Poonch, Kishtwar and Doda, the LG said hard work, competence, integrity and unwavering loyalty to serve people have opened up exciting new possibilities and opportunities in three districts of Poonch, Doda and Kishtwar which were ignored for several decades.

"The concerted effort to generate awareness about government schemes is yielding the desired result. People have become conscious of their rights and duties. Transparency in the administration, efficient implementation of policies has helped in developing a constructive system," he added.

LG said the UT administration is committed to development priorities, improvement of infrastructure in 'Amrit Kaal Khand'.

By following the path of equality and social harmony, we can attain the goal of self-reliant Jammu and Kashmir, the LG asserted.

Underscoring that the creation of a new progressive society is possible if every individual is sensitive and strives to bring about a positive change, the LG lauded the efforts of Benit-Ul-Islam and Shabnum Masood, two young Civil Engineers from Bandipora, who have come out with a "path-breaking solution" to prevent cold weather damage to roads. They have used biomedical plastic waste in bituminous road construction to make the roads resilient and economical.

During snowfall in Kashmir Valley, roads are badly damaged causing inconvenience to the people and loss of revenue. These two daughters were worried about it and made sincere efforts to bring change, the LG said.

Sinha also shared inspiring stories of citizens who are making a positive impact in the lives of others and driving great change in the society.

The story of Neelam Sharma, Sarpanch of Kothian Panchayat of Reasi district is truly inspiring, he said. She is the epitome of women empowerment. She founded Dogra Haat with the help of district administration and encouraged other women to be self-reliant. Her commendable transformative effort is seen as the catalyst for rural development and social empowerment in the region, said the LG.

He also spoke about the master carpet weavers of two villages

Sanglipura and Laxmanpura of Budgam district, who are making 12 carpets for the new Parliament building.

"Weavers from Budgam are our pride. The traditional hand-made carpets from Budgam are all set to adorn the new building of the Parliament. It's a historic opportunity and fitting tribute to J&K's craftsmanship," the LG said.

He also acknowledged the determined efforts of progressive farmers Devendra Kumar and Anjum Javed from Rajouri, and Dheeraj Sharma of Kathua, who have started high density plantation of strawberry and apple.

"The success story of Devendra Kumar and Anjum Javed of Rajouri; and Dheeraj Sharma of Kathua through diversification in agriculture is resonating amongst the farming communities of the adjoining areas," he added.

Referring to a suggestion received from Udhampur's Nitish Khajuria related to promotion of 'Shramdaan' culture and facilitation of workers involved in developmental projects, the LG said that concerned officers would be sensitized to take necessary action.

The LG also appreciated inputs received from Jammu's Ambika Samnotra who had written about lake beautification and riverfront development and has suggested an integrated plan for all the major rivers and lakes.

Another valuable suggestion was received from Srinagar's Umar Dewani, who called for promotion and popularization of glamping domes at various tourist and hiking destinations to give a fillip to the tourism and hospitality sector. Similarly, Rajesh Chib from Akhnora Jammu had written on the need for the involvement of the representatives from the Panchayati Raj Institutions to promote village tourism and home-stays, the press release said.

It said the LG issued instructions to Mission Youth on the suggestion of Maqsood Ahmed from Kupwara and Shabir Ahmad Shah from Srinagar regarding expansion of LG's Rolling Trophy.

The LG also issued instructions to the Health department to study the suggestion of Farooq Ganderbali from Ganderbal, who had written about medical tourism in Jammu and Kashmir.

On the occasion, the LG also extended his greetings to all the citizens on the upcoming pious occasion of Navratri and Durga Puja. He also urged the citizens to mark 2nd October, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi by taking part in 'Shramdaan' activities in their areas and termed it as a true tribute to Bapu.





## Kupwara boy's cooking gadget makes to top 60 innovations selected for INSPIRE award at 9th NLEPC

Srinagar: A novel multipurpose cooking tool designed by Danish Ahmad Bhat, class 8th student of Government Upper Primary School, Machipora, Handwara of Kupwara district has been chosen as one of the top 60 innovations at the 9th National Level Exhibition and Project Competition (NLEPC) for INSPIRE Awards MANAK, held at ITPO, New Delhi.

As per a J&K government handout, the Inspire Award was given to Danish Ahmad Bhat by Union Minister of State for Science and Technology, Dr Jitendra Singh.

Danish Ahmad, who is elated for the award, said that he was inspired to create this innovative tool by his mother who used to prepare food on the conventional 'chulha' (hearth) for extended periods of time in the winter in a piteous state. He added that this device can be used for varied cooking purposes.

"In addition to boiling water, the device may also be used to bake and cook food items at various temperatures," Danish said. "It can also be utilized to heat rooms in the frigid winters," he added.

The invention, Danish said, can help rural women who struggle with the frenetic nature of cooking, particularly during the harsh winter months.

For the NLEPC, all States and UTs had submitted a total of 6.53 lakh concepts and 576 of those were chosen for the exhibition in the years 2020-21.

Around 13 students of various government schools from Jammu and Kashmir had made it to the national-level exhibition of Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research (INSPIRE) awards for the academic year 2020-21.

The students, aged between 10-15, participated in a UT-wide e-exhibition organized by the State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) and the National Innovation Foundation-India (NIF) earlier in January.

Dr. Akhilesh Gupta, Senior Advisor, Department of Science and Technology (DST), while inspecting the exhibition also spoke with the students from all the States/UTs who showcased their inventions during the exhibition. The students also presented their innovations

and articulated their inherent value during the exhibition.

The escort team while inspecting the device of Danish Bhat informed that the device will be modified further in order to investigate the possibilities of employing it on a broad scale.

"The innovation shall be further improved and upgraded by a team of professionals who will mentor the selected students," Ghulam Nabi Dar, an SCERT official accompanying the students, said.

Principal Secretary, School Education department, J&K, Alok Kumar while appreciating the efforts of Danish in designing the innovation, said "it is a proud moment for all of us to see our young kids attempting to keep up with the modern-day challenges and coming up with innovations of sorts.

"We urge you to continue to submit your innovations and ideas and we are available to provide you with any assistance you may need," Kumar said.

The scheme, INSPIRE, is one of the flagship programs of the Department of Science & Technology (DST), Government of India, that aims to motivate students in the age group of 10-15 years studying in classes 6 to 10.

For the Kashmir division, the State Level Exhibition and Project Competition (SLEPC) was conducted on January 17 and for Jammu, January 19. A total of 116 students including 60 from Kashmir and 56 from Jammu exhibited their original ideas/innovations which were scrutinized by a jury of four experts.

Earlier, a total of 1123 students out of 10,344 had qualified for the district-level exhibition out of which 116 made it to the UT level.

The objective of the scheme is to target one million original ideas/innovations rooted in science and societal applications to foster a culture of creativity and innovative thinking among school children. Under this scheme, schools both government and private can nominate five best original ideas/innovations of students through the official INSPIRE website. Entries to the award are accepted from all government and private schools.



# Several key interventions made in education, tourism, industrial sectors to boost growth, economy in J&K



SRINAGAR: The Jammu and Kashmir administration is creating a system that serves everyone with equal opportunities besides endeavours to mobilise all the resources to improve the standard of living of people which have been deprived of progress for decades.

“Several interventions were made in the education sector of the Union territory in the last three years, and efforts were being made to provide quality education to children. Educational system of the UT has been overhauled and aligned as per the recommendations of the National Education Policy, 2020,” said an official.

Through ‘Aao School Chalein Campaign’ lakhs of students from disadvantaged sections have been brought back to the class rooms. With a view to provide quality education to the youth in remote areas of the UT, 25,000 additional seats at graduate level have been provided by setting up 50 degree colleges. This is the biggest addition in the Higher Education sector in the last 70 years. Uniform academic calendar has been introduced in all higher educational institutions.

The present LG led Administration is giving prime focus on the education of Tribal children which can be gauged from the fact that the department of tribal affairs, for the first time, initiated an exercise to assess the state of education viz a viz tribal education and literacy levels prevalent among the tribal population. Based on such surveys, a comprehensive education plan was formulated to address specific educational needs of tribals besides efforts are being made by the Education department to upgrade the educational institutions across J&K.

The priority of present Government is to secure the future of tribal children. Smart schools in tribal and remote areas are being equipped with modern facilities which can develop scientific temper in children and make them future-ready, besides arresting the dropout rate.

The prospects for the tribal community in Jammu and Kashmir are bright as a number of schemes have been launched for its benefit. Never before have tribal community prospects been as bright as they are today. The Forest Rights Act, PM Van Dhan Yojana, healthcare, transport facility, hostels, tourist villages, skill development — every initiative has been aimed at ensuring progress of J&K in an equitable, fair and just manner.

Every sector in Jammu and Kashmir is witnessing a trajectory of growth and progress.

Regarding the tourism sector, Millions of tourists who visited Jammu and Kashmir this year, testify the overall development and change that has taken place in the Union Territory as the current year touched the highest-ever visitor figure.

The long-pending demand of night-flight operations of the residents of Jammu and Kashmir has been fulfilled. 75 offbeat tourist destinations are being developed in Jammu and Kashmir as a part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

Jammu and Kashmir has been a favoured shooting destination for Bollywood. A comprehensive Film Policy was launched last year to attract film-makers after decades and within a year of the notification of the policy, filmmakers began to seek shooting permissions for films and web-series in huge numbers from the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), nodal department for implementation of Film Policy. Government is planning to launch a film studio with state-of-the-art facilities to provide new opportunities to the young talent of Jammu and Kashmir besides boosting the business ecosystem of the Union Territory.

The Centre deserves credit for overseeing this very welcome industrial and economic resurgence that is dramatically changing J&K since the latter half of 2019. In the last two years, investments from India and abroad have facilitated a sharp improvement in development and socio-economic parameters. Major initiatives have allowed for strides to be taken in key sectors that drive the development engine. J&K is well on its way to becoming one of India’s leading UTs.

Development benefits were not allowed to reach the last man in the queue. By removing divisive and discriminatory policies all sections of community have been made effective partners in process of development.

For women empowerment, Government is making proactive intervention to create facilities to encourage women’s participation in governance, business, and other sectors. A gender-inclusive ecosystem in the union territory is being created so that women have a better access to education and economic growth.

The J&K government is creating an ideal, gender-inclusive ecosystem where they have better access to education and economic growth, putting them at the heart of our development initiatives and making those on the margins aware of their rights.

Government is stressing on proper implementation of policies and the need to focus on skill training and re-skilling of women so that they have an equal share in future economic opportunities, an official said.

Meanwhile, due to seriousness of Government, an overwhelming response was received for investment under recently announced new Industrial Policy which will create lakhs of employment opportunities for the youth.

As per the policy, all Industrial units coming into commercial production from April 1 as well as the existing units undertaking substantial expansion shall be entitled for incentives under this policy while the existing units eligible for incentives under the erstwhile Industrial Policy 2016 shall be allowed to avail the same under the old policy till March 31, 2026. The government would act as facilitator rather than regulator. All UT related services, consents and permissions required to set up and operate an industry in J&K are being provided through Single Window Portal.





## Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana

### SHA sets target to cover around 97 lakh souls under AB-PM-JAY-SEHAT scheme across J&K

SRINAGAR: The State Health Agency has started the Jammu and Kashmir Gold Card campaign to target the registration of 97 lakh souls under the 'Ayushman Bharat SEHAT Scheme' launched by the Government of India which has revolutionized the health sector across Jammu and Kashmir.

With this scheme, lakhs of poor people who can't afford treatment at hospitals can now receive advanced treatment for their health conditions at all the empanelled hospitals across the country.

Under this scheme, more than 7652064 persons (78.74%) have been registered making them eligible for free and quality treatment in empanelled hospitals of the country.

According to official figures, among the 2505626 targeted families, 2251116 (89.84%) families with at least one family member are verified.

Notably, Shopian, Kulgam and Ganderbal districts have achieved 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB PM-JAY) SEHAT scheme. These districts achieved the milestone due to continuous efforts by District Administration and special registration drives organized by the State Health Agency (SHA) aimed to cover all families under AB-PMJAY SEHAT scheme.

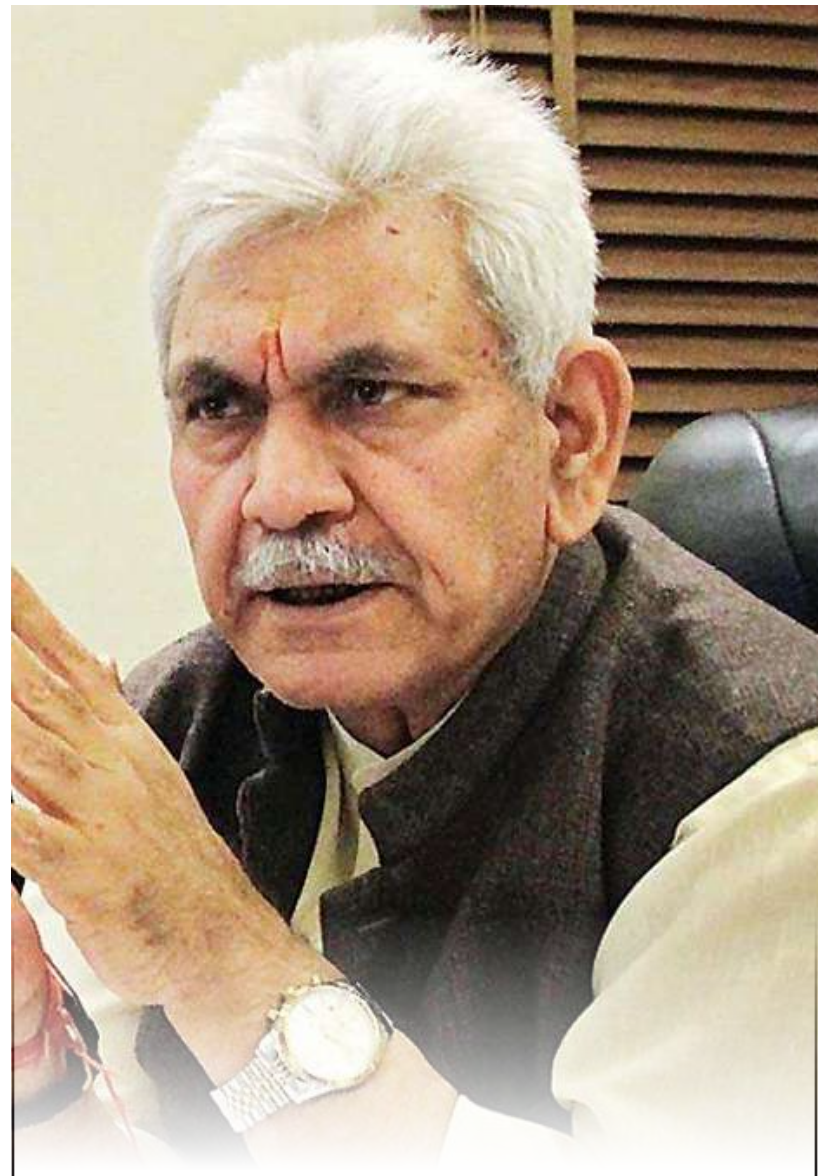
The AB PM-JAY SEHAT scheme is the world's largest health insurance scheme fully financed by the government and provides a cover of Rs five lakh per family per year for secondary and tertiary care hospitalization. AB PM-JAY SEHAT Scheme in Jammu and Kashmir provides health insurance cover of Rs 5 lakh per family per year to all the residents at empanelled hospitals. The scheme covers up to three days of pre-hospitalization and fifteen days of post-hospitalization expenses including diagnostics and medicines.

SHA recently launched a citizen friendly facility for citizens to avail Golden cards in the comfort of their homes. The citizens can visit the website [setu.pmjay.gov.in](http://setu.pmjay.gov.in) and register themselves and their families with details of ration card issued by the Food and Supply Department, J&K, and download their Golden cards.

Earlier, SHA rolled out an ambitious door-to-door exercise to achieve 100 percent saturation under the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY SEHAT scheme. AB-PMJAY SEHAT Scheme has become a ray of hope for poor families who couldn't afford health treatment at prestigious and well known medical institutes of the country.

Recently, a special initiative was launched for women and their families associated with JKRLM to provide them free treatment.

Under the initiative of 'Gaon Gaon Ayushman', State Health Agency (SHA) has also started to reach out to last mile villages which remain cut off from the rest of the world due to adverse weather conditions so as to percolate the benefits of the scheme down to every beneficiary.



## LG reviews progress of Hydroelectric Power Projects

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha during his visit to Kishtwar, chaired a meeting with the senior officials of Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEP).

An official spokesman said that LG directed the HEP authorities and executing agencies for completion of the projects having National importance within a given deadline.

The Lt Governor stressed upon employment of locals in these projects and directed the authorities to enhance the skill of local youth through Skill Development/Enhancement Programme so they can be absorbed in the ongoing projects, said the spokesman.

During the meeting, the authorities also apprised the Lt Governor about various bottlenecks in the smooth functioning of projects.

The Lt Governor directed the District Administration to ensure hassle-free working in ongoing power projects in the district.

Earlier, the Lt Governor interacted with various public delegations of Kishtwar. As many as 15 delegations of Kishtwar District including PRI representatives, socio-religious organisations, political parties, and civil society members apprised LG of various aspirational needs and other issues related to the development projects, said the spokesman.

The Lt Governor assured the delegations that all their concerns would be looked into meticulously for the early redressal, the spokesman further said.

He said that during his interaction with the delegation of PRI members, the Lt Governor urged them to act as a bridge between people and administration in the grievance redressal mechanism and ensuring 100% saturation of welfare schemes.





## Govt focus is on economic connectivity, reducing rural and urban divide: LG

### Visits Kishtwar, reviews developmental projects, inaugurates & lays foundation stone of projects worth Rs 56.03 cr

Kishtwar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the District Development review meeting in Kishtwar Wednesday and also inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of projects worth Rs 56.03 crores, an official press release informed.

The LG also said the rate of completion of infrastructure projects, especially road, health, education, agriculture, power, telecom facilities, has been speeded up.

“Our focus is on the economic connectivity of Kishtwar and reducing the rural and urban divide. Best of health, education facilities & equitable distribution and access to infrastructure will lead to sustained development and greater employment opportunities,” the LG observed.

The three mega projects worth Rs 20.48 cr inaugurated by the LG today included two PMDP projects – Rs 12 cr worth 25 bedded Sub-District Hospital at Atholi Padder and a new receiving station 33/11KV at Hatta costing Rs 4.31 cr, besides 70R double-lane steel truss bridge over river Chenab at Bhandarkoot under CSS build at the cost of Rs 4.17 cr.

The LG laid foundation stone for projects costing Rs 35.55 cr including two education sector projects- construction of additional accommodations at GHSS Palmar and GHS Drubeel at a cost of Rs 2.53 cr and Rs 1.20 cr respectively; 15 water supply schemes (WSS) under Jal Jeevan Mission worth Rs 31.33 cr and sports stadium Palmar stage-I costing Rs 50 lakh, the press release informed.

While examining the progress of mega development projects and saturation of UT and Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), the LG directed the executing agencies to ensure timely completion of the projects and urgent resolution of the bottlenecks, if any.

The LG stressed upon officials for developing robust mechanisms for prompt redressal of public grievances and saturation of schemes for welfare of women, artisans, farmers and youth.

The LG was appraised about the progress made under various sectors including District Capex, Education, Health, Rural Development, Road, Tourism Jal Jeevan Mission, NABARD, SBM, PMAY-G, Awaas plus, Agriculture, Horticulture &

allied sectors.

Emphasizing on creating self-employment opportunities for the local youth, the LG directed the District Employment officer to connect the unemployed eligible youths with various self-employment and entrepreneurship schemes rolled out by the Union and UT governments.

The LG called for tapping the huge growth potential of the district in Agriculture, Animal Husbandry & allied sectors by way of effective implementation and awareness of all the related schemes.

“Agencies should work in a cohesive manner to achieve the goal of enhancing the farmers’ income and increasing the farm productions by introducing modern techniques and innovations,” the LG added.

District officials were directed to work in coordination with SKUAST, Directorate of Agriculture Department & Department of Industries to ensure GI tagging of local products like Kishtwari saffron and Rajmash on priority.

Stressing the need to intensify campaigns against drug-addiction across the district, the LG directed the police and civil administration for crackdown on drug dealers, peddlers, and roping in representatives of PRIs and the educational institutions for Drug-free Kishtwar Abhiyan.

The LG instructed the officials to give special thrust for enhancing transparency and accountability in the working of the administration, besides streamlining the online services and ensuring door-step delivery of public services. He further passed explicit directions for completion of 79 Amrit Sarovar projects before 2nd October 2022.

Dr Devansh Yadav, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar briefed the LG on the development scenario of the district and the efforts of the District Administration to ensure timely completion of the projects and reaching out to the beneficiaries under various government welfare schemes.

On the occasion, the LG felicitated the winners of National Anthem singing competition 2022 round-2 under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. He also felicitated the home stay owners for taking novel initiative and boosting the tourism in the region.

The LG flagged off the Nasha Mukta Express from DC office complex Kishtwar to spread Awareness against Drug menace under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyaan in the district.

Motorised tricycles to 10 Specially-Abled persons and keys of commercial vehicles to seven beneficiaries under Mumkin scheme of Mission Youth J&K were handed over by the LG, the press release informed.

The LG also inaugurated Hindi Pakhwada Exhibition, organized by NHPC Dulhasti Power Project on the occasion of Hindi Diwas.





# Sustainable farming only way forward to ensure food security, growth: LG

## INTRODUCTION OF PROGRESSIVE LAND REFORMS AND EFFORTS TOWARDS DIVERSIFICATION, ALLIED ACTIVITIES AND HIGH DENSITY PLANTATION HAVE ENABLED FARMERS WITH SMALL LAND HOLDINGS TO EARN MORE...

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today inaugurated a Farmers awareness conference on the use of 'Nano Urea', here at SKICC.

The conference was organized by Indian Farmers Fertilizer Cooperative Ltd (IFFCO) to generate awareness about benefits of 'Nano Urea'.

The Lt Governor highlighted the farmer's efforts in fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Modi to reduce the use of chemical fertilizers and transition to sustainable alternatives to protect soil health, plants and environment and congratulated the entire team of IFFCO for developing the world's first Liquid Nano Urea.

"Sustainable farming is the only way forward to ensure food security and growth. Farmers are ultimate entrepreneurs and our effort is to provide them with better infrastructure, easy access to credit, access to modern machinery and benefits of agriculture extension services," observed the Lt Governor.

He said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has become the fifth largest economy in the world overtaking England. It has also sent a strong message that a sustainable and innovative agricultural system is significant for the holistic growth of any region or nation.

Highlighting the reforms introduced in the agriculture sector in J&K, LG observed that being an agriculture based economy and having more than 70% of the population dependent on agriculture, special impetus has been given to make J&K's agriculture system sustainable and profitable.

"Introduction of progressive land reforms and efforts towards diversification, allied activities and high density plantation have enabled farmers with small land holdings to earn more," said LG.

He said that integrated approach of farming has already been initiated and the government is promoting agro-based employment generating activities. Revival of traditional crops with market linkage support, GI tagging of local produce, high density plantation and

allied activities have successfully brought prosperity for the farmers.

LG further highlighted that various strategies are being adopted for promotion of allied enterprises such as dairy farming, apiculture, sericulture and food processing in augmenting farmers income to reduce losses and open greater opportunities for employment and entrepreneurship.

Underlining the need to make necessary interventions to ensure food security for the growing population, LG called on stakeholders to work on mission mode for effective implementation of the millet mission, exotic vegetables farming, promoting micro-irrigation and reducing crop waste.

Dileep Sanghani, Chairman, IFFCO, speaking on the occasion said that IFFCO is continuously engaged in finding solutions to problems confronting the agriculture and allied sector. He informed that trials of the World's first Nano Urea were conducted at more than 11000 places in every nook and corner of the country on around 94 crops.

Dr Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, in his address said that J&K's agriculture sector will emerge as a role model not only for the country but the whole world.

Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Agriculture Production Department, informed about the Apex Committee constituted under Dr Mangala Rai to find ways to double the growth rate of the agriculture sector. He said that various technical working groups have been formulated to suggest a policy framework to the Government.

Dr. U.S. Awasthi, Managing Director & CEO, IFFCO, highlighted the features and benefits of Nano Urea.

To mark the occasion, the Lt Governor also handed over sanction letters for Sprayers to farmers, FPOs, Cooperative Societies and SHGs as part of the intervention of the agriculture department for changing the public perception in the field of agriculture.



# Paras Healthcare ties up with Fujifilm for providing medical equipment at its J&K hospitals

Srinagar: Multispecialty hospital chain Paras Healthcare on Sunday said it has signed an agreement with Fujifilm India for bringing the latest diagnostic technologies in Jammu and Kashmir.

“As part of the partnership, Fujifilm India will provide innovative medical and screening devices by installing its cutting-edge machines at the hospitals of Paras Healthcare in Jammu and Kashmir,” a spokesperson of Paras Healthcare said.

Paras Healthcare is setting up a 200-bed hospital in Dalgate area of the city and the tie up will be the first foray of Fujifilm India into the healthcare sector of Jammu and Kashmir, the spokesperson said.

Under the long-term pact, Fujifilm will supply a wide range of high-end and sophisticated medical devices, including artificial intelligence-based machines, to the network of hospitals run by Paras Healthcare.

“We are absolutely delighted to bring about this partnership agreement with Fujifilm India. They come with an outstanding track record in terms of making top-notch medical devices,” Dharminder Nagar, Managing Director of Paras Healthcare, said.

Koji Wada, managing director, Fujifilm India, said through this association, the company aims to “provide superior technological medical facilities that can help save lives and encourage patients to become more engaged in their personal care”.

## Implementation of FRA-2006 uplifts status of Tribal communities



SRINAGAR: The Government of Jammu and Kashmir said that the implementation of the Forest Rights Act is strengthening democracy at the grassroots level besides correcting the wrongs done in past by replicating the true spirit of the Act across Jammu and Kashmir.

In September 2021, the Jammu and Kashmir government scripted a historic chapter when Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha, handed over individual and community rights certificates to the beneficiaries of Gujjar, Bakarwal, and Gaddi Sippi communities under the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006 at a momentous event in Srinagar.

The event was hailed as a significant step with the potential to transform the lives of members of tribal communities in the UT as the rights of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers were recognized albeit after a long delay.

An 80-year-old, Wali Muhammad of Kotrang Rajouri reveals how he was facilitated by the administration in providing FRC at the hands of Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha which he had desired for all life so that he can also have rights so some forest land and its produce.

After a long struggle and efforts for more than 14 years due rights have been conferred upon the tribal community through the implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA), 2006, keeping in mind the basic spirit of social equality and harmony as guided by the constitution of our country and the Parliament.

Under the guidance of the Prime Minister, forest rights were conferred to the tribal community. J&K administration had been

vigorously pursuing the ideals of establishing an equitable and just social order in the UT.

The UT government had been working sincerely to empower the tribal community which remained neglected and discriminated against for decades together.

Conferring rights over the forest land for these forest dwellers is poised to elevate the socio-economic status of a sizeable section of the 14 lakh population of tribals and nomadic communities including Gujjar, Bakarwals, and Gaddi Sippis in the Union Territory.

Nasir Hussain, Sarpanch of Mandi Poonch is grateful of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha for giving them rights on the forest land which was their long pending demand.

Similarly, the Sarpanch of Upper Pachwal Rajouri expresses gratitude to the Government of India for providing livelihood to the ST community under Forest Rights Act which was pending for the last 70 years.

These people have been living in the forests for centuries without any right over the forest land but the implementation of FRA proved to be of great help for these forest dwellers. The Act was a step towards redressing prejudice and empowering communities to participate in the management of forest and wildlife protection. The preamble to the Act itself notes that it recognizes the historical injustice to tribals and others who have been traditionally living in forest areas.





# Dairy farming receives reformative interventions like IDDS, DEDS to boost dairy dev across J&K

## Move aims to increase milk production, create employment avenues for youth

SRINAGAR: J&K Government is making reformative interventions to bring the new dawn of the White Revolution across Jammu and Kashmir, besides creating better livelihood opportunities for farmers and those associated with dairy production.

With an aim of Doubling Farmers' income from dairying, the Administration is working tirelessly to ensure utmost priority is being extended to dairy development in the union territory by way of implementing various developmental schemes, initiatives, and policies, among others.

Integrated dairy development scheme (IDDS) is a major scheme that not only focuses on providing financial assistance but also supports the dairy producer by providing a milking machine, and bulk milk cooling unit at a 50% subsidy as well as other benefits. The scheme also provides paneer-making machines, khoya-making, dahi-making, cream separators, ice cream-making machines, butter and ghee-making machines, milk vans, milk ATMs, and DG Set, to aspiring entrepreneurs who try to create their start-ups in the dairy sector.

One of the dairy farming entrepreneur, Sartaj Ahmed of Kulgam is grateful to the Government for providing needful subsidies and other help for establishing dairy farms under the Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS).

"I sell milk in the locality. I am grateful to the Government for providing me the employment and supporting me to do something big on my own," Sartaj said.

Similarly, Irshad Ahmad of Mattan, Anantnag says IDDS launched by the Government helped youth like him to not only become independent but to provide employment to others also.

"I started this dairy farm two years before. I am satisfied with the returns of the dairy farm and thankful to the Government for providing us avenue of employment," Irshad said.

Dairy farming has great potential to generate huge employment in the UT and can contribute massively to the socio-economic transformation of the farming community.

J&K Government is working on a multi-pronged strategy to increase milk production and double the Dairy farmers' income. Big players like AMUL, in collaborative efforts with the Government, has a major role to play in the promotion and growth of milk production and other related activities in the UT.


To increase production, the government has started several schemes like the dairy entrepreneurship development scheme (DEDS) which focuses on setting up small dairy farms. Under this scheme, 15000 dairy units of two cows each will be distributed as a special package for Jammu and Kashmir.

The government is also working on cooperatives as it helps to make milk production profitable with Jammu and Kashmir milk producers cooperative limited (JKMPCL) also working to raise the capacity from 50,000 LPD of milk production to 3 lakh LPD.

Meanwhile, Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha recently visited AMUL Plant in Anand District, Gujarat to have a first-hand appraisal of the facilities being put up for milk production, processing, and other related products.

He discussed the modalities for promoting milk production and increasing its capacity in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, with the active involvement of various stakeholders like AMUL.





## Extension of central laws established equitable system of justice across J&K

Srinagar: With the extension of 890 central laws, repeal of 205 state laws and modification of 129 laws after the abrogation of Article 370, a system of equitable justice has been established across Jammu and Kashmir, officials said on Tuesday.

“Under the guidance of the prime minister, the Union territory is witnessing a new dawn,” an official spokesman said.

“The implementation of several path-breaking central legislations after the revocation of Article 370, like the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forests Rights) Act, 2007, Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1954, among others, is bringing a new era of progress and development in Jammu and Kashmir,” the spokesman said.

He said tribals are getting land rights now while thousands of government jobs have been provided within a record time with “complete transparency” and major steps have been taken to ensure the empowerment of women, marginalised and weaker groups.

In a major relief to socially and educationally backward classes, the Jammu and Kashmir administration has enhanced their income ceiling from Rs 4.50 lakh to Rs 8 lakh, allowing them to avail benefits of reservation according to provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation Act, 2004, the spokesman said.

The rights of weaker sections like scheduled tribes, other traditional forest dwellers, scheduled castes and ‘safai karamcharis’ are now ensured by the application of relevant Acts. Rights of children and senior citizens are now ensured too, he added.

The spokesman said in order to create a just and

equitable society, reservation rules have been amended to extend benefits of reservation to left out categories like Pahari-speaking people and economically weaker sections.

“Similarly, the implementation of 73rd and 74th Constitution amendments have given a new lease of life to grassroots democracy in J&K. Even though the three-tier system was implemented late in the UT, Jammu and Kashmir has emerged as a great and effective example in this system,” he said.

For effective implementation of developmental plans and policies at the grassroots level, ample resources have been kept at the disposal of PRIs, the spokesman said.

After 2019, when the budget of Jammu and Kashmir is presented in Parliament, the goal of strengthening good governance and grassroots democracy is placed at the top of the list of priorities, he said.

“Eleven land laws that existed in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir were old, regressive, intrinsically contradictory and outdated laws with a set of modern, progressive and people-friendly provisions. The new land laws will not only afford protection to over 90 percent of the land in J-K but will also help revamp the agriculture sector, foster rapid industrialisation, aid economic growth and create jobs in J-K,” the spokesman said.

“The repealed laws were made to serve the old agrarian-based economy and were required to be modified for modern economic needs. Besides, they were beset with ambiguities, contradictions and redundancies and in many cases clearly regressive,” he added.



# Road connectivity in rural areas improves in last three years in J&K

SRINAGAR: People in Jammu and Kashmir are reaping the benefits of road connectivity which they were deprived of for the past seventy years.

The insensitivity of earlier regimes in road connectivity had deprived many areas of development and prosperity so and so that many hamlets in the Himalayan region were forbidden.

Road construction in Jammu and Kashmir picked up pace after 2019 with the focused attention of the Government on major highways in three years and thereby travel time between major destinations across the Union Territory has reduced considerably.

During the last two years, road and tunnel infrastructure has been prioritized and around one lakh crore is being spent to build a robust road network. Last year, Jammu and Kashmir has set a new record of constructing 6,450 km of road length and Jammu and Kashmir achieved the third rank in the target of longest road length in the country.

Earlier, six km of road length was constructed per day which has increased to 20 km per day in the last few years. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Jammu and Kashmir rank fourth in the country.

In the last two years, a total of 169 bridges have been constructed to strengthen the transport system and in the last financial year, 7610 km of road length has been macadamized which used to be around 2500-3000 km previously. Travel time between Jammu and Srinagar has been reduced from 12 hours to 7 hours.

In 2022, for the second consecutive year, J&K maintained its national ranking as J&K was once again ranked among the top three performing states/UTs at the national level for construction of

road length per year under the PMGSY.

Udhampur district bagged the top position at the national level for successfully implementing the PMGSY for 2020-21. The district remained on top for constructing roads of 560.49 km.

Currently, under PMGSY, an average of nine km of road length is constructed per day, which is higher than the achievement for the year 2020-21.

Notably, the Union Ministry of Rural Development had sanctioned 3,347 schemes under the PMGSY-I to be executed in 12 phases envisaging the construction of 18,432.79 km of roads costing Rs 1,19,646.76 crore to provide connectivity to 2,148 habitations. Under the PMGSY-2, 107 schemes (704.55 km) have been sanctioned costing Rs 790.49 crore.

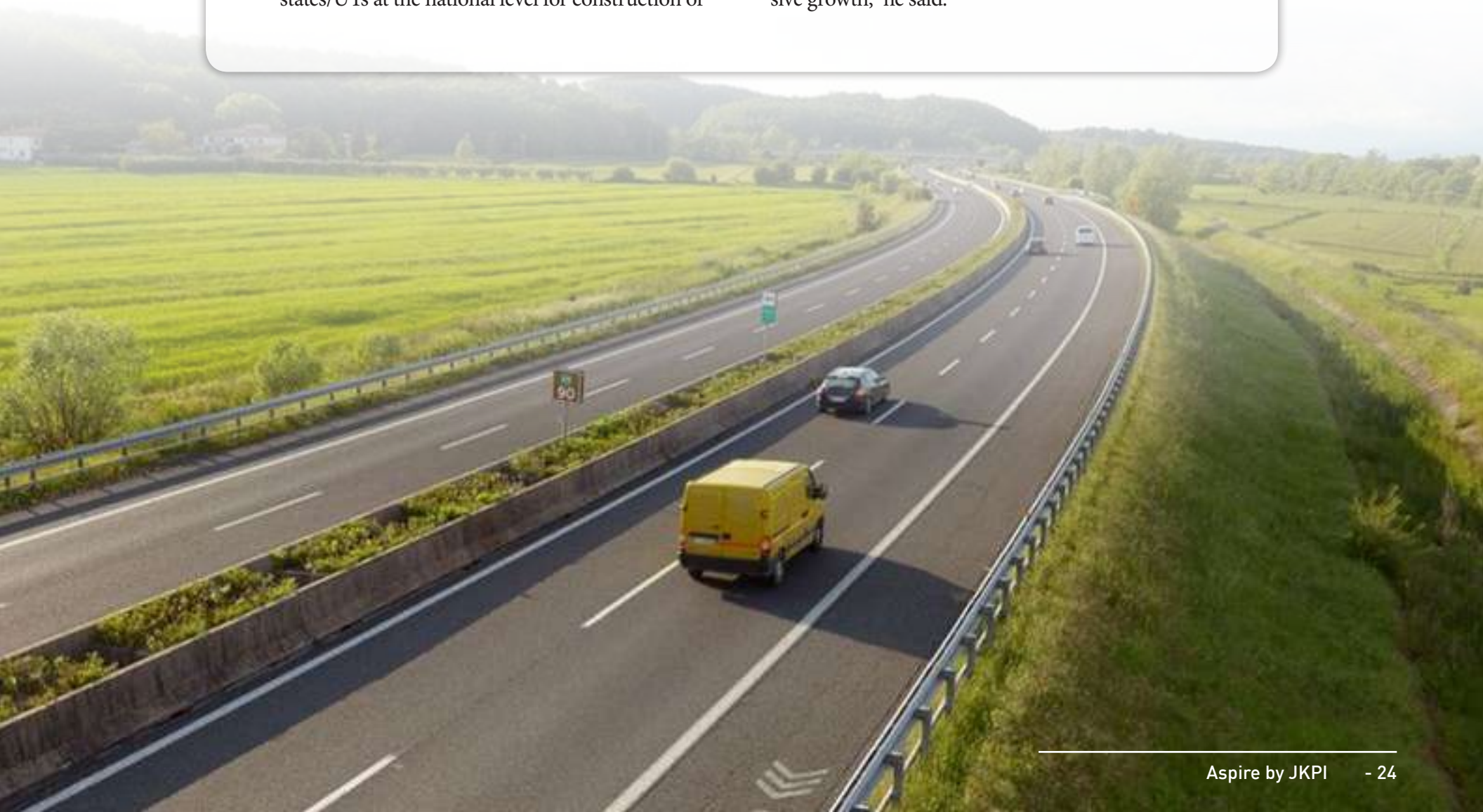
Last week the Union Ministry for Rural Development approved PMGSY-III for 1,276 km costing Rs 1,357 crore for J&K with an aim to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitations for sustainable and inclusive growth.

The PMGSY-III is yet another milestone in the rural connectivity of J&K.

The Central Government is supporting the efforts of the J&K Government to improvise the rural infrastructure so that the connectivity can be enhanced and the rural population can get the benefits for ease of living.

J&K Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha expressed gratitude to Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and Union Minister for Rural Development, Giriraj Singh for granting approval to PMGSY-III and termed it as yet another milestone in the rural connectivity of J&K.

“It will provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected habitats for sustainable and inclusive growth,” he said.







## GOVT APPROVES MODERNISATION OF 120 SCHOOLS IN TRIBAL AREAS

SRINAGAR: The Tribal Affairs Department has approved modernisation of 120 schools in tribal areas to provide modern educational facilities in these remotely located schools in an endeavour to promote quality education.

In Phase-I of the plan more than 100 schools have already been modernised at a cost of Rs 20.00 Cr

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, in November 2021, launched the initiative of Tribal Affairs Department to modernise more than 200 schools in two phases at an estimated cost of Rs 40.00 Cr. Phase-I of the initiative covering more than 100 schools was completed in April 2022.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department informed that education of tribal students has been emphasised as a top priority and a special budget has been earmarked under the Tribal Education Plan (TEP) first time introduced by the department last year which included enhancement in scholarship, establishment of new hostels, resumption of work on languishing hostels which lacked funding and administrative approval, coaching for UPSC Civil Services Examination, NEET & JEE, modern infrastructure, IT equipment and other measures.

Department has approved modernisation of 120 schools in tribal areas on two different categories. In 48 schools a budget of Rs 20.00 Lakh each has been approved for providing required infrastructure including Teaching-Learning Material (TLM), Furniture, Uniform, Sports equipment, repairs and other basic facilities including toilets etc while in another 72 schools one Smart Classroom each has been approved which

includes smart boards, furniture, books and other required material.

Dr Shahid appreciated the role played by Chief Education Officers, Zonal Education Officers, Heads of Institutions and staff of schools selected for modernisation tribal areas, which has yielded visible results in a very short span of time and thousands of tribal students have benefitted under the initiative.

The 48 schools approved for modernisation include 4 in Udhampur, 3 in Reasi, 1 in Anantnag, 3 in Ganderbal, 2 in Jammu, 3 in Budgam, 9 in Poonch, 3 in Kishtwar, 4 in Kupwara, 3 in Doda, 4 in Bandipora, 1 in Baramulla, 1 in Kathua, 1 in Samba, 2 in Srinagar and 3 in Rajouri.

The Smart Classrooms approved under the initiative for 72 schools include 10 in Poonch, 15 in Rajouri, 5 in Kupwara, 5 in Bandipora, 3 in Ramban, 3 in Reasi, 3 in Kathua, 2 in Samba, 5 in Ganderbal, 2 in Budgam, 5 Anantnag, 3 in Baramulla, 2 in Shopian, 2 in Pulwama and 2 in Kulgam, 4 in Udhampur. Proposals have also been sought from Districts Kishtwar, Doda, Ramban and Anantnag for coverage of schools in tribal areas. An amount of Rs 12.00 Cr has been released for the purpose.

Tribal Research Institute (TRI) established in August 2021 as a pioneer in Research and Development for tribal welfare has been entrusted with capacity-building programmes for teachers of model tribal schools in coordination with the School Education department at district level.



# Once known for wrong reasons, downtown is now new address of Indian sporting heroes: LG

Srinagar: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday said that Srinagar downtown having shed its past is now a new address of Indian sporting heroes.

Sinha made these remarks as he inaugurated the Ellahi Bagh Indoor Sports Stadium, constructed at a cost of Rs 4 cr under PMDP.

Congratulating the locals, especially the youth of downtown area for the new sports facility, the LG said the Shahr-e-Khas area has evolved as a hub of sporting activities, with youngsters determined to achieve glory in sports.

“I was told by local people that for the first time in 75 years any head of the state visited downtown Srinagar. They said many areas were known for the wrong reasons. But, I believe downtown Srinagar has shed its past and it is now a new address of Indian sporting heroes,” the LG said.

In the last two years, downtown has witnessed a massive rise in the number of sports being played and a large number of youth pursuing sports professionally, he added.

According to an official press release, amid the cheers of thousands of locals present at the venue, the LG recounted names of top-class players who recently went to represent the country at the International sporting events.

“Several youngsters from downtown Srinagar have proved their mettle in international championships. The day is not far when we will see the youth of Shahr-e-Khas representing the country in the Olympics and earning a new identity of heroes and the respect for J&K and the country,” LG said.

The LG also appreciated the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council for preparing and handing over the Ellahi Bagh Indoor Sports Stadium in record time and extended his best wishes to all the players.

“Opportunities in sports come knocking if the players are receptive, determined and motivated. You get life only once, do something that everyone remembers. Change your life and contribute to nation building.

“Total 12 sports-fields, mini-stadiums in different areas of downtown Srinagar have been upgraded by J&K Sports Council with world-class amenities to nurture young talents. Determination of downtown youth to see the tricolor fly high has revived the legacy of football and other games,” LG added.

The growing sports culture in J&K is reflected in the remarkable revolution in different sports disciplines. “In the last three years, we have ensured unprecedented progress with regard to infrastructure, career progression and future of the players. An enabling environment through new policies has been created which fills the gap of the last 70 years,” observed the LG.

“J&K Sports Council is making efforts to nurture sporting talent in every part of the UT. We have ensured that the difficulties faced by the players before 2019 are not faced by our new generation players and every support is extended to hone their skills and provide them more opportunities,” he added.

The LG said J&K Sports Council is looking for sporting talent so that training and other facilities can be provided to them. All sports persons have the potential to become like Saqib Farooq, Rabia Farooq, Toria Gulzar, Tajim Fayaz, Soliha Yusuf and Farhan Ganai and bring laurels to the nation.

The LG asked the youth to take the inspirations from champions like Sadia Tariq, Shaukat Ahmed and Danish Farooq and dedicate themselves in their respective sports disciplines. “It is gold when you lose your entire energy in the game but only particles of dust when the energy is wasted,” the LG added.

The LG noted that ‘Noon Chai’ with football of the Shahr-e-Khas is being discussed across the nation. He said sports gives a new identity to the youth and the Sports Council and the UT administration are ensuring that every player gets an opportunity to play with better infrastructure and earn the identity that of a champion.

“Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav has given an opportunity to touch new heights. The UT administration is committed to facilitating the dreams of the Youth to excel in sports and represent the country at



various platforms,” observed the LG.

“We have to restore the reputation of Shahr-e-Khas, once called the heartbeat of Kashmir. Some people with vested interest are rattled by the all-round development taking place in J&K. Efforts were also made to mislead many of our youth. The entire families of those who misled our children, are living a comfortable life in the big cities of the country and abroad while our children have suffered. There is no place for such elements in civilized society,” the LG said.

Observing that today Jammu and Kashmir is moving ahead on the path of progress, the LG called upon the elders, parents and the community members to join the efforts to completely eradicate the menace of drug addiction to give a secure and prosperous future to the new generation.

On the various demands of local residents of Shahr-e-Khas and the members of the sports clubs, the LG gave on spot directions and assured them to address each and every issue on priority.

The youth present on the occasion also pledged to make Kashmir free from drugs.

On his arrival, the LG took a round of the newly constructed stadium and interacted with the young sportspersons and inspected the facilities there.

Junaid Azim Mattu, Mayor SMC, while speaking on the occasion, lauded the LG-led UT government for reaching out to the youth from across the UT and taking unprecedented measures to develop sports even in the areas which were neglected for decades.

Dr Darakhshan Andrabi, Chairperson J&K Wakf Board, extended gratitude to the UT administration for providing resources and necessary support to the youth and sports persons so that they can bring laurels to the UT and the country.

Dr. Arun Kumar Mehta, Chief Secretary, congratulated the locals and the youth of the downtown area for the new indoor sports stadium. He also lauded the efforts of the Sports department and J&K Sports Council for promoting sports in the UT.

Sarmad Hafeez, Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, gave a detailed briefing on the facilities being extended to the sportspersons at the new stadium. He further informed about the on-going process of recruitment of sportspersons against various gazetted and non-gazetted posts as per new sports policy.

Dedicated efforts are being made to develop sports infrastructure and engage more youth in sports activities to realize the vision of making J&K- a power house of sporting talent, he added.

Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council informed about the various ongoing and completed sports infrastructure projects in the UT.

Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary, H&UDD; Pandurang K Pole, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Vijay Kumar, ADGP Kashmir; Mohammad Aijaz, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Athar Aamir Khan, Commissioner SMC; PRI & ULB members; members of downtown community, Sikh community and religious leaders; prominent sports personalities, large number of people and youth were present on the occasion.



# 'SUKOON' relieves people from drugs induced mental disorders, depression



## 'Toll-free number abuzz with calls, recovered youth inspire others'

SRINAGAR: The initiative of providing online counseling to people suffering from anxiety disorders to severe depression including indulgence in substance abuse is gaining impetus as hundreds of people are being benefited from this novel initiative.

Earlier, during the month of September, under the guidance and insight of Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole SUKOON - a Mental health helpline was launched for providing online counseling to people in need.

This initiative enables callers to recover from mental health challenges. As people became familiar with the SUKOON, this helpline received hundreds of calls in the month of September from people experiencing anxiety and stress seeking help.

At SUKOON, specialist Psychologists and Counsellors associated are providing problem focussed counseling, psychological therapy, and desired information to the callers.

Pertinently around 300 calls have been received at the helpline and callers discussing the issues of anxiety, depression, addiction, etc with the counselors.

Callers from a cross-section of society including youth, teenagers, parents, teachers, the elderly, and families benefited from the SUKOON.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir appealed to all those

who are struggling with substance abuse, anxiety, or any other mental issue to utilize the service of "SUKOON" for a better and calm life.

Several unique features of the helpline include privacy of the caller's identity, an Interactive Voice Response (IVR) system, and a speech-enabled IVR system to process the request.

Telephonic connectivity benefits all those who cannot access face-to-face counseling for reasons like unavailability, stigma, financial difficulties, etc., and client confidentiality.

Among many people who recovered after going through SUKOON counseling is a young boy, Amir, 21 (name changed). While sharing his experience, he said that the helpline has turned out to be a life-changing experience.

He said that while scrolling newsfeeds on social media he came across news about SUKOON.

"After going through the contents and a pause of a few minutes, I reluctantly called the toll-free no. 1800-180-7202," said Amir.

"Soon, I got a call from SUKOON and had a brief conversation with the counselor on the other end," he added.

He felt very comfortable after the first conversation with a bit relieved and intended to call again.

After a few days, he made up his mind to call again. He was contacted back by SUKOON and this time he spoke without any fear and got enough time to speak to the counselor.

The conversation had all my apprehensions diffused and returned rejuvenated hope inside my thoughts, Amir said with a content face.

He said that he started feeling good, quitting smoking, and retreating from anti-depressants.

He stated that people including youth should avail the same facility so that issues of life affecting mental health get minimized.

An official at SUKOON while giving details informed that over 300 calls were received by the helpline so far, including 264 male callers and over 36 female callers.

He added that around 80% of callers reported they are struggling with anxiety and depression while around 20% reported they got involved in drugs and want to come out of the menace.

Moreover, he said that 35 specialist Psychologists & Counsellors associated with "SUKOON" are providing problem focussed counseling, psychological therapy, and desired information to the callers.



# ROAD PROJECTS

## Road infrastructure projects revolutionising connectivity, bringing economic prosperity across J&K

The road projects being executed across the length and breadth of Jammu and Kashmir are revolutionizing the connectivity and bringing economic prosperity across the UT.

With the construction of new roads, the travel time from Jammu to Kishtwar has been reduced from 7.5 hrs to 5hrs and travel time from Jammu to Srinagar has been reduced from 7-12 hours to 5.5 hours for LMVs. Similarly travel time from Srinagar to Gulmarg has been reduced from 3 hours to 1.5 hours and layover of Trucks reduced from 24-72 hours to 12 hours.

The statistics are reflecting that macadamization is being done at record level with average road macadamization in J&K increased to 20.6 km per day in last three years as compared to 6.54 km per day before 2019, which reflects the progressing development happening here.

According to official data, road length in J&K has increased to 41,141 kilometres and the percentage of blacktop roads has reached to 74 percent as compared to 66 percent in 2019.

Under Pothole free road programme, a target of 5900 kilometres was made for 2021-22 of which 4600 kilometres of road length has been made pothole-free till date.

Remarkably, Jammu and Kashmir has once again been ranked among top three performing States/UTs at national level for construction of road length per year under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).

J&K Maintained its rank for the second consecutive year as the Public Works Department (R&B) constructed PMGSY road length of 3284 kms during the year 2021-22 and connected 114 habitations through road networks by executing 427 schemes in the year.

Under PMGSY, an average 9 kms of road length was constructed per day, which was slightly higher than the achievement for the year 2020-21 with an average of 8.67 kms per day and 119 habitations were connected under PMGSY with 3167 kms of road length constructed.

Nearly after 15 years, inner roads of Nihalpora village in Baramulla district are being repaired and macadamized. Home to 1500 families, the village was never on the priority list of the successive popular governments. Potholed roads, traffic gridlocks and water-logging were commuting nightmares.

Similarly, the people of Darui Panchayat started celebrating and dancing with joy after the road construction work was taken up

in their village for the first time since Independence. As soon as the JCB machine was installed, the people of the village started dancing to the beats of the drum and exchanged sweets among themselves. The construction work on 2.50 kilometer road has been started at an estimated cost of Rs 2.29 crore.

Vimla Devi, the Sarpanch of the Panchayat had played very important role in getting the road built. Vimla Devi said people were engaged in trying to get this road constructed since 2009 but finally the work started in 2022. "People were trying to get this road constructed since 2009 and finally the work has been started in 2022. This road is being built under the NABARD scheme," she said.

Similarly, Ashok Kumar, Sarpanch Sial Chadda thanks Public Works Department for fulfilling the long pending demand of people for construction of road as they were suffering in absence of a road.

Moreover, four National Highway projects are being completed during 2022. Execution of Delhi-Amritsar Katra Expressway is being taken up. Under Bharat Mala, 10 new road/tunnel projects are being executed. All habitations with over 1000 population (as per the 2011 census) have been provided road connectivity. The provision of road connectivity for the habitations with 500 population by 2022-23 is also being taken up.

Public Works Department of J&K has embarked on a mission to reach out to unconnected habitations with road connectivity, strengthen and expand the intra UT road network, especially in rural & remote areas.

Public Works (R&B) Department has achieved considerable targets and achievements under various schemes/programmes implemented for Construction, improvement/upgradation of roads & bridges, for providing connectivity with special focus on rural areas like Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY), Bridge Programme, Central Road & Infrastructure fund (CRIF), NABARD, Road Sector, Cities & Towns (Macadamization), Languishing Projects, Pothole Free Road Programme, NHAI/NHIDCL/BRO, and other departmental works.

For the J&K administration, road connectivity is not only a key component of Rural Development by promoting access to economic and social services but generating increased agricultural incomes and productive employment opportunities is also part of their implementation strategy.







## EXCISE DEPTT KASHMIR INTENSIFIES DESTRUCTION OF NARCOTIC CROP CULTIVATION

Bhang, Poppy cultivation around 4500 kanals of land destroyed this year

SRINAGAR: Continuing its efforts of eradicating Narcotic crop cultivation, the Excise Department of Kashmir Division intensified its activities in the month of September under Nash Mukht J&K Abhiyan.

The department has been following a multi-pronged strategy; focussing on destruction activities in all the potential/vulnerable areas, taking stringent measures against illicit cultivators/persons involved in narcotic trade, and massive awareness generation programmes involving all stakeholders like Youth Clubs, Students, PRI members, Senior Citizens, NGO's, religious scholars among others.

In the month-long campaign, Bhang destruction of more than 2100 Kanals of land was done in the Kashmir division, besides 12 FIRs were registered against illicit cultivators. Also, more than two Quintals of grinded Cannabis and Poppy straw was seized by the Excise officials and appropriate legal action was initiated against the accused.

The department also organised more than 150 awareness camps this month to spread the message of drugs are harmful

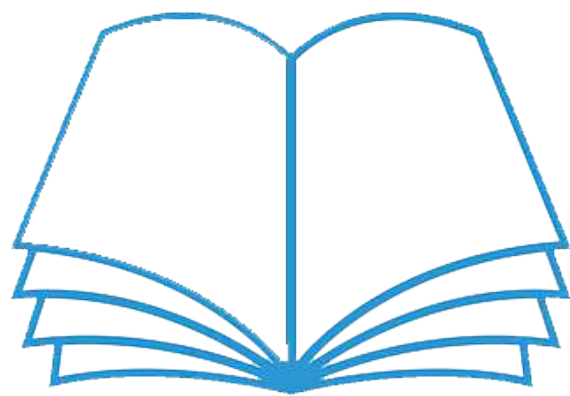
not only to the individual who is involved in abuse but also detrimental to the family in particular and to society in general. As part of the campaign, counseling exercises were held so that victims of abuse do not fall into the trap.

Parents and teachers were counseled to maintain extra vigil and to report that if any individual tries to lure minors towards this menace, law enforcement agencies must be immediately alerted. The focus of youth was taken to positive aspects by holding Painting Competitions, Debates, Marathons, Cyclethones, and Football Matches across the division.

While Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan was a special platform to sensitize people in the fight against drugs, the department will continue to follow a multi-dimensional campaign to eradicate the menace of substance abuse and illicit cultivation from society.

The Department has through its actions continuously endeavoured to curb the spread of this menace and has so far destroyed cannabis and poppy on more than 3900 and 645 kanals of land respectively during the current year.





# **JKPI Publications**



# ESCALATING HUMAN–WILDLIFE CONFLICT IN THE KASHMIR VALLEY



**ADEELA HAMEED**

Human-wildlife conflict (HWC), recognized as a global concern in the UN Convention on Biological Diversity's post-2020 global biodiversity framework, occurs when interactions between humans and wildlife lead to negative consequences, such as the loss of property, livelihoods, and even life.

The long-term survival of protected and endangered wildlife is at risk from human-wildlife conflict. Defensive and retaliatory killing may eventually drive these species to extinction. These encounters result in distress to both people and wildlife immediately impacted by the conflict. They can also have a global reach, with organizations such as sustainable development agencies and businesses feeling the residual effects. The scope of this issue is, thus, significant and truly worldwide. However, we are nowhere near being able to address it at the scale needed.

## **Human-wildlife conflict in Kashmir valley**

As the human population and demand for space continue to grow, coupled with agricultural expansion, infrastructure development, climate change, and other drivers of habitat loss, people and wildlife are increasingly interacting and competing for resources, as a result, the human-wildlife conflicts are becoming more frequent, serious, and widespread. This scenario is playing out all across Jammu and Kashmir and leading to tragic consequences.

“The two most pressing man-animal conflict situations that plague human spaces in Kashmir region, today, involve black bears and leopards. Although conflict is not a new phenomenon in the world, and in Jammu and Kashmir too, it has certainly escalated greatly in the past few years,” reads a statement from the Department of Wildlife Protection Kashmir.

In the last decade, there has been a striking rise in cases of HWC in the Valley. Official figures reveal that nearly 200 people lost their lives and over 2,000 were injured in human-wildlife conflict across Jammu and Kashmir since 2011. Himalayan black bears and leopards constitute wildlife that results in most conflicts in the Valley. In the last three months, the Kashmir region has witnessed 895 incidents where humans have had negative interactions with wildlife.

In 2008-2009, 25 people were killed and 342 injured by bears in the Valley. According to the Jammu and Kashmir Department of Wildlife, this number reached 40 and 562 respectively by 2011-12. Approximately 25% of forest divisions in the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir have reported bear-human conflict.

Kashmir reported 118 deaths and 1,877 injuries while Jammu accounted for 78 deaths and 448 injuries. In 2011-12, at least 32 people were killed and 365 were injured according to official records. In 2012-13, records have shown that 16 deaths and 305 injuries occurred due to HWC while in 2013-14, 32 deaths and 369 injuries were reported.

The appearance of wild animals, particularly wild bears and leopards, has been regular now. Not only near communities that surround the forests but neo-colonies that have come up in both urban and rural areas. In the past few decades, there have been regular instances when leopards, bears, or other wildlife have sneaked into residential areas, creating panic and fear among the residents.

The body of a girl, 6, was found on September 17, hours after she was picked by a leopard and taken along in a forest area in the Gawashar area of Bijnama Uri in north Kashmir's Baramulla district. This was the fourth such incident in Uri this year. Recently, the incident of a black bear, with a cub, attacking locals in the posh Raj Bagh area shocked people to their core. The bear was later apprehended after a 21-hour chase. However, the residents continued to be terrified at the thought of a wild animal visiting the city center.

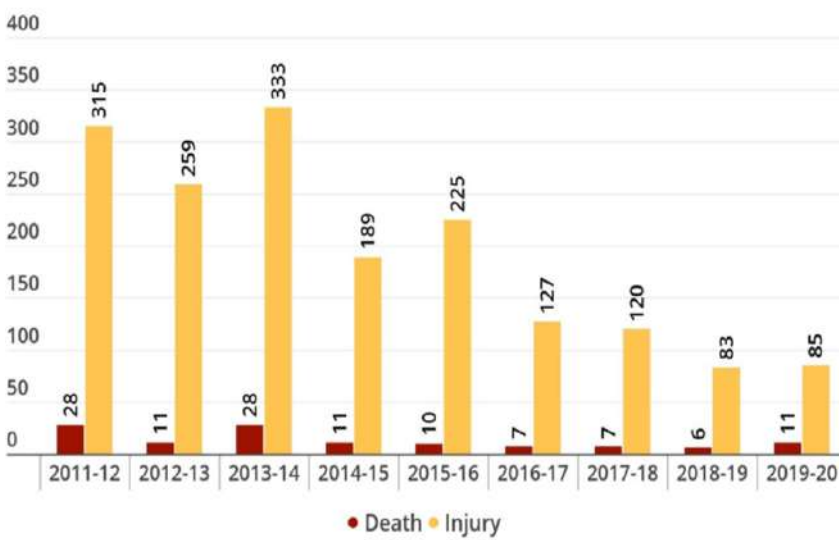
There have also been occurrences of wild animals harming livestock in various regions of the Valley. Wild cats have picked up poultry, pets, sheep, and goats while bears have gorged on fruit and beehives with ease. The last few months witnessed dozens of cases when animals came in contact with humans, inflicting severe



injuries on each other.

economics, peacebuilding, and environmental law.

### Number of human deaths and injuries in Kashmir



Source: Department of Wildlife Protection, Government of Jammu and Kashmir

### Impact of HWC on the ecosystem

Along with other threats, the human-wildlife conflict has driven the decline of once-abundant species while pushing others to the brink of extinction. But this conflict has far-reaching impacts; beyond the wildlife and communities directly affected by it. With such conflict revolving around the interaction between wildlife and humans, the coexistence of both species is linked and important to sustainable development. If not effectively managed, the human-wildlife conflict has the potential to negatively affect all activities and conservation in a much wider sense.

Wildlife and communities that live near jungles are directly affected by human-wildlife conflict. While this conflict can result in the decline and potential obliteration of species, communities, on the other hand, can experience financial losses, and threats to health and safety, food security, livelihoods, and property. The costs of living with wildlife are unevenly distributed and disproportionately fall on communities that often face systemic barriers, have access to few economic opportunities, and live with incomes below the poverty line. On the other hand, the global community benefits from healthy wildlife populations and ecosystems that provide food, allow us to survive, and enable livelihoods.

Thus, human-wildlife conflict is as much a development and humanitarian issue as it is a conservation concern. It affects the income of farmers, shepherds, and fishers – especially those with incomes below the poverty line. In addition to causing direct losses to communities, human-wildlife conflict indirectly affects people all over the world. The pressure it puts on the global supply chain and the production of agricultural goods eventually leads to food insecurity and decreased productivity.

### Recommendations

Current strategies don't match the scale of the problem. Management measures are often implemented stepwise, chiefly with just a conservation focus. There is a lack of coordinated and competent support from other sectors and organizations that are affected despite the issue being so widely distributed in nature. Efforts to assess and manage complex human-wildlife conflicts require collaboration across disciplines and sectors. For example, collaborations could involve conservation practitioners, community leaders, governments, researchers, businesses, and other stakeholders; and need expertise in ecology, social psychology,

### Levels of Conflict



Zimmermann et al. 2020

- Human-wildlife conflict will always exist as the world becomes increasingly crowded. However, effective and well-planned management, as well as holistic and unified approaches can minimize conflict in the long term. Such management strategies can create opportunities and benefits for biodiversity and impacted communities while sustainable development, production, and the global economy at large would be benefited too. Global cooperation and resources to address the issue are also required.
- In order to reduce human-wildlife conflict, we have to reassess the relationships, especially the direct interactions, between people and wildlife for improving our coexistence in the future. We need to take up approaches that identify and target the deeper, underlying causes of conflict.
- Developing systemic, context-specific solutions should be our aim, all the while, including the affected communities as active and equal participants in the process.
- Awareness programs have to be conducted, especially targeting people sharing space with wild animals, like leopards and black bears, in human-dominated landscapes like abandoned sheds, orchards, vegetation thicket regions, etc. The local communities living in forest-dominated areas must also be made aware.
- A new WWF-led report; 'A Future for All: The need for human-wildlife coexistence', was spurred into motion because of the need to elevate the issue globally, and unlock partnerships and resources to reduce human-wildlife conflict. This report is the outcome of international, multi-organizational collaboration and looks into the complexities of human-wildlife conflict, methods to sustainably manage and reduce it, and move towards coexistence with wildlife – all while employing different partners through a call to action.



# J&K's struggling walnut industry needs immediate attention if it is to remain globally competitive



## MUKHTAR DAR

The walnuts grown in Jammu and Kashmir enjoyed strong demand in the recent past, both in the national and international markets. However, after walnuts from California, Chile and China entered the Indian market, the prices of walnuts produced by J&K fell sharply. The decline of its local market is pushing the growers to the wall and the industry is on the verge of collapse. At the same time, the horticultural department has failed to come to the rescue of the walnut industry in J&K, despite the production of walnuts having decreased by half during the last decade. The prevailing condition of the industry has compounded the doubts about its future. Thus, to keep the walnut industry of Kashmir alive it is paramount to initiate policies as per the requirement of the global market and changing patterns of walnut cultivation to keep it capable of competing in the worldwide, global agricultural market.

### ***Walnut industry of Kashmir***

The walnut industry holds a unique position in the horticulture sector of Jammu and Kashmir, as the Union Territory occupies the largest share in total area and production of walnut. J&K produces 98% walnuts in India spreading over an area of 61723 hectares. India stands eighth in Walnut production in the world. According to a report (2017) by the national horticulture board, Jammu and Kashmir produces 206.43 thousand metric tons of walnut and comparatively rest of the country produces only 21.8 metric tons. All the areas of J&K are producing walnuts except the district of Samba and Jammu. Anantnag, Kupwara, and Kulgam stand at the top by producing 41021 MT, 25000 MT, and 21319 MT respectively, followed by Budgam, Baramulla, Ganderbal, Buderwah, and Srinagar.

### ***Challenges***

J&K's walnut industry is facing serious challenges due to which it is heading toward decline. The sector has been struggling to the point of crisis for the past couple of years due to which many cultivators and traders are heavily in debt. It can be gauged by the fact that the fresh season of walnut cultivation has started but the previous production is still lying unsold in the stores of cultivators and traders as they are not able to find a proper buyer. Abdul Ahad Malik of Sholipora village of Budgam purchased walnuts from growers last year but has failed to sell them so far. Pertinently, Kashmir walnuts have been in high demand in domestic and international markets, particularly in the past decade. However, the local production of walnuts has been facing severe challenges since Californian, Chilean, and Chinese walnuts entered into the Indian market. Although the government has imposed import duties of 132 percent on US-bound shipments of walnuts and 110 percent on Chilean shipments, the imports haven't fallen and are hurting Kashmir's walnut sector.

Apart from demand, the production of walnuts is also decreasing drastically. It can be estimated by the fact that India shipped 1,648.26 metric tonnes of walnuts for Rs 52.77 crore

during the 2019–20 fiscal year. This is not even close to the 3,292 metric tonnes of walnut produce that India exported in 2015–16, valued at roughly Rs 117.92 crore. In 2016–17, the export of walnuts fell to 2,191 metric tonnes, valued at Rs 55.27 crore. In the Budgam district alone, the production of walnuts has fallen by 97 percent in 2019-20. As per the research, the traditional walnut trees are in the grip of many diseases which has severely affected both the quality and quantity of walnuts. Thousands of traditional walnut trees affected by the diseases are not yielding any fruits and occupying the land and serving no purpose. Farmers can't cut them as the government has included walnuts in the Jammu and Kashmir Preservation of specified trees act in 1969. The act was enacted with the motive to preserve walnut trees from cutting. However, the prevailing scenario of the walnut industry demands modification of this act. With the advent of alternative avenues in the horticulture sector including the walnut industry, cultivators lost interest in traditional walnut farming as it has several cons from per cultivator's perspective. The traditional walnut trees do not receive proper care. The prominent reason is the large size of traditional walnut trees. Such large trees require modern technology for their management and cultivation. However, the walnut growers in Jammu and Kashmir are still following the primitive techniques of production, and post-production which is life-risking and time-and-labor-consuming, and expensive as well. Every walnut harvesting season is accompanied by the loss of many lives. Therefore, the farmers are not interested anymore in being associated with the traditional cultivation of walnut trees. Furthermore, a traditional walnut tree takes 13-15 years to bear fruit. This prolonged gestation period is among many reasons why traditional walnut production continues to decline. Thus, the farmers are choosing cash crops like apples, cherries, plums, etc over traditional walnuts.

Another challenge faced by walnut cultivators of Jammu and Kashmir is the inconsistent size and low-quality fruit-producing tendency in numerous walnut plantations. This type of produce lost its competitive edge in the international market, particularly after walnuts from abroad entered the Indian market, where consistent size and good quality walnuts are required. However, this issue could have been overcome by adopting different methods of walnut budding. Unfortunately, this necessary scientific measure is not being followed properly and widely in Jammu and Kashmir.

Also Read: The precarious nature of walnut harvesting in J&K. How can that be changed?

### ***Recommendations***

Firstly, the Government should lift or modify the ban on cutting/felling walnut trees, particularly those located in infected orchards. Although, the horticulture department has already asked the government to ponder upon the issue of lifting the ban on the felling of walnut trees government remains silent on the issue. Pertinently, the continuous ban on cutting walnut trees doesn't allow the horticulture department to encourage farmers to go for high-density walnut plantations because the land is occupied by traditional walnut trees. So government should lift the ban or should make necessary amendments to the act. Until the issue is settled, the horticulture department should encourage the farmer to revitalize the diseased orchards with high-yielding plants on the patterns of high-density apple orchards.

The primitive harvesting and post-harvest methods of walnuts used by farmers are outdated, consequently reducing the productivity and quality of the crops. Further, it takes a lot of labor



and time in washing, harvesting, and drying the walnuts. Thus, it is imperative to introduce the latest technology and innovations to make the walnut harvesting process easy and time-saving. A mechanical tree shaker can be used for harvesting. Then cleaning machines for hulling, washing, grading, and drying needs to be introduced.

Kashmir Walnut industry is a victim of a lack of coordination between the government and growers. There is no supply chain management that could have helped growers market their produce without getting exploited. Take the example of California where the California Walnut Board (CWB) and the California Walnut Commission (CWC) are working in tandem with producers and handlers to develop the walnut industry. They add value to the California walnut industry. The main areas on which the Board and Commission are concentrating is to facilitate producers and handlers' access to industry resources, building local and worldwide market demand. They continue to carry out a lot of supply, marketing activities, and programmes with a motive to defend and protect markets while increasing worldwide demand. Jammu and Kashmir's walnuts have incredible global market

potential, and the government needs to realize it and invest in the necessary infrastructure. Through agricultural extension assistance, the government must educate farmers on contemporary planting techniques, healthy cropping, and harvesting methods by taking a lead from the California Walnut Board and the California Walnut Commission.

### **Conclusion**

The decrease in rates and the production of Kashmiri walnuts is compelling the growers to remain disinterested and aloof from the horticultural practice involving traditional walnut harvesting. At a time, when numerous varieties of high-quality walnuts are available in the global market, the development of the Kashmir walnut industry remains stagnant. Thousands of walnut trees across J&K are bearing no fruit and only occupying the land. On the other hand, the Jammu and Kashmir Preservation of specified trees act (1969) has restricted cultivators to experiment with high-density walnut plantations. Thus, it is imperative for the government to frame new policies, keeping in view the emerging market competitions and global horticultural needs, to save the walnut industry of Jammu and Kashmir from collapsing.





# Climate Change: A threat to livelihood of Gujjars-Bakarwals



**ZAHOOR AHMAD DAR**

The change in global precipitation, increasing surface temperatures, receding of glaciers, and unseasonal snowfall are all manifestations of climate change, posing an unprecedented threat to mankind. Pastures have turned into barren lands. Due to a decrease in rainfall over the past 20 years, the transhumance calendars have shifted and rainy seasons are not predictable. The livelihood and existence of marginalized communities comprised of Gujjars and Bakarwals are no exception to this.

The Gujjars and Bakarwals are nomadic tribes who live in the Himalayan mountains of South Asia, from the Pir Panjal Range to Hindukush and Ladakh. They can be found throughout the Kashmir region between India and Pakistan, as well as in Nuristan Province in northeast Afghanistan.

Jammu and Kashmir has 12 Schedule Tribes. The Union Territory's total population of Schedule Tribes is 14,93,299, according to the 2011 Census. Gujjar is the most populous of the 12 Schedule Tribes, with a population of 9,80,654 whereas Bakarwals constitute the third-largest tribe, with a population of 1,13,198. The third-largest community in the Union territory is made up of the nomadic Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes.

## **Social and Economic Profile**

Over 5,00,000 of the total population of Gujjars and Bakarwals rear sheep, buffalo, cows, goats, and horses for their survival. They migrate from one place to another with their herds on a seasonal basis. Ajjadh, Dohdhi Gujjars, Banhara Gujjars, and Van-Gujjars are some of the names given to the Gujjars. Those who raise goats and sheep are known as Bakarwals among the Gujjars. "Bakarwal" means "high-altitude goatherd/shepherd".

The Bakarwals alternate with the seasons between high and low altitudes in the Himalayan hills. They migrate biannually between the montane Himalayan pastures of Kashmir and Ladakh in the summer and the plains and Peer-Panjal ranges of Jammu in the winter. Bakarwal nomads set up and maintain watering holes and clear away dry/dead plant matter in the Jammu hills during the winters as part of their

ecological contribution to the region. The primary source of income for Gujjars and Bakarwals is livestock and livestock-related products in which the cyclical migration process ensures that their flock has access to pastures all year.

The seasonal movement has been witnessing change over time. The Bakarwals' pastoral economy is primarily based on the use of vast pastures. The

higher temperatures in March and the lack of rainfall, they are forced to move earlier, affecting their production. The herds' mortality rate has increased in recent years. Increased temperatures in March and April have an impact on the animals because this is the breeding season. The following table presents the total number of livestock in J&K during the 20th livestock census 2019

State	Cattle	Buffalo	Sheep	Goat	Total livestock
Jammu and Kashmir	2539240	690829	3247503	1730218	8325324

availability of pastures is markedly seasonal in nature, while snow covers the mountains in the north, pastures are available in the south throughout the winter. However, by late April, the winter pastures have been depleted, while melting snow in the north has resulted in green and lush pastures. As a result, the availability of pastures during a specific time of year distinguishes both the winter and summer zones. This results in an oscillation between summer and winter zones; as summer approaches, the drying up of the pastures in the south signals the time to move the animals to higher or cooler altitudes in the north. Bakarwals travel through Pir Panjal's nine major mountain passes to reach their summer destinations. The main mountain passes are Nandangali and Pir ki Gali, which account for more than 70% of the Bakarwals' seasonal movement. By the end of April, they have mostly traversed these passes.

## **Vulnerability to Livelihood**

According to the Economic Survey of J&K, 2020 more than 42% of the population of Scheduled Tribes, of which the majority are Gujjars and Bakarwals, lived below the poverty line. It further highlighted that these communities are highly vulnerable to climate change. Climate change has forced them to cross one month ahead of schedule due to the unusually warm march. Since in march sheep and goats give birth, the sudden change in temperature has an impact on the newborn livestock in their winter pastures, which is a major source of income for the community. According to a survey, the Bakarwals have been forced to move early to summer pastures due to a new and pressing problem of water and fodder scarcity. Bakarwals are forced to graze in pastures that do not provide adequate grazing due to the rapid melting of snow. Temperatures in their summer pastures are too low due to the early arrival, which has impacted their livestock population. As a result of the comparatively

Climate change has drastically reduced the welfare of animals. The global temperature has a negative impact on the production and reproduction of animals. In fact, heat stress reduces dry matter intake and causes oxidative stress in animals which leads to reduced production and fertility of animals. The increasing temperature during transportation has led to the increasing mortality rate of livestock. In general, an increase in temperature has led to both direct and indirect impacts on the livestock of Gujjars and Bakarwals. Direct effect on production and reproduction, increase in stress level by increasing cortisol, which depresses the ovarian hormone (FSH, LH) increasing consumption rate which decreases in kidding (newborn of a goat) and lambing (sheep) rate. The resultant effect is that this leads to a decrease in their livestock population. The indirect effect is on feed, and fodder which leads to a decrease in production. Climate change impacts horticulture and forestry. The goat is the top feeder (browser) and eats tree leaves only.

Due to an unusual rise in daily temperature in Jammu and Kashmir, the Gujjar and Bakarwal tribes began their seasonal migration to the upper reaches of the Himalayas one month ahead of schedule in 2009. However, the season changed and they were trapped in the mountainous range of Himalaya, where unseasonal snowfall continued for two weeks, killing more than 50 people and killing lakhs of animals. The problem is further aggravated by the rising trend of urbanization in Jammu and Kashmir hampering their traditional migration routes. The government does not also provide veterinary support to the livestock of Gujjars and Bakarwals. Table 2 shows the state-wise number of veterinary institutions (as of 31/03/2019). Their economy is entirely based on livestock, which has been devastated by the region's droughts, unseasonal snowfall, and other climate-related issues. The issue of climate-



**Table 2: State-wise number of veterinary institutions (as of 31/03/2019)**

S.No.	States / UT	Veterinary Hospitals / Polyclinics	Veterinary Dispensaries	Veterinary Aid Centre (Stockman Centres / Mobile Dispensaries)	Total
1	Andhra Pradesh	337	1576	1275	3188
2	Arunachal Pradesh	15	180	305	500
3	Assam	21	435	767	1223
4	Bihar	39	1098	1595	2732
5	Chhattisgarh	340	809	403	1552
6	Goa	5	25	49	79
7	Gujarat	34	702	1057	1793
8	Haryana	1029	1817	22	2868
9	Himachal Pradesh	444	1767	1251	3462
10	Jammu & Kashmir	20	503	1381	1824
11	Jharkhand	35	424	433	892
12	Karnataka	695	2135	1382	4212
13	Kerala	278	868	20	1166
14	Madhya Pradesh	1063	1583	65	2711
15	Maharashtra	201	1740	2906	4847
16	Manipur	56	109	34	199
17	Meghalaya	4	114	122	240
18	Mizoram	5	35	103	143
19	Nagaland	11	55	100	166
20	Odisha	541	3239	314	4094
21	Punjab	1389	1489	20	2898
22	Rajasthan	2530	198	5169	7897
23	Sikkim	18	61	54	133
24	Tamil Nadu	177	2701	831	3709
25	Telangana	108	909	1201	2218
26	Tripura	16	60	458	534
27	Uttarakhand	329	10	778	1117
28	Uttar Pradesh	2208	267	3396	5871
29	West Bengal	112	612	2657	3381
30	A&N Islands	10	13	13	36
31	Chandigarh	5	9	0	14
32	D&N Haveli	1	0	9	10
33	Daman & Diu	0	2	3	5
34	Delhi	50	26	0	76
35	Lakshadweep	3	9	1	13
36	Poducherry	0	17	74	91
<b>Total</b>		<b>12129</b>	<b>25597</b>	<b>28168</b>	<b>65894</b>

Source: Annual Report 2020-21, Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying

related displacement in Kashmir poses serious threats to the Gujjar and Bakarwal societal sustainability.

The availability of water sources, as well as livestock production, are all affected by changes in rainfall. This has resulted in increased vulnerability in terms of food and water scarcity, with direct consequences for livestock, forcing the community to relocate early to summer pastures in the higher reaches of the Kashmir valley. Because residents of this area are already accustomed to extreme climate changes such as years without rain, severe droughts in summer pastures and winter pastures, and unseasonal snowfall such as in 2009, it is likely that this year will be no exception.

A survey is being carried out in Jammu and Kashmir's Pirkimarg summer pasture. Many families have been surveyed to determine the total number of animals owned in the previous seven years. Lenthoo, a transhumant of the same pasture land, had 154 cattle in 2006,

and 162 in 2007, but only 55 in 2009, indicating that more than 70% of the cattle died due to untimely snowfall.

Due to unseasonal snowfall, they became trapped in the upper reaches of Pir Panchal, Doda, Anantnag, Kulgam, Zojiala pass Jamia Gali, Pir Ki Marg, Chhapran, Upper Banihal, Wadwan, Trichhal, Mughal Road, Gurez, and Macheil sectors. Many respondents believe this is happening as a result of climate change. According to the Tribal Research and Cultural Foundation (TRCF), over three lakh to five lakh, nomadic Gujjars and Bakarwals were trapped in mountain ranges in 2009 while looking for pastures for their livestock during their seasonal migration, which began in April.

The availability and utilization of natural pastures is critical to the pastoral economy of Gujjars and Bakarwals. These pastures appear only at certain times of the year. As summer approaches, the lower reaches of the pastures dry up,

while the upper reaches begin to thaw. As a result, a significant number of Gujjars and Bakarwals migrate from the lower Himalayan ranges to pastures in the upper Himalayan ranges. In their traditional meadows, 79 percent of respondents reported poor fodder quality and scarcity. They are dissatisfied with their pasture land, and as a result, the milk yield of the buffalo and the economy of the Gujjars and Bakarwals suffer, but they continue their transhumant adaptive activities in these areas. They rely on their buffalo herds and would like to relocate them to better pastures. However, resource depletion can be caused by overutilization. And we know that overuse is a direct result of rising human and animal populations. These pastures have been depleted as a result of overgrazing, and the cattle are unable to obtain sufficient quantities and quality grass to meet their needs. Furthermore, neither the forest department nor the graziers involved take any care to plant good quality grasses, nor is any attention paid to make up losses due to overgrazing, such as receding, which should be a permanent and regular feature of pasture development programmes.

Almost all of them believe that they are not safe in the hands of natural disasters. They faced a number of natural problems such as rain, snowfall, heavy storms, hailstorms, and landslides, which resulted in the loss of not only their loved ones but also their livestock. The unprecedented snowfall that lashed the entire Kashmir valley and parts of Jammu in June 2009 took a heavy toll on life and property. According to reports, approximately 25,000 cattle were killed, in addition to the destruction of hundreds of houses, the majority of which were migratory population huts.

### **Conclusion**

Urgent policy intervention is required to address the impending issues of livelihood of Gujjar and Bakarwals. Development of grazing land with the help of forest department and cooperative societies should be a priority. A multi-stakeholders approach should be applied to mitigate the adverse impacts of climate change. This could be done by synergizing and converging policy parameters. Gujjars and Bakarwals need to follow the weather advisory broadcast by the meteorological department to avoid major losses of livestock and human life. The government could also reach out to the community by training them on how to face and mitigate the effects of climate change.





# Water chestnut harvesting in Wular Lake

