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called for a balanced approach, urging officers to "ensure effective delivery while simultaneously curbing unnecessary expenditure."

The Chief Minister also informed that a series of district-level review meetings have already been conducted in the Kashmir province and that similar interactions will now be initiated across the Jammu division to assess developmental progress and address public issues.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah commended all departments for their coordinated efforts in ensuring the smooth and successful conduct of the recently concluded Assembly session.

Inquiry initiated against...

allegations. "An explanation has been sought from the concerned medical officers, and strict action will follow based on the inquiry findings. Public health services in remote areas cannot be compromised," the SDM said.

Following the directions of the SDM, the block medical officer (BMO) Ukheral issued an explanation notice to the three doctors, seeking their reply within two days. The salaries of the doctors for the month of October will remain withheld pending inquiry, the SDM said.

LG orders weeding...

is learned to have also instructed the officers to work jointly to prepare a verified database of accredited and active journalists in every district. Departments have also been told to entertain only those media representatives whose credentials are duly verified by the DIPR.

The Lieutenant Governor further directed that individuals or groups running Facebook pages, online news portals, or social media handles under the banner of journalism must be duly registered and verified by the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR). He emphasized that such digital media platforms must be made accountable for the content they publish and should function strictly within the bounds of media ethics and lawful reporting.

Officials said the move comes amid growing complaints that certain individuals posing as journalists were misusing media identification cards or social media platforms to intimidate officials and extract favours. Several legislators in the recent Assembly session had also raised this concern and sought a mechanism to curb the menace.

"The government values the role of genuine journalists who report with integrity and responsibility," another senior officer said. "However, action against those bringing disrepute to the profession is inevitable."

Earlier, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) J&K directed all District Information Officers in Kashmir to intensify vigilance against fake journalists.

Baramulla Admn issues...

move seeks to "protect the sanctity of journalism" and counter the "growing menace of fake journalists," while ensuring a transparent system for authentic media professionals to operate within the district.

The circular further clarifies that only those media persons who are "duly validated and authenticated" by the District Information Office will be permitted to attend official government functions, press conferences, and cover visits of VIPs and VVIPs within Baramulla district. Unauthorized or unverified individuals, it states, will not be entertained under any circumstances.

Copies of the circular have been forwarded to the District Magistrate Baramulla, Director Information & PR J&K, Senior Superintendent of Police Baramulla/Sopore, and Joint Director Information & PR Kashmir for necessary information and action.

Sinha to inaugurate...

(JMC), have extended their departmental support to the fair, ensuring sanitation,

health facilities, parking, power and water supply arrangements, officials said.

The Agriculture Department's participation will serve as a vital platform to enhance farmers' knowledge, exposure and engagement with new technologies and government schemes, while paying tribute to Baba Jittoo's enduring legacy.

Security has been beefed up with the deployment of police and paramilitary forces, they added.

According to legend, Baba Jittoo, a humble farmer, sacrificed his life in defiance of an unjust landlord's exploitation. His daughter later immolated herself on his funeral pyre in an act of devotion and grief.

Devotees also take a customary dip in Baba-da-Talab, a natural pond located about four kilometres from the temple, which is believed to have curative powers, the officials said.

Sinha announces BRO...

tragic natural disaster. "The catastrophic floods swept away precious lives, wiped out several homes and tore through infrastructure. I am hopeful that the three-bed-room pre-fabricated smart houses for which the foundation stone was laid today will help bring the lives of the affected families back on track," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor appreciated the High-range Rural Development Society (HRDS India) for its noble initiative.

"Since SDRF relief is insufficient, I had earlier requested HRDS India to rebuild 1,500 fully damaged houses across the UT under Operation Sindoor and in the aftermath of August floods, to which they had agreed. This initiative will provide huge relief to the affected families," he said.

Each house will feature a concrete foundation and utilizing prefabricated technology, including fiber cement boards, powder-coated GI sheets, and a steel structural framework with C-channel sections. These materials have been selected for their strength, durability, and ability to withstand harsh climatic conditions, ensuring long-term resilience and suitability to the region's environment. Every reconstructed unit will be developed as a "Smart House," incorporating modern design elements for comfort, safety, and functionality.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor expressed his gratitude to all the emergency responders, district administration, Army, NDRF, SDRF, Police, armed forces, local community, youth and voluntary organizations for saving precious lives, evacuating Machail Mata devotees to safety and providing timely medical care.

"I must commend the profound resilience of the people of Chishoti. Nature has tested them severely, but this strong community met the challenge head-on," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reaffirmed his commitment, under the guidance of Prime Minister, Narendra Modi for complete rehabilitation of the flood-affected families and meeting the development needs of the people of Kishtwar.

"In a boost to our efforts to provide modern infrastructure to Paddar Kishtwar, Government of India has sanctioned an Army Goodwill School and One Petrol Pump at Paddar," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also announced that Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will reconstruct Atholi to Machail Mata Road and build a new bridge in Chishoti. He further said that all the black spots in Mobile Network Connection have been identified and land has been transferred to BSNL to set up new 4G towers.

During his visit, the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the local residents and listened to their issues and demands. He directed the District Administration to connect the youth with self-employment opportunities through Mission Yuva.

The Lieutenant Governor said the ongoing works for the augmentation of facilities for the pilgrims at Machail Mata will be completed by the month of May, 2026. He also assured that the appropriate steps will be taken to meet the demand for construction of Yatri Niwas at Paddar.

A two-minute silence was observed in the memory of those who lost their lives in Chishoti on August,14, 2025.

Sunil Sharma, Leader of Opposition (LoP) in J&K Legislative Assembly and MLA Paddar- Nagseni; Shagun Parihar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Kishtwar; Shrimath Swami Atma Nambi, President, HRDS India; Dr Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional

Commissioner Jammu; Shridhar Patil, DIG DKR Range; Pankaj Kumar Sharma, Deputy Commissioner; Kishtwar; Aji Krishnan; Founder - Secretary and representatives of HRDS India; senior officials, prominent citizens and people from different walks of life attended the foundation stone laying ceremony.

By-polls: JKBOSE...

followed by Science on November 13.

The examination for Urdu/ Hindi subjects has been scheduled on November 17 while Computer Science will now be held on November 19.

The English subject has been re-scheduled on November 20 and Home Science on November 23.

The examination will conclude on November 27 on which Painting/ Art and Drawing subjects are scheduled. In between, subjects with very small number of candidates like Music on November 25 and Additional/ Optional subjects including Kashmiri/ Dogri/ Bhoti/ Punjabi/ Arabic/ Urdu/ Hindi/ Persian/ Sanskrit will be held on November 24 while Social Science will be conducted on November 26.

The J&K BOSE has urged students to prepare for the examination as per the revised date-sheet.

The BOSE has exhorted Chief Education Officers, Heads of Institutions and invigilation staff to strictly adhere to revised date- sheet and ensure that candidates are informed about the new dates by all means of communication.

DoT's CGCA wing...

of Principal CCA Delhi is conducting 15 pensioner outreach camps in the month of November across Delhi-NCR to ensure every pensioner completes their Digital Life Certificate with ease and support," Principal CCA Ashish Joshi said.

The department disburses pensions worth Rs 1,214 crore on an average every month.

The department is also implementing additional welfare initiatives for pensioners, including health camps, ayurveda camps, yoga sessions, and cybersecurity awareness campaigns.

SC to pass...

would again become necessary in case there was any default in compliance of the orders passed by the court.

While hearing the matter on October 27, the top court had directed the chief secretaries of states and UTs, except West Bengal and Telangana, to remain present before it on November 3 to explain why compliance affidavits were not filed despite the court's August 22 order.

The apex court on August 22 asked the states and UTs about the steps being taken for compliance of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules.

The bench had expressed displeasure over the non-compliance of its order and observed that by October 27, compliance affidavits were not filed by the states and UTs, except West Bengal, Telangana and the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD).

It had made clear that the chief secretaries would have to appear in the court and explain as to why no compliance affidavits were filed by them.

On October 27, the top court had slammed the states and UTs, which had not filed their compliance affidavits in the matter; and said continuous incidents were happening and the country was being "shown as down" in foreign nations.

The apex court had earlier expanded the scope of the stray dogs case beyond the confines of Delhi-National Capital Region, and directed that all states and UTs be made parties in the matter.

It had directed the municipal authorities to file an affidavit of compliance with complete statistics of resources like dog pounds, veterinarians, dog-catching personnel, and specially-modified vehicles and cages available as on date for the purpose of compliance of the ABC Rules.

The bench had also impleaded the states and UTs in the matter while observing that application of ABC Rules was uniform all over India.

The apex court is hearing a suo motu case which was initiated on July 28 over a media report on stray dog bites leading to rabies, particularly among children, in the national capital.

GCOE Jammu organises anti-tobacco awareness campaign

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: NCORD Committee of Government College of Education Jammu, in collaboration with the National Service Scheme (NSS) and Psychological Counseling Cell on Monday organized an Anti-Tobacco Campaign aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and promoting a healthy, drug-free lifestyle among the youth.

The event was held under the leadership of Principal of the College, Dr. Jyoti Parihar. She commended the organisers and students and ensured that such initiatives will be a part of curriculum.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and faculty members who carried placards, banners and slogans highlighting the message of "Say No to Tobacco" and "Health is Wealth." The event sought to sensitize the community about the physical, mental and social hazards of tobacco use, aligning with national efforts to achieve a tobacco-free India. The program was organized under the convensorship of Dr. Ramzan Ali (Convensor NCORD) Dr. Subhra Jamwal (NSS PO) and Dr. Anubica. (Convensor Psychological Counselling Cell), who coordinated the efforts of the students and volunteers to ensure the event's success. The convenors emphasized the importance of such initiatives in shaping responsible citizens who contribute positively to society.

Speaking on the occasion, the convenors applauded the active participation of students and highlighted the role of educational institutions in nurturing awareness and behavioral change. The rally concluded with an interactive session where students shared their reflections and pledged to advocate for a tobacco-free environment. The event formed part of the college's ongoing commitment to community outreach, mental health promotion and holistic education. The college administration appreciated the collaborative efforts of NCORD, NSS and Psychological Counseling Cell for making the initiative impactful and engaging.

New edition of "Doyens of Dogri Literature" released

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The second edition of the English book "Doyens of Dogri Literature" by noted writer and journalist O.P. Sharma has been released within a year of its first publication, reflecting the growing interest among individuals and institutions in Dogri language and literature. The book has received wide appreciation from readers and literary circles alike.

This unique 250-page pictorial volume presents detailed profiles of all 52 Sahitya Akademi Awardees in Dogri Literature, documenting their life stories and literary contributions that have enriched the Dogri language. Apart from celebrating literary stalwarts, the book also showcases glimpses of Dogra cultural heritage, including heritage sites, Basohli paintings,

and modern landmarks like IIM, IIT, IIM Jammu, and the world's highest railway bridge.

Author O.P. Sharma, a journalist-turned-writer, holds an M.A. in History and was the first from Jammu region to complete a postgraduate degree in Journalism from Punjab University, Chandigarh. Having worked in both official and private media, Sharma has authored several books, including a notable Sahitya Akademi publication on the eminent Dogri poet Kehri Singh Madhukar. Speaking about his work, Sharma said his main objective is to "project and promote Dogri language and its rich cultural heritage."

The book carries special messages from eminent personalities including Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice

Chancellor, University of Jammu; Dr. Sudhir S. Bloeria, IAS; K.B. Jandial, IAS; Dr. Kasturi Lal, former Principal GMC Jammu; Prof. Lalit Mangotra, President, Dogri Sanstha; Capt. Lalit Kumar Sharma, Convener, Navi Dogri Sanstha; Major General Goverdhan Singh Jamwal, and Padma Shri Dr. Jitendra Udhampur, former Deputy Director General, Akashvani.

All have commended the book as an authentic and comprehensive account of Dogri literature, presenting valuable information about Dogri writers and their legacy on a single platform.

The book is available through the publisher at starline.syndicate.service@gmail.com and can also be purchased on Amazon Kindle and Flipkart.

EO for Nagrota elections convenes second account reconciliation meeting

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In continuation of the Expenditure Register Accounts Reconciliation Inspection, the Expenditure Observer Ashish Yadav, IDAS, in conjunction with the Nodal Officer (Expenditure) Dr. Zafar Iqbal and the Election Expenditure Monitoring Team, on Monday convened the second account reconciliation meeting with the contesting candidates/authorized election agents of 77-Nagrota Assembly Constituency at the PWD Guest House, Gandhi Nagar.

The meeting was held as per the notice dated October 24, 2025, issued by the Returning Officer for inspection of expenditure registers.

During the meeting, the expenditure registers of all contesting candidates were thoroughly examined and reconciled. The candidates and their authorized agents were apprised of the prescribed norms and guide-

lines pertaining to election expenditure and were explicitly advised to avoid cash transactions. They were further instructed to ensure that all financial transactions are routed exclusively through the designated Election Expenditure Bank Account within the prescribed expenditure ceiling. All 10 candidates have reconciled their expenditure registers.

Directions were also issued in accordance with the provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 (RPA 1950). The contesting candidates and their agents were advised to ensure their presence in the third reconciliation meeting scheduled for 8th November, 2025, at the same venue.

The Expenditure Observer reiterated the commitment of the Election Commission of India to ensure free, fair and transparent elections and emphasized strict adherence to the expenditure monitoring guidelines.

MD HADP reviews programme implementation across J&K

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Mission Director HADP/JKCIP Sandeep Kumar on Monday chaired a meeting to take a comprehensive review of the progress of the programme in the Union Territory. The meeting was held here in the Conference Hall, Directorate of Agriculture- Krishni Bhawan.

The Mission Director reviewed the physical and financial achievements under different HADP projects being implemented in both public and private sectors.

The meeting was attended by Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta; Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed; Director Horticulture Kashmir Vikas Anand and Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning) Jammu Priyanka Parihar, along with Technical Officers HADP (Agriculture and

Horticulture) Jammu, technical staff of Mission Directorate HADP, representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Jammu.

Director Agriculture Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah; Chief Agriculture Officers and Chief Horticulture Officers of all districts of Jammu and Kashmir; Technical Officers HADP Kashmir; representatives and Principal Investigators from SKUAST-Kashmir and other officers from Kashmir attended the meeting through video conferencing (VC).

During the deliberations, Sandeep Kumar emphasized the need to achieve 100 percent expenditure targets by the end of the current month to ensure timely implementation of project activities. While reviewing the progress under the Promotion of Nutri-Cereals (Millets) component, he directed to establish millet mills in

those areas where millet cultivation is expanding and the beneficiaries have an actual need.

He also took a detailed review of the Kisan Sathi Portal activities and instructed to clear all pending approvals immediately. He further directed to remove inactive applications systematically and register those genuinely in need of support. The Mission Director also stressed the importance of regular photo documentation with GPS coordinates to be shared with the Mission Directorate for real-time monitoring.

Highlighting the importance of GI tagging of indigenous millet varieties, he urged SKUAST to expedite the process. SKUAST-Jammu informed that work is already underway on seven such millet varieties. The Mission Director also emphasized the development and sharing of Packages of Practices (PoP) and tech-

nology transfer by SKUAST Jammu and SKUAST Kashmir with their respective Directorates for wider farmer adoption.

Sandeep Kumar further underscored the need to establish canning units under HADP to enhance the shelf life of agriculture and horticulture produce, thereby increasing farmers' income. He also highlighted the significance of exposure visits of farmers at the national level, enabling them to learn about new technologies and innovative practices. He directed that consolidated reports of such exposure visits be submitted to the Mission Directorate in a timely manner.

The Mission Director laid special emphasis on strengthening Research and Development (R&D) efforts to ensure the availability of improved seed varieties, which would enhance yield and productivity across the UT.

Horticulture Dept showcasing regional produce, innovation at Jhiri Mela

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: The Department of Horticulture Jammu and Kashmir on Monday announced its active participation in the upcoming Jhiri Mela 2025, a revered cultural and spiritual fair held annually in honour of farmer saint Baba Jittoo.

This yearly event will be held from November 4 to November 12 at Jhiri village and is expected to draw thousands of devotees and visitors from across the region.

The Horticulture Department will set up a dedicated exhibition stall to highlight the rich diversity of horticultural produce from Jammu and Kashmir. The stall will feature fresh fruits from local orchards and farms; demonstrations on high-density plantation techniques and expert guidance on government schemes and subsidies.

Speaking about the initiative, the Director of Horticulture, Jammu said, "Jhiri Mela is not only a spiritual gathering but also a platform to connect with our farming community. Through this exhibition, we aim to educate and empower growers with modern horticultural practices and promote horticulture-entrepreneurship."

DG reviews rural sanitation initiatives

■ STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: On the first day of the Darbar Move, Director General Rural Sanitation Anoo Malhotra chaired a comprehensive review meeting here at the Directorate office on Monday. The meeting focused on reviewing the routine functioning of the Directorate and assesses the status of ongoing works under the sanitation initiatives being implemented across Jammu and Kashmir. The DG laid special emphasis on efficiency, transparency and coordination among the district teams to accelerate the pace of implementation of programmes under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

She directed the officers to maintain strict adherence to timelines, quality standards, and regular reporting mechanisms for effective monitoring and evaluation.