

Whole of Govt approach needed for advancing Real Estate Sector: LG



Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha lighting ceremonial lamp at a Governing Council Meeting of AIFORERA in Srinagar.

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: "Rs. 1 lakh crore Urban Challenge Fund will be a game changer in the transformation of our cities and developing them as growth hubs," the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said earlier on Thursday.

He said the initiative involving states/UTs and private players to redevelop 300 cities across India will promote innovation, robust infrastructure, improve ease of living and integrate sustainability into urban planning.

The Lieutenant Governor was speaking at the Governing Council Meeting of All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (AIFORERA) in Srinagar.

The Lieutenant Governor urged that the 'Whole of the Government' approach is needed for advancing this sector and ensuring accountability in timely project delivery.

"The transparency, accountability, and efficiency brought by RERA Act 2016 must protect homebuyers' interests and swift grievance redressal mechanism is required to transform this sector into a more regulated and efficient industry," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the intricacies of the Real Estate Sector, its challenges, possibilities and opportunities.

He called upon private players and real estate developers to play their greater role in promoting affordable housing.

"Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the real estate sector is emerging as one of the major contributors in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. This rapid growth is driven by the aspirations of the common man. The real estate sector must move forward with equitable development and urban transforma-

- ▶ Addresses AIFORERA Governing Council Meeting
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tion at its core and ensure fairness and transparency for those who dream of owning a home.

I also want to see this sector becoming more competitive to encourage growth. There must be uniformity and harmony in housing regulations across the states and union territories," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also exhorted the real estate developers to pay special attention towards the health and education of families of workers engaged in housing development projects.

The Lieutenant Governor said the welfare of those who are building our homes should be the top priority. He further urged the All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities to work with developer groups like NAREDCO (National Real Estate Development Council) to ensure that

workers and their families are not deprived of their basic rights in any way.

He further emphasised on real-time monitoring of housing development projects and awareness campaigns for the buyers. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released the Journal and Annual Report 2024-25 of AIFORERA.

Anand Kumar, Chairman, All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (AIFORERA); Satish Chandra, Chairman, J&K Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA); Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner, Housing and Urban Development Department; Chairpersons of various Real Estate Regulatory Authorities and senior officials attended the inaugural session of the Governing Council Meeting of AIFORERA.



J&K torchbearer of India's journey to 'destination 2047': Dr Jitendra

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said that Jammu & Kashmir holds the promise to be the torchbearer of India's journey to Destination 2047.

Speaking at the launch of the ATL Sarthi and Frontier Region Programme of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, at the University of Kashmir, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, as India's economy moves up from rank 4 to rank 3 and further upward, this value addition will come from regions hitherto under explored and resources hitherto under explored, and J&K qualifies on both the accounts. It is a region which started getting its due attention only after PM Narendra Modi took over in 2014 and its vast resources of Himalayas and rivers also found outlet with the advent of initiatives like Aroma Mission etc which also were launched by this government.

The Union Minister said that Jammu & Kashmir has the potential to emerge as a frontline contributor to India's innovation-led growth story in the next two decades.

Congratulating for the launch of ATL Sarthi initiative in Srinagar, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the occasion marks "dual celebration" - for Kashmir University becoming an instrument of engaging J&K as a mainstream player in India's growth journey and for AIM extending its innovation network to the this peripheral Union Territory.

The Minister announced that under the Frontier



Region Programme, 500 new Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) will be set up in J&K, forming the largest share of the 2,500 labs sanctioned for frontier regions, with an investment of ₹100 crore. These labs, he said, will give school students exposure to cutting-edge tools in robotics, 3D printing, and artificial intelligence, enabling them to innovate at a young age.

Dr. Jitendra Singh underlined that India's economic growth over the past decade has been propelled by technology-driven sectors, including space, biotechnology, oceans, and the Himalayas, which will continue to drive value addition in the years to come. He noted that India's space economy has grown rapidly from "near zero" to \$8 billion and is projected to touch \$40-45 billion within a decade, with more than 400 startups already active in the sector.

Highlighting the importance of global benchmarks and public-private collaboration, the Minister said, "Unless we devise a method of involving private players, we cannot sustain growth. Initiatives like InSpace in space research and BIRAC in biotechnology have shown how structured collaboration can succeed."

The Minister pointed to J&K's emerging role in areas such as the "Aroma Mission" and floriculture, which have

already generated thousands of lavender and flower-based startups. "Today, around 3,500 lavender startups are flourishing in the region. Young people are returning from corporate jobs to take up entrepreneurship in these fields," he observed, adding that such ventures were redefining opportunities beyond government jobs.

On the innovation pipeline, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that 50 students from J&K featured among the top 1,000 in the nationwide School Innovation Marathon, reflecting the region's rising talent pool. He also urged students and parents to shed myths that startups can only succeed in metros, stressing that nearly half of India's startups today come from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities. "As we talk of India@2047, the students in these tinkering labs will be in their prime working years. They will be the torchbearers of a developed India, and through them, J&K will already be a torchbearer of the national journey," Dr. Jitendra Singh said in his concluding remarks.

The launch event also witnessed participation from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Education Minister Sakina Masood, University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofar Khan, and AIM Mission Director Dr. Deepak Bagla.

CS reviews budget utilization; calls for capital expenditure, revenue realization

STATE TIMES NEWS

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Thursday chaired a high-level meeting to review the performance of departments with regard to utilization of the annual budget and revenue realization in J&K. The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Finance Department, Santosh D. Vaidya; Administrative Secretaries of all departments; Director General, Resources; Director General, Accounts & Treasuries; Director General, Budget, besides other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the proportion of revenue and capital expenditure made by each department till date. He urged departments to maintain strict adherence to timelines for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), noting that these schemes are designed to build durable assets and improve public services. He particularly stressed the smooth implementation of flagship programmes such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PMGSY, NABARD and other key initiatives.

With regard to the newly rolled out SASCI initiative, the Chief Secretary directed departments to expedite the process of Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction for all new works. He further advised that at least 75% of each ongoing work under this scheme should be completed by December this year;



while also calling for the expeditious clearance of the remaining 100 mother sanctions to enable timely execution of projects envisaged under GoI's SASCI initiative giving 50-year interest-free loans for completion of capital expenditure projects in a specific timeframe.

He also reviewed the performance of departments in mobilizing tax and non-tax revenues. He directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to improve billing efficiency and asked the State Taxes Department to plug leakages in GST collection. He stressed on leveraging technology to detect tax evasion and take stringent measures against defaulters to ensure full realization of revenues. In his presentation, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, provided a detailed account of the expenditure status. He informed that out of the Budget Estimates (BE) of Rs 79,703 Cr in Revenue Expenditure, an amount of Rs 52,085

Cr has been released, with Rs 33,247 Cr spent till date. On the capital side, against a BE of Rs 18,451 Cr; Rs 7,435 Cr has been released to departments, while the expenditure booked so far stands at Rs 757 Cr. He further revealed that about Rs 1,038 Cr has been spent under CSS (Capex) and Rs 2,534 Cr has been utilized towards repayment obligations. It was also highlighted that while the power purchase bill has increased by 20%, the corresponding revenue realization has grown by only 10%, necessitating urgent corrective measures. On the revenue front, the collections till August 2025 include GST Rs 3,408.14 Cr Stamp Duty Rs 287 Cr; Motor Spirit Tax (MST) Rs 708.67 Cr; Excise Rs 861 Cr; Transport sector Rs 370 Cr; Mining Rs 49.52 Cr; Water Supply Rs 31.19 Cr; Water Usage Charges at Rs 380 Cr. The cumulative non-tax revenue realized during the ongoing financial year has reached Rs

2,765 crore.

Under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Part I scheme, the meeting was apprised that the government is making substantial investments in both ongoing and new capital projects across diverse departments. Of these, 162 are ongoing projects with a cumulative cost of Rs 12,393.6 Cr, against which Rs 2,235.3 Cr has already been spent and an additional Rs 1,191.4 Cr sought in loans under this scheme. The Power Development Department leads in this category with 19 projects worth Rs 10,052.1 Cr, followed by the Jal Shakti Department with 36 projects amounting to Rs 311.1 Cr; besides significant works being implemented by Housing & Urban Development, and Public Works Departments. Alongside, 60 new projects worth Rs 309.15 Cr are being launched under this scheme, with loans amounting to Rs 189.52 Cr sought for their execution. The Health & Medical Education Department is spearheading this category with 16 projects costing Rs 82.31 Cr. The Chief Secretary directed departments to redouble their efforts in maximizing revenue realization while maintaining fiscal discipline. He stressed that enhanced capital expenditure coupled with efficient revenue collection will be pivotal in sustaining the UT's developmental momentum and fiscal stability.

IIM Jammu hosts Hyderabad Roundtable Conference to strengthen Industry-Academia collaboration



Dignitaries lighting ceremonial lamp.

STATE TIMES NEWS

HYDERABAD: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu hosted the Hyderabad Roundtable Conference at Hotel Lemon Tree Premier, Hyderabad, bringing together policymakers, industry leaders, and academics to discuss strategies for bridging the gap between education and employment. The event focused on workforce evolution, technology integration, and preparing students for future industry challenges.

The conference was inaugurated by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, along with Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics; Dr. Mahesh Gadekar, Chairperson, Placements; and Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Co-Chairperson, Placements. Prof. Sahay highlighted the Institute's journey of integrating academic rigor with practical exposure through strong industry linkages. He emphasized that ini-

tiatives like Project YUVA, launched in collaboration with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, aim to foster employment generation and entrepreneurship, contributing to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047. He also underlined IIM Jammu's distinction in achieving BGA Institutional Accreditation and EFMD Programme Accreditation for its MBA program, making it one of the top IIMs nationally and globally.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay stressed the importance of industry-academia collaboration in shaping management education, while Dr. Mahesh Gadekar noted that such interactions align student aspirations with evolving corporate needs. Prof. Sanjay Gupta added that the Roundtable Conference offered valuable insights into emerging industry trends, preparing students for real-world challenges.

The conference concluded with the National Anthem, with active participation from industry experts, students, and members of IIM Jammu's Industry Interaction Cell and Placement Committee. The Hyderabad Roundtable Conference successfully reinforced academic-industry collaboration, paving the way for actionable outcomes that benefit students and corporate partners alike, further establishing IIM Jammu as a hub for innovation, professional development, and future-ready management education.

Joint Director Tourism extends invite for World Tourism Day 2025 celebrations

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: In connection with the upcoming World Tourism Day 2025 celebrations, scheduled for 27th September 2025, the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, has curated a series of vibrant events and activities across Mansar Lake, Patnitop, Basohli, Katra, and Rajouri, reflecting the region's diversity, culture, and adventure potential.

Joint Director Tourism, Jammu, Aijaz Qaiser Malik, JKAS, briefed the media about the activities being organized at each destination and extended an invitation to all media representatives, stakeholders, youth, families, creators, vloggers and travelers to actively participate in the celebrations. He further added that at Mansar Lake, the celebrations will feature painting and slogan writing, a panel discussion, cultural programs,



Joint Director Tourism Jammu, Aijaz Qaiser Malik briefing the media.

live performances, an eco-trail/walk, and a boat rally. In Patnitop, activities will include a plantation drive, cleanliness campaign, eco-friendly walk, and a painting competition. Adding further he

informed that Basohli will host a colorful kite festival, cultural programs, live band performances, and painting competitions. In Katra, visitors will be taken on a special heritage walk, celebrating the

town's cultural and spiritual essence.

Meanwhile, Rajouri will witness an adventurous 3-day, 2-night trek from Budhal to smath Sar lake adding an element of thrill to the celebrations.

These celebrations not only highlight the immense tourism potential of Jammu but also seek to foster awareness about responsible and eco-friendly travel. While inviting youth, families, travelers, stakeholders, creators, vloggers, and media he requested everyone to come together and be part of this celebrations. He requested Jammuites to find the celebration nearest to you, step in, and make memories. Also present on the occasion were Deputy Director Tourism Jammu Savita Chouhan, and Assistant Director Tourism Jammu, Vishal, AD Tourism Katra/Samba, Rajesh Raina.

Yudhvir Sethi holds Public Darbar at Kacchi Chawani

STATE TIMES NEWS

JAMMU: Senior BJP leader and Jammu East MLA Yudhvir Sethi, along with BJP leaders and former corporators Anil Masoom and Dinesh Gupta, organized a public Darbar at Pt. Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan, Kacchi Chawani, to address public grievances and interact with local residents.

Speaking at the event, Yudhvir Sethi emphasized the importance of connecting with citizens at the grassroots level.

"A public Darbar is not just a platform for addressing issues; it is an opportunity to understand the real concerns of the people. Our responsibility as elected representatives is to



ensure that every citizen's voice is heard and acted upon promptly," he said.

During the Darbar, residents raised a variety of issues, including problems related to

the relevant authorities and resolved as quickly as possible. He also encouraged citizens to actively participate in local governance and cooperate with officials to ensure effective implementation of development initiatives. The MLA reiterated the BJP's commitment to inclusive development and welfare for all sections of society.

"Our aim is to create a transparent and accountable governance system where people feel empowered and their grievances are resolved efficiently. Public interactions like these help us stay connected to ground realities and respond effectively to the needs of Jammu East residents," he added.

Ex-corporators Anil Masoom and Dinesh Gupta highlighted the significance of such Darbars in fostering communication between citizens and political leaders.

They assured support in facilitating timely action on public concerns and coordinating with government departments for speedy redressal. The Darbar concluded with residents expressing gratitude for the initiative, praising the accessibility and responsiveness of their elected representatives. Such public interactions are seen as a vital step in strengthening governance, promoting civic engagement, and ensuring that development initiatives reach every citizen effectively.