

Cont. From page 1

### Lt Governor addresses Balaji Foundation's 'Bharat Shiksha Summit' at New Delhi

Our students should be a selfless individual as well as a skilled researcher, writer or artist, deeply connected to their roots. This perfect balance in personality could be transformative for students, educational institutions and the society," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the teachers need to integrate moral values with skills needed in the modern world so that qualities like strong character and intellectual curiosity can be nurtured. "Without unprecedented inventions, moral values alone will have no value. But it is also true that without ethics and values, cutting-edge education and skills would be aimless. There should be conversations and not monologues in the classroom. There is a need to link innovation and growth with the ethical values of the society and integrate them with the course curriculum," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor further called for encouraging hands-on, experiential and project-based learning. The young minds should be exposed to challenges of the real world. Now the time has come to take education out of the lab and into the real world, he said. During an interactive session, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the educational reforms taking place in J&K, under the guidance of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, in the past few years. He said the innovative programmes launched in the UT have ensured inclusive and quality education for all. "The talent pool within Jammu Kashmir is being provided with better opportunities. Dedicated efforts have been made to promote multidisciplinary learning, and skill development of youth. We have also actively initiated campaigns to bring dropout students back to school. Through Mission Yuva, we have prepared a blueprint to foster entrepreneurship culture at college and university level. Schools, colleges and universities are functioning without any disturbances. Earlier practice of hartals, strikes, stone pelting and bandhs are things of the past now. Today, J&K, with its full potential, is moving ahead towards a prosperous and brighter future," the Lieutenant Governor said. On the occasion, the prominent personalities and institutions are also conferred with the Bharat Shiksha Samman for their valuable contribution in the field of education. Shri Naveen Jindal, Member of Parliament; Dr Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities; Ms Rajshri Rai, Chairperson, Balaji Foundation; educationists, experts, heads of various institutions, teachers and youth in large number were present.

### Kathua combing operation enters 12th day to track down terrorists on the run

and guidance in the hills, the officials said. Over 27 individuals have been questioned for gathering information about the terrorists' movements. Terrorists have entered two houses to get away with food too during the operations. Security agencies emphasise that it is difficult for terrorists to survive without a network of overground workers who provide them with food, shelter, and guidance from the International Border (IB) to the hills of Kathua and other districts like Doda, Kishtwar, and Udhampur. The forces have detained six individuals, including three females from a single family, for questioning. It is alleged that they provided assistance to terrorists operating in the region, officials said. The detained persons belong to the family of suspected over ground worker Mohammad Latief, who is already in jail under the Public Safety Act (PSA) for aiding terrorists in Malhar during an attack on an Army truck last year, resulting in the deaths of six soldiers. It is believed that the slain terrorist Abu Tala also stayed at Latief's house. Officials said the three terrorists are believed to be part of a group that first engaged security forces in the Nursery area near the International Border on March 23. All terrorists managed to escape after a brief encounter, during which a girl was injured. Four days later, security forces encountered them in a forested area of the Sanyal belt in Kathua. Two terrorists were eliminated, while the rest escaped. During the exchange of fire, three policemen were killed and three others were injured. With the hiding terrorists constantly changing their locations in the jungle, security forces are maintaining a high level of pressure in a multi-agency operation to track them down. This led to an encounter with terrorists in the Panjirthi-Juthana on March 31, but they managed to escape.

### Javed Rana lauds efforts of stakeholders in achieving target under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign

development. He commended the efforts of Forest department in leading the campaign saying that tree plantation raises awareness about environmental sustainability and the importance of afforestation.

"Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was launched across the country to encourage the people to plant a tree as a mark of love, respect and honour for their mothers and pledge to protect trees and earth.

The Forest Department led the campaign for planting 1,50,18,803 saplings in J&K, involving the students, NGOs, security forces, government departments, citizens and nature lovers.

Under the initiative, the Forest department and its wings planted 91 lakh plants on forest and non-forest lands. Besides, it distributed 59 lakh plants among various stakeholders for planting at various locations throughout the Union Territory.

More than one lakh plants were planted by Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board and about two lakh plants were distributed on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Javed Rana complimented various sections of the society for their contribution in achieving the target. He said that each stakeholder has made substantial contributions to this initiative, demonstrating a collective commitment towards sustainability, green cover enhancement and fostering public engagement.

"It was heartening to see how enthusiastically people embraced the campaign, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship for the well-being of future generations. We would not have been able to achieve the target without the active participation of the local people" he said.

During the campaign, the forest department sensitised the locals about the importance of tree plantation in combating the climate change and enhancing greenery.

### India's 'Grievance Redressal' model globally emulated, Dr Jitendra tells Rajya Sabha

also strengthened monitoring mechanisms through regular Inter-Ministerial Review Meetings and targeted interventions such as the Special Campaign for family pension grievances, which achieved an impressive 94% resolution rate," the Minister said. The Minister

noted that CPENGRAMS has introduced specific categories for family pensioners and super-senior pensioners, ensuring faster redressal of grievances related to delays in pension processing. Additionally, under the Government's Good Governance framework, the response time for grievance redressal has been reduced from 30 days to 21 days, with quality monitored through a feedback system and an appeal mechanism for cases rated as 'poor.' Highlighting India's leadership in administrative reforms, Dr. Jitendra Singh emphasized that countries like Maldives, Bangladesh, and South Africa have shown keen interest in India's grievance redressal framework. "International delegations have been visiting India to study the model, and our officers have been invited to conduct workshops abroad to help implement similar systems in other countries. This reflects the success of the Modi Government's commitment to citizen-centric governance and efficient service delivery," he remarked. The Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) has been at the forefront of several reform initiatives, including the Digital Life Certificate (DLC) for pensioners and comprehensive pension reforms, further reinforcing India's leadership in public service innovation. Dr. Jitendra Singh reiterated the Government's resolve to enhance CPENGRAMS further, ensuring financial security and ease of living for pensioners through continued policy reforms and technological upgrades. With the growing global interest in India's governance model, CPENGRAMS stands as a testament to the Government's dedication to transparency, efficiency, and citizen welfare. In reply to another question, Dr Jitendra Singh replied that the National Workshop on Sevottam and Grievance Redressal plays a key role in improving public service delivery across the country. Sevottam is a comprehensive framework focused on Citizen's Charter, Grievance Redressal Mechanism, and Capability Building for Service Delivery. Under this initiative, the Government provides financial support to State ATIs/CTIs for setting up Sevottam Training Cells. Over the past three financial years (2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25), as part of Sevottam, 756 training courses have been conducted, training 24,942 officers from various State Governments. In the current financial year

2 National Workshop on "Effective Redressal of Public Grievances" on November 18, 2024, in New Delhi and February 20, 2025, in Bhopal, with participation from Central Ministries, State Governments, and State Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) were conducted. Government has been actively leveraging technology to modernize CPGRAMS for a better citizen-interface. In December 2021, the Minister's reply stated, DARPG signed an MoU with IIT Kanpur to develop the Intelligent Grievance Management System (IGMS), an AI/ML-driven platform that introduces semantic search, exploratory data analysis, and predictive analytics for enhanced grievance management. Government publishes the Grievance Redressal Index (GRAI) as part of CPGRAMS' 10-Step Reforms, ranking Ministries and Departments based on efficiency, feedback, domain expertise, and organizational commitment. The objective of the GRAI Index is to provide Ministries and Departments with a comparative performance assessment, enabling them to identify areas for improvement and implement policy reforms to minimize grievances. The Right to Service (RTS) Act has been enacted by 22 States and Union Territories as of date, with RTS Commissions established in 8 of them (Assam, Chandigarh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Haryana, Meghalaya, Uttarakhand, and West Bengal). DARPG conduct regular meetings/webinars with State and UT governments, collaborates with RTS Commissions to exchange best practices and improve service delivery by promoting e-services, bringing citizens and the government closer through technology, and engages with commissioners, and appellate officials to boost e-governance and enhance e-service delivery in the nation.

### Govt committed to equitable development of all sections: Javed Rana

the tribal population. "We are dedicated towards creating policies and programs that uplift all sections of the society, fostering an environment of inclusivity and equity," Rana said.

He said that the Chief Minister has issued strict instructions to the administration to solve all the issues of tribals on priority.

Rana also addressed their concerns regarding the reservation policy, reaffirming the commitment towards empowering marginalized communities. He emphasized that the aspirations and the constitutional rights of these groups will be protected.

"People have given us a huge mandate and we are duty bound to work for their welfare," he added.

### Tawi, Ravi Canals being recharged on April 7-2025

Kathua/RCC Lower Division Hiranagar besides TCC Division Jammu are directed to plan their activities to ensure completion of all the ongoing works well before the recharging of the canals", it stated.

The Executive Engineer concerned have been asked to constitute teams in their respective jurisdiction which shall monitor flow in canals/distributaries system during release of water as it reaches their jurisdiction to ensure its safe passage right up to tail and to avoid any untoward incident.

### IRS to augment disaster response on ICS pattern in US

deal with the circumstances. He stressed on adoption of 'whole of the government approach' in creating such plans as most of the disasters are incidental in nature. Financial Commissioner (Revenue), Shaleen Kabra, while giving his insights about the adoption of IRS in the UT, remarked that there should be a disaster and location specific plans for smoothly steering the response mechanisms at the times of eventualities. He made out that different States/UTs shall be having their own response systems based upon their susceptibility to disasters. He also suggested certain roles and responsibilities for different government officers based upon the nature and location of the disasters. Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, while giving introduction of Incident Response System (IRS), said that it is a structured approach designed to streamline disaster response by integrating facilities, equipment, personnel and communication systems under a unified command. He further elaborated that development of this system aims at ensuring swift, coordinated and effective disaster management by pre-designating the officials and training them for their roles in handling emergency situations. The meeting besides deliberating on the need for IRS also stressed on identification of critical gaps in disaster management, including lack of coordination, communication failures and unclear role definitions among agencies. About the evolution of IRS in India, it was divulged that after getting inspired by global best practices, the Government of India found the Incident Command

System (ICS) from the United States which was best in dealing with disasters aftermaths effectively. Providing the details about IRS, it was revealed that this system would ensure synergy among the districts, states and national response teams, reducing chaos and improving coordination. This will be done by integrating all government departments, including Police, Agriculture, Health, Revenue, Transport and Social Welfare, ensuring a 'Whole-of-Government' response at the times of disasters. The meeting was apprised that the system objectifies to be adaptable to all types and scales of disasters, from natural calamities to industrial accidents. It envisages defining of roles and responsibilities with clear accountability through structured command levels, including Incident Commanders, Planning, Operations and Logistics Sections. As far as the resource management is concerned, the IRS envisages facilitating identification, procurement and deployment of resources for immediate response. It also emphasizes upon the need for dedicated communication systems, including satellite phones and AI-powered software for efficient response and coordination. Moreover, with respect to its implementation strategy at UT, Divisional, District level, the roles of different senior officers as Incident Commander, Planning Section Chief, Operations Chief, Logistics Section Chief, Liaison Officer, Media Officer, Nodal Officer and dozens of others down the order under each section to effect a quick response under any circumstances. Additionally, to enable quick decision-making and expenditure during emergencies, financial autonomy at different levels will be granted in consultation with the Finance Department, as was discussed in the meeting.

### District Level Workshop on AWAAS PLUS 2.0 held at Panchayat Bhawan

Government has extended the deadline by one month from 31st of March 2025 to 30th of April 2025 the Block Development Officers and registered surveyors have been instructed to ensure that no eligible beneficiary was left unregistered" he added.

The Block Development Officers of R.S. Pura, Maira Mandrian and Satwari presented the PPTs on success stories, best practices and cumulative targets achieved in District Jammu under PMAY -G from the year 2016 till date.

Director Rural Development, Jammu, Dr. Vikas Sharma, Assistant Commissioner Development, Jammu, Block Development Officers and Panchayat Inspectors of District Jammu and Register surveyors under AWAAS Plus, Operators dealing with PMAY-G along with other Field functionaries have attended this One Day District Level Workshop at Panchayat Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, Jammu.

### DIPR artists promote anti-drug campaign among GDC Sidhra Students

to raise awareness among the future of the nation. Among others, officials of different departments, staff members and students witnessed the programme. The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu Atul Gupta and supervision of Cultural Office Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

### Union Secretary, Food & Public Distribution visits J&K

issues flagged by Central Government. He informed the Union Secretary that the Department is presently providing free and subsidised food grains to 24.76 lac households, comprising 98.81 lac beneficiaries in J&K. While 67 lac beneficiaries are provided free foodgrains every month under PMGKAY, another 31.75 lac beneficiaries are provided food grains at highly subsidised rate in NPHH group. He also said that the distribution network across J&K is built around 6622 sale outlets and 6390 such outlets are presently working in an online mode. He added that Aadhaar authentication rate of 95% has been achieved in distribution process by now.

He also informed that after achieving 100% Aadhaar seeding, the Department has completed e-KYC of 87% beneficiaries under NFSA and 75% of beneficiaries in Non Priority Households group. He also apprised the Union Secretary that the department has started implementation of Route Optimization Plan in eight districts of J&K on trial basis and complete implementation across all the districts would commence in the month of June, 2025.

The Union Secretary was also apprised about the status of implementation of SMART PDS in J&K.

Regarding One Nation-One Ration Card (ONORC), the Union Secretary was informed that till now 1.66 lakh interstate and 29.33 lakh intrastate transactions were made under NFSA alone, taking J&K to 9th position in the country.

Later, Sanjeev Chopra also visited Fair Price Shop at Jhajjar Kotli and interacted with the dealer and the beneficiaries. He advised the officers to undertake updation of mobile numbers of beneficiaries and also emphasized on enhancing the viability of FPSs. The Union Secretary was accompanied by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Director, FCS & CA Jammu, Rifat Kohli; General Manager, FCI, L. Chatru Naik and other officials of the Department.

### LMD penalises E-Commerce Platform for Labelling Violations in Jammu

the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011.

The main violation includes non-declaration of exact net weight of pre-packaged fruits and vegetables for sale through the e-commerce platform.

Upon issuance of a show cause notice, the company acknowledged the offence and promptly submitted application for compounding of the offences which led to imposing a penalty and settling of case at department level on assurance of immediate corrective measures to align with the prescribed labelling norms.

Following the department's intervention, the e-commerce platform has removed the non-compliant products from its physical store shelves for re-labelling and has unlisted the violating items from its online platform to prevent further consumer inconvenience.

A spokesperson from Controller Legal Metrology Department, J&K emphasized the department's unwavering commitment to protecting consumer rights and ensuring fair trade practices. This action is part of an ongoing initiative directed by the Controller Legal Metrology Department J&K to regulate e-commerce platforms, especially in light of evolving trade dynamics and technological advancements which has necessitated enhanced enforcement strategies.

Consumers are encouraged to remain vigilant and report any discrepancy related to product labelling or other unfair trade practices pertaining to Legal Metrology. The Legal Metrology Department assures the public of its dedication to fostering a transparent and consumer-friendly marketplace.