

CM calls for strengthening Tele-law service to ensure timely justice, reduce court pendency



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Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today underscored the vital role of the Tele-Law initiative in expanding access to justice and easing the burden on courts, particularly for people living in rural and remote areas.

Speaking at the Regional Workshop on Tele-Law organized by Ministry of Law & Justice, Government of India at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here, the Chief Minister expressed hope that the scheme would be further strengthened through collective efforts with the Government of India and the Ministry of Justice.

"I hope that after this workshop, together with the Government of India and the Ministry of Justice, we will see how this scheme can be strengthened and expanded further. We will connect more lawyers pro-bono so that everyone gets justice at the right time and in the right place," the Chief Minister said.

The workshop was held as part of the Tele-Law initiative under Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice (DISHA), a Central Sector Scheme being i

by the Department of Justice, Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India. The event was also

addressed by Union Minister of State (independent charge) for Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal. Chief Justice of the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Justice Arun Palli, Secretary Law & Justice Government of India, Niraj Verma and other senior officials and stakeholders also participated.

Highlighting the significance of Tele-Law, the Chief Minister said the initiative plays a crucial role in resolving disputes before these escalate into litigation.

"Only those cases should come to court where judicial hearing is necessary. Tele-Law helps by explaining the law, informing people about their rights, and promoting mediation. If problems are resolved before reaching court, the pressure on courts will be reduced," he said.

The Chief Minister also stressed that while urban populations may have easier access to lawyers, people in remote areas often remain unaware of their rights and legal remedies.

"For those living in rural and far-flung areas, reaching a lawyer is not easy. Tele-Law connects such people with legal support through technology," he added.

Addressing the gathering, he underscored the transformative role of tech-

nology-enabled legal services in ensuring affordable, efficient, and timely access to justice particularly for citizens residing in remote and underserved areas of Jammu & Kashmir.

In his address, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated that under the Constitution, every citizen has the right to justice, while emphasising that delays in justice delivery amount to denial.

"Justice delayed is justice denied. If it takes more time to get justice, then it is equivalent to not getting it," he remarked.

The Chief Minister noted that courts across the country continue to face enormous pressure due to increase in cases and resulting pendency. While the judiciary and government are making efforts to reduce backlog, he said the challenge requires a multi-pronged approach.

"There are only three ways to reduce pendency — cases that come in should be disposed of quickly, pending cases should be reduced, and most importantly, fewer unnecessary new cases should reach the courts," he observed.

The Chief Minister noted that the Tele-Law scheme has expanded significantly in Jammu and Kashmir.

"Initially there were only two districts, now there are

20 districts. More than 4,000 panchayats are being covered and more than 7.5 lakh legal advices have been given," he informed.

However, he said the true measure of success lies in assessing the scheme's reach and impact relative to the population.

"This number alone does not mean much unless we understand whether it is enough or whether we can do more. That is why this workshop has its purpose — to understand where we stand and how successful the scheme has been compared to other states," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasised the importance of learning from best practices adopted elsewhere and implementing them locally for wider benefit.

The Chief Minister also appreciated the role of Common Service Centres (CSCs) in implementing Tele-Law, noting that the initiative has provided renewed purpose and work opportunities for these centres.

"I am thankful that through Tele-Law, the Common Service Centres are getting more work," he said. The Chief Minister expressed confidence that strengthening Tele-Law through such deliberations would help reach more people and reduce court burden.

"If we can strengthen Tele-Law through this workshop, we can reach more people and reduce the pressure on the courts," he said, adding that he believed the workshop was a successful step towards inclusive justice delivery.

The workshop was convened as part of the Department of Justice's ongoing efforts to strengthen access to justice through technology-enabled legal services and to foster informed deliberations among key stakeholders.

SEBI, NSE organise regional investor awareness seminar at Udhampur

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A Regional Investor seminar-cum-awareness Programme was organized by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) in collaboration with the district administration Udhampur.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Prem Singh graced the occasion as the chief guest. The programme was attended by PO Poshan, Subash Dogra, Chief Planning Officer, Uttram Singh and other district officers from various departments.

At the outset, DGM SEBI, B. K. Gupta gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the functioning and regulatory role of SEBI. He elaborated on key aspects of the securities market, investment planning, financial management and

DC Reasi reviews arrangements for holy month of Ramzan

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Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik today chaired a review meeting to finalise arrangements for the upcoming holy month of Ramzan to ensure smooth and hassle-free observance across the district.

The meeting focused on establishing robust

arrangements regarding security, uninterrupted power and water supply, sanitation, healthcare, fire and emergency response, traffic regulation and market monitoring in view of Ramzan and Eid-ul-Fitr. Emphasising the importance of uninterrupted power supply during Sehri and Iftar hours, the Deputy Commissioner directed JPDCL officials to maintain a proper sched-

ule and ensure prompt redressal of faults. The Jal Shakti Department was instructed to ensure adequate drinking water supply in all urban and rural areas, with water tankers kept on standby to meet emergency requirements.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Health Department to ensure the availability of ambulances and the deployment of medical staff at strategic

locations on the day of Eid-ul-Fitr. Fire and Emergency Services were asked to remain on high alert, particularly in sensitive and densely populated areas, to respond swiftly to any untoward incident. She also stressed maintaining high standards of sanitation, especially in market areas and around mosques, directing Municipal authorities to intensify cleanliness drives.

AIIMS Jammu Signs MoU under Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium

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All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Jammu has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) under the Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium (PARC), coordinated by All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, marking a significant step towards strengthening collaborative research across AIIMS institutions nationwide.

The MoU signing ceremony was held at the Dr. Ramalingaswami Board Room, AIIMS, New Delhi, where Directors of AIIMS institutions from across the country gathered to formalize and reinforce inter-institutional research collaboration.

The Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium has been envisioned as a transformative national platform aimed at fostering collaborative, interdisciplinary and high-impact research across all AIIMS institutions.

On the occasion, Prof. (Dr.) D. N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, AIIMS Jammu, stated that the Pan-AIIMS Research Consortium represents an important milestone towards unified and high-impact re-



search across the AIIMS network. He said that by signing the MoU, AIIMS Jammu has reaffirmed its commitment to collaborative excellence, innovation and evidence-based healthcare solutions, adding that the partnership will strengthen research capacity and accelerate the translation of scientific discoveries into tangible benefits for society.

Through this collaborative initiative, AIIMS Jammu will actively participate in multi-centric research projects, knowledge exchange programmes and interdisciplinary partnerships. The consortium is expected to enhance research training, promote resource sharing and build a robust innovation ecosystem across institutions, thereby contributing to national health priorities and global scientific advancement.

AIIMS Jammu reiterated its commitment to advancing cutting-edge research, academic excellence and patient-centric healthcare delivery in alignment with the broader vision of strengthening India's medical research landscape.

DLSA Reasi organises awareness programmes on mediation, social welfare schemes

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Under the leadership of Chairman District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Reasi Khalil Choudhary (also Principal District and Sessions Judge Reasi) and the guidance of Secretary DLSA Reasi Pooja Gupta, an awareness programme on Mediation for Nation 2.0 was organised today by Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of TLSC Katra at the Katra Court Complex.

During the programme, the PLVs highlighted the objectives of the schemes, emphasising gender equality, value of education for girls, prevention of female foeticide and the collective responsibility of society to ensure equal opportunities for daughters. The participants were also informed

about various legal provisions and government welfare schemes aimed at safeguarding the rights and dignity of women and children.

Additionally, an awareness programme on agricultural schemes with a special focus on Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) was successfully conducted by the PLVs of DLSA Reasi at Village Kotla. The programme was organised with the objective of sensitizing locals about the social evil of dowry and its adverse impact on families and society at large. The PLVs elaborated on how the practice of dowry leads to exploitation, harassment, domestic violence and serious crimes against women. Emphasis was laid on the importance of promoting gender equality and respecting the dignity and rights of women.

JKBOSE kickstarts five-day workshop on introduction of HPC in secondary schools

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The Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education (JKBOSE), in collaboration with PARAKH (Performance Assessment, Review and Analysis of Knowledge for Holistic Development) and NCERT, organised a five-day workshop aimed at revolutionising assessment systems in education.

The workshop, held at the Conference Hall of JKBOSE, focused on two significant objectives: the implementation of a Holistic Progress Card (HPC) for the secondary stage and the standardisation of question paper templates.

The inaugural session was chaired by Chairman JKBOSE Gh Hassan Sheikh, who underscored the importance of modern, student-centric evaluation systems. He stated that these initiatives align with the goals of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which ensures an equitable assessment of students' cognitive, emotional and skill-based competencies.

Director Academics Dr Parveen Singh addressed the gathering and stressed the importance of creativity and problem-solving abilities in question paper design. He highlighted the need to align classroom teaching methods with the new evaluation frameworks to foster holistic learning.

In a special voice message, Head PARAKH NCERT Dr Indrani Mukherjee highlighted the pivotal



role of PARAKH, an independent pan-India assessment centre established under the framework of NEP 2020. She said that PARAKH is mandated to standardize assessment practices, develop competency-based evaluation frameworks and promote equivalence of academic standards across state and central boards.

Earlier, Deputy Director Academic Dr Yasir Hamid Sirwal welcomed all participants and guests. He called for collective efforts to bring about the transformative changes envisioned by NEP 2020, adding that the workshop marks a significant milestone in

the journey to modernise and standardize assessment systems. He elaborated that this paves the way for a more transparent, equitable and student-centred education system in Jammu and Kashmir.

Resource persons from PARAKH NCERT presented a detailed presentation on the concept of question paper templates, setting the tone for the next four days.

As many as 100 educators from the School Education Department, including representatives from private schools, DIETs and SCERT, participated actively in the event.