

## Shaurya International School celebrates Annual and Graduation Day

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Shaurya International School celebrated its Annual and Graduation Day 2025 with great enthusiasm under the inspiring theme "Oorja: Sowing Tomorrow."

The programme was graced by Chief Guest Harvinder Singh, Director of Employment, Jammu and Kashmir. Among other dignitaries present were Chairman Harinder Mahajan, Vice-Chairman Sahil Mahajan, trustees Mrs. Uma Gupta, Mrs. Kusum Gupta, Mrs. Pooja Mahajan, Mrs. Miho Mahajan and Mr. Shaurya Mahajan, along with Principal Swati Kapoor.

The event commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the traditional lamp by the Chief Guest, accompanied by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, marking an auspicious beginning. Junior House Captain Miss Shivanya Bhagat delivered the welcome address, while Principal Dr.



Swati Kapoor highlighted the school's achievements and reiterated its commitment to holistic development.

The cultural segment, featuring vibrant dance performances and a spirited presentation by the school band, captivated the audience. A special highlight was the Graduation Ceremony of UKG students, where the young

achievers received awards amid loud applause from proud parents and teachers.

In his address, the Chief Guest lauded the confident performances of students from Nursery to Class III and encouraged them to dream big and grow into responsible citizens. The Chairman expressed pride in the budding talent and

commended the school's efforts in laying strong foundations, while the Vice-Chairman emphasized the importance of collaboration among students, parents and teachers for overall growth.

The programme concluded with a vote of thanks by Junior Head Girl Miss Anya Bhagat, followed by the School Song.

## AIIMS Jammu Observes World Hearing Day; Stresses Early Screening

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AIIMS Jammu observed World Hearing Day by organising an awareness programme in its OPD Block to sensitise patients and attendants about ear diseases, hearing loss and advanced treatment facilities available at the institute.

The programme was held under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) D.N. Sharma, Executive Director & CEO, and Prof. (Dr.) Meeta Gupta, Dean (Academics) & Medical Superintendent, who reiterated the institute's commitment to comprehensive hearing care. The initiative was led by the Department of Otorhinolaryngology (ENT) with participation of faculty members, residents, audiologists and



nursing staff.

The team highlighted the importance of early screening and intervention, particularly through the Newborn Hearing Screening Programme being run at the institute. AIIMS Jammu is equipped with advanced diagnostic

and therapeutic facilities and is successfully performing cochlear implant surgeries for children and adults with profound hearing loss.

Doctors also stressed timely treatment for conditions like Chronic and Acute Suppurative Otitis

Media and cautioned the public about Sudden Sensorineural Hearing Loss, terming it a medical emergency.

The public was advised to adopt safe ear care practices and seek prompt medical consultation for persistent ENT symptoms.

## CM calls for inclusive growth, says 'Viksit Bharat' possible only when every region progresses

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Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today asserted that the vision of Viksit Bharat can only be realised through inclusive and equitable development across every state and region of the country, emphasising that progress confined to select pockets would leave the national dream unfulfilled.

He was addressing the day-long National Governance Conference on "Holistic Development of Districts: Transforming Governance for Viksit Bharat", organised by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances under the Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pensions, Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions Dr. Jitendra Singh, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Jugal Kishore, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Secretary DARGP Rachna Shah, Additional Secretary DARGP Puneet Yadav, Joint Secretary DARGP Sarita Chauhan, Commissioner Secretary, General Administration Department M Raju, senior IAS and JKAS officers, retired civil servants and participants from across the country were present on the occasion.

In his keynote address, the Chief Minister said, "The truth is that Viksit Bharat or a developed India will only be a reality if all of India develops. A developed India will not become a reality if that development is confined only to a handful of states or regions."

Stressing the importance of balanced growth, he remarked that from Jammu and Kashmir in the north to Assam in the east, Gujarat in the west and Tamil Nadu and Kerala in the south, every region must experience tangible progress. "Unless all of us see that development and that progress, Viksit Bharat



will remain a dream and merely a slogan," he cautioned.

Highlighting the pathway to national transformation, the Chief Minister advocated a bottom-up governance model. "India develops through conferences like this and through taking a ground-up approach rather than a top-down approach," he observed.

He underlined that development must be anchored in good governance at the district level. "If our districts perform, our states and Union Territories perform.

If our states perform, our country performs. And if our country performs, the goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047 may perhaps be realised even before the timeline we have set for ourselves," he said optimistically.

The Chief Minister noted that such conferences help policymakers and administrators avoid "reinventing the wheel" by facilitating the exchange of successful models and innovations.

"For far too long, we lived in silos where sharing information was discouraged rather than encouraged," he reflected, adding that recent years have witnessed more collaborative and holistic governance practices.

However, he cautioned that governance challenges rarely have universal solutions. "There is no quick fix solution. What works in one state may not work in another. What works in J&K may not work in Gujarat or Maharashtra. But

we can certainly adapt and modify successful practices to suit our local conditions," he said.

The Chief Minister, who was the guest of honour on the occasion, also spoke extensively about the transformative role of technology in governance. Referring to the shift towards digital administration, he said, "One reform that has made a huge difference is the e-office system. Paper files have virtually disappeared. We have come a long way to a point where I rarely see a paper file."

He noted that digitisation has enhanced efficiency and accountability, though it has also introduced new challenges. "Every file is now time-stamped. Technology has made life easier but also more transparent and demanding," he observed.

He further highlighted the use of virtual meetings, which have significantly improved coordination with district administrations.

"Earlier, district collectors had to travel to Jammu or Srinagar for meetings, and that would happen once or twice a year. Now it happens at the drop of a hat," he said, while advising disciplined use of such facilities to avoid unnecessary disruptions to fieldwork.

Emphasising practical reforms, the Chief Minister called for genuine implementation of citizen-centric initiatives. "If we have a single window, it should actually function as a single window," he remarked candidly.

"In my experience, sometimes a single window leads to another window and then a wall behind it. That is not what governance should look like."

Describing conferences like the present one as platforms for both knowledge-sharing and relationship-building, the Chief Minister said, "These allow us to share best practices, but they also cement relationships. Face-to-face contact makes it easier to maintain communication and coordinate effectively."

He emphasised that elected representatives and administrators share a common objective. "Whether it is myself, Dr. Jitendra Singh Sahab or the Hon'ble MP, we have the same goal as you — to ensure that people receive what they expect from us in development, governance and services," he stated.

He said citizens deserve a government that delivers on its promises in education, health, infrastructure and every other sector.

Expressing gratitude to the Union Minister for choosing Jammu as the venue, the Chief Minister extended an invitation to hold future conferences in Srinagar. "I hope that maybe next year we can entice you to come to Srinagar and keep this process going," he said warmly.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister welcomed all delegates and expressed confidence that the deliberations would contribute meaningfully to strengthening governance frameworks across the country.

## Rana reviews PHE & I&FC schemes in Kashmir Division; calls for timely, quality execution

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS  
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Minister for Jal Shakti, Javed Ahmed Rana, today reviewed the progress of ongoing Public Health Engineering (PHE) and Irrigation & Flood Control (I&FC) schemes being executed across Kashmir division.

The meeting, which was convened virtually, focused on a comprehensive assessment of the physical and financial progress of key drinking water supply and irrigation projects currently under execution.

The Minister underscored the importance of adhering to the set timelines and maintaining complete transparency and accountability in project implementation. He directed the officers to ensure strict compliance with the prescribed quality standards at every stage, from planning to execution, so that durable and sustainable infrastructure is created for the public.

Expressing concern over reports of water supply disruptions in certain areas, the Minister instructed the officials to immediately address the



grievances related to potable water availability. He emphasized the need for prompt complaint redressal, strengthening of distribution networks and close monitoring of supply systems to guarantee uninterrupted access to safe drinking water for all the households.

With the upcoming cropping season approaching, the Minister called for proactive measures to ensure that irrigation infrastructure is fully operational. He directed the officers to expedite desiltation of canals, repair and replacement of worn-out plant and machinery besides removal of bottle-

necks that could hamper water flow.

Special emphasis was laid on restoration and maintenance of traditional irrigation channels, including kuls, to support the farmers and safeguard agricultural productivity.

Reviewing flood control preparedness, the Minister stressed the urgency of completing protective works at the identified vulnerable and flood-prone locations within the stipulated timelines.

He called for coordinated planning and swift execution of mitigation measures to protect the lives, property and farmland from potential flood

threats, particularly in view of the changing weather patterns.

Senior officials including the Chief Engineer, Jal Shakti Kashmir, Chief Engineer, I&FC Kashmir and other departmental officers briefed the Minister on the current status of various projects and outlined the steps being taken to accelerate their completion and resolve existing challenges.

The Minister directed the officers to maintain rigorous field-level monitoring and ensure that the intended benefits of these schemes reach the people efficiently and without delay.

## Dy CM calls for skilling J&K youth for local, national, international job markets

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Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary today called for a comprehensive study and exploration of emerging job opportunities at the local, national and international level to enhance employment prospects for the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

He made these remarks while chairing a high-level review meeting of the Skill Development Department (SDD) held at PWD Guest House, Jammu.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, SDD, Rajiv Ranjan; Director, SDD, Owais Ahmad; MD, Skill Development Mission, Leena Padha; Principals, Superintendents of Polytechnics and ITIs, besides other senior officers while officers from the Kashmir region participated virtually.

Taking a comprehensive review of the department's functioning, the Deputy Chief Minister directed the officers to conduct area-wise assessments of job markets and



undertake detailed studies of employment trends at the national and international levels. He emphasized introducing latest, innovative and job-oriented trades across ITIs and Polytechnics to meet the local industry needs and tap employment avenues in European and Middle Eastern markets. He also called for roping in reputed job consultancies and strengthening placement cells to facilitate employment-driven training programmes.

The Deputy Chief Minister asked all the Principals to proactively share ideas for launching demand-based courses aligned with the industry requirements to effectively address unemployment.

Stressing the need to bring greater vibrancy and accountability in the department, he said that performance would determine postings and career progression, not recommendations. "You are nation builders. Work with dedication and ensure our youth are skilled and employable," he asserted.

While reviewing the functioning of Polytechnics and ITIs, he directed for seamless operations and saturation of enrolment across all trades. He emphasized inclusive skilling, instructing the officers to "ensure that underprivileged, destitute and orphaned youth

are identified and enrolled in various courses and trades being offered by skill institutions."

The Deputy Chief Minister further stressed for strengthening infrastructure across all districts and fast-tracking recruitment and promotions to address staff shortages within the department.

Earlier, Secretary SDD briefed the Deputy Chief Minister on the proposed Mission Skill Plan aimed at strengthening knowledge and training from the school level. He stated that the department seeks to create a future-ready, industry-responsive workforce through integrated and outcome-based skilling interventions.