

JAMMU & KASHMIR

CM chairs 27th Board Meeting of Lake Conservation, Management Authority

HIMALAYAN MAIL NEWS
JAMMU, JUNE 25



Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 27th Board of Directors meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) at SKICC to review the progress of ongoing conservation initiatives and deliberate on policy, administrative and infrastructure-related matters concerning the Dal, Nigeen, Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes.

The meeting was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Finance Shailendra Kumar, Commissioner Secretary Forests, Environment and Ecology Sheetal Nanda, Commissioner Secretary Housing and Urban Development Mandeep Kaur and other senior officers.

The Board reviewed the action taken on decisions of its previous meeting and assessed the progress of

major conservation and restoration initiatives, including the Integrated Management Plan for the Dal-Nigeen lake ecosystem, eco-development of lake hamlets, sewerage infrastructure, lake cleaning operations and other measures aimed at improving the ecological health of the lakes.

Emphasizing that conservation of Jammu and Kashmir's lakes requires sustained institutional coordination, scientific planning and timely execution, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments and the Authority to

expedite ongoing projects while ensuring strict compliance with environmental safeguards and statutory procedures.

The meeting held detailed deliberations on agenda items relating to strengthening the Authority, modernization of sewerage management systems, conservation of Khushalsar and Gilsar lakes, and enhancement of institutional capacity. The Chief Minister directed that proposals requiring further examination and refinement be revised and resubmitted after incorporating the observations

made during the deliberations.

Reaffirming the Government's commitment to preserving the fragile lake ecosystem, the Chief Minister stressed that conservation efforts must be guided by scientific assessment, environmental sustainability and long-term public interest.

He also called for regular monitoring of ongoing works and close inter-departmental coordination to ensure tangible improvements in the conservation and management of Jammu and Kashmir's lakes.

Ashok Koul inaugurates BJP office in Gurez, chairs workers' meeting

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J&K BJP General Secretary (Organization), Ashok Koul, inaugurated the party Office in Gurez Constituency of Bandipora district in a significant step towards strengthening the Bharatiya Janata Party's organizational network and enhancing public outreach in the border constituency of Gurez.

Ashok Koul, speaking on the occasion, said that the inauguration of the BJP office reflects the party's commitment to reaching every corner of Jammu and Kashmir and ensuring a stronger connection with the people. He emphasized that the BJP has consistently worked to empower grassroots workers and expand its organizational base in remote and strategically important regions.

"The BJP office will serve as a centre for public engagement, organizational activities, and effective



communication between the party and the people. Our workers are the backbone of the organization, and strengthening the party structure at the booth and grassroots levels remains our top priority," Koul said.

Koul further stated that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, unprecedented development and welfare initiatives have reached even the farthest areas of Jammu and Kashmir, and BJP workers must actively con-

nect with the people to ensure that the benefits of government schemes reach every eligible citizen.

Ashok Koul chaired a meeting of party workers at Dak Bungalow, Gurez, where detailed discussions were held on organizational matters, public outreach programmes, and upcoming party activities. He reviewed the functioning of the party at various levels and called upon the workers to intensify their efforts to strengthen the organization

and effectively highlight the achievements of the government among the masses. Koul asked the party cadre to remain dedicated to public service and maintain regular contact with the people to address their concerns and aspirations.

J&K BJP State Secretary Mudassir Wani, District President Bandipora Mudassir Farooq Jan, former DDC Tulail (Gurez) Raja Ajaz, and other senior party leaders and workers were present on the occasions.

LG addresses Valedictory session of International Conference on Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra

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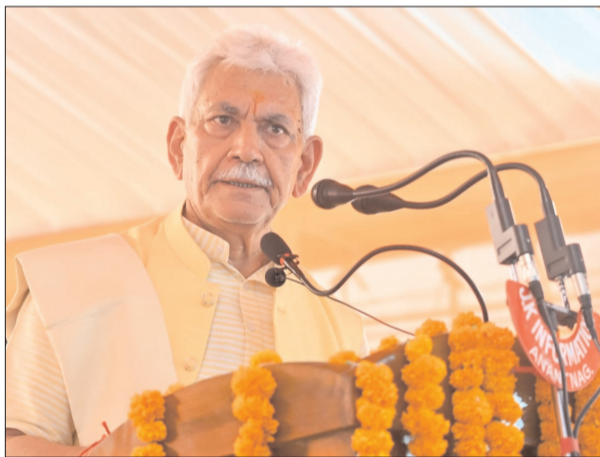
The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Valedictory Session of an International Conference on Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, organized by the Government Degree College for Women, Anantnag in collaboration with the District Administration Anantnag.

The Lieutenant Governor stated that the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra is a living embodiment of India's spiritual consciousness, cultural heritage and humane values.

"We must preserve, enrich, and pass on this great tradition to future generations. The sacred Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra stands for social unity and deep inner reflection. A journey of patience, prayer, and connection with the divine, it reminds us that true spirituality is about exploring the light within," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that many families and communities have served pilgrims for generations. He said people from different faiths and beliefs have played vital roles in contributing to this pilgrimage and their participation testifies to a shared human consciousness that operates above the boundaries of religion, language, and community.

"At a time when divisions appear to be rising in many parts of the world, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra offers a unique model of coexistence. The pilgrimage conveys that the true purpose of faith is to bring people together. It is a spiritual journey of the shared values of



humanity. The holy Yatra is also a vibrant celebration of India's cultural diversity.

Devotees who come from across the country bring their languages, traditions and as they travel the route this diversity becomes a medium of mutual respect and warmth. I believe this is India's real strength. Baba Barfani's pilgrimage embodies the ideal of our civilization that we call "unity in diversity." The journey teaches that national unity is built on mutual respect and common purpose," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He also stated that sacred Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra plays a critical role in the local economy. He mentioned that pony operators, shopkeepers, artisans, hoteliers, transport providers, thousands of families are directly or indirectly linked to the pilgrimage and the yatra generates livelihoods and also accelerates regional development and infrastructure.

"Maintaining a balance between development and nature conservation is our collective responsibility. Sanitation, waste management, biodiversity conservation, animal welfare, and

environmental balance are our collective responsibility. A zero-waste Shri Amarnath Ji yatra has been our commitment, and pilgrims are encouraged through campaigns such as 100 percent waste recycling, organized waste-collection networks, and "Bring plastic, take a bag" initiatives for environmental protection," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that over the past two to three years both tracks have been widened and ambulances have been stationed at designated points along the route. He said Baltal and Chandanwari tracks were widened to 12 feet and illuminated at night. The tracks are inspected and repaired each night during the pilgrimage.

"In the future the Shri Amarnath Ji pilgrimage will become an important center for global spiritual tourism. It will introduce pilgrims and foreign visitors to the Yatra's grandeur as well as India's rich traditions of philosophy, yoga, meditation, and spirituality. The pilgrimage will also be a strong instrument of cultural diplomacy. Visitors from different countries can

return having experienced a profound spiritual wisdom.

The sacred Yatra is part of our cultural and spiritual heritage. To ensure each devotee departs with a unique spiritual experience, many transformations have been carried out in the past five years, and digital tools have become an important means. Online registration, RFID and GPS-based monitoring, camera surveillance along the entire track, digital information systems, and modern communication technologies have made the pilgrimage safer, more accessible, and more transparent. We have sought to adopt modern innovations while safeguarding the pilgrimage's core spiritual spirit," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Dr. Mandeep K Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Dr. Shahid Iqbal Choudhary, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department and Nodal Officer for Pahalgam Axis; Shri Anshul Garg, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Javid Iqbal Matoo, DIG South Kashmir; Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, Deputy Commissioner, Anantnag; Shri Amod Nagpure Ashok, SSP Anantnag, Dr. Khalida Hassan, Principal Government Degree College for Women, Anantnag; Prof. Farooq Ahmed Malik, Organising Secretary, faculty, staff, students, prominent citizens, civil society members and people from different walks of life attended the conference.

CM Omar pays tribute to Imam Hussain (AS), Karbala martyrs on Ashoora

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Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today paid rich tributes to Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS) and the martyrs of Karbala, recalling their unparalleled sacrifice for truth, justice and righteousness.

In his message on the solemn occasion of Ashoora, the Chief Minister said that the tragedy of Karbala remains an eternal

symbol of courage, steadfastness and resistance against tyranny. He observed that Hazrat Imam Hussain (AS), along with his devoted family members and companions, upheld the highest ideals of faith, justice, compassion and human dignity through their supreme sacrifice.

"The message of Karbala transcends time and geography. It inspires humanity to stand firm in the face of injustice, uphold moral values and safeguard the prin-

ciples of truth and righteousness, irrespective of the challenges," the Chief Minister said.

CM Omar Abdullah emphasized that the teachings and sacrifice of Imam Hussain (AS) continue to serve as a beacon of hope and guidance for people across the world, reminding society of the importance of selflessness, integrity and unwavering commitment to justice.

The Chief Minister urged people to imbibe the time-

less values exemplified by the martyrs of Karbala and work collectively towards fostering peace, harmony, mutual respect and brotherhood in society.

On the occasion, Omar Abdullah joined the people in solemn observance of Ashoora and prayed for lasting peace, communal harmony and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir.

He also prayed for eternal peace to the revered martyrs of Karbala and for the well-being of all.

FDA issues advisory to FBOs on safe procurement and use of Milk Products

SRINAGAR, JUNE, 25:

In view of the extensive consumption of milk and milk products by the general public and their widespread use in hotels, restaurants, catering establishments, cafes, sweet shops, bakeries and other food vending establishments, the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), Jammu & Kashmir, has issued an advisory to all Food Business Operators (FBOs) regarding the procurement, storage, use and sale of milk and milk products.

Commissioner, Food and Drugs Administration, J&K, Khalid Jahangir, stated that Food Business Operators must adhere to the prescribed standards and safety norms while procuring and using milk and milk products to ensure food safety, consumer protection and public health.

The advisory states that it has come to the notice of the authorities that in certain instances milk products, particularly Paneer, Ghee and Khoa/Mawa, are being procured, supplied or used without adequate disclosure of the procurement chain, quality assurance mechanisms and traceability records. Such practices may pose serious risks to public health and can mislead consumers regarding the quality and authenticity of food being served.

In this regard, all Food Business Operators, especially hotels, restaurants, catering establishments, cafes, sweet shops, tea stalls, dhabas, itinerant vendors and food vending establishments, have been advised to strictly adhere to the guidelines and instructions issued through the advisory on key compliance

parameters viz. Procurement and traceability of milk and milk products, their notified Standards and Regulatory Compliance with packaging and labelling requirements, consumer information, menu disclosure and Food Safety Display Boards.

The advisory reiterates that under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations, it is prohibited to sell or serve milk containing added water; dahi/curd not prepared from boiled, pasteurized or sterilized milk; skimmed milk as regular milk; milk and milk products containing substances not naturally found in milk, except where specifically permitted under the regulations.

The advisory issued by the Food & Drugs Administration further emphasized that compliance with the

Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 and regulations framed thereunder is mandatory for all Food Business Operators and all stakeholders dealing in milk and milk products were called upon to strictly adhere to food safety standards and departmental advisories issued from time to time in the interest of public health and consumer welfare.

The Commissioner also appealed to consumers to remain vigilant, read labels and display boards carefully, and report any concerns regarding the quality or safety of food products. Complaints may be lodged through the Toll-Free Number 104, by email at cfs-jandk.fnd@jk.gov.in, or through the FSSAI consumer grievance portal https://foscos.fssai.gov.in/c_onsumergrievance.

DC chairs DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA; 485 cases approved for financial assistance in Udhampur

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Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Minga Sherpa today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee under Mission YUVA to review and expedite youth entrepreneurship initiatives across the district. The com-

mittee evaluated applications under Nano Enterprises, MSMEs and other eligible categories to identify candidates for financial assistance.

After detailed scrutiny, 485 cases were approved for financial assistance. The DC directed departments concerned to expedite registra-

tion and processing of applications, minimise rejections through proper guidance and handholding, and motivate more youth to avail scheme benefits. He stressed transparency, prompt disposal of applications and support to deserving youth with viable business proposals.

Among those present were Additional District Development Commissioner Jugal Kishore, General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta, representatives from the banking sector and officers concerned.

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The senior engineers and officials accorded warm welcome to Manoj Gupta, on his joining as first Secretary Technical in Jal Shakti Department here at Civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The post of Secretary Technical was created by the Government in the recently ordered reorganization of Jal Shakti Department. The officers in the department have described it as an historic step towards



strengthening the technical governance and improving the efficiency of the department.

The officers in Jal Shakti department have congratulated the new incumbent and have expressed confi-

dence in technical acumen of Er. Manoj Gupta.

Er. Reyaz Bhat Technical Advisor Jal Jeevan Mission, Er. Samiullah Beigh Superintending Engineer UEED and Er. Ambreen Anjum Superintending Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar personally congratulated the new incumbent in his office chambers here in civil Secretariat Srinagar.

The officers extended full support to the Secretary in his endeavour to improve the technical aspects in water governance in the UT.