

FROM PAGE ONE

Modi calls for 'Nation First', 'Citizen First' in civil services recruitment

the country had seen a time when the government was considered "Mai baap", but now 'we are moving ahead with the objective of Nagrik Devo Bhava'.

"Our mantra is citizen is God. Meaning, the citizen of the country is no less than a deity to us. For us, the service of the citizen is paramount," he said.

He said that the 21st-century India was moving forward with a new work culture and its fundamental principle is "pro-people, pro-active, good governance".

PM Modi said youth being recruited today will play an important role in building a developed India.

He said today's celebration of UPSC's 100 years was also a celebration of a legacy.

The prime minister said this celebration was of that aspiration which millions of youth live every year. "This celebration is of that faith...which every Indian has in this institution," the prime minister said.

"In its 100-year history, three of the four women UPSC chairpersons were appointed after 2014, showing expansion of opportunities," Modi said.

He suggested that candidates could be encouraged to record, at the beginning of their training, why they had chosen public service. Such a note, he said, could later serve as a reminder of their original purpose as responsibilities and challenges grew.

Modi also pointed to the widening gap between citizens' expectations and traditional government timelines. In an age when AI can process thousands of documents within moments and governments have access to real-time data, citizens no longer want to wait weeks or months for services.

Modi also released a commemorative coin, a stamp and a book titled 100 Landmark Judgements: Shaping the Policies of UPSC and Public Service Commissions in India.

Thursday's programme marked the culmination of year-long celebrations that began on October 1, 2025, to commemorate 100 years since the establishment of the UPSC in 1926.

While the system established in 1926 had been oriented towards the priorities of British rule, the focus after Independence shifted to the aspirations of a free India.

Modi recalled Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's role in strengthening the institution as a pillar of nation-building.

He said recruitment processes, therefore, needed to identify officials capable of complex problem-solving and responding to emerging challenges, including AI, information warfare and climate justice.

The Prime Minister also linked examination delays to questions of equity. Delays can impose additional costs on candidates through coaching fees, banking and transport expenses, he said, making "time certainty" an important principle for selection bodies.

He noted that the UPSC had already reduced its examination cycle by about 100 days and described this not merely as an administrative reform but as an "equity reform".

Modi said the civil services of the future would have to reflect a work culture based on "Pro-people, Pro-active, Good Governance", with public interest placed above administrative convenience.

Before starting his address, Modi praised Indian Captain Smit Machchhar's bravery for foiling his co-pilot's alleged attempt to crash a flydubai flight to Israel and said that his courageous act fills every Indian's heart with pride.

He said Captain Machchhar showed great patience, acumen and bravery.

"And like Israeli Prime Minister (Benjamin Netanyahu) today said that this Indian thwarted a 9/11 (like attack). For every Indian, Smit's bravery fills our heart with pride," PM Modi said.

He said the whole world is feeling proud of the Indian Captain and requested all citizens to pray for Smit's long life and excellent health.

"We also praise him for enhancing India's pride (through his courageous act)," the prime minister said amid a huge round of applause from the audience.

The flydubai flight FZ1073, travelling from Dubai to Tel Aviv, had transmitted emergency signals and made a sharp descent before diverting to Prince Sultan Bin Abdel Aziz Airport in Tabuk. The flight was carrying 174 passengers, in-

cluding 27 children.

When people walk together, even peaks get conquered: LG

that when people walk together, no destination remains impossible," he said.

Highlighting India's diversity as its greatest identity, the LG said despite differences in language, tradition, food, and attire, the heartbeat of India remains one.

"Through the Kashmir Marathon- Run for Unity, youth have sent a message that no goal is too distant for a united India. All the runners have conveyed that their participation was an investment in a shared future, and their run was not only for themselves but for the new generation of Jammu & Kashmir, which dreams of a better India and for that youth who is working day and night to make Jammu & Kashmir a self-reliant and developed Union Territory," he said.

He urged the J&K youth to embrace discipline, fitness, and brotherhood and to stay away from drugs.

He recalled the success of the 100-day Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir Campaign, which empowered thousands of young people through padyatras and civic action programmes.

He called upon the youth to become brand ambassadors of the Fit India Movement and contribute to nation-building. "The real victory of a marathon lies not just in reaching the finish line, but in holding each other's hands and moving forward together," he said.

"Let us take this resolve- though we may have come from different paths, our destination is one. Our identities may be many, but our national identity is one. Our pace may differ, but our India is one, unbroken, and with the resolve of a Developed India @2047, it is continuously moving forward," he said.

This year, more than 6000 runners in different categories participated in the Kashmir Marathon- Run for Unity.

DGP Nalin Prabhat, ADGP (Armed Police) Nitish Kumar, ADGP (CID) MK Sinha, senior officers of police and civil administrations, prominent sports personalities and youth in large number attended the felicitation ceremony.

LG, CM greet people on Gandhi Jayanti

and self-reliance are eternal paths to peace. His timeless ideals of Satya, Ahimsa, Swadeshi, Swachhata and Sarvodaya continue to guide humanity and inspire us to dedicate ourselves to the country's continuous growth and prosperity."

"On this occasion, let us pay heartfelt tribute to Pujya Babu by pledging to live by his noble principles. Together, let us build a peaceful and prosperous Jammu Kashmir and developed India," he added.

The LG also paid tributes to former Prime Minister Lal Bahadur Shastri on his birth anniversary.

In a message, he said: "Lal Bahadur Shastri was the epitome of simplicity, honesty, integrity and patriotism. A strong and visionary leader, he guided India toward self-reliance. His famous call, 'Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan', will always echo in our hearts and inspire future generations.

"On his birth anniversary, let us rededicate ourselves to his noble ideals and serve the motherland with the selfless spirit," he added.

Omar also extended his greetings to the people of Jammu & Kashmir on the occasion of Gandhi Jayanti.

Paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, he said his enduring message of truth, non-violence, peace and communal harmony continues to inspire generations and remains relevant in the contemporary world.

"Gandhi showed the world the strength of truth, non-violence and compassion. His life and ideals continue to inspire us to work for peace, harmony, equality and human dignity," the CM said.

Gandhi's vision of India was rooted in unity, tolerance and respect for all, adding that his teachings offer enduring guidance for building a peaceful and inclusive society, he added.

He called upon people to draw inspiration from Gandhi's life and reaffirm their commitment to the values of peace, harmony and social solidarity.

No eligible voter to be left behind: CEO

officers and EROs for the enrolment of left out and young/first time eligible electors under the process of continuous updation.

Special attention was emphasised for left-out eligible electors who had attained eligibility for registration.

The CEO also directed that Booth Level Officers should ensure house-to-house visits and remain accessible to eligible electors requiring assistance with enrolment or related forms.

They were also asked to facilitate the proper filling and submission of forms, particularly in cases where electors face any difficulty, so that no eligible voter was left behind.

Verma reiterated his commitment to ensuring an accurate and inclusive electoral roll.

Kavinder calls upon youth to contribute to building 'Viksit Bharat'

nelise their potential in a creative and constructive direction. Youth are the strength of the nation, and how this strength is guided and taken forward should be a collective endeavour," he said while addressing students from different schools of Shimla during an interaction organised under the IIMU Youth Connect Series.

The governor interacted directly with students, responded to their questions and shared his thoughts on education, patriotism, culture, opportunities and responsibilities, while encouraging them to remain focused on their goals and contribute positively to society and the nation.

He emphasised that education should not be limited to acquiring degrees or professional qualifications, but should also develop character, confidence, social responsibility and a sense of national commitment.

"Schools have an important role in shaping the thinking and personality of the younger generation and in instilling values and patriotism," he said.

He urged students not to lose sight of their goals or be distracted from their chosen path, adding that the country had provided its citizens with numerous opportunities and it was equally important for the younger generation to develop a sense of responsibility towards the nation.

Referring to India's history and cultural heritage, the governor said that young people should develop a deeper understanding of the country's civilisational traditions and draw inspiration from its rich heritage.

He said that the aspects of India's history and cultural heritage had at times been presented in ways that created a sense of inferiority. The younger generation should develop confidence in India's history, culture and traditions, he added.

He referred to the importance of overcoming what is often described as a "colonial mindset" and said that national self-confidence should be strengthened while remaining committed to India's constitutional and cultural values.

Gupta said that respect for India's cultural heritage, traditions and national symbols should form an important part of the value system of the younger generation.

Referring to 'Vande Mataram' and the sacrifices made during the freedom struggle, he said that the spirit of patriotism had inspired generations of Indians to make sacrifices for the country.

He urged students to draw inspiration from freedom fighters such as Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, Sukhdev, Khudiram Bose and Chandrashekhar Azad, particularly their courage, dedication and commitment to the nation.

He said that the spirit that "the nation comes first" should guide the younger generation and that patriotism should be expressed through responsible citizenship, integrity, hard work and service to society.

"The country gives us so much; we should also learn to give something back to the country," he said.

He encouraged students to develop a spirit of service, compassion, discipline and responsibility and to use their education and skills for constructive purposes. He said that the spirit of Swadeshi and the emphasis on self-reliance have contributed to India's continuing journey towards greater self-reliance and that young people can play an important role in this process through innovation, entrepreneurship and the creation of employment opportunities.

The governor said that the future of India would be shaped by the choices, values and actions of its young generation. He urged the students to develop confidence in themselves, respect their heritage, remain committed to their responsibilities and use their knowledge and talent to contribute towards a stronger, self-reliant and developed India.

Rs 15 cr approved for traditional Vaishno Devi route

traditional route is aimed at preserving its heritage while strengthening infrastructure and improving facilities for pilgrims undertaking the revered journey," he said.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi shrine is among the major pilgrimage destinations in Jammu and Kashmir, attracting millions of devotees from across the country and abroad every year.

The project will focus on restoration and improvement of the traditional route, with the objective of ensuring a smoother, safer and more convenient pilgrimage experience for devotees while preserving its historical and cultural significance.

The chief minister emphasised that development of pilgrimage infrastructure must go hand in hand with preservation of the heritage and traditional character of important religious sites in Jammu and Kashmir.

J&K EV Policy notified; sets 6-yr roadmap for cleaner mobility

highway corridors. It also provides for EV-ready parking, with building by-laws mandating EV-readiness for 20 per cent of parking capacity.

Recognising J&K's distinct climatic conditions, the policy introduces a Specialised Winter Validation Protocol under which EVs will undergo winter-performance validation, particularly for operation in snow and sub-zero conditions.

The framework also seeks managed integration of EV charging demand with the power system.

To encourage adoption, the policy provides for 3-5 per cent interest subvention on EV loans for up to 36 months, with higher support aimed at reducing the cost of EV ownership for eligible beneficiaries. It also provides for scrap-page-linked incentives, with an annual budgetary provision of Rs 50 cr to incentivise replacement of old vehicles with cleaner electric vehicles.

The policy provides early-adopter top-up incentives for the first 15,800 eligible adopters. The incentives include Rs 15 lakh for the first 300 e-buses, Rs 1 lakh for the first 1,500 personal cars and Rs 5,000 for the first 10,000 two-wheelers, subject to the eligibility and conditions prescribed under the policy.

The policy also envisages phase-wise electrification of fleets, expansion of charging networks, greater private-sector participation and development of skilled manpower to support the emerging EV ecosystem.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah congratulated Transport Minister Satish Sharma and the transport department on the notification of the J&K Electric Vehicle Policy-2026.

"The policy provides a structured framework for advancing clean transport while taking into account the specific terrain and cold-weather conditions of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The notification marks the formal implementation of the Omar Abdullah-led government's six-year strategy for transitioning towards cleaner mobility, strengthening supporting infrastructure and creating new opportunities in the electric mobility sector.

Lt Gen Seth takes over command of White Knight Corps

Lt Gen P K Mishra. On assuming command, the new corps commander exhorted all ranks to uphold the highest standards of operational readiness, professional excellence and team spirit, while continuing to foster peace, security and stability in the region.

"Prepared For Today, Ready For Tomorrow. We Serve, We Protect," White Knight Corps said in a post on X.

The White Knight Corps, also known as XVI Corps, looks after operational area of Jammu region including Line of Control and hinterland.

J&K moves to build a Multiversity for future-ready education

SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 01:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a detailed consultation with Vice Chancellors of Universities and senior functionaries of the Higher Education Department to explore the creation of a Multiversity ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, leveraging the collective academic, research, technological and infrastructural strengths of the region's universities and premier institutions.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chancellors of the universities of J&K, Commissioner Secretary, Higher Education Department; Director Colleges, J&K, and other concerned officers. The consultation focused on developing an institutional framework for greater inter-university collaboration, shared academic resources, multidisciplinary learning, student and faculty mobility, research partnerships and stronger industry linkages, in keeping with the emerging requirements of higher education as per the vision of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

Speaking during the deliberations, the Chief Secretary observed that the world is changing rapidly, with technological innovations continuously transforming lifestyles, workplaces and human situations. He noted that while technology is taking over certain conventional jobs, it is simultaneously creating newer and more complex challenges requiring multidisciplinary knowledge and skills. He further maintained that the future will belong to those who can continuously upgrade their knowledge, acquire multidisciplinary skills and work across institutional and professional boundaries. Moreover he stressed that such capabilities cannot be developed in isolation and require greater networking and collaboration. He stated that the idea of developing a Multiversity could provide an institutional mechanism for grooming a future-ready generation by bringing together the strengths of different institutions and enabling students to access diverse areas of knowledge. He particularly emphasised the need to move "from papers to patents", with a clear roadmap for research, innovation and technology transfer. He di-

rected that the proposed framework should define specific milestones, timelines, institutional responsibilities and measurable outcomes to ensure that the concept translates into tangible action on the ground.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor, Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakil Ahmad Romshoo, made a detailed presentation on the concept, its relevance and the possibilities of developing such a model in J&K. He gave out that we need to build an inter-institutional framework today to remain relevant tomorrow. The possibilities offered under NEP-2020 provide us a clear policy direction to move towards such a collaborative model, he maintained.

He highlighted that the region possesses a diverse and rich higher education ecosystem comprising academic and agricultural universities, AIIMS, SKIMS, IIT, IIM and other specialised institutions, along with technical institutions and a large network of colleges.

He emphasised that these institutions could complement each other by sharing infrastructure, ex-

pertise and academic resources to create a wider learning ecosystem without necessarily duplicating facilities.

The presentation explored possible academic architecture, interdisciplinary learning pathways, shared courses and facilities, mobility of students and faculty, internships and apprenticeships, industry and public-sector linkages, anchor institutions and measurable Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for monitoring progress.

On this occasion the VC, University of Kashmir, Prof. Neelofar Khan, observed that inter-institutional collaboration was not entirely new to J&K, as institutions had undertaken such collaborations in the past, albeit on a limited scale. She stressed the need to strengthen skill development and industry-academia linkages, which could become important components of the proposed framework.

Similarly the VC, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, emphasised that NEP-2020 already provides a broad roadmap for such initiatives and that the focus should be on building upon its provi-

DLSA Ganderbal observes International Day of Older Persons with series of Legal Awareness

GANDERBAL, OCTOBER 01:

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Ganderbal, observed the International Day of Older Persons today, by organising a series of legal awareness and outreach programmes aimed at sensitising senior citizens about their legal rights, welfare entitlements, dignity, safety and access to free legal services.

The series of programmes were organised under the chairmanship of Abdul Nasir, Chairman, District Legal Services Authority, Ganderbal, and under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, in pursuance of the directions of the J&K Legal Services Authority and in accordance with the calendar of activities issued for the observance of the programme.

As part of the observance, DLSA Ganderbal organised a legal awareness programme in collaboration with Ahata Waqar (Old Age Home, Wayil), Hope Society, Ganderbal.

Advocate Bilal Ahmed Bhat, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal, acted as the

Resource Person and sensitised the senior citizens about their legal rights and entitlements, particularly under the NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. He also apprised the participants about the availability of free legal aid and the assistance that can be availed through the Legal Services Authorities, including NALSA Helpline No. 15100.

The programme further highlighted the importance of safeguarding the dignity, safety and welfare of senior citizens and ensuring their meaningful access to justice for all especially Senior Citizens.

Another awareness programme was organised in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Officer, Ganderbal, at the Auditorium Hall of Government Boys' Higher Secondary School, Ganderbal.

Advocate Irfan Rashid, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Ganderbal, acted as the Resource Person and sensitised the participants regarding their rights, welfare measures and le-

gal protections available to them. He also highlighted the role of Legal Services Institutions and concerned stakeholders in ensuring that senior citizens are able to access available legal and welfare services.

In another series of programme, a door-to-door legal awareness activities were also undertaken by the Para Legal Volunteers (PLVs) of DLSA Ganderbal/TLSC Ganderbal in their respective areas and Legal Aid Clinics. The PLVs reached out to senior citizens and their family members and created awareness regarding the NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016, the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007, availability of free legal services and NALSA Helpline No. 15100 as well as other welfare schemes of the Government for old age persons including old age pension, Golden Card, etc.

Meanwhile, DLSA Ganderbal, in collaboration with Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Kangan, organised an awareness programme at the Tehsil Social Welfare Of-

fice, Kangan, to mark the International Day of Older Persons. Adv. Sajad Ahmad Khan, Resource Person, sensitised the participants about the legal rights, welfare measures and protections available to senior citizens, particularly under the NALSA (Legal Services to Senior Citizens) Scheme, 2016 and the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007. He also apprised the participants about the availability of free legal aid and the role of Legal Services Authorities in facilitating access to justice.

The series of programmes highlighted the commitment of DLSA Ganderbal and TLSC Kangan towards strengthening legal awareness among senior citizens and ensuring that elderly persons are able to avail themselves of their rights and entitlements with dignity, security and ease of access to justice.

The observance reaffirmed the commitment of DLSA Ganderbal to taking legal services to the doorstep and promoting effective implementation of the NALSA Scheme, 2016.