

### Leh arson: CM...

failures, and the violence in Leh was no different.Four persons were killed and more than 80 others were injured in widespread clashes amid a shutdown in Ladakh on Wednesday, as hundreds of protesters supporting the movement for statehood to Ladakh and extension of the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution turned violent, setting the BJP office and several vehicles in Leh on fire.

Talking to reporters on the sidelines of his visit to the flood-affected villages in Reasi district, Abdullah said the lieutenant governor-led Ladakh administration should see why it failed in the first place to take necessary measures to maintain peace.Asked about the BJP blaming the Congress for the violence in Leh on Wednesday, Abdullah said, "The government (in Ladakh) is theirs (BJP's). When they fail, they blame someone else.

"Had the Congress been so powerful that it could cause riots in Ladakh, why didn't the party form the council (in October 2020)? Who won the last council elections in Ladakh? The BJP, while the Congress lost badly. When things go wrong, the BJP people always come up with excuses," the chief minister said.He also claimed that it is the BJP's habit to blame others. Responding to a related question, Abdullah said the violence in Leh was the result of the administration's failure."When such things happen, it is the administration which is the first to fail. The administration should see why it failed. Blaming someone else will not not help," Abdullah said.The chief minister also said the situation in Ladakh was bad and it was very unfortunate that four lives were lost and many others injured.

"I would appeal to people to not take the law in their hands, and follow the path of peace. The government of India should pay attention to their legitimate demands," Abdullah said.Abdullah also said that he would like to see a peaceful atmosphere prevailing in the region, along with brotherhood between Kargil and Leh."They asked for a Union territory, and got it. Let them progress as much as they can under the UT," Abdullah said.

### J&K torchbearer of...

Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh, said that Jammu & Kashmir holds the promise to be the torchbearer of India's journey to Destination 2047.

Speaking at the launch of the ATL Sarthi and Frontier Region Programme of the Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog, at the University of Kashmir, Dr. Jitendra Singh said , as India's economy moves up from rank 4 to rank 3 and further upward , this value addition will come from regions hitherto under explored and resources hitherto under explored, and J&K qualifies on both the accounts. It is a region which started getting it's due attention only after PM Narendra Modi took over in 2014 and it's vast resources of Himalayas and rivers also found outlet with the advent of initiatives like Aroma Mission etc which also were launched by this government.

The Union Minister said that Jammu & Kashmir has the potential to emerge as a frontline contributor to India's innovation-led growth story in the next two decades.

Congratulating for the launch of ATL Sarthi initiative in Srinagar, Dr Jitendra Singh said, the occasion marks "dual celebration" - for Kashmir University becoming an instrument of engaging J&K as a mainstream player in India's growth journey and for AIM extending its innovation network to the this peripheral Union Territory.

The Minister announced that under the Frontier Region Programme, 500 new Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) will be set up in J&K, forming the largest share of the 2,500 labs sanctioned for frontier regions, with an investment of ?100 crore. These labs, he said, will give school students exposure to cutting-edge tools in robotics, 3D printing, and artificial intelligence, enabling them to innovate at a young age.

Dr. Jitendra Singh underlined that India's economic growth over the past decade has been propelled by technology-driven sectors, including space, biotechnology, oceans, and the Himalayas, which will continue to drive value addition in the years to come. He noted that India's space economy has grown rapidly from "near zero" to \$8 billion and is projected to touch \$40-45 billion within a decade, with more than 400 startups already active in the sector.

Highlighting the importance of global benchmarks and public-private collaboration, the Minister said, "Unless we devise a method of involving private players, we cannot sustain growth. Initiatives like InSpace in space research and BIRAC in biotechnology have shown how structured collaboration can succeed." The Minister pointed to J&K's emerging role in areas such as the "Aroma Mission" and floriculture, which have already generated thousands of lavender and flower-based startups. "Today, around 3,500 lavender startups are flourishing in the region. Young people are returning from corporate jobs to take up entrepreneurship in these fields," he observed, adding that such ventures were redefining opportunities beyond government jobs.

On the innovation pipeline, Dr. Jitendra Singh noted that 50 students from J&K featured among the top 1,000 in the nationwide School Innovation Marathon, reflecting the region's rising talent pool. He also urged students and parents to shed myths that startups can only succeed in metros, stressing that nearly half of India's startups today come from Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

"As we talk of India@2047, the students in these tinkering labs will be in their prime working years. They will be the torchbearers of a developed India, and through them, J&K will already be a torchbearer of the national journey," Dr. Jitendra Singh said in his concluding remarks.

The launch event also witnessed participation from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Education Minister Sakina Masood, University Vice-Chancellor Prof. Nilofer Khan, and AIM Mission Director Dr. Deepak Bagla

### NC to decide...

the four Rajya Sabha seats of Jammu and Kashmir, lying vacant since 2021, will be held on October 24.

"There are four seats. We will decide how many seats we will fight and how many seats we will leave for others to fight," Abdullah told reporters during his visit to flood-hit Mahore sub-division in Reasi district.Asked about reports that NC president Farooq Abdullah and former minister Sajjad Kitchloo will contest the Rajya Sabha elections from the party, he said, "You can name anyone you want but it is the party which is going to decide on this." "As far as I know, there has been no such talk in the national conference."Abdullah said the recent flash floods have caused immense loss to the public and private property across Jammu and Kashmir."In some places, the entire mountain has come down, resulting in damage to a large number of houses. There are some places where the houses have been washed away besides damage to the agricultural land," he said.Abdullah said he had interacted with the flood victims and assured that the government will do whatever possible to help them.

### Army Commander reviews...

grid in Basantgarh area of Udhampur district, the command said.Basantgarh, a hilly area connecting Udhampur with Kathua and Doda districts through dense forests, has witnessed a series of encounters between Pakistani terrorists and security forces over the past couple of years. The last encounter in the area on September 19 resulted in the killing of an army personnel but the terrorists managed their escape taking advantage of thick foliage and challenging topography.The general-officer-commanding-in-chief, northern command was briefed on changing operational landscape and dynamics during the review meeting at Basantgarh."He exhorted all ranks to maintain the highest standards of operational readiness," Army's northern command said in a post on X.

### Pakistani intruder arrested...

movement of a person trying to sneak into this side from across the border, and overpowered him soon after he entered the Indian territory.

No incriminating material was recovered from the arrested person who is being questioned by joint teams of various security agencies, they said.On September 8, a Pakistani intruder was arrested from the Octroi area in R S Pura sector.The troops fired a few rounds after challenging the intruder, Siraj Khan from Sargodha in Pakistan's Punjab province, who was arrested from near the border fence. Some Pakistani currency notes were recovered from his possession.

### Centre should hold...

occupied land. It is time to resolve it quickly. The government should hold talks and resolve it," Abdullah told reporters here

Asked about the government blaming climate activist Sonam Wangchuk for the violence, the former chief minister said the peace activist was not responsible for it."He (Wangchuk) has never left the Gandhian way. The youth have sidelined him today. He is not responsible for it. When they (BJP) lost elections, they imposed safety law and put people in jails. Now they are using CBI. More they use force to suppress, the bigger the danger. I want to tell the government of India not to use force and instead hold dialogue," he added.Four people were killed and at

least 80 injured in day-long clashes on Wednesday during a shutdown called by the Leh Apex Body (LAB), which is backing an agitation demanding statehood for Ladakh.

### Ladakh violence: Uneasy...

four people dead and more than 80 injured.At least 50 people have been detained so far in connection with the violence that broke out on Wednesday during the shutdown called by Leh Apex Body (LAB) to demand an extension of the Sixth Schedule and statehood for Ladakh.

The protesters, according to officials, indulged in arson and violence, with mobs burning the BJP office, a number of vehicles, and ransacking the Hill Council headquarters."The situation in the curfew-hit areas is under control. There are no incidents to report from anywhere," a police officer told PTI, confirming the detentions.

The escalation of violence had led climate activist Sonam Wangchuk to abandon his fortnight-long hunger strike, which he was undertaking in favour of the demands. Wangchuk has denounced the violence."This is the saddest day for Ladakh...the path we are treading for the last five years was peaceful," Wangchuk said, appealing to the youth to "stop the violence forthwith as it only causes harm to our cause".

The Centre, however, blamed the activist for the unrest, alleging that the mob violence was guided by his "provocative statements" and claiming that "politically motivated" people were unhappy with the progress of ongoing talks between the government and Ladakhi groups.The Union Home Ministry, which reiterated its commitment to providing "adequate constitutional safeguards," also noted that police are probing the possible involvement of foreign hands, citing that three of the injured were Nepalese citizens.

Wangchuk termed the home ministry's allegations against him as a "scapegoat tactic" intended to avoid dealing with the Himalayan region's core problems.Reacting to the MHA's statement that had blamed him for provoking the mob violence, Wangchuk said he is prepared to be arrested under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA).

"They may be clever in making somebody else a scapegoat, but they are not wise. At this time, we all need wisdom rather than 'cleverness' because youths are already frustrated," Wangchuk said.To prevent the escalation of unrest, strict prohibitory restrictions banning the assembly of five or more people were also placed in other major towns, including Kargil, where the Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) had called a parallel shutdown.

Kargil District Magistrate Rakesh Kumar issued prohibitory orders under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, banning unauthorised processions and public statements likely to disturb peace.Ladakh Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta chaired a high-level security review meeting, calling for heightened vigilance and inter-agency coordination, while terming the Wednesday's events "heart-wrenching" and a result of a "conspiracy".

The tragic events triggered sharp political reactions with Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, while appealing for peace in Ladakh, came out in strong defence of the Congress, saying the BJP was habitual for blaming others for their failures.Speaking to reporters in Reasi district of Jammu region, the chief minister urged the LG-led administration of Ladakh to introspect on its "own failure" to maintain peace.

"The government in Ladakh is theirs (the BJP's). When they fail, they blame someone else. If the Congress is so powerful that it can cause riots in Ladakh, then why did they not form a council?" Abdullah said.Opposition parties strongly condemned the violence in Ladakh and placed the blame squarely on the Central government for allegedly creating the circumstances that led to the unrest.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti attributed the violent protests in Ladakh to the "wrong policies" of the Centre and argued that the unrest was an "outburst" resulting from a breach of public tolerance following six years of unfulfilled promises by the Union Home Ministry."What we saw yesterday was a breach in the barrier of their tolerance," Mehbooba told reporters.

Brushing aside BJP's claims that the Congress had instigated the violence, Mehbooba asserted, "It was a spontaneous reaction to apprehensions of losing their identity, land and jobs."The CPI(M) criticised the "brutal repression" of the UT administration, which the party alleged caused the "tragic loss of four lives".

In a statement, the Left party alleged that the Union government was responsible for bringing about the situation that led to violence in a hitherto peaceful region.Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav also blamed the BJP for the anger, claiming the party's "breach of promise" regarding granting statehood had caused public outrage. "The BJP had assured the leaders, council members and representatives of Ladakh that statehood and powers would be restored. Profiteering is not the only form of corruption, breaking promises is also corruption," Yadav told reporters in Lucknow.Veteran Congress leader Karan Singh expressed deep concern over the unrest, appealing to the Centre to "carefully consider" the demands of the agitating youth, including constitutional safeguards. He described the demand for inclusion in the Sixth Schedule as an "eminently reasonable solution".Meanwhile, the Union Home Ministry cancelled the FCRA licence of Students' Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL) founded by climate activist Sonam Wangchuk with "immediate effect", a government order said. The action of the ministry was based on several alleged discrepancies detected in the accounts of the organisation including a fund transfer from Sweden which the ministry found was against "national interest". The CBI has launched an inquiry into alleged violation of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA) against the Himalayan Institute of Alternatives Ladakh (HIAL), an institution also founded by Wangchuk.Wangchuk confirmed the inquiry, but maintained his institution does not seek foreign funds.The LAB and KDA have been spearheading the agitation for statehood and Sixth Schedule extension for four years, with the next round of talks with the Centre scheduled for October 6.

### Govt to provide...

the scale of destruction, noting that torrential rains have damaged over 350 bridges, around 2,000 km of road network, thousands of hectares of agricultural land, besides washing away standing crops and inflicting damages on both government and private buildings. "Given the enormity of restoration challenges, Jammu and Kashmir is looking forward to a comprehensive relief and rehabilitation package from the Central Government," he added.

Emphasizing the importance of first-hand assessment, Omar Abdullah said his visit to the remote and isolated areas of Kathua was aimed at understanding the ground realities. He also undertook an aerial survey of damages in Hiranagar and Lakhnapur, the entry point of Jammu and Kashmir. Later, the Chief Minister convened a meeting with district administration, including Deputy Commissioner Kathua Rajesh Sharma, ADC, and senior civil and police officers. He directed the DC to conduct extensive tours of all affected areas and submit detailed ground reports at the earliest. Speaking on the occasion, MLA Bani, Dr. Rameshwar Singh, underlined that the Bani region too has suffered extensive damages due to landslides triggered by torrential rains. He said that in villages such as Moar, Najote, and Kanthal-Majra, nearly 100 families have lost their land and property completely. He demanded allotment of five marlas of land for such affected families, besides highlighting other pressing concerns, including damages to the Jalana Bridge, delay in tendering of work for High School Lohai, upgradation of High School Sadrota, as well as amnesty from KCC loans and electricity bills for affected families.

The Chief Minister assured that the government would examine all these demands with due seriousness and extend all possible support to the affected families.

### Lieutenant Governor attends...

monitoring mechanisms and strong institutional linkages with Atal Tinkering Labs (ATL) in schools across J&K. The initiative will focus on providing mentorship, capacity building for ATL teachers, and guiding students in transforming ideas into commercial prototypes.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor lauded the ATL Sarthi initiative aimed at connecting every Atal Tinkering Lab to larger ecosystem of guidance and mentorship.

"The Atal Tinkering Lab is a fitting tribute to former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. These Labs are empowering our young students and providing them with the tools for new discovery and self-development, and imparting skills like problem-solving. By nurturing the curiosity of India's 'Amrit Generation,' ATL labs are laying the foundation for a developed and aspirational nation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the steady transformation taking place in J&K's innovation ecosystem at the school level by Atal

Tinkering Labs. Jammu, Udhampur, Rajouri, Kulgam, Shopian, Srinagar and many other districts are witnessing significant rise of student-led innovation and equipping students with future-ready skills, he said.

The Lieutenant Governor expressed gratitude to the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for 500 additional Atal Tinkering Labs for Jammu and Kashmir, at a cost of Rs 100 crore, under the Frontier Region Program. He said these additional labs will play a crucial role in inclusive innovation by starting Atal Tinkering Labs in remote and tribal areas.

The Lieutenant Governor also emphasised the need to increase the number of Atal Tinkering Labs in the Jammu division. He said these labs will provide the youth of the region with the vast opportunity to invent effective solutions to local problems in areas such as agriculture, handicrafts, tourism, and disaster management. The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, innovation is no longer limited to industries; it has become a permanent part of our society. He urged the youth of Jammu and Kashmir-the future innovators-to take advantage of the support provided by the Government of India and realize their dreams. The Lieutenant Governor said the landmark Rs 1 lakh crore fund for research, development and innovation, for the next 6 years is accelerating progress in high-priority sectors, ranging from energy security to climate action and deep technologies like Quantum Computing and Artificial Intelligence. He called upon the University of Kashmir to focus on skill development, and capacity building for Atal Tinkering Lab teachers, unlocking their potential and promoting creativity and innovation. The Lieutenant Governor made a special mention of Atal Tinkering Lab students from across Jammu Kashmir for providing innovative solutions to address local problems and challenges. He also visited the stalls showcasing the innovative projects by the students of ATLs and interacted with the young innovators. The occasion also witnessed the release of the coffee table book celebrating the successful innovations by the ATL students from Jammu Kashmir. The representatives of Corporate and Foundation partners also briefed on their CSR initiatives aimed at fostering a stronger innovation ecosystem in the UT of J&K. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State ( Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Atomic Energy & Space also graced the launch ceremony. Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr. Deepak Bagla, Mission Director, Atal Innovation Mission, NITI Aayog; Shri Shantmanu, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Shri Ram Niwas Sharma, Secretary School Education; Ms. Deepali Upadhyay, Program Lead, Atal Innovation Mission; Prof. Naseer Iqbal, Registrar, Kashmir University; senior officials, heads of educational institutions, faculty members, teachers, and students of Atal Tinkering Labs were present.

### Civil Judge prelim...

notified for Preliminary Examination for the post of Civil Judge (Junior Division) in Subordinate Judiciary. The Exam is being conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Public Service Commission on September 28, 2025 in two sessions (10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon and 02:30 PM to 04:30 PM).

As per the order, 5 Examination Centers have been notified in District Jammu for the said examination.

"To avoid any kind of law-and-order situation on the day of examination, assembly of 5 or more persons within a radius of 100 meters around all the 05 notified examination centers shall be strictly prohibited from 05:00 AM to 06:00 PM (except authorized personnel). Any person who contravenes this order shall be liable to be punished in accordance with the provisions of Section-223 of Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)," the order stated.

### Vande Bharat brings...

Since its inauguration by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on June 6 at Katra railway station, more than 2.5 lakh passengers have travelled on the Vande Bharat. Two trains operate daily in each direction, with each eight-coach train accommodating over 500 passengers.

For many, the train has become a lifeline, especially during highway closures and traffic jams on NH44. A local businessman travelling from Katra to Srinagar told, "During the recent floods, I left my car in Srinagar and took the Vande Bharat to reach Jammu without much trouble. It saved me from hours of being stuck on the highway."

Locals working away from home also find the train service helpful. A Srinagar-based man posted in Jammu said the train has allowed him to spend weekends with his family. "Now I can travel on Saturdays and be home the same evening, which was not possible earlier," he said.

Tourists, too, are happy.Ramesh Kumar, a visitor from Delhi, said, "It took us only three hours from Srinagar to Katra, something we couldn't imagine earlier."Meanwhile, a temporary local train service between Katra and Banihal, started on September 19, has already carried about 9,000 passengers. Running until October 2, it is helping those stranded due to highway disruptions, with nearly 600-700 people using it daily in each direction.

### CS reviews budget...

D. Vaidya; Administrative Secretaries of all departments; Director General, Resources; Director General, Accounts & Treasuries; Director General, Budget, besides other senior officers.

During the review, the Chief Secretary took a detailed appraisal of the proportion of revenue and capital expenditure made by each department till date. He emphasized the need for departments to enhance capital expenditure while rationalizing and curtailing avoidable revenue expenditure in order to strengthen the fiscal health of the UT.

The Chief Secretary underscored that capital expenditure not only supports infrastructure creation but also contributes directly to long-term economic growth and livelihood opportunities.

He urged departments to maintain strict adherence to timelines for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), noting that these schemes are designed to build durable assets and improve public services. He particularly stressed the smooth implementation of flagship programmes such as Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, PMGSY, NABARD and other key initiatives.

With regard to the newly rolled out SASCI initiative, the Chief Secretary directed departments to expedite the process of Administrative Approval and Technical Sanction for all new works. He further advised that at least 75% of each ongoing work under this scheme should be completed by December this year, while also calling for the expeditious clearance of the remaining 100 mother sanctions to enable timely execution of projects envisaged under Gol's SASCI initiative giving 50-year interest-free loans for completion of capital expenditure projects in a specific timeframe. He also reviewed the performance of departments in mobilizing tax and non-tax revenues. He directed the Power Development Department (PDD) to improve billing efficiency and asked the State Taxes Department to plug leakages in GST collection. He stressed on leveraging technology to detect tax evasion and take stringent measures against defaulters to ensure full realization of revenues.

In his presentation, Principal Secretary, Finance, Santosh D. Vaidya, provided a detailed account of the expenditure status. He informed that out of the Budget Estimates (BE) of Rs 79,703 Cr in Revenue Expenditure, an amount of Rs 52,085 Cr has been released, with Rs 33,247 Cr spent till date. On the capital side, against a BE of Rs 18,451 Cr, Rs 7,435 Cr has been released to departments, while the expenditure booked so far stands at Rs757 Cr.

He further revealed that about Rs 1,038 Cr has been spent under CSS (Capex) and Rs 2,534 Cr has been utilized towards repayment obligations. It was also highlighted that while the power purchase bill has increased by 20%, the corresponding revenue realization has grown by only 10%, necessitating urgent corrective measures.

On the revenue front, the collections till August 2025 include GST Rs 3,408.14 Cr Stamp DutyRs287 Cr, Motor Spirit Tax (MST)Rs708.67 Cr, Excise Rs 861 Cr, Transport sector Rs 370 Cr, Mining Rs 49.52 Cr, Water Supply Rs 31.19 Cr, Water Usage Charges atRs 380 Cr. The cumulative non-tax revenue realized during the ongoing financial year has reached Rs 2,765 crore. Under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Part I scheme, the meeting was apprised that the government is making substantial investments in both ongoing and new capital projects across diverse departments.. Of these, 162 are ongoing projects with a cumulative cost of Rs12,393.6 Cr, against which Rs 2,235.3 Cr has already been spent and an additional Rs1,191.4 Cr sought in loans under this scheme. The Power Development Department leads in this category with 19 projects worth Rs 10,052.1 Cr, followed by the Jal Shakti Department with 36 projects amounting to Rs 311.1 Cr, besides significant works being implemented by Housing & Urban Development, and Public Works Departments.

Alongside, 60 new projects worth Rs 309.15 Cr are being launched

under this scheme, with loans amounting to Rs 189.52 Cr sought for their execution. The Health & Medical Education Department is spearheading this category with 16 projects costing Rs 82.31 Cr, while Tourism, Youth Services, Sports and Skill Development Departments are also undertaking notable new initiatives under SASCI.

The Chief Secretary directed departments to redouble their efforts in maximizing revenue realization while maintaining fiscal discipline. He stressed that enhanced capital expenditure coupled with efficient revenue collection will be pivotal in sustaining the UT's developmental momentum and fiscal stability.

### Urban Challenge Fund...

Authorities (AIFORERA) in Srinagar. The Lieutenant Governor urged that the 'Whole of the Government' approach is needed for advancing this sector and ensuring accountability in timely project delivery. "The transparency, accountability, and efficiency brought by RERA Act 2016 must protect homebuyers' interests and swift grievance redressal mechanism is required to transform this sector into a more regulated and efficient industry," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the intricacies of the Real Estate Sector, its challenges, possibilities and opportunities. He called upon private players and real estate developers to play their greater role in promoting affordable housing. "Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the real estate sector is emerging as one of the major contributors in realising the vision of Viksit Bharat. This rapid growth is driven by the aspirations of the common man. The real estate sector must move forward with equitable development and urban transformation at its core and ensure fairness and transparency for those who dream of owning a home.

I also want to see this sector becoming more competitive to encourage growth. There must be uniformity and harmony in housing regulations across the states and union territories," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor also exhorted the real estate developers to pay special attention towards the health and education of families of workers engaged in housing development projects.

The Lieutenant Governor said the welfare of those who are building our homes should be the top priority. He further urged the All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities to work with developer groups like NAREDCO (National Real Estate Development Council) to ensure that workers and their families are not deprived of their basic rights in any way. He further emphasised on real-time monitoring of housing development projects and awareness campaigns for the buyers. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor released the Journal and Annual Report 2024-25 of AIFORERA. Shri Anand Kumar, Chairman, All India Forum of Real Estate Regulatory Authorities (AIFORERA); Shri Satish Chandra, Chairman, J&K Real Estate Regulatory Authority (JKRERA); Ms Mandeep Kaur, Commissioner Secretary, Housing and Urban Development Department; Chairpersons of various Real Estate Regulatory Authorities and senior officials attended the inaugural session of the Governing Council Meeting of AIFORERA.

### Javed Rana calls...

flood protection systems. The Minister highlighted that the damage has deeply impacted access to safe drinking water and irrigation across both Jammu and Kashmir divisions, creating immediate challenges for public health, agriculture and the overall well-being of rural communities.

The Jal Shakti Minister informed the Union Minister that the J&K Jal Shakti Department has taken swift emergency measures to restore basic services in the affected areas.

Javed Rana requested a special financial package from the Ministry of Jal Shakti to support full-scale restoration and to invest in long-term resilience-building measures. He emphasized that such support is not only critical for restoring normalcy but also for building infrastructure that can better withstand the growing impacts of climate change and extreme weather events in the region.

In addition to the flood-related concerns, the Minister also raised the issue of the critical funding gap under the Jal Jeevan Mission, which aims to provide safe drinking water to every rural household in Jammu & Kashmir. He informed that while a large number of schemes have made substantial progress, including many nearing completion, the shortfall in Central assistance and delay in fund releases have posed serious constraints on meeting the ambitious timeline of full saturation by March 2025.

The Minister pointed out that despite the J&K's consistent progress and efficient implementation of JJM schemes, including the successful completion of a significant number of projects.

Rana underscored the need for immediate release of additional funds to meet outstanding payments and to maintain the pace of execution.

He urged the Union Minister to personally intervene and facilitate the timely release of central funds and sanction of additional financial support, so that the JJM implementation in J&K does not suffer avoidable delays.Expressing his appreciation for the support received, Javed Rana thanked C.R. Patil for his patient hearing, assurances and positive response to the issues raised.

He reiterated the Jammu & Kashmir Government's firm commitment, under the leadership of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, to the goal of "Har Ghar Jal" and to building robust, climate-resilient water infrastructure that ensures the right to safe drinking water for every citizen.The Union Minister assured Javed Rana of full cooperation from the Government of India and acknowledged the need for urgent and sustained intervention to support the people of Jammu & Kashmir in this time of crisis.

### Violence erupted in...

On the BJP's claims that the Congress instigated the violence, Mufti brushed off the allegation, saying it was a "people's outburst". "The government does not want to admit its failure and they have to find a scapegoat. If the Congress had that much support, the situation would have been different. It was a spontaneous reaction to apprehensions of losing their identity, land and jobs," she said.

### Sakeena Itoo reviews...

Shantamanu; Secretary School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. GN Itoo; Director School Education Jammu, Naseem Javid Chowdhary; Secretary JKBOSE, Ghulam Hassan Sheikh and other senior officers of JKBOSE and School Education department.

During the meeting, the Education Minister took comprehensive assessment of overall performance, examination mechanism, evaluation, curriculum development, digitisation services as well as ongoing reforms aimed at strengthening school education across Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the officers during the meeting, the Education Minister emphasized on timely conduct of examinations and strengthening of grievance redressal mechanisms for the facilitation of students. She further asked the officers that any updation related to curriculum updation should be done timely and before the onset of new academic session.

The Minister also directed the JKBOSE authorities that the textbooks should be made available by the end of November so that there is no hindrance in supply position before the start of new session. She asked the JKBOSE authorities and School Education department to devise a proper mechanism for dispatching of textbooks to schools well in time.

The Minister appreciated the JKBOSE for some student centric initiatives which will make the registration process as well as examination mechanism smooth. She asked the officers to establish proper mechanism for evaluation so that the results can be declared timely.

Highlighting the importance of accountability and efficiency, the Minister underscored the need for continuous upgradation of infrastructure, capacity-building of staff, and closer coordination with schools to address challenges on the ground related to examinations.

"Education is the foundation of our future. The role of JKBOSE is pivotal in shaping a transparent, modern, student-friendly examination and evaluation system. Our priority is to strengthen institutions so that every child in Jammu and Kashmir can benefit from quality education", Sakeena Itoo stated.

The Education Minister further called the JKBOSE authorities to issue date sheet for 10th and 12th classes well in time so that the students can prepare accordingly for their respective examinations.

During the meeting, Secretary JKBOSE gave a detailed presentation on the action plan for forthcoming examinations as well as other aspects of the Board.