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value-chain development to ensure that cold-water regions can efficiently produce, process and market trout and other species with improved access to modern infrastructure and stronger market linkages.

The Union minister urged organization of Fish Farmers through cooperatives and encouraged States/UTs to support farmers in accessing schemes, infrastructure and credit.

The minister, along with LG Sinha and CM Abdullah, jointly released the Model Guidelines for Reservoir Fisheries and Aquaculture Management.

The guidelines provide a comprehensive framework covering scientific seed stocking, cage-and pen-based aquaculture, leasing and governance mechanisms, biodiversity conservation, value-chain linkages and monitoring systems.

Speaking at the event, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir has potential for integrated fisheries development, which can generate jobs and boost fish farmers' income.

"Jammu Kashmir holds promise as a national model for integrated fisheries development. The value-chain approach will generate jobs, cut post-harvest losses, and boost fish farmers' incomes," Sinha said while addressing the National Conference on Cold Water Fisheries, organised by the Department of Fisheries here.

Sinha highlighted the remarkable surge in fish production in the Union Territory and infrastructure upgrades since 2020, reaffirming the administration's resolve to empower fish farmers.

"Our strategic initiatives have positioned J&K as the leader in trout production across all cold-water states. Under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), launched in 2022, Rs 233 crore was allocated for fisheries to incentivize entrepreneurship, establish hatcheries, trout farming & value-added ventures," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that over recent years, fish production and related infrastructure have seen substantial growth.

"Trout output rose from 1,663 tons in FY 2021-22 to a record 2,650 tons in 2024-25. Private sector trout units increased from 936 to 1,649; hatcheries from 1 to 9; trout feed mills from 'zero' to 6 by 2024; RAS units from 2 to 9; and biofloc units from 10 to 59," he said.

Sinha expressed gratitude to the central government for sanctioning a Rs 100 crore Integrated Aqua Park Project to be established in Anantnag district.

This project will strengthen aquaculture infrastructure, boost cold-water fisheries development, increase fish production and create employment opportunities in the region.

"Under the guidance of PM Narendra Modi, our focused efforts have made Jammu and Kashmir the top trout producer among India's cold-water states," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said that the rapid economic-social progress of Jammu and Kashmir demands relentless effort from every societal segment, especially our farmer brothers.

"At the heart of development lies our vibrant farming community, who are not mere producers, but the bedrock of our identity and economy. Now is the time to honor their role with due respect, investment, and technology," he added.

Sinha said the Fisheries Sector faces challenges like climate change impacts, rising water temperatures, water scarcity, slow growth of native species, and fish health risks.

"To unlock its full potential, we must advance cold-water agriculture scientifically, genetically improve trout and carp breeds, prioritize climate-resilient systems, disease diagnostics, and aquatic health management. Innovation in indigenous feeds and robust seed-feed supply chains are vital for the Fisheries Sector," he said.

Omar, Abdullah, Chief Minister J&K; Prof S P Singh Baghel, Union MoS for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, J&K; Dr. Abhilaksh Likhi, Union Secretary, Department of Fisheries; Dr Ashish Chandra Verma, ACS, Agriculture Production department, J&K; Sagar Mehra, Joint Secretary, Department of Fisheries, GoI; Dr. J.K. Jena, Deputy Director General (Fisheries Science), ICAR; Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Kashmir, senior officials, policymakers, experts, researchers and stakeholders were present.

CM calls...

, Srinagar. The conference, described as a first-of-its-kind national dialogue on sustainable harnessing the potential of India's cold water fisheries for growth and prosperity, was organized by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, Government of India.

The event was held in Srinagar attended by Union Minister Rajiv Ranjan Singh, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Minister of State for Fisheries S. P. Singh Baghel and J&K Minister for Agriculture Production Javid Ahmad Dar, Secretary Fisheries Government of India Abhilaksh Likhi, Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture J&K Ashish Chandra among others.

Welcoming the Union Minister and other dignitaries to Srinagar, the Chief Minister thanked Government of India for choosing Jammu and Kashmir as the venue for such an important conference on development of cold water fisheries.

"I would like to warmly welcome the Union Minister and his colleagues and thank them for choosing Srinagar for this very important conference on how we can further increase the production of cold water fisheries," the Chief Minister said.

Highlighting the importance of learning and innovation in the sector, Omar Abdullah said the conference had already provided new insights into emerging practices in fisheries.

"Till now we believed that cold water fisheries were limited to mountainous regions like Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and the Northeast. We assumed that these areas alone had the advantage because of their geography. But today we learned something new," he remarked.

Referring to innovative aquaculture practices in other parts of the country, the Chief Minister cited the example of a youth entrepreneur from Hyderabad producing trout through advanced techniques in tropical climate. .

"We heard about a young entrepreneur in Hyderabad who has established a facility producing around 200 metric tonnes of trout. This shows that technology can overcome geographical limitations. It also means that regions like ours must improve techniques and adopt modern scientific practices to stay ahead," he said.

The Chief Minister said the government has a responsibility to support fishermen and aquaculture entrepreneurs who depend on fisheries for their livelihoods.

"Our responsibility is to strengthen those who have taken up fisheries as their livelihood. We must help them increase production, improve infrastructure in remote areas and ensure better post-production facilities," he said.

Calling for greater use of science and research, Omar Abdullah stressed that innovation would be crucial for the future growth of cold water fisheries.

"Science and research must guide the development of this sector. We need to identify new techniques and innovations that can help increase cold water fisheries production in a sustainable manner," he said.

The Chief Minister also highlighted the importance of

balancing production with environmental protection.

"While increasing production, we must ensure sustainability. Our environment must not be damaged and our natural fish stocks must remain protected," he added.

He further pointed out that climate change poses new challenges for agriculture, horticulture and fisheries in the region.

"Climate change is becoming increasingly visible. We recently witnessed unusual temperatures in Srinagar in February and early flowering of trees this year. Even the Tulip Garden is ready much earlier than usual. These changes will inevitably impact sectors like fisheries, and we must be prepared," he said.

Emphasizing the value of knowledge sharing, the Chief Minister said hosting the conference in Srinagar would help Jammu and Kashmir learn best practices of other states and share its own long experience in trout farming.

"It has been about 126 years since trout was first introduced in Kashmir around 1900. We have a rich experience in this sector and we must share it with others while also learning from the best practices of states like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and those in the Northeast," he said.

Omar Abdullah expressed confidence that collaborative efforts between the Centre, states and stakeholders would further strengthen India's fisheries sector.

"Fish production in the world has reached new heights. With the focused attention now being given to this sector and the creation of a dedicated ministry, I am confident that the day is not far when India will be among the leading countries in fish production globally. In that journey, cold water fisheries will hold a special place," he said.

Concluding his address, the Chief Minister welcomed delegates from across the country and expressed hope that the conference would result in meaningful knowledge exchange and future collaboration.

"I once again welcome all participants to Srinagar and hope that everyone who has come here will benefit from the discussions and return with new ideas and learnings," he added.

The conference brought together policymakers, experts, researchers and stakeholders from Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Meghalaya, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala to explore collaborative pathways for sectoral advancement.

By fostering knowledge exchange and aligning national and state priorities, the conference aims to accelerate sustainable growth in the cold water fisheries sector while strengthening livelihoods and nutrition security in India's mountainous and remote regions.

Wangchuck freed...

"He was released from jail at about 1.30 pm today following an order from the central government," Ratanada Police Station SHO Dinesh Lakhawat said.

His wife, Geetanjali Angmo, was here to complete the formalities.

Wangchuck was detained on September 26, 2025, two days after protests over demands for statehood for Ladakh and its inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution rocked Leh.

More than 45 people, including 22 policemen, were injured in the protests.

He was detained under the National Security Act (NSA) on the orders of the Leh district magistrate to "maintain public order" and was later transferred to Jodhpur prison.

Commercial LPG...

developments that hampered energy supplies from the Gulf countries.

India imports 88 per cent of its crude oil needs, 50 per cent of its natural gas requirement and 60 per cent of its LPG demand.

Before the US and Israel attacked Iran on February 28, and Tehran retaliated by hitting US bases in neighbouring countries as well as Israel, more than half of the crude oil requirement came from the Middle East countries, 30 per cent of gas from the region and 85-90 per cent of LPG.

The war has led to an effective blockage of the Strait of Hormuz, which is the usual sea transit for energy from the Gulf countries. While India has managed to source crude oil from other countries, including Russia, the hit on gas supply has led to cuts for industrial users and to commercial establishments such as hotels and restaurants.

"The situation is a matter of concern for all of us, but we are ensuring that household consumers do not face inconvenience. Domestic consumers have been prioritized, and LPG cylinder supply is being ensured for them," she said.

However, LPG refill bookings have surged sharply due to panic buying by consumers.

"Yesterday, the number of bookings was about 75 lakh, and it has now increased to around 88 lakh. This is nothing but panic booking," the official said, urging consumers to book cylinders only when required.

Pre-war, daily bookings totalled around 55 lakh and oil marketing companies delivered 50 lakh cylinders per day. While the cylinder deliveries remain the same, bookings have surged.

She also clarified that booking restrictions are linked to the time gap between two deliveries.

"In urban areas, there is a minimum gap of 25 days between the last delivery and the next booking, while in rural areas the gap is 45 days. If consumers try to book before this window, the booking will not take place," she said.

To ease supply pressure, the government has ramped up domestic LPG production.

State governments and district administrations have been asked to closely monitor the LPG supply situation and ensure smooth distribution, she said, adding that several chief ministers and senior officials have already held review meetings in states such as Haryana, Goa, Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Authorities have also intensified enforcement to curb hoarding and black-marketing, with states conducting raids and surprise inspections in coordination with oil marketing companies (OMCs).

OMCs have also activated their inspection teams and conducted around 1,300 surprise inspections at LPG distributorships and retail outlets in a single day.

The government has also asked OMCs to launch a campaign promoting digital booking of LPG refills and spreading awareness to prevent panic buying.

Consumers have been urged to use digital tools such as SMS, WhatsApp and mobile apps of OMCs for refill bookings instead of visiting LPG distributorships.

"There is no need to stand in queues at distributorships for booking or cylinder delivery. OMCs deliver cylinders to consumers' homes and will continue to do so," she said.

While the situation remains serious, LPG cylinders are available, and supplies are continuing, she added. "There is no cause of panic. We urge consumers to rely only on information provided through official channels and resort to unnecessary panic."

SIT to...

and other officers from Jammu Police. On Wednesday night, Abdullah had a miraculous escape when a gunman opened fire on him after coming from behind while he was leaving a marriage function at Royal Park Banquet Hall in the Greater Kailash area.

The 63-year-old accused, identified as Kamal Singh, was overpowered and arrested on the spot. A revolver used in the crime was recovered from his possession.

CM Omar...

digital platform has been developed as a joint initiative between the Floriculture Department and Jammu and Kashmir Bank to make the process of purchasing garden entry tickets simple. The system enables tourists and visitors to book tickets online for various gardens, eliminating the need to stand in queues at ticket counters, the spokesman said.

The newly introduced platform provides online booking of tickets through the portal <https://floriculture.jk.gov.in>, allowing visitors to plan their visits conveniently, he said.

He said to ensure a seamless transaction experience, the platform supports multiple digital payment options, including debit cards, credit cards, UPI and e-banking, enabling visitors to complete bookings through their preferred mode of payment.

The introduction of this online ticketing system marks an important step towards modernising visitor services and leveraging digital technology to enhance transparency and efficiency in the management of garden entries, the spokesman said.

Ministers Javid Ahmed Dar and Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Zaidal Tanvir Sadiq, Commissioner Secretary Floriculture department Zubair Ahmad, Director Floriculture Ms Mathura Masoom Director Handicrafts Mussarat ul Islam and other senior officers including senior officers of Jammu & Kashmir Bank who were also present on the occasion.

During the visit, the Chief Minister took a tour of the almond alcove and happily obliged enthusiastic visitors who sought selfies with him, adding to the lively and festive atmosphere at the historic garden.

Ganju takes...

convenor Agnishekhar, following consultations with senior leaders and recommendations from general secretary Kuldeep Raina, organising secretary Behari Lal Kaul, publicity and media secretary, vice chairman and several senior activists.

The leadership said the decision was taken to safeguard the "ideological clarity, organisational discipline and historic mission" of the movement representing the aspirations and struggle of the displaced Kashmiri Pandit community.

According to the circular, serious concerns had been raised regarding the functioning of the organisation in the years following a controversial write-up associated with Fai, a proclaimed and convicted ISI agent.

"The representation cited allegations of anti-organisational conduct, deviation from ideological principles, character assassination of senior activists through proxies, attempts to dissolve the organisation without mandate, obstruction to organisational expansion, defuncting of several units and attempts to create parallel units," it said.

The circular also referred to statements attributed to Chrungeo involving criticism of the Ram temple and remarks perceived by activists as hostile towards the nation, which caused deep concern within the organisation.

Questions were also raised regarding his certain foreign engagements and interactions with individuals alleged to be linked with hostile agencies, including Fai.

The organisation sought clarifications from Chrungeo regarding the purpose and sponsorship of his foreign visits and whether due permissions had been obtained from the competent authorities, the circular said.

In keeping with the principles of natural justice, senior office bearers met Chrungeo on March 14 last year and apprised him of their concerns while giving him an opportunity to respond. However, he declined to provide any clarification and subsequently refused further engagement, it said.

A formal representation seeking clarification was also sent to him later, but it remained unanswered, it added.

"In view of the seriousness of the allegations and the continued absence of clarification, it was resolved that Ajay Chrungeo stands expelled from the organisation with immediate effect," the circular said.

Tito Ganju has been nominated as chairman and will oversee the restructuring of the global organisational structure in accordance with the mechanism devised by the convenor and the team nominated by him will hold deliberations on drafting a revised constitutional framework, it said.

Panun Kashmir has also decided to constitute a commission of enquiry to examine Chrungeo's alleged foreign engagements, sponsorship of overseas visits and interactions with individuals alleged to be linked with hostile agencies, it said.

An activists' workshop will be held in Jammu on May 24 where the proposed constitutional framework and organisational restructuring will be deliberated upon and formally adopted, the group said.

Kashmir's future...

chronicles for the people. I want these tales of Sewa Bharti's sacrifices, Ekal Vidyalaya's dedication, volunteers' commitment, and the transformation in our communities to reach beyond J&K and ignite countless volunteers across India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that Jammu Kashmir brims with boundless promise to shape a radiant future. He said that the UT of J&K has natural abundance, dynamic youth, and citizens driven by service.

"Great futures are not forged by fate, but by resolve and collective endeavour. A prosperous Jammu Kashmir will be defined not by economic metrics alone, but by a quality of life every citizen cherishes," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised on five resolutions- Social Harmony, Family Awakening, Environmental Stewardship, Civic Duty and Self-Reliance - to transform Jammu Kashmir as an exemplary, leading Union Territory.

"First resolution is social harmony and I urge all citizens to unite with patience and courage, fostering mutual respect across communities to bridge generations, cultures, faiths, and ideas. Second, families must root themselves in core values, emerging aware and empowered to shape the next generation's destiny.

Third resolution is environmental stewardship. Jammu Kashmir, earth's paradise, is nature's unique gift-its rivers, mountains, and forests remind us we are custodians of irreplaceable heritage. Sustainable development is true foresight; let us collectively safeguard this legacy for posterity.

Fourth resolution is civic duty. Citizens must evolve the system into one of shared participation. A robust democracy thrives where people are active, informed, and accountable.

Fifth resolution is Self-Reliance. We must focus on building capacity to meet needs while empowering others. Let us grow economically robust, stewarding resources for enduring progress," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said that these five resolutions are not mere ideas, but our collective mandate to ensure robust socio-economic growth.

Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, President, Sewa Bharti J&K; Suman Dhir, President Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation; Dr Farooq Dar, Vice President, Sewa Bharti J&K; Shri Pradeep Kapoor, General Secretary, Sewa Bharti; Ajay Takoo, Fayaz Ahmed Mir and other office bearers and volunteers of Sewa Bharti and Ekal Vidyalaya Foundation of India attended the book release ceremony.

Shri Rajiv Pandey, DIG CKR; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, senior officials and prominent citizens from different walks of life were also present.

Hosabale calls...

devotion and social harmony but also awakened and prepared society for the struggle against the oppression of foreign rulers.

Hosabale claimed that several attempts were made by Muslim invaders to convert Ravidas to Islam, but they failed and many of them later became his disciples.

"There were several attempts to convert Sant Ravidas ji to Islam, but after witnessing Sant Ravidas ji's devotion and spiritual prowess, those who wanted to convert him became his disciples," Hosabale said at Madhav Srishti in Haryana's Samalkha, where the Akhil Bharatiya Pratinidhi Sabha is being held from March 13 to 15.

The RSS leader also emphasised that Ravidas's life reflected the dignity of labour and moral conduct.

"He re-established the dignity of labour and pure, virtuous and transparent conduct in society through his own life," Hosabale said.

He further said Ravidas's greatness was acknowledged across sections of society despite his humble origins and noted that several prominent figures, including Meerabai, regarded him as their guru.

Sant Ravidas was a prominent Bhakti movement saint of the 15th century, revered for his teachings on devotion, equality and social harmony. Born in Seer Govardhanpur near Varanasi in a humble family traditionally associated with leather work, he challenged caste-based discrimination and stressed that a person's deeds determine greatness rather than birth. Considering the importance of his thoughts, his 41 vanis (compositions) have been included in the Shri Guru Granth Sahib in the form of 'Shabad'.

DM forms...

schedule, in accordance with established guidelines and latest circulars.

The DM further directed that no preferential treatment shall be extended to any consumer and that all distribution must be carried out in a fair and transparent manner. He strictly prohibited any distributor from allowing unnecessary queues to form outside distributorship premises, terming such practices as avoidable and a direct source of public inconvenience.

To ensure compliance and maintain a check on ground-level irregularities, the DM announced the constitution of special monitoring teams which will cross-verify stock status at distributorships across the district. These teams will continuously monitor adherence to the laid-down protocols.

The DM made it unequivocally clear that any irregularities detected in the distribution process shall be dealt with strictly and erring distributors will be held accountable under applicable provisions.

PM Modi...

he alleged from the stage which had a replica of the iconic Dakshineswar Kali Temple in the backdrop.

The Prime Minister said the ruling party feared the SIR exercise because it would remove the names of illegal voters from the electoral rolls.

"They are not even ready to remove the names of those who have already died," he said.

Invoking the historical symbolism of the Brigade Parade Ground, Modi said the venue had once witnessed the voice against British rule that turned into a revolution across the country.

"Today, once again, the bugle for the 'kranti' (revolution) for a new Bengal has been sounded from Brigade Ground," he said.

As political temperatures rise ahead of the assembly polls likely to be held next month, the rally signalled the BJP's attempt to sharpen its twin campaign planks: infiltration and voter identity on the one hand, and governance, women's safety and youth employment on the other, while projecting the election as a larger battle for the state's political and cultural future.

Modi accused the ruling party of running what he termed a "mahajungle raj" backed by criminal networks and patronage politics.

"Extortion and cut money are TMC's sources of income. To strengthen such gangs, they bring infiltrators. Because of infiltration, Bengal's bread, daughters and land are under threat," he alleged.

Earlier in the day, the Prime Minister inaugurated or unveiled projects worth Rs 18,680 crore in West Bengal, saying a new chapter of India's growth was being written from the state.

Modi also charged the TMC with "crossing all limits" by insulting President Droupadi Murmu during her visit to north Bengal last week.

"The TMC has not just insulted the President, but it has insulted the country's tribals, women, the people of this country and the Constitution," he said.

Murmu had expressed displeasure over the last-minute change of venue of a programme near Siliguri and questioned why neither the Chief Minister nor any state minister was present to receive her.

"The TMC government protects rapists and criminals; Sandeshkhali and RG Kar are testimony to this. In present-day Bengal, goons have a free run, and the safety of mothers and sisters has been compromised," he said.

"I assure the mothers and sisters of Bengal that if you give your blessings to the BJP here, women will be safe and criminals will be in jail. This is Modi's guarantee," he added.

The PM also focused on youth employment, alleging that corruption in recruitment had destroyed the future of many young people and forced thousands to migrate out of the state in search of work.

Experts stress...

drawn from the J&K Police or Central Paramilitary Forces, the CPT acts as the last line of defence when other security layers are breached," the experts said.

"Threat perception remains the key determinant for assigning the strength and composition of a CPT. A higher risk level translates into a larger and more specialised team. The CPT functions in close coordination with other elements such as personal security officers (PSOs), escort parties and Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs), forming a multi-layered security grid around protectees" they added.

In the latest incident, the attacker reportedly managed to breach outer security arrangements and reached close proximity to the Dr Abdullah, even pointing a firearm towards him. However, the swift intervention of the CPT personnel, including members from the National Security Guard (NSG) and the J&K Police, prevented any harm. The assailant was overpowered, his weapon seized and he was subsequently handed over to the local police for further legal action.

Experts further stressed that the protectee should also adhere to the security protocols and follow the advice of the security managers as some gaps were cited in case of attack on Dr Abdullah when he allegedly violates security norms and arrived at the marriage venue in a private vehicle instead of the designated bulletproof government Scorpio, which is part of his official security protocol.

Observers stressed that the rare episode should serve as a reminder of the need to strengthen institutional security mechanisms rather than politicise isolated incidents. With investigations still underway, authorities have urged restraint and responsible public discourse until the full facts emerge.