

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

# Urban Insights

HOUSING & URBAN DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

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# CONTENTS

Sl.	Description	Page No.
1.	Message from the Chair	2
2.	About the Organisation	3
3.	The Cover Story	4-6
4.	Featured Project	7-8
5.	Recent Achievements	9-11
6.	The Success Story	12-14
7.	Did You Know?	15-16
8.	In the Spotlight	17
9.	News Highlights	18-20
10.	Community Engagement	21-24
11.	Employee of the Month	25

## About JKHUDD

The Jammu & Kashmir Housing and Urban Development Department (JKHUDD) is the Nodal Agency for Planning, Development, and Management of Urban Areas in the UT of J&K. It oversees various aspects such as Infrastructure Development, Urban Planning, Housing, and Municipal Governance to ensure sustainable growth & quality of life in the region.

The Department is also responsible for framing of Housing policy, Create Legal, Institutional and Procedural changes to encourage investment in housing sector and to facilitate creation of adequate housing stock etc. The Housing and Urban Development Department, J&K has been in existence since 1970 to look after the important sectors of Housing, Urban Development and Local Self-Government.



*Mandeep Kaur, IAS*

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## **MESSAGE**

In this eighth edition of the Housing and Urban Development Newsletter, we are proud to shine the spotlight on the remarkable work of the Jammu & Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA) in preserving the iconic Dal-Nigeen Lakes.

The JKLCMA has undertaken an impressive array of initiatives to rejuvenate these precious natural resources. Key achievements include:

1. Implementing an ambitious Aerator cum Dancing Fountains project at the world-famous Dal Lake in Srinagar, a Rs. 10 crore investment that is enhancing the lake's aesthetic appeal and improving water quality.
2. Successfully implementing a comprehensive houseboat sewerage connection project, effectively addressing one of the most pressing environmental challenges faced by the Dal and Nigeen Lakes.
3. Deploying advanced machinery like self-propelled barges, sophisticated weed transfer cranes, specialized dump barges, aquatic floating grab dredgers, and powerful tug boats to meticulously restore the lakes.
4. Expanding the open water area of the lakes to over 20.3 square kilometers and clearing 6.5 square kilometers of lily pad dominance through their 2023-24 rejuvenation campaign, reclaiming nearly one-third of the lakes.
5. Installing cutting-edge Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) across five crucial Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) in the region for timely monitoring and optimization of these facilities.
6. Partnering with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to launch an innovative waste processing plant with an impressive annual capacity of 7,000 metric tonnes, transforming lake waste into valuable energy resources.
7. Completing an eco-hamlet project at Kachri Mohalla, developed at an investment of ₹4.33 Crores, as a pioneering effort towards sustainable eco-development in the region.

These remarkable achievements demonstrate the JKLCMA's unwavering commitment to preserving these natural treasures. As we continue our work in housing and urban development, the JKLCMA's model serves as an inspiring example of what can be accomplished through innovative, collaborative, and holistic approaches to environmental conservation.

**(Mandeep Kaur)**





Dal Lake, often celebrated as the "Lake of Flowers," "Jewel in the Crown of Kashmir," and the "Liquid Heart of Kashmir Valley," stands as a magnificent centerpiece of tourism & recreation in the Kashmir Valley. With its beautiful & captivating floating gardens, houseboats, and stunning Himalayan backdrop, it has been captivating visitors and providing livelihoods to thousands through tourism, fishing, and agriculture for generations.

In recognition of the lake's importance and growing environmental challenges, the Jammu and Kashmir government established a dedicated authority in 1997. Initially named the J&K Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (J&K LAWDA), and later renamed as the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), this body was specifically tasked with the conservation and management of the Dal-Nigeen Lake complex. The authority's creation marked a significant step toward organized efforts to preserve this natural treasure.

Recent years have witnessed an intensified focus on the lake's restoration and rejuvenation, particularly during 2023-24 and 2024-25. The comprehensive conservation efforts encompass the entire lake system, spanning 25.01 square kilometers, along with its vast catchment area of 337.17 square kilometers. The restoration project has been elevated to a mission-mode initiative, incorporating multiple components such as large-scale de-weeding operations, systematic lake cleaning, and ambitious lakeside beautification works.



Captivating  
*Dal Lake*





## Dal Lake Gets a Magical Makeover: LG Sinha Unveils Spectacular Aerator cum Dancing Fountains

In a landmark development for Jammu and Kashmir's tourism sector, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha inaugurated an ambitious Aerator cum Dancing Fountains project at the world-famous Dal Lake in Srinagar. The Rs. 10 crore initiative, meticulously executed by J&K Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), showcases six strategically placed clusters along the lake's periphery, marking a significant and aesthetic enhancement to one of India's most beloved tourist destination.

The engineering marvel comprises clusters stretching across a cumulative length of 500 meters, with each cluster boasting an impressive array of approximately 200 nozzles. These sophisticated installations create a symphony of water displays.



### Water, Light and Some Magic:

The project's crowning achievement is the revolutionary "High Jet" fountain, a first-of-its-kind installation in India that stands as a testament to engineering excellence. This remarkable 79-meter fountain shoots water skyward with incredible force, creating an awe-inspiring mist formation that shimmers with ever-changing colors, while countless droplets catch the sunlight like suspended diamonds.

This centerpiece not only serves as a spectacular visual attraction but also plays a crucial role in improving the lake's water quality through enhanced aeration, exemplifying the project's dual commitment to tourism and environmental conservation.









## LG Manoj Sinha Launches 'Athwas': A Historic Mission to Restore Dal Lake's Glory

In a pioneering effort, Kashmir's iconic Dal Lake is set to undergo a major transformation through 'Athwas,' a unique citizen-authority partnership launched by Lieutenant Governor Sh. Manoj Sinha. The project, executed in collaboration with the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA), marks the first time in history that public participation has been actively enlisted for the lake's conservation.

With an impressive budget allocation of Rs. 373 crore for Dal and Nigeen lakes development, the initiative builds upon the successful de-weeding campaign from the previous year. This significant investment demonstrates the government's commitment to preserving these iconic water bodies for future generations.

The comprehensive restoration plan includes expanding the fleet of cleaning machines and initiating dredging work on the lake's western side, targeting the restoration of 60,000 square meters. The project extends beyond Dal Lake, with ambitious plans for Wular Lake that include the construction of a new walkway to enhance its beauty, prevent encroachment, and promote eco-tourism through sustainable development.

Looking ahead, the administration has set an ambitious target of reviving 3,600 water bodies across different parts of the Union Territory this year. Lieutenant Governor Sinha has called for a unified approach, urging all stakeholders, including Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI) and various departments, to collaborate in this conservation effort.







## Clean Waters Ahead: Landmark Sewerage Project Transforms Houseboat Operations

In a groundbreaking environmental initiative, Kashmir's iconic Dal Lake is undergoing a major transformation to preserve its pristine waters for future generations. The Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has successfully implemented a comprehensive sewerage connection project, addressing one of the most pressing environmental challenges faced by the lake.

The project, focusing on both Dal and Nigeen lakes, marks a significant milestone in lake conservation efforts by tackling the long-standing issue of static houseboat waste management. For years, these floating heritage structures, while being a crucial part of Kashmir's tourism landscape, contributed to water pollution as their sewage directly entered the lake waters.

In what can be termed as an engineering feat, all houseboats in the Nigeen Lake sector have now been connected to the existing Sewerage Treatment Plant at Nallah Amir Khan. The western and eastern fringes of the lake, home to numerous traditional houseboats and floating gardens, are now fully integrated into this systematic and comprehensive modern waste management system.

Similarly, in Dal Lake, houseboats have been successfully linked to the 16.1 MLD Sewerage Treatment Plant at Brarainumbal, ensuring proper treatment of waste before disposal. This initiative represents more than just an environmental project – it's a perfect blend of preserving rich and diverse cultural heritage while also sustainably embracing innovative modern conservation practices.







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## Conservation Milestone: JKLCMA Deploys Advanced Machinery for Lake's Rebirth

In a significant move to restore the pristine beauty of Kashmir's Dal-Nigeen Lake, the Jammu & Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA) have unveiled a state-of-the-art arsenal of aquatic cleaning machinery. The comprehensive initiative marks a new chapter in the lake's conservation efforts, focusing on year-round maintenance and ecological rejuvenation.

The newly acquired fleet includes self-propelled barges, sophisticated weed transfer cranes, and specialized dump barges, complemented by aquatic floating grab dredgers and powerful tug boats. This modern equipment will tackle the lake's most persistent challenge-excessive weed growth-while simultaneously addressing dredging requirements to maintain the lake's depth.

The strategic procurement represents the latest phase in a series of scientific and systematic measures undertaken by the Authority for the Conservation, Management & Development of Dal-Nigeen Lake. These efforts aim to not only combat immediate challenges but also ensure the long-term sustainability of the lake ecosystem, which has long been a cornerstone of Kashmir's natural heritage.

This technological upgrade signals a shift from traditional cleaning methods to a more efficient, mechanized approach, promising enhanced results in maintaining the ecological balance of this iconic water body. The year-round operations enabled by this new machinery are expected to significantly improve the lake's overall health and aesthetic appeal, benefiting local communities.







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## Dal Lake's Dazzling Revival: Historic Rehabilitation Sets New Conservation Standards

In a remarkable transformation, Dal Lake has undergone its most successful rehabilitation program, expanding its open water area to over 20.3 square kilometers. The Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) has made significant strides in their 2023-24 campaign, rejuvenating one-third of the lake and clearing 6.5 square kilometers of lily pads dominance.

The comprehensive cleanup strategy employs advanced mechanical methods alongside manual efforts. In 2023-24, Nine modern harvesters-both owned & hired-mechanically removed 201,304 cubic meters of weeds, while a workforce of 64,062 laborers contributed an additional 40,000 cubic meters through manual extraction.

Another initiative, twenty navigation channels spanning 10 kilometers have been successfully restored through strategic dredging and widening. This restoration has improved water mobility and enhanced circulation in the lake. Additionally, the authority has also begun systematically dredging strategic detention ponds along the lake's edge, significantly enhancing overall water quality

The shoreline near NPL Bund has seen extensive dredging, alongside focused improvements to navigation channels and detention ponds, yielding positive outcomes. This multi-faceted approach has created 58,000 man-days of employment in 2023-24, with an additional 28,000 man-days this year, highlighting notable socio-economic benefits.



Manual De-weeding at Interiors of Dal Lake, Srinagar





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BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER





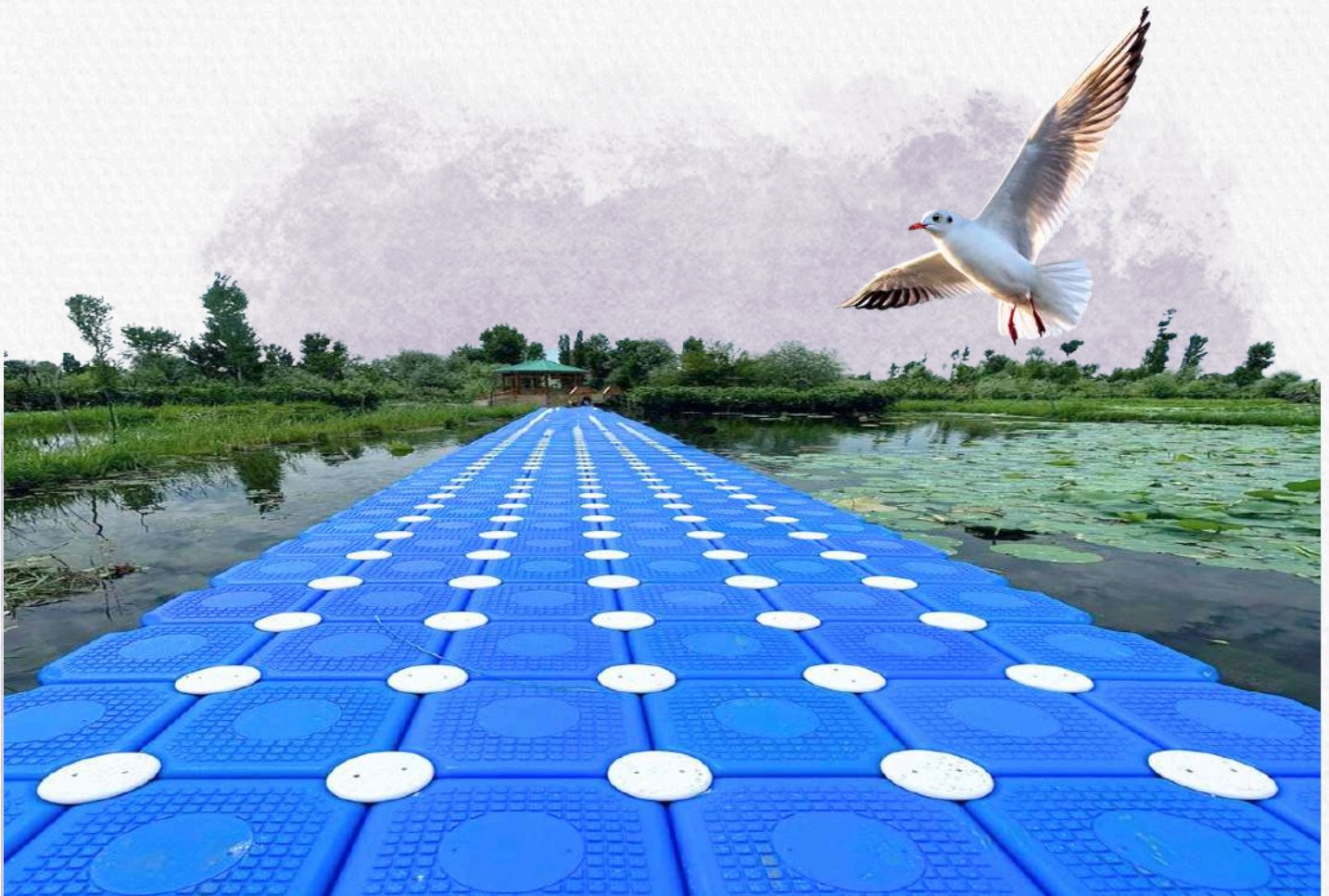
## Dal Lake Gets a Modern Makeover: Smart Floating Jetties Bring Relief to Boaters

In a bid to enhance the allure more tourist towards Dal Lake, the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LC&MA) has recently introduced four HDPE floating jetties at Nishat, Laam, Cheshmashahi and Shalimar. These jetties are expected to not only add to the lake's appeal but also address the issue of parking space for motor boats.

Utilizing high-quality materials, these jetties have been designed to withstand the test of time, reducing the need for frequent repairs. Additionally, the jetties aim to resolve the parking predicament faced by motorboat owners. During unforeseen circumstances or events, the motorboats can now be safely parked at these floating structures, easing congestion and ensuring easy, convenient smoother operations on the lake.

Moreover, the introduction of these carefully designed jetties will free up considerable space for traditional shikara riders. Prior to their strategic installation & infrastructure development, shikara owners were contending with significant operational issues due to motorboats occupying various prime locations and docking spaces near SKICC.

The inclusion of these floating jetties will significantly improve Dal Lake's overall tourist experience. The jetties' modern amenities and efficient use of solar energy align with sustainability goals and offer a promising glimpse into the future of tourism in the region. The LCMA aims to revitalize Dal Lake as a prime attraction in Srinagar, fostering a more convenient and enjoyable experience for both locals and tourists alike.







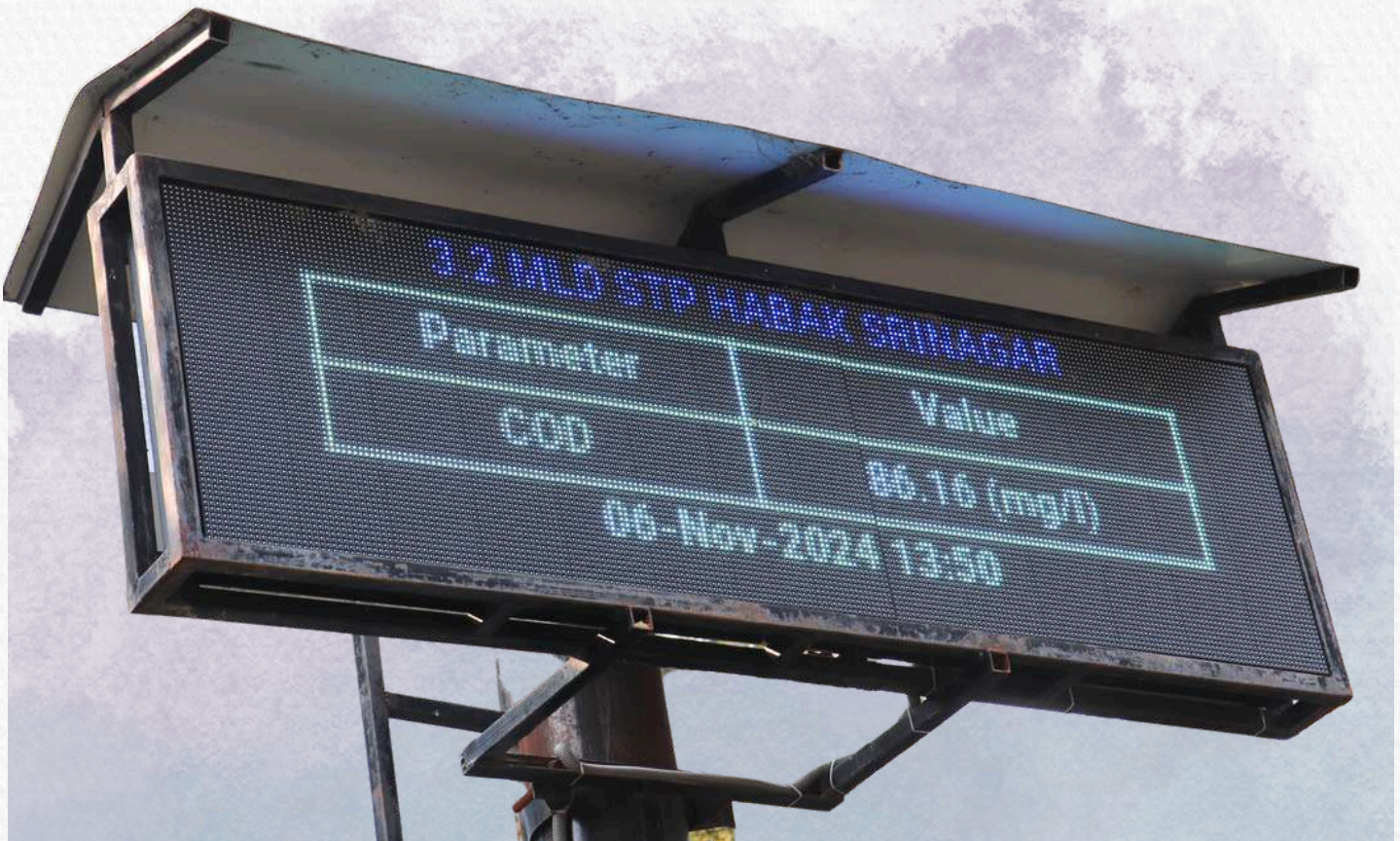
## LCMA's Digital Leap: OCEMS Installation Marks New Chapter in Lake Protection

In a significant technological leap forward, the J&K Lake Conservation and Management Authority has successfully implemented Online Continuous Effluent Monitoring Systems (OCEMS) across five crucial Sewerage Treatment Plants (STPs) in the region for timely monitoring for these facilities.

The newly installed systems at Hazratbal, Habak, Laam, Nallah Amir Khan, and Brarinambal STPs mark a transformative shift in environmental monitoring capabilities, bringing real-time insights to wastewater management. The cutting-edge state-of-the-art OCEMS technology enables round-the-clock monitoring of vital physio-chemical parameters, including Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD), and Total Suspended Solids (TSS).

This digital surveillance system represents a paradigm shift from traditional manual sampling methods, offering unprecedented accuracy in water quality assessment. By providing real-time data, the system empowers authorities to make informed decisions for protecting the water bodies.

This strategic implementation demonstrates LCMA's commitment to embracing smart technology for environmental conservation. The automated monitoring system not only enhances operational efficiency but also ensures precise & stronger compliance with environmental standards. As Kashmir's lakes face increasing environmental pressures, this digital transformation in effluent monitoring serves as a crucial step toward their environmental preservation.







## Sustainable Innovation: LCMA-NAFED Roll Out Lake Waste Processing Plant

The Jammu & Kashmir Lakes and Waterways Development Authority has partnered with the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED) to launch an innovative waste processing project. This visionary venture marks a significant milestone in the region's commitment to environmental conservation and renewable energy production.

The newly established plant, constructed on 96 Kanals of land, boasts an impressive annual weed processing capacity of 7,000 metric tonnes. This state-of-the-art facility will scientifically process lake waste, converting what was once an environmental burden into valuable energy resources. The project represents a perfect example of circular economy principles in action.

Beyond its environmental benefits, this initiative opens up new revenue streams for the region. By monetizing the waste generated from the lake, the project creates a sustainable model that benefits both the ecosystem and the economy. The scientific disposal methods employed will significantly reduce the environmental impact of waste generated in the lake.

This pioneering project could serve as a blueprint for other regions facing similar challenges with water body maintenance and waste management. It demonstrates how innovative thinking and strategic partnerships can create sustainable solutions that address multiple challenges simultaneously – from environmental conservation to energy production and economic development.







## Kachri Mohalla's Eco Hamlet: A Green Revolution in Dal Lake's Heart

The picturesque Kachri Mohalla has recently emerged as a beacon of sustainability with the completion of its eco hamlet project, developed at an investment of ₹4.33 Crores by the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA). This venture is not only a significant milestone for the community but also a pioneering effort towards eco-development in the region.

By transforming Kachri Mohalla into a model village, the LCMA is setting a precedent for similar projects to enhance ecological integrity while providing a better quality of life for residents. In addition to the completed eco hamlet, the LCMA is embarking on an ambitious plan to develop 28 more internal hamlets under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP).

The scope of work for these projects is comprehensive and visionary, incorporating vital elements such as an advanced sewerage treatment facility with an enhanced capacity of 4-5 MLD, strategic beautification efforts to enhance the natural scenery and visitor experience, sustainable slope stabilization techniques to protect against soil erosion, and the establishment of interactive eco parks.

The Lakes Conservation and Management Authority envisions these hamlets as models of sustainable living, where environmental stewardship goes hand-in-hand with community well-being. By focusing on integrated development strategies, the project aims to balance urbanization & environmental conservation, thus preserving the natural beauty and ecological health of the area.



Commissioner/ Secretary, HUDD, Ms. Mandeep Kaur reviewing the eco hamlet project at Kachri Mohalla





## Shalimar Canal's Smart Makeover: Enters Final Phase of Smart City Transformation

In a significant push towards modernizing Kashmir's summer capital, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo conducted an extensive inspection of Srinagar's ongoing smart city projects in May 2024. The high-level visit, accompanied by key officials including the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, CEO of Srinagar Smart City Limited (SSCL) and Vice Chairman, LCMA, focused on evaluating the transformation of the city's historic Civil Lines area and water fronts.

What makes this transformation particularly noteworthy is the careful integration of tourist-friendly features with the area's cultural significance. A new visitor zone featuring a viewing tower at Dal Lake promises to offer tourists and locals alike breathtaking views of Kashmir's crown jewel.

The ambitious renovation of the Shalimar Canal area has emerged as a flagship project, with an impressive 70% completion rate. The development scheme perfectly balances heritage preservation with modern amenities, featuring improvements to the historic Shalimar Bagh frontage, enhanced canal edges, and the addition of wooden arch bridges that complement the area's traditional architecture.

The project is scheduled for completion in January-25, marking a significant milestone in Srinagar's urban development journey. The development plan includes modern cafeterias and restaurants near Foreshore Road, creating new social spaces while maintaining the area's historic charm.



Sh. Atal Dulloo (CS-J&K) along with CEO, SSCL during review of Shalimar Canal Redevelopment Project





## Dal-Nigeen Lake Conservation Gets High-Level Push: Senior Officials Conduct Comprehensive Site Visit to Nigeen Lake

In a significant move to bolster conservation efforts of Kashmir's crown jewel, Commissioner/ Secretary HUDD, Ms. Mandeep Kaur, accompanied by Vice Chairman Mr. Younis Malik and other LCMA officials, conducted an extensive inspection of the Dal-Nigeen Lake on September 9, 2024.

During the site inspection and review, the officials thoroughly reviewed various ongoing conservation schemes being executed by the Jammu and Kashmir Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LCMA). The visit focused on assessing the progress of current initiatives and identifying areas requiring immediate attention. Particular emphasis was placed on the restoration of wetland vegetation along the shoreline as-well.

The inspection team, led by Ms. Kaur and Mr. Malik, emphasized the need for sustainable development while maintaining the ecological balance of the overall lake ecosystem. They specifically highlighted the importance of regular water quality monitoring and limiting recreational activities.

Their hands-on approach to monitoring the conservation projects demonstrates the administration's proactive stance in preserving this vital natural resource, which not only serves as a major tourist attraction but also plays a crucial role in the region's ecological stability. The visit is expected to accelerate ongoing conservation efforts and lead to more focused interventions for the lake's preservation.



Ms. Mandeep Kaur (CS-HUDD) along with VC, LCMA during review of various ongoing works on Dal and Nigeen Lake





## Guardians of Dal Lake: AG Office Leads Cleanup Activities during Audit Week Celebrations

In a remarkable fusion of civic duty and environmental stewardship, the AG Office Srinagar kicked off its Audit Week celebrations with a powerful statement on ecological responsibility. The office orchestrated a significant cleanliness drive at the iconic Dal Lake, partnering with the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA).

Principal AG Pramod Kumar and Deputy Accountant General Inabat Khaliq led from the front, officially inaugurating this environmental initiative that brought together diverse segments of society. The landmark event drew an impressive assembly of local luminaries and environmental champions, including renowned Kashmir environmentalist Manzoor Wangnoo, young activist Baby Jannat, soccer star Ishfaq Ahmed, and DFO Ghazala Abdullah.

Together, these participants rolled up their sleeves and engaged in hands-on cleaning activities, setting a compelling example of community involvement in environmental conservation. Their active participation and collaborative engagement underscored the universal responsibility we share in preserving our precious natural heritage for future.

This innovative approach to celebrating the CAG India's foundation day reflects a broader vision that extends beyond traditional professional boundaries. The AG Office, Srinagar, has masterfully crafted a week-long program that weaves together professional excellence with social responsibility. By choosing to begin their Audit Week with this environmental initiative, they've demonstrated that the path to holistic institutional growth.



 ऑडिट सप्ताह  
AUDIT WEEK





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## From Classroom to Conservation: Kashmir's Next-Gen Engineers Tour STP Laam, Nishat

In a significant educational field visit, students from Kashmir University got a firsthand look at the innovative sewage treatment technology protecting Kashmir's crown jewel – the Dal Lake. The visit focused on the state-of-the-art Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) at Laam Nishat, which employs advanced Fluidized Aerobic Bioreactor (FAB) technology to safeguard the lake's pristine waters.

The 4.5 MLD capacity treatment facility, managed by the Jammu & Kashmir Lakes Conservation and Management Authority (JKLCMA), represents a major leap forward in wastewater management. During the visit, the DFO in-charge provided students with detailed insights into how FAB technology surpasses conventional treatment methods in both efficiency and environmental impact.

"FAB technology is revolutionizing how we protect our water bodies," explained the DFO. "Unlike traditional treatment plants, this system offers superior performance in a smaller footprint, making it ideal for our sensitive lake ecosystem. Its advanced biological treatment process ensures that the water returned to Dal Lake meets the highest quality standards while requiring minimal maintenance."

The plant plays a crucial role in the Dal Lake's conservation efforts by ensuring that only thoroughly treated water enters this iconic water body. This educational initiative aligns with JKLCMA's proactive commitment to both environmental protection and public awareness. This exposure visit highlighted Kashmir's progress in adopting sustainable solutions for ecological preservation.







## Cross-Country Conservation: Forest Officers from Karnataka Get Hands-on at Dal Lake

In a cross-regional learning initiative, a group of 42 Range Forest Officer trainees from Karnataka's prestigious Dharwad Forest Academy made their way to the iconic Dal Lake in Kashmir on April 8, 2024. The visit marked an important step in understanding comprehensive water body management and conservation practices.

The delegation was welcomed by Mr. Manzoor Ahmad, Project Officer of the Watershed Management Division at Lakes and Waterways Development Authority (LCMA), who orchestrated an informative session at the dockyard. Through a detailed presentation, the trainees gained valuable insights into the comprehensive and sustainable ecosystem management practices being implemented at Dal Lake in Srinagar.

"Understanding the complexities of managing a living, breathing water body like Dal Lake provides invaluable lessons for forest officers," remarked Mr. Ahmad during the orientation session. The detailed presentation particularly emphasized the significance of catchment area management, a crucial aspect of maintaining the lake's ecological balance.

The theoretical knowledge was complemented by an extensive hands-on field experience. They witnessed firsthand the three main strategic conservation activities that form the cornerstone of overall Dal Lake's sustainable preservation efforts – systematic dredging operations essential for maintaining the lake's depth and water quality, collaborative de-weeding initiatives critical for controlling invasive aquatic vegetation.





## Employee's of the Month - October 2024

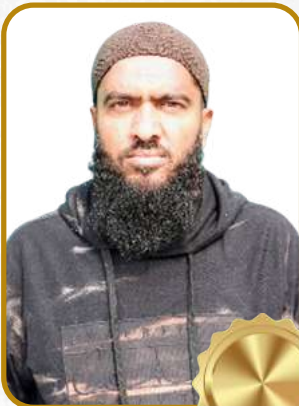


### **Er. Parveez Salim Bhat**

Assistant Executive Engineer, LCMA

Mr. Parveez Salim Bhat has been widely recognized and acknowledged for his tireless dedication and exceptional efforts towards the conservation of Dal-Nigeeen Lake, one of the most iconic water bodies in Kashmir. His professionalism, coupled with a deep sense of responsibility, has played a pivotal role in the ongoing restoration projects that are crucial for the lake's survival. One of his notable achievements has been the cleaning of the Brari Numbal lagoon, a task that had not been undertaken in such a thorough manner before.

In his capacity as a key leader in managing and motivating manual laborers, he has overseen the manual deweeding and solid waste collection from various areas of the lake, including the houseboats, internal hamlets, and the open water surface. His leadership in this effort has proven to be crucial, also in setting an example for effective community conservation.



### **Er. Altaf ul Rasool**

Assistant Executive Engineer (Mech), LCMA

Mr. Altaf ul Rasool has been recognised for his exceptional commitment and significant contributions in de-weeding & dredging activities carried out in Dal-Nigeeen Lake. His pivotal role in mobilisation, deployment & monitoring of the lake cleaning operations through machines (Departmental/Hired) led to clearance of water-surface in Hazratbal basin to unprecedented levels in shortest possible time. His tireless efforts led to the opening of vast expanse of water surface for recreational activities besides clearance of crucial navigational channels within the lake body.

His hard work, dedication & meticulous management skills resulted in keeping the two basins known for having highest tourist footfall (Gagribal basin & Lakut Dal) clear and clean throughout the season.



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