

# MESSAGE



**Nasir Aslam Wani**

Minister of State for  
Housing & Urban Dev, PHE,  
Tourism, Revenue & Relief

The launch of the website by the Department of Libraries and Research as part of the Automation & Networking of Public Libraries Project is a welcome step and the one in the right direction.

Libraries have come a long way from being a manually managed facility to the present swift online service. As in other cases, the Internet has revolutionized the world of books and their availability to a reader. It has literally brought libraries to our homes, notwithstanding their location.

Given the rapid development made by the world in the area of library services, it is imperative that Jammu & Kashmir with a long history of public library services is brought at par with the rest of the world. The automation and networking of public libraries and the launching of an interactive website are significant steps towards achieving this goal. The process of modernization has been taken up in a phased manner. In the pilot phase, the project has been started in four major libraries. In the second phase, public libraries at district and tehsil level would be networked with the system, making library information available to interested persons on the click of a keyboard button. The completion of the project would see the public libraries in J&K ushering in a new scenario.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Director Libraries & Research and his colleagues in the department for bringing about this change in public library services in the State. The automation of public libraries and online library information would certainly go a long way in empowering of our people by making easy and swift access to knowledge possible.

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