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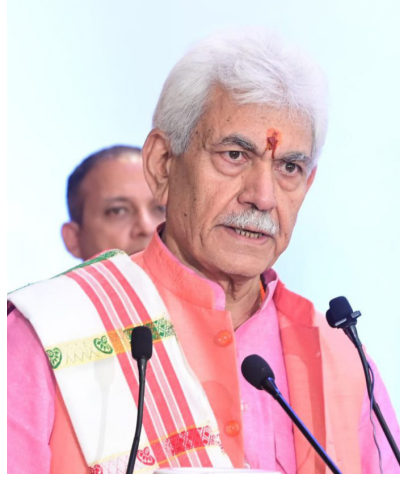
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We Must Make Sure That Terrorists Have No Space In This Beautiful UT: LG Sinha

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 8: Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday that ordinary citizens were taking a stand against Pakistan-backed terrorism through street protests which was a good sign for establishing peace in the Valley. Stressing that the development of the tourism sector is possible only in a peaceful and secure environment, he said the people of Jammu and Kashmir should ensure that terrorists' attempts to draw sustenance from society are foiled. Sinha was addressing a two-day

tourism conference at SKICC that is also being attended by Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat. "Ordinary citizens are taking a stand against terrorism. Street protests against Pakistan-backed terrorists is a good sign to establish permanent peace in the valley. "Entire Jammu Kashmir must rise and make sure terrorists have no place in this beautiful Union Territory," Sinha posted on his official X handle. This conference is a befitting reply to terrorism and reflects J-K's march towards peace, progress and prosperity. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, J-K is an unstop-



pable force and it will continue to flourish, the LG said. He said J-K's tourism sector has undergone a phenomenal transformation in the last few years. "We've strengthened traditional tourism circuits and expanded tourism's horizon. We have ensured that the benefits of tourism reach every corner of J-K and transform lives. "The development of the tourism sector is possible only in a peaceful and secure environment. In J-K, security forces have a huge role in ending terrorism, but the role of society is also no less. "Terrorists' attempt to draw their

LG Sinha Reviews TB Mukht Bharat Progress in J&K

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 8: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha today chaired a high-level meeting to review the implementation and progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan in the UT of Jammu Kashmir. The Lieutenant Governor reviewed the strategies and actionable plans aimed at accelerating TB case detection.

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Over 1 Lakh Pilgrims Visit Amarnath in 6 Days

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 8: More than 1 lakh devotees have visited the cave shrine of Amarnath in the first six days of the annual pilgrimage, Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Tuesday. The 38-day Amarnath Yatra commenced from the

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Ordinary citizens are taking a stand against terrorism. Street protests against Pakistan-backed terrorists is a good sign to establish permanent peace in the valley. "Entire Jammu Kashmir must rise and make sure terrorists have no place in this beautiful Union Territory," Sinha posted on his official X handle.

Schools In J&K Reopen After Summer Break

United News of India

SRINAGAR, JUL 8: Schools in Jammu and Kashmir reopened on Tuesday after two weeks of summer vacation as heavy rains on Monday ended the prolonged heatwave in the valley. The schools opened amidst criticism of the government's decision to advance to the school timing to 7.30 am. The Jammu and Kashmir government on Monday decided against extending the summer vacations despite no signs of heatwave abating in the valley. However, within couple of hours of the announcement, heavy rains lashed the valley and the temperature came down to normal levels across Kashmir. Some parents were critical of the new schedule announced by Minister for Education Sakina Masood Itoo. Several videos were posted online in which parents showed the difficulties faced by kids to wake up at 5.30 am in order to catch their school bus between 6.30 am and 7.00 am. The education minister said on X that institutions within the municipal limits in the valley will function from 7.30 am to 11.30 am, while in other areas, the timings will be from 8 am to 12 noon. "We are reopening schools from tomorrow (Tuesday) in Kashmir Division & Winter

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Kashmir's Tourism Goes Beyond Scenery: Shekhawat

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 8: Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat today said that Kashmir's tourism potential extends far beyond its scenic landscapes, highlighting the need to tap into the region's rich cultural and experiential offerings. He also urged the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department and officials from other Union Territories to chart out a comprehensive, year-long event calendar of events aimed at creating a distinct global identity through cul-



ture-driven tourism. Speaking at the concluding session of the UT Tourism Secretaries Meeting in Srinagar, the Union Minister said that while the general perception of Kashmir is largely confined to iconic destinations like Srinagar, Dal Lake, Gulmarg, Sonamarg, and Pahalgam, the region offers far more diverse and unexplored experiences. "Kashmir is not just about scenic beauty. It is home to centuries-old archaeological remains and historical documents that narrate thousands

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J&K on Tourism Revival Path: Yasha Mudgal

HT News Desk / KNS

SRINAGAR, JUL 8: Jammu and Kashmir Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal, on Tuesday said that the Union Territory is on a strong path of revival in tourism and is once again becoming a top-choice destination for travelers from across the country. Speaking on the sidelines of the Tourism

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Revised School Timings Not Final: Itoo

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 8: Amid a backlash over revised school timings, Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Tuesday said the decision is not final and can be reviewed. The education department on Monday changed the timings of all schools in Kashmir and the winter zone of the Jammu division. The schools, which were closed

for summer vacations due to a prolonged heatwave, reopened on Tuesday. According to an education department order, the timings for schools falling within the municipal limits of Srinagar will be from 7:30 am to 11:30 am and the timings for those outside the Srinagar municipal limits will be 8 am to 12 noon. Prior to the summer break, the

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Govt Eases Heat Woes with Split Class Schedule

HT News Desk / KNS

SRINAGAR, JULY 8: The Jammu and Kashmir government's decision to resume both morning school and online classes for students from Class 6

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Anti-Constitutional: Farooq Abdullah On Revision Of Electoral Rolls In Bihar

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 8: National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Tuesday termed as "anti-Constitutional" the decision of the Election Commission to undertake special intensive revision of electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar.

"More than 1.50 crore Biharis are working outside their state. How will they fill the form (for enrolment)? How will they vote? Where will they get the certificates for their deceased parents?" Abdullah asked.

The former chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir was talking to reporters at Kulgam where he had gone to attend a party event.

"When the Constitution was framed by B R Ambedkar, everyone had a right to vote. Then it was amended to give voting rights to 18 year olds and above. Today, they (ECI) has brought a new law which is against the Constitution. They are trying to please their master.

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AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

VMS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL (VMSSH)



FROM THIS:

TO THIS:



YOU SUPPORTED US ALL THROUGH NOW A LITTLE MORE EFFORT & WE WILL OPEN THE DOORS OF THIS HOSPITAL TO OUR CHILDREN SUFFERING FROM HEART DISEASE:

Our vision is clear: **Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society**
The hospital is taking form—paint, tiles, and firefighting systems are in place—
But vital work remains: air conditioning, medical gas pipelines, electrical systems, and partitioning.



JK HOPE AND HEALTH FOUNDATION
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0005010100009519

One Last Push To Keep Young Hearts Beating: Every Penny Supports A Heart Beat

CM Omar to visit West Bengal for tourism promotion

Likely to meet Mamata Banerjee

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is set to visit West Bengal to participate in a tourism-related event and hold key meetings aimed at promoting tourism in the region, sources said. According to sources, Omar is scheduled to leave for Kolkata tomorrow. During the visit, he will attend a major tourism event organized in the city and is also expected to meet West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Thursday. "The Chief Minister is keen on reviving the

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Controversy Brews Over Shifting Of Dy CEO Office From Shopian To Chitragam

Locals, Leaders Call Move Biased, Seek Immediate Rollback

HT News Desk / KNO

SHOPIAN, JUL 08: The recent decision to shift the office of the Deputy Chief Education Officer (Dy. CEO) Shopian from the district headquarters to Chitragam has sparked strong criticism and widespread concern across the district, with local leaders, civil society members and residents terming it a politically motivated and inconve-

nient move. Former MLA Shopian, Advocate Shabir Ahmad Kullay, along with prominent trade union leaders, civil society representatives and other political figures in a press conference questioned the rationale behind the relocation, alleging it was influenced by political bias. They claimed that since the sitting MLA of Zainapora constituency, Showkat Hussain

Ganaie, hails from Chitragam, the office was deliberately shifted there. "The Dy. CEO is a district-level officer. His office should remain at the district headquarters to ensure accessibility for all, especially those coming from far-flung areas like Keller. Shifting the office to Chitragam will cause immense inconvenience to the public," said

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Ensure special facilities for elderly prisoners: MHA to states to UTs

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUL 8: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has written to all states and Union Territories (UTs) to make special provisions in prisons and correctional institutions to ensure the safety, care, and well-being of elderly inmates.

In an advisory issued on July 1, the MHA highlighted that prison institutions across the country house several vulnerable inmates, including senior citizens who often require additional assistance to manage their day-to-day activities in a custodial environment.

The advisory has been sent to the Chief Secretaries of all states and UTs, as well as, the Director General and Inspector General of Prisons and Correctional Services.

Reiterating its commitment to the welfare of elderly citizens, the MHA emphasized the need for "specially accessible

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Terrorists Must.....

sustenance from society should be foiled," he added. (Agencies)

LG Sinha.....

improving treatment outcomes, identifying challenges, and ensuring inter-departmental coordination to achieve the national goal of TB elimination.

The Lieutenant Governor called for collaborative efforts towards eliminating tuberculosis. "TB Mukt Jammu Kashmir should be our common goal," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor desired the use of various forms of media for generating awareness about all the aspects of TB. He also exhorted the Health Department to ensure that its field functionaries work tirelessly for the success of the programme. This must include close monitoring of all TB patients so that they regularly consume prescribed medicines and do not become drug resistant. Use of IEC in the form of daily SMS and phone calls to the patients for ensuring that they do not miss their daily dose of medicine, was also stressed upon.

The Lieutenant Governor asked the Health Department to make all efforts for ensuring the availability of diagnostic machines including CBNAAT and TrueNat across the length and breadth of the UT.

"This would go a long way in increasing the testing of patients and screening of the population with the aim of achieving TB Mukt J&K and TB Mukt Bharat at the earliest," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor asked Deputy Commissioners to broaden the IEC and awareness campaigns and take onboard the religious leaders, healthcare professionals, sportspersons, prominent citizens, Self-Help Groups and Social organisations to reduce stigma associated with tuberculosis.

He further directed for mapping of vulnerable populations through screening and testing on priority, enhancing Diagnostics, Treatment, and promoting Early Diagnosis. People should be encouraged to register themselves as Ni-Kshay Mitras, he added.

Meeting also discussed the performance of Jammu Kashmir on various Parameters under National TB Elimination Programme, achievements registered under TB Mukt Panchayat Initiative, Media workshops for TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan, saturation of Ayushman Bharat Golden cards, procurements of treatment and testing equipment.

Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education gave a detailed presentation on District wise status of Treatment Outcome, Presumptive TB Testing and Strategic Plan activities being implemented across the UT.

The meeting was attended by Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Secretary, Health and Medical Education; Shri Baseer Ul Haq Chaudhary, Mission Director, NHM J&K; Deputy Commissioners; Heads of Medical & Health institutions and senior officials.

Over 1 Lakh.....

valley on July 3 via the twin tracks — the traditional 48-km-long Nunwan-Pahalgalam route in Anantnag district and the 14-km shorter but steeper Baltal route in Ganderbal district.

"The journey of faith, holy Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has surpassed 1 lakh pilgrims within the first six days of pilgrimage," Sinha said in a post on X.

He said the yatra is continuing smoothly on both the Pahalgalam and Baltal routes and is expected to draw more devotees in the coming days.

The pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the south Kashmir Himalayas will conclude on August 9.

Kashmir's Tourism.....

of years of our heritage. When it comes to religious tourism, we often stop at Amarnath Yatra, Vaishno Devi, or the Shankaracharya Temple. But places like the ancient Shiva temple in Bhaderwah and many other magnificent temples reflect Kashmir's deeper spiritual and historical significance," the Minister said.

He also pointed to the vast potential of activity-based tourism in Kashmir, citing opportunities in trekking, skiing, and water sports.

"While skiing in Kashmir is known to some extent, the peace being restored in the region opens up new possibilities for adventure tourism. The tragic incident in Pahalgalam should be seen as an isolated event—like a dark new moon night that has passed. We must now look ahead," he said.

Highlighting the underexplored areas, he mentioned lakes like Wular and Manasbal, and stressed the need to promote water-based tourism, cultural heritage, crafts, music, gastronomy, and agro-tourism.

"One of the most innovative tourism models has been lavender farming. Under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor, this initiative alone has attracted nearly 20 lakh tourists eager to experience lavender fields in Kashmir," he added.

Drawing comparisons with the rapid development in other Union Territories such as Daman & Diu and Lakshadweep, the Minister praised the local administrations for nurturing tourism potential with world-class and even beyond world-class infrastructure.

He reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to developing tourism infrastructure across all Union Territories.

"These regions hold boundless potential. The Government of India is fully committed to accelerating their tourism-driven growth. Today's gathering is part of our collective effort to realize that vision," he said.

Union Tourism Minister called on the Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Department and senior officials of other union territories to design a comprehensive year-long calendar of events aimed at creating a distinct global identity through culture-driven tourism.

"Every Union Territory should have a dedicated calendar with monthly, bi-monthly, or quarterly festivals. These events should either be rooted in local traditions or be newly created experiences that can attract both domestic and international tourists," he said.

Citing the example of the International Kite Festival in Ahmedabad, which started 30-40 years ago and is now globally recognized, the Minister urged states and UTs to commit to fixed-date annual festivals that can eventually become permanent fixtures.

"If we push just one good festival consistently for three years, it will become a 30-year asset for our economy," he said. "These events won't just bring tourists—they will shape our identity and generate livelihoods."

Highlighting Kashmir's growing tourism ecosystem, the Minister referred to the successful hosting of the Formula F4 race under the leadership of the Lieutenant Governor. "If that event gets a fixed slot every year, Srinagar will be known globally for Formula F4. Just like marathons or film festivals create destinations, so can we."

The Minister also pitched for organizing international events like Sufi music festivals and film expos, stressing the importance of developing off-season tourism through alternative experiences.

"Tourism must not be limited to peak seasons. Places like Rajasthan understand the pain of the off-season. To overcome that, we need creative experiences—exhibitions, races, marathons, cultural festivals—that offer year-round engagement," he said. (Agencies)

J&K on Tourism.....

Secretaries Conference being held in Srinagar, Mudgal said that all states and Union Territories have come together for a major brainstorming session aimed at enhancing India's tourism sector.

"The Tourism Secretaries Conference is being organized with participation from all states and UTs," she said. "It sends a strong message that J&K is a preferred destination, not just for leisure, but for all forms of tourism," she added.

She said the event, supported by the Ministry of Tourism (MOT), also saw the participation of the Union Tourism Minister and the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. "This is the biggest event of the year for us, and it sets the tone for the season ahead," Mudgal said.

Addressing concerns about a temporary dip in tourist arrivals following a recent incident, Mudgal said the situation is returning to normal. "It's natural to see a slight slump after an incident, but thanks to the efforts of Hon'ble LG and top government officials, tourists are coming back," she said.

She added that tourist flow has picked up again in key destinations like Srinagar, Gulmarg, and Pahalgalam. "Tourists are coming from all corners of the country. We are on the path of revival and will very soon match last year's numbers," she said.

Mudgal further said that such large-scale events help promote confidence and reinforce Jammu and Kashmir's image as a safe and vibrant destination. "We will continue to organize more such events to boost tourism across the UT," she added. (KNS)

Schools In.....

Zones of Jammu Division," Ittoo said. The minister said the students will attend two online classes from home after a one-hour break.

"After a 1-hour break, 2 online classes will follow. Teachers to remain available till 2 PM. All Hols must ensure online classes are conducted without exception," she said.

It is not yet clear how long the hybrid model of education — invented to counter the heatwave — will remain in place.

Authorities in Kashmir had on June 21 announced a 15-day summer break — from June 23 to July 7 — for all schools across the valley due to the soaring temperatures.

Revised School.....

schools started around 9 am. The revised timings evoked a sharp reaction from many quarters, including parents. Opposition leaders also questioned the practicality of the move.

"(I have) received many calls (over the change in school timings). I want to say that these (revised school timings) are not final. If we feel that there is a need to make changes in the timings, then we can do it," Ittoo told reporters in south Kashmir's Kulgam district.

In case there is some problem with the timings, adjustments can be made. People and students need not worry, she said.

Ittoo said the government wants children to study as examinations are approaching.

"We have the November session and we want them to complete their studies. The

endeavour behind reopening the schools after vacations and changing the timings is that the students should complete their syllabus because... examinations are in October," she said.

"We want the students from J&K to study and excel," the minister said.

It is not clear how long the revised school timings — aimed at countering the heatwave — will remain in place.

Heavy rains significantly brought down the temperature in Kashmir on Monday. The weather department has forecast more rain over the next 48 hours.

On June 21, authorities in Kashmir announced a 15-day summer break — from June 23 to July 7 — for all schools across the valley due to the soaring temperatures.

Govt Eases.....

to 12 after the summer break has stirred debate, but education officials and several parents say the move is practical and aims to strike a balance between academic continuity and weather conditions.

As per the School Education Department (SED) order issued on Monday, schools across Kashmir and winter zones of Jammu reopened on July 8 after a 15-day summer vacation. The new school timings are set from 7:30 am to 11:30 am within municipal areas and from 8 am to 12 noon in rural areas.

Following the in-person classes, students of Class 6 to 12 will attend additional online classes—between 12:30 pm and 2 pm in municipal areas, and 1 pm to 2:30 pm in non-municipal zones. Primary classes (Class 1 to 5) are exempted from the online component.

Director of School Education Kashmir, G.N. Ittoo told KNS that this move was taken into consideration with a good aim. "We wanted to make sure that students remain academically connected even during shorter school hours," he said.

He also said, "It's not about burdening students. It's about using time wisely while also adjusting to the heat."

"It's a balanced step in the current conditions," Ittoo said.

The change in academic schedule comes as temperatures across several parts of the Valley are rising. Ittoo pointed out that other states with similar or higher temperatures, like Delhi, Punjab, and Rajasthan are already running schools in morning shifts with blended learning.

"We are not alone. Many other states where temperatures go beyond 35 degrees are doing the same."

Parents, too, are beginning to see the reasoning behind the policy. Fayaz Ahmad, father of a Class 9 student, said, "They are not giving more holidays, and that is good. If my child is free by noon, why not continue some studies from home?"

Shazia Akhtar, mother of a Class 7 student, said, "The weather is hot. Morning time is better. It's somehow a good decision by the government. Keeping the vacation going wasn't really an option either."

"It's a better decision by the government. What will children do if the heatwave continues for another 15 days? Extending summer vacations was not the solution. Sometimes, we have to consider alternatives," said Gulam Mustafa, a retired principal.

Another parent, Bashir Lone, said, "It is better than wasting another week in the name of summer. They are already on break for 15 days."

Abdul Rashid, whose son studies in Class 12, added, "We have board exams this year. This will help. They need every day of learning."

The SED has directed schools to follow the new schedule in letter and spirit. Officials say this model ensures that students are not idle for the rest of the day and continue learning in a flexible, lighter format.

Kashmir Weather, the independent forecaster, has advised that there is no need to extend the summer break. With temperatures already starting to gradually decrease since last Sunday and expected to remain comfortable for at least a week, the forecast models show strong confidence in this cooling trend.

It pointed out that temperatures around 31-32°C are normal for July and that the month won't behave like the hotter months of April or October, making it unnecessary to prolong vacation time.

Anti-Constitutional.....

To please their master, they are willing to sacrifice everything," he added.

Abdullah said there was a need to wake up to these "machinations" as it was not acceptable to the people of India.

"Wake up! Regretfully, I say that it is not acceptable to people of India. If they push it through, then there will be an agitation to save the Constitution and it will be bigger than earlier agitation. May Allah grant them wisdom to safeguard the Constitution," he added.

The Election Commission on June 24 issued instructions to carry out a special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, apparently to weed out ineligible names and ensure only eligible citizens are included in the electoral roll.

The last such revision in Bihar was conducted in 2003.

According to the EC, the exercise was necessitated by rapid urbanisation, frequent migration, young citizens becoming eligible to vote, non-reporting of deaths, and inclusion of the

names of foreign illegal immigrants.

Elections in Bihar are due later this year. (Agencies)

CM Omar.....

tourism industry in Jammu and Kashmir, which has suffered setbacks after the Pahalgalam terror attack," sources said.

"In Bengal, he is likely to meet key stakeholders and tourism players to brief them about the ground situation in Jammu and Kashmir and to encourage tourist inflow from the state."

Officials said that the Chief Minister's visit is part of a broader outreach plan to dispel apprehensions and promote Jammu and Kashmir as a safe and attractive destination for travelers.

"The idea is to assure tourists and travel operators that Jammu and Kashmir is open, safe, and welcoming," one official said, adding that Bengal remains a significant market for Kashmir's tourism sector.

The state government has recently ramped up efforts to boost the tourism economy, with campaigns, roadshows, and partnerships across several Indian states. (KNS)

Controversy Brews.....

Adv. Kullay, warning that if the decision is not revoked within seven days, protests will be launched.

They argued that instead of relocating the existing Dy. CEO office, the government should have created a new post for Zainapora constituency to cater to the area's educational monitoring needs. "This move will create confusion and unnecessary travel, particularly for stakeholders in Keller and other upper belt regions," said one civil society member.

Some leaders further alleged that a junior lecturer has been appointed as Dy. CEO, compounding the issue.

Responding to the criticism, MLA Zainapora Showkat Hussain Ganaie in a press conference defended the decision, stating that the Dy. CEO's role is primarily to monitor educational institutions in rural areas like Chitragam, Zainapora, Harmain, and Imamsahib, and that such decentralised supervision would help improve the quality of education.

"There is no need for people to visit the Dy. CEO office for administrative work when the CEO is available at the district headquarters. The Dy. CEO will focus purely on monitoring duties," he said.

He dismissed the allegations of political interference, saying the officer posted in Chitragam is one of the senior-most and fully capable. "This issue is being unnecessarily politicised. Instead, efforts should be made to fill vacant key posts in the education department across the district," Ganaie added.

The decision has also sparked outrage on social media, with many netizens questioning the logic and timing of the shift.

"Shopian is a small district—what was the need to shift the Dy. CEO office at all?" questioned a local user. Others highlighted the logistical challenges, pointing out that every official file will now have to go from CEO Shopian to Dy. CEO in Chitragam for signatures, causing delays and additional costs.

"If decentralisation was the goal, Zainapora—being the second-largest administrative centre in Shopian—should have been the natural choice. Chitragam has been picked clearly for political reasons," read a comment, alleging interference by the MLA in the education department at the behest of Education Minister Sakina Ittoo.

Stakeholders across Shopian have demanded that the government revoke the order and keep the Dy. CEO office stationed at the district headquarters for better accessibility, coordination, and public convenience.

"This isn't decentralisation—it's political favouritism at the cost of people's ease. Let the people of Shopian decide: Is this justice?" questioned another person—(KNO)

Ensure special.....

accommodations in prisons" to meet the physical needs of aged inmates.

"The states and UTs are requested to make suitable provisions for special accessible accommodation in prisons and correctional institutions for the elderly prisoners, keeping in view their physical limitations," reads the advisory.

It further urged prison authorities to take into account the dietary requirements of elderly prisoners and develop meal plans tailored to their age-related health challenges.

The advisory also stressed the importance of providing adequate healthcare services, including mental health support, to cater to the specific needs of the elderly population behind bars. Moreover, prison staff should be sensitised and trained to better understand and respond to the challenges faced by senior inmates.

"Special attention may also be given to the dietary requirement of such elderly inmates, with meal plans curated in accordance with the challenges of advanced age. It may also be ensured that adequate healthcare facilities—including mental health services—are made available in prisons to address the special needs of elderly inmates," mentions the advisory.

States and UTs have been asked to take appropriate and prompt measures to implement these recommendations aimed at enhancing the quality of custodial life for elderly prisoners. (Agencies)

Jammu tourism website falls behind in digital age, needs urgent modernisation

■ HT News Desk / KNO

JAMMU, JUL 08: In today's digital age, where travellers rely heavily on online platforms for planning their trips, the official Jammu tourism website (jammutourism.gov.in) is falling significantly short, highlighting an urgent need for modernisation to boost the region's tourism potential.

Managed by the Department of Tourism, Jammu & Kashmir, the website currently lacks updated information on key officials, tourist destinations, maps, contact details of travel desks, and government-run accommodations, including those operated by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDC). This outdated online presence hampers effective promotion and leaves prospective visitors without reliable resources to plan their visits.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), several critical issues have been identified. For instance, the 'Who's Who' section on the homepage still displays contact details of officers like the Joint Director and Deputy Director (Publicity), who were transferred months or even years ago, without any updates.

In the 'Where to Stay' section, the list of hotels includes 8 Class 'A' hotels, 42 Class 'B' hotels, and 227 Class 'C' hotels. However, many of these listings are outdated—new properties that have come up over the past decade are missing, while some closed hotels still appear. Notably, premium hotels such as Radisson, Vivanta, Anutham, Viraj Sarovar Portico, Zone by Park, and Lemon Tree are absent from the list, whereas a hotel like M/S Jehlum Resorts, now renamed Country Inn and Suites by Radisson, remains listed.

The lesser-known properties like Muskan Hotel (P) Ltd in Channi and Skyline Hotel in Narwal Chowk are misclassified as Class A hotels, creating confusion for visitors. Even more concerning is that a long-shuttered

hotel, 17 Mills Hotel on Jammu Pathankot Highway, continues to be listed.

The role of the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, is crucial in promoting the region's diverse attractions—from religious pilgrimages like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Yatra, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, and Machail Mata Yatra to scenic monuments, trekking routes, and wellness tourism. Yet, essential information about these key destinations, especially the Machail Mata Yatra, which attracts lakhs of pilgrims annually, is either missing or incomplete. Similarly, details about Buddhist sites in Padder-Akhnoor, trekking routes, and wellness tourism options are largely absent, despite increasing interest.

The website lacks high-quality photographs, interactive maps, virtual tours, and direct booking links for JKTDCA accommodations, leaving visitors with limited resources to plan their trips effectively. Private tourism platforms now offer comprehensive guides, visuals, and itineraries that the official site fails to match.

A local travel trader told KNO, "The tourism sector in Jammu cannot afford to lag in the digital age. With millions of travellers turning to online platforms, an outdated website is a missed opportunity to showcase Jammu's rich spiritual, cultural, and adventure offerings. This not only hampers promotion but also risks driving tourists elsewhere, impacting local businesses and the regional economy."

Another travel agent said, "The Department of Tourism must undertake an immediate overhaul of the website, ensure updated contact information, detailed guides to attractions, high-resolution images, virtual tours, and seamless booking options for government-operated properties."

Such modernisation, he said, is essential to harness Jammu's full tourism potential and provide visitors with a user-friendly, informative online experience.

Rana felicitates officials of Wildlife Department at Dachigam Inaugurates Wildlife Research & Training Centre, training course on Wildlife Laws

HT NEWS DESK

DACHIGAM, JULY 08: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today felicitated the officers and staff of the Wildlife Department for their outstanding achievement in conservation of protected areas in Jammu and Kashmir during an event organised at Dachigam National Park.

The Minister appreciated the officers and other stakeholders who contributed in making Dachigam National Park highest-scoring protected area in the country with a remarkable score of 92.97% in Management Effectiveness Evaluation (MEE) exercise conducted by the Wildlife Institute of India under the aegis of Union Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change.

MLA Salman Ali Sagar; Commis-

sioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda; Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta; Chief Wildlife Warden, J&K, Sarvesh Rai; Senior Officers/ HoDs; representatives of NGOs; staff and trainees attended the felicitation ceremony.

Rana said that Dachigam National Park's achievement is a testament to the unwavering commitment and dedication of the forest department, wildlife experts and local communities towards conservation of protected areas. Hailing the achievement, Javed Rana said that the park's excellence in biodiversity protection, ecological management, staff efficiency and community engagement has set a benchmark for other protected areas to follow. He said that there is a long way to go and hoped that the department will continue to work with renewed enthusiasm.



Highlighting the impacts of trespassing natural boundaries of ecology, Javed Rana said that today's climatic challenges being faced at national and international level are due to the ecological imbalance attributed to unrestricted man activities. He said

that JK is bestowed with numerous natural resources that put additional responsibilities on our shoulders to maintain that dignity. The Minister highlighted the importance of community awareness, anti-poaching efforts and collaborative

conservation initiatives in protecting the JK's natural heritage. He also noted the heartening increase in the Hotal population, with 323 individuals recorded in the latest survey of March 2025, considered a viable number.

To further enhance the conservation efforts, the Minister announced several initiatives including formal recognition of five Wildlife Rescue Centres by the Central Zoo Authority, operationalization of 18 new trekking routes and improving the habitat of wild animals.

The Minister reiterated the Omar Abdullah-led Government's commitment to protect Jammu and Kashmir's natural heritage and promote eco-tourism, biodiversity monitoring and habitat restoration.

On the occasion, the Minister inaugurated the Wildlife Research & Training Centre and a one-day com-

pulsory training course on Wildlife Laws for Officers.

Javed Rana also released a booklet titled "Insights to Wildlife Health" and a Scroll of Honour on celebration of the event.

MLA Salam Sagar highlighted the need to create awareness among the locals regarding management and conservation efforts.

Commissioner Secretary, Sheetal Nanda, said that it is a proud moment for all of us that Dachigam National Park has gained national recognition in conservation and management efforts. She said that there is need to do more for maintaining the ecological balance in the coming years, amidst development pressures.

PCCF Suresh Kumar Gupta said that there are challenges in the conservation journey and we have to replicate the best practices in other protected areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

Training/ Capacity Building Program for ASHAs held at Shopian

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JULY 08: A comprehensive training and capacity-building program was today conducted for ASHAs at Shopian focusing on Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs), proper filling of various formats, and related field responsibilities. The sessions were effectively led by Master Trainers. The training aimed to enhance the knowledge and skills of ASHAs for better community health delivery and efficient reporting in line with national health objectives.

Pre-Lok Adalat sessions for cases of serving Armed Personnel, Ex-Servicemen & Veer Naris on July 15 in Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 08: As directed by J&K Legal Services Authority, special Pre-Lok Adalat sessions for cases related to serving Armed Personnel, Ex-Servicemen, and Veer Naris is scheduled to be held at District Court Complex Kulgam and in Taluka Courts of the district on 15 July, 2025.

During the proceedings, all such cases pre and post litigation pending before the courts shall be taken up for amicable settlement.

All the Judicial Officers at District Headquarter Kulgam & other Judicial Officers at Taluka Courts are requested to identify the cases fit to be taken up in the said Lok-Adalat. The list of such cases be furnished to DLSA Kulgam by or before 12-07-2025.

Furthermore the serving Armed Personnel, Ex-Servicemen, and Veer Naris who are willing to settle their disputes that are pending before the court shall report before DLSA Kulgam well before the scheduled date.

Awareness camp under BBBP held at Hermain Shopian

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JULY 08: An awareness programme under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) programme was organised today by Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women, Mission Shakti, Shopian at Hermain Block, Shopian. The programme began with an opening address by District Mission Coordinator, Sankalp Hub who sensitized the audience about the critical importance of educating the girl child and empowering her in every sphere of life. She underlined how investing in girls' education and well-being not only uplifts families but lays the foundation for a strong and progressive society. Adding further value to the programme, Gender Specialist, Sankalp Hub conducted an informative session where she briefed participants about various government welfare schemes specifically meant for women and girls. She explained the eligibility criteria, required documentation and shared important helpline numbers, ensuring the attendees were better equipped to access these entitlements and assist others in doing the same. The event witnessed enthusiastic involvement from ASHA workers, Anganwadi workers, and community members, reflecting strong grassroots participation and a shared commitment to gender equity.

JKEDI concludes MDPs in 4 districts, trains 81 entrepreneurs under RAMP

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 8: The Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) has successfully concluded a series of Management Development Programs (MDPs) across four districts under the Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) scheme. The initiative is being funded by the Union Ministry of MSME and implemented in the Union Territory by the

Industries and Commerce Department, J&K. The training programs, which commenced on June 30, 2025, were held simultaneously in Budgam, Kupwara, Pulwama and Shopian. A total of 81 aspiring and existing entrepreneurs, including 48 women, participated in the six-day comprehensive training. The MDPs focused on enhancing the managerial, financial and strategic skills of the participants, aiming to help them scale up operations, boost com-



petitiveness and build sustainable enterprises. The curriculum, meticulously developed by the subject

matter experts, featured modules on business planning, marketing strategies, digital tools, financial literacy, legal compliance, innovation and leadership.

To provide practical exposure, the programs also included field visits to successful business ventures, interactive sessions with sector specialists and mentorship opportunities. Experts from District Industries Centres (DICs) and the Labour and Employment Department

shared insights with participants, helping them align their ventures with current industry practices.

The MDPs were monitored by designated Range/ Reviewing Officers, who regularly engaged with the trainees and gathered feedback to ensure quality and relevance of the training.

This initiative aligns with the broader objectives of the RAMP scheme to strengthen the MSME ecosystem across the Union Territory.

Committee on Privileges holds meeting in Srinagar Deliberates on matters related to legislators' rights, protocol

HT NEWS DESK

BSRINAGAR, JULY 8: The Committee on Privileges of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to deliberate on matters pertaining to the privileges and entitlements of legislators. The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Nizam-ud-Din Bhat and attended by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), including Vikram Randhawa, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Salman Sagar, Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Bharat Bhushan and Javid Iqbal. The Chairman emphasized the importance of legislators asserting their consti-



titutional rights and privileges across all appropriate platforms. He highlighted the need for a clear framework to ensure that the dignity and functioning of elected representatives is preserved and respected. The Committee resolved to hold a joint meeting with the heads of the Law, General Administration Department (GAD) and

Protocol Department to address issues within the ambit of constitutional mandate and ensure better coordination among the concerned departments. The members held a threadbare discussion on a range of issues including staff support (drivers), security arrangements, housing and office facilities and other privileges for the

legislators. The Committee also underscored the need for enhanced hostel accommodations and club facilities for both the sitting and former legislators in Jammu and Srinagar.

The Chairman expressed confidence in the collective capabilities of the Committee members to contribute constructively and uphold the integrity of the institution. He reiterated that the Committee would work strictly within its defined mandate and would meet regularly to devise actionable plans for resolving the issues placed before it. The members actively participated in the discussions, offering valuable suggestions and feedback on key concerns impacting the functioning of legislators.

House Committee on JJM holds 4th meet at Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: The House Committee on Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) today held its fourth meeting at Legislative Assembly Complex, Srinagar.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, Ali Mohammad Dar, Altaf Ahmad Wani, Aijaz Ahmad Jan, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Tanvir Sadiq, Javid Riyaz (Bedar), Muzaffar Iqbal Khan, Rafiq Ahmad Naik and Arjun Singh Raju. Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti department, Shaheen Kabra; Mission Director JJM; Chief Engineer PHE Jammu/Kashmir and other senior officers of the department were present in the meeting.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman underscored that this Committee has been given an important assignment to look in alleged irregularities in implementation of JJM, a flagship initiative aimed to provide adequate and safe drinking water to public. The Chairman also called upon the members of Committee to conduct field visits of districts in order to gather on ground assessment of various works being executed under JJM.

The members of the Committee, during the meeting, also spoke on different aspects of the JJM.

Dy CM conducts surprise inspection of CE R&B, PMGSY offices in Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today conducted a surprise inspection of Chief Engineer PWD (R&B) and PMGSY offices in Rajbagh, Srinagar to assess the operational efficiency and employee punctuality. The inspection was aimed at ensuring seamless functioning of the department, with a focus on timely execution of duties and projects.

During the inspection, the DyCM reviewed the attendance registers to verify the presence of staff across different branches. He emphasised the importance of punctuality, stating that timely arrival at the workplace was essential for maintaining discipline and ensuring smooth operations.



Surinder Choudhary, while interacting with the staff there, maintained that the government is committed to ensure speedy and hassle free deliverance of public ser-

vices to the people. He directed the employees to strictly adhere to office hours, underscoring that consistent punctuality reflects a commitment to public service and

enhanced department's credibility. The Dy CM also instructed the officials to avoid any mismanagement in their work and prioritise timely completion of all ongoing projects. He highlighted that delay in project execution could weaken public trust. He stressed that disciplined work ethics are foundational towards achieving the departmental goals.

The Deputy Chief Minister also asked the senior officials to closely monitor the attendance and project progress, ensuring that any lapse in this regard is addressed promptly. Emphasizing on the need for transparency, timely execution, improved citizen service and cleanliness, the DyCM stressed for speedy disposal of pending bills for seamless execution of projects without any hindrance.

DLSA organizes One-Day Capacity Building Programme on "Child protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education"

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JULY 08: The District Legal Services Authority Jammu (DLSA), under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) and in collaboration with UNICEF today organized a One Day Capacity Building Programme on "Child Protection and Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE)" at RMG International School, Jandial Akhnoor, Jammu in furtherance to the NALSA (Child-Friendly Legal Services for Children) Scheme, 2024.

The programme was inaugurated by Y. P. Bourne, Principal District & Sessions Judge and Chairman District Legal Services Authority Jammu. The Training programme was organized under the overall supervision of Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary District Legal Services Authority Jammu.

The event began with a welcome address by Ms. Arushi Shukla, Munsiff/Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Committee Akhnoor who underscored the need for a united and informed approach to child welfare and safety. "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that every child lives in a safe, nurturing, and just environment," said the Chairman, TLSC Akhnoor. "Through this capacity



building programme, we aim to strengthen the capabilities of frontline workers and stakeholders to identify risks, respond to child protection issues effectively and educate communities—particularly children—about the dangers of unexploded ordnance."

In the inaugural address, Pr. and District Judge, Jammu Y. P. Bourne emphasized the importance of strengthening child protection mechanisms and raising awareness about the risks posed by explosive ordnance, especially in sensitive and vulnerable regions. He also highlighted the need for all stakeholders to adopt a child-centric approach in delivering legal & social services and thanked UNICEF, J&K Legal Services Authority and District Legal Services Authority Jammu for organizing this One Day Training Programme for all the stakeholders who are working in the field of child protection.

The programme brought

mu, who discussed the legal safeguards available for children and the importance of child-friendly procedures in the justice system.

Ms. Vidhi Dubey, Chairperson of Child Welfare Committee (CWC), who spoke on the operational aspects of child protection systems and the role of institutional support in ensuring safety and rehabilitation of children at risk.

Ms. Pooja Jamwal, Deputy Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu conducted the whole proceedings of the programme.

At the conclusion of the event, Dr. Smriti Sharma, Secretary of District Legal Services Authority Jammu extended a heartfelt vote of thanks to all dignitaries, guests and participants. In her address, she expressed deep gratitude to the Pr. District & Sessions Judge and Chairman of DLSA Jammu for his guidance and presence, which significantly enriched the programme.

Later, the interactive programme between the participants and the Resource Persons received an overwhelming response and concluded with a commitment from all stakeholders to continue collaborative efforts in securing the rights, safety and well-being of every child in the district.

The sessions were conducted by Three Expert Resource Persons: Mr. Syed Mujtaba, Coordinator from UNICEF, who shared global best practices and community-based strategies to address Explosive Ordnance Risk Education (EORE) in affected regions.

Adv. Ms. Deepali Arora, Panel Lawyer of DLSA Jam-

DC Ramban reviews preparation of CAPEX 2025-26 Plan under Rural Development Sector

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JULY 08: In a bid to expedite ongoing developmental initiatives and ensure timely completion of public welfare projects, Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a comprehensive meeting to assess the preparation of the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 under the Rural Development Department (RDD).

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed RATHER, Assistant Commissioner Development Shrinath Suman, Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs) and other concerned officials. During the meeting, DC



reviewed the formulation of the CAPEX plan, setting a two-day deadline for finalization. He emphasized the timely uploading of the plan on the BEAMS portal for subsequent submission to the Finance Department for the release of funds.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all BDOs to revisit their respective plans to ensure the inclusion of works that are

genuinely beneficial to the community. He strictly advised against the inclusion of ambiguous works or those that cater to individual benefits.

Stressing the importance of grassroots involvement, DC instructed that all developmental projects be taken up in consultation with the Gram Sabhas, with special focus on essential public infrastructure such as schools, main

markets, lanes, drains, water tanks, electric poles, transformers and other community utility assets. The DC also directed the BDOs to expedite the enrollment under Mission YUVA within stipulated times and IEC campaigns in their respective blocks. He further stressed the importance of active community participation and transparency in developmental processes. Reiterating the administration's commitment to transparent, accountable, and result-driven governance, DC Ramban directed all RDD officials to adopt a proactive and mission-oriented approach to ensure timely completion of all targets and effective utilization of resources.

One day district level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index held at Udhampur

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JULY 08: A one-day District level workshop on the Panchayat Advancement Index organized by the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj here at Conference Hall DC Office Complex, Udhampur.

The workshop was aimed at sensitizing concerned stakeholders about the Panchayat Advancement Index, a multi-dimensional assessment tool designed to evaluate the overall developmental status of Gram Panchayats.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai presided over the workshop. Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Chief Planning Officer Mohammad Iqbal, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Dr. Ashwani Hansa along with other concerned officers and field functionaries attended the workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, DC emphasized the importance of the Panchayat Advancement Index in achieving inclusive and targeted development at the grassroots level. She urged all stakeholders to actively mobilize field functionaries for effective implementation of PAI



themes and directed the concerned departments to maintain utmost accuracy while uploading data on the PAI portal.

Nida Rafiq, Thematic Expert, Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj briefed the participants on the objectives and significance of the Panchayat Development Index. She explained that PAI is a structured tool to monitor and measure the socio-economic and infrastructural growth of Panchayats across key indicators of sustainable development goals.

A detailed presentation was given on various themes under PAI-2.0 viz.

child-friendly panchayat, water-sufficient panchayat, clean and green panchayat and self-sufficient infrastructure in panchayats. The presentation also elaborated on socio-economic indicators and performance parameters essential for assessing the well-being of rural communities under the PAI framework.

Participants were also provided with hands-on training on the PAI portal to ensure efficient and accurate data entry and monitoring.

A video documentary highlighting the methodology and impact of the Panchayat Advancement Index was also screened during the session.

DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA held at Kishtwar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JULY 08: The 2nd meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was convened today under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kishtwar,

Pankaj Kumar Sharma in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex, Kishtwar. The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under Mission YUVA—a flagship initiative focused on promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district.

A total of 77 applications, verified by the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) were presented before the committee. After detailed scrutiny based on eligibility, business viability, and the applicants' socio-economic background, all 77 proposals were approved for

financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework. While addressing the committee, the DDC emphasized the need to widen outreach efforts by conducting awareness camps and mobile registration drives, particularly in remote and underserved,

Special Lok-Adalat for MACT & Matrimonial Cases on July 26 in Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 08: A Special Lok-Adalat for amicable settlement of MACT & Matrimonial cases is scheduled to be held at District Court Complex Kulgam and in Taluka Courts of the district on 26 July, 2025 (Saturday). During the Lok Adalat, all such cases pre and post litigation pending before the courts shall be taken up for amicable settlement.

All the Judicial Officers at District Headquarter Kulgam & other Judicial Officers at Taluka Courts are requested to identify the cases fit to be taken up in the said Lok-Adalat. The list of such cases be furnished to DLSA Kulgam by or before 22-07-2025.

Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan concludes in Panchayat Krimachi

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JULY 08: The ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan culminated today in Panchayat Krimachi under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai with a series of impactful events and public outreach activities aimed at empowering the tribal population through access to government welfare schemes.

GM DIC Udhampur Kishore Singh Katoch was the chief guest on the occasion.

On the concluding day, a vibrant awareness campaign was held to sensitize members of the tribal community about various flagship schemes of the Government, designed to uplift socio-economic standards and ensure inclusive development.

Officials from multiple departments participated actively, sharing information, resolving queries and extending on-the-spot assistance to the beneficiaries.

A health camp was also organized during the event to provide quality medical care to the tribal populace. The Department of Ayush played a key role in the initiative by distributing free medicines and offering consultations on preventive health and traditional wellness practices.

In addition to these services, a special grievance redressal camp was set up where scores of public issues were addressed and resolved promptly by the officials concerned.

Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO distribute Prosthetic Aids to PwDs and Senior Citizens in Gandoh Bhalessa

HT NEWS DESK



GANDOH (DODA), JULY 08: The Social Welfare Department Doda in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, organized a prosthetic aid distribution camp today at R&B Dak Bungalow, Gandoh Bhalessa. The camp was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and the overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Doda, Tariq Parveez Qazi. The programme chaired by Sub Divisional Magistrate Gandoh, Arun Kumar Badyal aimed at supporting Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) under the Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) scheme and senior citizens under the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY).

During the event, various aids and appliances were distributed to 126 beneficiaries identified during earlier assessment camps in Blocks Jhakyass, Changa and Bhalessa. The distributed items included tricycles (for adults and children), wheelchairs, CP chairs, hearing aids, smart canes, smartphones, daisy players, braille kits, crutches, walking sticks, rollers, callipers, artificial limbs, knee braces, lumbo-sacral belts, silicon foam cushions and more. The initiative seeks to assist needy disabled persons and senior citizens by providing durable, modern, and scientifically designed aids and appliances. These devices are aimed at reducing the impact of disabilities, preventing secondary disabilities, improving independent functioning, and promoting social, psychological and economic rehabilitation of the beneficiaries.

The event was coordinated by Rajesh Sharma, TSWO Gandoh, and attended by Tushar Chowdhary, Audiologist, along with the technical team from ALIMCO, Mohali.

PUBLIC NOTICE

We chemrosh indoverseas are likely to start business in j&k state so that it is invited for general public if any body has any sort of objection so that he /she can approach plant protection officer lal mandi within the period of 7 days after that no no objection will be considered

State inchargeMASRAT IQBAL TANTARY
R/O PALHALLAN PATTAN
DISTTBARAMULLA

DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER (HANDICRAFTS)
Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Kashmiri Handicrafts Exhibition cum Sale

Venue:- MFC Restaurant National Highway main Bazar Khawja Bagh Baramulla

Sale For:-
Kashmiri handicrafts items, Semi Pashmina shawls, stools, jamawar, Pashmina Shawls, Cushion Cover, Ladies Top, Bed Covers, Sarees & all kind of handicraft items are available on Discount rates

Sponsored by :-
O/o the Development Commissioner Handicrafts Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Sanction order No:-
C-12011/25(PC)2024-25-(NR)/F-EXB/GEN-3 Dated:- 09-05-2025

Under:-
NATIONAL HANDICRAFTS PROGRAMME (NHDP) Scheme DEVELOPMENT

Organized By:-
M/s REHMAN HANDICRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED BUIHAMA
W.e.from:- 08-07-2025 TO 17-07-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Arifa Akhter, D/O Ghulam Mohammad Sofi, W/O Tawseef Habib, R/O Muslimabad, Banipora, hereby state that I have changed my name from Arifa Akhter Sofi to Arifa Akhter for all official and future purposes including passport records.

If anyone has any objection to this name change, they may file their objection with the relevant authorities within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections will be entertained thereafter.

Contact No +91 70063 57879

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost RC of my Vehicle AUTO Berining Registration No JK13B-2134 from Frestabal Pampore to Pantha chowk. Now i have applied for its duplicate. If anyone has any objection to the same, they may kindly inform the ARTO office Pulwama within a period of 7 days After that No Objection will be entertained . Name :- Nazir Ahmad Mir S/O ; Gh Qadir Mir R/O Frestabal Pampore

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that I, Ghulam Qadir Rather, S/o Abdul Salam Rather, R/o Laripora, Pahalgam, Rangward, have no objection to operating a homestay under the name "Gulsar Homestay" at the above-mentioned address. This notice is being published for the information of the general public and concerned authorities. If anyone has any objection to the same, they may kindly inform the undersigned or the relevant authority within 7 days of this publication.

Name: Ghulam Qadir Rather
S/o: Abdul Salam Rather
R/o: Laripora, Pahalgam, Rangward

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Misra Bano W/O Late Ghulam Rasool Bagow R/O Plot No 34 Bemina Housing have purchased Plot No.34 in Bemina Housing Colony from Mst. Raja Bano W/O Ali Mohd Qasba R/O Batamalo Srinagar, originally allotted in favour of Shakeela Yasmeen D/O Gh Qadir Bhat R/O Ganderbal I have applied for transfer of lease hold rights of above said plot in my favour. Objection, if any, may be conveyed to the Managing Director, J&K Housing Board, Green Belt Park, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu within a period of 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice. However, no objection will be entertained after the expiry of the above said period.

Misra Bano
W/O Late Ghulam Rasool Bagow
R/O Plot No 34 Bemina Housing

DC Baramulla reviews progress under Capex Budget 2025-26 Directs departments to submit new work plans by July 10

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 08: In a proactive initiative to accelerate developmental activities under the Capex Budget 2025-26, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, chaired two sector-wise review meetings at the DC Office Baramulla to assess physical and financial progress across departments.

The first meeting focused on key departments including Irrigation, Public Works Department (R&B), Education (Elementary and Secondary), Youth Services & Sports, Health, and Public Health Engineering (PHE). Departmental officers presented PowerPoint presentations highlighting the status of ongoing projects. DC conducted a detailed review, stressing transparency, optimal fund utilization, and strict quality control in project execution.



In the second session, DC engaged with officials from the Rural Development Department (RDD) and Urban Local Bodies (ULB), reviewing the progress of PRI, BDC, DDC, and urban sector works. Emphasis was laid on clearing pending liabilities and ensuring progress aligns with the fund allocation under these critical components. Highlighting the importance

of timely action, DC directed all departments to expedite project execution, regularly update the BEAMS portal, and mandatorily submit detailed plans for new works under the 2025-26 Capex Budget by July 10 to facilitate early administrative approvals. Calling for inter-departmental coordination and a focus on high-impact public works, DC reiterated the administration's

commitment to accountable and citizen-centric governance through timely and transparent development planning. Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Joint Director Planning, Superintending Engineer R&B, Assistant Commissioner Development, and other concerned officers and officials were present in the meeting. Highlighting the importance of timely action, DC directed all departments to expedite project execution, regularly update the BEAMS portal, and mandatorily submit detailed plans for new works under the 2025-26 Capex Budget by July 10 to facilitate early administrative approvals. Calling for inter-departmental coordination and a focus on high-impact public works, DC reiterated the administration's

DLIC approves 59 cases under Mission Yuva scheme in Ganderbal

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JULY 08: To examine and approve cases received under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme for financial assistance and entrepreneurial support, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting here in the V.C room of DC office Ganderbal.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU), and after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 59 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission YUVA initiative.



Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the significance of Mission YUVA in empowering the youth through skill development, entrepreneurship promotion, and self-employment opportunities. He stressed the need for robust post-approval support and follow-up to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units. DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the

process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the beneficiaries in a time-bound manner. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Assistant Director Employment Ganderbal, Lead District Manager; Nodal Officer JKEDI and other concerned.

DLIC Kupwara approves 72 cases under Mission YUVA scheme

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JULY 08: In a major step towards promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment in the district, District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Kupwara Monday met under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan and approved 72 cases under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme.

The objective was to review and approve applications submitted by young aspiring entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA initiative, which aims to provide financial assistance and capacity-building support to youth for starting and sustaining their businesses.

Officers from the concerned departments presented a detailed review of the applications. After careful scrutiny and discussions, the Committee approved 72 eligible cases for further financial support and guidance.

Speaking on the occasion, DC highlighted the importance of Mission



YUVA in empowering local youth and helping them build sustainable livelihoods. She emphasized the need for effective awareness campaigns and asked the District Employment & Counseling Centre Kupwara to reach out to more eligible youth and encourage their participation in the scheme.

The meeting was attended by Assistant Director Employment, Arshid Qadir Bhat, officers from DIC, Lead Bank, Social Welfare, JKEDI and other concerned officials. The meeting was attended by Assistant Director Employment, Arshid Qadir Bhat, officers from DIC, Lead Bank.

District level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 held at Shopian

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JULY 08: One day district level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0 (PAI) was held today at Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Shopian in order to apprise the stakeholder departments about the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs).

Diverse sessions on SDGs, their relevance to Panchayats, structure and utility of PAI and its linkage with the nine LSDG themes besides understanding new improvements in the new evaluation tools were conducted by theme experts.

The sessions were presided over by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Shopian, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone, and were attended



by ACP, GM DIC, DTO, ExEn PDD, CAO and other officers and officials of various departments. The focus of the workshop was on apprising the stakeholder officials about the new and improved version of Panchayat Evaluation and Assessment.

Panchayat Assessment Index (PAI), formerly Panchayat Development Index (PDI) is a comprehensive tool designed to assess the multi dimensional development status of a panchayat, where it evaluates the progress of panchayats in achieving the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). Convergent Planning, pooling minimum resources with maximum output was emphasised. Nine themes to be targeted for saturation included advancements in sectors including Infrastructure, health, education, social development, governance, environment, etc.

BJP J&K Pays Tribute to Shaheed Wasim Bari and His Family Members on their death anniversary.

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 08 July 2025: The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu and Kashmir today paid heartfelt tributes to Shaheed Wasim Bari, his father Mohammad Bari, and his brother Umar Bari, who were martyred in a brutal terrorist attack in Bandipora this day. The tribute ceremony was held at the BJP Headquarters in J-53 Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, in solemn remembrance of their supreme sacrifice and lifelong commitment to public service. During the event, BJP leaders recalled the remarkable contributions of Wasim Bari, who had taken BJP's message to every nook and corner of Bandipora, even in the face of grave threats. He worked relentlessly to implement government schemes at the grassroots level, ensuring that development touched the lives of the common people. It was noted that all three members of the Bari family were dedicated political workers, serving the people of Bandipora round-the-clock. Their sincere efforts brought



tangible benefits to the community, and their selfless service earned them immense respect among the local population. Speaking on the occasion, BJP leaders stated, "Shaheed Wasim Bari and his family laid down their lives for the nation and for the people of J&K. Their martyrdom is a symbol of courage, patriotism, and dedication. Their sacrifice will continue to inspire generations of BJP workers in Kashmir." The BJP Kashmir Unit pledged to carry forward the legacy of the Bari family by continuing to work fearlessly for the welfare of the people and upholding the spirit of service and sacrifice.

DLSA Pulwama team visits Central Jail Srinagar Interacts with the jail inmates, gets feedback with regard to facilities provided

HT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JULY 08: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Pulwama under the chairmanship of Chairman DLSA, Malik Shabir Ahmad (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Pulwama, Secretary DLSA Pulwama, Mudassar Farooq, along with LADCs Pulwama, Shopian today visited the Central Jail Srinagar and interacted with the under trial prisoners presently lodged in the



Central Jail Srinagar. During the visit, the team in presence of Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar com-

prehensively interacted with the jail inmates and got feedback with regard to their facilities being

provided by the Superintendent Central Jail Srinagar from time to time. The said visit was conducted in the run up to UTRC campaign 2025 and to identify the eligible under trial prisoners which will be taken up in the next meeting.

The detunes were also asked to approach PLV at a legal aid clinic for their legal assistance and other related problems and will be brought to the notice

DC Baramulla convenes meeting to review Archeological excavation at Zehanpora

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting at the DC office here to discuss and facilitate archaeological excavation at Zehanpora in Boniyar tehsil. The meeting was attended by the Director Archives, Archaeology & Museums J&K, Kuldeep Krishan Sidha; Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Ghulam Rasool Mir; Additional Superintendent of Police Baramulla, officers from the Rural development department, Revenue department, and other line



departments. During the meeting, DC was apprised on the archaeological potential of Zehanpora and the need for timely excavation, and protection measures in line with heritage conservation norms. Meeting was informed that the main objectives of the excavation is to search for the probable Mauryan Bud-

dhist remains in Kashmir valley and to include the site in the archaeological/Buddhist map of Kashmir valley for heritage and pilgrimage purposes. DC assured full administrative support to the Department of Archives, Archaeology & Museums for carrying out the proposed excavation works. He empha-

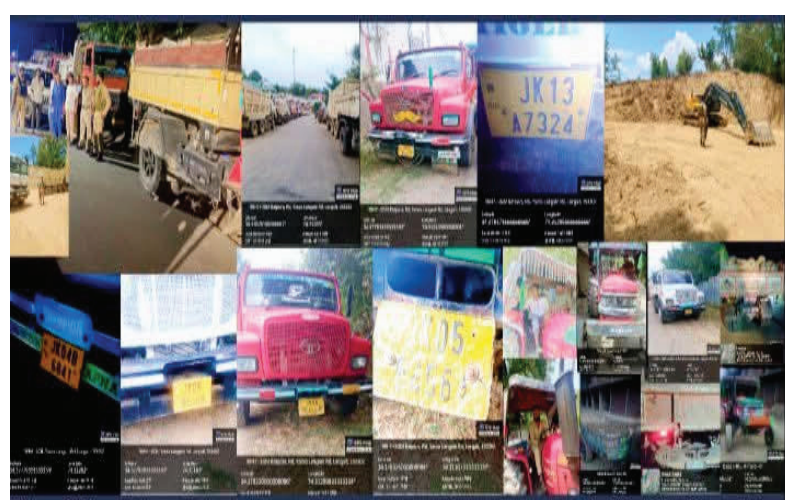
sized the district administration's commitment to safeguarding the cultural identity and ancient heritage of the region. Meanwhile, Minga Serpa directed the concerned tehsildar to promptly verify all relevant land and revenue records pertaining to the excavation site and extend all possible assistance in the demarcation of the land. DC further instructed the Rural development department to take immediate steps to ensure proper fencing of the site and implement measures to prevent soil erosion, thereby securing the area from any environmental degradation.

24 Vehicles Including Heavy Mining Machine Seized in Joint Anti-Illegal Mining Operation in Handwara

DR. AB QAYOOM

Handwara, Jul, 08: In a major crackdown on illegal mining activities, a joint team of Handwara Police and the Department of Geology and Mining conducted multiple raids across various locations in the Langate and Handwara areas of North Kashmir's Kupwara district, seizing 24 vehicles including a large mining machine (L&T) over the past 20 hours. The District Mineral Officer (DMO) Kupwara, Shri Mumtaz Ahmad, confirmed the seizure, stating that with the relentless efforts of Handwara Police, 11 tippers, 3 dumpers, 10 tractors, and one heavy mining

machine were confiscated from different spots where illicit extraction and transportation of minerals were taking place. "From 2:00 PM yesterday to 7:00 AM today, our joint teams from Police Post Langate, Police Station Handwara, and the Geology and Mining Department conducted sudden and successive raids, particularly along Nallah Mawar and adjoining areas, where several vehicles and machinery involved in unauthorised mining were found and seized on the spot," DMO Kupwara said. He further added that the Geology and Mining Department has formally handed over all seized vehicles and equipment to Handwara Police, and



legal proceedings under the provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act (MMRD Act) have been initiated against the violators. The local population and civil society members widely appreciated the firm action taken by the authorities. Chairman of Civil Society Forum Kupwara, Gh Hassan Malik, lauded the leadership of SSP Handwara, Shri Choudhary Mushtaq Ahmad, for his dedicated efforts in safeguarding public resources and environmental assets. "Illegal mining not only damages the ecological balance but also affects water bodies, especially during the ongoing heatwave when

drinking water scarcity has become a pressing issue in Kupwara district. The strict vigil and timely intervention by SSP Handwara and his team have provided much-needed relief to the residents," Malik stated. Meanwhile, DMO Kupwara appealed to the general public to strictly adhere to legal provisions and the terms and conditions of their mining permits, where applicable. He urged people to refrain from engaging in any unauthorised mining activities that harm the environment and disrupt the ecological equilibrium of the region. He warned that stringent action under law would continue against violators in the future as well.

HT EDITORIAL

Extend insurance cover to horticulture sector of Kashmir

For decades together we have been hearing that horticulture is the backbone of Kashmir economy with the fruits being produced in the valley having a consumer base across the globe. Kashmiri apples, walnuts, almonds and other fruits both dry and fresh are famous across the world. These fruits are exported to the different areas of the globe and the same contributes towards the income of Jammu & Kashmir and the country.

Over the years erratic weather patterns have caused damages to the different fruits on numerous occasions and the people associated with the sector suffered huge damages. Given the fact that there is no insurance policy for both the agriculture and horticulture sectors in the union territory the farmers as well as horticulturalists suffer like anything as and when hailstorm hits their produce. These people have been making continuous demands for the implementation of crop insurance scheme in both the agriculture and horticulture sectors.

Most of the states and union territories in the country have introduced the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna but the same has not been done in case of Jammu & Kashmir. Unfortunately the higher-ups of the agriculture and horticulture departments have failed to come up to the expectations of the people associated with both these sectors. Since the governance aspect is being looked after by the popular government it is high time that the concerned department takes practical steps in this regard.

It may not be an easy task to introduce the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna in Jammu & Kashmir since it is a union territory as on date. However, there are chances that the Yojna may be introduced in the union territory if the agriculture and horticulture departments get in touch with the union ministry of agriculture. The union agriculture minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan recently said that the union territory government should take practical steps in implementing the Yojna. This is a positive sign and it needs to be cashed in by the Jammu & Kashmir government.

Once the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bhima Yojna is introduced in Jammu & Kashmir the farmers and horticulturalists would stop ruining their losses as and when any natural calamity hits their produce. This would give a new dimension and impetus to the agriculture and horticulture sectors of the union territory with the masses being the ultimate beneficiaries. Sooner it is done better it will be and as such the government should not waste further time.

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Embracing Equality: Respecting Transgender Rights



■ Yawar Hamid

In the fabric of every just and progressive society, human dignity and equality must be paramount. One of the most marginalized communities that often faces deep-rooted discrimination and neglect is the transgender community. Transgender individuals are as much a part of our society as anyone else. They are our fellow citizens, our neighbors, our friends and above all, human beings who deserve respect, dignity and equal rights.

Transgender persons often suffer from social exclusion, harassment, lack of access to healthcare, employment discrimination and even violence. Their lives are frequently marked by fear, shame and rejection, often beginning in their own families. Despite these struggles, many transgender individuals show incredible resilience and contribute meaningfully to society. Yet, what they need most is not pity but justice, recognition and equality.

The rights of transgender people are human rights. These include the right to live with dignity, the right to education, the right to employment, the right to healthcare and the right to protection under the law. It is not just a legal obligation but a moral duty for any civilized society to ensure that



transgender individuals enjoy these fundamental rights.

Fortunately, some steps are being taken across the world. Countries like India have recognized the "third gender" in legal documents and the Supreme Court of India, in the landmark NALSA judgment of 2014, affirmed that transgender individuals have the right to self-identify their gender and live a life free from discrimination. However, while such judgments are important, real change must begin at the ground level.

Schools must become more inclusive. Workplaces should adopt equal opportunity policies. Healthcare systems must provide gender affirming care without bias. Most importantly, families must replace shame with support, and societies must replace silence with solidarity.

Respecting the rights of transgender people is not about charity it's about justice. They are not outsiders; they are an integral part of our diverse society. Their struggle for identity and acceptance is not only theirs it is a test

of our collective humanity. Let us raise our voices for a world where everyone, regardless of gender identity, is treated with respect. Let us teach our children that every human being has equal worth. Let us create a society where no one feels less than human because of who they are.

Inclusion is not an option it is a necessity. And only when we stand for the rights of all then we truly call ourselves a just society.

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Why is there no space for childhood in newspapers?



■ Priyanka Saurabh

On Sunday morning, my wish to read an interesting children's story from the newspaper while holding my son Pragyan in my lap remained unfulfilled. There was not a single article for children in any major newspaper. Society asks children to read, but what does it give them to read? This editorial deeply hurts the indifference of our newspapers towards children and demands that regular space be reserved for children in newspapers - so that childhood is connected with words, nurtured with empathy and flourished with thoughts.

It was a Sunday morning, I felt like holding my son Pragyan in my lap and we both should read an interesting story from the newspaper - so that he could enjoy the sweetness of words even in the modern screen age. But to our regret, we found that there was not a single story, comic book or Bal Samvad available for children in the reputed newspapers. This question, born out of this pain, demands a collective reflection - "When we do not print anything for children in our newspapers, then by what right do we expect them to read?"

Child's mind: A blank page

Our education system, parents and society often say in one voice that today's children do not read books. They are lost in the world of mobile, Instagram and gaming. But why does no one ask what are we giving them to read? Newspaper, which was once a part of every household's morning - has now become a complete "battlefield of adults" for children, political fights, allegations and counter-allegations of politicians, rapes, murders, corruption, cricket, movies and yoga tips. Where are Raja Ki Baat, Hathi Ki Sawari, science fiction, moon poetry, and short stories teaching life values?

When the kids aren't visible

In today's newspapers children "appear" in only two ways -

When a child is a victim of sexual violence or murder. Or when a child becomes the crown jewel of the media by scoring 99.9% marks in the board exams. Can the experience of being a child be understood in such limited contexts? Newspapers



have isolated children from society and put them in such a silence where neither their creative voice is heard nor their inquisitive eyes are seen.

Absence of editorial foresight

The main objective of any newspaper is - "To make the society aware and to give direction to its thinking." Then why is there no page for children, the foundation of the whole society? Has today's editor become so busy that he does not even remember that it is his responsibility to pass on the torch of culture and thoughts to the next generation? There was a time when newspapers used to involve children in the dialogue through sections like "Bal Jagat", "Bal Prabha", "Bal Goshthi", "Bal Mail". Today they have either been closed or lost in the strange crowd of online links.

The onslaught of advertising and marketing

Children today are not 'subscribers' for newspapers. They do not buy shampoo or refrigerators. That is why they have no 'advertising value' in the language of the "market". And where the language of advertising starts dictating policy, childhood becomes meaningless.

About 40% of every newspaper is filled with advertisements - real estate, clothes, coaching centres, hospitals, branded watches... Nowhere do

we see a newspaper asking, "What are we teaching the children?"

When children's literature disappears

Children's literature is not just entertainment—it is the primary school for children to think, question, imagine, and connect with society. A story in which a tree bears its fruits, a bird builds a nest, a child with his friend gives water to the birds—all these give the seeds of humanity to children. When these stories are removed, there remains only drama, sensation, and data. And this insensitivity grows in the coming generation.

Is study and knowledge only school work?

Our society has given the contract of children's education to schools only. Newspaper, which used to be the 'home school', has now limited itself to 'gossip of adults'. Are children not worthy of news? Should they not be told about science, environment, morality, and society?

If we want children to become "sensible citizens" then

We need to engage them with dialogue and questions from the very beginning - and newspapers can be a powerful place for this.

What can be done?

Weekly 'Children's Edition' should be restarted - there should be a special section for children every Sunday or twice a month. There should be Bal Samvad and picture stories - which should include moral values, curiosity about science and introduction to society. Children's writings should be published - poems, pictures, questions, thoughts. Children's journalism should be encouraged - children should be asked to write at school level, which should also be published. Inspiring 'Children's Heroes' should be shown - which should also be available outside the screen.

Son Pragyan said to me that morning - "Mother, is there nothing for children in your newspaper?"

I remained silent. This silence is not just of a mother, but of an entire society. And when newspapers are the mirror of society, then the innocent curiosity of millions of children like Pragyan must find a place in this mirror. If we want readers, writers and sensitive citizens to be born in tomorrow's India -

So in today's newspapers a page will have to be reserved for wisdom also.

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist.

Brahmin Community Preparing to Deliver a Major Blow to Akhilesh



■ Ajay Kumar

Azamgarh, a district in Uttar Pradesh considered a stronghold of the Samajwadi Party (SP), was once again in the headlines on July 3, 2025. Akhilesh Yadav, the national president of SP and former Chief Minister, inaugurated his new residence and party office, which he named the PDA Bhawan. Built on 72 bighas of land in Anwarganj, the complex includes Akhilesh's private residence, the party office, and a large hall for supporters. However, amid this grand event, a question drew widespread attention why did Akhilesh try to invite Brahmin scholars from Kashi for the housewarming ceremony, but not invite any scholar from the PDA (Backward, Dalit, Minority) community? This question became a topic of discussion not just in political circles, but also on social media and among the local public. When it comes to the anger of the Brahmin community, the Brahmin Sabha expelled the Brahmins who performed the housewarming rituals at the SP office and residence from their community. This displeasure of the Brahmins could cost SP dearly in the 2027 elections, as Brahmins constitute about 10 percent of UP's population.

The new SP office in Azamgarh has been constructed with an eye on the 2027 Assembly elections. By naming it the PDA Bhawan, Akhilesh made his strategy clear. PDA that is, Backward, Dalit, and Minority has been the foundation of SP's political strategy, which helped the party win 37 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and stall the BJP's victory march in Uttar Pradesh. During the inauguration ceremony, Akhilesh said, "The unity of PDA will bring us to power in 2027." This building is seen not only as an office but also as a training center where youth will be introduced to socialist ideology.

However, the shine of the event dimmed when it emerged that Akhilesh had expressed a desire to invite Brahmin scholars from Kashi for the housewarming rituals, but they did not show up. According to sources, the priests from Kashi refused to conduct the rituals due to a recent controversy in Etawah, referred to as the 'Etawah Kathavachak Scandal'. In this incident, some of Akhilesh's remarks were seen as offensive to the Brahmin community, particularly his alleged criticism of donation traditions and ritual practices.

Eventually, local priests were called for the ceremony, and according to some sources, priest Chandan Kushwaha performed the rituals. But the question remains why didn't Akhilesh choose any scholar from the PDA community for such an important occasion marking the inauguration of the PDA Bhawan? This question sparked discussion not only among his opponents but also among his supporters. On social media, some users pointed out contradictions in Akhilesh's strategy. One user wrote, "You named the building after PDA, but still want Brahmins to perform the rituals? Doesn't PDA have any scholars?" Another user sarcastically asked, "Couldn't Akhilesh find a single PDA priest? The difference between words and actions is obvious." These comments raised doubts about SP's PDA formula, which Akhilesh has adopted

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The new SP office in Azamgarh has been constructed with an eye on the 2027 Assembly elections. By naming it the PDA Bhawan, Akhilesh made his strategy clear. PDA that is, Backward, Dalit, and Minority has been the foundation of SP's political strategy, which helped the party win 37 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections and stall the BJP's victory march in Uttar Pradesh. During the inauguration ceremony, Akhilesh said

in recent years to broaden the party's image beyond just Yadav-Muslim support.

The attempt to invite Brahmin scholars to Azamgarh for the ceremony is also being seen as part of this broader strategy. Akhilesh may have wanted to send a message that his party is inclusive of all communities. But the absence of Kashi's priests and the use of local priests weakened that message. Some analysts believe that this step was an effort to strengthen his PDA strategy but ended up backfiring.

Another aspect that brought this event into greater focus was the protest by members of the Brahmin Mahasabha and Vishwa Hindu Mahasangh. Some protesters waved black flags at Akhilesh and accused him of tarnishing the image of the Brahmin community. In addition, a security lapse also made headlines when a youth breached the barricades and reached close to the stage. He was immediately taken into custody by the police, but the incident raised concerns over Akhilesh's security arrangements.

Despite these controversies, the inauguration of the PDA Bhawan remains a significant step for the Samajwadi Party. This building is not just Akhilesh's second home but is set to become the political nerve center of SP's strategy in Purvanchal (Eastern UP). In his speech, Akhilesh sharply criticized the BJP and claimed credit for the Purvanchal Expressway. He stated, "It takes the same time to travel from Lucknow to Azamgarh as it does to Saifai thanks to the expressway built during our government."

Ultimately, the inauguration and housewarming of the PDA Bhawan in Azamgarh could have been a political masterstroke, but the absence of Brahmin scholars and the decision not to involve PDA community scholars has brought it under scrutiny. On one hand, Akhilesh wants to strengthen his core voter base, while on the other, he is trying to reach out to upper-caste voters as well. How effective this strategy will be in the 2027 elections only time will tell.

The author is a Senior Journalist

Everyone Has Their Own Claims and Opinions on Voter List Verification in Bihar



■ Sanjay Saxena

Ahead of the upcoming Bihar Assembly elections scheduled in a few months, the Election Commission's step to initiate a Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list has triggered a political storm. Opposition parties have termed this process as an attack on democracy and a conspiracy to snatch away voting rights from the poor, Dalits, backward classes, and minority communities. On the other hand, the Election Commission is presenting it as a regular and constitutional process, defending its position. This controversy has now reached from the Election Commission office in Delhi to the Supreme Court and has become a major political issue in Bihar. The Supreme Court is expected to hear the matter on July 10.

Opposition parties, especially constituents of the INDIA alliance like the Congress, Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), Samajwadi Party, and Communist Party of India, have dubbed this revision process as "voter exclusion." On July 2, 2025, an 18-member delegation from 11 opposition parties reached the Election Commission office in Delhi and met with officials. This delegation included prominent leaders such as Congress's Abhishek Manu Singhvi, RJD's Manoj Jha, and CPI (ML)'s Dipankar Bhattacharya. Separately, Asaduddin Owaisi also met with the Election Commission to present his party's stance. The opposition alleges that this process was launched hastily and is a conspiracy to remove poor, rural, and marginalized community members from the voter rolls.

Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi stated that there are around 7.75 crore voters in Bihar, and it is impossible to verify such a large number within a few months. He argued that this process targets those who lack documents like birth certificates or proof of parents' citizenship. RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav went even further, calling it an attack on democracy. He questioned why such revision is being carried out only in Bihar when a nationwide revision took place in 2003. He also raised concerns about launching the process during monsoon season, when floods are common. He asked whether this isn't a deliberate attempt to exclude poor and marginalized voters.

Opposition leaders argue that the 11 documents demanded for verification such as passports, birth certificates, and proof of parents' citizenship are not available to most poor and rural citizens. Tejashwi claimed that out of Bihar's over 8 crore voters, 60% would be required to prove their citizenship, which is especially challenging for Dalits, backward classes, and minorities. AIMIM MP Asaduddin Owaisi called the process disorganized and unscientific, noting that it has already been done before and there is no justification for repeating it. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge posted on X, calling it a conspiracy by BJP-RSS to snatch away voting rights of Dalits and the deprived. Yogendra Yadav estimated that this process could lead to the deletion of 4.76 crore voters and described it as a "voter cleansing operation."

Meanwhile, the BJP and NDA have rejected the opposition's allegations, stating that the process is



essential for fairness and transparency. BJP leader Ravi Shankar Prasad sarcastically remarked that those whose rule was marked by booth capturing and violence are now bothered by fair processes. However, some NDA allies, like JD(U) and Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas), have subtly expressed concerns over the timeline of the process. Overall, it appears that while the revision of the voter list may be a routine process, its timeline and the documents demanded have made it controversial. The opposition sees it as a conspiracy against poor and marginalized communities, while the Election Commission views it as a step toward strengthening democracy. This issue is set to intensify political debates in Bihar and will likely impact the 2025 Assembly elections. The Supreme Court's decision may prove decisive, but until then, the matter will remain a hot topic among the public and political circles in Bihar. The opposition's objections have now taken legal shape. SP MP Kapil Sibal, TMC MP Mahua Moitra, RJD's Manoj Jha, and several NGOs have approached the Supreme Court demanding the cancellation of the process. Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Abhishek Manu Singhvi have requested an urgent hearing, arguing that completing such a process in such a short time is impossible and violates the Constitution. The hearing is scheduled for July 10, 2025.

The Election Commission has dismissed these allegations, asserting that the process is entirely constitutional and routine, carried out periodically over the past 75 years. The Commission says the aim is to remove illegal immigrants from Nepal, Bangladesh, and Myanmar from the voter list and to ensure that only Indian citizens have the right to vote. Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar clarified on July 4 that the process would be completed on time and with full transparency, with active participation of election officials and political parties. The Commission also stated that based on the 2003 voter list, 4.96 crore voters will not need to submit documents. Additionally, it addressed a misconception, saying that a newspaper ad suggesting only form-filling was misleading. The draft list will include the names of voters whose enumeration forms have been received. The Commission further stated that this process will also be implemented in Assam, Kerala, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu, and West Bengal, with the goal of updating the voter list, removing deceased voters, and adding new voters aged 18 and above.

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Teaching At Schools In Heat Wave Periods



■ Mool Raj

While student health concerns are valid, extending holidays is not a lasting solution. The main problem lies in inadequate school infrastructure to cope with varying weather conditions, from extreme heat in summer to severe cold in winter.

Chenab Valley Doda and Kashmir is currently facing an intense heat wave, and once again, the idea of extending summer vacations in schools is being discussed. While concerns about student health are valid, simply extending holidays is not a long-term solution. The bigger issue is the lack of proper school infrastructure that can handle changing weather conditions, including both extreme heat in summer and severe cold in winter. This year, the summer break was announced from June 23 to July 7 due to the heatwave. This comes after long winter vacations earlier this year. Now, with temperatures still high, many

are demanding further extensions. But we must ask ourselves, how long can we continue shutting schools every time the weather changes? Climate change is no longer a distant threat. Chenab Valley Doda and Kashmir is already experiencing irregular weather longer winters, sudden heatwaves, and early rains. These patterns are affecting the school calendar. If we keep closing schools due to weather, it disrupts the academic session, affects learning, and puts pressure on both teachers and students to rush through the syllabus. Many schools, especially in rural areas, do not have proper infrastructure. Classrooms become extremely hot in summer and freezing cold in winter. Most schools lack fans, ventilation, heating, or proper insulation. What we need is serious investment in improving school buildings to make them suitable for teaching in all seasons. This includes installing fans, water coolers, heating systems, proper windows, and better sanitation. The need for infrastructure is not just in summer. In winter, schools in Kashmir become too cold, and many have to shut down for months. Students in border and hilly areas suffer the most. Well-heated classrooms, insulated buildings, and proper lighting are essential to make sure education doesn't stop in winter either.

"Instead of extending holidays, schools



should adjust timings on hot days, allow relaxed dress codes, provide water stations, and focus on morning classes. These small changes help learning safely. We must protect health and ensure learning continues. Climate change is real; we need to adapt

with weather-ready schools, support teachers, and avoid interruptions in education."

Along with improving infrastructure, the government should also expand educational opportunities outside Jammu and Kashmir. Schools should be set up in cities

like Delhi and Haryana, especially by missionary or reputed institutions, to give Kashmiri students access to stable learning environments during times of weather or conflict-related disruptions. Another issue that needs urgent attention is the transfer policy for teachers. Many government teachers are posted far from their homes — some have to travel 30 to 40 km daily. How can a teacher expected to be in school at 6 or 7 in the morning manage such a long journey every day? This affects their performance and energy levels. The education department should review the transfer policy and prioritize local postings, especially for women and senior staff. Rather than extending holidays, we must look for practical solutions. Schools can adjust timings during hot days, allow relaxed dress codes, provide water stations, and focus on early morning classes. These small changes can help continue learning safely.

In conclusion, health and safety must be protected, but learning should not stop. Climate change is real, and we need to adapt. The only way forward is to build weather-ready schools, support teachers, and ensure that our education system continues without frequent interruptions.

The Author is a Regular Columnist and Freelance Writer

DC Doda chairs DLIC meeting to approve 66 cases under Mission YUVA

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JULY 8: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) convened an important meeting today under the flagship Mission YUVA, chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda, Mr. Harvinder Singh. The meeting aimed to review progress under the scheme and to scrutinize and approve applications submitted through the dedicated

DLIC portal. The deliberations were attended by ADC/ADDC Doda, Anil Kumar Thakur, Deputy Director Employment Doda Mohd Rafiq, In-charge General Manager DIC, District Social Welfare Officer Doda, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Lead District Manager and other key stakeholders. A total of 66 entrepreneurial cases, verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) Doda, were presented before the committee.



After thorough examination of eligibility, viability, and socio-economic relevance, all 66 applications were approved for

financial assistance and hand-holding support under Mission YUVA. While addressing the officers, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of creating self-employment opportunities for the local youth, with special focus on marginalized and underprivileged sections. He directed line departments to ensure timely disbursement of funds, effective monitoring, and strong mentoring mechanisms to help

the new ventures flourish sustainably. The DC also urged stakeholders to intensify outreach and awareness campaigns to encourage wider participation in Mission YUVA, making it a beacon of hope for aspiring entrepreneurs in the district. The meeting concluded with a call to all departments to work with dedication and urgency so that today's entrepreneurial seeds grow into successful enterprises of tomorrow.

Devyani Rana assures public to take up toll deferment matter at Sua No 1 Toll Plaza in Nagrota Constituency



HT NEWS DESK

MALPUR JULY 8- Vice President J&K Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM J&K), Devyani Rana, today assured people of Nagrota constituency to take up the matter of proposed toll collection at the upcoming Sua No. 1 Toll Plaza on the Jammu-Akhnoor National Highway (NH-144A). Interacting with public at Malpur in Nagrota Assembly Constituency, Rana acknowledged the concerns among local residents and daily commuters that the establishment of another toll plaza within a short distance of barely 20 to 22 kilometers from the already operational Sohanjara Toll Plaza on the Jammu Ring Road will put an additional financial

burden on the road users and impact the accessibility and affordability of intra-district travel. Rana acknowledged concerns of the residents over the establishment of a second toll collection point within Nagrota constituency, after the Ban Toll Plaza, as they commute regularly for work, education, and essential services across the constituency. Rana assured the public that the matter will be brought to the attention of the concerned for a comprehensive review over the toll collection process at Sua No 1. A balanced and people-centric approach has been the guiding philosophy of the pro-people government at the Centre, she maintained.

LJK MPCs revives traditional Barley Laddoos (Phimar) Prasad for Shri Machail Mata Yatra

HT NEWS DESK



KISHTWAR, JULY 08: LJK Multiple Purpose Cooperative Society Limited (LJKMPCS) has initiated the production and distribution of traditional barley-based laddoos (Prasad) known as "Phimar," for the Shri Machail Mata Yatra in Paddar area of District Kishtwar. This culturally rooted initiative promotes sustainable nutrition, community development, and regional identity by reviving a traditional sweet made from organically cultivated barley. The laddoos are prepared using natural methods and sourced from local farmers, generating employment and encouraging community involvement, especially among women.

By connecting traditional knowledge with contemporary needs, LJK MPCs is advancing a development model that is culturally rooted, socially inclusive and environmentally responsible.

This initiative aligns with the Government of India's campaign to promote millets and supports local livelihoods, strengthening the regional economy through sustainable practices and community-led development.

ARTO Rajouri conducts road checking drive; 15 E-Challans issued, 5 E-Auto impounded

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JULY 08: Acting on the directions of the Transport Commissioner, J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan and Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, the ARTO Office Rajouri led by Assistant Regional Transport Officer, Rajesh Gupta carried out an extensive road checking drive in Rajouri town and surrounding areas today. The drive was primarily focused on ensuring traffic regulations compliance among e-Auto vehicles operating in the region. During the enforcement drive, a total of 105 vehicles were thoroughly inspected. As a result of the inspection, 15 e-challans were issued for various violations under the Motor Vehicles Act and other relevant traffic norms. Furthermore, 5 e-Auto vehicles were impounded and brought to the ARTO office due to serious violations. The enforcement action is expected to generate revenue of approximately 49,000 from the challaned vehicles. The ARTO has reiterated its commitment to improving road safety, ensuring compliance with vehicle documentation and promoting disciplined driving practices. The department has urged all vehicle owners and drivers to adhere strictly to traffic laws to avoid penalties.

DDC Poonch presides over public outreach program at Aspirational Block Mankote

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JULY 08: In a major step towards responsive and inclusive governance, the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch, Shri Vikas Kundal today conducted a comprehensive Public Outreach Program at the Aspirational Block Mankote, Subdivision Mendhar. The event, held at the Tehsil Office Complex Mankote, witnessed enthusiastic participation from locals of Mankote and adjoining villages. The outreach initiative aimed to directly engage



with the public, understand grassroots-level issues, and ensure prompt redressal. Officers present at the program included ADDC Poonch, PO ICDS, SDM Mendhar, ACP, ACD, Deputy Director Employment, Tehsildar Mankote, BDO Mankote and other senior officers

from various line departments. During the interactive session, residents projected a wide array of issues and demands pertaining to drinking water supply, banking services, road connectivity, construction of bunkers, education, healthcare, electricity

and other essential public utilities. Addressing the gathering, the DDC congratulated the officials, field staff and the community for the remarkable performance of Block Mankote, which recently secured 1st rank in Jammu Division and 9th position at the national level under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP). He lauded the collective efforts that led to this remarkable feat and emphasized the need to continue striving for better outcomes. "Our focus is on addressing existing gaps in critical indicators like banking, health,

DDC Poonch presides over public outreach program at Aspirational Block Mankote

HT NEWS DESK

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Tata Motors Launches All-New Tata Ace Pro, Revolutionising Small Cargo Mobility

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar: Tata Motors has unveiled the all-new Tata Ace Pro, setting a new benchmark in the small cargo vehicle segment and redefining last-mile delivery with India's most affordable four-wheel mini truck, starting at just Rs. 3.99 lakh.

With a bold vision to empower a new generation of entrepreneurs, the Ace Pro is available in the small cargo vehicle segment and redefining last-mile delivery with India's most affordable four-wheel mini truck, starting at just Rs. 3.99 lakh. "With the Ace Pro, we are building on this proud legacy with renewed purpose. It's designed for stability, safety, and profitability, unlocking higher earning potential for new-age entrepreneurs," Wagh said.

Unveiled by Mr. Girish Wagh, Executive Director at Tata Motors, the launch celebrates two decades of the iconic Tata Ace's journey, which has helped over 25 lakh small entrepreneurs take charge of their economic destiny.

"With the Ace Pro, we are building on this proud legacy with renewed purpose. It's designed for stability, safety, and profitability, unlocking higher earning potential for new-age entrepreneurs," Wagh said.

In urban centres like Srinagar and Anantnag, where hotel logistics, retail distribution, and artisan crafts such as pashmina, walnut wood, and paper-mâché domi-



seamless movement even on steep, narrow rural roads.

Meanwhile, in the Jammu region—including Kathua, Udhampur, and Jammu city, where small businesses handle regular movement of FMCG goods, LPG cylinders, and water bottles, the Bi-Fuel variant emerges as an economic and practical choice. Its four-wheel stability, crash-tested cabin, and low cost of ownership make it well-suited for businesses prioritising safety and sustainability.

According to Mr. Pinaki Haldar, Vice President & Business Head - SCVPU, Tata Motors Commercial Vehicles, the Ace Pro has been engineered from the ground up based on rigorous customer feedback and testing across varied terrains and climates.

Mission YUVA: District-Level Implementation Committee approved 114 cases in Ramban

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JULY 8: The first meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under the ambitious Mission YUVA initiative was held today in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex, Ramban. The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan. The agenda of the meeting focused on reviewing the applications received under Mission YUVA blockwise, scrutiny of applications and promoting self-employment among the youth of the district. During the session, the committee took up 114 applications that had been verified by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) Ramban. Following a thorough evaluation process—considering



eligibility norms, project viability, and the socio-economic background of the applicants—the committee gave its approval to all 114 cases for further financial support and mentoring under the mission. Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner, Ramban highlighted the importance of Mission YUVA in empowering local youth and helping

them build sustainable livelihoods. He emphasized the need for effective awareness campaigns and to reach out to more eligible youth and encourage their participation in the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the District Nodal Officer, JKEDI and the General Manager (DIC) to speed up the preparation and verification of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) to avoid delays in processing the remaining applications. Among others present in the meeting were Chief Planning Officer, Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, General Manager DIC, Ramban, Ravinder Kumar, Assistant Director Employment, Ramban, Niyamatullah Sheikh, District Nodal Officer, JKEDI; Lead Bank Manager, Ramban; ARTO Ramban; Career Counselling Officer, DECC, Ramban and Project Manager, DIC Ramban.

DC Jammu distributes sanction letters under Mission YUVA; 86 more cases approved

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JULY 8: Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, today handed over sanction letters to seven youth entrepreneurs under the Mission YUVA scheme at the DC Office. The beneficiaries will establish small businesses including transport services, general stores and cosmetics outlets, with financial support provided under the government's flagship initiative. Highlighting the scheme's impact, the Deputy Commissioner said, "Mission YUVA is a



major initiative of the government to support youth in starting their own businesses." He also noted that 34 cases have been approved so far in the district and awareness and implementation activities are in full swing under his chairmanship of the District Level Implementation

Committee (DLIC). Later, a DLIC meeting chaired by the Deputy Commissioner approved 86 additional cases under the scheme. The meeting was also attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Sher Singh, Deputy Director Employment Sunaina Saini, Assistant Director

Employment Mukhlis Ali and representatives from NABARD, JKEDI, DIC and J&K Bank. Highlighting the scheme's impact, the Deputy Commissioner said, "Mission YUVA is a major initiative of the government to support youth in starting their own businesses." He also noted that 34 cases have been approved so far in the district and awareness and implementation activities are in full swing under his chairmanship of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC).

DC Baramulla chairs DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA 53 cases approved for financial support to foster entrepreneurship and self-employment

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 08: In a significant move aimed at empowering the youth and fostering self-employment, a district level implementation committee (DLIC) meeting was held today under Mission YUVA at Baramulla.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, and witnessed the approval of 53 cases of aspiring young entrepreneurs from across the district.

The approved cases span a wide range of sectors, highlighting the diverse entrepreneurial interests of local youth and their potential to contribute to Baramulla's economic development. These youth will now receive financial assistance and capacity-building support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Mission YUVA is a flagship initiative of the Government of Jammu



& Kashmir that aims to create a strong support ecosystem for youth-led enterprises. The mission provides end-to-end support including skill development, financial aid, mentorship, and market linkages to unemployed and aspiring entrepreneurs.

Speaking on the occasion, DC lauded the enthusiasm and participation of local youth. He emphasized the need for timely disbursement of funds and con-

tinuous mentoring to ensure sustainability of the approved ventures. He remarked that Mission YUVA is not just a scheme but a movement to instill innovation, enterprise, and self-reliance among the district's youth.

The meeting was attended by all members of the DLIC and SBDU, as well as officers from the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Baramulla.

A comprehensive presentation

on the applications received and the screening process conducted at the SBDU level was shared during the session. It was noted that intensive awareness campaigns and engagement activities across both rural and urban areas had generated a strong response from the youth.

The committee also discussed strategies for further mobilization, training, and digital onboarding of youth under the mission. DC directed officials to intensify outreach programmes, organize mobile registration camps, and conduct entrepreneurship awareness drives to ensure wider coverage.

He assured the beneficiaries of continuous monitoring and support from the administration and expressed hope that Mission YUVA would open new avenues of livelihood while reducing dependence on government jobs.

DC Bandipora inaugurates Youth Club at Marder Says Youth Clubs will help channelize the energy of youth in a positive direction

HT NEWS DESK



BANDIPORA, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri inaugurated a Youth Club at Government Middle School, Marder, Bandipora, under the Nasha Bharat Mukta Abhiyan (Drugs-Free India Campaign).

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Padma Shri Awardee Faisal Ali Dar, brand ambassador of the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and President of the Bandipora Youth Federation, as the guest of honor.

In his inaugural address, DC emphasized the importance of utilizing government assets for the benefit of local youth. He stated that establishing these youth clubs is crucial and timely, as it will help channelize the energy of our youth in a

positive direction.

On the occasion, DC further stressed that sports is a vital tool to combat drug addiction and that such clubs should be established throughout the district to make Bandipora drug-free.

Padma Shri Awardee Faisal Ali Dar assured the youth that the Bandipora Youth Federation will provide all necessary support to promote sports and com-

bat drug menace. He pledged that the federation will stand with the youth in all social activities and initiatives in the district.

The youth club will provide training facilities to children after school hours and on Sundays. This initiative has shown promising results, as sports have become a powerful tool to prevent drug addiction.

Toyota Launches Limited 'Prestige Package' for Urban Cruiser Hyryder

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has rolled out a limited-period 'Prestige Package' for its best-selling self-charging hybrid SUV, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder. Available at dealerships from July 2025, the Prestige Package is tailored to reinforce the Hyryder's muscular and refined SUV character. The accessory bundle features exclusive styling enhancements such as chrome garnishes, body claddings, and signature trims, designed to seamlessly blend with the SUV's design philosophy. The Urban Cruiser Hyryder has been a game-changer in the Indian mid-size SUV segment, particularly due to its pioneering self-charging strong hybrid electric powertrain—a first in its category. At its core is Toyota's advanced 1.5L TNGA Atkinson cycle engine, mated to an efficient electric motor that delivers smooth, quiet performance and remarkable fuel economy. In terms of design and comfort, the Hyryder stands out with its bold Crystal Acrylic Grille, sleek twin LED DRLs, and dynamic character lines, complemented by 17-inch alloy wheels. Inside, it offers a premium cabin experience with ventilated leather seats, a panoramic sunroof, ambient lighting, and a feature-rich 9-inch touchscreen infotainment system supporting wireless Apple CarPlay and Android Auto.

Since its market debut in 2022, the Urban Cruiser Hyryder has steadily grown in popularity, recently surpassing the 1,00,000-unit sales mark, a milestone that reflects the increasing consumer trust in Toyota's hybrid technology and the brand's long-term vision for sustainable mobility in India.

Toyota has invited customers to visit their nearest dealership to explore the Prestige Package and experience firsthand the added confidence, utility, and elegance it brings to the ownership of India's most popular hybrid SUV.



DC Budgam chairs 91st DLRC/ DLCC meeting District Budgam records robust Credit Growth with CD Ratio at 106%

HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JULY 08: The 91st District Level Review Committee cum District Level Consultative Committee (DLRC/ DLCC) meeting for Q4 of the Financial Year 2024-25 was held today at the New Conference Hall, DC office Complex Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-ud-Din Bhat, and witnessed the participation of Chief Planning Officer Budgam, Lead Bank Manager Budgam, officer from Reserve Bank of India, representatives from RSETI Budgam, District Coordinators of all banks, Heads and representatives of various line departments, as well as members from CFL and FLCC.

DC, while stressing the timely sanctioning and disbursement of cases, directed that all departments shall prepare a checklist of cases in consultation with the lead bank.

He directed banks to respond the same within 7 days time, if not, the

checklist shall be deemed as final for further necessary action.

He asserted that targets should be sought from banks under social security schemes and shared with the chair. DC further directed that cases should be sponsored as per the time table. Calling on the mass awareness of schemes for self employment generation, DC instructed that financial inclusion camps be organized once every month in convergence with other departments particularly RDD in all rural areas of the district.

Chairman DLRC/DCC advised the departments to have a proactive approach towards their work so that all the benefits are passed on to the grassroots level needy, for overall economic development of the district.

While reviewing the performances, he asserted on more focus in lending to the priority sectors, and directed underperforming banks to take effective measures in enhancing the lending capital. Dr Bilal stressed the need for continued collaboration between financial institutions and

line departments to ensure inclusive and sustainable growth, especially in rural and priority sectors

During the session, Lead District Manager presented a detailed overview of the district's banking performance for FY 2024-25. He said District has Credit -Deposit (CD) ratio of 106.72%. The district has recorded a year-on-year growth of Rs.74.52 Crore in total advances, which increased from Rs.5166.77 Crores as on March 2024 to Rs.5241.29 Crores by March 2025.

Simultaneously, deposit figures showed a positive growth of Rs.97.18 Crores, rising from Rs.4813.80 Crores in March 2024 to Rs.4910.98 Crores in March 2025—marking a growth rate of 1.44% in advances and 2.01% in deposits. He said banks operating in the district have disbursed a total of Rs.3528.64 Crores during the current fiscal year up to Q4. Out of this, Rs.2210.80 Crores were disbursed under Priority Sector Lending (PSL) and Rs.1317.84 Crores under Non-Priority Sector Lending.

Distt admin Bandipora organizes workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JULY 08: District administration Bandipora on Tuesday organized a day-long training-cum-workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0 at the Conference Hall, Mini Secretariat Bandipora. The programme was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandi-

por, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri. Among others, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Bandipora, District Treasury Officer, State Resource Persons from the Department of Panchayati Raj J&K, and officers from various line departments participated in the session.

The workshop was organised to raise awareness and build capacity

among district officers regarding the recently launched PAI 2.0, an evolved version of the Panchayat Development Index (PDI).

Speaking on the occasion, the State Resource Person highlighted that PAI is a multi-sectoral tool developed to measure the progress of Localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) at the Panchayat level. He informed

that the index was initially introduced as PDI by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR), Government of India, in 2023. On the occasion, it was informed that PAI 2.0, launched this year, has been modified to enhance outcome-based development tracking and to promote evidence-based planning at the grassroots level. The tool ranks Gram Panchayats.

District Development Council Pulwama finalizes District Capex Plan 2025-26

HT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JULY 08: District Development Council (DDC) Pulwama today convened a comprehensive meeting here to finalize the District Capex Plan for the financial year 2025-26. The meeting witnessed the presence of DDC members, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pulwama, Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Pulwama, Superintending Engineer (SE) Pulwama, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Pulwama, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Pulwama, Executive Engineers from PHE Awantipora and R&B Pulwama/Awantipora, District Health Officer Pulwama, District Youth Services and Sports Officer Pulwama, Block Development Officers of various blocks, and other district and sectoral officers. At the outset, the CPO Pulwama presented a comprehensive



PowerPoint presentation, detailing the sector-wise allocation of funds earmarked for various developmental works under

the District Capex Plan. During the meeting, DDC members actively highlighted key developmental concerns from their

respective constituencies and put forth valuable suggestions aimed at improving the performance and delivery of various departments. A threadbare discussion was held on the Area Development Plan, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), and prioritization of critical infrastructure and welfare works. After extensive deliberations, the DDC Council unanimously approved the Area Development Plan under the District Capex Budget 2025-26. At the outset, the CPO Pulwama presented a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation, detailing the sector-wise allocation of funds earmarked for various developmental works under the District Capex Plan. During the meeting, DDC members actively highlighted key developmental concerns from their respective constituencies and put forth valuable suggestions aimed at improving the performance and delivery.

DC Poonch chairs District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee meeting to review SRO-43 cases

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JULY 08: A meeting of the District Level Screening-cum-Coordination Committee was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, in his office chamber to review and decide on claims submitted under SRO-43.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Tahir Mustafa Malik, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Mohd Sayeed, and officers from the CID and security agencies.

During the meeting, ADC Poonch provided a detailed briefing to the Chair regarding the current status of each case. After a comprehensive discussion and evaluation, the committee approved several eligible cases under SRO-43.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal emphasized the need for timely disposal of SRO-43 cases, noting that it plays a crucial role in reinforcing the trust of the affected families in the government machinery.

The DC also directed the concerned departments to maintain a proactive approach and ensure that all necessary formalities and verifications are completed well in time for SRO-43 cases.

JKPICCA Submits Urgent Policy Plea to Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan

Mushtaq ul Islam

Srinagar, July 8 : In a significant push to safeguard the future of apple growers and horticulturists across northern India, the Jammu & Kashmir Post-Harvest Infrastructure & Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) has submitted a comprehensive memorandum to Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. The appeal calls for urgent policy measures to support farmers in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand, particularly in the face of low-cost imports and inadequate infrastructure.

The memorandum, dated July 4, 2025, outlines nine key demands focusing on import protection, high-density farming, cold chain expansion, and export infrastructure.

The association has urged the government to increase the Minimum Import Price (MIP) for apples from 50 to 100 per kg and strengthen import duties, citing drastically lower production costs in countries like the U.S. and Iran. "Our growers cannot compete with imports priced below our cost of production," JKPICCA warned.

Other demands include boosting the High-Density Plantation (HDP) scheme under MIDH with an 80% fund allocation, subsidy for modern orchard machinery, and immediate notification of HDP under the Agri Infrastructure Fund (AIF) to enable access to institutional loans.

Highlighting regional disparities, the memorandum stresses the need for equitable cold storage development beyond the saturated districts of Shopian and Pulwama. It also seeks a ban on the sale of duty-free imported apples in HPMC mandis, which threaten domestic market stability.

JKPICCA further proposed solar rooftop incentives for cold storages and orchards, modernization of the PM Fasal Bima Yojana in J&K, and the establishment of an Inland Container Depot (ICD) and air cargo terminal for cherries in Srinagar. The installation of anti-hail cannons was also emphasized as a preventive step against climate-induced losses.

JKPICCA President Bashir Ahmad Naik has requested a meeting with the Union Minister, along with an eight-member delegation representing all three hill states.

US President Donald Trump wishes peace with Iran, eyes sanctions relief at 'right time'

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Washington, July 8

Washington, July 8 (UNI) Amid his talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the US capital, President Donald Trump said that he has no wish to hurt Iran any further and wants to make peace, even expressing a willingness to lift the sanctions from Tehran "at the right time".

"I would love to be able to take those sanctions off and give them a chance," Trump said during his White House dinner with Netanyahu. "They want to meet and make peace. We have scheduled Iran talks. They want to talk," reports Iran International. Meanwhile, US Special Envoy to the Middle East Steve Witkoff has said that nuclear negotiations between the two countries are expected to take place "in the next week or so", in what would mark the first official diplomatic engagement between



Washington and Tehran since the 12-day conflict between Iran and Israel.

This was however refuted by Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei today, who denied Tehran had requested a meeting with the American side. "No meeting request has been made to the American side from our end."

When asked for a specific date for the talks, Trump had declined to provide details. "I'd rather not say, but you'll be reading about it tomorrow or seeing it tomorrow," he said.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian said this week that he believes Iran can resolve its differences with the United States through dialogue, but trust would be an issue after the

US and Israeli attacks on Iran. Responding to whether the Israel-Iran conflict had truly ended, Trump said "I hope it's over", adding: "I think (the Iranians) want to make peace and I'm all for it. Now, if that's not the case, we are ready, willing, and able. But I don't think we're going to have to be." Netanyahu, answering the same question, said the Israeli and US strikes last month "set back the two tumours that were threatening the life of Israel: The nuclear tumour and the ballistic missile tumour," reported the Times of Israel.

"But when you remove a tumour, that doesn't mean it can't come back. You have to constantly monitor the situation to make sure there's no attempt to bring it back," he added.

The Israeli PM stated that the situation had to be carefully monitored to ensure that no hostilities resumed, with both him and Trump discussing the issue.

Rijju chairs DISHA meeting, reviews progress of development projects in Tawang

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Itanagar, July 8



The third Quarter District Development Coordination and Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting for Tawang district was held today at the NIC Conference Hall, DC Office, Tawang.

The meeting was virtually chaired by Union Parliamentary and Minority Affairs Minister cum Arunachal West MP Kiren Rijju and attended in person by Deputy Commissioner Namgyal Angmo, Zilla Parishad Chairperson (ZPC) Leki Gombu, and heads of departments involved in the implementation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). Addressing the Committee members, Rijju lauded the Tawang district administration and stakeholders for their consistent efforts in effectively implementing government schemes and ensuring proper fund utilization.

Being the chairman of the DISHA Committee, he reiterated his commitment to overseeing development across all 17 districts of his parliamentary constituency.

Earlier, DC Namgyal Angmo, in her welcome address, highlighted the significance of the meeting as a platform to assess progress, realign development priorities, and address challenges in the implementation of both centrally sponsored and state-funded programmes. ZPC Leki Gombu informed the

Union Minister that the status of various ongoing projects had been thoroughly reviewed during the recently held two-day District Level Monitoring Committee (DLMC) meeting.

He expressed appreciation for the Union Minister's participation in the DISHA meeting, reaffirming the district's commitment to the effective execution of developmental schemes.

A comprehensive presentation on the status of CSS implementation was delivered by Assistant Commissioner cum Ex-Officio Deputy Director of Rural Development, Tawang, Tenzin Jambey, highlighting key indicators and performance across sectors.

The meeting concluded with actionable directives and renewed commitments from all stakeholders

to ensure the timely completion and transparent execution of development projects aimed at improving the livelihoods and well-being of the people of Tawang.

Rajnath Singh approves Rs 303 cr for development in Secunderabad Cantonment

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Hyderabad, July 8



In a significant boost to infrastructure in the Secunderabad Cantonment area, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved the utilisation of Rs 303.62 crore for various development works, following the efforts of Union Coal and Mines Minister G Kishan Reddy.

This funding is linked to the proposed transfer of cantonment lands to the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) to facilitate the construction of elevated corridors in the region.

In an important departure from the usual procedure, the land transfer compensation—provided by the Telangana state government—will not go into the Consolidated Fund of India. Instead, it will be deposited into a newly established escrow account attached to the Secunderabad Cantonment Board. This ensures that the funds will be used exclusively for local development works within the cantonment area.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy had written twice to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, requesting that the compensation be used specifically for local infrastructure. Responding positively, the Ministry of Defence has now directed the Cantonment Board to set up the escrow account and focus the expenditure on civic improvements.

Once the state government deposits the compensation amount, the Cantonment Board will begin key infrastructure projects. These include the construction of an underground sewage network, a fresh water supply system, retaining walls along canals, and the development of internal roads.

Union Minister Kishan Reddy expressed his gratitude to Defence Minister Rajnath Singh for approving the use of Rs 303 crore for the welfare and development of the Secunderabad Cantonment area, an official statement said today.

India abstains from voting on Afghanistan at UN, cautions against business-as-usual approach

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 8



India abstained from voting at the UN on a Resolution on Afghanistan saying a "business as usual" approach without new and targeted initiatives is unlikely to deliver the outcomes the international community envisions for Afghan people.

The UNGA resolution on the 'Situation in Afghanistan' last night was moved by Germany. The vote was 116 in favour and two against. Twelve countries including India, Russia, China and Iran abstained. India's Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador P Harish, said in his speech that any coherent policy to address a post-conflict situation must combine a mix of policy instruments — incentivising positive behaviour and disincentivising harmful actions.

"An approach focused only on punitive measures is unlikely to succeed," Ambassador Harish cautioned. He said the United Nations and the broader interna-

tional community had adopted more balanced and nuanced approaches in other post-conflict contexts. However, no new policy instruments had been introduced to address the worsening humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan since August 2021.

"A business-as-usual approach, without new and targeted initiatives, is unlikely to deliver the outcomes the international community envisions for the Afghan people," he said.

The international community must direct its coordinated efforts towards ensuring that entities and individuals designated by the UN Security Council, Al Qaeda and their affiliates, ISIL and their affiliates, including

Lashkar-i-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, along with their regional sponsors who facilitate their operations, no longer exploit the Afghan territory for terrorist activities. India is closely monitoring the security situation in Afghanistan, he asserted. Welcoming Afghanistan's strong condemnation of the terrorist killings at Pahalgam in Kashmir on April 22, he said External Affairs Minister Dr S Jaishankar had recently spoken with the Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan. The conversation followed a meeting between India's Foreign Secretary and the Acting Foreign Minister where both sides discussed various bilateral issues and regional developments. Ambassador Harish said India's approach to Afghanistan, as its contiguous neighbour with deep historical and cultural ties, has always been guided by longstanding friendship and special relationship with the Afghan people. As a long-standing partner, India has direct stakes in ensuring peace.

Bihar to set up youth commission: Nitish

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Patna, July 8



Chief Minister Nitish Kumar today announced formation of Bihar Youth Commission for providing employment opportunities and skill development for the youth of the state.

The Chief Minister said on his social media account (X) the government has approved the formation of the Bihar Youth Commission, which will recommend and provide inputs to the government on key issues concerning the development and welfare of the youth. The commission will also coordinate with various government departments to ensure better education and employment prospects for the youth.

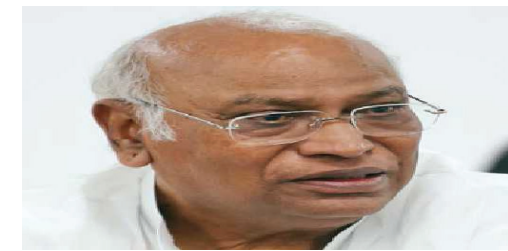
Kumar said the commission will consist of one chairperson, two vice-

chairpersons, and seven members, with an upper age limit of 45 years. The commission will monitor private sector employment opportunities within Bihar and protect the interests of students studying outside the state. Special programmes will also be prepared to keep the youth away from social evils.

He emphasised that the primary goal of the youth commission is to make Bihar's youth skilled, employment-ready, and self-reliant.

Double-engine alliance has made Bihar a crime capital, alleges Kharge

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 8



Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge today accused the NDA government in Bihar, of reducing the state to a "crime capital" and pushing it into a deep crisis of law and order, economic justice, and governance.

In a post on X, Kharge said, "In the past six months alone, 8 businessmen have been murdered in Bihar, and the police have come under attack at least

five times. Just yesterday, a horrifying incident occurred where five members of a single family were brutally killed due to superstition and even innocent children were not spared." He termed the JD(U)-

BJP partnership as a "fraudulent alliance" and held it responsible for the deteriorating law and order situation in the state. Kharge claimed the Modi government's own data, shows that poverty levels in Bihar

remain alarmingly high. "Social and economic justice has gone from bad to worse, and due to the collapsed administrative system, investment in Bihar is only visible on paper".

Asserting that the people of Bihar have had enough, Kharge said, "This time, Bihar has decided that it will no longer remain sick. Change is certain in Bihar, and the INDI Alliance will bring that change."

"Close to making deal with India": Trump

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Washington/ New Delhi, July 8

US President Donald Trump today said Washington is inching close to making a trade deal with India even as he imposed tariffs on 14 nations. There have been hectic negotiations between the trade officials from Washington and New Delhi to finalise a tariff-reducing deal, but disagreements over dairy and agriculture sectors are delaying the process. Speaking during a private dinner with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Trump emphasised the strategic advancements made under his leadership.

"We've made a deal with the United Kingdom, we've made a deal with China, we've made a deal—we're

close to making a deal with India... Others we met with, we don't think we're going to be able to make a deal. So we just send them a letter," he said at the White House.

Trump said that the United States had struck a trade deal with Vietnam that includes a 20-percent tariff on the Southeast Asian country's exports to the United States.

He stated that he had sent a letter to the leaders of 14 nations that he believed would not make a deal with the US.

Trump confirmed that letters had been sent to several nations, warning them that if new trade agreements are not reached by August 1, increased import duties will be implemented.

Igniting a global trade war, Donald Trump has announced new tariffs on 14 countries, including Bangladesh and Myanmar. Goods from Malaysia, Kazakhstan, and Tunisia are expected to face a 25 percent tariff. South Africa will face a 30 percent duty. Laos and Myanmar have been marked for a 40% tariff.

Additionally, Trump emphasised that these tariffs could be revised if countries agree to open their markets to US exports, eliminate trade barriers, and reduce their own tariffs. This approach suggests that while tariffs are a key part of his policy, negotiations remain a potential avenue to ease the trade tensions.

Indonesia's goods may face a 32

percent duty, while Bangladesh will see a 35 percent rate. Thailand and Cambodia have been set at 36 percent. Bosnia and Herzegovina will face a 30 percent levies, and Serbia 35 percent. The rates for Japan and South Korea are at 25 percent.

Trump warned these nations not to respond with retaliatory tariffs. He wrote in the letters that if a country raises its own tariffs in return, the US would match that increase by raising its own duties by the same amount.

The White House press secretary, Karoline Leavitt, said that additional letters would be sent to other countries in the coming days.

BJP demands public apology from Kharge over remarks on President Murmu

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 8

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today accused Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge of insulting President Droupadi Murmu and disrespecting her tribal identity through derogatory remarks and demanded a written public apology.

At a press briefing here, BJP national spokesperson Gaurav Bhatia also called for Kharge's resignation, accusing him of displaying an "anti-tribal and anti-Dalit" mindset. He further highlighted past instances of disrespect towards former President Ram Nath Kovind by Congress leaders.

"We ask Mallikarjun Kharge to offer a written apology for his distasteful

and derogatory remarks against the President of India and former President Ram Nath Kovind, both of whom represent the Scheduled Tribe and Scheduled Caste communities—communities that epitomize hard work and serve as an inspiration for millions of Indians," he added.

Bhatia's remarks came in response to Kharge's statement at an event in Raipur, Chhattisgarh, on Monday, where he raised concerns over deforestation in the state. Kharge had alleged, "They just talk big; we made Murmuji President of India, we made (Ram Nath) Kovind President. Yes, you did, but for what? To snatch our property? To snatch our jungles? To stop our water? They have done this to snatch our land..."

Majlis-e-Aza Held Across Kashmir by All J&K Shia Association, A Call to Honour Imam Hussain (AS) Beyond Geopolitics

HT NEWS DESK
Srinagar | 8 July 2025 : The All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA) organised solemn Majlis-e-Aza gatherings at Sarai Dangarpura (Sumbal), Shatalpora (Sumbal), and Harda Panzoo (Beerwah) to mark the sacred days of Muharram and honour the legacy of Imam Hussain (AS). The events drew large participation from local communities, bound together in collective remembrance and mourning for the martyrs of Karbala. At Shatalpora, AJKSA President Molvi Imran Reza Ansari addressed the gathering with a heartfelt message centred on preserving the sanctity of Azadari. Speaking with clarity and

emotion, he appealed to the community to ensure that the first 14 days of Muharram remain free from all geopolitical colours and narratives. "We have the rest of the year to engage in geopolitics, but these sacred days belong to Imam Hussain (AS)," he said. "When there is a death in our family, we cry not just for our loved ones but also remember the pain of Karbala. Then how can we, in these same moments of mourning, allow flags, slogans, and political branding to interfere with the grief of Hussain (AS)?" He stressed that this was not a call to abandon any political thought or ideology but a reminder that Hussainiyat transcends all political and geopolitical



affiliations. He also addressed a recent controversy surrounding a video clip in which his remarks were selectively edited and misrepresented. "I spoke against Yazeed, the tyrant of Karbala, and I stand by every word," he said. "What I did not do is insult any companion of the Prophet (SAWW). It is unfortunate and painful that instead of clarifying the truth, one of our own Shia organisations stood with the accusations levelled by MMU. They need to make their position clear. Karbala is not vague. You are either with Imam Hussain (AS) or you are not." The Majlis was attended by senior members of the AJKSA, including the General Secretary, who stood in solidarity with the President's

statement. At Harda Panzoo (Beerwah), a Zuljanah procession was led by Irfan Ansari, and a Sabeel was arranged to serve mourners with traditional offerings reflecting the spirit of service and hospitality that defines these days. As the Valley enters a spiritually significant period, the AJKSA has urged all believers to rise above divisions and geopolitics and come together in the name of Imam Hussain (AS) a symbol of sacrifice, truth, and resistance against tyranny. "Karbala is not history it is a living mirror," said Molvi Imran Reza. "And it calls on us not just to remember, but to reflect, and to walk the path of Hussain (AS) with dignity and purpose."

Rescue drive conducted at Sumbal to combat Child Labour

Three Children rescued under Pan India Anti-Child Labour Campaign

HT NEWS DESK
BANDIPORA, JULY 08: In a major step towards eliminating child labour, a joint rescue operation was conducted on Tuesday in the Sumbal area of Bandipora district. The operation, carried out under the ongoing Pan India Anti-Child Labour Campaign, led to the rescue of three children from exploitative labour conditions. The rescue drive was jointly con-

ducted by the Child Welfare Committee (CWC) Bandipora, District Child Protection Unit (DCPU), Labour Department, Police Department, and District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora. The departments worked in close coordination, pooling their resources and expertise to identify and rescue children engaged in hazardous and illegal work. Chairperson of CWC Bandipora, Dr. Asima, commended the collaborative spirit and swift action of all departments involved. While emphasizing

the importance of community involvement in such efforts, she urged citizens to remain vigilant and report any instances of child labour they come across. She said that every child deserves the right to education, a safe environment, and a childhood free from exploitation. She urged the general public to report child labour cases by calling the Child Helpline 1098 or by reaching out directly to the CWC or DCPU. "All reports will be kept strictly confidential," she added.

CME on 'Obstetric Sepsis - Fate or Failure to Act' held at GMC Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK
SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar organized a one-day Continuing Medical Education (CME) program on "Obstetric Sepsis - Fate or Failure to Act". The event aimed to raise awareness, improve early recognition, and promote evidence-based management

of obstetric sepsis, a major contributor to maternal morbidity and mortality. Prof. (Dr) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal/Dean, GMC Srinagar, inaugurated the CME, emphasizing the importance of timely intervention, clinical vigilance, and ongoing professional education in improving maternal outcomes. Prof. (Dr) Syed Masuma Rizvi, Head of the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, highlighted the need to empower

healthcare providers with updated clinical knowledge and protocols to effectively address sepsis care challenges. The scientific sessions featured expert presentations from renowned faculty members, including Dr. Irshad, Dr. Humaira Bashir, Dr. Sana Attar, and Prof. Ajaz Nabi Koul, who discussed contemporary practices in sepsis management, microbial resistance trends, and practical approaches for frontline.

DC Srinagar visits UPHCs of Nishat & Harwan, inspects upgradation works

HT NEWS DESK
SRINAGAR, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today conducted an on-site review of the infrastructural works at Urban Primary Health Centres (UPHCs) located in Nishat and Harwan areas of the district to take appraisal of the overall health infrastructure available at these two centres. The visit was also aimed to review the progress of ongoing infrastructure upgradation works to further strengthen and improve the patient care facilities ensuring that better medical facilities are

provided to the local population. At Urban Primary Health Centre, Harwan, DC inspected diagnostic labs, and other sections of the Health Centre. He also inspected the newly installed Digital Computed Radiography machine recently installed under District Capex to provide Digital X-Ray facility to the patients. Later, DC visited the Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) at Nishat and took stock of the functioning of the facility. He also inspected the 2nd floor of the UPHC Nishat which is nearing completion to strengthen the healthcare services at the facility.

DSEK, Gandhi Global Family felicitate Class 10 toppers from Government Schools across Kashmir

Director Itoo hails initiative, terms it as a boost to academic morale

HT NEWS DESK
SRINAGAR, JULY 08: In a remarkable celebration of academic excellence and youth empowerment, Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK) in collaboration with Gandhi Global Family (Kashmir Chapter) today held a felicitation ceremony to honor Class 10th toppers from Government Schools across the Kashmir division. The event, held in the Conference Hall of DSEK, Srinagar acknowledged the hard work, dedication, and achievements of one topper from each of the ten districts of Kashmir division, bringing recognition and pride to government schools that continue to produce bright minds despite numerous challenges. Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G. N. Itoo in his address, extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Gandhian Global Family for organizing this meaningful event. Director remarked that such gestures of recognition play a vital role in boosting the morale of students, especially those study-



ing in government institutions. "Our government school students have consistently shown that they are second to none. Recognizing their merit not only uplifts them but also sets a powerful example for their peers," said Dr. Itoo. He further stated that these young achievers represent the future of Kashmir. Their success is a testament to the spirit of perseverance, and it is imperative that we continue to nurture their potential through love, education and Gandhian ideas. In his address Padma Shri Dr. S. P. Verma, President of the J&K Chap-

ter of Gandhian Global family emphasized the importance of inculcating Gandhian values of truth, non-violence, and discipline among students. He applauded the toppers for their stellar performances and encouraged them to be torchbearers of ethical leadership in society. The event was also attended by Director, (IIM) Indian Institute of Management Srinagar Chapter, Dr. Burhan and Joint Director elementary education, Muhammad Mushtaq and Joint Director Secondary Education, Kishore Kumar, who shared insights on holistic education and motivation-based learning. Their presence underlined the department's continued commitment to recognizing and encouraging merit at the grassroots level. The felicitation ceremony concluded with the distribution of certificates and mementos to the district toppers. Parents of these students on the occasion expressed profound joy and appreciation for the initiative, which they viewed as a milestone moment in the lives of their children.

MLA Udhampur West & DC hand over ambulance to Govt Medical College Udhampur under J&K Bank CSR initiative



HT NEWS DESK
UDHAMPUR, JULY 08: As part of efforts to strengthen healthcare infrastructure in the district, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Udhampur West, Pawan Kumar Gupta, along with Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai, formally handed over a newly donated ambulance to the Principal of Government Medical College, Udhampur. The donation was made under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative of Jammu & Kashmir Bank Ltd. Speaking on the occasion, the MLA and Deputy Commissioner emphasized that the addition of the ambulance will greatly enhance emergency healthcare services in the district and serve as a vital asset for the benefit of the general public. The ambulance, donated by Jammu and Kashmir Bank as part of its CSR program, is aimed at providing critical support for the transportation of patients and trauma cases, thereby boosting emergency medical response capabilities in the region.

District-Level NCORD meeting held at Udhampur DC calls for strengthening of anti-drug measures

HT NEWS DESK
UDHAMPUR, JULY 08: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre to assess the implementation of drug control measures and their on ground impact. The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure, Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers from line departments. The meeting held detailed deliberations on progress achieved in identification of individuals involved in illicit drug trade and investigations into the NDPS Act cases. DC directs for freezing and attachment of financial assets of drug traffickers, action taken against pharmacies selling



scheduled drugs without valid prescriptions, measures to curb illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, rehabilitation initiatives for victims of substance abuse, surveillance in educational institutions and implementation of Nasha Mukta Panchayat campaign. The DC instructed stakeholder departments to scale up counseling services and IEC activities to raise public awareness,

especially at the grassroots level. The identification and monitoring of drug abuse hotspots in the district, action taken against government employees found involved in drug trafficking and inspection and monitoring of drug de-addiction centres etc was also stressed upon. The Drugs & Food Controller was tasked to ensure 100% CBS billing in Pharmacies. ETO was directed to mobilize teams and machinery to identify and destroy wild cannabis growth in its jurisdiction. DC directs for freezing and attachment of financial assets of drug traffickers, action taken against pharmacies selling scheduled drugs without valid prescriptions, measures to curb illicit cultivation of narcotic crops, rehabilitation initiatives for victims of substance abuse, surveillance in educational institutions and implementation of Nasha Mukta Panchayat campaign.

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AL Murad Sports Club Kreeri lifts Varmul Gindo Handball Trophy

■ Aashiq Hussain

BARAMULLA 08 JULY (HT) : Organized by Dagger Division Baramulla in collaboration with J&K sports Council the Varmul Gindo Handball Championship concluded on Tuesday with Al Murad Sports Club Kreeri lifting the trophy in the final match.

Sub inspector Azhar Shakeel was the chief guest on the occasion and gave away prizes among winners and runner-up teams. The final match was played between Al Murad Sports Club Kreeri and Khelo India center Sopore in which Al Murad Sports Club Kreeri defeated K I C Sopore in a thrilling match and lifted the title. Twelve teams of different villages of Baramulla district participated in championship.

Speaking on the occasion Sub inspector Azhar Shakeel hailed the youngsters for taking keen interest in sports. He said the youth of Kreeri have showcased their talent at national and have become guiding forces for other youth who spoil their leisure time.

He said sports is the best activity to do in order to keep body and mind fit besides being a means to stay away from anti-social activities including drugs. Chairman Al Murad Sports Club Kreeri Sheikh Nissar while speaking on the occasion said the aim of holding such tournaments in villages is to set a trend of sports activities so that people stay away from drugs and instead use their leisure time in constructive activities and utilize their energy in a positive way.

Among others Khelo India center Handball coach Mohammad Ashraf Parry, Physical education teacher Mohd Rafi Sofi, Students and sports lovers were present on the occasion.



Dominant South Africa wrap up 2-0 sweep inside three days

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI: A complete mismatch of a Test in Bulawayo ended within two sessions on the third day, as Wiaan Mulder alone scored only 23 runs lesser than what Zimbabwe's entire line-up managed across two innings. But even that happened when, at nine wickets down after being asked to follow-on, an outside edge off Wellington Masakadza dribbled away for four wide of the slips.

The tenth-wicket stand between Masakadza and Tanaka Chivanga frustrated South Africa for nearly nine overs, but couldn't prevent an innings defeat. South Africa comprehensively won by an innings and 236 runs to wrap the series 2-0 after confining Zimbabwe to their heaviest defeat by runs in the first Test of the series. It was South Africa's tenth Test win on the trot, including their victory over Australia in the WTC 2025 final last month.

Zimbabwe started day three of the Bulawayo Test trailing by a massive 405 runs, with nine wickets in hand. While an innings defeat was inevitable given the deficit and the time remaining in the Test, a middle- and lower-order collapse of 6 for 31 after lunch hastened the eventual result.

But before that, overnight batters Takudzwanashe Kaitano and Nick Welch negotiated the seven overs from Codi Yusuf and Corbin Bosch to start play by mostly blocking and leaving the deliveries. The first over of spin, though, got South Africa the breakthrough. Off his second ball, Senuran Muthusamy had Kaitano chipping to cover for 40 in the 24th over.

Welch, at the other end, struggled to tick along. His first 45 balls fetched him only 14 runs, and one of his two boundaries came earlier in the day when he outside-edged Yusuf between third slip and gully. In the 26th over, however, Welch swung Muthusamy for a huge down the ground. Next ball, he went for a hoick across the line, and the ball missed both the bat and the leg stump.

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