

15th YEAR OF PUBLICATION HEADLINES TODAY Voice To The Voiceless

Srinagar
Thursday
July 10 | 2025
14 Muharram, 1447 AH

Issue No: 162
Volume: 15
Pages: 12
Price: Rs 02/-

Tourists returning to J&K in good numbers: CM Omar

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 09: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that the tourism sector is once again getting revived in Jammu & Kashmir and number of tourists visiting the Union Territory is increasing with each passing day.

Talking to the reporters in West Bengal where he is scheduled to attend the Tourism Fair, Omar, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said, "Things are not as bad as you are describing. A good number of tourists are returning to the region. The Amarnath Yatra has also commenced a few days back and a good number of devotees too are visiting the holy cave shrine via two routes. They (devotees) are happy with the situation there," he said.

Omar further added that he has come to Kolkata to participate in the Tourism Fair. "We want a good number of people from West Bengal to visit Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

Pertinently, the tourism activities have once again gained pace amidst the ongoing Amarnath Yatra with the Commissioner Secretary Tourism, Yasha Mudgal yesterday asserting

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CM Omar Abdullah chairs SKICC & JKTDCC Board Meetings

'Promote SKICC for MICE tourism, improve visibility of JKTDCC rooms': CM

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 09: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the Board meetings of Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) and Jammu & Kashmir Tourism Development Corporation (JKTDCC) after the Boards were reconstituted recently with Chief Minister as chairman of both the

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Omar to meet Mamata Banerjee today

HT News Desk / KINS

SRINAGAR, JULY 09: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to meet his West Bengal counterpart, Mamata Banerjee, on Thursday at the state secretariat Nabanna in Howrah.

The meeting, described as a "courtesy call," is likely to focus on opposition strategies ahead of the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament.

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Centre allocates Rs 4,224 crore for 316 rural roads in J&K

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 09: The Union Rural Development Ministry has sanctioned Rs 4,224 crore for the construction of 316 roads across 19 districts in Jammu and Kashmir under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana Phase 4 (PMGSY-4), with a total project length of 1,781 kilometers.

Sources told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), that the highest number of roads stand sanctioned in Rajouri district. It will see the construction of 41 roads with an allocation of Rs 588 crore 12 lakh. Rajouri's road projects include multiple locations such as Manjakot, Darhal, Kalakot, Dhangri, Nowshera, and Budhal among others.

Poonch follows closely with 40 roads sanctioned, funded at Rs 484 crore 92 lakh. These include roads in Buzil, Lasana, Mankot, Surankot, Loran, Mendhar, and Poonch town itself. Doda district has 31 roads planned with a budget of Rs 661 crore, covering areas like Chirala, Baderwah, Changa, and Udaipur.

For Ramban 26 roads have been approved with Rs 416 crore 10 lakh allocated, including projects in Ramban, Banihal, Rajgarh, Ramsu, and Ukhral. Reasi will see 21 roads constructed with Rs 400 crore 53 lakh sanctioned, covering localities such as Katra, Thakurkot, Anras, and Mahore.

Udhampur's allocation stands at Rs 304 crore 18 lakh for 20 roads, including projects in Udhampur town, Sevna, Chenani, Panchari, and Khoon.

Further allocations and road counts for other districts are as follows:

Kishtwar: 20 roads, Rs 250 crore 32 lakh (including Bunjwah, Marwah, Mughal Maidan)

Kathua: 15 roads, Rs 323 crore 89 lakh (covering

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Vande Bharat, Chenab Bridge Shine at Osaka Expo 2025

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUL 9: Vande Bharat and Chenab Bridge have emerged as a star attraction at

the ongoing World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, drawing enthusiastic crowds and high praise from visitors for its remarkable journey of modernisation and technological innovation, the Railway Ministry on Wednesday said.

"Held at Yumeshima, an artificial island on Osaka's waterfront, the World Expo 2025 opened its doors on April 13 and will continue till October 13, welcoming millions of visitors from across the globe. Amid the vibrant international

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Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Government of India

Fulfilling the dreams of tribal communities, providing them new opportunities, and reducing the difficulties in their lives is top priority for our government.

— Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Fresh rains bring mercury down by 15 degrees

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 09: The mercury has plummeted across Jammu and Kashmir, with Srinagar recording a fall of 15 degrees after rainfall in the summer capital of the region and other parts over the last three days.

The heatwave has ended abruptly following the fresh rainfall in Srinagar and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

The ongoing season has seen record-breaking temperatures in Srinagar and parts of the Valley, with Srinagar breaking a

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Job Scam Police invoke new criminal laws, attach property

United News of India

JAMMU, JULY 09: In a landmark action under the newly enacted Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Jammu Police successfully executed its first-ever property attachment in a high-profile job fraud case, resulting in the recovery and refund of Rs 75 lakhs to victims. This milestone reflects the victim-centric approach embodied in India's new criminal justice reforms.

The case revolves around Harpreet Singh, a resident of Pallanwala, who posed as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Army and defrauded multiple individuals of more than Rs 2.39 crore by falsely promising them jobs in prestigious government institutions such as the MES, MoD and DRDO.

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Pulwama terror attack:

Operatives purchased aluminium powder online, says FATF

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 09: The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has revealed that a key component—aluminium—used in the 2019 Pulwama terror attack was procured by the perpetrators through an online platform.

The FATF 2025 report, according to the news agency—Kashmir



News Observer (KNO), quoting officials states that a suicide bombing that targeted a convoy of Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), resulting in the deaths of forty personnel in South Kashmir's Pulwama district, was a "big conspiracy" and the terrorists acquired aluminium, the key component used in the

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Doctors' Shortage Inherited, Can't Be Fixed Overnight: Sakina Itoo

HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JUL 09: Minister of Health & Medical Education, Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said that the shortage of doctors in remote areas is a legacy issue, not a recent failure, saying that around 500 new appointments

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All-Weather Schooling Unfeasible in J&K: Sakina Itoo

BARAMULLA, JUL 09: Amid growing public discourse on school scheduling in Kashmir

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150th Birth Anniversary Year of Bhagwan Birsa Munda Janjatiya Gaurav Varsh

DHARTI AABA JANBHAGIDARI ABHIYAN
15th June – 15th July 2025

India's Largest Tribal Empowerment Campaign

The month-long nationwide campaign is bringing enrollment services for Aadhaar, Ayushman Bharat, PM Jan Dhan bank accounts, PM-Kisan, and all major government schemes directly to tribal communities.

More than 1.15 Cr + tribal brothers and sisters across 517+ districts in 31 States/UTs have already participated in 48,000+ camps to avail benefits, including:

- 9.33 lakh+ Aadhaar Enrolments
- 9.19 lakh+ Ayushman Cards Issued
- 3.51 lakh+ PM-Kisan Registrations
- 3.12 lakh+ Jan Dhan Accounts Opened
- 1.71 lakh+ Ujjwala Beneficiaries Enrolled

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Tourists returning.....

that the sector is reviving again and last year's figures will be matched soon. She was talking to the reporters on the sidelines of the two-day National Secretaries Conference, held at SKICC here in which the tourism secretaries from all the states and union territories participated. During the conference, the Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat had on Tuesday termed the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 civilians dead, as an "Amavas ki kali raat" (a dark night of no moon), stating that while the tragedy was painful, the nation must look ahead and move forward with resilience and unity.

Addressing a Tourism Secretaries' Meet of Union Territories here, Shekhawat had said, "We must not let one dark night define the future. We have to forget the Pahalgam terror attack as 'Amavas ki kali raat' and focus on building a brighter tomorrow."

CM Omar Abdullah.....

Boards. CM chaired back-to-back board meetings here at SKICC Srinagar. He presided over the 19th board meeting of SKICC which was attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Administrative Secretaries of Finance, Tourism, DG Planning, Director Tourism, MD JKTDC and Director SKICC.

Chief Minister emphasized the need for SKICC to emerge as a prominent place for conferences and other events so that the SKICC is utilized to its optimal level and it is able to earn sufficient revenue to bear its own expenses. He called upon the SKICC management to employ strategic marketing tools to acquaint corporates and private organizations about this facility which has the potential to be hub of activities all the year round. CM expressed concern over under-utilization of SKICC and asked Tourism department to build a distinct MICE brand identity for the SKICC so as to utilize this facility. "It is essential to target corporates, event planners, and government agencies to ensure higher bookings for SKICC and minimize unutilized days. This would help SKICC to augment its revenue", CM said during the meeting. CM also called upon making recoveries of outstanding dues pending with departments, private entities and individuals. CM also called for assigning clear roles to the staff and better supervision to get best out of the available human resource.

This was the first Board meeting of SKICC after the Board was recently reconstituted with Chief Minister as chairman of the Board. The last board meeting of the SKICC Board had been held in November 2020.

The agenda delved on action taken on decisions of previous board meetings, audit reports, reconciliation of accounts with AG's office, status of segregation of utilities between SKICC and Centaur Hotel which has been outsourced to Leela Palace & JSW Realty by the UT Administration last year, HR matters and absorption of Centaur Hotel staff in other organizations of Tourism department.

In another meeting, Chief Minister chaired 95th Board of Directors meeting of the J&K Tourism Development Corporation and stressed on the need to increase the visibility of JKTDC assets so that tourists and people in general seek accommodation in JKTDC hotels and guest houses earnestly. He called upon improving the services and facilities in JKTDC properties to enhance the experience of guests so that they prefer to take JKTDC accommodation every time they visit J&K.

CM expressed concern over misuse of JKTDC properties and revenue leakages. "Every single JKTDC asset be installed with an independent smart meter." CM asserted, underlining the need to improve monitoring of JKTDC huts and hotels and to check misuse of assets. He called upon improving the overnight-stay potential of huts in remote tourist areas. CM gave directions to make maximum number of rooms including premium ones available for better marketability through Online Travel Aggregators so that JKTDC hotels and huts are used to optimum capacity. He called for developing JKTDC App for efficient marketing and better accessibility to its services.

CM called for audit of assets to evaluate the lacunae and how to improve deficiencies. The JKTDC management was directed to adopt best practices being followed in the private sector to improve its functioning.

Among various agenda points discussed in JKTDC board meeting, the onboarding of Online Travel Aggregators for marketing and sale of hotel rooms and accommodations, reimbursement of outstanding dues from other departments, revision of rentals of JKTDC accommodation allotted to various departments & organizations, financial statements, unpaid dues of retired officials and action taken on previous board decisions figured prominently.

JKTDC Board meeting was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secy to Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Administrative Secretaries of Finance,

Tourism, Industries, DG Planning, Director of Tourism & Managing Director JKTDC.

Omar to meet.....

Omar Abdullah left for West Bengal on Wednesday, where he participated in a tourism-related event aimed at promoting Jammu and Kashmir as a safe and attractive travel destination.

"This will be the first meeting between the two Chief Ministers since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26 people dead," a senior official said. "The Chief Minister is keen on reviving the tourism sector, which was hit hard by the incident," he added.

According to officials, the visit is part of a larger outreach initiative by the J&K government to dispel apprehensions among travelers and restore confidence in the region's tourism industry. Omar is expected to meet key tourism stakeholders in West Bengal to brief them on the ground situation in Kashmir and encourage tourist inflow from the state.

"Bengal remains one of the biggest markets for Kashmir's tourism industry. The idea is to assure tourists and travel operators that Jammu and Kashmir is open, safe, and welcoming," an official familiar with the visit said.

Sources added that the J&K government has intensified efforts to promote the Union Territory as a prime travel destination. This includes launching targeted campaigns, organizing roadshows, and forming strategic partnerships with tour operators across several Indian states. (KINS)

Centre allocates.....

Kathua, Barnori, Duggan, and others) Kupwara: 14 roads, Rs 89 crore 68 lakh (including Hayma, Machil, Qadirabad) Budgam: 14 roads, Rs 88 crore 45 lakh (Pukherpora, Khan Sahib) Baramulla: 13 roads, Rs 95 crore 45 lakh (Baramulla, Bhijama, Uri) Kulgam: 13 roads, Rs 63 crore 29 lakh (Frisal, Manzgam, Damhal Hanjipora) Pulwama: 12 roads, Rs 97 crore 60 lakh (Aripal, Tral, Pampore) Bandipora: 9 roads, Rs 8 crore 57 lakh (Bandipora, Gurez, Hajin) Ganderbal: 8 roads, Rs 37 crore 90 lakh (Gund, Bracelet, Lar) Anantnag: 7 roads, Rs 3 crore 51 lakh (Bring, Pahalgam) Jammu: 6 roads, Rs 84 crore 31 lakh (Nagrota, Bhalbal Brahmana) Samba: 3 roads, Rs 67 crore 81 lakh (Nud, Purmandal, Samba)

Pertinently, the Union Ministry of Rural Development had initially sought detailed reports on roadless villages from the Jammu and Kashmir government. Following scrutiny by central officers dispatched from Delhi, the Ministry sanctioned the project and shared the final list with senior state officials.

The Public Works Department (PWD) of Jammu and Kashmir, as per sources, has already begun the tender allocation process after receiving approval from the Central Government.

The project aims to improve rural infrastructure and connectivity significantly, facilitating better access to markets, health-care, and educational institutions for residents of remote villages—(KNO)

Vande Bharat.....

exhibits, the Indian Pavilion, particularly the section dedicated to Indian Railways, has become a focal point of admiration," the ministry said in a press note.

"In the showcase, the magnificent Chenab Bridge, the world's highest Railway bridge soaring across the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir; the iconic Anji Khad Bridge, India's first cable-stayed rail bridge in the challenging Himalayan terrain; the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express trains, known for their speed and passenger comfort; and many more latest advancements in electric locomotives underscore India's commitment to sustainable mobility," it added.

According to officials, several Japanese visitors gathered around the Indian Railways exhibit, keenly listening to presentations about the genesis of one of the world's largest Rail networks and its incredible transformation over the decades.

The ministry stated that the blend of engineering marvels and sustainable technology left many in awe.

"Visitors have praised not only the scale of the projects but also India's vision of integrating modern infrastructure with environmental consciousness," the press note said.

The theme for the Expo 2025 is "Designing Future Society for Our Lives", with three sub-themes namely Saving Lives, Empowering Lives and Connecting Lives, beautifully aligns with the Indian Railways' vision of delivering safe, inclusive and sustainable transportation, it added.

The officials said the Indian Railways through interactive sessions and immersive digital displays is actively engaging global audiences, reinforcing its image as a modern, innovative and eco-conscious mobility leader. (Agencies)

Fresh rains.....

72-year-old record by witnessing a

maximum temperature of 37.4 degrees on 5 July.

However, the intermittent rainfall that continued over the last three days has cooled down the temperature, with Srinagar recording a maximum of 22.7 degrees - 8.0 degrees below normal.

Similarly, Qazigund, a gateway to Kashmir, recorded 23.1 degrees, which was 5.5 degrees below normal, while Pahalgam's temperature settled at 20.5 degrees - 5.7 degrees below normal.

In Kokernag, the mercury settled at 23.9 degrees - 3.4 degrees below normal; Kupwara recorded 23.8 degrees - 7.3 degrees below normal; and Gulmarg, a famous ski resort, recorded 15.6 degrees - 6.2 degrees below normal.

Meanwhile, the Jammu region also recorded below-normal temperatures, with Jammu city recording a maximum of 31.4 degrees - 4.0 degrees below normal.

Banihal recorded 25.5 degrees (3.8 degrees below normal), Batote 23.3 degrees (4.2 degrees below normal), Katra 28.8 degrees (3.4 degrees below normal), and Bhandarwah 25.4 degrees (5.6 degrees below normal).

Moreover, the Director of the Meteorological Department (MeT), Dr Mukhtar Ahmad, said that generally cloudy weather is expected tomorrow, with the possibility of intermittent light to moderate rain and thundershowers at many places. "A few places in Kashmir and Jammu divisions may receive intense showers and torrential rain, with the possibility of heavy rain at isolated places in Jammu division," he said.

He added that from 11 to 13 July, hot and humid weather is expected again, with the possibility of a spell of light rain and thundershowers at scattered places. A spell of light to moderate rain and thundershowers is also anticipated at many places from 14 to 16 July.

Furthermore, the MeT has issued an advisory stating that there is a possibility of intense showers at a few places in J&K, with the potential for heavy rain at isolated locations in Jammu division.

"Flash floods are expected at some vulnerable spots, along with landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones until tomorrow," it reads. It also warns of a possible rise in water levels in rivers, streams, local Nalas, and waterlogging in some low-lying areas.

Additionally, farmers have been advised to suspend irrigation and other farm operations until tomorrow. (KNO)

Police invoke.....

The fraud came to light when Arun Sharma, a resident of Nagrota, filed a complaint on 6 November 2024, leading to the registration of FIR No. 293/2024 under Sections 319(2), 318(4), 336(2), 336(3), 338, and 340(2) of the BNS at Police Station Nagrota, Jammu. The accused was arrested the following day.

Investigation revealed that a sale agreement was executed between Kamaljeet Kour (wife of Suriender Singh) and the accused's mother, Paramjeet Kour, to the tune of Rs 2.22 crore for the purchase of a double-storey duplex building constructed over 8 marlas of land in Channi Bheja, Tehsil Bahu Fort, Jammu. Moreover, an amount of Rs 1,93,50,000 was received by Suriender Singh (co-accused) and his wife from accused Harpreet through online transactions and cash. The amount paid by Harpreet Singh was proceeds of crime collected from innocent victims in lieu of providing government jobs.

Acting on a police plea, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, passed an attachment order on 18 January 2025 under Section 107(5) BNS, which was executed by Tehsildar Bahu. A 14-day show cause notice was issued to the accused to justify the source of funds used in the transaction, failing which the property was to be auctioned.

During court proceedings, based on clinching evidence presented by the Investigating Officer, Kamaljeet Kour made a judicial admission that she had received Rs 1.53 crore from the accused. In a significant development, she voluntarily agreed to refund the amount, initially committing to deposit 50 lakhs within 7 days and the remaining Rs 1.03 crores within two months. Moreover, an amount of Rs 40,50,000 - being a disputed sum - can be proved only during trial. The Court ruled that the attachment order shall remain in effect until the admitted amount is fully deposited. It also prohibited the seller from creating any third-party interest in the property. The SSP Jammu was directed to open a dedicated account for collecting and distributing the recovered funds among the verified victims.

Today, the recovered amount of Rs 75 lakh has been distributed equally among 17 victims through cheques. This marks the first instance in the UT of J&K under BNS where defrauded money has been returned to victims, exemplifying the law's focus on justice, accountability, and restitution.

The case was meticulously investigated by Inspector Parvez Sajad (SHO Nagrota), under the supervision of DySP Vinod Kundal (SDPO Nagrota), with overall oversight by SP Rural Brijesh Sharma and SSP Jammu Joginder

Singh. Legal assistance was provided by Senior Prosecuting Officer Altaf Wahid, DPO Jammu and financial expertise by Accounts Officer Kamal Bhagat.

This breakthrough demonstrates a strong legal and administrative resolve to tackle economic offences and restore public trust. It sets a crucial precedent for future enforcement under the BNS and reflects the evolving framework of a more responsive and victim-oriented criminal justice system.

Operatives purchased.....

Improvised Explosive Device (IED) through the e-commerce platform Amazon (EPOM).

The report states that the attack was planned and carried out by the group Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) terrorists and the investigations revealed that a large quantity of explosives was moved across the border into India for the attack. "The aluminium powder procured online was used to enhance the impact of the blast," it adds.

The FATF report said that the case demonstrates the ways in which terrorist groups are using commercial platforms to access materials that can be used in attacks. "The use of legitimate business infrastructure, such as e-commerce services, poses a growing challenge to counter-terrorist financing efforts," it added.

As a result of the investigation, nineteen individuals were charged under provisions of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, including sections related to terrorist financing.

Among those charged were seven foreign nationals, including the suicide bomber.

Law enforcement agencies recovered moveable and immovable assets connected to the operation, including vehicles and locations used as hideouts.

The FATF said that jurisdictions should work with private sector entities to improve oversight of transactions involving dual-use materials. It added that enhanced coordination between financial intelligence units, law enforcement agencies, and e-commerce providers is necessary to address the misuse of online platforms in support of terrorist activities.

Pertinently, in Pulwama terror attack case on August 25, 2020, the National Investigation Agency (NIA) filed a 13,500-page chargesheet in a special NIA court in Jammu. The chargesheet named 19 accused, including Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) chief Masood Azhar, his brothers Abdul Rauf Asghar and Ammar Alvi, and his nephew Mohammed Umar Farooq, who was later killed in an encounter in 2019.

The NIA stated that the attack was directed by JeM's Pakistan-based leadership, with clear digital, forensic, and oral evidence establishing links between local operatives in India and their Pakistani handlers.

The NIA further noted that Adil Ahmad Dar, the suicide bomber, was deliberately projected as a local terrorist to give the impression that the attack was home-grown. However, investigations revealed extensive planning, logistics, and material support from across the border.

The NIA also named six individuals still at large, including Mohammad Ismail, Sameer Ahmad Dar, and Ashaq Ahmed Nengroo all of whom had fled to Pakistan in addition to Masood Azhar, Rauf Asghar, and Ammar Alvi—(KNO)

Doctors' Shortage.....

were made to bridge the gaps. Minister, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said "the shortage of doctors is something we inherited. You can't expect things to be fixed in one year when for six years there were no doctors, no medical staff and no proper infrastructure. These are problems that take time to resolve."

She said that under the leadership of Omar Abdullah, the current administration has taken steps to address the crisis, particularly by strengthening human resources in the health sector. "We issued 309 appointment orders to degree-holders to serve in remote and underserved areas. Recently, another 111 appointments were made to further bridge the gap in healthcare delivery."

On specialist recruitment, the Minister highlighted that consultant-level appointments through the Services Selection Board (SSB) have also progressed and efforts are underway to deploy them effectively.

However, Itoo admitted that despite upgrades in infrastructure, new post creations and essential facilities like equipment, medical assistants and support staff have lagged. "Buildings were constructed quickly, but they lack basic medical equipment and manpower. We need to consolidate these efforts now."

She appealed to all stakeholders to work together for systemic improvement.

"We need support from everyone - the media, the public and all departments, to strengthen healthcare delivery. The administration remains committed to bringing lasting change," she added.

Regarding GMC Baramulla, the Minister said that the government is committed to strengthening healthcare infrastructure. She highlighted that important requirements, such as a Cath Lab, MRI facility and other critical equipment, have already been sanctioned through budget allocations supported by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in the assembly. "These provisions are being made to ensure that patients with heart-related issues or those requiring MRI scans receive timely treatment right here," she said.

She acknowledged that while gaps remain, significant progress has been made over time. "Since this government took over, appointment orders for 500 new doctors have been issued, especially for deployment in far-flung areas," she stated, underlining the administration's focus on rural healthcare delivery.

Reflecting on past inefficiencies, Itoo said that poor governance over the last 8-9 years had led to a breakdown in work culture, with some doctors skipping duty to run private clinics. "That has changed now. Accountability has improved and patient care is gradually being restored," she asserted.

"While challenges remain, we are working to improve things step by step," she added.

Responding to concerns raised by journalists over selective media access during high-profile government visits, she said that such exclusions are unfair and should be addressed with consistency and transparency.

She acknowledged the vital role media plays in conveying both the government's challenges and achievements to the public. "If government issues and achievements don't reach the people, it becomes difficult for them to understand what the administration is doing," she said.

The Minister, however, said that sometimes meetings include discussions that are not meant for public dissemination. But if one media outlet is allowed inside, then all should be permitted. Either allow everyone or no one - that's only fair. "If this happened today, I would say sorry. But next time, it won't be repeated."—(KNO)

All-Weather.....

valley, Education Minister Sakina Itoo on Wednesday said that weather-based academic decisions are necessary in a region as climatically diverse and challenging as J&K.

Speaking with reporters in Baramulla, Itoo, as per news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that the extreme climatic conditions, especially harsh winters make it practically impossible to implement uniform infrastructure solutions across the board.

"With around 28,000 schools in J&K, it's simply not possible to provide heating in each one during the winter. This is not America, this is Jammu and Kashmir, where we have to make decisions based on the weather realities of the region," she said while replying to a query on whether the government can ensure all-weather feasible schools.

The health and safety of students remain the government's top priority, the Minister added. "You cannot cancel winter vacations and force children to attend school in sub-zero conditions just for the sake of continuity. The snow, the cold and the terrain all play a factor," she asserted.

On the issue of early school timings in the Valley, the Minister acknowledged the public concern but defended the earlier decision, citing the intense heatwave that swept the Valley.

"We are grateful as we had all been praying for rain. The heat had reached a level rarely experienced before in Kashmir. The early morning schedule was implemented to protect students from heat-related distress while keeping academics on track," she said.

However, with weather conditions now improving and feedback pouring in from parents, she hinted that the government is open to reviewing school timings. "We will do whatever we can to ensure that students continue their education without discomfort or disruption," she said. It is noteworthy that the School Education Department faced severe criticism over its decision to implement early school timings—from 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM within Srinagar municipal limits and from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM in other areas.

The move, aimed at protecting students from the intense summer heat, drew backlash from parents, educators and civil society groups who cited concerns over student health, safety and logistical challenges, particularly in rural and hilly regions—(KNO)



DC Srinagar reviews sanctioning of cases of entrepreneurs under Mission Yuva

Stresses on time bound disposal & sanctioning of cases of enterprises in Srinagar under Mission YUVA

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 09: In order to ensure swift and seamless implementation of Mission YUVA scheme aimed to facilitate the success of enterprises in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo on Wednesday chaired a meeting here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex.

At the outset, DC took a department wise review in implementation of Mission Yuva scheme and stressed the stakeholder departments to ensure swift and seamless implementation of the scheme to facilitate

the success of youth-led enterprises in the district. DC stressed strong on-ground implementation and effective interdepartmental coordination to avoid delays in sanctioning & disposal of benefits to the eligible beneficiaries. He directed regular performance monitoring of progress under Mission YUVA on a daily basis and convening District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meetings every Wednesday till the disposal of all the received applications. On the occasion, DC asked the stakeholder departments to redouble the efforts to ensure swift processing/verification and uploading of Mission Yuva cases on the portal.



He stressed on implementation of Mission YUVA into a viable platform for empowering youth through sustainable self-employment and entrepreneurship ecosystem in the district. Earlier, DC took a detailed appraisal about the status of awareness campaigns going on at Panchayat level, Municipal Wards of the district aimed to cover all eligible beneficiaries under Mission Yuva.

He also evaluated the progress of DPR formulation by the stakeholder departments including EDI, DIC, DSEO and Employment department and was informed that as many as 329 DPRs have been formulated so far and are being submitted to DLIC for

accord of approval.

During the meeting, detailed information was given on the status of Mission YUVA including the number of applications received, processed, sanctioned, etc under the scheme. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; General Manager DIC, Hamida Akhtar; SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, Deputy Director Employment, Dr. Sheeba, DSEO, Shah Ismail Bangroo, LDM(Banks), Nilofar Jan and Officers from EDI, NABARD, NRLM, Agriculture and other concerned Departments.

Javid Dar chairs a reviews meeting of irrigation facilities in rain-fed areas

HT NEWS DESK



SRINAGAR, JULY 9: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today chaired a meeting to review the irrigation facilities and identify areas for improvement in rain-fed areas of J&K at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar.

The meeting assessed the current situation and explored the strategies to further enhance irrigation infrastructure and water management practices to benefit the farmers community.

Director Command Areas Development, Kashmir; CEO IWMP; Chief Engineer PHE Kashmir; Superintendent Engineer, PHE Mechanical Circle North; Executive Engineer PHE, Ground Water Division Kashmir; Chief Agriculture Officer Baramulla and other concerned officials attended the meeting.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to workout potential solutions like implementing modern irrigation technologies, improving water storage and distribution networks and promoting the water conservation practices.

Dar emphasized the government's commitment towards bolstering the agricultural sector, with a particular focus on enhancing the irrigation facilities in rain-dependent areas, to support the farmers and improve crop productivity.

The Minister directed the concerned to identify the suitable site in solely rain-fed areas of the districts where borewell can be taken up under various schemes.

Javid Dar emphasised the need for intensifying the awareness campaigns and providing training to farmers on water conservation techniques, efficient irrigation methods and sustainable farming practices.

Jal Shakti department promotes 23 Junior Engineers as Assistant Engineers

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 09: The Jal Shakti Department has issued promotion order for 23 Junior Engineers as Assistant Engineers, vide Government Order No. 167-JK (JSD) of 2025 dated July 7, 2025.

The promotion orders were issued by Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti, Shaleen Kabra. The move is expected to enhance the human resource capacity besides improving the water supply management in Jammu & Kashmir.

Jal Shakti Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, has congratulated the elevated engineers, expressing hope that their promotion will further motivate them to contribute to the department's mission.

Rana has directed the authorities to immediately refer accrued vacancies to the recruiting agency for fast-track recruitment, ensuring timely filling of critical positions.

The Jal Shakti department has been actively working to strengthen its human resource capacity, filling hundreds of promotional vacancies across various levels, from Assistant Engineers to Chief Engineers.

DLSA Srinagar launches 90-Day 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign

Chairman holds strategic review meet with judicial officers

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 09: In a determined push to strengthen alternative dispute resolution mechanisms and bring justice closer to the people, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, under the leadership of Tasleem Arief (Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar and Chairman, DLSA), convened a high-level review meeting with all judicial officers of district Sri-

nagar. The meeting marked the formal launch of the ambitious 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign, a 90-day nationwide drive aimed at promoting mediation as a time-bound, efficient, and relationship-preserving tool of justice.

The campaign, as envisioned by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA), seeks to identify and resolve a wide range of pending



matters civil disputes, family conflicts, commercial cases, MACT claims, land acquisition

matters, bank recovery suits, and compoundable criminal cases, through structured and effective mediation processes in every court of the district.

Addressing the Ld. Judicial officers, Chairman DLSA called mediation 'the justice of tomorrow delivered today,' and stressed that mediation not only reduces the burden on courts but also restores peace, dignity, and mutual respect between disputing parties. He urged all judicial officers

to actively spearhead the identification of suitable cases and promote a culture of dialogue and reconciliation in their respective courts. "This drive is not just about resolving cases, it's about transforming how we deliver justice. Mediation empowers people to settle disputes amicably, without prolonged litigation. We appeal to the litigant public to embrace this opportunity and resolve their disputes with dignity, speed, and satisfaction," said.

Editors' Forum Meets Director Information, Secures Assurance on Enhanced Ad Rates

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 9, CNS: A delegation from the Editors Coordination Forum of Journalists, comprising representatives from 30 newspapers across Jammu and Kashmir, on Wednesday held a detailed meeting with the Director of Information and Public Relations Nitish Rajora (IAS) to discuss concerns surrounding government advertisements and pending dues. During the meeting, several editors raised serious concerns about the alleged blocking of advertisements to their respective publications. They conveyed that despite being empanelled, their papers had not received



government advertisements for a prolonged period, which was adversely impacting their operations. In response, the Director clarified that no advertisements had been blocked. He explained that the department is currently implementing a rationalization policy to streamline the distribution of advertisements and ensure transparency and equity in the system. Importantly, the Director Nitish Rajora assured the

forum that member publications will be given advertisements at rates higher than the current ones, as part of a broader commitment to support the working journalists and sustain the media industry in the Union Territory. He acknowledged the critical role that local newspapers play in shaping public discourse and promised that all genuine concerns will be addressed. The Editors Coordination Forum appreciated the

Director for his patient hearing and positive response. They described the interaction as cordial and productive, expressing gratitude for the Director's openness and willingness to resolve long-standing issues.

"The Director met us warmly and addressed our issues with sincerity. We are thankful to him for giving us a patient hearing and assuring us of fair treatment in advertisement distribution," a spokesperson of the Editors' Coordination Forum said after the meeting. The forum also welcomed the Director's commitment to uphold the dignity of journalistic institutions and ensure their survival in a challenging media landscape. (CNS)

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates State-of-Art main building of GDC Boniyar

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 09: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated the State of Art main building of Government Degree College (GDC) Boniyar here today.

MLA Uri Dr. Sajjad Shafi; MLA Baramulla Javed Hassan Baig; Director Colleges Dr. Firdous Ahmad Giri; Principal GDC Boniyar, Professor Parveen Kousar; faculty members of college; students and locals were present during the inaugural ceremony.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister emphasized government's commitment towards providing equitable access to quality education in remote and rural areas. "This new infrastructure is not just a building, it is a symbol of government's vision to empower the youth of Boniyar with knowledge, opportunity and a bright future", she stated.

Highlighting various initiatives of the government regarding development of education sector, Sakeena outlined that this upgraded infrastructure would significantly enhance the academic environment in the college and attract more students from the surrounding areas.

Rana inaugurates Officer's Block at Deers HQ Bemina Reviews GIS leveraging for forests conservation, management

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 09: Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated the newly constructed Officer's Block at Deers Headquarters in Bemina, marking a significant step towards enhancing the department's infrastructure and operational efficiency. The ceremony was attended by Commissioner Secretary, Forest, Ecology & Environment, Sheetal Nanda, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta and other senior officers. The building has been constructed by PWD/R&B Division Srinagar with an expenditure amounting Rs 128.019 lakh. During the inauguration, the Minister emphasized that the new facility would streamline administrative operations and provide a modern and efficient work environment for officers.



He highlighted Omar Abdullah-led Government's commitment towards improving the infrastructure, leading to better conservation and management of forests. The Minister appreciated the Deers HQ for setting up an office suited to current times besides improving the overall administrative

efficiency of the department. Later, the Minister reviewed the functioning of Ecology, Environment and Remote Sensing and inspected the Geographical Information System (GIS) lab. Rana underscored the importance of GIS in leveraging technology for efficient and

precise tracking and management of forest resources. He noted that GIS plays a crucial role in safeguarding J&K's rich biodiversity and fostering sustainable development.

The GIS system captures and analyzes a range of geographical data to help departments and organizations make long-term plans regarding biodiversity richness, flood-prone areas, climate change issues and forest fire-prone areas.

The Minister was briefed about the department's working including the completed and ongoing projects besides the future expansion plans. He appreciated the department's performance on some of the pressing issues related to ecology and environment.

The officers also highlighted their issues and concerns hampering department's functioning and sought Minister's intervention in redress of the same.

Sakeena Ito visits GMC Baramulla, reviews healthcare services, hospital infrastructure

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 09: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Baramulla and chaired a meeting to review the status of healthcare delivery, patient care services and hospital infrastructure at the facility.

MLA Baramulla, Javed Hasan Baig; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Wagoor Kreeer; Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone; MLA Uri, Dr. Sajjad Shafi; Director Health Services Kashmir, Principal GMC Baramulla, Additional Deputy Commissioner Baramulla and other senior officers of district administration attended the meeting.

Addressing the officers in the meeting, the Minister emphasized on the need for enhancing the patient care facilities, streamlining service delivery and strengthening coordination among the departments to ensure that quality healthcare services reach every citizen. "Health



is a fundamental right and remains a top priority of the government. There is no room for compromise in this important sector of society", she stated.

The Minister called for an enhanced patient-centric approach in healthcare service delivery. She urged the medical fraternity to adopt a friendly and compassionate attitude while treating the patients. She said that ensuring transparency and dedication in service delivery should be the top priority, adding that government doctors must prioritize their official duties over private practice. Highlighting that the

nostic Block which will improve the quality of healthcare at this prestigious health facility of North Kashmir.

The Minister added that Dialysis facilities at SDHs and CHCs besides AI based X-Ray machines and other facilities will also be established in various hospitals and health centres of Baramulla. She also said that digital X-Ray facility will be established at GMC Baramulla in few months for enhanced patient care.

During the meeting, the MLAs raised several critical issues including the duty rosters and round-the-clock presence of doctors, shortage of human resources in the health sector and the need for improved sanitation across the healthcare institutions.

Earlier, the GMC representatives presented a detailed presentation, highlighting various aspects of healthcare delivery at GMC Baramulla, including patient footfall, staff deployment, infrastructure setup and ongoing development works.

government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is ensuring prime focus on development of health sector, Sakeena Ito said that an MRI (3 Tesla) worth Rs. 25 crore and Cath Lab worth Rs. 12.50 crore will be established in GMC Baramulla during the current financial year. She added that these facilities will enhance the diagnostic and interventional care for the residents of North Kashmir and its adjoining areas.

The Minister said that around 50 kanal of land has been transferred to GMC for establishment of separate OPD block and Diag-

ADC Kupwara visits Drugmulla, undertakes inspection of govt. offices

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JULY 09: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad Rather conducted a surprise inspection of various government offices in the Drugmulla Tehsil today. The inspection covered several government

offices including the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) Drugmulla, Tehsil Office Drugmulla, Block Development office (BDO) Drugmulla, and Government Girls Middle School Bumhama.

During the visit, ADC observed that a number of employees at the BDO office were found unauthorisedly absent from duty. While reviewing the

functioning of the Tehsil Office Drugmulla, NTPHC Drugmulla, and the Government Girls Middle School Bumhama, ADC expressed satisfaction on their overall working. He appreciated the commitment of staff at these offices and institutions.

At the Government Middle School Bumhama, he held an interactive session with the teaching staff and

emphasized the need to strictly adhere to the online class schedule, urging teachers to follow it in letter and spirit to ensure uninterrupted learning for students.

District administration reiterated its commitment to maintaining accountability and improving service delivery across all departments in Kupwara district.

DC Kishtwar chairs DLC meeting regarding verification of PMAY (Urban) 2.0 beneficiary cases

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JULY 09: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma convened 2nd District Level Committee (DLC) meeting regarding Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- PMAY (Urban) 2.0 beneficiary verification in the district Kishtwar.

Out of 40 cases reviewed, 38 were rejected due to non-fulfillment of guidelines and eligibility criteria, while 2 cases are pending for title verification.

The DC directed Tehsildar Kishtwar to facilitate the applicants of pending



cases for expeditious disposal, emphasizing the importance of transparency and proper identification of eligible beneficiaries to ensure time-

ly benefits reach deserving households.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Pawan Kotwal; Tehsildar, Nirbhay Sharma; DSWO Zubair Ahmed; Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Mirza Mumtaz Iqbal; Tehsildar HQ Sunali Rani besides concerned officers and officials.

The District Administration reaffirmed its commitment to the successful implementation of PMAY (Urban), aligning with the vision of "Housing for All."

DC Ramban Reviews Health Department Performance, Emphasizes on Schemes Saturation, Outreach & Preventive Care

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JULY 9: A comprehensive review meeting of the District Health Society (DHS), Ramban was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, to assess the performance and achievements of the health department across various verticals. The meeting focused on evaluating ongoing initiatives, identifying gaps in service delivery, and issuing directions to strengthen the district's public health infrastructure. The meeting was

attended by ACP Ashfaq Ahmed, ACD Shrinath Suman, Executive Engineer PWD Ranjeet Singh, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Kamal Jee Zadoo, DHO Dr. Mohd Iqbal Malik, Medical Superintendent DH Ramban Dr. Sudarshan Singh Katoch, District Tuberculosis Officer Dr. Naseer, BMO Batote Dr. Opinder Singh Raseem, BMO Banihal Dr. Shabir Ahmed, and other concerned officials.

During the meeting, the DC was informed that the district, with an estimated population of over 3.39 lakh, is served by a network of 122 health institutions,

including a District Hospital, Trauma Centre, 3 Community Health Centres (CHCs), 9 Primary Health Centres (PHCs), 23 New Type PHCs, and 85 Sub-Centres (SCs). However, staffing remains a challenge, with 268 vacancies in general health services and 61 under the National Health Mission yet to be filled. The DC called for immediate efforts to fill these posts to ensure optimal functioning of health facilities. The Deputy Commissioner evaluated the encouraging progress in key health indicators such as OPD/IPD footfall, institu-

tional deliveries, diagnostics, and surgeries. While reviewing the Ayushman Bharat PMJAY scheme, the DC noted 94.92% saturation in registration and claims exceeding Rs. 636 lakh for over 10,900 patients. He directed the concerned officers to ensure 100% saturation in registration across the district.

Reviewing the performance under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, the DC instructed health authorities to intensify X-ray testing, case detection, and prompt treatment of TB cases.

DC Rajouri chairs DRSC meeting to enhance preparedness ahead of Budha Amarnath Yatra

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JULY 09: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a comprehensive meeting of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the steps taken so far to enhance road safety and issued a series of directions to further streamline efforts. He stressed the urgent need to install road safety devices, strip markings, speed limit signages and conduct safety audits of identified accident-prone hot spots across the district.

In view of the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra, the DC asked the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to visit all black spots in coordination with the Transport, Traffic and PWD

Departments. He emphasized immediate identification and rectification of such black spots to ensure the safety of yatis, army convoys and the general public.

To address traffic congestion and parking-related issues, the DC called for the regularization and proper documentation of departmental lands for use as designated parking zones. He also instructed the identification of land for bus and taxi stands. The officers were directed to identify and notify zones for street vending to streamline roadside activities and avoid encroachments.

Further, the DC instructed concerned departments to issue notices to illegal occupants who have encroached upon departmental roads through constructions like stairs or drains. He emphasized the need for visible and standardized road signage

near CHCs, PHCs and critical points with details such as contact numbers of nearby police stations to aid in emergency response.

The installation of crash barriers at vulnerable stretches was also stressed to prevent mishaps. The DC underlined the importance of raising awareness regarding the Cashless Treatment Scheme for road accident victims, ensuring timely and free medical care in emergencies.

The meeting was attended by ADC Rajouri Chander Prakash, ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, Additional SP Bikram Kumar, SE PWD Tilak Raj, Ex En PWD Aftab Ahmed, CMO Dr. Manohar Lal, Dy.SP Traffic, ARTO Rajouri, representatives of BRO, Ex En PMGSY, Executive Officers of Municipalities and other concerned district and sectoral officers.

Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway: DC Samba holds land compensation disbursement camp at Vijaypur

HT NEWS DESK

SAMBA, JULY 09: In a significant move towards infrastructural development, the District Administration Samba today disbursed compensation amounting to 2,96,87,143 among 40 beneficiaries from five villages under the land acquisition for the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway project. A special compensation disbursement camp was organized at Vijaypur, where the compensation was handed over to the rightful landowners. The event was held under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma. Also present during the camp were Additional Commissioner Revenue (ACR) Samba, SDM Vijaypur and other concerned officials who ensured a smooth and transparent process. The DC reiterated the commitment of the district administration to ensure timely disbursement of compensation and emphasized the importance of the expressway in enhancing regional connectivity, economic growth and citizen convenience. The beneficiaries appreciated the prompt action taken by the administration and expressed satisfaction over the hassle-free and transparent compensation process.

5-day Civil Defence Training for retired Ex-Servicemen commences at Doda

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JULY 09: A five-day Civil Defence Basic Training Course for retired ex-servicemen of district Doda commenced today at the SDRF Complex, Doda. The programme is being organised in collaboration with the SDRF team and the Zila Sainik Welfare Office (ZSWO) Doda, under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner, Harvinder Singh and the supervision of the Zila Sainik Welfare Officer, Wg Cdr Tirath Singh ((Retd.).

The training is conducted under the close supervision of Dy. Superintendent of Police (DAR) cum I/C Deputy Controller, Civil Defence & SDRF Component, Doda.

On the first day, SDRF instructors delivered informative lectures on key topics including the history and relevance of civil defence, twelve civil defence services (with a focus on the wardens' service) and essential life-saving techniques such as CPR during cardiac arrest.

IUST inaugurates Two-Day Audio-Visual Technical Workshop

HT NEWS DESK

AWANTIPORA, JULY 9: The Directorate of IT & Support Services (DIT&SS), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), Kashmir commenced a Two-Day Audio-Visual Technical Workshop today. The workshop aims to build hands-on expertise among the university's technical staff in the domain of modern AV systems, live broadcast operations, and real-time troubleshooting strategies. Key sessions are being conducted by seasoned professionals from Doordarshan Kendra Srinagar, including Mr. A.K. Srivastava and Mr. Asif N. Khan, who are bringing valuable practical insights into studio operations, equipment management, and live production workflows.

The inaugural session was graced by Registrar, Prof. Ab Wahid Makhdoomi, who lauded the initiative and emphasized the importance of technical upskilling to meet the evolving demands of digital learning environments and event broadcasting.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate in favour of AB QAYOOM MIR S/O MOHD ASSADULLAH MIR R/O HAIL Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of income dependent certificate in his/her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the under signefor the issuance of income Dependent certificate. in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant family consists of (06) members and the annual income of the applicant family from all sources consists of Rs 74000// (the details of family of the applicant are as follows

- 1... DISHADA 43 wife House Wife
- 2...AARIB QAYOOM son 28 year. Labour
- 3...JANBAZ QAYOOM son 26 years //
- 4...SAQLAN son 24 years //
- 5... SHAHIDA QAYOOM daughter 22 years H/M

it is further submitted that AB QAYOOM MIR S/O MOHD ASSADULLAH MIR is Labour by profession and is sole earning hand in the said family. The applicant needs income Dependent certificate in favour of Self if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

اطلاع عام

رخاص عام کو اطلاع دی جاتی ہے کہ میری گاڑی ایکو زیڈ نمبر JK 03N 7248 کے تمام کاغذات منموال اسی فٹنس پرڈمٹ چوری ہوگی ہے اب ان کاغذات کی ڈبلگیٹ نکالنی مطلوب ہے یہی کو کو بی عور ہو تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر ARTO است ناگ کے دفتر میں پیش کرے نسار احمد وانی ولد غلام حسن وانی ساکن پھلگام

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Qonsar Jabeen, holder of Account Number 0391040100006574 with Jammu & Kashmir Bank, state that my name has been inadvertently recorded as Kousnar Rasool Bandy, which is incorrect. My correct name is Qonsar Jabeen. I am applying for correction of name in the bank's records accordingly. If anyone has any objection to this change, they may contact the J&K Bank Corporate Headquarters within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. After this period, no objections shall be entertained.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Arifa Akhter, D/O Ghulam Mohammad Sofi, W/O Tawseef Habib, R/O Muslimabad, Bandipora, 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

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection is registered on my Father's name MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT .Now this Connection bearing Consumer ID NO 012040015820 wants to be registered on my name MOHAMMAD SHAFI BHAT S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT .If anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may file his/her objection in the concerned PDD office within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..MOHAMMAD SHAFI BHAT S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN BHAT R/O SALOOSA

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sarafraz Ahmad Bula, have changed my name to Sarafraz Ahmad Bulland. In future, I shall be known as Sarafraz Ahmad Bulland for all official and personal purposes. If anyone has any objection to this name change, they may contact the Passport Office, Srinagar within seven (7) days of publication of this notice. After that, no objection will be entertained.



Name:-Sarafraz Ahmad Bulland

Director Panchayati Raj reviews RGSA progress; calls for accelerated implementation

Progress of PGs, CSC rooms, PLCs assessed; field visits, timely execution stressed

HT NEWS DESK
SRINAGAR, JULY 09: Director Panchayati Raj, Jammu and Kashmir, Sham Lal, on Wednesday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with Assistant Commissioners' Panchayat (ACP) to assess the progress of key components under the Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA). The review covered the construction of Panchayat Ghars (PGs), nomination of Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs), development of Model Women Friendly Gram Panchayats, and geo-tagging of PGs through the Meri Panchayat App. Director emphasized that quality must not be compromised in the execution of rural infrastructure projects. He directed ACPs to ensure strict monitoring of construction

works, material usage, and to maintain standards as per RGSA guidelines. As per the 2023-24 targets, Director instructed ACPs to ensure completion of at least 443 Panchayat Ghars by March next year. He also called for a joint review with Executive Engineers to assess the quality and pace of work. Reviewing the status of Panchayat Ghars where land is available but work has not started, Sham Lal urged officers to expedite decisions and commence construction wherever land is feasible and dispute-free. For Panchayats where land has not yet been identified, he asked for immediate finalization of locations. In disputed cases, he directed joint site inspections with the Revenue department to resolve issues promptly. Director stressed the

urgency of nominating Gram Panchayats for four Panchayat Learning Centres (PLCs) per district. He informed that 40 PLCs have been approved under the Annual Action Plan of RGSA for FY 2025-26. Only Panchayats with existing Panchayat Ghars are to be considered. Sham Lal emphasized that these centres should serve as institutionalized training hubs for elected representatives and the rural population. He also reviewed the construction of additional rooms in Panchayat Ghars for co-location of Common Service Centres (CSCs). He said that 668 rooms will be completed, marking significant progress in enhancing grassroots digital service delivery. Underscoring the government's commitment to gender-inclusive governance, he reiterated the impor-

importance of developing Model Women Friendly Gram Panchayats. A total of 20 Gram Panchayats 10 each in Kashmir and Jammu divisions have been identified. "These Panchayats will serve as examples of gender equity, with emphasis on safety, participation, and accessibility for women," Sham Lal said. He also instructed officers to accelerate geo-tagging of all Panchayat Ghars using the 'Meri Panchayat' mobile app, stressing that the process must be completed within a stipulated time frame to ensure transparency and real-time monitoring. Additionally, Sham Lal highlighted the strategic importance of the Project for Creating Model Gram Panchayat Clusters (PCMGPCCs), a national initiative now directly implemented by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj (MoPR).

PM-FME workshop/awareness programme held at KVK Putshahi Bandipora

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JULY 09: In a significant move to promote rural entrepreneurship and empower micro food processing enterprises, department of Sheep Husbandry Bandipora—designated as the Nodal Department for the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme organized a workshop-cum-awareness programme at KVK Putshahi Bandipora. The event aimed to sensitize stakeholders about the various facets of the PMFME scheme and provide on-the-spot support for beneficiary registration. Dr. Peer Irshad, District Nodal Officer (PMFME), briefed the participants on the broader vision of the scheme, emphasizing its role in providing financial and technical assis-



tance to individual entrepreneurs, Self Help Groups (SHGs), and Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). He underlined the scheme's potential to boost rural livelihoods and promote value addition in the local agriculture. Wali ul Islam, District Resource Person, conducted an in-depth session outlining the key components, eligibility criteria, and application procedures of the scheme. He urged participants to utilize the scheme to develop viable, self-sustaining food processing enterprises. He also facilitated on-the-spot registration of

interested beneficiaries, streamlining their access to the scheme. The programme witnessed an enthusiastic response from over 80 farmers and budding entrepreneurs, who actively participated in the interactive discussions. One of the highlights of the event was an inspiring interaction with Shaheena, a successful 'Lakhpati Didi' and beneficiary of the PMFME scheme. She shared her entrepreneurial journey, detailing how she scaled up her food processing unit, Madumati Products, to include a rice mill, oil expeller, and spice processing setup. Using locally sourced ingredients such as water chestnuts from Wular Lake, she showcased how traditional resources can be transformed into high-value products. Her story served as a powerful example of the scheme's impact, particularly in empowering women-led enterprises.

District Development Council Shopian finalizes District Capex Plan 2025-26

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JULY 09: District Development Council (DDC) Shopian today convened a meeting at Mini Secretariat Shopian in order to finalize the District Capex Plan for Rural Development for the financial year 2025-26.

At the outset, members discussed the plan in detail and scrutinised the sector-wise allocation of funds earmarked for various developmental works under the District Capex Plan. On the occasion, DDC members highlighted key developmental concerns from their respective constituencies, and put forth suggestions aimed at improving the performance and delivery of various departments.

A threadbare discussion was held on the development and prioritization of important infrastructure projects in the district.

After extensive deliberations, District Development Council unanimously approved the Area Develop-



ment Plan under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, comprising more than 900 works amounting to Rs 999 lacs.

The meeting witnessed the presence of DDC members, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Executive Engineer REW, Block Development Officers of various blocks, and other district and sectoral officers.

DC Kupwara visits Machil, inspects ongoing dev works

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JULY 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan today conducted an extensive tour of border area Machil to inspect various ongoing developmental projects.

During the visit, DC inspected ongoing construction of Ring Payeen-Ring Bala road coming up at a cost of Rs.2.69 crore. She impressed upon the officers of R&B to ensure completion of the road within the stipulated time frame so that the local people can get benefited with better road connectivity.

She also inspected the 400 feet Road Wall constructed by the Rural Development department at Ring Payeen.

DC also paid a visit to Primary Health Centre



Dudi and inspected the functioning of the hospital. She stressed upon the Doctors and hospital staff to work with added zeal and dedication to cater to the needs of this far flung border sector so that the people may not face any inconvenience in getting proper healthcare. She directed the concerned for installation of the solar system already sanctioned for providing hassle free power back up to the

health centre. DC also visited Government Higher Secondary School Ring Payeen and HSS Dudi and interacted with the school Principals and staff of these schools. She inspected the classrooms, Library, Laboratory and other facilities of the schools. She also enquired about the board results, subject specific faculty and use of Library, Laboratory and other equipment by the students.

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal holds review meeting of LADCs

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JULY 09: Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Ganderbal, Sheikh Babar Hussain, convened a monthly review meeting to assess the performance of Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) in the district.

The meeting aimed to ensure standards of service delivery, identifying challenges faced by LADCs, and discuss strategies for improvement. All LADCs of DLSA Ganderbal attended the meeting. During the meeting, Deputy LADC Ganderbal, presented the status of cases assigned to them, including 31 cases, comprising 11 Sessions Trials and 20 Magisterial Trials. Secretary reviewed case files and registers maintained by LADCs, observing their diligence in attending cases and maintaining records. LADCs highlighted several issues confronting them, which hampers office work and record maintenance.

Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, reviewed the performance of LADCs, including their attendance,



case management, and compliance as per job profiles.

He stressed LADCs to ensure punctuality in attending court proceedings and refrain from seeking unnecessary adjournments. He also emphasized LADCs to provide comprehensive legal services, including visits to jails and police stations and to raise awareness among the general public, especially in backward and far-flung areas. Secretary, DLSA Ganderbal, assured the Deputy LADC that he would take up the matter of filling vacant posts of supporting staff with the Member Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority, for an early resolution.

Secretary DLSA Bandipora holds monthly review meeting with LADCs

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JULY 09: In order to assess the performance of Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs) of district Bandipora, a monthly review meeting of LADCs was convened in the office chamber of Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora. The meeting aimed to ensure that the LADCs are meeting the standards of service delivery as well as to identify challenges faced by them, and to discuss

strategies for improvement of their work profile in dispensation of justice.

The meeting was chaired by Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, DLSA Bandipora and the chief LADC along with his team participated in the said meeting.

Secretary DLSA, Bandipora reviewed their work done statements as per their job profile mentioned in LADC Modified Scheme, 2022.

Chief LADC presented the status of the cases

assigned to them, including the number of cases sub-judice in the various courts, their disposal, and pendency. He submitted that a total of 64 cases are with them out of which 35 cases are of Sessions Trial and 29 are of Magisterial Trial. Secretary DLSA, Bandipora reviewed the case files and registers maintained by the LADCs and observed that they are attending their cases properly and are maintaining their respective registers for handling

remand work, bail work, legal assistance provided by them to the legal aid beneficiaries at pre-arrest, arrest and remand stage on daily basis.

Moreover, they have also maintained the relevant records regarding their visits paid to Police Stations and jails as per their job profile and also conducted awareness programmes as per calendar of activities issued by J&K LSA and direction of DLSA Bandipora.

'My Right to Sight' campaign kick-starts from GHSS Vessu in Qazigund Anantnag

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JULY 09: In a significant step aimed at strengthening student health services in schools, School Education department Anantnag, in collaboration with Help Poor Voluntary Trust (HPVT), formally launched the 'My Right to Sight' initiative at Government Higher Secondary School Vessu, Qazigund. Chief Education Officer Anantnag, Ali Mohammad Bhat, District Education Planning Officer Anantnag, Dr. Syed Reyaz Ahmad (also serving as Project Manager,

HPVT), Principal of HSS Vessu, faculty members, and students from various institutions of Cluster Vessu attended the event.

This noble initiative is designed to enable the early detection and timely correction of vision-related issues among school-going children. Through this project, students will receive comprehensive eye examinations, and corrective spectacles will be provided free of cost to those identified with vision impairments.

In his address, CEO Anantnag praised the humanitarian efforts of the Help Poor Vol-

untary Trust and reiterated the department's commitment to the overall well-being of students, highlighting that good vision is fundamental to effective learning and academic success.

Speaking on the occasion, DEPO Anantnag emphasized the critical convergence of health and education, and encouraged Heads of Institutions and teaching staff to extend their full cooperation during the project's implementation across their respective schools.

Project Manager HPVT provided a detailed overview of the project's vision and execu-

tion plan. He reaffirmed HPVT's mission to serve marginalized communities and ensured that no child is left behind due to untreated visual disabilities.

Under Phase-I, the 'My Right to Sight' campaign will cover all Govt. Schools in the Zones of Aishmuqam, Qazigund, Vailoo, and Verinag, aiming to benefit hundreds of students, particularly from remote and underserved areas of district Anantnag.

The launch event concluded with a symbolic screening of students, marking a promising beginning to a student-centric health initiative.

Mediation for the Nation: Chairman DLSA Bandipora holds review meeting with Judicial Officers

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JULY 09: In order to promote mediation as a preferred mode of dispute resolution to reduce the backlog of cases and promoting amicable dispute resolution, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Bandipora Wednesday convened the review meeting of all the judicial officers of district Bandipora.

DLSA, Bandipora, under the leadership of its Chairman, Khalil Ahmad Choudhary (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Bandipora conducted a comprehensive meeting to officially launch the 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign, a 90-day Mediation Drive. The campaign aims to settle pending civil,

family, commercial, MACT, Land Acquisition, Bank Recovery and compoundable criminal cases across all courts in the district through effective mediation, ensuring timely justice and reducing the burden on the Courts.

During the meeting, Chairman DLSA Bandipora, who is also the Principal District & Sessions Judge, emphasized the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, especially mediation, in building public trust and promoting peace in the community. He encouraged all judicial officers of district Bandipora to identify the maximum number of cases for mediation and to actively participate and coordinate to make the campaign a success.

"This 90-day mediation drive is a step towards justice at the doorstep. Mediation



not only saves time and resources but also preserves relationships. We also appeal to the litigant public to come forward and take advantage of this initiative," Chairman DLSA stated. He also emphasized the importance

of Lok Adalats in strengthening access to justice for all. He highlighted how disputes, especially in MACT and matrimonial matters, can be resolved efficiently with mutual understanding and without prolonged litigation. "The goal of the Special Lok Adalat on MACT and Matrimonial Cases scheduled on 26th July, 2025 is to provide timely justice, reduce the pendency of cases, and offer relief to the aggrieved parties through compromise and settlement. Both MACT and matrimonial cases deeply affect lives and families, and deserve sensitive yet swift handling," he said. Chairman DLSA encouraged all judicial officers of district Bandipora to identify the maximum number of cases for the said Special Lok-Adalat and coordinate to make the Lok Adalat a success. During the session,

Chairman DLSA also directed judicial officers to identify and prioritize cases related to serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris. He stated that these sections of society have made immense contributions and sacrifices for the nation and must receive expedited and respectful access to justice. "It is our duty to ensure that the families of armed forces personnel, including Veer Naris, do not face unnecessary legal delays. Their cases must be identified and resolved with utmost sensitivity and urgency," the Chairman said. He urged court staff and legal aid functionaries to actively reach out and extend support to such litigants, and to facilitate their access to legal aid, mediation services, and early disposal mechanisms by ADR mechanism.

HT EDITORIAL

Improve basic civic facilities of Srinagar smart city

Srinagar city is one of the smart cities of the country and as such one expects that all the civic amenities are in place in the summer capital of the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. As on date there are many things that need to be improved so that the city comes up as an ideal smart city of the country. The people of the city need to be given advanced facilities so that they are relieved at the end of the day.

A couple of days back Srinagar city, especially the city centre received the first major bout of the monsoon rains for this year. In half an hour or so most of the areas of the city centre got submerged due to the rain water and people experienced numerous difficulties in moving around. The inundation virtually made the movement of people impossible and they could be seen braving odds while reaching their respective destinations.

The worst part of this whole process is that some of the areas of downtown Srinagar also got inundated due to the rainfall on Monday evening. In the past this would not happen and only the city centre areas along with some other areas in the uptown Srinagar would get inundated due to the rains. A video showing a chemist removing the rain water from his shop in Rajouri Kadal went viral on the social media and the same invited attention from the netizens especially, from those who belong to the downtown Srinagar.

Most of the people living in the downtown Srinagar have been maintaining that the works carried out in the name of development under the Smart City Project have led to under-development instead of development. These people said that the drainage system existing in downtown Srinagar was better than the one developed under the project. This they say is the reason for the inundation of many areas of downtown Srinagar after the recent rainfall.

It seems that the policy makers make the plans in their offices and they don't bother to visit the area or areas for which the plans are envisaged. Once the officers are not aware about the ground realities it is quite natural that the development plans will backfire and there would be problems in store for the common masses. The drainage system needs an overhaul and the system cannot be the same for the downtown and uptown areas of the Srinagar city.

Train to Kashmir - An Anticipated Game-Changer



Rayees Ahmad Kumar

The two specially designed Vande Bharat trains between Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra and Srinagar were flagged off on 06-06-2025 by Honorable Prime Minister. The inauguration of a direct rail link to the Valley is a historic milestone that is likely to have a far-reaching impact on the development, trade, and tourism of Kashmir, and its closer all-round integration with the rest of the country.

This was the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) Project, which was approved in March 1995 at an estimated cost of Rs 2,500 crore. In 2002, the USBRL was declared a national project, and sections of the line became operational over the years that followed. The USBRL is finally complete now—272 km of tracks built at a cost of Rs 43,780 crore, passing through 36 tunnels and over 943 bridges, bringing Katra and Srinagar within 3 hours of each other. Among the several firsts of this remarkable achievement of railway engineering are the world's highest railway arch bridge, its arch rising 359 metres above the bed of the Chenab in Reasi district; the first cable-stayed bridge of the Railways on the Anji Khad, also in Reasi district; and the country's longest transport tunnel, 12.77 km long, in Ramban district. The Vande Bharat trains in each direction will cover the distance between Katra and Srinagar in about three hours, halving the time taken by the road journey. The trains



will run even in deep winter, providing round-the-year all-weather connectivity to the Valley. The train will be extended soon to Jammu Tawi, which will make it possible to roll into Srinagar directly from almost anywhere in the country. Over time, the USBRL is expected to have a major impact on the economy of the Union Territory, facilitating hassle-free transport of goods such as apples, dry fruits, pashmina shawls, handicrafts etc., to other parts of the country in the shortest possible time and at lower costs. The cost of transporting items of daily use to the Valley from elsewhere in the country is also expected to go down significantly. Few days before the formal launch of the train service, cherry packs laden express moved from Katra towards Mumbai, and at the time I am writing this piece, I have learnt from social media that a big consignment of cherries have reached the land of Saudi Arabia. It reminds me the winter time, when highway would close for week's together in view of heavy snowfall and prices of essential goods would

sour all time high. Not only this, our trading community would engage in stockpiling and hoarding essential food and other items to gain illegitimate maximum profits. Air tickets would sell at exorbitant rates and impoverished, patients and other down-trodden classes who can't afford these unreasonable rates of tickets suffer most at critical and crucial times. Students and other aspirants of various competitive exams, who generally opt their exam centers outside the valley experience bitter times, when lone lifeline of valley remains blocked for weeks together. Though the traditional Dogra time's Darbar Move practices have been abolished few years back, yet some offices of administrative level remain headquartered and stationed at Jammu during winter months, posing serious concern among travellers wishing to get their works done, given the frequent closure of the road. Life saving drugs and other surgical items, either get delayed or get stucked at Jammu and other cities, when highway doesn't permit normal vehicular

movement due to erratic weather conditions during winter. Now, when the rail service has been finally green signalled upto Katra section, it is imperative to extend it to Jammu and then to other cities of country. It will connect the North Pole of country with its South, minimizing both distance as well as travel time. The nuisances of frequent highway closure, will no longer haunt travellers, patients, students and other businessmen. The all weather rail connectivity, will truly prove a blessing both for local and non-local people. In education sector, it will boost both career options and learning opportunities because moving to outside the state will no longer be hectic. In past, parents would show reluctance to send their children outside the state, only a handful of them remained optimistic, as frequent highway closures often added to their desperation. Given the huge linguistic, cultural and religious diversity of the country, flow of ideas and cultures will be easier from now on. Given the enhanced connectivity with rest of the country, both parents and students are seen optimistic about the career prospects and bright future of their children, as Kashmir to Kanyakumari is a dream come true now. Within a week, after the inauguration of the prestigious express, all the tickets of the Vande Bharat train were booked for next fifteen days. At a time when it is simmering outside, tourists and other nature lovers, find Kashmir as the only option to relax and enjoy these summer days. With improved connectivity, we hope that the train service proves a major relief giver to majority of the people who earlier have suffered a lot in the past.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir.

Language and Identity in J&K:

The Forgotten Legacy of Urdu in Modern Discourse

Urdu hai jiska naam, humein jaante hain daagh,
Hindustaan mein dhoom hamari zabaan ki hai.

Bekhud Badayuni



Dr Mohiudin Zore Kashmiri

To understand the decline of Urdu, one must look beyond recruitment exams or classroom syllabi. In the richly layered cultural terrain of Jammu and Kashmir, where Sanskrit, Persian, and Urdu once flourished in harmonious succession, it is heart-breaking to witness how Urdu—once the very lifeblood of governance, literature, and public expression—has been relegated to the margins of modern relevance.

This erosion is not merely administrative or academic—it is deeply cultural. It reflects a wider societal indifference toward linguistic identity and intellectual inheritance. There was a time when Jammu and Kashmir stood shoulder to shoulder with Delhi, Lucknow, Deccan, and Lahore—not just as a political space, but as one of Urdu's proudest literary capitals. Today, that distinction is fading, not because Urdu has grown less significant, but because we have ceased to nurture it.

One of the most alarming causes of this decline is the crumbling of our educational foundation. The younger generation is neither introduced to classical Urdu literature, nor taught the elegance of its grammar, idiom, and expression. With no structured training, their proficiency in reading, writing, and comprehension wanes, leaving them adrift in a region whose soul still speaks in Urdu.

The situation is aggravated by the rise of English-centric private schools and coaching centers, where Urdu is either given token treatment or dismissed

“One of the most alarming causes of this decline is the crumbling of our educational foundation. The younger generation is neither introduced to classical Urdu literature, nor taught the elegance of its grammar, idiom, and expression. With no structured training, their proficiency in reading, writing, and comprehension wanes, leaving them adrift in a region whose soul still speaks in Urdu

entirely. English, though important, is elevated to a pedestal, while Urdu is branded outdated or irrelevant. This distortion of priorities has birthed a dangerous perception: that fluency in Urdu is a weakness, rather than the cultural strength it truly is.

And therein lies the bitter irony—a generation alienated from its linguistic heritage, at the cost of chasing borrowed tongues. They forget, or are never told, that Urdu was once the dignified language of courts, law, poetry, and everyday governance. They remain unaware that the foundations of modern Jammu and Kashmir's administrative legacy were laid in the script of Urdu, through records, decrees, judgments, and poetry—echoes of which still reside in libraries, archives, and the quiet corridors of civil offices.

We must recall, with due reverence, that in 1886, Maharaja Pratap Singh, one of the eminent Dogra rulers, declared Urdu the official language of undivided Jammu and Kashmir. His vision made Urdu a linguistic bridge across religious, regional, and cultural divides, fostering harmony and institutional clarity. The legacy of Urdu poets, journalists, civil servants, and scholars remains etched in the intellectual memory of the region—waiting to be rediscovered, not erased.

So today, we must ask ourselves—can we afford to lose a language that connects our past, stabilizes our governance, and holds within it the seeds of a rich cultural future? The answer must not come through mere speeches or symbolic gestures. It must rise from concrete policies, educational revival, and a collective will to restore Urdu to its rightful place in our schools, our institutions, our homes, and our hearts.

Our politicians, administrators, educators, universities, cultural academies, and media platforms must take responsibility. Radio, television, social media, and print must lend their voice to Urdu, not as a matter of nostalgia, but of cultural justice and regional identity. The revival of Urdu is not a retreat into the past; it is a step toward a more inclusive and rooted future for Jammu and Kashmir.

The author is a Associate Prof. Urdu Dept. of Hr Edu JK Gov. Email: drzoreurdu@gmail.com

Fish Pond Sonamarg Calling



■ **Imran Raina**

Nestled in the heart of the majestic Himalayas, the Fish Pond in Sonamarg in Ganderbal district has long been a symbol of serenity and natural splendor. For decades, it stood as a peaceful retreat for tourists and a point of pride for local residents. Today, however, I write with a deep sense of concern and disappointment as this iconic landmark faces a serious environmental crisis.

Once a pristine and picturesque waterbody, the Fish Pond is now marred by alarming levels of neglect and pollution. What was once a vibrant attraction teeming with aquatic life and scenic beauty is fast deteriorating into a dumping ground. A simple walk along its edges now reveals a distressing sight: heaps of plastic bags, discarded bottles, and other garbage both along the banks and floating within the water. The pollution has triggered an overgrowth of algae, turning the once-clear waters murky and lifeless.

Adding to this environmental decay is the visible neglect of the surrounding area. Construction debris lies unattended, walking paths are unmaintained, and there is a complete lack of



basic waste management infrastructure. All these signs point to a systemic failure to preserve one of Sonamarg's most cherished natural assets.

The consequences are profound. Not only does the current condition threaten aquatic life and the pond's delicate ecosystem, but it also tarnishes the image of Sonamarg as a premier tourist destination. Tourists expecting a tranquil, scenic experience are instead met with an eyesore that reflects poorly on local governance and environmental stewardship.

This situation stands in stark contrast to the stated mission of the Sonamarg

Development Authority, which has repeatedly emphasized the importance of ecological preservation and sustainable tourism. The current state of the Fish Pond clearly contradicts those goals, and immediate corrective action is urgently needed.

Therefore, I humbly urge the concerned authorities to take the following actions:

Immediate Cleanup: Swift removal of all visible garbage, including plastics and construction waste, from the pond and its surroundings.

Regular Maintenance: Establishment of a maintenance schedule that includes



frequent water testing, algae control, and landscape upkeep.

Infrastructure for Cleanliness: Installation of adequate waste bins and clear, informative signage urging visitors to maintain cleanliness.

Ecological Restoration: Reviving the pond's natural health through the introduction of eco-friendly filtration methods, aquatic plant management, and possible restocking of fish species.

Community Involvement: Engaging local volunteers, schools, and NGOs in awareness campaigns and periodic clean-up drives to instill a sense of ownership and responsibility.

This is a call not just to the officials, but to every stakeholder who values Sonamarg's natural charm. Let us not allow the Fish Pond to slip further into decay. With coordinated effort, this beloved site can once again reflect the beauty, pride, and environmental values that Sonamarg is known for.

Let the Fish Pond speak again — not through the silence of neglect, but through the harmony of revival.

The Author is a Teacher from Kangan Ganderbal. He is a regular contributor to "Headlines Today".
Emraan199@gmail.com

Political Silence for Gain and the Drama of Uproar



■ **Sanjay Saxena**

Indian politics is a stage where new drama, fresh controversies, and intriguing stories are born every day. It's a theater where political parties and their leaders sometimes fall into a deep silence on certain issues, while at other times they create an uproar over the most trivial matters. This silence and uproar are both part of their political playbook: a well-thought-out strategy designed to distract the public, garner sympathy, or corner the opposition. The layers of this politics are so complex that the common man often fails to understand what's really going on.

The latest example involves a language controversy in Maharashtra, where North Indians are being assaulted in the name of Marathi identity. Yet, leaders who claim to represent North India remain silent. Congress leaders like Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and party president Mallikarjun Kharge have all sealed their lips. Even Rahul Gandhi, who visited Bihar for election campaigning to support Congress, avoided commenting on the matter. Samajwadi Party (SP) chief Akhilesh Yadav, who recently turned a case of misconduct against a spiritual storyteller into a caste conflict between Brahmins and Yadavs, also remains quiet. Similarly, the case in Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh, involving a Maulana allegedly converting Hindu girls through 'love jihad', saw deadly silence from Akhilesh and other non-BJP parties.

Sometimes, political silence on serious issues becomes a statement in itself. For instance, when a major scam surfaces or a social issue like caste violence, religious tension, or economic inequality arises, some parties and their leaders go completely silent as if they are unaware. But this silence is not a sign of weakness; it's a calculated move. They know that speaking on certain matters could hurt their vote bank. For example, when religious tensions rise over a sensitive issue, many leaders choose silence, fearing their statements might anger their supporters or give the opposition a chance to attack. This silence,

while not vocal, speaks volumes.

On the other hand, when it comes to certain issues, political parties and leaders create such a loud uproar that the issue appears far more significant than it really is. Blowing small incidents out of proportion, trending topics on social media, and organizing street protests are all parts of their strategy. For example, during the 2024 Lok Sabha elections in Uttar Pradesh, some parties staged massive demonstrations over minor matters. A leader's statement would be distorted to give it a caste or religious angle, which then became the topic of week-long debates. The uproar wasn't because the issue was truly serious; it was a tactic to grab public attention at that moment.

The politics of silence and uproar is rooted in multiple factors. The most prominent is vote bank politics. In a country like India, where caste, religion, and regionalism lie at the heart of politics, parties tread carefully. If an issue can anger their core voters, they remain silent. For example, when a caste-based violence incident occurs in a state, some parties avoid commenting because their vote bank may be linked to that caste. Conversely, if an issue offers a chance to target opponents, they create such noise that the public's focus shifts from the real issues to political theatrics.

In Uttar Pradesh's 2024 elections, this was quite evident. The BJP suffered unexpected defeats in some seats. While there were several reasons for this, opposition parties lost no time in projecting it as a government failure. The SP-Congress alliance promoted the slogan "Backward, Dalit, Minority" (PDA) so loudly that it became a major narrative among the masses. On the other hand, when the Ram Mandir issue came up, many opposition leaders fell silent, fearing backlash from Hindu voters. This game of silence and uproar is an old political weapon, still as effective as ever.

Another dimension of this politics is the unchecked use of media and social media. In today's world, where everyone holds a smartphone, political parties and leaders use social media as a weapon. When they want to stir up a controversy, they trend it on X (formerly Twitter), circulate messages in WhatsApp groups, and spark endless TV debates. For instance, when an old video or statement by a leader goes viral, opposition parties blow it out of proportion until it becomes a national issue. But when controversial remarks come from their own leaders, the same parties go silent. This

double standard confuses the public but remains a tried and tested political formula.

This strategy doesn't just affect public perception; it also impacts internal party dynamics and leadership decisions. Often, silence on major issues stems from internal disagreements. For example, during leadership debates within a party, senior leaders stay silent to avoid risking their positions. But when a minor issue pops up, these same leaders rush to make statements, seeking media coverage and increased influence among their supporters.

A further example of this silence and uproar strategy can be seen in the behavior of leaders like Mayawati. In 2024, following a terror attack in Pahalgam, Mayawati advised unity among all parties but also criticized the 'disgusting politics' of some leaders' attempt to create controlled uproar and stay relevant to her base. Yet when it came to the return of her nephew Akash Anand to the party, she maintained a conditional silence to avoid controversy. This shows how leaders selectively use silence and uproar to protect their interests.

This political strategy is not limited to national or state levels. It plays out even at the local level. In municipal elections, small issues like road repair or water supply are made into huge controversies, almost as if they are national concerns. But when it comes to major policy matters like education or healthcare reforms, the same leaders remain silent because such issues offer little immediate political gain.

The biggest casualty of this politics of silence and uproar is that it distracts the public from real problems. Serious issues like unemployment, inflation, and environmental concerns are pushed to the background, while petty controversies dominate headlines. People believe their leaders are fighting for them, but in reality, these political maneuvers are merely tools to gain power.

In today's era of fast-moving information, political parties and leaders need to reconsider this strategy. The public is more aware than ever. Every issue is debated on social media, and people have started recognizing the meaning behind political silence and uproar. If parties and leaders begin to focus on real issues rather than theatrical politics, the face of Indian politics might truly change.

The author is a Senior Journalist.
skskko28@gmail.com

13th July Birth Anniversary Special Guru Daksh Prajapati: Symbol of discipline and rituals of creation



■ **Priyanka Saurabh**

Guru Daksh Prajapati, son of the creator Brahma, is considered to be the pillar of Vedas, yagnas and family system. He established discipline and dignity in the society, but through the Shiva-Sati episode he also showed that love dies due to harshness. His life message for today's generation is - "Duty, tolerance and balance are the form of true religion."

In the Indian Vedic tradition, "Daksha Prajapati" is a name that is associated with the beginning of creation. Brahma ji's Manas Putra, the best among Prajapatis, whose name itself is a symbol of 'Daksha' meaning 'skill'. Guru Daksha was not only a sage or creator, he is also considered to be the originator of Vedas, Yajna, discipline, dignity and family value system. In the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads, he is not mentioned as a deity, but as a sage whose life was exemplary and whose vision of life still guides social balance and morality.

Son of Brahma, Expander of the universe

Daksha Prajapati was appointed by Brahma to expand the creation. He is one of the 21 Prajapatis created by Brahma to create and manage various living beings. The literal meaning of 'Daksha' is - one who is skilled, efficient, disciplined. And this name is also in accordance with his conduct, actions and contributions. He married his daughters to various sages and gods to maintain balance among the various elements of the creation. 27 of his daughters were married to the moon, which was considered very important for the calculation of time and the operation of the nature cycle.

The original sources of the Yagya tradition

Daksha Prajapati holds the highest title of Yagyacharya in the Vedic tradition. The purpose of Yagya, which we know as a ritual or religious act, was not just to please the gods, but to maintain natural and social balance. In Daksha's Yagyas, special attention was paid to the recitation of Vedic verses, decorum and rules. He established Yagya in the society not just as a ritual, but as a social duty.

Family dignity vs. personal ego

The life of Guru Daksha is like a wonderful philosophical treatise. The chapter where he opposed the marriage of his daughter Sati and Shiva sheds deep light on our social psychol-

ogy. Daksha did not accept Shiva's antisocial, ash-wearing, crematorium-dwelling nature. He considered a life of dignity, discipline, and in accordance with the rules of the Vedas to be the best. Whereas Shiva was a free yogi, a neutral Mahadev, who was beyond this tradition and was beyond social norms.

This conflict turned into a tragedy that led to Sati's self-immolation, the destruction of the yagna and finally Shiva's destruction in the form of Tandava. This episode was not just a family conflict, but highlights the deep conflict of 'culture versus sadhna', 'tradition versus freedom', 'faith versus logic'.

The story of destruction of Yagya: symbols and message

Daksha's refusal to invite Shiva, the insult of Sati, and then the destruction of the yagna - this trilogy is not just a mythological tale, but it also tells us that when ego becomes bigger than dignity, even dharma is destroyed. The destruction of Daksha's yagna is a lesson that dharma is not just about rituals, but about humility and inclusion. Shiva did not just destroy the yagna, he taught that one-sided righteousness is incomplete.

Daksha's end also teaches a lesson. Shiva eventually revived him—but with the head of a goat, that is, our conscience, our identity also changes. But if we desire revival, rebirth is possible.

Relevance of Guru Daksh in today's era

Today, when modern society is struggling with indiscipline, family disintegration and spiritual hollowness, the teachings and vision of Guru Daksh become extremely relevant. They remind us that not only freedom but discipline is also necessary in life. Not only rights but duties are also necessary. Not only fame but dignity is also important.

For today's youth who are getting disconnected from social responsibilities in the name of attraction and freedom, the life of Guru Daksh is exemplary for them. The ideal of discipline he presented in his duties, marriage of daughters, organizing Yagya and running the society, still guides us today.

A promoter of social harmony

Guru Daksha got his daughters married to various sages, gods, planets and constellations, thus indicating that mutual cooperation of all is necessary in creation. Take the example of the marriage of the constellation Moon—he gave 27 daughters to a single god. This is not just astronomy, but a symbol of social harmony, balance and a sense of co-existence.

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

DC Poonch reviews Shri Buddha Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 arrangements at Mandi Complex

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 handholding 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.

DC Udhampur reviews progress under TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan

Stresses intensified testing, community outreach & Ni-Kshay Mitra registration



HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JULY 09: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting with officers of the Health Department to review the current status of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme, with a focus on accelerating efforts towards a TB-free Udhampur. The Chief Medical Officer Udhampur, Dr Anil Manhas, presented a comprehensive overview under the National TB Elimination Programme in the district through a Power-Point presentation. During the meeting, the DC also reviewed the implementation of the Ni-Kshay Mitra initiative, launched under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, aimed at providing additional support to TB patients and improving treatment outcomes. The DC emphasized the need

to further strengthen the efforts and directed all departments to work in close coordination to achieve the goal of a TB-free Udhampur. Highlighting the critical role of community involvement and inter-departmental cooperation, the DC instructed the Health Department to prioritize outreach to vulnerable and underserved populations, especially those residing in remote areas. She directed the department to carry out mapping of vulnerable groups, enhance diagnostic and treatment services and promote early detection through focused screening and testing drives. The District Tuberculosis Officer was instructed to organize dedicated health camps and conduct an intensified awareness campaign across the district to identify and treat TB patients promptly.

District level workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index held at Kishtwar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JULY 09: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj J&K organized a one-day district-level workshop on the Panchayat Advancement Index at the Conference Hall, New DC Office Complex, Kishtwar here. The workshop aimed to sensitize stakeholders about the Panchayat Advancement Index, a tool designed to evaluate the developmental status of Gram Panchayats. Additional District Development Commissioner, Pawan Kotwal presided over the event which was attended by ACD Kaiser Bhawani and other concerned officers and field functionaries. The workshop covered various themes under PAI-2.0, including child-friendly panchayat, water-sufficient panchayat, clean and green panchayat and self-sufficient infrastructure in panchayats. Participants received hands-on training on the PAI portal to ensure efficient data entry and monitoring. The workshop concluded with an interactive session, where participants discussed operational aspects of the PAI initiative.

Mission Shakti organizes Gender Sensitisation Programme in collaboration with JKRLM at lower Barnai

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JULY 09: Mission Shakti, District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu Social Welfare Department in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), organised a comprehensive session on Gender Sensitisation and Women-Centric Schemes for Self Help Group (SHG) members at Lower Barnai, here today. The session organized under the supervision of District Mission Coordinator Mission Shakti Shagun Manchanda was aimed to empower women by generating awareness about gender equality and to educate them about various government schemes focused on women's welfare and development. Gender Specialist, Mission Shakti Sonali Rana spoke in detail about gender sensitisation, its importance in community development and the wide range of schemes available for women to support their economic and social growth. JKRLM Block Programme Manager (BPM) Manisha appreciated the efforts of the Mission Shakti DHEW Jammu team and extended heartfelt thanks to the officials for their dedication to women empowerment. She highlighted the importance of such collaborative initiatives in building informed and self-reliant communities. The programme witnessed active participation from SHG members who engaged in meaningful discussions and expressed gratitude for the informative session. The programme witnessed active participation from SHG members who engaged in meaningful discussions and expressed gratitude for the informative session.

J&K High Court Upholds Power Department's Liability in Electrocutation Death, Awards Rs 11.2 Lakh Compensation

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 9, KNT: The Jammu and Kashmir High Court has upheld the writ court's ruling, holding the Power Development Department (PDD) responsible for the electrocution death of 45-year-old Nazir Ahmad, who died after an 11,000 KV live wire fell on him. A Division Bench of Justice Sanjay Parihar and Justice Sanjeev Kumar dismissed the PDD's appeal, ruling that negligence must be presumed in such hazardous operations unless proven otherwise. The court found that the department failed to submit any evidence showing the deceased's involvement in causing the accident, thereby attracting the legal doctrine of res ipsa loquitur. While agreeing with the lower



court's finding of liability, the High Court recalculated the compensation. Citing an error in applying a multiplier of 15 instead of 14 based on the deceased's age (45), and noting the absence of income proof, the court assessed daily wages at Rs 250, added 25% for future prospects, and fixed the total loss of dependency at Rs 10,50,000. Additional amounts were awarded for loss of estate (Rs 15,000), consortium (Rs

40,000), and funeral expenses (Rs 15,000), bringing the total compensation to Rs 11,20,000 with 6% interest from the date of filing till realization. The amount is to be disbursed equally among the legal heirs of the deceased, and any excess held by the court registry is to be refunded to the appellants. The appeal stemmed from an incident in which Nazir Ahmad died on the spot after being struck by a live wire. His family had sought Rs 30 lakh in compensation, claiming he was a carpenter earning Rs 500 per day. The PDD had denied negligence, alleging the deceased had tampered with the wire, but failed to substantiate its claim. The court ruled that the department, being responsible for maintaining live supply lines, could not escape liability. [KNT]

Unidentified Miscreants Break Open Donation Box, Flee with Cash at Khanyar Shrine of Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 9, KNT: In yet another disturbing incident targeting a place of worship, unidentified miscreants have looted cash from a donation box inside the revered shrine of Hazrat Syed Abdul Qadir Jeelani (RA) at Khanyar in Srinagar. The shrine, managed by the Jammu and Kashmir Wakaf Board, has been a prominent spiritual site attracting devotees from across the Valley. Sajad-e-Nisheen of the shrine, Khalid Jeelani, confirmed the theft while speaking to Kashmir News Trust, stating that one of the donation boxes was found broken and looted. While he refrained from disclosing the exact amount stolen, he acknowledged that the incident has deeply upset the shrine management and the devotees. "We noticed the damage early in the morning. The



donation box had been forcefully broken open, and the cash inside was missing," Jeelani said. The police have taken cognizance of the theft and initiated an investigation. An official said that efforts are underway to identify the culprits using CCTV footage and other technical means. "A case has been registered and strict action will be taken against those involved," the police assured, adding that the culprits will be booked under relevant sections of law. Notably, yesterday, cash from the donation box at a Kulgam shrine had been looted possibly by some drug addicts. [KNT]

Multiple Budgam Villages Submerged After Heavy Rains, Locals Cry for Help

HT NEWS DESK

Budgam, July 9, KNT: A flood-like situation has thrown life out of gear in several areas of Central Kashmir's Budgam district, with villages like Raiyar Khansahib, Kangripora, and nearby localities bearing the brunt of incessant rainfall. The downpour, continuing since the last two days, has led to widespread waterlogging, damage to kucha houses, and inundation of shops and roads—leaving locals desperate and helpless. Villagers are deeply concerned about what they describe as a complete lack of administrative response. Many allege that no official from the district administration or even the local MLA has visited the area to assess



the damage or offer assistance. "We are suffering badly. Water has entered our homes and shops, and no official has come to see our plight. We appeal to the district administration and the MLA of Khansahib to immediately visit and take necessary steps," said a local from Raiyar to the news agency Kashmir News Trust, as he stood knee-deep in water outside his flooded home.

The situation is particularly grim in low-lying areas, where poor drainage has allowed water to stagnate, heightening fears of further damage to property and posing health risks. With most local infrastructure overwhelmed, people say they have been left to fend for themselves. "We have seen no dewatering pumps, no relief teams. Our belongings are getting destroyed, and there's no place to

even shift our children to safety," said a shopkeeper in Kangripora whose entire stock now lies submerged. The continuous rainfall has only worsened the ordeal, with mud walls caving in, roads turning into streams, and schools reportedly forced shut in some areas. Locals are demanding immediate relief and rehabilitation efforts, including the restoration of drainage systems, provision of temporary shelters for the displaced, and an on-the-spot survey of the damage inflicted by the water. As floodwaters continue to rise and hope begins to ebb, the people of Raiyar, Khansahib, Kangripora, and other affected areas remain on edge, waiting for the government to respond to their call for help. [KNT]

Maiden property attachment under New Criminal Laws by Jammu Police leads to recovery of ₹75 Lakhs, distributed among 17 victims in ₹2.39 crore Job Scam

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JULY 09: In a landmark action under the newly enacted Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), Jammu Police successfully executed its first-ever property attachment in a high-profile job fraud case, resulting in the recovery and refund of ₹75 lakhs to victims. This milestone reflects the victim-centric approach embodied in India's new criminal justice reforms. The case revolves around Harpreet Singh, a resident of Pallanwala, who posed as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Indian Army and defrauded multiple individuals of more than ₹2.39 crore by falsely promising them jobs in prestigious government institutions such as the MES, MoD and DRDO.

The fraud came to light when Arun Sharma, a resident of Nagrota, filed a complaint on 6 November 2024, leading to the registration of FIR No. 293/2024 under Sections 319(2), 318(4), 336(2), 336(3), 338, and 340(2) of the BNS at the Police Station Nagrota, Jammu. The accused was arrested the following day. Investigation revealed that a sale agreement was executed between Kamaljeet Kour (wife of Suriender Singh) and the accused's mother, Paramjeet Kour, to the tune of ₹2.22 crore for the purchase of a double-storey duplex building constructed over 8 marlas of land in Channi Bheja, Tehsil Bahu Fort, Jammu. Moreover, an amount of ₹1.93,50,000 was received by Suriender Singh (co-accused) and his wife from accused Harpreet through online



transactions and cash. The amount paid by Harpreet Singh was proceeds of crime collected from innocent victims in lieu of providing government jobs. Acting on a police plea, the Chief Judicial Magistrate, Jammu, passed

an attachment order on 18 January 2025 under Section 107(5) BNSS, which was executed by Tehsildar Bahu. A 14-day show cause notice was issued to the accused to justify the source of funds used in the transaction, failing which the property

was to be auctioned. During court proceedings, based on clinching evidence presented by the Investigating Officer, Kamaljeet Kour made a judicial admission that she had received ₹1.53 crore from the accused. In a significant development, she voluntarily agreed to refund the amount, initially committing to deposit ₹50 lakhs within 7 days and the remaining ₹1.03 crore within two months. Moreover, an amount of ₹40,50,000—being a disputed sum—can be proved only during trial. The Court ruled that the attachment order shall remain in effect until the admitted amount is fully deposited. It also prohibited the seller from creating any third-party interest in the property. The SSP Jammu was directed to open a dedicated account for collecting and

distributing the recovered funds among the verified victims. Today, the recovered amount of ₹75 lakh has been distributed equally among 17 victims through cheques. This marks the first instance in the UT of J&K under BNSS where defrauded money has been returned to victims, exemplifying the law's focus on justice, accountability, and restitution. The case was meticulously investigated by Inspector Parvez Sajad (SHO Nagrota), under the supervision of DySP Vinod Kundal (SDPO Nagrota), with overall oversight by SP Rural Brijesh Sharma and SSP Jammu Joginder Singh. Legal assistance was provided by Senior Prosecuting Officer Altaf Wahid, DPO Jammu and financial expertise by Accounts Officer Kamal Bhagat.

Team Boniyar Saved Two Precious Lives with Timely Emergency Management at PHC Boniyar by Night staff

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 09: PHC Boniyar once again proved its commitment to patient care by successfully managing two critical emergencies, thanks to the swift action and coordination of the dedicated healthcare team. Case 1: SVT Successfully Managed Without Medication A 45-year-old female patient from Uranbowa, Boniyar, reported to PHC Boniyar with complaints of palpitations and diaphoresis. ECG revealed Supraventricular Tachycardia (SVT). The medical team quickly initiated a Valsalva maneuver under the supervision and guidance of BMO Boniyar, and successfully stabilizing the patient without the use of any medication. A repeat ECG confirmed a return to normal rhythm, highlighting the team's expertise and adherence to emergency protocols. Case 2: Timely Thrombolysis for Anterior Wall MI A 35-year-old female patient from Kazipora, Noorkah, presented at



9:15 PM with acute epigastric pain radiating to the left arm—classic symptoms of a cardiac event. ECG confirmed Anterior Wall Myocardial Infarction (MI). The patient was immediately started on Dual Antiplatelet Therapy (DAPT). Under the guidance of BMO Boniyar, Dr. Ruqia Showkat, the team initiated thrombolysis with Injection Tenecteplase 40mg, a life-saving drug costing approximately 40,000, provided completely free of cost under the health

department's patient care protocol.

Despite network failure and communication issues at the same time, the team acted swiftly. PHC Boniyar ambulance driver Aijaz Ahmad ensured timely transportation. Coordination with the 108 Emergency Service enabled the patient to be transferred at Khanpora into the 108 ambulance and subsequently to SKIMS Srinagar for further care. It is noteworthy that PHC Boniyar has successfully managed over 100 myocardial infarction cases, with many patients receiving on-site thrombolysis and being directly referred to tertiary care centers like SKIMS. These cases have been highlighted by national media as examples of quality healthcare being delivered in border areas. Appreciation from BMO Boniyar, Dr. Ruqia Showkat, lauded the efforts of Team Boniyar, especially Dr. Syed Raza, for their dedication and patient-first approach. She also expressed gratitude to Director Health Services Kashmir and Chief Medical Officer Baramulla for their continued support in ensuring the availability of essential, life-saving drugs free of cost. These successful interventions reflect the positive outcomes of a well-coordinated healthcare system and positive approach of healthcare professionals working in medical block Boniyar as a team. The patient is currently in skims admitted in cardiology department for further management

Transport Commissioner visits Baltal, Domail Base camp, Sonamarg; reviews transport arrangements

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JULY 09: Transport Commissioner Vishesh Paul Mahajan today conducted an extensive visit to key locations along the Amarnath Yatra route to review the transport arrangements and coordination among various agencies. He was accompanied by ARTO Ganderbal and other field officials. The visit included inspections at Baltal, the base camp at Domail and a high-level review meeting with key stakeholders, including SSP Traffic (Rural), Camp Director Domail, OC Beacon and officials of the SSB. The focus of the meeting was to streamline the vehicular movement, ensure road safety, monitor transport



operations and enhance inter-agency coordination for benefit of the pilgrims. At Baltal, the Transport Commissioner reviewed free transport services being provided to pilgrims. He interacted with the drivers and instructed them to prioritize safe, disciplined and comfortable travel for all the pilgrims. He also received positive feedback from the pilgrims, many of whom expressed satisfaction with the transport facilities and services being made available during the Yatra.

He also visited the Weighing Bridge at Sonamarg, where he directed the ARTO Ganderbal to submit a comprehensive proposal for modernization of the facility. This included integration of advanced monitoring gadgets and provision of adequate accommodation and infrastructure for the staff working at the site. The Transport Commissioner emphasized the need for sustained vigilance, coordination and public service commitment to ensure continued success of the Yatra operations.

ADDC Ramban Roshan Lal Accorded Warm Farewell

HT NEWS DESK



Ramban, July 9: The District Administration Ramban today bid a warm and heartfelt farewell to Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Roshan Lal, who has been transferred to serve as ADDC Doda. The farewell ceremony, held under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, was marked by deep appreciation for Roshan Lal's commendable service and administrative acumen. The event witnessed the presence of senior officers including ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR S. Shokat Hayat Mattoo, ACP Ashfaq Ahmed, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, ACD Shrinath Suma, Xen PWD Ranjeet Singh, Tehsildar Deep Kumar, AD FCS&CA Niyamatullah Sheikh, along with other officers who came together to extend their best wishes.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the outgoing ADDC's unwavering commitment to public service, describing him as a dedicated officer who consistently led with integrity and inspired excellence among his colleagues. He acknowledged Roshan Lal's significant contribution to developmental projects and administrative efficiency in the district.

Several speakers, including the ADC, highlighted Roshan Lal's instrumental role in the successful implementation of various government schemes and his ability to meet administrative targets with professionalism and determination.

In his farewell address, Roshan Lal expressed heartfelt gratitude for the support and cooperation he received during his tenure in Ramban. He shared meaningful reflections from his service journey and thanked the district administration for organizing a memorable farewell.

Legal awareness programme on victims of drug abuse, eradication of drug menace held at GDC Tangdhar

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JULY 09: In line with the plan of action and calendar of activities for July 2025 issued by the District Legal Services Authority Kupwara, Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Tangdhar Karnah in collaboration with the District Police Kupwara and Sub District Hospital Tangdhar organized a comprehensive awareness programme on victims of drug abuse and eradication of drug menace, at the auditorium of Government Degree College (GDC) Tangdhar.

The programme was held

under the guidance of Mansoor Ahmed Mir, Munsiff/Chairman, TLSC Tangdhar Karnah and witnessed the participation of various stakeholders including the staff of TLSC Tangdhar, members of Bar Association Tangdhar, Panel Lawyers, PLVs, faculty of GDC Tangdhar, health officials, police officers, and around 100 students of the college.

Key speakers included Adv. Qazi Mehboob Allahi, President Bar Association Tangdhar; Adv. Abdul Majeed Bandy, Adv. Farooq Ahmed Qureshi and Adv. Waqar Ahmad, who highlighted critical legal and social issues pertaining to drug abuse. They elaborated on the legal framework available to combat drug menace and emphasized the role of NALSA in promoting a Drug-Free India.

Dr. Mukhtayr Ahmad, Medical Officer, SDH Tangdhar, representing the Health department, spoke on the psychological and physical impacts of drug addiction and emphasized the crucial role of civil society in supporting rehabilitation efforts and fostering a healthy lifestyle.

Among the dignitaries present were Mushtaq Ahmad Wani, Principal of GDC Tangdhar, who underscored the importance of awareness, education, and

collective societal action. He stressed the role of communities in socially boycotting drug peddlers as a deterrent strategy.

Police officers also addressed the gathering, reaffirming law enforcement's commitment to fighting the drug menace and extending full cooperation in community-driven efforts.

The event concluded with a powerful message advocating a drug-free, healthy, and socially responsible society, reflecting the shared commitment of legal, medical, academic, and enforcement bodies towards this critical cause.

JK Teachers Forum Slams Doda MLA for Remarks Against Education Minister

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 9, KNT: The Jammu & Kashmir Teachers Forum (JKTF) has strongly denounced the recent remarks made by a Member of the Legislative Assembly from Doda, who publicly questioned the academic credentials of the Education Minister, Ms. Sakeena Masood Itoo. The MLA's comments have sparked widespread outrage among the teaching fraternity, who view the statement as a direct attack on the dignity of democratic institutions.

Mir Bashir Ahmad, UT General Secretary of JKTF and a senior member of the All India Secondary Teachers

Federation, condemned the personal jibe, calling it "deeply unfortunate" and unbecoming of an elected representative. "Questioning someone's capability based solely on academic degrees reflects not only poor political maturity but also undermines the democratic process and institutional mechanisms that shape education policy," Mir Bashir said.

He emphasized that education reforms in Jammu and Kashmir, like elsewhere, are the outcome of expert committees, structured frameworks, and long-term planning, not merely individual decision-making. "If the MLA had genuine concerns, he should have used appropriate democratic

platforms instead of resorting to public mockery," he added.

Expressing full solidarity with Education Minister Sakeena Masood Itoo, JKTF said her contributions to the education sector are well-recognized and respected. "Her commitment to upliftment of the education system is well-documented and widely acknowledged. She has consistently led from the front," the statement read. "Leadership is not defined by degrees but by one's vision, dedication, and service to the people," Mir Bashir further remarked, urging lawmakers to exhibit political maturity and serve as role models, especially for the youth.

DC Rajouri establishes District TB Control Room to strengthen fight against Tuberculosis

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JULY 09: In a significant step towards making Rajouri a Tuberculosis-free district, the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma established a dedicated District TB Control Room under the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). The initiative aims to strengthen the monitoring mechanism for TB patients and ensure effective implementation of TB eradication strategies.

The control room has been set up to track all TB Patients to coordinate with Nikshay Mitras and patients so that all patients take medication regularly and the accountability of field staff is ensured. This is in compliance to the directions of the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, during the review on accelerating the progress of TB elimination efforts across the Union Territory.

As part of the initiative, the District Health Officer, Dr. Sham Lal has been designated as the Nodal Officer to oversee the functioning of the District TB Control Room. The Nodal Officer will be responsible for coordination among departments, monitoring patient tracking systems and ensuring that all necessary support reaches TB patients in a timely and effective manner.

GMC Srinagar to host 13th International Conference of Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON-2025)

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 09: Department of Anatomy at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar is set to host the prestigious 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON 2025) from July 10th to 12th, 2025.

This landmark event will bring together renowned anatomists, surgeons, medical educators, researchers, and clinicians from across India and abroad, marking a significant academic milestone for Jammu and Kashmir. The conference will feature cutting-edge knowledge and innovations in Clinical and Applied Anatomy, with a special focus on emerg-

ing technologies. Pre-conference workshops on July 10th, 2025, will offer hands-on training in areas such as 3D anatomy visualization and artificial intelligence in anatomical diagnostics. Over 500 delegates from premier medical institutions are expected to attend, with oral and poster presentations, panel discussions, and plenary lectures. The conference will be inaugurated by eminent dignitaries from higher learning institutions, medical education, research, and health administration. Renowned faculty and experts will share their insights and experiences, fostering a rich academic environment. SOCACON 2025 aims to revitalize anatomical sciences as a

clinically relevant discipline, promoting curriculum innovation and interdisciplinary research. This is the first time SOCACON is being held in the Kashmir valley, making it a moment of pride for the region and an opportunity to showcase Srinagar's cultural and academic vibrance on an international stage. The organising committee has expressed enthusiasm about the conference, stating, "SOCACON 25 is not just an academic event; it is a celebration of anatomical excellence, collaborative spirit, and the rich academic tradition of Kashmir." The conference is poised to generate meaningful dialogue and foster collaboration among participants.

Akhil Thakur assumes charge as Chief Planning Officer Kishtwar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JULY 09: Akhil Thakur, Joint Director Planning has assumed charge as the Chief Planning Officer (CPO) Kishtwar, here today.

The district administration welcomed this development, expecting Sen's expertise to significantly contribute to the district's planning and development initiatives.

ADC, Pawan Kotwal DIO, Dr. Kuldeep Kumar, Tehsildar HQ, Sunali Rani, besides staff of the Planning Department extended warm welcome to CPO. They presented a bouquet, congratulating him on his new role and expressing optimism about his leadership in driving the district's development agenda forward.

While interacting with the staff of Planning Department, the CPO laid thrust on team spirit and effective co-ordination from all officers/officials in most transparent and expeditious manner.

DFCO Udhampur imposes restriction on sale of habit-forming drugs, prohibits sale/purchase of Pregabalin 300 mg

HT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, JULY 09: The Drug and Food Control Organization Udhampur issued a strict directive to all chemists and wholesale distributors operating within the district regarding the sale and purchase of habit-forming pharmaceutical formulations, particularly Pregabalin 300 mg. In a decisive move to curb the growing menace of drug misuse in society, the Drug and Food control organization, Udhampur imposed an immediate ban / restriction on the sale and distribution of Pregabalin 300 mg formulations, including any FDC of Pregabalin 300. This step has been taken as part of a broader initiative to combat the rampant misuse of such habit-forming substances and to safeguard public health and safety. The ADC, Drug and Food Control Organization Udhampur advised all licensed chemists and wholesale distributors to strictly refrain from dispensing, selling or purchasing Pregabalin 300 mg formulations under any circumstances. Non-compliance with this directive will lead to immediate cancellation of their trade license, without any further notice. The ADC Drug and Food Control Organization, Udhampur appeals to all stakeholders in the pharmaceutical trade to extend their full cooperation in this critical initiative.

DFCO Udhampur imposes restriction on sale of habit-forming drugs, prohibits sale/purchase of Pregabalin 300 mg

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 9: The Rajbhasha Cell of the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar on Wednesday organized a workshop to deliberate on the Annual Programme 2025-2026 issued by the Department of Official Language and to discuss challenges and solutions related to the implementation of official language policies. The workshop, aimed at promoting effective use of Hindi in official work, was primarily attended by ministerial staff of the institute. Mr. Prakash Chandra Mishra, Hindi Officer at MNNIT Allahabad, presided over the session as the main resource person. In his address, Mr. Mishra elaborated on the key points of the Annual Programme 2025-2026 and discussed various issues and practical solutions related to the implementation of Hindi in central government.

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

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Jerusalem/Washington, July 9

In a surprise development during Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's visit to Washington, he was reported to have held an unscheduled 90-minute meeting with US President Donald Trump, and US Vice President JD Vance yesterday evening, intensifying efforts to secure a 60-day ceasefire and a hostage deal in the ongoing Gaza conflict.

According to Axios, the meeting which followed a dinner between the two leaders the night before, was not on Netanyahu's official itinerary but came amid a fresh wave of diplomatic activity and cautious optimism surrounding the stalled negotiations. The media agency reported that the trilateral meeting coincided with a separate round of diplomatic activity at the White House, where a Qatari delegation—acting as a key mediator in the Israel-Hamas negotiations—



held lengthy discussions with senior US officials. Qatar continues to play a central role in facilitating indirect dialogue between the warring parties. Trump, speaking at a cabinet meeting earlier yesterday, confirmed he would be discussing the Gaza issue with Netanyahu, remarking, "We have to get this solved." According to US envoy

Steve Witkoff, who has been leading the proximity talks in Doha, three out of four major points of contention between the two sides have already been addressed, leading to greater optimism in the White House regarding the chances of reaching a settlement. "Hopefully we will reach an agreement by the end of the week,"

he said. Netanyahu however, urged caution, telling reporters after a separate meeting with House Speaker Mike Johnson, "We need both sides to agree. I hope we will pass the finish line. The less I speak about this publicly the better." One of the most significant unresolved issues which is yet to be resolved is the extent of the Israeli military withdrawal from Gaza. While Hamas is demanding a return to positions held before the March ceasefire collapsed, Jerusalem has completely refused. Negotiators have reportedly been exchanging maps to define potential redeployment zones. Two major sticking points have already seen progress. Humanitarian aid distribution has been agreed to take place via neutral international organisations—not affiliated with Israel or Hamas—in areas vacated by Israeli forces. This arrangement excludes the US- and Israel-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation.

India, Brazil sign agreement on cooperation in combating terrorism and transnational organised crime



UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, July 9

India and Brazil have signed several agreements, including one on combating international terrorism and transnational organised crime, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's State visit to Brazil, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said today. The agreements aim to enhance cooperation between the two countries in various areas. A Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in renewable energy and another MoU on cooperation for the sharing of successful large-scale digital solutions for digital transformation were also inked, said MEA Secretary (East) P Kumaran, addressing a special press briefing on PM Modi's State Visit to Brazil.

After the delegation-level talks, there was a signing and exchange of MoUs and agreements. Three agreements and seven MoUs were signed today and exchanged in front of the President and the Prime Minister.

India and Brazil issued a joint statement in which Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism and violent extremism. They emphasized the urgent need for a unified international response, affirming that no justification exists for such heinous acts. In a significant step, both sides welcomed the signing of the Brazil-India Agreement on Cooperation in Combating International

Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime.

The leaders also underscored their intent to disrupt terror financing, including through mechanisms such as the United Nations and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

"The leaders called for concerted action against all UN-designated terrorists and terrorist entities, including those listed by the 1267 UNSC Sanctions Committee, such as Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM). The leaders reaffirmed their strong commitment to continue taking active measures to disrupt terror financing channels, including through the UN and FATF," the joint statement said.

Both leaders unequivocally condemned terrorism, including cross-border terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations.

"Both sides stressed the urgent need for a united international response to terrorism and emphasized that such heinous acts have no justification. The leaders reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate in preventing and combating transnational organized crime and terrorism," the joint statement reads.

"In this context, they welcomed the signing of the Brazil-India Agreement on Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism and Transnational Organized Crime. They also praised the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Cybercrime and pledged to support its signing ceremony, scheduled to take place in Hanoi in 2025," it added.

PM condoles loss of lives in Vadodra bridge collapse, announces ex-gratia relief

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, July 9

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today expressed sorrow over the loss of lives following the collapse of a bridge in Gujarat's Vadodra district. The tragic incident has resulted in multiple casualties and left several injured. In a statement posted on social media platform X, the Prime Minister conveyed his condolences to the bereaved families and extended wishes for the speedy recovery of those injured. "The loss of lives due to the collapse of a bridge in Vadodra district, Gujarat, is deeply saddening. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones. May the injured recover soon," the Prime Minister wrote. Modi also announced an ex-gratia payment from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF). The families of those who lost their lives will receive Rs 2 lakh each, while Rs 50,000 will be provided to each of the injured.

IAF fighter plane crashes; two pilots feared dead

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Jaipur, July 9

Two pilots are feared killed as an IAF fighter plane crashed today near Bhanuda village in Rajaldesar region of Ratangarh sub-division of Churu district in Rajasthan.

The aircraft was probably on its routine sortie when it caught fire and fell down in a deserted field on the outskirts of Bhanuda. The locals found two burnt and mutilated bodies which are believed to be of pilots. Police and Army authorities reached the spot along with fire tenders soon after villagers informed them about the incident.

Superintendent of Police Jai Yadav confirmed recovery of two bodies, which are yet to be identified. Unconfirmed reports said that it was a Jaguar plane of the Indian Air Force that might have taken off from Ambala or Suratgarh. An official version on the crash is awaited. Superintendent of Police Jai Yadav confirmed recovery of two bodies, which are yet to be identified.

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60 Palestinians killed in Israeli attacks across Gaza: sources

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Gaza, July 9

At least 60 Palestinians, including six freed prisoners and a paramedic, were killed in Israeli airstrikes and gunfire across Gaza on Tuesday, according to Palestinian sources. Six people were killed by Israeli shelling on two tents housing displaced persons in Khan Younis, southern Gaza and the town of al-Zawaidain, central Gaza, Spokesperson for the Civil Defense in Gaza Mahmoud Basal told Xinhua.

Hamas said in a press statement that the six were prisoners released from Israeli prisons and deported from the West Bank to Gaza.

West of Gaza City, an Israeli airstrike on a gathering of Palestinians in the al-Rimal neighborhood killed six people, including two children and two women, and an Israeli airstrike on a house in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood killed four, including an infant,



Basal said. Five people were killed in an Israeli airstrike on a house in al-Tuffah, east of Gaza City, whereas three were killed when a bomb dropped by an Israeli drone hit a residential area in the al-Zeitoun neighborhood, south of Gaza City, Basal said, adding that two people, including a child, were killed in an Israeli bombing on al-Tuffah and Sheikh Radwan neighborhoods. A vehicle bombing in the city of Deir al-Balah, central Gaza, killed two people, Basal added. Meanwhile, Nasser Medical Complex reported in a brief press

statement that 25 Palestinians were killed since dawn of Tuesday as a result of separate airstrikes on the Al-Mawasi area, west of Khan Younis.

A paramedic was also killed while performing his duty as a result of Israeli shelling on Al-Mawasi, according to Palestinian medical sources.

Six Palestinians, including three children, were killed by Israeli army fire near a U.S.-backed aid distribution center in north of Rafah, southern Gaza, said the sources.

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli side on these incidents. Since Israel resumed its military campaign in Gaza on March 18, at least 7,013 Palestinians have been killed and 24,838 others injured, bringing the overall death toll in Gaza since the conflict began in October 2023 to 57,575, with a total of 136,879 people injured, according to data released Tuesday by health authorities in Gaza.

Over 2600 Afghan families return to Afghanistan in a single day

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Kabul, July 9

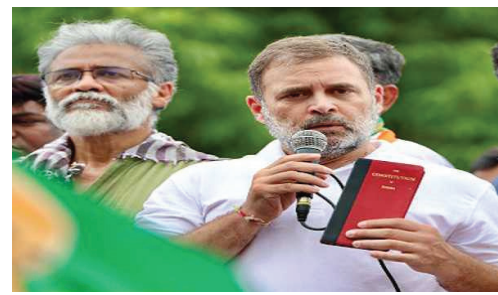
Over 2,600 Afghan refugee families, the majority of whom were from Iran, with a significant chunk from Pakistan, returned home safely in a single day yesterday, reports Afghanistan's state-owned media Bakhtar News Agency. Talking to X, the media outfit said "2,604 Afghan migrant families, comprising 16,264 individuals, have returned to Afghanistan after being forcibly repatriated from Pakistan and Iran." "The High Commission for Addressing Migrants' Issues reported that these families crossed through various border points, including Torkham in Nan-

garhar, Spin Boldak in Kandahar, Islam Qala in Herat, and Abrisham in Nimroz." This marks the latest incident in a long line of forced deportations and repatriations being undertaken by the administrations in Tehran and Islamabad, who are determined to send all refugees back to their homeland. Neither country has shown much leniency to Afghan nationals, despite the interim Taliban government's repeated calls, forcefully uprooting them from their residences, and send them packing. However, there has been a noted improvement in their treatment of Afghans while deporting them, as the governments of both countries are providing the returnees.

Rahul accuses BJP of trying to steal Bihar polls on the lines of Maha

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Patna, July 9

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, holding aloft a copy of the Constitution, today alleged that the BJP was attempting to steal votes in the upcoming Bihar assembly elections as "they did in Maharashtra" in the name of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls. The Congress leaders were addressing a gathering in a march that he led from the Income Tax roundabout to the Election



Commission's (EC) office. The march was stopped near the Shaheed Smarak during the dawn-to-duck Chakka Jam protest called by the opposition Grand Alliance (GA) demanding

immediate halt to the SIR. Rahul accused BJP of attempting to rig the upcoming Bihar Assembly polls "on the lines of what they did in Maharashtra." "The Congress leader was seen holding a copy of

the Indian Constitution while addressing the crowd. "Just like Maharashtra's election was stolen, now there is an attempt to steal the Bihar elections too." He warned the people that "all attempts were being made by the BJP to steal votes in Bihar." He said the BJP realised that the Opposition understood the "Maharashtra model", and now they have brought a new "Bihar model", a tactic to snatch away the votes of the poor.

Govt Must Treat Public Grievances As Opportunities To Identify Flaws: Jitendra Singh

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, July 9

Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said over 26 lakh public grievances are filed each year, and the government must treat them as opportunities to identify flaws in policies and administrative rules.

Addressing an event, the Union minister of state for personnel called for a fundamental shift in the way public grievances are handled and emphasised that their redressal must go beyond disposal to ensure citizens' satisfaction.

"Grievance redressal ought to be a tool for systemic reform and ease of living," he said. Addressing the National Workshop on 'Effective Redressal of Public Grievances, NextGen CPGRAMS and Progress Review', he said the government



must treat grievances as opportunities to identify flaws in policies and administrative rules. The Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) allows citizens

to raise grievances online. Tracing the evolution of grievance redressal in India, the minister recalled how, in 2014, only about two lakh grievances were filed annually, and many government websites created for this purpose remained unused. "Today, more than 26 lakh grievances are filed every year. This reflects a transformation in public trust and the system's responsiveness," he said, crediting the government's push for citizen-centric digital governance under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership. Singh acknowledged the growing global interest in India's grievance redressal model, with countries like Bangladesh, the Maldives, and South Africa sending delegations to study the Centralised Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS) and related initiatives such as the digital life certificate system.

UK could take steps against Israel if Gaza situation fails to resolve - FS

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 London, July 9

The United Kingdom could take further measures against Israel if no ceasefire is reached in the Gaza Strip soon, UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy said. On Tuesday, Lammy criticized comments made by Israeli Defense Minister Israel Katz a day earlier about relocating the Gaza population to a "humanitarian" zone in the southern Gaza Strip.

"I think that would be a big sticking point for getting that ceasefire," Lammy said at a meeting of the UK parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, as quoted by The Times of Israel. "I suspect that if he [Katz] is insistent on that position, then it would be very hard to see

how we get that ceasefire because there is an acute discussion about the degree to which the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from Gaza," Lammy said. Asked if the United Kingdom would take further measures against Israel if the situation in Gaza continued, Lammy said, as quoted by The Times of Israel, "Yes, we will." US Special Envoy Steve Witkoff said on Tuesday that Washington was hopeful that a 60-day ceasefire between Israel and Hamas would be agreed upon by the end of the week. Last week, Hamas confirmed its positive response to the proposal for a new ceasefire agreement with Israel and its readiness to start negotiations. On Saturday, the Ynet news portal reported.

MAKEUP MELTDOWN DURING MONSOON

Do you fear your makeup melting down during the rainy season ?



SHAHNAZ HUSSAIN

If you've ever had your perfectly done makeup melt within minutes of stepping out, you know exactly what we're talking about.

The monsoon season is both magical and maddening. While the rains bring a refreshing vibe to the atmosphere, they also bring an unwelcome challenge: humidity.

The increased humidity in the weather causes foundation to break down, pores to clog, and eyeliner and mascara to smudge. Additionally, heavy makeup can exacerbate the problem by causing more sweat and oil production, leading to a cakey appearance.

The rain can be a real dampener when it comes to your makeup, no puns intended, but there are a couple of tricks that you can follow to ensure that your

makeup won't come melting down even on the most humid day.

1---Powder

The oil buildup and sweating can leave behind a greasy, sticky look behind and ruin your makeup. However you can prolong the wear of your makeup with compact or loose powder---and they also give you a matte finish. To ensure your makeup stays in place, set it with a translucent powder and keep your glam monsoon-proof all day. This will help absorb excess moisture and oil, keeping your foundation intact.

Make sure to set your makeup with a setting powder before you step out, and stash your trusted compact in your handbag for quick refreshes throughout the day. Powder can not only make your makeup last longer but will also keep your skin looking fresh, matte, and grease-free.

Focus on the T-zone and areas prone to oiliness to prevent any unwanted shine. Using too much powder can create a cakey appearance, especially when mixed with



rainwater. Apply powder lightly and focus on oil-prone areas like the T-zone

2-----Eye

Rain and tears test even the best eye makeup.

Nothing ruins a look faster than smudged mascara or runny eyeliner.

Skip the eye-liner, unless you want to cry black tears. Heavy, smoky eye looks are prone to smudging in the monsoon season.

Opt for waterproof and liquid eyeliners and regular mascaras so that eyes makeup stays intact during the day. time. This will

keep the makeup light and natural-looking.

Additionally, consider using a waterproof eyeshadow primer to prevent creasing, and eye makeup stays intact. To make your kajal last, apply a line of grey or brown eyeshadow just below the lashes. This is also one of the most important monsoon eye makeup tips.

Waterproof makeup is the way to go for a long-lasting, fresh look, whether it's eye mascara, eyeliner, or eyeshadow palette.

Use a waterproof pencil to lightly define your lash line and a brow gel to hold your brows in place. Choose tubing mascara, which

doesn't flake and washes off with warm water.

Start with an eyeshadow primer to lock everything in place, then layer on your favorite waterproof products. With waterproof eyeliners you can sweat, swim, or dance your heart out without worry.

3----Lipstick

The trick to making lipstick stay longer is to apply foundation on the lips as well. Apply a thin coat of concealer on the edge of your lips and then apply a line of lip liner over it. Now apply a coat of lipstick and sprinkle some powder, followed by the lipstick again. Never rub a lipstick directly on your lips, always use a lip brush. Bright hues can lift your spirits on a gloomy day. Choose matte lipsticks in bold colours like coral and pink, which provide a splash of brightness and resist bleeding in humid conditions.

Unlike heavy lipsticks that can feel drying, a good glossy liquid lipstick adds a touch of shine and keeps your lips hydrated.

Choose a non-sticky formula. If you're after more staying power,

apply lip oil before the layer of gloss on top. Easy, breezy, and always chic.

Ditch any lip gloss or cream-based lipsticks on rainy days since they smear easily. Ultra-matte, smudge-proof lip liquids that dry fast are the right pick

Opt for matte or long-lasting lipsticks that withstand moisture.

4---Setting Spray

To seal your look, use a setting spray on your face after you've completed your makeup.

This will lock in your makeup and create a protective shield against humidity and rain.

This essential step ensures your makeup stays longer than usual in humid conditions. Choose a waterproof setting spray preferably a mattifying one to control oil and shine, as the final step in your routine. It is one of the most popular Monsoon Makeup Tips for long-lasting, flawless finish.

The author is international fame beauty expert and is called herb queen of India

Legal Awareness Programme on Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace Held at GDC Tangdhar

HT NEWS DESK

Karnah July 9, In line with the Plan of Action and Calendar of Activities for July 2025 issued by the District Legal Services Authority Kupwara the Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC) Tangdhar Karnah in collaboration with the District Police Kupwara and Sub District Hospital Tangdhar organized a comprehensive awareness programme on Victims of Drug Abuse and Eradication of Drug Menace at the auditorium of Government Degree College (GDC) Tangdhar. The programme was held under the guidance of Mr. Mansoor Ahmed Mir, Munsiff/Chairman, TLSC Tangdhar Karnah and witnessed the participation of various stakeholders including the staff of

TLSC Tangdhar, members of Bar Association Tangdhar, Panel Lawyers, PLVs, faculty of GDC Tangdhar, health officials, police officers, and around 100 students of the college. Key speakers included Adv. Qazi Mehboob Allahi, President Bar Association Tangdhar; Adv. Abdul Majeed Bandyar; Adv. Farooq Ahmed Qureshi and Adv. Waqar Ahmad, who highlighted critical legal and social issues pertaining to drug abuse. They elaborated on the legal framework available to combat drug menace and emphasized the role of NALSA in promoting a Drug-Free India. Dr. Mukhtayr Ahmad, Medical Officer, SDH Tangdhar, representing the Health Department, spoke on the psychological and physical impacts.

DC Srinagar inspects progress of ongoing works on S R Gunj Primary Health Centre

Stresses early completion of health facility to provide better healthcare facility to residents

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR JULY 09: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today conducted a comprehensive onsite inspection of the ongoing construction works on Urban Primary Health Centre (UPHC) S R Gunj (Maharaj Gunj) in Shahr-e-Khaas area of the City. During the comprehensive site visit, DC reviewed each construction component, assessed the current progress of the health facility being constructed. He also took stock of the pace and quality of the work. While reviewing the progress, DC was apprised that over 50 percent of the



works including brick-work, internal plastering, door & window framework and tile work stands almost completed with the remaining works being carried out at a fast pace. On the occasion, DC directed the concerned executing agency to ensure accelerating the pace of works

on each component of the prestigious project so that the local population is benefited. He underlined the importance of inter-departmental coordination to resolve issues, if any, in the project to eliminate delays ensuring timely completion of the health facility.

DC stressed the importance of robust inter-departmental coordination to promptly address any issue, to avoid delay, so that the health facility is made operational at the earliest. He maintained that the health facility will strengthen the healthcare infrastructure in the Shahr-e-Khaas area of the City and provide quality healthcare facilities to the residents. During the visit, DC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Chief Medical Officer, Dr Tahir Sajad; Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer KPDC, Tehsildar Khanyar, Zonal Medical Officer, S R Gunj and others concerned.

SKUAST-K, KVK B'gam host Animal Health Camp at Buzgoo Nagam

HT NEWS DESK



BUDGAM, JULY 09: Under the visionary leadership of Prof. (Dr.) Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor SKUAST-K, Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) Budgam, through its extension outreach organized an Animal Clinical Camp today at Buzgoo (Block Nagam). The event was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, as the chief guest, and witnessed enthusiastic participation from local farmers and livestock owners. A dedicated team of veterinarians from KVK Budgam, Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama (SKUAST-K) and officials from Animal Husbandry Department provided on-spot veterinary care including health check-ups, treatment, deworming, vaccination, and mineral supplements. Over 70 livestock including cattle, sheep received treatment and preventive care free of cost.

Prof. (Dr.) Raihana, in her address, reiterated SKUAST-K's commitment to empowering rural communities through timely veterinary interventions, disease prevention, and scientific livestock management. She appreciated the efforts of KVK Budgam in delivering need-based animal health services to the doorsteps of farmers and emphasized the critical role of regular health check-ups and vaccination in preventing disease outbreaks and enhancing farm income.

Police organizes drug awareness programme in Baramulla

HT NEWS DESK

Baramulla July 09: Continuing its efforts to combat drug abuse and promote community engagement, Police in Baramulla, under the supervision of SHO Police Station Boniyar, organized a drug awareness program at Government Higher Secondary School (GHSS) Boniyar. The initiative aimed to educate students about various social evils, particularly the devastating effects of drug abuse. Prominent speakers at the event included SHO Police Station Boniyar, Mr. Mohd Ashraf, Ms. Uzma Qureshi from PDDC Baramulla, Principal GHSS Boniyar Mr. Showkat Ahmad Sherwani and Mr. Azhar, Lecturer at GHSS. They addressed the students and emphasized the ill effects of drug addiction, the importance of informed and responsible citizenship and the need for collective efforts to combat this growing menace. The speakers encouraged students to remain vigilant and to actively contribute to spreading awareness within their communities, highlighting the critical role youth can play in shaping a drug-free society. Police reiterates its commitment to eradicating drug abuse and safeguarding the future of younger generations through continued awareness and outreach programs.

NMBA: Intensive IEC campaign against drug abuse held at GHSS Hiller Arhama

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JULY 09: In a significant step towards addressing the growing concern of substance abuse among youth, a comprehensive Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) campaign was today organized at Government Higher Secondary School Hiller Arhama under the ambit of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA). The campaign was aimed at spreading awareness about the ill effects of drug abuse and encouraging the younger generation to adopt a healthy and drug-free lifestyle. Principal of HSS Hiller Arhama emphasized the crucial



role of educational institutions in shaping the minds of the youth and steering them away from the path of addiction.

This was followed by a series of informative and motivational sessions delivered by resource persons, counselors, and subject experts who spoke at length about the psychological, physiological, and societal impact of drug abuse. Speakers highlighted how drug addiction not only destroys individual lives but also tears apart families and hampers the socio-economic development of communities. They urged the students to stay vigilant, make informed choices, and act as responsible citizens by raising awareness within their peer groups and families.

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Ben Stokes always takes us on a ride

United News of India

EDGBASTON: There are many compelling sights in our sport. Right up there is a batting team on the top, the conditions flat, the ball not doing anything at all for the other bowlers, and then Ben Stokes charging in and drawing life out of nowhere in a long spell. Stokes has the rare ability to take you along on the ride. You don't need to be a cricket connoisseur to know something special is taking place in front of your eyes. You can almost feel the strain he puts himself through, the stretching of every sinew, the twisting away of the torso to create the unusual angle, the high pace eked out of a battered body, the unusualness he extracts from dead conditions, and the satisfaction of having achieved something when it hadn't seemed possible.

It is not magic. In this series, for example, Stokes has swung the ball more than any other fast bowler. His release is wider than

most - only Jasprit Bumrah and Josh Tongue have gone wider in this series - and the swing creates problems coming from that angle.

When Stokes is nearing the top of his mark, it seems like he is dragging his feet and has no gas left. They hardly seem to leave the ground, and seem like they are being thrown forward by force. Then he picks up pace and leaves a piece of himself on the pitch. It is tempting to wonder how much better his numbers would have been had he just been a bowler.

Every time you feel this must be it for him, he comes back for another over, against the wishes of the coaching staff as his workload needs to be managed. It just doesn't seem possible for Stokes to have a measured go. Even at press conferences, he is not finishing a chore, but gives thoughtful answers. Despite all his injuries, only a small percentage of his spells is short. Among 27 fast bowlers who have bowled 100 or more spells since 2021, only James Ander-

son, Matt Henry, Kagiso Rabada and Ollie Robinson have bowled a lower percentage of spells of four overs or fewer.

This is also part of the reason why Stokes is rated highly as a captain. His tactics on the field can yo-yo between the astute and a random smokescreen, but he has the ability to drag his team-mates with him, much like Ian Botham and Andrew Flintoff before him. He doesn't take the new ball, still bowls long spells, and batted against nature just to get a buy-in into the style of play he and Brendon McCullum wanted England to adopt. Stokes batted at 57.07 per 100 balls before Bazball, and has gone at 66.83 since. At the start, he batted frantically just to drive the message home despite being the one batter in the line-up who was more at home playing traditionally. It is the fall in the batting average from 36.05 to 33 during Bazball era that is starting to hurt England. In matches that Stokes has played in the Bazball era, top seven batters have averaged 38.25 overall.

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