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Make J&K disaster-resilient: CS

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday held a review meeting regarding functioning of the Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction (DMRR&R).

The meeting had a detailed assessment of the measures being taken by the department for disaster mitigation besides welfare of different displaced categories of populations.

Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R Departments; Principal Secretary, Social Welfare; Commissioner Secretary, FCS&CA; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, PWD; Secretary, Law; Relief Commissioner; Chief Engineers and other concerned officers and officials of the Department attended the meeting.

Dulloo asked the department to implement robust measures to make J&K disaster-resilient. He emphasised the need for a proactive approach to mitigate the impact of disasters the UT is prone to, rather than just responding after they.

He impressed upon the department to further gear up for action plans formulation regarding different disasters the UT is

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Demand for 'Make in India' Arms Surged Post-Op Sindoor: LG Sinha

Our homegrown weapons hit enemy hard; For long time, Bharat used to run on 'bhagya'

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today inaugurated 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' exhibition and public outreach initiative at Srinagar.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor issued a stern warning to divisive elements in the society to stop spreading fake and dangerous narratives that threaten peace and harmony.

"Some people are giving irresponsible statements by saying that guests are spoiling the culture of J&K. They are stating there is a demographic invasion and alcoholism is spreading. This is the similar narrative as of terror outfit TRF. I appeal to those making such statements to stop peddling such narrative. We have already



lost many innocent lives due to similar statements in the past" the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated his resolve to ensure justice for terror victim families and warned

that those responsible for their sufferings will be held accountable.

"We are honoring and delivering justice to real terror victims of Kashmir valley. I recently met terror victim families in Anantnag. SRO-43 was compromised in the past. Instead of those who are entitled for jobs, the killers were granted jobs under SRO-43. Whoever misused the SRO-43, will face the action" the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor shared the remarkable growth story of the country and Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir in the past few years.

"Since 2014, our great nation is rapidly moving towards becoming a global superpower with new resolve, new thinking and a new roadmap.

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LG Warns Against TRF-Like Propaganda, Urges End to Fake Narratives

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 10: Asking divisive elements to refrain from spreading fake and dangerous narratives, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday cautioned that such rhetoric mirrors the propaganda of terror outfit TRF and has, in the past, led to the tragic loss of many innocent lives.

LG Sinha, while addressing a gathering after inaugurating 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' exhibition here, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), issued a stern warning to divisive elements in the society and asked them to stop

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Pahalgam Attack Underscores The Need For 24x7 Vigilance: Omar Abdullah

United News of India

KOLKATA, JUL 10: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said the Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed, has underscored the need for round-the-clock alertness to prevent such incidents from recurring.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a tourism promotion event here aimed at reviving travel to J&K, Abdullah said, "The Pahalgam incident has shown that we need to be alert 24x7 to prevent such incidents from recurring." Asked about the delay in arresting the culprits behind the Pahalgam attack, the chief minister said that investigations take time and that there was no fixed timeline for such actions.

"Arrests do not depend on any time frame. I am confident that one day the perpetrators of the attack will be apprehended," he asserted. The April 22 attack in Pahalgam



had sent shockwaves across the country and raised serious concerns over security in the region, especially in the lead-up to the Amarnath Yatra.

However, Omar Abdullah struck an optimistic note about the recovery of the tourism sector, despite the setback.

"Tourism has started reviving in Jammu and Kashmir. Maybe hotel rates are lower than they

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CM Omar Abdullah inaugurates Travel & Tourism Fair Kolkata-2025

HT News Desk

KOLKATA, JULY 10: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated the

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Mamata Urges Centre on Kashmir Safety, Plans Visit Post-Puja

United News of India

KOLKATA, JUL 10: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Wednesday urged the Centre to take immediate steps to ensure the safety and

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Amarnath Yatra:

Over 1.45 lakh perform darshan so far

62,788 Pilgrims Depart Jammu; Chhari Mubarak Reaches Pahalgam

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 10: Undeterred by intermittent downpours in the valley, thousands of devotees continue their pilgrimage to the holy cave shrine of Amarnath, with the total number of yatis who have performed darshan so far crossing the 1.45 lakh mark.

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According to official data accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), 17,022 pilgrims performed darshan at the cave shrine on Thursday, the eighth day of the Yatra on July 3. They visited via twin routes—Baltal in Ganderbal and Nunwan-Pahalgam in Anantnag.

No Rajya Sabha representation for J&K since 2021

All 4 seats vacant

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 10: Jammu & Kashmir has been without representation in the Rajya Sabha for over four and a half years, with all four of its seats currently lying vacant.

According to details accessed by news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), J&K has been without any member in Rajya Sabha, in its own quota, since February 15, 2021 when former MPs Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmad Laway completed their terms.

Just days prior, on February 10, 2021, the six-year terms of Mir Muhammad Fayaz and Shamsheer Singh Manhas also came to end. Since then, Jammu & Kashmir has remained unrepresented in the Upper House of Parliament. The Election Commission of India is yet to announce the schedule for filling these berths, even though the electoral college for

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Dr Jitendra unveils NITI Aayog report

HT News Desk / KINS

SRINAGAR, JUL 10: Union Minister of State, Dr. Jitendra Singh Thursday unveiled the 'NITI Aayog's Roadmap for Strengthening State Science and Technology Councils' at NITI Aayog complex, here. He called upon the States and UTs to align with Centre's vision and thereby also align with S&T Efforts in the making of Viksit Bharat@2047.

The roadmap is a major step toward building a robust and coordinated science and technology ecosystem across the

States to fuel India's transformation into a knowledge-driven economy.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr. Jitendra Singh identified Science and Technology as the key growth engine of India's economic rise, stating that "if India is to move from the 4th to the 3rd largest economy and beyond, it is science and technology that will drive this growth."

The Minister recalled that it was Prime Minister Narendra Modi who overhauled the planning framework

in 2014, replacing the Planning Commission

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PDP-BJP still in nexus: Dy CM

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 10: Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary on Wednesday said that Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) is responsible for the current situation in Jammu and Kashmir, alleging that the PDP and BJP are still operating in collusion behind the scenes.

Speaking to reporters at Entrepreneurship Development Institute (EDI) in Pampore, Choudhary

accused the PDP of playing a double game by pretending to be in opposition while echoing the narratives of the BJP.

"They are still one. PDP says only what is being told by BJP. People have already understood their dramas, and that is why they have been reduced to just three seats," he said.

Choudhary praised the ongoing efforts by the government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, stating that the

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ACB arrests Patwari in Ramban

HT News Desk / KINS

JAMMU, JULY 10: The Jammu & Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Tuesday trapped and arrested "Muzamil Salam, Patwari of Patwar Halqa Pogal Paristan in Ramban district, for demanding and accepting a bribe of 2,500 from a complainant seeking correction in revenue records".

According to an official statement, the ACB said that it "received a complaint alleging that the complainant had applied for the correction of his father's name, which was wrongly entered in the revenue records at the office of Tehsildar Ukhral. The Tehsildar had directed the concerned Patwari, Muzamil Salam, to carry out the necessary changes".

"However, instead of performing his official duty, the Patwari initially demanded 20,000 from the complainant for making the correction. After negotiations, the bribe amount was reduced to 2,500".

"Unwilling to pay the bribe, the complainant approached the ACB, requesting legal action against the accused public servant. Following the receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which confirmed the demand of the bribe".

"Subsequently, FIR No. 03/2025 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended in 2018), was registered at Police Station ACB Doda, and an investigation was launched.

A trap team, led by a Gazetted Rank Officer, was constituted to catch the accused red-handed. The operation was successful, and Muzamil Salam, son of Salam Ud Din Shah, resident of Kaskoot, Tehsil Banihal, District Ramban—currently posted as Patwari, Patwar Halqa Pogal Paristan—was caught red-handed while accepting Rs 2,500

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79th Independence Day celebration

Ensure Fool Proof Arrangements: Dulloo

Newspoint Bureau

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Thursday held a high level meeting of senior functionaries of civil administration and Police Department to take stock of the arrangements being made for this year's Independence Day celebration across the UT.

The meeting besides Administrative Secretaries, Divisional

Commissioners, ADGPs, IGP's was attended by Deputy Commissioners; SSPs; Director, Information; Director, School Education, Kashmir/Jammu; Director Health, Kashmir/Jammu and representatives from other security agencies.

The Chief Secretary took appraisal from the concerned about the selection of venues at Srinagar and Jammu besides the districts.



Dulloo enquired about the cultural performances to be depicted on the occasion. He asked for selection of high impact cultural items by the respective divisional committees, preferring the students for their encouragement.

The Chief Secretary also stressed on meticulous management of traffic on roads along with ensuring fool proof security arrangements so that the

participants reach venues without facing any difficulty.

He also sensitized the concerned divisional and district administrations to take adequate measures for ensuring arrangements for public in view of the intense heat wave this year. He impressed upon them to take safety measures especially for the student participants.

The Chief Secretary impressed

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Make J&K.....

vulnerable to. He advised for taking mitigation measures after carrying out expeditions to safeguard the region from any Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF).

The Chief Secretary took stock of updated status of the transit accommodations created for the migrant employees in Kashmir Valley. He called for rapid execution of the ongoing works so that all the 6000 flats are allotted to these employees without any further delay.

Dulloo also took appraisal of implementation of relief and rehabilitation package being extended to the displaced persons of PoJK/Chhamb and the West Pakistani Refugees by the Central Government. He called for disbursement of relief amounts to all the eligible families and giving opportunity to those who had not yet received the benefits despite being eligible for the same.

The Chief Secretary took note of other welfare measures like onboarding of migrants registered with Relief Organisation on NFSA, database for extension of different social security schemes to them. He called for extending such benefits to them forthwith for they have rights to such benefits like other groups of population.

Principal Secretary, DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, informed the meeting about different activities and achievements including strengthening of UT, Divisional and District level disaster management authorities by deploying necessary manpower there.

He also revealed that the department, for the first time, has established a Disaster Mitigation Fund earmarking an amount of Rs 39 crore for augmenting the disaster management infrastructure. He also made a mention of establishment of the Directorate of Disaster Management for which the necessary approval had been sought from the Finance Department.

Post-Op Sindoor.....

Within 6 years, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has written a new history of J&K. It is new J&K where children have pens in their hands and not stones, schools and colleges remain open throughout the year, where calendars of international programmes are published instead of bandhs and strikes.

It's a new J&K where our youth is achieving new heights in innovation and research. It's a new J&K where our youth is now focusing on startups and starting their own business ventures. Now in the new J&K, instead of slogans of separatism, the noise of factories, tourists and people's laughter is being heard," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that in the last 5-6 years, J&K's economy has doubled. The UT of J&K has become a favourite investment designation and more BPOs are also coming up in the UT, J&K Bank which was earlier at the loss of Rs 1300 cr is now at the profit of Rs 1700 cr, he added.

"J&K is writing stories of its golden era by ensuring equal opportunities to the aspirations of the deprived classes, farmers, women and the youth. What was previously impossible in J&K has been made possible," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the next 22 years can prove to be golden years for Jammu and Kashmir in the journey of Amrit Kaal, provided we give the new generation an opportunity to play a big role in this development journey of the nation.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Central Schemes and Innovations will shape our youth's dream into reality. I am looking forward to the day when youth from J&K will join the space sector, become an astronaut to explore new frontiers of space," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, commended the 'Bharat Sanrachna J&K 2025' initiative aimed at creating awareness about government schemes, welfare programmes and highlighting innovation and technology driven development across multiple sectors.

He said the two-day mega exhibition will educate and engage youth, students, farmers, entrepreneurs and every section of society with real-time exposure of government services and build the bridge between government and the people.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the presence of the Ministry of Mines, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of MSME, Ministry of Space, Bureau of Indian Standards, Indian Council of Medical Research, Ministry of Tourism and Indian Council of Agricultural Research in today's exhibition is a significant step towards inclusive development.

He emphasized that the schools and colleges should visit the exhibition in large numbers to inspire youth and encourage their contribution to Jammu & Kashmir's development journey.

LG Warns Against.....

issuing statements that threaten peace and harmony.

"Some people are giving irresponsible statements by saying that guests are spoiling the culture of J&K. They are stating there is a demographic invasion and alcoholism is spreading. This is the similar narrative as of terror outfit TRF. I appeal to those making such statements to stop peddling such narrative. We have already lost many innocent lives due to similar statements in the past" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He reiterated his resolve to ensure justice for terror victim families and warned that those responsible for their sufferings will be held accountable.

"We are honoring and delivering justice to real terror victims of Kashmir valley. I recently met terror victim families in Anantnag. SRO-43 was compromised in the past. Instead of those who are entitled for jobs, the killers were granted jobs under SRO-43. Whoever misused the SRO-43, will face the action" the Lieutenant Governor said.

He said, "Terror victim families will be provided jobs at the doorsteps. I will be handing over job letters to them in few days."

He shared the remarkable growth story of the

country and Union Territory of Jammu Kashmir in the past few years. "Since 2014, our great nation is rapidly moving towards becoming a global superpower with new resolve, new thinking and a new roadmap.

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The 3-day long event will feature interactive Exhibitions from central ministries, PSUs, institutions, and national boards; Live Demonstrations & Hands-on Experiences for students and visitors; Workshops, Seminars & Expert Talks on topics like innovation, sustainability, and government support; Skill Zones, career guidance sessions, and youth empowerment modules and showcase of local success stories and integration of local artisans and entrepreneurs.

Er. Gulam Ali Khatana, Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha; Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Tarun Jain, Director, Tarmeh Events; officials from Central government departments and UT Administration, prominent citizens, innovators, entrepreneurs and youth in large number were present—(KNO)

Pahalgam Attack.....

were before the Pahalgam attack, but people have surely started coming, including for the Amarnath Yatra," he said.

On the Supreme Court's recent order on the special revision of electoral rolls, Abdullah said the verdict must be respected.

The Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls has triggered a major political controversy in Bihar, where assembly polls are due later this year, with the opposition INDIA bloc alleging that it was designed to "benefit the ruling NDA", a charge denied by the EC that is carrying out the massive exercise.

The Supreme Court on Thursday allowed the Election Commission to continue with its SIR of electoral rolls in Bihar calling it a "constitutional mandate".

Asked about the INDIA bloc and recent remarks by West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee, Abdullah refrained from getting into personalities but suggested that the responsibility of keeping the opposition alliance united lies with the biggest player.

"It is not about me or Mamata Banerjee, but the main responsibility is that of the biggest stakeholder to make it a success," he said, indirectly referring to the Congress party.

Reacting sharply to the BJP's repeated jibe that West Bengal under Mamata Banerjee was being turned into another Jammu and Kashmir, Abdullah said such statements were misleading and ironic.

Abdullah also reiterated his demand for early restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"This is the first time in the history of the country that a state has been broken into Union Territories. We are seeking an early transition back to statehood," he added.

CM Omar.....

Travel & Tourism Fair, TTF Kolkata-2025, India's oldest and most trusted B2B travel trade show, at Biswa Bangla Mela Prangan, Kolkata.

Addressing a distinguished gathering of travel professionals, industry stakeholders, and dignitaries, the Chief Minister described TTF Kolkata as a vital platform to explore avenues for collaboration between Jammu & Kashmir and West Bengal and promote mutual growth in the tourism sector.

He emphasized that the fair would encourage all stakeholders to contribute meaningfully towards strengthening the cultural and economic ties between the two regions.

The inaugural ceremony was also attended by several dignitaries, including Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, Additional Chief Secretary to CM Dheeraj Gupta, Deputy Speaker of the Sikkim Legislative Committee Rajkumari Thapa, MLA (Soreng-Chakung) Aditya Gola, Chairman of Chhattisgarh Tourism Board Neelu Sharma, Counsel General of

Thailand Siriporn Tantipanyathet, and Convenor of Association for Conservation & Tourism (ACT) Raj Basu.

The event also witnessed enthusiastic participation from various tour and travel operators, tourism officers, and media representatives, highlighting the growing significance of the eastern Indian market in national and global tourism circuits.

In his address, the Chief Minister, who was the chief guest at the event, highlighted Jammu & Kashmir's transformation into a year-round, all-segment tourist destination, with significant strides made in infrastructure, accessibility, and investor-friendly policies.

He spoke of the deep cultural and emotional connect between J&K and West Bengal, inviting travellers from the state to rediscover the timeless charm, natural beauty, and evolving experiences of Jammu & Kashmir.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed his privilege in being part of the country's premier travel trade platform. "It is indeed a privilege to be here at TTF Kolkata 2025," he said. "I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organizers for creating this vital platform that promotes tourism across the country. Jammu & Kashmir is proud to participate as a key stakeholder in India's tourism growth story."

The Chief Minister elaborated on the remarkable transformation witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir's tourism sector. "J&K has evolved into a year-round, all-segment tourism destination," he noted. "We are not only focusing on traditional sites but have also identified and developed off-beat locations such as Gurez, Bangus, Baderwah, Sanasar, Doodhpathri, and Basohli. These destinations have seen significant growth and offer unique experiences to travellers."

Highlighting the J&K's thrust on border tourism, the Chief Minister stated, "We are promoting tourism in areas like Uri, Keran, Teetwal, and Suchetgarh. Our aim is to ensure that local communities benefit directly from tourism-led development. These border destinations are not only picturesque but also rich culturally."

The Chief Minister placed special emphasis on community involvement in the tourism landscape. "Homestays across Jammu & Kashmir reflect the growing grassroots participation in tourism," he said. "We are particularly supporting women-led homestays in rural areas such as Kupwara and Ganderbal. This approach is helping us promote inclusive growth while empowering women economically."

He also underlined the growing popularity of niche tourism in the region. "J&K has emerged as a prime hub for adventure tourism—be it skiing, trekking, alpine lake exploration, or mountaineering," he said. "Our world-class golf courses in Gulmarg, Pahalgam, Srinagar, and Jammu are attracting global enthusiasts, including international cricketers. Wedding tourism, too, is gaining momentum in Srinagar and Gulmarg, with several high-end celebrations taking place in these iconic locations."

Referring to the revival of film tourism, the Chief Minister stated, "Jammu & Kashmir is once again reclaiming its position as the cinematic crown of India, ideal for filmmaking. The return of Bollywood to the Valley is not only enhancing the region's visibility but is also creating livelihood opportunities across sectors."

Sharing recent recognitions, he added, "J&K's tourism initiatives have earned national acclaim. We received the SKOCH Silver Award for our Homestay Initiative and multiple accolades under the Ministry of Tourism's Best Rural Homestay Awards for locations like Keran, Jharokabagh, and Yusmarg. We were also recognized under the 'Travel for LIFE' program for our sustainable tourism efforts. Moreover, Aru in Pahalgam was awarded Best Tourism Village in the Adventure Category."

Mamata Urges.....

security of Jammu and Kashmir, stating that such measures were crucial for reviving tourism in the region.

Banerjee made the remarks after meeting Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the state secretariat in Kolkata. This was the first interaction between the two leaders since the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed.

"The Centre must take steps to ensure safety and security so that more and more tourists visit Kashmir. It must also strengthen border security in the region," Banerjee told reporters.

She said Kashmir is a land of rich cultural and natural beauty and must not be feared.

"Our tourists should visit Kashmir; there is no reason to fear. The Government of India must also take steps to ensure more people can travel there. Border security lies with the Centre, so they should take necessary action. If needed, they should speak to Omar Abdullah and make proper arrangements," she said.

Banerjee expressed solidarity with the "brothers and sisters" of Kashmir.

"He (Omar) came here after the unfortunate incident in Pahalgam and invited me. I have accepted the invitation. I will try to visit (Jammu and Kashmir) after Puja," she added.

Abdullah, who addressed the media alongside Banerjee, thanked the West Bengal government for extending support after the terror attacks.

"After the Pahalgam attack and Operation Sindoor, Didi (Banerjee) had sent a team to Poonch and Rajouri to meet the affected families and provide necessary help. I am thankful to her," he said.

He reiterated his desire for stronger ties between the two states.

"I want to extend an invitation to Didi to visit Jammu and Kashmir. In future, I want Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir to work together for the betterment of trade, tourism, and relations. It is our duty to provide all necessary support and safety to tourists from Bengal," Abdullah said.

During the meeting, the chief ministers discussed

strengthening cooperation between the two states in sectors such as industry, tourism, and cultural exchange.

"Kashmir is rich with spices, dry fruits, and other unique offerings. I am a great admirer of Kashmir; I love the place. Our tourism department will work together with them. There should be an MoU to facilitate visits in both directions and promote cultural exchange. The people of Kashmir are gifted in music, dance and art," Banerjee said.

She also stated that the West Bengal government would encourage film producers from the state to consider Kashmir as a filming location.

"They (people of J&K) should come here during Puja. We will also invite them for Republic Day celebrations," the West Bengal chief minister said.

The meeting comes as Jammu and Kashmir seeks to revive its tourism sector amid ongoing security concerns, with the Abdullah government making outreach efforts to other states for cooperation and investment. (Agencies)

Over 1.45 lakh.....

Of the total, 12,471 were male devotees, 4,000 were female pilgrims and 182 were children. The batch also included 108 sadhus, 5 sadhvis and 3 transgender devotees. Additionally, 253 personnel from security forces availed darshan on the day.

With this, the cumulative figure of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at the holy cave till date stands at 1,45,716.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 7,307 pilgrims left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Thursday morning amid tight security arrangements. The convoy, comprising 284 vehicles, was escorted in two separate groups—one for the Baltal axis and another for the Pahalgam route.

Officials told KNO that the batch included 5,534 men, 1,586 women, 25 children, and 162 sadhus and sadhvis. Of these, 3,081 pilgrims took the 14-km Baltal route in 137 vehicles, while 4,226 pilgrims embarked on the 48-km traditional Pahalgam route in 147 vehicles.

With Thursday's batch, the total number of pilgrims who have departed from the Jammu base camp since the Yatra was flagged off by J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has touched 62,788 in the past nine days.

Authorities said elaborate security, medical and logistical arrangements have been put in place across both routes to ensure the smooth conduct of the Yatra. Civil administration, police and health teams remain deployed at base camps and along the trekking routes.

The revered 'Chhari Mubarak'—the holy mace of Lord Shiva—reached Pahalgam on Thursday, marking the start of key traditional rituals associated with the Amarnath Yatra.

The sacred procession, led by Mahant Deependra Giri, began from the Dashnami Akhara in Srinagar and reached Chhari Vishram Sthal in Pahalgam.

As part of the day's religious observances, Bhoomi Pujan, Navgrah Pujan, and the symbolic hoisting of the religious flag were performed.

Speaking on the occasion, Mahant Giri said that Ashad Purnima, also known as Guru Purnima, holds immense spiritual significance. "We began the morning with the ritual departure of the Chhari Mubarak from Srinagar and arrived at Pahalgam for the customary rites. A havan and communal meal for devotees will follow," he said.

Over 4 lakh pilgrims have registered online for this year's pilgrimage, which is scheduled to conclude on August 9.

Last year, more than 5.1 lakh pilgrims performed darshan during the 52-day-long Yatra—one of the highest footfalls in recent years—(KNO)

No Rajya Sabha.....

them has been in place since October 8, 2014, the day when results of J&K Assembly polls were declared. The elected MLAs of the Union Territory constitute the Electoral College for the Rajya Sabha seats.

The Election Commission of India is yet to indicate any timeline for holding RS polls.

Sources, however, disclosed that there is a possibility that RS polls could be held after by-elections for Nagrota and Budgam seats take place.

In 90s, a similar situation had also arisen when J&K Assembly polls couldn't be conducted due to a volatile security situation.

Between 1994 and 1996, all four Rajya Sabha seats allotted to the then-state of Jammu & Kashmir remained vacant. The members elected in 1988 completed their six-year terms, but new RS members could not be elected due to the absence of a functioning Legislative Assembly.

It is worth to mention here that Ghulam Ali Khatana, a resident of Jammu, was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2022 by the President of India. His nomination was not from Jammu & Kashmir's allotted share in the Rajya Sabha, but under the nominated quota—(KNO)

Dr Jitendra.....

with NITI Aayog as a forward-looking think tank, which has since guided India's growth with visionary policies. "This transformation enabled long-term thinking, evidence-based policy, and a shift from fund allocation to strategic coordination," he emphasized.

Dr. Jitendra Singh highlighted the successful coupling of States and Centre as a case study to harness the full potential of regional scientific

talent. He urged State S&T Councils to act as intermediaries between research labs and communities, enabling grassroots-level impact of scientific innovation. He called upon the states to align their scientific vision with the national roadmap of Viksit Bharat @2047, and promote early industry linkages to ensure startup sustainability, not merely through knowledge partnerships, but also through investment partnerships.

Tracing India's exceptional S&T trajectory over the past decade, Dr. Jitendra Singh said PM Modi has consistently given patronage to scientific progress. "In each of his Independence Day addresses from the Red Fort in the last 11 years, he has highlighted major scientific initiatives—be it the Swachh Bharat Mission, Digital India, Stand-Up and Start-Up India, Deep Ocean Mission, or the Digital Health Card," Dr. Singh noted.

He emphasized that a change in mindset is critical for innovation. "We must move away from excessive reliance on government funding and encourage vibrant public-private partnerships to unlock innovation at scale," he stated.

Citing India's S&T success stories like Chandrayaan-3, indigenous vaccine development, and the successful gene therapy trial for Hemophilia published in The New England Journal of Medicine, Dr. Jitendra Singh underscored India's rising global credibility. He highlighted that resident Indian patent filings have surged by nearly 56%, and 67% of India's research output now comes from centrally-funded institutions.

The Minister described the recently established Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) as a game-changer that will bridge gaps between academia, industry, and government, facilitating co-creation and co-investment in research. He also praised the emerging Bio-E3 cell ecosystem, backed by the Prime Minister, stating, "The next big revolution will be biotech-driven, and India is set to lead the world."

Referring to the liberalization of space and nuclear sectors for private participation, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "With these domains unlocked, only the sky is the limit for Indian science." He called for the Government to assume the role of facilitator rather than controller, encouraging innovation to thrive.

Dr. Jitendra Singh also lauded NITI Aayog's Atal Tinkering Labs initiative, which has nurtured innovation at the school level, providing a strong foundation for India's next generation of scientists and entrepreneurs.

Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog, Suman Bery, emphasized the urgent need for such a roadmap to ensure that State S&T Councils align their efforts with national development goals and drive innovation that is both inclusive and sustainable.

PDP-BJP still.....

government is working sincerely to empower the youth.

He highlighted initiatives like Mission Yuva, which he said are aimed at turning young individuals into job providers instead of job seekers.

"Our youth are full of talent. They just need a push, a support system from the government. If we fail to provide that, it will be the greatest injustice to their potential," he added.

The Deputy CM emphasized the importance of investing in youth-centric development to ensure a stable and progressive Jammu and Kashmir. (KNO)

ACB arrests.....

from the complainant, in the presence of independent witnesses.

The accused was arrested on the spot following proper legal procedures, and the bribe money was recovered from his possession. "Further investigation into the case is underway" reads the statement. (KINS)

Ensure Fool.....

upon the concerned to ensure better sanitation, power supply and availability of drinking water facilities at all the locations. He asked for sending invitations to all the invitees including the prominent citizens beforehand for their convenience.

He also enjoined upon the concerned divisional/district authorities to take stock of arrangements in their respective jurisdictions to ensure that the events right upto Panchayat level are held in a befitting manner.

Dulloo also impressed upon the Information Department to install the Public Address System (PAS) and check its functionality well ahead of the full dress rehearsal day. He asked them to keep proper back-ups available as well to be used in case of any unforeseen eventuality.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the HoDs, Divisional heads and DCs to illuminate the major public infrastructure including their offices, major bridges and other iconic places for this national event.

On the occasion, it was revealed that contingents from JK Police, Armed Police, CRPF, BSF, Lady Police, IRP, F&ES, NCC and Schools are going to participate in the two main events at Srinagar and Jammu. Additionally, details of preparations being made by the concerned regarding sanitation, medical, water and power arrangements were discussed in detail. It was informed that the concerned authorities would ascertain the arrangements to be for the celebration in the coming days.

It was revealed that the full-dress rehearsals have been scheduled to be held on 13th of August for the 79th Independence Day celebrations to be held across the UT on 15th of August this year.



Preserving our ecosystem, a collective responsibility: Committee on Environment

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: The Legislative Committee on Environment of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today expressed serious concern over the environmental degradation and called for coordinated efforts to address the escalating crisis.

The meeting was presided over by Chairman of the Committee, Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami and attended by MLAs Peerzada Mohammad Syed, Yudhvir Sethi, Choudhary Zafar Ali Khatana, Peerzada Feroze Ahmad, Mushtaq Ahmad Guroo, Irshad Rasool Kar and members of the Committee. Group of Concerned Citizens (GCC) led by its Chairman Khurshid Ahmad

Ganie also attended the meeting and put forth their views and suggestions. While speaking on the occasion, Tarigami said that there is a need to identify issues where we can intervene together for improving the environmental health of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Environment plays a vital role in people's physical, mental and social well-being. We have to move ahead in the direction of protecting our environment to do justice with the job entrusted by the House," he said. He added that protection of our ecology is a question of our present and future generations and we have to work collectively in this direction. "The environmental health is our survival and denial of this fact will prove to be disastrous if immediate



measures are not taken to ensure its preservation. It is high time that each one of us in JK realize that the environment is our collective responsibility

and everyone has a role to play in preserving and protecting it in every possible way with a sensible approach," he added.

"Whatever the limitations in the present circumstances but there should be no excuses in asserting ourselves towards protection of our natural resources," he continued.

The members also condemned the reckless felling of trees from time to time and warned that the elements of nature are all inter-related and has an impact on our very possibility to exist on this planet.

During the meeting, Khurshid Ahmad Ganie and its other members emphasized that the government should think seriously on climate action plan in order to address the environmental issues confronting us. They also highlighted the increase in vehicular pollution due to increasing number of households possessing vehicles and stressed the need for strengthen-

ing of public transport.

It was also highlighted during the meeting that Environmental Impact Assessment should be done on all projects in JK before their implementation.

They also raised concern over the fast conversion of agricultural land into non-agricultural purposes and said that once it is lost it becomes irretrievable. They also raised the encroachments and debris dumping in water bodies as another pressing issue that needs immediate attention. "People should be sensitized about the health of environment for the survival of human being. Community driven efforts are much needed to stem the degradation of our natural resources," they observed.

Chhari Mubarak taken to Pahalgam for Bhoomi Pujan

HT NEWS DESK

ANANTNAG, JULY 10: On the auspicious occasion of Ashad Purnima, the saffron-robed silver mace of Lord Shiva, traditionally known as 'Chhari Mubarak', was ceremoniously taken to Pahalgam for the Bhoomi Pujan ritual, marking the formal commencement of the age-old traditions associated with the annual Amarnath Yatra. Amid the chanting of Vedic hymns, a group of Sadhus led by Swami Mahant Deependra Giri took the Chhari Mubarak from its abode in Srinagar. The holy mace was then taken to Gauri Shankar Temple, Pahalgam, where the Bhoomi Pujan was performed with religious fervour. The ceremony witnessed participation of a number of devotees reinforcing the composite cultural ethos of the region. The Chhari Mubarak will continue its traditional journey as per the religious calendar, culminating in the final darshan at the holy cave of Shri Amarnath Ji.

ADC Kulgam oversees arrangements for smooth conduct of Annual Yagi at Nareshwar Temple

Farooq Rather



KULGAM, JULY 10: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri today visited Nadimarg Yaripora to oversee arrangements for smooth conduct of Annual Yagi at Nareshwar Temple.

Devotees from across the district gathered in large numbers to offer prayers and celebrate this auspicious day and Murti Sthapna Puja was held at the temple today with religious favor. During his visit, ADC reviewed the facilities available for the devotees.

Meanwhile, district administration has provided all the facilities including drinking water supply, availability of essentials, electricity and other necessary arrangements including security and other requirements. Accompanying the ADC were SDM Zainapora, Tehsildar Yaripora, EO MC Yaripora and other officers.

SSR-2025: SVEEP workshop held for AAYAs at Kangan

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JULY 10: A comprehensive SVEEP workshop focusing on the upcoming Special Summary Revision (SSR) 2025 was conducted today at the meeting hall of the Zonal Education Office, Kangan.

The event witnessed active participation of AAYAs and helpers from across the zone, symbolizing grassroots commitment to strengthening democratic participation. Organised by the District Nodal Officer SVEEP Ganderbal, Rumysa Sangeen (Deputy Chief Education Officer Ganderbal), the workshop underscored pivotal role of voter education at the foundational level. Officers from the Education department and seasoned Election Master Trainers delivered insightful deliberations on the core objectives of SVEEP and its execution strategy for SSR 2025.

DSEK, SCERT-JK launch Induction Training for School Heads Introduce Institutional Plan Module to strengthen leadership across Kashmir

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in collaboration with the SCERT-JK, launched a three-day 'Induction Training Programme' for newly promoted Headmasters from Srinagar, Budgam, Ganderbal, and Pulwama districts. Hosted at the SCERT-JK campus, the training aims to equip school heads with the knowledge and leadership skills necessary to implement effective and coherent institutional planning.

Organized under the aegis of the DSEK and School Leadership Academy (SLA), SCERT-JK - Kashmir Division, the programme seeks to strengthen instructional and administrative leadership in alignment with the Nation-



al Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The event was inaugurated by Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director School Education Kashmir,

as chief guest, and was hosted by Syed Shabir Ahmad, Joint Director, SCERT-JK. A significant highlight of the programme was the official release of the training module titled 'Developing Institutional Plan' by Director Dr. G.N. Itoo. Commending the School Leadership Academy for designing a comprehensive and actionable framework, Dr. Itoo urged the participating Heads of Institutions (HOI's) to adopt structured and goal-oriented approaches to school planning and development. Director also interacted with the trainees, encouraging them to lead with integrity, inclusivity, and innovation. Stressing their dual role as instructional and administrative leaders, he called on school heads to foster learner-centric environments, drive data-informed decision-making, and imple-

TAD disburses ₹4.7 cr scholarship to 2300 ST students Tribal Affairs Minister asks deptt to extend scholarships to newly listed tribes

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: Aimed at promoting inclusive education and empowering the tribal youth, Tribal Affairs Department (TAD) today disbursed scholarships amounting 4.7 crore to 2,308 Scheduled Tribe (ST) students.

Under the directions of Tribal Affairs Minister, Javed Ahmed Rana, a total amount of 4,71,61,575/- has been released to support the educational aspirations of meritorious and deserving ST students across Jammu & Kashmir.

The decision reflects Omar Abdullah Government's commitment towards reducing the financial burden on tribal families and ensuring equitable access to academic opportunities.



The disbursed scholarship aims to create a robust framework that addresses the educational, social and economic upliftment of the tribal communities in Jammu & Kashmir. Tribal Affairs Minister has also directed the Tribal Affairs Department to initiate immediate steps to bring

newly listed communities under the Scheduled Tribe status within the ambit of the scholarship regime of the Department.

"This will enable eligible students from these communities to avail the scholarship benefits, further expanding the reach and impact of this initiative," he said.

The Department of Tribal Affairs is working tirelessly to ensure that the benefits of this scheme reach the most deserving students.

"Proposals have already been submitted to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, Government of India, to release the balance funds at the earliest and the matter is being actively pursued with the Ministry," informed the Director Tribal Affairs, Mumtaz Ali. He said, an additional amount of

1.44 crore is expected to be released soon for covering more students.

Delegation of PHDCCI Kashmir calls on Javid Dar

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: A delegation of the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PHDCCI) Kashmir, led by its Chairman A P Vikey Shaw, today met Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, at the Civil Secretariat here.

The delegation discussed issues and proposals for development of Agriculture, Horticulture and allied sectors in Jammu & Kashmir. Also present were Co-Chairman, Javid Anim, EC Members of PHDCCI Bilal Kawoosa, Fayaz Ahmad and Nasir Rather. The delegations extended gratitude to the Minister for his unwavering support towards the department of agriculture, horticulture and allied sectors in Jammu and Kashmir.

The PHDCCI members submitted a memorandum outlining several demands and issues. These included establishment of a cold storage facility at Lassipora, conduct of an agricultural, horticulture and allied sectors exhibition in Kashmir and strict enforcement of regulations to prevent unauthorized imports and safeguard the horticultural industry.

The Minister listened to the delegation's concerns and assured them that their issues and concerns will be considered for redress.

SKUAST-K commercializes lactobacillus-based probiotic poultry feed for nationwide production

HT NEWS DESK

SRINAGAR, JULY 10: In a significant leap for animal biotechnology and agricultural innovation, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir today officially licensed its groundbreaking technology - a genetically modified Lactobacillus plantarum N8 construct designed as a probiotic additive in poultry feed - to Kolkata-based Invati Creations Private Limited.

The innovative and patented product is set to be commercialised across the country under the brand name 'Salnil.'

The 'Technology License Agreement Signing Ceremony' was conducted virtually via video-conferencing. It was the first of its kind digital signing ceremony held by SKUAST-K, where Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice-Chancellor, SKUAST-K; Dr Jitendra Kumar, MD, BIRAC; and Mukesh Agarwal,



CEO, Invati Creations Pvt Ltd, formally appended their signatures digitally to the commercialization agreement.

Vice-Chancellor of SKUAST-K, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, who was the chief guest at the occasion, said this is a great day for SKUAST-K as the university is transferring

a ground breaking technology to an industry partner for commercialization. He said universities and other R&D institutions in the country develop a large number of technologies but only a few are transferred for public use. Prof Ganai thanked DBT and BIRAC for the unwavering support and

funding to SKUAST-K for its various innovative projects. He said SKUAST-K is the No.1 among the 75 SAUs in the country in innovation with 85 patents and 75 startups registered in the last few years. Earlier, Dr Vinita Jindal, DGM & Head of Intellectual Property and Technology Management at the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council (BIRAC), highlighted the strategic importance of such technology transfers in driving innovation and economic growth. Mukesh Agarwal, Director & CEO of Invati Creations Pvt Ltd, shared his company's vision for the technology, announcing the product's brand name as 'Salnil.' He expressed Invati Creations' firm commitment to leveraging their expertise in nanotechnology bioscience to ensure the widespread production and distribution of this advanced probiotic under its new brand. The initial 20-year agreement solidifies a long-term partnership.

HT EDITORIAL

Traffic police personnel need to be polite towards people

The traffic police wing of the Jammu & Kashmir Police department is entrusted with the responsibility of ensuring that the people follow the traffic rules in letter and spirit. The enforcement of law is very important in a society and as such the traffic police department is well within its right to enforce traffic laws in the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. This would ensure that there is no anarchy on the roads and everything is systematic.

Enforcement of rules and regulations is a very good thing and most of the people cooperate with the government departments in this regard. It has been observed that on many occasions the traffic police personnel posted on the roads harass any person who is found violating the rules and regulations. The primary job of the traffic police personnel is to ensure that traffic rules and regulations are followed. If anybody is found violating the same then the violator has to be booked under the law and a challan is filed against the violator.

Some of the traffic police cops have been accused of using unparliamentary language at times and it is due to this reason that sometimes a scuffle breaks out between a traffic police cop and the violator. There is no denying the fact that the traffic violations can at times lead to a road accident but that does not mean that traffic police cops take law into their own hands. They need to be polite towards the masses so as to enhance their image among the people.

At times the traffic police cops try to snatch the key of a person who is found violating the law and this too infuriates the driver violating the law. The high-handedness of the traffic police department at times leads to a scene on a road with scores of people watching the confrontation between the two sides. There are occasions when the people on the road enter into argument with the department officials as and when there is some VIP movement.

It is important that necessary education is imparted to the traffic police cops so that they communicate in a better manner with the common masses. These people need to be polite with the common people so that there are minimum misgivings between the two sides more so when they are up against a tricky situation. It is high time that the officers of the department take a call about the same so that there is a difference of attitude on the roads.

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Reviving Urdu in J&K:

A Call for Educational Reform and Cultural Renewal

Urdu ka apna lahu hai, apna rang hai,
Ye zabaan kisi se udhaar nahi leti.

Firaq Gorakhpuri



Dr Mohiudin Zore Kashmiri

In the lanes and offices of Jammu and Kashmir, one still finds echoes of Urdu — etched into government orders, printed on public notices, and spoken across counters where everyday citizens seek essential services. Urdu remains a functional and foundational administrative language, yet its significance is often brushed aside, slowly eroding beneath layers of neglect.

The crisis, however, runs deeper than bureaucracy. It begins at the roots — in the classrooms of government schools and even in the polished halls of elite private institutions. Here, Urdu is often poorly taught, or worse, omitted entirely. Despite being culturally and historically entwined with the region's soul, students are denied the structured learning necessary to master it. The consequences are evident: even professional Urdu journalists frequently lack fluency in grammar, syntax, and vocabulary. As a result, the quality of Urdu journalism has declined, its once-vibrant voice reduced to a stammer.

There was a time, not long ago, when Urdu literacy was a matter of pride—a reflection of refinement and education. Today, it is tragically perceived by many as a burden, an unnecessary weight in an era obsessed with English fluency and digital shorthand.

And yet, Urdu is no relic. It is a language of resistance, of unity, of revolution—used by the likes of Gandhi, Nehru, and countless Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh freedom fighters who shaped the destiny of the subcontinent through Urdu's eloquence. Its decline signals not just a linguistic lapse, but a disconnection from a shared past.

The problem is not irreversible. Institutions such as the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) still hold the keys to revival. Through scholarships, vocational training, and modernized Urdu pedagogy, Urdu can be made relevant and empowering once again. But this effort must be multi-pronged: state and central governments must actively recruit Urdu professionals, media outlets must recognize Urdu's commercial potential, and our youth must be taught to see it not as poetic nostalgia, but as a tool for professionalism, storytelling, and governance.

Reviving Urdu is not just a cultural gesture—it is a restoration of identity, dignity, and continuity. If we reinvest in Urdu across schools, media, public and private institutions, we do not merely save a language; we fortify the legacy of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Future of Urdu in Jammu and Kashmir: Institutional Support and Policy Direction An illuminating example comes from Punjab University, Chandigarh, where a disciple of mine, Harpreet Singh, completed his M.A. in Punjabi and later pursued a diploma in Urdu. There, I observed a vibrant Urdu department, a thoughtful curriculum, and a literary culture that revered Urdu as both heritage and living expression. Similar scenes unfold in Jamia Millia Islamia, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Oxford, and



There was a time, not long ago, when Urdu literacy was a matter of pride—a reflection of refinement and education. Today, it is tragically perceived by many as a burden, an unnecessary weight in an era obsessed with English fluency and digital shorthand. And yet, Urdu is no relic. It is a language of resistance, of unity, of revolution—used by the likes of Gandhi, Nehru, and countless Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh freedom fighters who shaped the destiny of the subcontinent through Urdu's eloquence. Its decline signals not just a linguistic lapse, but a disconnection from a shared past

even American institutions, where Urdu departments flourish and attract students from diverse backgrounds.

In Patiala and Ludhiana, non-Muslim students study Urdu with a passion and depth that often surpasses expectations. Their engagement with classical and modern literature demonstrates Urdu's unifying power—a

language that transcends religious and cultural divides and offers a shared intellectual home.

This should serve as a guiding light for Jammu and Kashmir. Post the abrogation of Article 370, the transition to Union Territory status has brought new complexities and opportunities. With the Public Service Commission inactive and regional recruitment dwindling, the onus lies on the administration to revive and protect its official language—Urdu. Though Kashmiri, Dogri, and Hindi were granted official status in 2019, the decision sowed confusion and deep anxiety among Urdu-speaking communities, many of whom now feel linguistically and culturally displaced.

This is not merely a matter of identity politics. As Justice Sudhanshu Dhulia of the Supreme Court rightly noted during the 15th World Hindi Conference, judiciaries and administrations must operate in languages understood by the people. Inaccessibility of language leads to inaccessibility of justice. A notable High Court judgment on municipal communication in Mumbai further emphasized the legal dimensions of Urdu's marginalization.

So, we must ask: in a region where Urdu has long served as the bridge between people and power, how can we afford to let it fade? The answer is clear—we cannot. Preserving Urdu in Jammu and Kashmir is not only a cultural duty—it is a democratic imperative.

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Is Modern Lifestyle Harming Children's Heart Health?



Priyanka Saurabh

The incidence of heart attacks among children in India is increasing rapidly. This is related to the changing lifestyle of children, their eating habits, mental stress and screen time. This danger can be prevented only through regular health checkups in schools, yoga, nutrition education and awareness among parents. This is not just a health issue, but a national warning. Whenever we hear the word "heart attack", we imagine a middle-aged person of fifty-sixty-five years of age—engrossed in a hectic life, laden with stress and fatigue. But today the reality is much more frightening and shocking than this. Today heart attacks are not only haunting adults, but also innocent children. Such news is coming from many parts of the country, where children going to school suddenly fall down and doctors call it "cardiac arrest" or "sudden heart failure". Is this just a coincidence? Or has our lifestyle attacked the little hearts?

In the last few months, many such incidents have come to light from across the country, which confirm the seriousness of this threat. The latest case is from Barwani district of Madhya Pradesh, where an innocent eight-year-old girl fell and died as soon as she reached the school gate. Earlier, incidents of death of school children due to heart attack have also been reported from states like Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi, Maharashtra. According to the Indian Medical Journals, there has been a 35% increase in cases of sudden cardiac arrest deaths among children under the age of 18 between 2021 and 2022. In the year 2022 alone, 32,457 youths died of heart attack in India. A large number of these were teenagers between 10 and 18 years of age.



To deal with this crisis, we have to adopt a multi-pronged strategy. The government should make cardiac checkup, ECG and general health checkup compulsory every 6 months in all private and government schools. Campaigns like 'Fit India' should be implemented seriously in schools.

The question is why is this happening? Is it just a matter of genetics? Are congenital heart diseases suddenly becoming active in children? Or is our changing lifestyle, eating habits, screen time, obesity, mental stress and physical inactivity a major factor behind this? Experts say that the reason for this is "multi-factorial"—that is, it is a mixture of many factors. Today's children are dependent on bread-burgers, pizza, cold drinks and packaged snacks. Nutritious food, such as green vegetables, pulses, fruits, milk is no longer a part of their diet. Earlier children used to run and play in the streets. Now mobiles and gaming consoles have taken away their childhood. Tablets have replaced playgrounds. Excessive homework in schools, the race for coaching, expectations of parents and the pressure to be the 'best' in every field is causing mental stress in children. This stress imbalances cortisol and other hormones in the body, which affects the heart.

Using mobile phones till late night, watching reels and playing online games affects children's sleep. Lack of sleep is directly related to heart health. Pediatric cardiologists believe that heart attacks in children are usually caused by "congenital heart disease", "cardiomyopathy", "electrical disorders" or "myocarditis". But due to not detecting them on time, children become

victims of sudden death. Unfortunately, the child health checkup system in our country is very weak. Most schools do not have regular health checkups, and parents also ignore symptoms like fatigue or shortness of breath in children.

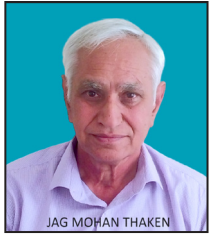
To deal with this crisis, we have to adopt a multi-pronged strategy. The government should make cardiac checkup, ECG and general health checkup compulsory every 6 months in all private and government schools. Campaigns like 'Fit India' should be implemented seriously in schools. Children should be encouraged to do yoga, pranayam, meditation and regular physical exercise. Parents have to keep a careful watch on their children's diet, sleep and screen time. Take the child's fatigue, irritability or any unusual physical symptoms seriously.

"Nutrition education" should be included in the school curriculum so that children can understand the importance of healthy food and body from an early age. Television and digital media should play the role of educating the society for a healthy lifestyle instead of just selling products. It is ironic that while India is in the race to become a "developed nation", its future i.e. children are suffering from heart diseases. Niti Aayog, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education should together make a coordinated policy, so that screening of children, health education and emergency facilities can be ensured in every school. This is not just a matter of health, but of national security and human resource development.

Childhood is a festival of heartbeats, not the last stage of life. When a child dies of a heart attack, not just a life is lost—a future, a dream and a family are destroyed. We have to accept that the heart of children is no longer as strong as it used to be—because we have weakened it. Now the time has come that we should not just give speeches on 'Heart Day', but worry about the heart of children every day. Otherwise the day is not far when we will have to carry a stretcher instead of a school bag.

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science Poetess, Independent journalist and columnist

Why 25 Crore Trade Union Workers Adopted the Strike Path?



Jag Mohan Thaken

The Country witnessed a sweeping nationwide strike on Wednesday as lakhs of workers, farmers, and trade union members gathered and organized rallies against the central government's economic and labour policies, terming them anti-worker and pro-corporate.

Exempting the essential services- like hospitals, pharmacies, airports, and metro rail etc, on call of 10 central trade unions, over 25 crore workers across India adopted the path of strike to raise their voice and grievances against the adamant attitude of the central government on 9th July, as claimed by the union leaders. This nationwide strike impacted banking, insurance, transport, and more services.

The trade unions in a joint press release claimed that more than 25 crores participated in the Strike action/Rasta Roko/Rail Roko all over the country in the formal and informal sectors, in Government, Public sector enterprises, and industrial areas. There were very large mobilisations in rural India and also at block-sub-division levels by informal sector workers, agricultural labour and farmers and other sections of common people. Participation of students and youth was quite visible in many states. The ranks and file of Samyukta Kisan Morcha and joint front of Agricultural Labour Unions played a significant role in the mobilisation in rural India.

The protest stresses on the 17-point demand charter, submitted last year to Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya. The trade unions claim that the government has failed to engage with their concerns and instead rushed through reforms that strip away labour protections, encourage privatisation, and intensify job insecurity.

Banking, Power, Transport, Railways and Education sectors have taken a hit across the country with their operations staying temporarily non-functional. Farmers have also joined the bandh.

Trade Union leaders and farmers leaders have claimed that the huge participation of the people in the all-India strike was a clear-cut rejection of the anti-people policies of the BJP Central and the state government of Haryana for not listening to the woes of ordinary people and rather embarking on blind pursuit of the policies

of privatisation and simultaneously seeking to divide the people on communal and caste basis.

All India Kisan Sabha national Vice President and CPIM leader, Inderjit Singh divulged to Ground Post that the trade Union leaders have reminded the government to see the writing on the wall in the form of massive success of the all-India strike and withdraw the draconian labour codes forthwith. Leaders have exhorted the protesters to further strengthen their unity, involve more and more sections of the society reeling under price rise and employment and prepare for bigger actions in future.

Bhartiya Kisan Union Ekta Dakounda, Punjab Unit, supporting Bharat Bandh and strike call joined the gatherings of workers and employees in 14 districts.

Giving information to the press in this regard, the state president of the organization, Manjit Singh Dhaner, senior vice president Gurdeep Singh Rampura and general secretary Harnek Singh Mahima said that 25 crore workers and employees from all over the country raised their voice against the central government's privatisation policies, changing labour laws to implement four labour codes and increasing the daily working hours of the workers from eight to 12 hours by going on strike.

Why the strike?

This strike step follows long negotiations and failed talks between unions and government representatives related to Workers' demands of withdrawal of new labour codes, job security, and better wages. To amplify the strike pace some Farmers' organizations have also extended support. It is stated that this is the 22nd General Strike since the advent of neo-liberal policies in India in 1991.

The main demands include repeal of 4 labour codes, stop privatisation of the PSU's and public services, end contractualization and casualization of employment and minimum wage of Rs.26000/month.

The major hammer hovering over the working class are the four Labour codes legalising contract labour based on hire and fire policy. The trade unions fear that once implemented, that will shatter not only the rights of the existing workforce but the entire new generations of workers in all sectors of the economy. The youth cannot dream of having access to formal employment with social security and retirement benefits. The right to 8 hours work will not sustain and new forms of slavery will be imposed on the working people under the guise of ease of doing business to facilitate corporate profiteering. Workers will lose the right to unionise, right to bargain for remunerative wage



and right to strike. The 4 labour codes are most authoritarian and undemocratic in character and will eventually endanger the independence of the working people and sovereignty of the country. Hence it is vital for all the freedom loving citizens to join the fight to bury the labour codes once and forever.

The trade unions consider these labour codes as negation of the labour rights won over after the struggle of 150 years from British Raj onwards.

"These codes negate our right to strike, make union registration problematic, de-recognition of unions easy, the process of conciliation and adjudication cumbersome, winding up labour courts and introducing tribunal for workers, overriding power to registrars to de-register unions, definition of wage being changed and the schedule of occupations for minimum wages applicability being abolished, Occupational Safety and Health and Working Conditions code designed to put the right of safety of every worker and also rights and entitlements of workers in workplace in total jeopardy, the inspections exclusive putting the right of safety of every worker made in jeopardy, the inspections have been done away with and facilitators to facilitate employers is being brought, change in industrial code and its rule for increasing applicability-threshold from 100 to 300 would push out 70 percent of industries out of the coverage of labour laws, the changes in factory act also would throw

out substantial number of workforce from its coverage, giving the employers class wide discretionary powers to repress and exploit", divulging the effects of Labour codes in a press release at the closing time of the strike, trade unions claimed.

Why did the farmers' unions support the strike?

Samyukta Kisan Morch (SKM) also supported the general strike and declared to rally in protest demonstrations at tehsil level across India independently as well as in coordination with the trade unions and agricultural workers unions. SKM states that these are critical policy requirements decisive to resist the corporatisation of the Indian economy and to protect the independence of India.

Farmers' umbrella union, SKM warns that the General Strike is also against the imposition of free trade agreements on Indian people. US Imperialism has unleashed all efforts to coerce the Modi Government to impose unfair trade terms and to dump US agricultural products in India. The intention of the free trade agreement is unregulated freedom for US food chains, trading giants and agribusiness corporations to operate in India. Tariff free Import of huge quantity of highly subsidised milk and milk products, soybean, cotton, mice, wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, paddy, GM crops, fruits and vegetables including apple and walnuts, processed and canned foods into Indian markets will

devastate the income and livelihood of Indian peasantry.

SKM alleges that the Trump Administration has been compelling the Modi Government to wind up PDS food distribution and withdraw all subsidies for farmers on fuel and fertilisers. It wants India to change its patent laws to suit American companies.

What irked the trade unions?

Noticing the dismissive and unresponsive approach of the central government, the Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and Independent Sectoral Federations/Associations, while deciding the national strike, agreed to raise their voice unitedly and resolved, "Working hours are being unilaterally increased; statutory minimum wages and social security benefits are being flouted. Workers, particularly contract workers, are being entrenched with impunity. These are nothing but heinous attempts to implement notorious Labour Codes through backdoors. At the same time despite repeated persuasion by trade unions, the Govt did not bother to meet and consult the Central Trade Unions or to hold Indian labour conferences, despite receiving notices for strike from all corners of the country across the sectors."

Now the trade unions have warned the government, "This is the beginning of the prolonged battle in the days to follow in the sectoral levels focussed on determined united resistance, again to culminate into a bigger national level heightened united action."

However, the reports coming here state that the strike movement was organized peacefully by the participants, but the Communist Party of India (Marxist) alleges lathi charge at some places by the police forces.

In a statement released Wednesday, the Polit Bureau of CPIM contends, "Reports show that the police resorted to lathi charge in various places and attempts were made to intimidate workers from participating in the general strike. Braving all such attacks, the strike was held successfully. Kisan, agricultural workers and various sections of the people too joined the workers in solidarity and held protest demonstrations."

The CPI(M) congratulated all the people who stood with the working class and made this general strike a huge success. The left party demanded that the BJP led central government should listen to the voices against the labour codes and its anti-worker policies. It should immediately rescind the amendments to the labour laws and protect the rights of the working class.

The author is a Senior Journalist, Columnist & Political Analyst

Van Mahotsav: Planting Trees Festival



Mool Raj

As India marks Van Mahotsav 2025, the "Festival of Trees" carries more urgency than ever. What began in 1950 as a tree-planting initiative by KM Munshi has since evolved into one of the nation's most vital environmental movements.

Every year, from July 1st to 7th, India celebrates Van Mahotsav, the "Festival of Trees." Initiated in 1950 by Shri KM Munshi, the then Union Minister for Agriculture, this national tree-planting drive was envisioned to encourage forest conservation and environmental stewardship. Over the decades, it has grown into one of India's most impactful ecological campaigns, raising awareness about the vital role trees play in sustaining life.

In 2025, as India and the world face intensifying climate challenges, this celebration takes on renewed urgency. The theme for this year, "Planting Trees for Resilience," underscores the reality that trees are not just green adornments of nature — they are our protectors. They safeguard our homes, farmlands, water sources, urban landscapes, and, ultimately, our lives.

The monsoon season has once again brought severe devastation — floods, landslides, cloudbursts, and flash floods across regions like Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and the Northeast. Hills have collapsed, rivers have overflowed, and entire communities have

been swept away.

At the same time, parts of central, western, and southern India are battling delayed or inadequate rainfall, resulting in droughts, plunging water levels, failing crops, and depleting groundwater. This simultaneous crisis — flooding in some regions and drought in others — is becoming more frequent each year.

A major contributor to this imbalance is environmental degradation, especially deforestation due to development, mining, road-building, and unregulated urbanisation. Trees play a critical role in managing rainfall by absorbing water, reducing surface runoff, and binding soil. When forests are cleared, rainwater rushes unchecked over barren land, causing erosion, landslides, and flooding.

In cities, the loss of tree cover leads to clogged drains, flash floods, and higher temperatures. In villages, it exacerbates droughts and depletes soil fertility.

Experts warn that over 60 per cent of India's land is vulnerable to natural disasters.

In this context, tree planting is more than an environmental activity — it is a life-saving strategy. Trees act as natural infrastructure. Their roots stabilise soil, absorb rainwater, reduce landslide risks, purify air, lower temperatures, and recharge groundwater.

They are among the most effective defences against climate-induced disasters, especially in a geographically diverse country like India. Consider Odisha's mangrove forests. During the devastating 1999 super cyclone, villages shielded by mangroves suffered far less damage than those without.

Since then, Odisha has restored large tracts of mangroves, offering effective protection during cyclones like Phailin (2013) and Fani (2019). Research shows that just one hectare of mangroves can reduce wave energy by up to 60 per cent, shielding communities from tidal surges and storm winds.

In hilly states like Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, deforestation on slopes has intensified landslides. Yet reforestation efforts, especially those led by Eco Task Forces supported by the Army, have helped reclaim barren hills. Indigenous trees like oak, pine, and bamboo are being planted to stabilise slopes and prevent erosion. Studies confirm that tree-covered villages endure less monsoon-related damage.

In drought-prone regions like Marathwada and parts of Rajasthan, agroforestry is proving transformative. Farmers who integrate trees such as neem, moringa, or amaltas with crops report improved soil moisture, more stable yields, and better drought resistance. These trees also provide fruit, fodder, and shade while supporting groundwater recharge. In some cases, farmers have recorded yield increases of up to 30 per cent due to agroforestry practices.

Urban India, too, is reeling from rising temperatures and air pollution. In 2024, several cities hit scorching highs of 48–49°C, leading to heatstroke-related deaths. Urban trees act as natural air conditioners, cooling their surroundings by up to 10°C. To promote green urban spaces, the Government of India launched the Nagar Van Yojana (NVY) in 2020, aiming to establish 1,000 Nagar Vans or urban forests in cities.

The programme encourages active involvement of communities, local bodies, NGOs, and educational institutions to build cleaner, greener, and healthier cities. India's broader climate commitments also emphasise forest restoration. Under the Paris Agreement, the country has pledged to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 by 2030 through increased forest and tree cover.

The India State of Forest Report 2023 indicates that 25.17 per cent of the country's land is under forest and tree cover, with a carbon stock of 30.43

billions of tonnes of CO2 equivalent. Government programmes like the Green India Mission and CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) aim to strengthen afforestation efforts nationwide. However, the responsibility of greening India cannot rest with the Government alone — it must become a collective movement. The recent "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign, launched by the Prime Minister in 2024, encouraged millions to plant a tree in memory of their mothers, transforming tree planting into a deeply personal and community-centred act.

Educational institutions across India are nurturing eco-conscious students through the School Nursery Yojana and Eco-Clubs. In villages, joint forest management committees, in collaboration with local residents, are reviving degraded forests. For many rural and tribal communities, forests are their lifeline, providing food, herbs, bamboo, and other essentials. Thriving forests enhance water availability, support agriculture, and build disaster resilience.

As we celebrate Van Mahotsav this year, let us move beyond symbolic acts. Tree planting must be thoughtful and context-sensitive — choosing native species, matching local soil and climate conditions, and ensuring sapling care for at least two to three years to ensure survival and growth.

Every sapling planted today is a promise — to the environment, to future generations, and to ourselves. Trees are our shield, our lifeline, and our legacy. This Van Mahotsav, let every school, roadside, farm, and barren hill become a beacon of restoration. For in each tree lies the hope of a greener, safer, and more resilient tomorrow.

The author is a regular columnist and freelance writer



DLRC/DCC meeting reviews bank performance in Samba

HT NEWS DESK

SAMBA, JULY 10: Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma today chaired the District Level Review Committee (DLRC) and District Consultative Committee (DCC) meeting for the quarter ending March 2025 at the DC Office, Samba. The meeting was convened to review the performance of banks operating in the district with respect to Deposits, Advances, Credit-Deposit (CD) Ratio, and the progress made under the Annual Credit Plan (ACP) for the financial year 2024-25.



Presenting the financial status, the Lead District Manager (LDM) informed the house that as on 31st March 2025, banks in Samba district had recorded total deposits of 8243.19 crore and advances of 4883.50 crore, resulting in a CD Ratio of 59.24%. Under the ACP 2024-25, banks collectively achieved 3464 crore against a target of 2350 crore, registering an impressive 147% performance. In sectoral achievements, banks disbursed 1756 crore under the Priority Sector against a target of 1987 crore (88%), while under the Non-Priority Sector, disbursement stood at 1708

crore against the target of 362 crore, marking a remarkable 471% achievement. DC Sharma conducted a comprehensive review of various Government Sponsored Schemes (GSS), with particular focus on PMEGP, JKREGP, KCC, HADP, PMAY, NRLM, NULM and others. He underscored the imperative of achieving 100% digitalization of bank accounts and urged all banks and sponsoring agencies to intensify outreach

efforts and raise public awareness regarding self-employment and financial inclusion schemes. He further directed the banking institutions to expedite the disposal of all pending cases sponsored by government departments and agencies. Special emphasis was laid on increasing credit flow under key sectors such as Agriculture & Allied Activities, MSMEs, Housing and Education, in order to enhance the district's overall CD Ratio. He also impressed upon all stakeholders to ensure saturation under flagship Social Security Schemes such as PMSBY, PMJJBY and APY. The meeting was convened by Subash Chander, Lead District Manager, Samba and witnessed participation from Additional Deputy Commissioner Samba, Gurpreet Singh, LDO RBI, DDM NABARD, officials from civil administration.

Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Batote made fully functional, boosting Agri-Economy in area

HT NEWS DESK

RAMBAN, JULY 10: In a major boost to the agricultural marketing infrastructure of Ramban district, the Fruit and Vegetable Mandi at Batote became fully functional. The facility, developed by the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, J&K, will now serve as a vibrant hub for trading fruits, vegetables, processed food items and other agri-produce. The operationalization of the mandi is a direct outcome of proactive intervention by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, who had issued clear directives to concerned departments after his first visit to the site. His action was closely supported by Director Horticulture Planning and Marketing, Ghulam Geelani Zarger with continuous coordination from Deputy Director Ayaz Ahmed Natnoo with all stakeholders. Equipped with modern infrastructure including auction platforms, toilet blocks, safe drinking water, proper lighting, designated loading/unloading zones and parking areas, the mandi ensures transparent, efficient, and hygienic trading practices. It aims to eliminate intermediaries, facilitate fair pricing, and provide direct market access to farmers, entrepreneurs and SHGs. The mandi is envisioned as a regional trade hub to aggregate produce for dispatch to urban markets, retail chains and institutional buyers. It also offers a platform for processed food producers and agri-entrepreneurs to formalize and scale their operations.

District-Level Workshop on Panchayat Advancement Index held in Doda

HT NEWS DESK

DODA, JULY 10: The Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, J&K, today organized a one-day district-level workshop on the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) at Conference Hall, DC Office Complex, Doda. The workshop aimed to sensitize key stakeholders about the Panchayat Advancement Index—an innovative tool developed to assess the multi-dimensional developmental status of Gram Panchayats across various thematic areas. The event was presided over by Assistant Commissioner Revenue Doda Ashraf Pervaz and witnessed active participation from Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Doda Musharaf Ali Haf, Programme Officer ICDS Doda Akhter Hussain Qazi, officers and officials from various departments. The workshop offered detailed insights into the Panchayat Assessment Index (PAI) and Panchayat Development Index (PDI), which form part of the broader PAI 2.0 framework. These indices are aligned with the Localised Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs) and are aimed at evaluating and promoting holistic growth across key thematic areas such as: Child-Friendly Panchayat, Water-Sufficient Panchayat, Clean and Green Panchayat, Self-Sufficient Infrastructure in Panchayats. Participants received hands-on training on the PAI digital portal, including modules on data entry, scorecard interpretation.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch hands over sanction letter to beneficiaries under Mission Yuva

HT NEWS DESK

PONCH, JULY 10: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal chaired a 3rd District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting under Mission YUVA to review and approve self-employment cases under the NANO Enterprises component and evaluate the mission's progress in the district. The meeting was attended by key officials, including Pankaj Magotra, Additional District Development Commissioner and Mission YUVA Nodal Officer.



Mr. Khalid Wafa, General Manager, District Industries Centre; Mr. Abdul Majid Tantray, Deputy Director, District Employment and Counselling Centre Poonch along with representatives from agriculture, horticulture, handicrafts, JKEDI, NRLM and the Lead District Manager. The session began with a review of Mission

YUVA's progress, highlighting its focus on promoting NANO Enterprises to create livelihood opportunities for local youth. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the initiative's role in empowering unemployed youth through financial and institutional support for micro-enterprises. A total of 51 cases were presented

for approval under the NANO Enterprises category, each thoroughly evaluated for feasibility, sustainability and employment potential. After detailed discussions, all 51 cases were approved, reflecting the district's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship. Among the beneficiaries was Qasid Naveed, a 19-year-old aspiring entrepreneur whose innovative proposal was approved, showcasing the program's support for young talent. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner personally handed over sanction letters to beneficiaries.

32 Day long Community Resource Person-Enterprise Promotion training programme kick started at SBI RSETI Kishtwar

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JULY 10: Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Kaiser Ahmed Bhawani today inaugurated new batch of the 32 days long Community Resource Person-Enterprise Promotion (CRP-EP) programme here at SBI RSETI Kishtwar. The training programme was organised by SBI RSETI Kishtwar in collaboration with the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM), Kishtwar. On this occasion, faculty member presented an overview of the functioning and achievements of SBI RSETI Kishtwar. ACD Kishtwar who was the Chief Guest on the occasion commended the dedicated efforts of the RSETI team, describing the initiative as a commendable step toward empowering rural youth—especially women—through entrepreneurship.

He encouraged the participants to confidently embark on their entrepreneurial journeys and assured them of his full support. He also emphasized that his office is always open to assist the participants at any stage of their enterprise development. The event was also graced by Harshal Rawal, Lead District Manager/Director, SBI RSETI; Ishaq Ahmed Dar, District Programme Manager, NRLM Kishtwar; along with the staff of SBI RSETI Kishtwar. The event was also graced by Harshal Rawal, Lead District Manager/Director, SBI RSETI; Ishaq Ahmed Dar, District Programme Manager, NRLM Kishtwar; along with the staff of SBI RSETI Kishtwar.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress RDD works, stresses transparency and timely execution

HT NEWS DESK

RAJOURI, JULY 10: District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma, today chaired a comprehensive meeting in the VC Room of the DC Office Complex to review the physical and financial progress of works being executed by the RDD. The meeting focused on key performance indicators under flagship schemes such as MGNREGA and PMAY. The DDC took a detailed review of the status of physical verification, geo-tagging of assets, timely wage payments under MGNREGA, and the total number of person-days generated till date. He also assessed the construction of check dams across various blocks to enhance water conservation and livelihood opportunities. While reviewing the PMAY, the DDC expressed concern over delays by some beneficiaries and directed the concerned officers to initiate recovery of installments from individuals who have failed to com-



mence construction despite receiving funds. The DDC emphasized the need to expedite the generation of person-days under MGNREGA and ensure timely completion of all sanctioned works. He reiterated the importance of transparency, adherence to scheme guidelines and doorstep delivery of services to the public. "Officers must ensure that every

rupee spent reaches the intended beneficiary and that all works are executed as per the prescribed norms. There should be no compromise on quality or accountability," he said. The meeting was attended by CPO Maqsood Ahmed, ACP, Sheraz Chouhan, ACD Auqil Naveed, DSEO, Sandeep Sharma and Block Development Officers of the district.

2-Day Faculty Development Programme under "SCERT on Wheels" initiative concludes at DIET Jammu

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JULY 10: A two-day Faculty Development Programme (FDP) for DIET faculty along with ZNO's of District Jammu in collaboration with SCERT Jammu was successfully conducted from July 9 to 10, 2025, under the innovative outreach initiative "SCERT on Wheels," aimed at strengthening institutional capacity and fostering academic collaboration between JKSCERT and DIETs across Jammu Division. The programme was jointly organised by DIET Jammu and the JK SCERT Divisional Office Jammu, under the guidance of Dr. Sindhu Kapoor, Joint Director, JK SCERT Jammu Division. A total of 45

trainees including 22 DIET Faculty (including HOD's) and 23 ZNOs were sensitized during this two day FDP. The programme was formally inaugurated by Sh. R. G. Dogra, Principal, DIET Jammu, who highlighted the importance of capacity building and inter-institutional synergy in realising the goals outlined in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. The core objectives of the FDP were to develop a comprehensive understanding of the mandate, vision and structure of SCERT and DIETs as per NEP 2020, clarify specific roles and responsibilities, familiarise faculty with departmental functioning and promote mechanisms for improved coordination and academic support



at the grassroots level. A team of seasoned officers from JKSCERT Jammu and SCERT Central served as resource persons and conducted sessions on a variety of crucial

academic themes. Mr. Paawan Vivek, Sr. Academic Officer, conducted the orientation session on the programme, initiatives undertaken and achievements of SCERT along with

essentials of the training design and modules and NEP 2020. Ms. Manu Vasudeva AO delivered sessions on NEP 2020 and SARTHAQ tasks implications and road map for SCERT and DIETs. Dr. Harpreet Kour covered topics related to the role, responsibilities and functioning of DIETs and SCERT, planning and monitoring for effective implementations of various objectives of SCERT and challenges in Educational research. Dr. Sunita Sharma guided participants on developing content and training program based on NCF-SE competencies. Mr. Rajesh Hali from SCERT Central spoke on the vision for DIETs of Excellence, and Dr. Balgar Singh provided insights into national Digital initiatives and

institutional alignment. Participants gained enhanced conceptual clarity on DIET & SCERT's mandate, deeper insights into departmental roles, and practical strategies for collaboration and institutional improvement. In his valedictory address, R.G Dogra lauded the collaborative efforts and emphasised that the realisation of NEP 2020 depends on how effectively SCERTs and DIETs bring policy into practice. He urged DIET faculty to act as changemakers, document best practices and lead with innovation and commitment. He described the FDP not just as a training programme, but as a call for strategic academic leadership at the grassroots.

25 Crore Soil Health Cards Distributed; Kisan Credit Cards Ensuring Wider Credit Access: Piyush Goyal

PIB
 New Delhi 10 JUL 2025

Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, during his address at the 16th Agriculture Leadership Conclave in New Delhi yesterday stated that 25 crore Soil Health Cards have been distributed to farmers to promote balanced fertiliser usage, and crop loans have been made accessible through the Kisan Credit Card initiative. Further Shri Goyal said that, the Government has consistently placed the agricultural sector at the forefront of its development agenda under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi said a large number of farmer families have benefitted from the PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi scheme. Additionally, 1,400 mandis have been integrated with the e-NAM platform, enabling farmers across the country to access real-time information on crop prices and enhance market linkages. In the fertiliser sector, the Central



Government has provided substantial subsidies to ensure that farmers receive fertilisers at affordable prices. Even during the COVID-19 pandemic, timely fertiliser supply to farmers was ensured. He noted that India's agricultural sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience—even amid global market turbulence and declining export trends. The efforts of Indian farmers have contributed to a stable agri-export performance, with agriculture, animal husbandry, and

fisheries exports reaching 4 lakh crore. The farming community has played a key role in building an Atmanirbhar Bharat and turning the "Local Goes Global" vision into a reality. Shri Goyal said that India's farmers have been instrumental in the global success of products such as basmati and other varieties of rice, spices, fresh fruits and vegetables, horticulture and floriculture produce, as well as in the fisheries and poultry sectors. With supportive policies, fiscal incen-

tives, reduced tariff barriers, and new market access through Free Trade Agreements developed countries including Australia, the UAE, the EFTA nations, and the UK, the agriculture sector has witnessed significant progress. Looking ahead, he expressed confidence that further development would take place in seed production and quality, natural and organic farming, and irrigation—including drip irrigation. He emphasised the Government's focus on promoting digital agriculture by introducing Artificial Intelligence, geospatial technology, weather prediction systems, vertical farming, and AI-enabled tools. These innovations, he noted, would support Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and cooperatives. The Minister further stated that value addition through food processing, along with improvements in design, branding, and packaging, will boost agriculture's contribution to the economy. Various government schemes and programmes, along with funds allocated,

Modi's five-nation visit a new era in India's international ties: BJP

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, July 10



As Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned after wrapping up a five-nation diplomatic tour, the BJP termed it a "highly productive and successful" visit that has set a new era in India's international relations — strategic, cultural, and economic. Addressing a press briefing here, BJP national spokesperson Dr. Sudhanshu Trivedi highlighted the key outcomes of the PM's diplomatic tour to Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia. There are three major takeaways from the tour, the BJP MP said, pointing out, "The Prime Minister has unequivocally established India's stance on terrorism at the BRICS summit, emphasizing that perpetrators and victims of terror cannot be equated — a significant diplomatic achievement." Calling the tour an economic success, Trivedi further noted India's strengthened economic engage-

ments with resource-rich countries such as Ghana and Namibia, where India has entered into agreements that promise to bolster future economic growth. "This marks a crucial step in securing vital minerals and metals," he added. Culturally and socially, the visit reinforced India's emotional connect with the Indian diaspora in these nations. Dr. Trivedi pointed to the example of the Prime Minister of Trinidad and Tobago Kamla Persad-Bissessar, who he said hails from Buxar in Bihar. The visit has elevated India's global role through enhanced cooperation with Africa and Global South countries, he added.

Russia denies plans to recruit Indian workers

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, July 10

Russia's Labor Ministry today outrightly rejected reports that it plans to recruit as many as 1 million workers from India by the end of 2025. The Moscow Times had on Wednesday quoted the head of the Ural Chamber of Commerce and Industry Andrei Besedin saying that the arrival of Indian workers would assuage the country's deepening labor shortage. Besedin had said that Russia is currently facing labor shortage, particularly in the Sverdlovsk region. Meanwhile, Russia's Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs has floated the idea of building vocational training schools in India to prepare laborers specifically for the Russian job market. But the Labor Ministry later told the RBC news website that the recruitment of workers from India is regulated by quotas that are set a year in advance based on regions and employers' needs.

Prez Murmu to visit Odisha on July 14-15

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Bhubaneswar, July 10

President Droupadi Murmu is scheduled to visit Odisha on July 14 and 15 to attend several official functions, official sources said here today. On July 14 evening, the President will attend the fifth Convocation of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Bhubaneswar. The following morning, July 15, she will grace the 13th annual Convocation of Ravenshaw University, Cuttack. Later that day, Ms Murmu will lay the foundation stone for the upgradation work of Ravenshaw Girls' High School in Cuttack. In the afternoon, the President will visit Sarala Bhavan, located at Biju Patnaik Chhak, Tulsipur, Cuttack, where she will garland the statue of Adikabi Sarala Das. The President will also attend the 600th birth anniversary celebrations of Adikabi Sarala Das, organised by the Sarala Sahitya Sansad, as the Chief Guest. During the event, she will present the "Kalinga Ratna Award - 2024". The President is scheduled to return to New Delhi on the evening of July 15. A preparatory meeting regarding the President's visit was held today, chaired by Chief Secretary Manoj Ahuja.

UP to become a model state for carbon credit business: CM Yogi

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Ayodhya, July 10



Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has directed officials to begin implementing a comprehensive plan aimed at promoting carbon absorption and institutionalising the carbon credit trade in the state. Marking the occasion of Van Mahotsav here yesterday, the Chief Minister has emphasized the importance of integrating Uttar Pradesh's green initiatives with the global carbon market. This, he said, would directly benefit gram panchayats, the forest department, and farmers. He said the state will now gain both global recognition and eco-

nommic returns for its environmental efforts and UP is poised to become a model in the carbon credit trade. The CM highlighted that Amrit Sarovars, rejuvenated rivers, reservoirs, and forests across the state have the potential to absorb millions of tonnes of carbon dioxide. A scientifically structured approach will be adopted to quantify and certify these efforts, paving the way for generating revenue through carbon credits. He said, "Every pan-

chayat will be registered for carbon credits based on activities such as tree plantation, water conservation, and organic farming. The government, in collaboration with expert institutions, will ensure a simplified and transparent certification process. A significant portion of the revenue from carbon credit trading will go directly to local communities. "By linking carbon absorption and credit trading to grassroots efforts, a new model of environmental prosperity is being introduced in the state, he said while distributing award certificates to Anita Yadav and Sheela Devi for their contributions to the development of the Vedic Van.

India highlights its energy security plans at 9th OPEC International Seminar

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 New Delhi, July 10



Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas Hardeep Singh Puri highlighted India's momentum in the energy sector to explore and drill for hydrocarbons, opening 2.5 lakh sq km under OALP or Open Acreage Licensing Policy Round-10. He was speaking at the 9th OPEC International Seminar in Vienna, Austria, with the theme 'Oil Markets: Energy Security, Growth & Prosperity'. The Minister highlighted that this step is a result of key sectoral reforms, including a transition from the Production Sharing Contract Regime to the Revenue Sharing Model under the HELP or Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy initiative by the Government. He also pointed to the amendments of ORD (Oilfields Regulations and Development Act) 1948. The Oilfields Regulations and Development Act 1948

focuses on regulating the procedure of exploration and extraction of mineral resources. The minister also pointed towards the forerunner initiatives taken under the umbrella of National Data Acquisition including National Seismic Program, the Andaman Offshore Project, Mission Anveshan, and the Extended Continental Shelf Survey. Puri also termed India as the growth engine and stabilizer of global oil markets, being the world's third-largest energy consumer with a demand of

approximately 5.4 million barrels per day. He stressed the expansion of crude import sources from 27 to 40 countries and emphasised on fostering domestic production capacity and the development of alternate fuels. Minister Puri also highlighted the 'Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana' for providing about 103 million LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) connections to women and EWS (Economically Weaker Sections) households. He also stressed the importance of biofuels and the Global Biofuels Alliance, which has now almost 29 countries and 14 international organizations as members. The Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA) was launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with the leaders of USA, Brazil, Italy, Argentina, Singapore, Bangladesh, Mauritius and UAE on September 9, 2023, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi, as Chair's initiative.

No need for INDIA bloc or MVA alliances in local elections: Sanjay Raut

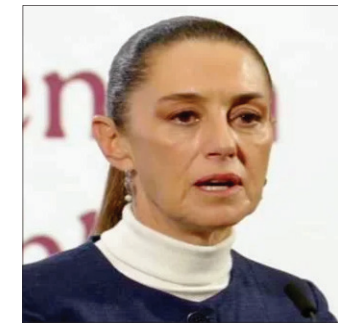
UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Mumbai, July 10

Shiv Sena (Uddhav Balasaheb Thackeray) MP Sanjay Raut said today that there is no need for national alliances like the INDIA bloc or the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) in the upcoming local body elections. Emphasizing that local issues matter more in these elections, he said that decisions should be left to local leadership. Speaking about the much-anticipated Mumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) polls, Raut claimed that there is growing demand among the public for Uddhav Thackeray-led Shiv Sena and the Raj Thackeray-led Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS) contesting jointly.

He said this sentiment was clearly visible during the recent Marathi Victory rally. During his speech at the rally, Shiv Sena (UBT) chief Uddhav Thackeray hinted at a possible alliance by saying, "we have come together to stay together. However, MNS chief Raj Thackeray has adopted a cautious approach. He has instructed party leaders not to comment on the alliance without prior approval". Responding to the current ambiguity regarding the political alliance Raut said, "If Mumbai is to be saved, Uddhav and Raj Thackeray must fight the municipal elections together. That is the sentiment of the people,

Mexico to discuss trade tariffs with US next week in Washington

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Mexico City, July 10



Mexican officials will meet their U.S. counterparts in Washington next week to hold "the best possible negotiation" on the newly imposed Trump trade tariffs, President Claudia Sheinbaum said yesterday. At her daily press conference, the president said a government delegation will travel to DC tomorrow to begin talks on several issues, as she had previously announced during a phone call with US President Donald Trump at the Group of Seven (G7) Summit in Canada

in June. "This week, a team from the Mexican government is travelling to the United States to work on this global agreement that we discussed at the G7 with President Trump," Sheinbaum

said, adding that the delegation will be led by Economy Secretary Marcelo Ebrard, and will also include representatives from the secretariats of the Treasury and Foreign Affairs. The agenda will go beyond the current United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) on free trade to seek broader strategic collaboration on three key issues: security, immigration and trade. Security will centre on the shared US-Mexico border, while immigration talks will address regional pressure from migratory flows, and trade will focus on the possibility of new tariffs.

Monsoon Fury: Home Ministry Releases Rs 1,066 Crore For Six Flood-Hit States

PIB
 New Delhi 10 JUL 2025

The Central Government has approved the release of Rs. 1,066.80 crore to flood, landslides, affected States of Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Kerala, Uttarakhand. Among the six flood affected states, Assam received Rs. 375.60 crore, Rs. 29.20 crore was given to Manipur, Rs. 30.40 crore to Meghalaya, Rs. 22.80 crore to Mizoram, Rs. 153.20 crore to Kerala, and Rs. 455.60 crore to Uttarakhand, as Central share from State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF). These states have been affected due

to extremely heavy rainfall, floods and landslides during the south-west monsoon of this year. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Union Home Minister Shri Amit Shah, Central Government is fully committed to provide all possible assistance to flood, landslides, cloudburst-affected states. The Modi government stands resolutely beside the states in all situations. This year, Centre has already released Rs. 6,166.00 crore from SDRF to 14 States and Rs. 1,988.91 crore from NDRF to 12 States. In addition,

Rs. 726.20 crore released from State Disaster Mitigation Fund (SDMF) to 05 States and Rs. 17.55 crore from National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF) have also been released to 02 States. Central Government has also provided all logistic assistance, including deployment of requisite NDRF teams, Army teams and Air Force support to all the flood, landslides, cloudburst affected States. During the ongoing monsoon, 104 teams of NDRF are deployed in the 21 States/UT for rescue and relief operations.

Former South Korean President detained pending new martial law investigation

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
 Seoul, July 10

Former South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol has been taken back into judicial custody just a short while after his release, pending an independent investigation into his declaration of martial law last year. According to the independent counsel leading the probe, the Seoul Central District Court approved a warrant for Yoon's re-arrest early morning today, due to concerns over the possible destruction of evidence, reported CNN. Yoon's shocking and completely unexpected declaration of martial law in the country back in December last year, plunged South Korea into a constitutional and political crisis, as the whole nation called it as an attack on the nation's democracy. He reversed course within six



hours, after lawmakers forced their way into national assembly and voted unanimously to block it. Yoon was detained in January on charges of leading an insurrection and overriding the constitution,

becoming the first sitting president in South Korean history to be arrested. He was released in March after the Seoul court cancelled his arrest warrant for technical reasons. He was unanimously removed from office in April by lawmakers and parliamentary members, following what they called "a grave betrayal of public trust." While Yoon had issued an apology for his actions, he has continued to defend them citing security threats from "anti-state forces" and "North Korean communists" to cause political instability in South Korea. However, most of his reasons have been attributed to political reasons due to several impeachment calls by the National Assembly, scandals surrounding his wife former First Lady Kim Keon Hee, low approval ratings.

NIT Srinagar secures Indian patent for Innovative fabric wear measurement system

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 10: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar has been granted an Indian patent for its pioneering invention titled "Wear Measurement Test Rig for Fabric Industry and System Thereof". It was officially granted on July 9, 2025, marking a significant milestone in the institute's pursuit of cutting-edge research and technological innovation. The patented system is the outcome of collaborative research between the Mechanical and Civil Engineering departments. The team of inventors includes Prof. M. F. Wani, Head Mechanical Engineering Department (MED); Prof. Rakesh Sehgal (Former NIT Srinagar Director); Dr. Sheikh Shahid Saleem from MED; and Dr. Vivek from the Department of Civil Engineering. Designed to enhance precision and efficiency in measuring fabric wear, the innovative test rig holds significant potential for applica-



tions in textile research laboratories and commercial manufacturing, particularly in quality control and product development processes. In a joint statement, team members said that "We believe that such innovations underscore the growing technological contributions of NIT Srinagar to the national and international research com-

munity. The development of this novel system holds immense potential for the fabric and textile testing industry, enhancing both precision and efficiency in wear measurement analysis," they said. Congratulating the team, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, described the patent as a proud moment for the institute. "This achievement reflects the

high-quality research being undertaken at NIT Srinagar. The development of a dedicated wear measurement system for the textile industry is a fine example of how academic innovation can solve real-world industrial challenges," he said. Prof. Kanaujia added that the innovation not only enhances the institute's academic standing but also opens up new avenues for national and international research collaborations and industrial partnerships. "We believe this system has the potential for commercialization and industry impact," he said. Institute's Registrar, Prof. Atikur Rehman, also lauded the efforts of the faculty members and stated that securing this patent is a testament to the talent, dedication, and collaborative spirit of our academic community. "NIT Srinagar remains committed to fostering research that contributes meaningfully to both knowledge and society," he said.

Deputy Commissioner chairs forest clearance meeting for PWD road projects in Poonch

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JULY 10: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal today convened a key meeting with concerned officers to review the status of forest clearances for various road projects being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD) across the district. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner took stock of the physical and financial progress of ongoing road infrastructure projects. The primary focus was to expedite the forest clearance process, which is vital for the timely execution of critical road works, particularly in remote and hilly areas of the district. Detailed discussions were held on pending proposals, existing bottlenecks, and



strategies to accelerate the approval process in coordination with the concerned departments. Deputy Commissioner underlined the importance of prompt resolution of forest clearance issues to facilitate smooth and uninterrupted developmental activities aimed at improving road connectivity. The Deputy Commissioner

directed the officers to maintain close liaison with the Forest Department and ensure the submission of all necessary documentation without delay. He further instructed for regular follow-ups to monitor the progress of each individual project. The meeting was attended by SE PWD (R&B), DFO, XENS of PWD Poonch, Surankote and Mendhar.

Landslide Destroys Ancestral Graveyard, Cuts Off Roads in Khanpora Khag

HT NEWS DESK

Khag, July 10, KNT: A landslide triggered by continuous rainfall has wrought havoc in Najar Mohallah of Khanpora Khag in central Kashmir's Budgam district, causing massive destruction to both public and emotionally significant infrastructure. Local sources told the news agency Kashmir News Trust that among the worst affected is the village graveyard, which has been severely damaged, with a large portion collapsing into the nearby irrigation canal. The landslide has not only obliterated this sacred resting place of generations but has also blocked roads, isolating farmers from their fields and paralyzing daily life in the area. For residents, the damage is more than physical, it is deeply emotional. Jahangir Najar, a local, expressed his anguish, stating, "Our village graveyard is the resting place of our ancestors. It has been completely destroyed. This is not just a piece of land, it holds deep emotional and cultural significance for us." His words reflect the grief of a community mourning the loss of a site that connects them to their heritage. Another resident, Tanveer Hajam, described the situation as dire. "The landslide yesterday, caused by continuous rainfall, has damaged the graveyard, irrigation canal, and roads. Farmers are unable to reach their land. The area is unsafe, yet no help has come," he said. The ongoing disruption has left villagers helpless and angry. What has added to the frustration is what locals describe as a long-standing neglect by the authorities. Villagers allege that the District Administration of Budgam ignored repeated warnings and failed to implement safety or development measures in the vulnerable area. Their concerns about potential landslides had been raised before, but no preventive action was taken, leaving them exposed to the current disaster. The locals urged the District Administration Budgam, the local MLA from Khansahib, and the administration in Khag to visit the site, assess the damage, and take immediate steps to restore what has been lost. Their demands include restoration of the damaged graveyard, repairs to the blocked irrigation canal and roads, and implementation of landslide prevention measures. They are also seeking compensation and support for the affected families. The villagers have warned that further delay and inaction could result in deeper damage and mounting unrest. For them, this is not just a call for infrastructure repair, it is a plea for dignity, respect, and protection of their heritage and livelihoods. [KNT]

JKP Constable Aspirants Left in Limbo: Six-Month Wait After Result Sparks Frustration, Anxiety

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 10 (KNS): Hundreds of youth across Jammu and Kashmir are growing increasingly anxious and emotionally drained as they continue to wait for the Physical Endurance Test (PET) and Physical Standard Test (PST) shortlist following the written examination for the post of JKP Constable conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB). The recruitment notification for the post was issued in July 2024, followed by the written examination in December 2024. The results were declared in January 2025. Since then, there has been no update from JKSSB regarding the next stage of the recruitment process. "It's been six months, and not even



a single official update has come out. We wake up every morning with hope, only to face disappointment and silence," said one of the aspirants. According to aspirants, many have sacrificed jobs, paused their studies, and continue intense physical training under harsh conditions—all in anticipation of the PET/PST schedule. Some candidates are reportedly training

despite injuries, while others are struggling with mental stress due to the prolonged uncertainty. "The lack of communication from JKSSB is not just a delay—it's a mental toll on us. We're not even asking for dates—just an official update, a simple yes or no," another candidate added. Dozens of aspirants have reached out to Kashmir News Service (KNS), urging media intervention to highlight their plight. They appeal to authorities to break the silence and provide clarity, so they can plan their lives and careers with dignity. The aspirants have also requested JKSSB and the concerned authorities to show empathy and urgency in addressing their concerns. They hope the media's voice will bring accountability and speed to a process that, for them, has become a never-ending wait. (KNS)

Channi Chairs Key Congress Meet in Kulgam, Calls for United Push to Restore J&K Statehood

HT NEWS DESK

Kulgam, July 10 (KNS): Surinder Singh Channi, Member of the All India Congress Committee (AICC), Vice President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC), and District Coordinator, addressed a significant party meeting during his one-day visit to Kulgam district on Thursday. The meeting, convened by District Congress Committee Kulgam President Abdul Rashid Lone, witnessed the participation of senior party leaders, grassroots workers, and representatives from various frontal organ-



isations. Prominent among those present was former MLA from Devsar, Mohd Amin Bhat. Addressing the gathering, Channi

emphasized the urgent need to strengthen the Congress Party at the grassroots level. He urged party cadres to enhance coordination, foster unity, and intensify public outreach to effectively raise the issues faced by the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He reiterated the party's firm commitment to the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, stating that the Congress would continue its struggle both on the ground and at national forums until the demand is fulfilled. The meeting concluded with a collective call for renewed activism and deeper engagement with local communities across the district. (KNS)

Nizamuddin Bhat Visits Sharda Temple in Bandipora, Focuses on Pilgrim Facilities, Meets Pandit Brethren

HT NEWS DESK

Bandipora, July 10: MLA Bandipora, Nizamuddin Bhat, today visited the historic Sharda Temple in Kaloosa Bandipora, where he interacted with the Pandit brethren and inspected the ongoing construction of the pilgrim tourism hostel near the temple. During his visit, Bhat assured the Pandit community of full support to facilitate pilgrims and to ensure the timely completion of the hostel for visiting devotees. He appreciated the communal harmony in Jammu and Kashmir, recalling the days when Hindu and Muslim communities lived together in peace and brotherhood and expressed hope that this spirit will continue in the future. Bhat stated that preserving communal harmony is essential for the progress of the Union Territory and reiterated his commitment to supporting initiatives that strengthen bonds between communities. Representatives of local Pandit community expressed gratitude to the MLA for his visit and for taking steps to promote pilgrim tourism while addressing the concerns of the minority community in the area.

District Administration gears up for Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025

HT NEWS DESK

POONCH, JULY 10: A preparatory meeting for the smooth conduct of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 was held today under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Poonch Tahir Mustafa Malik. The meeting was attended by the Nodal Officers for Lodgement Centres, along with representatives from various line departments, including Health, PHE, PWD, PDD, Municipality, Police and other allied services. The ADC reviewed arrangements related to accommodation, sanitation, water supply, electricity, medical facilities, traffic management and security to ensure that all essential services are in place well ahead of the Yatra. Directions were issued to the concerned departments for timely completion of preparatory works and to maintain close coordination throughout the Yatra period. The ADC emphasized the importance of inter departmental cooperation to facilitate a safe, comfortable and spiritually enriching experience for all pilgrims. He also stressed on maintaining cleanliness, hygiene, and round the clock support at all lodgement centres and halting points. The administration reaffirmed its commitment to making the Yatra a smooth and successful event and appealed to the public and stakeholders for their active cooperation.

ACD Kishtwar conducts surprise inspection of BDO Office Kishtwar

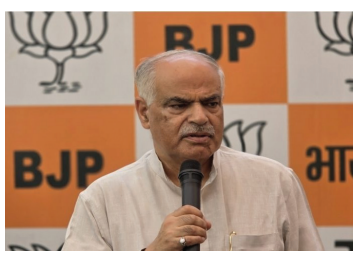
HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JULY 10: Assistant Commissioner Development, Kishtwar, Kaiser Ahmed Bhawani conducted a surprise inspection of the Block Development Office, Kishtwar today. The visit was aimed at reviewing the office's functioning and ensuring adherence to official protocols. During the inspection, the ACD interacted with the staff, assessed the working conditions, and reviewed the office's operational efficiency. He emphasized the importance of teamwork, punctuality and discipline among staff members, warning that non-performance would not be tolerated.

BJP's Ashok Koul Responds to Apni Party's July 13 Holiday Demand: "Everyone Free to Raise Such Issues in Democracy"

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, July 10: Senior BJP leader Ashok Koul on Thursday responded to Apni Party chief Altaf Bukhari's recent demand for declaring July 13 as a public holiday in Jammu and Kashmir, stating that India is a democratic country where everyone has the right to raise such demands. Speaking to news agency KINS, Koul said, "India is a democratic country. Everyone is free to make such demands. NC (National Conference) can also make such a demand since the Chief Minister is also from their party." Koul's comments come a day after Apni Party President Altaf Bukhari urged the Jammu and Kashmir administration to reinstate the July 13 holiday,



which was earlier removed from the official list of public holidays. The day had historically been observed in memory of the 22 Kashmiris killed in 1931 during a protest against autocratic Dogra rule. However, in recent years, the holiday has become a political flashpoint, with differing parties debating its historical relevance and political undertones. While the National Conference (NC) and other regional parties have often supported commemorating the day,

Tanvir Sadiq Releases ₹300 Lakh for Major Development Works in Zadibal constituency "Era of Development Has Begun," Says MLA Zadibal

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar July 10 (KNS): In a significant move aimed at boosting infrastructure and civic amenities, MLA Zadibal and Chief Spokesperson of the Jammu & Kashmir National Conference, Tanvir Sadiq, today released ₹300 lakh from his Constituency Development Fund (CDF) for key development works across Zadibal. "This marks the beginning of a new era of growth and upliftment in Zadibal. Every area, every section will benefit — no one will be left behind," said Tanvir Sadiq. The funds will cover the upgradation of major chowks like Alamgiri Bazar, Rainawari, Soura, and MK Chowk, renovation of community halls, development of sports facilities, and improvement of basic infrastructure like lanes, drains, and water supply. Special focus has also been laid on the beautification of religious and heritage sites, and support for economically weaker sections.



He also thanked Hon'ble CM Omar Abdullah for enhancing the CDF to ₹4 crore and ensuring timely release, and welcomed the new digital system that makes development work approvals faster and more efficient. Tanvir Sadiq reaffirmed his commitment to phased, inclusive, and transparent development that delivers real impact on the ground.

J&K Govt embarks on study to establish IT/ITES Parks

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JULY 10: In a decisive move to strengthen the IT landscape of Jammu & Kashmir, the government has initiated a detailed study to explore models for setting up IT/ITES Parks across the Union Territory as envisioned in the J&K IT Policy 2020.

A high level meeting chaired by Secretary, IT Department, Dr Piyush Singla, brought together members of the Study Group comprising senior officials from the IT Department, Jammu & Kashmir e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Planning Department, IIT Jammu, IIM Jammu and SeMT to chart out the roadmap for developing state-of-the-art IT/ITES Parks in J&K.

Dr. Singla underscored the importance of adopting best practices from leading IT Parks in India to ensure the success and sustainability of similar initiatives in J&K. He highlighted that these efforts are aligned with the UT's IT Policy 2020,



which envisions IT Parks in Jammu and Srinagar to spur innovation, generate employment and attract investments.

The meeting featured a presentation by Chief Innovation Officer, IIT Jammu, MT Arvind, showcasing preliminary findings on prominent IT and research parks across India. These included Electronics City (Karnataka), HITEC City (Telangana), T-Hub Hyderabad, Technopark Trivandrum (Kerala) and IIT Madras Research Park. The presentation detailed key aspects such as investment models, governance frameworks, operational best practices and policy support mechanisms.

Discussions also focused

on distinguishing between research parks, incubation centers and full-scale IT Parks, with an emphasis on fostering innovation, integrating emerging technologies and creating an enabling ecosystem for startups and Global Capability Centres (GCCs).

Chief Executive Officer, JaKeGA, Mahima Madaan, referenced the IT Infrastructure Development Private Limited, established in 2019, as a potential vehicle for anchoring such initiatives.

Meanwhile, Director Planning briefed about the Center for Innovation, Transformation, and Governance (C-TAG) set up in partnership with IIM Jammu to drive policy innova-

Div Com Jammu reviews preparations for Annual Basohli Utsav

Stresses on community participation in showcasing region's rich culture, traditions and art & crafts

HT NEWS DESK

KATHUA, JULY 10: Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today visited Basohli to hold a comprehensive interaction with stakeholders and review the roadmap for the Annual Basohli Festival to be organised in coming months for celebrating and reviving the region's rich cultural and artistic heritage.

While interacting with the participants, the Divisional Commissioner underlined the importance of reviving Basohli's pristine glory through the Basohli Utsav. He said that Basohli holds immense cultural and historical significance with its world-famous paintings, fine Pashmina, traditional food, and iconic heritage sites like Atal Setu, Basohli Fort and Chanchlo Mata Mandir.

The Divisional Commissioner emphasized that coordinated efforts are required to put and promote Basohli on the tourism map of the country. He added that the need of the hour is enhanced local involvement and up scaled production of indigenous



crafts like Basohli paintings and pashmina shawls to enhance their reach and market value.

To enhance the vibrancy of the festival, the Divisional Commissioner suggested community-led beautification of homes and surroundings, bringing in renowned artists and experts to curate and guide the festival's aesthetics and programming, and roping in students and professionals from institutions like IITs and IIMs for innovative ideas to help the festival grow every year.

He also stressed the promotion of homestays and encouragement of local vendors to boost tourist

a meaningful initiative to reconnect people with their roots and instill pride in local traditions. He added that this year's events will be spread across multiple locations including the traditional Ramleela Ground, TRC, Basohli Fort, Janjighar and Purthu.

Regional Director IGNCA Jammu Shruti Avasthi informed that contests based on local folklore will be a highlight of this year's festival. Besides, academic and technical sessions will be held to bring educational value and deeper understanding of Basohli's rich heritage to visitors and participants.

Prominent citizens and stakeholders shared their valuable suggestions to make the Basohli festival successful and vibrant.

The meeting was held at the Office of the Ram-leela Club, Basohli, and was attended by Deputy Commissioner Kathua Dr. Rakesh Minhas, DIG Shakti Pathak, Additional Deputy Commissioner Basohli Pankaj Bhagotra, Regional Director IGNCA Jammu Shruti Avasthi, along with representatives from NGOs, social organizations and a large number of locals.

"Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign"

J&K High Court conducts plantation drive at Janipur complex

HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, JULY 10: A plantation drive was carried out in the Jammu High Court premises under the "Clean Jammu Green Jammu Campaign" and "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative.

Under the directions and patronage of Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, Arun Palli, a plantation drive was organized today in the High Court Complex, Janipur, Jammu, in collaboration

with the Jammu Municipal Corporation and Urban Forestry (Jammu Division) under the Chairmanship of Justice Sindhu Sharma.

Present on the occasion were Justice Javed Iqbal Wani, Justice Mohd Akram Chowdhary, Justice Rahul Bharti, Justice Moksha Khajuria Kazmi, Justice Rajesh Sekhri, Justice Mohammad Yusuf Wani and Justice Shahzad Azeem who participated in the plantation drive by planting saplings of different varieties of

ornamental trees including Chinara, Jacaranda and Gulmohar. President, J&K High Court Bar Association, Jammu, Nirmal Kotwal and members of executive body of Bar Association also took part in the plantation drive.

The event was organized to commemorate Guru Purnima as a contribution to mother nature with the aim to inspire the general public to make Jammu city clean and green, creating a safer environment for the future generations.

Sandeep Kour Registrar Judicial, High Court Jammu Wing, Meyank Gupta Joint Registrar Judicial/Protocol, High Court Jammu Wing, Ajay Kumar Additional Registrar besides other officers and officials of the registry were also present on the occasion. Officers from Jammu Municipal Corporation including In-charge IEC JMC, Dr. Divya Sharma, Dr. Rabia Khan AFO, JMC and officials from Urban forestry division Jammu also joined the event.

Nasir Khuehami Re-Elected as JKSA National Convener for Third Consecutive Term

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, JULY 10: Prominent student leader Nasir Khuehami has been re-elected as the National Convener of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) for a third consecutive term. His re-election is part of a broader organizational revamp following the successful conclusion of a three-day nationwide and international electoral and consultative process conducted by the association. He was elected unanimously through a proper voting process. A total of 200 office bearers were elected during the three-day voting process. The Association has over 1,600 active members and volunteers across the country and abroad.

The restructuring aims to infuse fresh energy into the association's operations while reinforcing its long-standing commitment to democratic functioning and grassroots leadership. The elections witnessed enthusiastic participation from student leaders and volunteers across India and abroad. With student engagement growing exponentially over the years, JKSA has emerged as the largest representative student body for students from Jammu and Kashmir, operating in over seventeen Indian states and union territories, as well as in several countries, including the United Kingdom, Gulf nations, China, Iran, and various parts of Europe.

Over the past several years, Khuehami has steered the association through numerous critical phases, including the aftermath of the abrogation of Article 370, violence against Kashmiri students across India, the COVID-19 pandemic, and hundreds of student distress cases nationwide. Under his leadership, JKSA has significantly expanded its outreach, institutionalized support systems for students in distress, facilitated evacuations during emergencies, offered legal aid, and forged partnerships across political, administrative, and civil society groups. Upon his re-election, Khuehami emphasized that JKSA will continue to uphold democratic values, serve as a dependable support system for students in need, and work tirelessly to ensure that the youth from the region are empowered, protected, and given platforms to thrive nationally and globally. "I am deeply honored by the confidence the association has placed in me," said Khuehami. "I will continue to work tirelessly for the welfare of students, regardless of whether I hold a position of power." He expressed gratitude to the association and pledged to uphold the responsibilities entrusted to him while ensuring the continued success of JKSA's initiatives.



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

Kashmiri Handicrafts Exhibition cum Sale

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

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

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

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

Under:-
 NATIONAL HANDICRAFTS PROGRAMME (NHDP) Scheme DEVELOPMENT

Organized By:-
 M/s REHMAN HANDICRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED BIJHAMA
 W.e.from:- 08-07-2025 TO 10-07-2025

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

DC Kishtwar disburses compensation to 5 families of Road Accident Victims

HT NEWS DESK

KISHTWAR, JULY 10: In a considerate gesture to ease the hardship of grieving families, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today disbursed a total of Rs. 4.5 lakh as compensation under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund, based on the cases submitted by ARTO Kishtwar, Tasleem Wani.

An amount of Rs. 1 lakh each was disbursed to the legal heirs of four deceased



victims of road accidents & Rs 50,000 to a grievously

injured patient. This government initiative aims to extend support to those affected by such tragic incidents and underscores its ongoing commitment to assist bereaved families. The families who received compensation included Methuan Kumar s/o Bansi Lal Thakur R/o Hakoo Pallali Paddar, Anjan Kumar s/o Bodh Raj.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have lost RC of my Vehicle AUTO Bering 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

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 Kounsar 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

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer WAGOORA) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of REYAN ZAHOOR S/O ZAHOOR AHMAD BHAT R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 04/05/2020 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

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

Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/ Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of SHAZIM SHOWKAT KHAN D/O SHOWKAT MAJEED R/O DOLIPORA Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 07/06/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection . if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

DC Bandipora visits Gurez, reviews developmental projects

Ensure 100% saturation across all indicators: DC to officers

HT NEWS DESK

BANDIPORA, JULY 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, conducted an extensive tour of the Gurez Sub-Division on Thursday to review ongoing developmental works and assess overall progress in the region. During the visit, DC chaired a meeting with sub-divisional officers and other concerned officials to take a sector-wise review of the developmental initiatives currently under implementation. On the occasion, SDM Gurez briefed the meeting on the status of various projects and shared updates on the progress made so far. DC emphasized the importance of timely execution and accountability in delivering public services. It is worth mentioning that the visit comes in the backdrop of district Bandipora securing 2nd rank in the North Zone under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Block Programme (ABP). Tulaail Block, identified as the



focus block for the initiative, has shown commendable progress across multiple key development indicators, ranking 2nd in Jammu & Kashmir for the quarter ending March 2025 (FY 2024-25). On the occasion, a threadbare discussion was held on the

weak indicators of Aspirational Block Tulaail, with particular focus on the health and education sectors. DC called for renewed efforts to improve progress in these critical areas. He also sought proposals from each department outlining actionable measures to address the gaps and improve overall performance. While reviewing the performance under the ABP, DC underscored the need for intensified and coordinated efforts from all departments. He directed concerned officers to ensure 100% saturation across all indicators. Among others, the meeting was attended by CPO Bandipora, Mohammad Maqbool and officers from other concerned departments.

Chairman, DLSA Ganderbal holds review meeting with Judicial Officers

HT NEWS DESK

GANDERBAL, JULY 10: Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman DLSA) Ganderbal, Abdul Nasir, convened a crucial meeting of all judicial officers of district Ganderbal today in his office chamber, here. The meeting focused on the Mediation 'For the Nation' campaign, a 90-day mediation drive aimed at settling pending cases in all Taluka Courts, District Courts, and High Courts of India through mediation. This initiative seeks to reduce the burden on courts and promote amicable settlements, preparation for a special Lok-Adalat scheduled for July 26, 2025, focusing on Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) and matrimonial cases. The objective is to resolve these cases through alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, ensuring speedy justice



and reducing pendency, and review of cases pertaining to serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, a review of the status of cases involving serving armed personnel, ex-servicemen, and Veer Naris, with an emphasis on their amicable settlement through the Lok-Adalat process. This initiative demonstrates the commitment to providing support and justice to these individuals and their families. The meeting deliberated on strategies to identify cases suitable for mediation

and Lok-Adalat, emphasizing the importance of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms in reducing pending cases. Judicial officers exchanged valuable insights, and an action plan was formulated to execute these initiatives effectively. The key objectives of the meeting was to encourage the use of mediation and Lok-Adalat to settle disputes, reducing the burden on courts and promoting speedy justice, focus on resolving pending cases, particularly those involving serving armed

SHEW Shopian organised awareness programme at Chanchmarg

HT NEWS DESK

SHOPIAN, JULY 10: In a dedicated move to foster gender equality and raise awareness on the rights of the girl child, Sankalp Hub for Empowerment of Women (SHEW), Mission Shakti Shopian today organized an impactful awareness programme at Government High School Chanchmarg, Shopian. The session was led by the Gender Specialist of Sankalp Hub, who strongly emphasized the importance of girl education and the need to empower girls to become informed and confident individuals. The speaker urged students and staff to stand against gender discrimination and uphold the rights of every

girl child. Faculty members of the school also spoke passionately about the value of educating girls, their fundamental rights, and the vital role girls play in shaping a progressive society. A pledge ceremony was held where students and staff committed themselves to support and protect the rights of the girl child. Awareness stickers carrying powerful messages were pasted in and around the school premises to spread the message beyond the event. The programme concluded on a hopeful note, with a collective commitment to continue working towards a society that values, educates, and empowers every girl child.

DLSA Budgam holds awareness program on female foeticide, POCSO Act 2012



HT NEWS DESK

BUDGAM, JULY 10: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Budgam, in collaboration with Legal Literacy Club Government Higher Secondary School Khan Sahib, Budgam conducted an impactful awareness program at Legal Literacy Club Khan Sahib, which focused on key issues including female foeticide, and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012. The event was successfully conducted under the leadership of O.P Bhagat, Chairman DLSA Budgam and under the guidance of Nusrat Ali Hakak, Secretary DLSA Budgam. Abdul Qayoom Shah HOD Botany Legal Literacy Club Khan Sahib Budgam, Dr. Khan Muneer Aslam, Teacher in-charge and Mehraj-ud-din Shah PLV DLSA Budgam were the resource persons. They emphasized the importance of the initiative and discussed the grave impact of female foeticide and also apprised the students regarding various provisions of POCSO Act, providing valuable information

on child sexual abuse and students' rights to report such incidents, ensuring they are aware of the legal protections available. They said that the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act is a comprehensive piece of legislation in India enacted in 2012 to protect children from sexual assault, sexual harassment, and pornography. It aims to provide a safe environment for children and punish offenders, while also offering support and rehabilitation for victims. The Act was amended in 2019 to make punishments more stringent. The initiative aimed to empower students with crucial knowledge and encourage them to become proactive in promoting gender equality and safeguarding children from harm. The session saw active participation from the school principal, in-charge teacher of the Legal Literacy Club, staff members of Government Girls Higher Secondary School Khan Sahib, and para-legal volunteers from DLSA Budgam

No Permission Granted, Illegal Mining Will Be Dealt With Strictly: DMO Budgam Amid Mounting Public Outcry

Ubaid Mehd

BUDGAM, July 10: Amid growing outrage over rampant illegal excavation and mining across several areas of central Kashmir's Budgam district, District Mineral Officer (DMO) Budgam on Thursday clarified that no official permission has been granted for any excavation or mining activity in the district. Speaking to news, the DMO said, "There is no permission granted anywhere in the district. These people are working illegally, and strict action will be taken against them."

This statement comes in the wake of reports of widespread, unauthorized mining operations being carried out in areas such as Chadoora, Beerwa Khan Sahib, Jawalpora, and Sholipora. Residents and activists have accused certain contractors of engaging in large-scale excavation using heavy machinery mostly during the night causing serious environmental degradation and damaging public infrastructure. Locals told that the unregulated mining is severely impacting agricultural land, choking irrigation canals, and creating health hazards due to dust and air pollution. "Our lands are vanishing, and our children are



getting sick from the constant dust," said a resident from Chadoora. Environmentalists have also warned that the region's fragile terrain faces long-term damage due to unchecked soil erosion, with possible implications for groundwater levels and landslide risks. Despite repeated complaints, locals allege that departments including Revenue, Geology & Mining, and Pollution Control have remained silent on the matter. Citizens have called for immediate intervention, strict legal action, and a halt to all illegal operations, demanding transparency and accountability from the district administration before irreversible damage is done.

Jashn-e-Sarhad: Grand Border Festival held at Shahdara Uri under Vibrant Villages Programme Phase-II

Day-long festival blends culture, community & development under VVP-II

HT NEWS DESK

BARAMULLA, JULY 10: In a remarkable celebration of cultural harmony, heritage and development, a day-long mega Border Festival 'Jashn-e-Sarhad, Sufi Saaz ke Sang' was held today at Shahdara Sharief in Uri under the Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP-II). The grand festival was organized through a joint collaboration between the Directorate of Information and PR, Jammu and Kashmir, and the District Administration Baramulla. The festival was graced by Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Uri, Dr. Sajad Shafi, as the chief guest and was attended by a host of dignitaries, including DIG North Kashmir, Masqood-ul-Zaman; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Commander 161 Brigade, Brig. Manish Sehgal; SSP Baramulla, Gurinderpal Singh; Joint Director Information Kashmir, Syed Shahnawaz Bukhari and several other senior civil and army officers. The event drew an enthusiastic



crowd of hundreds from Shahdara village and adjoining border villages, transforming the serene Sufi site into a lively hub of celebration and civic engagement. District Information Officer Baramulla, Iftakhar Naseem, in his welcome address set the tone for a day filled with cultural vibrancy and administrative outreach. Speaking on the occasion, MLA expressed his gratitude to the district administration for organizing the festival and urged for more such events to boost eco, border, and pilgrimage tourism in the region. The festival featured a rich showcase of musical and cultural performances.

Vyas Purnima observed at Ladhoo Pampore after 35 years

HT NEWS DESK

PULWAMA, JULY 10: In a moment etched with emotion, reverence, harmony and hope, the native Pandit community gathered today at Shree Jeevan Sahib, Ladhoo, Pampore to celebrate Vyas Purnima after a gap of 35 years. The event also commemorated the Nirvan Divas of the revered saint Swami Jeevan Sahib Ji and was organized by the Swami Jeevan Sahib Baradari Religious Trust. The event included traditional Pooja and Havan ceremonies, accompanied by recitations and devotional hymns. The event provided an opportunity for the community to reconnect with their place of origin and revive longstanding religious traditions. The local Muslim community warmly welcomed their long-separated neighbours, reviving the enduring spirit of Kashmiriyat. The



elders of both fraternities reminisced about the days of harmony, festivity and togetherness, rekindling memories of a time rooted in shared humanity and mutual respect. Senior members of the Pandit fraternity expressed

heartfelt gratitude to the district administration for facilitating the event and ensuring its smooth conduct. They also conveyed deep appreciation for the hospitality and participation of the local community, which they described

as a reassuring reflection of communal harmony and mutual respect. The event included traditional Pooja and Havan ceremonies, accompanied by recitations and devotional hymns. The event provided an opportunity for the community to reconnect with their place of origin and revive longstanding religious traditions. The local Muslim community warmly welcomed their long-separated neighbours, reviving the enduring spirit of Kashmiriyat. The elders of both fraternities reminisced about the days of harmony, festivity and togetherness, rekindling memories of a time rooted in shared humanity and mutual respect. Senior members of the Pandit fraternity expressed heartfelt gratitude to the district administration for facilitating the event and ensuring its smooth conduct. They also conveyed deep appreciation for the hospitality and participation of the local community.

Deptt of Fisheries Kupwara observes National Fish Farmers Day with Biofloc workshop, book launch

HT NEWS DESK

KUPWARA, JULY 10: Department of Fisheries Kupwara celebrated National Fish Farmers Day by organizing a one-day workshop on Biofloc Fish Farming in collaboration with GDC Baramulla and GDC Handwara. The event saw enthusiastic participation from over 50 students and progressive fish farmers across the district. Assistant Director Fisheries, Dr. Salmaan Raoof Chalkoo delivered an insightful technical session on Biofloc technology and its potential in boosting fish productivity and self-employment. A key highlight was the launch of Dr. Chalkoo's book 'Agri Economy', aimed at supporting rural development and agri-entrepreneurship. Participants also visited operational Biofloc units in Kupwara for hands-on learning. The event concluded with a commitment to strengthening the fisheries sector through innovation, education, and government schemes like PMMSY and HADP.

RPHQ Srinagar organized seminar, commemorating 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

HT NEWS DESK

Srinagar, 10 July: To commemorate the 150th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, RPHQ Srinagar in collaboration with Central University of Kashmir organized a Speech Competition (Seminar) at Conference Hall PEB-1, Central University of Kashmir (Main Campus Tullmullah Ganderbal). The event themed "Strong Leadership in Modern India-Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's Legacy" aimed to engage students in meaningful reflections on the values of unity, discipline, courage and leadership embodied by the 'Iron Man of India'. Students from various departments of the university participated with great enthusiasm presenting thought provoking speeches in English, Urdu and Hindi. In his message, DIG CKR Srinagar Shri Rajiv Pandey-IPS conveyed,

"Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel was not only the architect of national integration but also a firm believer in administrative efficiency and public order. For law enforcement agencies his legacy is a blueprint of discipline and dedication". The speech competition was graced by Prof. Farooq Ahmad Mir, Chief Proctor & Dean Legal Studies CUK, as the Chief Guest. In his address Prof. Mir emphasized the enduring relevance of Sardar Patel's vision, stating Sardar Patel's contribution to national integration stands unmatched. His ideas are not just historical references but guiding principles for our youth. The event was also graced by Prof. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, Dean School of Education, CUK, Prof. Sandhya Tiwari, Dean Languages & International Affairs, Chairperson ICC, Prof. Irfan Alam, Dean Students Welfare CUK, Prof. Firdous Ahmad Sofal.

Jasprit Bumrah in as buoyant India look to take lead at Lord's

United News of India

LONDON: The last Test played at Lord's — the World Test Championship final between Australia and South Africa last month — could provide a sneak peek into the upcoming contest between India and England, scheduled to begin on Thursday.

Held last month, the match saw 28 wickets fall in the first couple of days after South Africa captain Temba Bavuma invited Australia to bat. However, as the match progressed, the surface became ideal for batting as the Proteas chased down a target of 282.

The script is unlikely to change for the India-England encounter with the strip expected to aid bowlers in the beginning before helping batters in the due course of time. With Jofra Archer back in the mix, it would only be ideal for the hosts to lay out a pitch with plenty of life in it. Their coach Brendon McCullum didn't shy away from accepting the fact and said the contest could be a cracker, especially if there is plenty of life in the pitch.



It will also be a deviation from England's tried and tested strategy of offering batting-friendly wickets, which complement their recent style of play. Though they succeeded with it at Leeds in the first Test, the plan backfired in Edgbaston with Indian skipper Shubman Gill scoring twin centuries including a double ton.

After Gill's double ton, the Indian pacers excelled with the ball despite not much assistance from the wicket. What made life difficult for the hosts was the mediocre show from their own pacers, including the leader of the pack Chris Woakes.

With the reports of the wicket here in London offering more help to the bowlers, India vice-captain Rishabh Pant was asked whether they forced their opponents to change their plans. "See, as a team, generally, what we plan is to play according to the conditions given to us," he told reporters in the pre-match press conference on Wednesday.

Pant, who also slammed two centuries in the first match in a losing cause and then hit a half-century in the second essay in the next match, however, said they are not bothered by their hosts' plans. "We don't want to think about what the opposition is thinking, whether they are changing their plans or not. Whatever they're doing, we'll do our best and do better from there. Simple."

The wicketkeeper-batter echoed the sentiments expressed by captain Gill of trying to take 20 wickets ahead of the series and said absence of key players presented opportunities to others to step up and contribute to the team's cause. "The discussion was that England will give us better

wickets because of the kind of cricket that they play. So for us, the mantra was to get 20 wickets on these batting-friendly wickets. That was already planned. Eventually, our batters have to step up because we don't have two of our senior players too. Like I said, it's an opportunity to step up and people are slowly doing that. Eventually, we might do even better as a team," added Pant.

Going by the situation, toss becomes more crucial as the team bowling first would be in a better position to extract the help from the strip before the dry and hot weather takes the juice out of the wicket. In that sense, England can only hope to make it three in a row as far as the toss is concerned.

India, meanwhile, can take confidence from the fact that their premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah is back and ready to shoulder the responsibility once again. The only difference this time will be presence of the in-form Akash Deep and Siraj as the trio would look to help India make it two in two at the iconic venue known as the Home of Cricket.

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DEMISE

With profound grief and sorrow, it is to inform that **Sheikh Mohammad Hafiz**, Son of Late Sheikh Mohammad Sidiq, a resident of Shah Faisal Abad Batamalo passed away on **Thursday (10th July 2025)** after a brief period of illness. The mourning will be observed on three days i.e., 10th, 11th and 12th of July.



The deceased was Ex-President Water Works Division Kashmir.

Note:- Mourners, especially women, are requested not to bring any eatables with them.

Bereaved Family Members:

Sheikh Mohammad Iqbal and Brothers.
Contact numbers: 9419966684, 9596333433.

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