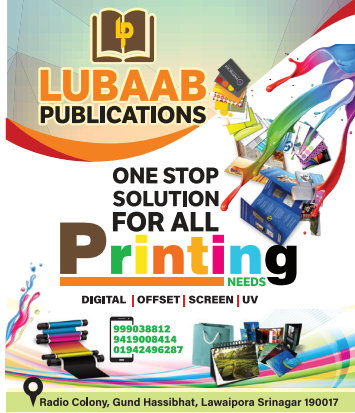


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15TH
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HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



Terror Targets Inside PaK Hit With Accuracy, Perfection: NSA

HT News Desk / KNO

CHENNAI, JUL 11: National Security Advisor, Ajit Doval on Friday launched a scathing attack on foreign media for its biased reportage on India's successful 'Operation Sindoor' against Pakistan. Speaking at the 62nd convocation of

TURN ON PAGE 2



Restore Statehood, Entrust J&K's Security to Elected Government : CM Omar

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday asserted that the security of Jammu and Kashmir should be entrusted to the elected government, and the region's statehood must be restored without any further delay.

During the special interaction with the tour operators from across the country at



Kolkata, the Chief Minister said, "We don't want to remain as UT. We want the responsibility of security to be ours."

The Chief Minister stated that during the meeting with West Bengal Chief Minister Mamta Banerjee, he discussed the current situation in J&K and the rest of the country. "After the meeting, Mamta Banerjee made it clear yesterday that she talked

TURN ON PAGE 2

PM Modi to distribute over 51,000 appointment letters

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 11: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted candidates across various government departments and organisations on Friday via video conferencing. He will also address the

TURN ON PAGE 2

Amarnath Yatra

1.63 lakh pilgrims perform darshan in 9 days

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: On the ninth day of the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, as many as 18,010 pilgrims performed darshan at the holy cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas, taking the cumulative pilgrim count to over 1.63 lakh.

TURN ON PAGE 2

DGP commends commitment of forces

HT News Desk

ANANTNAG, JUL 11: Director General of Police (DGP) J&K, Nalin Prabhat on Friday commended the commitment of all security forces

TURN ON PAGE 2

SIA raids 3 locations in J&K

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 11: The State Investigation Agency (SIA) Kashmir conducted search operations at three suspected locations in Jammu, Doda, and Handwara in a case linked to terror financing.

According to a statement, these searches aimed to secure critical evidence to unravel a complex conspiracy involving cross-border funding through cryptocurrency, designed to fuel terrorism and

TURN ON PAGE 2

Fill vacant seats in DNB: CS

Assesses NHM progress

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo Friday chaired a high-level meeting to comprehensively review the progress and achievements made under the National Health Mission (NHM) across the UT.

The meeting was attended by Secretary, Health and Medical Education Department; Mission Director, NHM; Principals of Government Medical Colleges; Director Health Services, Kashmir/Jammu; Managing

TURN ON PAGE 2



Yuva Shakti Strengthening the Resolve for Viksit Bharat



Distribution of Appointment Letters to over
51,000 Selected Candidates in
functions Organised at **47 Locations**
Across the Nation under

Rozgar Mela

by

Narendra Modi

Prime Minister



Saturday, 12th July, 2025 |



11:00 AM

(Through Video Conferencing)



Central Government, along with partner State Governments, continuously creating new employment opportunities



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Special benefits to women, Divyangjans and Aspirational candidates from various districts



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‘Bharat Sanrachana – J&K 2025’ Wows Public at SKICC

Exhibition is a vibrant initiative under the Government of India’s Viksit Bharat @2047 vision: MP Ghulam Ali Khatana

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: The national mega exhibition “Bharat Sanrachana – Jammu & Kashmir 2025” entered its second day with electrifying energy at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar. From school children and college students to farmers, women entrepreneurs, and local leaders—thousands thronged the venue to witness India’s transformation in action.

Rajya Sabha MP Shri Ghulam Ali Khatana called the exhibition a vibrant initiative under the Government of India’s Viksit Bharat @2047 vision, bringing together innovation, governance, and grassroots engagement under one roof.

“There’s a new energy in J&K. This event is not just about schemes—it’s about belief, confidence, and connection with the national mission,” said MP Ghulam Ali Khatana, who called the exhibition a reflection of New India taking root in every corner of the country.

Notably, The event was inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday.

With participation from over 60 leading central ministries, departments, scientific institutions, and public sector undertakings, the exhibition offers an immersive experience to the public. Energy and infrastructure-focused setups from powergrid Corporation, highlight the country’s rapid progress in green and inclusive development.

On display are cutting-edge innovations from ISRO, DRDO, CSIR, ICMR, GSI, DST, which are drawing huge crowds of inquisitive students and science enthusiasts.



Agriculture, food processing, and village industry are represented by ICAR, APEDA, Coir Board, Jute Board, showcasing opportunities for farmers and rural entrepreneurs. Health-related stalls by Jan Aushadhi, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, and ICMR have been popular among women and senior citizens, offering awareness on affordable medicine and traditional healing systems.

Education and skilling pavilions by Learning Labs are offering career counselling, interactive quizzes, and tech-driven learning modules.

Traditional industries are being celebrated with powerful displays by the Ministry of Textiles, DC Handicrafts National Jute Board and Government Development Institute, has become a favorite among young innovators and job-seekers.

This unique event is being curated and executed by Tarmeh Events, whose mission is to connect policy with people and innovation with inclusion.

“The response is overwhelming. This isn’t just an exhibition—it’s a national conversation brought to the grassroots. It’s about empowering the last citizen,” said Tarun Jain, Director of Tarmeh Events.

Over 80 schools students and 40 college students visited the event. More than 10000 youth have visited the event so far.

With just one day remaining, the exhibition remains open to the public till July 12 from 10 AM to 6 PM, with free entry. On-ground, stalls are abuzz, camera crews are rolling, and youth voices are echoing with questions and ideas—making this a landmark event in the public outreach landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Katra Delegation Meets Dr Karan Singh Over Ropeway Issue

HT News Desk

NEW DELHI, JULY 11: A delegation from Katra, district Reasi of Jammu region today met with Dr. Karan Singh ji, former Sadr-e-Riyasat of J&K and submitted a memorandum requesting that the proposed site for the Vaishno Devi ropeway be shifted to an alternate location along the traditional route.

The delegation expressed concern that the current plan would severely impact the livelihoods of several lakh people who depend on the existing path.

Dr. Karan Singh ji advised that the matter be taken up by the local MLA and MP with the Hon’ble Lt Governor of J&K for due consideration.

Discrimination in Naib Tehsildar Exam: NDA Demands Equal Language Rights for Jammu Youth

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 11: Nations Development Association (NDA), Chief Functionary Sushil Singh Charak has made a strong representation to Hon’ble Chief Minister Janab Omar Abdullah, highlighting the issue of the mandatory Urdu language requirement in the Naib Tehsildar recruitment exam, which is causing distress among aspirants from the Jammu Division.

Charak pointed out that the majority of youth from Jammu do not study Urdu, rendering them ineligible under the current recruitment criteria. He criticized the policy as exclusionary and called for recruitment exams to be conducted in multiple regional languages to ensure broader participation. He cited The Jammu and Kashmir Official Languages Act, 2020 (Act No. 23 of 2020), passed by Parliament, which recognizes Urdu, Hindi, Dogri,



Kashmiri, and English as official languages of the Union Territory. Restricting exams to Urdu alone, he stated, goes against the inclusive intent of the Act. Charak appealed to the Chief Minister to uphold the principles of fairness and inclusivity by revising the language criteria and eliminating regional bias in recruitment processes, thereby ensuring equal opportunity for all youth across Jammu and Kashmir.

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Hit 9 Terror....

IIT Madras, NSA Doval, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) said, “Foreign press said that Pakistan did that and this...You tell me one photograph, one image, which shows any damage to any Indian (structure), even a glass pane having been broken.”

Referring to the damage caused to air bases in Pakistan, NSA Doval said, “They (foreign media) wrote these things and put out things. The images only showed 13 air bases in Pakistan before and after 10th May, whether it was in Sargodha, Rahim Yar Khan, Chaklala. I am only telling you what the foreign media put out on the basis of images. We are capable of doing that (damage to Pakistani air bases).”

Hailing India’s precision in hitting its targets in the criss-cross of Pakistan on May 7, in response to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead, the National Security Advisor said that the armed forces “hit nowhere else except the targets.”

The NSA said, “We decided to hit nine terrorist targets deep inside Pakistan, not near the border. We missed none. No unintended location was struck and each target was selected based on specific intelligence.”

“The operation began on May 7 and ended on May 10 after both sides reached an understanding to stop military action,” Doval said.

Lauding the indigenous weapons used during ‘Operation Sindoor’ the National Security Advisor said, “We are proud of how much indigenous content we used. BrahMos was part of it.”

He said India must continue to develop its own defence and technology infrastructure. “We have to develop our indigenous technology,” he added.

The NSA also spoke about India’s development of 5G technology. He said, “China took 12 years and \$300 billion to develop 5G. We didn’t have that time or money. The government worked with IIT Madras and private companies to build a fully indigenous 5G system. Today, India’s 5G has nothing foreign in it,” he added—(KNO)

Entrust J&K’s....

about the security control in J&K. Unfortunately, we are presently an UT. Centre, BJP and GoI have promised to restore the statehood. We don’t want any further delay in this pious process. Statehood should be ensured at earliest and the responsibility of security should be given to the elected government. We will take care of it,” he added.

Furthermore, in a reply to a query on Bihar voter list, Omar said that Jammu and Kashmir is the place where elections don’t take place easily. “We have witnessed 2024 elections after the gap of ten years. I am among the persons who want the elections to be held in

any way,” he said.

Meanwhile, as per a post on X, Office of Chief Minister, J&K, Omar highlighted the unique tourism experiences Jammu & Kashmir has to offer.

He also invited the tour operators from across the country to collaborate in promoting the region and assured full support from the government.

“Chief Minister held a special interaction with tour operators from across the country, highlighting the unique tourism experiences Jammu & Kashmir has to offer. He invited them to collaborate in promoting the region and assured full support from the government,” the post reads.

PM Modi to....

appointees during the 16th edition of the Rozgar Mela, which is set to take place simultaneously at 47 locations across the country.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister’s Office (PMO), over 10 lakh appointment letters have been handed out through the Rozgar Melas conducted nationwide thus far.

The recruitment drive spans several Central government ministries and departments. The appointees, drawn from different parts of the country, will join services in the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, among others, said a statement.

The Rozgar Mela initiative forms part of the government’s ongoing effort to prioritise employment generation. The scheme is intended to provide meaningful job opportunities to the youth, thereby enabling their active participation in nation-building, as per the statement.

1.63 lakh....

According to figures, today’s pilgrims included 12,838 males, 4,343 females, 223 children, 141 sadhus, 8 sadhvis, and 2 transgender devotees. 455 security personnel also had darshan at the shrine.

With this, the total number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance since the beginning of the yatra on July 3 has reached 1,63,726.

Officials said that the pilgrimage continues under a multi-tier security grid, with round-the-clock monitoring, medical support, and rescue teams in place to facilitate a safe and smooth yatra for the devotees.

“Transit camps play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth conduct of the Amarnath Yatra, especially during delays or road closures along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway. Two such key facilities located at Mirbazar and Qazigund have been strategically established to provide essential overnight shelter to pilgrims. With a combined capacity to accommodate 5,000 yatris (2,600 beds at Mir

Bazar and 2,400 at Walnut Factory Levдора), these camps serve as vital logistical hubs, offering rest, safety, and support amid the arduous journey to the holy cave shrine,” an official said.

Furthermore, a fresh batch of 6,482 pilgrims left from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Friday, heading towards the twin base camps of Baltal and Pahalgam for the ongoing annual Amarnath Yatra.

According to official data, 2,353 pilgrims proceeded via the Baltal route, while 4,129 chose the traditional Pahalgam axis. The convoy, comprising a total of 268 vehicles, moved under a tight security cover. The fleet included 135 buses, 49 Medium Motor Vehicles (MMVs), and 84 Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs).

As per the figures shared by the authorities, the batch consisted of 4,838 male pilgrims, 1,387 females, 16 children, and 241 sadhus and sadhvis. (KNO)

DGP commends....

in securing the ongoing Amarnath Yatra. Chairing a security review meeting here in South Kashmir, DGP Prabhakar, according to the details, reiterated the need for continuous rehearsal of contingency drills and the imperative requirement for assessing and plugging grey areas.

An official said, “The DGP during the meeting stressed on the need for refining drills to deal dynamically with evolving threats and called for relentless operations in the hinterland.”

A police statement said that DGP Prabhakar conducted a focused security review with DIG South Kashmir Range Javed Iqbal Mattoo, SSPs of South Kashmir, and senior officers from the Indian Army, CRPF, and BSF.

SIA raids 3....

destabilise peace in Jammu and Kashmir. The statement reads search operations also targeted efforts to identify individuals inciting youth against the Union of India, thereby threatening national security.

“Searches are part of an ongoing investigation under FIR No. 12/2022, under Sections 18, 38, and 39 of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, along with Sections 120B, 121, and 121A of the Indian Penal Code, registered at Police Station CI-SIA Kashmir. These searches yielded vital evidence, marking a breakthrough in exposing the clandestine financial networks that keep the pot of terrorism boiling in Jammu and Kashmir,” it reads.

It added recovered articles/electronic devices are expected to aid the SIA in identifying and apprehending co-conspirators and accomplices orchestrating these anti-national activities.

“The SIA remains determined in its commitment to rooting out terrorism and its

support systems, including sophisticated methods like cryptocurrency-based funding, which are increasingly exploited to perpetuate violence and radicalization,” it reads.

Fill vacant....

Director, JKMSCL and other concerned officers.

While underlining the importance of uninterrupted drug availability in all health institutions, the Chief Secretary directed for submission of the consolidated weekly reports on the status of essential medicines from every district.

He instructed that Deputy Commissioners, Directors of Health Services and the Planning Section in his office be given real-time access to this data, enabling prompt interventions wherever shortages are noticed.

Reviewing the Biomedical Equipment Management and Maintenance Programme (BEMMP), the Chief Secretary asked the concerned departments to complete the Equipment Profile exercise by August, as already directed. He underscored that maintaining functional equipment is central towards improving the patient outcomes and minimizing the service disruptions.

Dulloo expressed concern over the vacancies in DNB (Diplomate of National Board) seats across major hospitals of the UT. He directed for taking measures to fill these seats, including offering the opportunities to in-service Medical Officers, where external candidates are unavailable.

The Chief Secretary laid special focus on the Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) while directing the Health Department to cover every school and Anganwadi centre across J&K. He stressed the need to screen children for key health indicators, including anaemia and other common disorders enabling targeted medical interventions at an early stage.

In line with the government’s commitment to equitable health access, Dulloo reiterated that no Primary Health Centre or Sub-Centre especially in remote and hilly areas should be left without doctors or requisite paramedical staff. He emphasized the need to fill vacant positions and deploy staff strategically to serve the underserved populations.

Taking stock of the critical care infrastructure being developed under PM-ABHIM, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status and timelines of various projects in the districts. He called for expedited completion of all ongoing works, urging the officials to meet deadlines without compromising on quality.

During the meeting, the functioning of key NHM programmes such as e-Sanjeevani (Tele-Consultation), Tele-MANAS (Mental Health Counselling), Tele-ICUs and free ambulance services was also reviewed.

The Chief Secretary expressed satisfaction over the reach of these initiatives but stressed

on wider public awareness and operational efficiency to ensure they benefit every needy citizen.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the TB Elimination and Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) prevention programmes being run under NHM, urging intensified screenings, follow-ups and outreach campaigns especially in high-risk populations.

Secretary, H&ME, Dr Syed Abid Rashid Shah, informed the meeting that unlike past the NHM, J&K, received five instalments totalling Rs 806.93 crore of central share and Rs 195.08 Cr for infrastructure maintenance in 2024-25 against a resource envelope of Rs 601.54 crore and Rs 150.20 crore respectively.

He added that J&K has achieved 99% institutional deliveries in 2024-25 and Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) has significantly dropped from 16 to 14 as per SRS 2022 Bulletin, which is better than the national average of 26 per 1000 live births. As per HMIS data 2024-25, IMR has been recorded as 9.35 per 1000 live births, he reiterated.

While giving the account of achievements, MD NHM Baseer-Ul-Haq Chaudhary informed that 86% of Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (AAMs) are operational in J&K.

Additionally, he informed the meeting that the number of free drugs had been increased from 23 to 96 at SHC-AAMs and from 71 to 175 at PHC-AAMs during FY 2024-25. Free diagnostic services have also been expanded resulting in 242.75 lakh OPD evaluations at these health facilities from 2023 till date.

Moreover, it was revealed that Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK) teams regularly conduct screenings in schools and Anganwadi Centres, with 91% of targeted beneficiaries (0-18 years) screened in 2024-25.

In addition, 9.35 lakh patients have received tele-consultation services from FY 2023-24 to June 2025 and over 103,396 calls have been received by the Tele-MANAS unit established at IMHANS. It was revealed that 489 ambulances are operational under the 102-108 Ambulance Service. Also 10,164 (90%) ASHAs have qualified for NIOS certification, which is the highest in the country.

Regarding the status of critical infrastructure raised under PM-ABHIM, the meeting was apprised that 10 Critical Care Blocks (CCBs) besides 20 Integrated Public Health Labs (IPLs) and 287 Block Public Health Units (BPHUs) have been raised under this flagship programme.

It was said that the projects to the tune of Rs 512.00 crore have been allotted to HSCC (India) Ltd for execution across the UT. More than 200 works have been awarded and 150 works have started in the last couple of months under this programme across the districts of the UT.

HT - NEWS

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2

Committee on Govt Assurances holds introductory meeting in Srinagar

Calls for comprehensive scrutiny of promises made on floor of House

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: The Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened an introductory meeting at the Assembly Complex, Srinagar. The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone and attended by members Ch. Mohammad Akram, Javaid Ahmad Mirchal, Hilal Akbar Lone, Iftikar Ahmad, Mian Mehar Ali, Mohan Lal, Sunil Bahardwaj and Shagun Parihar. Secretary, Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, briefed about the agenda of the meeting. In his opening remarks, the Chairman emphasized that the Committee would scrutinize the assurances, promises and undertakings made by the Ministers on the floor of the House

from time to time. He said the Committee would also assess the extent of their implementation and check whether they have been fulfilled within the stipulated time frame. He underscored the significance of the Committee's role in holding the government accountable and ensuring transparency in governance. He also stated that there is ample scope for effective work, and frequent meetings will be held to ensure that all assurances made in the House are tracked and fulfilled. The Committee resolved to conduct a department-wise review of the pending assurances to yield tangible outcomes. The Chairman urged all the members to extend full cooperation and contribute constructively to the Committee's functioning, thereby playing an enabling role in ensuring that government commitments made to



the members are met seamlessly. During the meeting, the members shared valuable suggestions and raised several issues of public importance for the Committee's consideration. The Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened an introductory meeting at

the Assembly Complex, Srinagar. The meeting was chaired by the Committee Chairman, Sajad Gani Lone and attended by members Ch. Mohammad Akram, Javaid Ahmad Mirchal, Hilal Akbar Lone, Iftikar Ahmad, Mian Mehar Ali, Mohan Lal, Sunil Bahardwaj and Shagun Parihar. Secretary, Legislative Assembly,

Manoj Kumar Pandita, briefed about the agenda of the meeting. In his opening remarks, the Chairman emphasized that the Committee would scrutinize the assurances, promises and undertakings made by the Ministers on the floor of the House from time to time. He said the Committee would also assess the extent of their implementation and check whether they have been fulfilled within the stipulated time frame. He underscored the significance of the Committee's role in holding the government accountable and ensuring transparency in governance. He also stated that there is ample scope for effective work, and frequent meetings will be held to ensure that all assurances made in the House are tracked and fulfilled. The Committee resolved to conduct a department-wise review of the pending assurances to yield tangible

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Kashmir Educators Honoured for Championing Theatre-Based Learning

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

Srinagar, July 11, 2025 – The Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in partnership with Piramal Foundation and the National School of Drama (NSD), felicitated 53 Master Facilitators at a convocation ceremony for completing the "Theatre in Education" professional development program. This initiative, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, champions theatre as a transformative pedagogical tool to foster creativity, empathy, and resilience in classrooms.

The event, attended by Dr. G.N. Itoo, Director of School Education Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad, Joint Director (Central), NSD Registrar Pradeep Kumar Mohanty, and Zeeshan Hassan, Senior Program Director at Piramal Foundation, underscored a shared vision to integrate arts into education. "Theatre-based pedagogy ignites imagination, builds confidence, and nurtures emotional intelligence," said Dr. Itoo, urging continued collaboration to create resilient classrooms for Kashmir's students.

NSD's Mohanty emphasized theatre's unique role in Kashmir, stating, "Theatre empowers communities to heal, reconnect, and reclaim their stories, offering students safe spaces to express and process their realities." Zeeshan Hassan of Piramal Foundation added, "This partnership exemplifies how collaboration between government and civil society can reshape education into an inclusive, empowering force."

The convocation featured keynote addresses, teacher reflections, and certificate distribution, marking a milestone in blending Kashmir's cultural heritage with innovative pedagogy. This initiative promises to nurture expressive, empathetic, and resilient young citizens through the power of theatre.

GDC Ganderbal organises two days International Conference on "Urdu Shairi: Riwayat, Jidat aur Asri Taqaazay"

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

Srinagar, July 11, 2025 A Two-Day International Conference on the theme "Urdu Shairi: Riwayat, Jidat aur Asri Taqaazay" (Udu Poetry: Tradition, Innovation, and Contemporary Demands) was organized by department of urdu, Government Degree College (GDC), Ganderbal on 9th and 10th July, 2025.

The event witnessed an intellectually vibrant atmosphere where scholars, poets, and researchers from across India and abroad came together in hybrid mode to explore the depth and dynamism of Urdu poetry. The ceremony began with Prof. Nusrat Nabi (AP, Urdu), who gracefully anchored the session and set the tone for the proceedings, and reflected on how the Urdu literary tradition has long served as a mirror to the region's cultural richness and collective sensibilities. Dr. Jamsheeda Akhter (HOD, Department of Urdu and Organizing Secretary of the Conference) apprised the gathering of the thematic relevance of the conference and its intended objective to promote academic engagement and cultural dialogue in the context of contemporary literary discourse.

Prof. Fouzia Fatima, Principal GDC Ganderbal, opened the session with a warm welcome, reflecting both pride and purpose. She emphasized the academic significance of the conference in the present literary and cultural landscape and reiterated the institution's commitment to nurturing platforms that inspire dialogue and critical thinking.

IICT upgrades skill of 11,000 carpet weavers under various flagship schemes

Also provides monthly stipend ranging from ₹1000 to ₹3750; ₹7500 under Guru-Shishya Scheme

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11 – In a major boost to expand the pool of trained human resource, Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT), Srinagar, under the aegis of Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, has master trained around 11,000 carpet weavers from different districts, under various skill development programmes.

The weavers have been trained on modified carpet looms which shall go a long way in penetrating niche markets for the famed hand-knotted carpets, which

is the second most exported handmade product from Kashmir.

In a press statement released here today, Director IICT, Zubair Ahmad said that the services of master trainers who have distinguished themselves in the field of carpet weaving are availed to train skilled and semi-skilled carpet weavers in different batches, both in IICT premises at Baghe-Ali Mardan Khan and carpet clusters of different districts. "This face-to-face interaction and training shall go a long way in safeguarding the rare skill of weaving intricate hand-knotted carpets, which have a huge export market, both within

and outside the country," he stated.

The exports of hand-knotted carpets from Kashmir have touched 838.70 crore in the last three financial years, despite challenges due to global conflicts which have affected markets in Middle East and other destinations.

In order to make the training programmes more attractive for trainees, IICT also provides monthly stipend as per Scheme Guidelines. "The stipend for these short-term training programmes of 4-6 months' duration with intake capacity of 20, ranges from 1000 to 3750 per month under various skill-based schemes

of Ministry of Textiles," he added.

The training programmes include Skill Upgradation and Capacity Building Training & Short-Term Training Programmes of the Ministry of Textiles and Skill Development Training Programme of Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

The Director also stated that under the Guru-Shishya Hastshilp Programme, the services of National Awardees shall be availed to provide skill upgradation training to registered carpet weavers. "Under this 2-month training programme, each trainee shall be provided a stipend of 7500 per month," he stated.

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Dr Karwani inspects construction work on transit accommodations for PM Package Employees

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, Dr Arvind Karwani, inspected several transit accommodation sites for PM Package Employees under construction in the North Central and South Kashmir. Dr Karwani, while interacting with the site engineers, emphasized achieving the targets in a time bound manner. He particularly underlined the importance of speedy completion of allied works like boundary wall, internal roads and basic amenities at the sites, so that the possession of allotted quarters can be handed over to the employees at the earliest. He enjoined upon the engineers to ensure quality of the work. Dr Karwani also interacted with the PM package employees who raised their demands like availability of basic amenities like water supply, power supply, sanitation, education and recreational facility for their children besides repair of pre-fab structures at Pulwama and Kulgam. Pertinent to mention that 6000 quarters at 20 different locations across the Kashmir valley under PMDP programme are being constructed for PM Package employees, out of which about 3500 stand constructed. The construction work on allied works like boundary wall, Internal roads, drainage, STP and community hall is also going on in full swing.

Implementation of COTPA-2003 reviewed at Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 11: A review meeting of the District Level Coordination Committee for the implementation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA)-2003 under National Tobacco Control Program was held today at the mini-secretariat Kulgam.

The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri. During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) highlighted the pivotal roles and responsibilities of various departments and stakeholders in curbing tobacco use and ensuring strict enforcement of tobacco control measures across the district. ADC directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) and other concerned officers to strictly enforce the provision prohibiting the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions. He also instructed that all government offices and



institutions must ensure a tobacco-free environment. Emphasizing the urgent need for collective responsibility, Giri urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination to ensure

the rigorous implementation of COTPA-2003, thereby safeguarding public health and preventing tobacco-related harm. The meeting was attended by the Sub-

Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Noorabad, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, and other district officers. The State Programme Associate, NTPC from the Directorate of Health Services, Kashmir, was also present and assured all possible technical support for effective implementation of the programme. The meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmad Giri. During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer (CMO) highlighted the pivotal roles and responsibilities of various departments and stakeholders in curbing tobacco use and ensuring strict enforcement of tobacco control measures across the district. ADC directed the Chief Education Officer (CEO) and other concerned officers to strictly enforce the provision prohibiting the sale of tobacco products within 100 yards of educational institutions. He also instructed that all government offices and institutions must ensure a tobacco-free environment.

HT EDITORIAL

Make solar rooftop technology awareness programme a hit among masses

For the past so many years the Jammu & Kashmir government has been pitching for adoption of solar rooftop energy as the ultimate means of energy in both the private and government sectors. However, there has been little progress in this regard and as on date this form of energy has not made a mark in the union territory. Meetings have been carried out on a regular basis, but still then the desired results have not been achieved.

The government under this plan had envisaged making the solar rooftop form of energy the first choice of energy in the government sector. Plans were framed in this regard and it was expected that with the passage of time the higher-ups of these government departments would adopt this form of technology. However to the disappointment of one and all not much headway has been made in this regard and the government departments have failed to do their bit in this respect.

Despite the fact that sops are being given to the people who take up this form of energy not many people are willing to adopt this form of energy. The basic reason for the same is the cost factor involved with this whole project. Since a huge amount is needed to adopt even a single kilowatt of this form of energy the people are somewhat reluctant to take a forward step in this regard. The subsidy component in this regard has failed to enthuse the people.

It is due to this reason that a handful of people are using the solar rooftop form of energy as the means of energy at their respective homes. The awareness in this regard has also not been up to the mark and most of the people are not aware about this form of energy. It is imperative that necessary information is provided to the people and the people who have influence in the society should be roped in this regard.

The benefits of the adoption of this form of energy should be made understandable to the masses as a whole so that they take up the same and make the difference. There is no denying the fact that the people who adopt solar rooftop form of energy will be relieved of monthly power bills that they receive as on date, but not many people are informed about the same. As such awareness needs to be augmented so that more and more people adopt this form of energy.

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Why Society Still Whispers About Mental Health?



■ By Tyima Bilal

In the noise of everyday life, the hustle, the deadlines, the expectations, every crowded classroom, and every dinner table filled with polite conversations, there exists a silence that echoes louder than any spoken word. It is the silence around mental health, and it continues to shape lives, destroy confidence, and steal lives quietly. They are not loud. They don't demand attention. Instead, they tremble quietly behind forced smiles and tired eyes. They belong to those battling battles no one sees. And still, society whispers.

Despite living in the 21st century, where we've mapped the stars, built machines to mimic human thought, and given voices to artificial intelligence, we still struggle to give space to the voices inside our own heads. While we have learned to speak openly about cancer, diabetes, or heart disease, mental illness still exists in the shadows. It's the kind of pain that people are taught to hide, the kind of suffering that is met not with empathy, but with discomfort. But Why?

The Fear of the Invisible:

We come from households where "don't cry" was considered advice, and "stay strong" meant "don't show emotion." Unlike physical wounds, mental health issues rarely come with visible signs. Depression doesn't leave bruises. Anxiety doesn't show up on a scan. And because there is

no physical evidence, people are often met with doubt rather than care. So, we learn to wear masks.

We laugh at jokes while anxiety claws at our chest. We attend family dinners while depression quietly devours our joy. We excel in school or work while carrying the weight of past trauma.

And we do all of this because society told us that talking about what hurts inside is too much, too awkward, too "attention-seeking." And so, they go silent.

The Price of these Whispers:

But this silence comes at a cost, one that's often irreversible. Every time someone is told to "get over it,"

Every time someone is asked, "Why are you sad when you have everything?" "You're just overthinking."

"You're too sensitive."

"Don't be dramatic."

This is why suicide rates continue to climb. This is why young people with anxiety feel "crazy."

This is why so many suffer silently, smiling by day and breaking by night.

Let the Whispers Become Voices

Healing begins with honesty. With the courage to say, "I'm struggling."

With the strength to listen to someone else's story without flinching. Because behind every whisper is a soul waiting to be heard.

And every soul deserves to be seen, held, and healed. It is time to unlearn what we were taught. Let us normalize going to therapy as easily as going to a doctor. Let us raise our children with emotional literacy, not shame. Let us teach boys that tears

“

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mental health issues rarely come with visible signs. Depression doesn't

leave bruises. Anxiety doesn't show up on a scan. And because there is no physical evidence, people are often met with doubt rather than care.

are not shameful. Let us teach girls that their pain is not an exaggeration. Let us tell every human that their mind matters. We must move from silence to softness, from judgment to empathy, from labels to listening. We must become safe spaces for each other, homes, schools, workplaces, and hearts where mental health is not a secret, but a shared truth.

What needs to change?

We must break the culture of silence around mental health.

■ Talk openly about emo-

tions, at home, in schools, in workplaces.

- Normalize therapy as a form of strength, not shame.
- Listen without judgment, and support without needing proof of someone's pain.
- Teach emotional literacy, just as we teach physical hygiene.
- Replace shame with empathy and stigma with understanding.

Mental health is not a trend, a hashtag, or a temporary campaign. It is the foundation of everything we do, how we think, feel, connect, and live. And it deserves the same care, compassion, and attention as any physical illness.

Conclusion

Mental health is not a luxury, not a weakness, and certainly not a secret. It is as real and vital as any physical condition, perhaps more so, because it shapes how we breathe, connect, love, live. The time for whispers has passed.

We can no longer afford the silence that isolates or the stigma that shames. Let us create a world where speaking about our minds is met with compassion, not caution.

Where seeking help is seen as bravery, not burden. Where healing is not hidden, but honored. Because in the end, the loudest thing we can ever say is: "I understand. I'm here. You're not alone." And sometimes, that is enough to begin saving a life.

Tyima Bilal is a medical student and mental health advocate based in Srinagar.

Through her writing, she aims to break stigma, amplify unheard voices, and build a more compassionate world.

Free Bus Service for Women: Relief or Rising Burden?



■ Aubaid Ahmad Akhoun

Every journey has a purpose; every road has a price —

What comes for free can sometimes cost the most.

A few months ago, the Jammu and Kashmir government launched a much-talked-about free bus service for women — a move that many celebrated as progressive and empowering. For a region where mobility and safety for women have always been important issues, this step was seen as a milestone. However, like many well-intentioned welfare schemes, this one too deserves a closer look to understand its ground reality and long-term impact.

A Personal Experience

As a regular commuter who has mostly relied on government buses, I have always appreciated their relatively better service and comfort, even if the fare was slightly higher than that of local minibuses. After a tiring day at work, a guaranteed seat and a smoother ride make all the difference.

But since the introduction of the free bus service for women, this comfort has become rare. The buses are now packed beyond capacity. Finding a seat is next to impossible — and when a woman is seen standing, any man with a conscience feels morally compelled to vacate his seat.

What's more, many of the new users are employed women with decent salaries who previously used their own vehicles but now naturally prefer the free ride. As a result, the system is overloaded, leaving genuinely needy passengers — daily wage workers, students, the elderly — struggling for space and comfort.

Who Benefits the Most?

As a regular commuter who has mostly relied on government buses, I have always appreciated their relatively better service and comfort, even if the fare was slightly higher than that of local minibuses. After a tiring day at work, a guaranteed seat and a smoother ride make all the difference

While the aim was to support women who need financial relief, the reality is that the biggest beneficiaries are salaried employees and middle-class commuters who can easily afford the fare. Meanwhile, women in remote areas or those who depend on local shared transport have seen little to no benefit, because government buses do not cover every village or interior route.

More Pressure, Less Productivity

In many government offices and institutions, it's now common to see women employees arriving late more often. Overcrowded buses, unpredictable schedules, and over-reliance on the free service have made punctuality suffer. This unspoken cost — reduced productivity — is hardly ever discussed when we talk about the success of such welfare schemes.

Financial Burden on the Transport Department

Free travel does not mean free service. Operational costs — fuel, maintenance, staff salaries — remain unchanged or even increase due to higher usage. The revenue loss has to be covered somehow — and it usually comes from taxpayers' money or by cutting funds from other areas in need. Over time, this can burden an already stretched transport department, leading to poorer services for everyone.

What Could Be Better?

Nobody questions the intention behind the scheme. Women's safety and mobility must be

strengthened. But we must also ask: Is this the most effective way? Instead of completely free rides, a subsidized fare could have ensured affordability without draining the department's finances. Or perhaps the same money could have been used to improve bus frequency, extend routes to remote areas, or invest in better infrastructure.

Some even argue that spending on uninterrupted power supply or subsidies for essential household items would benefit entire families, not just a segment of daily commuters.

Bottom line

Good governance is not just about launching popular schemes — it is about listening, observing, and course-correcting. Any welfare programme must evolve with honest feedback from the people it affects the most. Free bus travel might bring smiles today, but unchecked overcrowding, financial stress, and poor service tomorrow can wipe them out. Because in the end, everything comes at a cost — nothing is truly free. The price might not show up in the bus fare, but it surely appears elsewhere — in quality, efficiency, or sustainability.

The real measure of progress is not how much we can give away for free, but how wisely we spend public money so that relief reaches those who truly need it — without overburdening systems or compromising on quality. The same money could have improved bus frequency, extended routes to far-flung areas, or supported subsidies on electricity or household essentials — benefiting entire families, not just daily commuters.

In the end, a welfare state must strike a balance: thoughtful intentions must meet practical, sustainable execution. Only then can we call it real empowerment.

The comfort that comes for free often hides a heavier cost.

With warm regards and thoughtful wishes,

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International Hope Day: A Ray of Light in the Darkness



■ **Munish Bhatia**

International Hope Day is not just a symbolic occasion but a resounding message for humanity: that even in the most challenging times, if anything remains, it is 'hope.' This day reminds us that hope is not merely an emotional state, but an active mental energy that empowers individuals, societies, and nations to rise again even in adverse circumstances.

When a crisis strikes human life—be it illness, death, grief, failure, or conflict—along with medicine, empathy, and support, hope is the very power that prevents an individual from breaking down. This is why the primary objective of this day is to highlight the importance of hope worldwide and to help people understand that this emotion can become the foundation for change at both individual and societal levels. The day's establishment also aims to raise awareness about the positive effects of hope on mental health. Research clearly shows that individuals with a propensity for optimism cope more effectively with conditions like depression, anxiety, and mental stress. In this context, hope should be viewed as a learnable skill that guides one towards a mentally stable and emotionally balanced life.

Today, as the world navigates a chaotic period—where wars, political upheaval, climate crises, and economic inequality are rampant in every corner—the question arises: does hope still hold any relevance in such times? Hope is the value that connects an indi-

vidual from within, and connects society to one another. This day reminds us that even when everything seems to be falling apart, a better tomorrow can still be imagined. And it is this very imagination that inspires humans to act.

Many global organizations, primarily the United Nations, believe that if governments and institutions base their programs, policies, and plans on hope, they can enrich society not only economically but also mentally and emotionally. The most fundamental component of society—the family—is also under immense pressure these days. Due to economic insecurity, individual ambitions, and growing distances in relationships, incidents of domestic discord and disintegration are increasing. In such a scenario, even a small ray of hope can bring positive change to that environment. When parents are hopeful about their children's future, when spouses support each other during difficult times, not only do relationships improve, but the entire family's mental well-being benefits. Thus, hope can also become the basis for social stability at the domestic level. Today's youth are going through an era where there is technological progress, but also immense pressure from social instability and competition. Problems like unemployment, exam stress, relationship instability, and mental exhaustion are breaking down young people. International Hope Day sends a message to youth that no matter how uncertain the future may be, by adopting an optimistic outlook, they can bring change to their lives. It is hope that inspires them to take risks, learn from failures, and rise again.

When governments formulate plans purely from an administrative or economic perspective, they often neglect the emotional and psychological needs of the public. However, if plans are rooted in

hope—that is, the imagination of a better future—then policies are no longer just an exercise in statistics; they become an investment in the dreams of the people. However, it is also important to clarify here that hope is not generated merely through announcements or speeches. If policies lack transparency, accountability, and fairness, then that very hope can quickly turn into despair. Therefore, governments should make honest efforts to realize the dreams associated with hope.

Hope cannot be built by individuals or governments alone. Community participation is essential for this. Public awareness campaigns, open discussions on mental health, acts of kindness and compassion, and processes of forgiveness and reconciliation can be concrete steps in this direction. For example, if children are taught optimistic thinking in schools, if patients in hospitals receive emotional support in addition to medical treatment, and if stress-free environments are created in workplaces—then hope can become not just a theoretical concept, but a living social behaviour.

International Hope Day teaches us that hope is not magic, but a conscious effort. It is like a flame that, if lit by one person, can illuminate many other hearts. It is a call for us to be inspired by hope, not despair. Let us imagine a world that is inclusive, compassionate, and resilient—and then take concrete steps in that direction. Dreams are born from hope, and from those very dreams have come history's greatest revolutions. Therefore, on this day, let us not consider hope merely a feeling of the mind, but make it a part of our behaviour. Only then will this day remain not just a date, but a resolution for humanity's future.

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Mayawati May Join Hands with Azam and Owaisi



■ **Ajay Kumar**

As the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly elections draw closer, political equations in the state are beginning to shift. Mayawati, who has long been the central figure of the Dalit vote bank, is now working on a strategy to attract Muslim votes. Meanwhile, discussions are gaining momentum about senior Samajwadi Party (SP) leader Azam Khan moving closer to the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP). This development could pose a political challenge for SP chief Akhilesh Yadav, as his party relies heavily on Muslim and Yadav voters.

After witnessing BSP's poor performance in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, Mayawati has altered her strategy. Her party, once the sole voice of Dalits, is now reduced to just one MLA. In this scenario, Mayawati is exploring old alliances to woo Muslim voters once again. Reports of Azam Khan, a senior SP leader and prominent Muslim face, leaning towards BSP are a strong indication in this direction. The growing distance of Azam and his son Abdullah Azam from the SP, along with their meetings with Chandrashekhar Azad's party (MP from Nagina), have become a topic of political discussion.

Azam Khan's tilt towards BSP could pose a multi-pronged threat to Akhilesh. The Muslim vote bank, which forms about 20% of the electorate, has been a significant strength for SP. However, losing a powerful leader like Azam could harm the



party, especially in western UP, where Muslim and Dalit voters play a decisive role. In areas like Rampur and Moradabad, Azam's influence remains strong. If he aligns with BSP, it could help Mayawati forge a Muslim-Dalit alliance.

In 2024, Akhilesh Yadav had challenged the BJP using his PDA (Backward, Dalit, Minority) formula. But the SP's defeat in the by-elections indicated that there could be a breach in the Muslim vote bank. Mayawati's renewed focus on Muslim voters and the potential support from Azam Khan could weaken this core base of the SP. Moreover, Mayawati's accusations that SP misleads Dalit and Muslim voters have further intensified political tensions.

On the other hand, Akhilesh is trying to counter this challenge by inducting Dalit and OBC leaders into the SP. However, if Azam Khan joins hands with BSP, Akhilesh will have to rethink his strategy. The 2027 election is set to script a new chapter in UP politics, where the strategies of Mayawati and Akhilesh are

squarely pitted against each other.

Meanwhile, speculation is also rising about a possible alliance between BSP supremo Mayawati and AIMIM leader Asaduddin Owaisi. Both leaders aim to unite Dalit and Muslim votes to challenge the BJP and the SP-Congress alliance. While Mayawati has a strong base among Dalits, Owaisi holds significant sway in the Muslim community. Under a "PDM" (Backward, Dalit, Muslim) banner, this alliance could be especially effective in western UP and Bihar.

However, the road ahead won't be easy. In 2019, Mayawati had accused Owaisi of treating Muslim leadership as untouchable, while Owaisi had blamed her for promoting extremism. Yet, in the changing political landscape, both leaders seem to see an opportunity to come together. If this alliance materializes, it could cause a political earthquake in UP. It may split the secular vote, indirectly benefiting the BJP.

The author is a Senior Journalist

When students become killers: Alert time

Lack of dialogue, loss of values, violence in schools are the result of society's silence



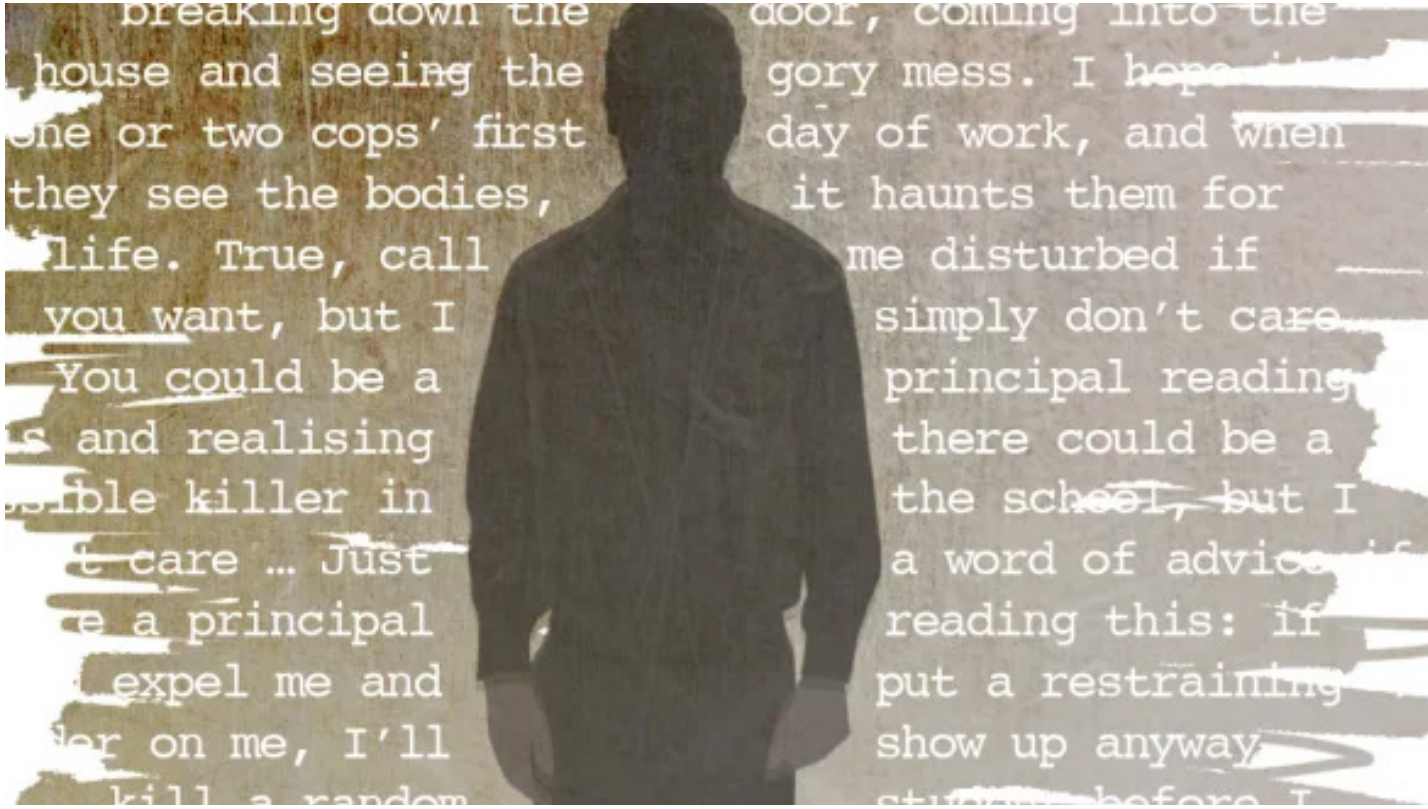
■ **Priyanka Saurabh**

The murder of teacher Jasvir Patu in Hisar is not just a criminal incident, but a harsh proof of the lack of communication, failed education system and falling moral values in our society. Today's teenager is living in the virtual world of mobile, while being neglected both at home and school. Mental stress, lack of communication and lack of moral education have made him insensitive. This incident is a warning that if even now we parents, teachers and society do not find a solution together, then the future of education is in deep crisis.

The brutal murder of teacher Jasvir Patu in Hisar has shaken the entire society. This incident is not an ordinary criminal act, but it is a harsh mirror of our falling moral values, communicative family system, and insensitive education system. When a student becomes the murderer of his teacher, it is not just the downfall of an individual, but of the entire society.

Today schools are not temples of education but are becoming centres of violence, fear and insecurity. Teachers, who were once considered symbols of dignity, restraint and discipline, are now afraid of their own students. Is this the success of modern education? Was it for this day that we expanded smart classes and digital teaching in schools?

This incident has raised many questions. The biggest question is how have our children become so cruel? Why have anger, violence and revenge replaced tolerance, compassion and wisdom in them? We have to find the answer to this not in schools or the government, but in our homes and



introspection.

Today's child is looking for the world in the screen of the mobile. Even though the parents are near him, they are far from his world. While eating, travelling or even while sitting at home, he is connected to some video, game or virtual friend. His real life is slowly ending and he is living in an artificial angry world.

Moral education in schools is now limited to books only. Words like 'truth', 'non-violence', 'forgiveness' are now just a decoration of textbooks. Neither the teachers have time, nor the parents have patience, and neither does the society have any direction. The anger that is growing among the children is the result of this neglect and lack of communication.

When the poison of pain, frustration and rejection fills the mind, it either leads

to suicide or murder. And when this poison fills a teenager, the result is what we saw in the form of the murder of Jasvir Patu.

Psychiatrists are of the firm opinion that the reason for increasing violence among teenagers is lack of communication. They hesitate to speak their mind, share their mistakes and ask for help. Parents often scold or reject their children, due to which the child becomes rebellious internally. Even in school, he is measured by a mark, an exam and a performance. No one pays attention to his feelings, his mental state and his behavior.

Have we forgotten that the purpose of education is not just to get a degree, but also to build character? And character building is not possible unless there is trust between teacher and student, communication between parents and children, and

expansion of value-based thinking within the society.

Questions are also raised on the role of the administration. As long as no incident takes place, everything is considered normal. But when a teacher is killed, memoranda are given, protests are held, and after some time everything is forgotten. This cycle is being repeated continuously.

Teachers are now pleading with the administration for their respect and safety. School directors are demanding strict action from the board officials. But will this problem be solved only by action? We have to go to the root and see how this violence takes birth in the minds of children.

Our schools should have mental counsellors, attention should be paid to the mental state of each student, families should be trained in communication with

children. Schools need to prepare students not only for exams but also for life.

Today there is a need for a "Dialogue Revival Campaign" that reaches every home. We have to rekindle the spirit of trust and coexistence among parents, teachers and students. If we do not listen to children, they will learn to speak through violence.

Teachers are now fighting for their rights and survival. This situation is shameful. A society that cannot respect its teachers can never prosper. If we still do not understand that this is not the murder of a teacher but of an entire generation, the day is not far when every school will become a battleground.

We have to understand that children are not wrong, they are just unheard. If they get love, understanding and proper direction, then the same child can change the world. But if he becomes a victim of neglect, rejection and violence, then the same child can also become the killer of a teacher.

The government should conduct regular mental health tests, dialogue sessions, and parent-teacher conferences in schools. Parents should listen to their children, not just command them. And society should see education as a process of creating sensitive, responsible citizens, not just a means to get a job.

This incident has come to wake us up from our slumber. This is not just a news item in a newspaper but a warning for the entire nation. If we do not wake up now, in the coming years we will find more weapons than books in our schools and more security personnel than teachers.

It is time that we take this warning seriously. We must revive dialogue, reinvent education, and teach our children to win with understanding, not violence. Only then will we be able to imagine a safe, sensitive and strong India.

The author is an Independent writer, poet and social thinker, Hisar, Haryana

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DC Kishtwar reviews arrangements for upcoming Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, JULY 11: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of developmental works and necessary arrangements for the upcoming Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025 commencing from 25th of July 2025 and shall culminate on 5th of Sept 2025.

The meeting was held at the VC Room, DC Office Complex Kishtwar.

During the meeting, the DC reviewed ongoing infrastructure projects aimed at enhancing facilities for pilgrims, including the completion of Yatri Bhawan,



renovation of sanitary complexes, development of the area surrounding the Bhawan, uninterrupted power and water supply during the Yatra, medical facility, publicity, online and offline registration, construction of road from Chishoti to Hamori, sanitation and cleanliness, status of Chishoti Bridge and Traffic Plan.

Special emphasis was laid on the timely completion of Chishoti Bridge. The DC directed the Executive Engineer PMGSY to double the shifts for its timely completion.

The DC also instructed the ACD Kishtwar to ensure proper cleanliness and sanitation in the area and directed the outsourcing of sanitation workers in coordination with SDM Paddar. Additionally, the installation of 4 mobile toilets was ordered.

DC chairs meeting of Multi-Departmental District Level Task Force Cell; Reviews mining issues in Poonch District

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

POONCH, JULY 11: A meeting of the Multi-Departmental District Level Task Force cell was convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to address pressing concerns regarding illegal mining activities in the district.

The meeting involved detailed deliberations with officers from respective subdivisions on key issues, including illegal mining hotspots, enforcement challenges and strategies for effective monitoring and control. Emphasis was laid on strengthening regulatory mechanisms to ensure stringent compliance with mining laws.

The DC issued clear directives for the immediate cessation of illegal mining across the district and instructed officers to impose blanket ban on all mining activities during the monsoon season to prevent environmental degradation and ensure public safety.

He urged officials to adopt a vigilant and proactive stance in identifying and curbing illegal mineral extraction activities. Stressing zero tolerance, he called for strict legal and punitive action against violators to deter future infractions.

The meeting was attended by ACR, DFO, Dy.SP, Executive Engineer I&FC and the Headquarter Assistant. SDMs of Surankote and Mendhar, along with Tehsildars of Surankote and Haveli, participated virtually.

Uttam Singh joins as Chief Planning Officer Udhampur

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, JULY 11: Uttam Singh, today took charge as Chief Planning Officer, Udhampur, relieving Moham-mad Iqbal Zarger. He brings experience from several districts where he held planning and administrative roles.

Before this posting, Uttam Singh served as CPO Jammu from December 2023. His tenure there focused on improving transparency, timely scheme execution and coordination among departments.

In earlier assignments, he worked in districts such as Kathua and Ramban. In Kathua, he supported infrastructure development in border areas. In Ramban, he handled planning work in difficult terrain, focussing on vital sectors.

On assuming charge in Udhampur, Singh thanked the administration for the opportunity and said he would continue to focus on efficient planning and transparent service delivery.

The District Administration Jammu had bid him farewell yesterday on the conclusion of his tenure there. Officers appreciated his professional conduct and effective coordination during his time in the district.

Singh said he looks forward to working with the Udhampur administration and contributing to ongoing and upcoming development initiatives.

DC Kishtwar reviews Local Area Development Plan under R&R Plan of Hydroelectric Power Projects

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

KISHTWAR, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma today reviewed the Local Area Development Plan (LADP) under the Rehabilitation and Resettlement (R&R) Plan of Hydroelectric Power Projects (HEPP) in the District.

The meeting focused on reviewing the physical and financial progress of local area development activities and social and community development packages of HEPP under the R&R Plan. The review meeting covered four major projects, namely Kiru HEPP, Pakal Dul HEPP, Ratle HEPP and Kwar HEPP.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of adhering to guidelines and com-



pleting these works within set timelines, highlighting that these projects are for the welfare of the common masses, particularly the Project Affected Families (PAFs). The meeting was attended by officers from concerned departments, executing agencies and Officers of HEPPs.

The District Administration Kishtwar is committed to ensuring the timely completion of the earmarked works, which will benefit the local community and PAFs. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of adhering to guidelines and com-

RD&PR conducts one-day PAI training workshop in Samba

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SAMBA, JULY 11: In a significant move to strengthen grassroots governance and fast-track local development in line with national priorities, the Department of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj (RD&PR), Jammu & Kashmir conducted a one-day district-level workshop on the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) in Samba.

Presided over by Deputy Commissioner, Samba Rajesh Sharma, the workshop aimed to sensitize and train government officers on the crucial role of PAI in assessing and accelerating development at the village level.

The event saw participation from Assistant Commissioner Panchayat (ACP) Samba, N.D. Verma, officials from the RD&PR Department and representatives from key line departments involved in rural development.

The workshop's central theme

was translating global goals into actionable strategies at the local level.

Thematic Expert at the District Panchayat Resource Centre, Nida Rafiq led an intensive training session that explored the PAI as a dynamic evaluation tool designed to measure the multidimensional progress of Gram Panchayats across nine themes aligned with the Localized Sustainable Development Goals (LSDGs). These include vital areas such as "Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods," "Healthy Panchayat," "Clean and Green Panchayat," and "Good Governance."

Participants were introduced to the findings of the PAI 1.0 (FY 22-23), with report cards now accessible to the public via the official PAI portal (www.pai.gov.in).

The session also spotlighted the upcoming PAI 2.0, which features significant enhancements aimed at improving data accuracy and usability.

J&K Bank Organises Mega Camps Across Jammu & Kashmir Under Nationwide Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign

■ HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

July 11, 2025, Srinagar As part of the three-month nation-wide Financial Inclusion Saturation Campaign launched by the Department of Financial Services (DFS), Ministry of Finance, J&K Bank today organised Mega Camps across all its operational clusters, with special focus on Jammu and Kashmir.

The campaign, which is being held from 1st July to 30th September 2025, aims to ensure universal coverage under key government-backed social security schemes, including Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY). The campaign also focuses on the re-verification of Know Your Customer (KYC) details for inactive PMJDY accounts, issuance of RuPay Cards, and encouraging citizens to avail nomination facility to ensure seamless transfer of financial benefits to their legal heirs. Mega outreach events were



held today across all 20 districts of Jammu and Kashmir, witnessing active participation from the general public, elected local representatives, district administration officials, Lead District Managers and senior functionaries of J&K Bank.

The initiative seeks to saturate all eligible citizens under these schemes by enhancing awareness, facilitating enrolments, and ensuring re-verifications where necessary. To support this objective, J&K Bank has mobilised its extensive branch network along with Busi-

ness Correspondents, particularly in rural and remote areas of the Union Territory.

During the camps, Bank officials also conducted financial literacy and counselling sessions covering saving habits, insurance benefits, pension options, digital banking, and the importance of nominating beneficiaries for accounts.

Similar camps will be organised on the first and third Saturdays of every month during the campaign period, in close coordination with local administrations, to ensure that no eligible citizen is left behind.

The Deputy Commissioner underlined the importance of coordinated efforts among all stakeholders to diversify livelihood options and ensure inclusive, sustainable rural development across the district.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, District Panchayat Officer, Headquarter Assistant, District Nodal Officer NRLM, Block Programme Managers and other concerned officials.

NC pays glorious tributes to Madr-e-Meharban on her 25th death anniversary

NC empowered women meaningfully by fulfilling key poll promises in just 8 months: Dy CM Surinder Choudhary

■ HT NEWS DESK

JAMMU, July 11: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference today organized a solemn programme at Sher-e-Kashmir Bhawan, Jammu, to commemorate the 25th death anniversary of Madr-e-Meharban Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah, the towering personality who stood tall as a motherly figure and a guiding light for the people of Jammu and Kashmir during some of the most challenging times in its history.

The event, organized under the leadership of Bimla Luthra, State Vice President of the JKNC Women Wing and former MLA, witnessed participation from a large number of party leaders, women activists, and

workers who paid glowing tributes to the beloved Madr-e-Meharban. The programme commenced with Quran Khawani in the morning, followed by floral tributes and a two-minute silence as a mark of respect to her everlasting memory. Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary described Begum Akbar Jehan as a towering icon of compassion, strength, and commitment towards the upliftment of the poor, marginalized, and especially womenfolk of Jammu and Kashmir. "Madr-e-Meharban was not just the wife of Baba-e-Quom Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, she was a leader in her own right. Her deep concern for the downtrodden, her tireless work for women's education, health and dignity,



and her unwavering dedication to the principles of democracy, social justice and secularism remain unmatched," he said.

Surinder Choudhary also took the opportunity to expose the hollow

claims of BJP regarding women empowerment, stating that the saffron party indulged only in slogans and optics. "In over 11 years of BJP's rule in Jammu and Kashmir, no meaningful steps were taken for the uplift-

ment of women. In contrast, during just eight months of Omar Abdullah's Chief Ministership, National Conference fulfilled several poll manifesto promises like free travel for women in government buses, increased marriage assistance from Rs 50,000 to Rs 75,000, provision of 200 free electricity units to AAY consumers, doubling of ration for AAY families and many more," he asserted.

Surinder Choudhary said while BJP allowed non-locals to take away opportunities meant for J&K youth, including key academic and administrative posts in local universities, the NC stands committed to empowering the local youth and giving them their rightful place. "Jammu's youth are second to none. Yet outsiders are being appointed to top university

positions. This is sheer injustice," he added. Highlighting the vision of the NC, the Deputy CM said that the recently announced Mission Yuva by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah will open new avenues for skill development, entrepreneurship, and empowerment of youth, especially daughters of J&K. "Only National Conference can translate the aspirations of the people into reality," he said. Addressing the gathering, senior NC leader and former minister Ajay Sadhotra, Additional General Secretary of the party, remembered Madr-e-Meharban as a symbol of resilience, humility, and social reform. "Her commitment towards the socio-economic transformation of Jammu and Kashmir was visible in every initiative she undertook.





Trump threatens to impose 35% tariff on goods from Canada

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi 11 JUL 2025

US President Donald Trump announced today that his administration will impose a 35 per cent tariff on all Canadian goods starting next month.

Trump posted a letter sent to Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney on his social media platform, Truth Social, outlining the upcoming tariffs.

This week, Trump has posted letters to 14 countries vowing to impose steep tariffs on their imports starting Aug. 1.

Arguing that Canada had not done enough to curb the flow of fentanyl into the United States, the President wrote, "If Canada works with me to stop the flow of Fentanyl, we will, perhaps, consider an adjustment to this letter." "These Tariffs may be modified, upward or downward, depending on our relationship with your country."

In the letter, Trump wrote, "As you will recall, the United States imposed tariffs on Canada to deal with our nation's Fentanyl crisis, which is caused, in part, by Canada's failure to stop the drugs from pouring into our country. Instead of working with the United States, Canada retaliated with its own



tariffs. Starting August 1, 2025, we will charge Canada a tariff of 35% on Canadian products sent into the United States, separate from all sectoral tariffs."

In the letter, Trump wrote, "I must mention that the flow of fentanyl is hardly the only challenge we have with Canada, which has many tariff, and non-tariff, policies and trade barriers, which cause unsustainable trade deficits against the United

States. Canada charges extraordinary tariffs to our dairy farmers up to 400 per cent and that is even assuming our dairy farmers even have access to sell their products to the people of Canada. The trade deficit is a major threat to our economy and, indeed, our national security."

"Goods transhipped to evade this higher tariff will be subject to that higher tariff. As you are aware, there will be no tariff if Canada, or companies within your country, decide to build or manufacture product within the United States and, in fact, we will do everything possible to get approvals quickly, professionally, and routinely. In other words, in a matter of weeks," he added.

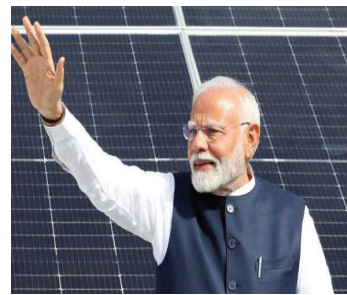
In the letter, Trump threatened to increase the tariff rate by the same amount if Canada decides to increase their tariffs on importing American products. He also targeted Canada's tariffs on US dairy exports and called the trade deficit a major threat to the US economy and national security. The US had previously imposed a 25 per cent tariff on Canadian goods, though Trump later exempted products covered under the 2020 trade agreement struck between the US, Canada and Mexico.

PM to distribute over 51,000 appointment letters at Rozgar Mela tomday

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi 11 JUL 2025

During the 16th edition of the Rozgar Mela to be held tomorrow, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will distribute via video conferencing more than 51,000 appointment letters to newly inducted candidates across various government departments and organisations. The PM will also address the appointees during the Mela, which is set to take place simultaneously at 47 locations across the country.

According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) today, over 10 lakh appointment letters have been handed out through the Rozgar Melas conducted nationwide thus far. The recruitment drive spans several Central Government Ministries and Departments. The appointees, drawn from different parts of the country, will join services in the Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Home Affairs, Department of Posts, Ministry of Health



and Family Welfare, Department of Financial Services, and the Ministry of Labour and Employment, among others, as per the statement. The Rozgar Mela initiative forms part of the Government's ongoing effort to prioritise employment generation. The scheme is intended to provide meaningful job opportunities to the youth, thereby enabling their active participation in nation-building, added the statement. According to a statement issued by the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) today, over 10 lakh appointment letters have been handed out through the Rozgar Melas conducted nationwide thus far.

Raja Singh vows to continue Hindutva struggle after resigning from BJP

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Hyderabad, July 11

Goshamahala MLA T Raja Singh, in his first response after the BJP high command accepted his resignation, clarified that his decision was not driven by the pursuit of power or position but by his lifelong commitment to Hindutva and social service.

Taking to social media platform 'X', Raja Singh recalled that it was on this very day 11 years ago that he joined the BJP with the aim of serving the people and the nation, while also safeguarding the rights of the Hindu community. He expressed gratitude to the party leadership for having trusted him with the Goshamahala Assembly seat in three consecutive Telangana elections.

He reiterated that he would continue to work relentlessly for the cause of Hindutva, nationalism, and Sanatana Dharma, and affirmed that he was "born to serve Hindutva." Raja Singh emphasized that his resignation was not for any political gain or personal agenda, but part of his continued mission to uphold Hindu values and raise his voice for the community.

Calcutta HC asks for report from Centre on Bengali migrant workers 'pushed back' into Bangladesh

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Kolkata, July 11

The Calcutta High Court today directed the Union Home Ministry to submit a detailed report on whether migrant workers from West Bengal had been sent to Bangladesh.

The court also instructed Chief Secretary Manoj Pant to remain in contact with his counterpart in Delhi to gather information about the workers.

The court has also directed the Centre to submit a detailed report on the entire matter before it comes up for the next hearing on Monday. The directive from the division bench of the Calcutta High Court was issued during a habeas corpus hearing concerning six migrant workers from Birbhum who had gone to Delhi for work. The petitioner alleged that some of them, including a family with an eight-year-old child, were sent to Bangladesh.

UAC delivers another batch of Su-34 fighters to Russian Defense Ministry

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Moscow, July 11

The United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) has delivered the fifth batch of Su-34 fighter-bombers to the Russian Ministry of Defense, the industrial umbrella corporation Rostec announced on Thursday.

"The United Aircraft Corporation (part of Rostec State Corporation) has delivered another batch of Su-34 fighter-bombers to the Russian Ministry of Defense. The aircraft have joined the Russian Aerospace Forces' tactical aviation fleet. The planes were made under the State Defense Procurement Order for this year," the statement said. A military pilot, quoted by Rostec, said that



the Su-34's strengths lie in its versatility, notably the range of munitions it can carry and the way it can execute combat missions.

The aircraft underwent a full cycle of factory testing during which they were checked under various operational modes, before flying to their home airfield.

"One of UAC's most important tasks is supplying military products to meet the needs of the Russian Ministry of Defense. We maintain a high production

rate for aviation equipment. This year, we plan a further increase in the combat aircraft output," UAC CEO Vadim Badekhi said. The Su-34 fighter-bomber uses unguided and guided air-launched munitions to engage ground, surface and air targets, as well as infrastructure assets that are protected by air defenses and far from the home airfield. It can operate under enemy fire and electronic jamming, day and night, in all weather conditions and in any geography.

Govt stands with every needy person: Adityanath at Janata Darshan programme

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
GORAKHPUR (UP), July 11

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath on Friday interacted with 200 people during a Janata Darshan programme here and assured them that their issues would be resolved promptly.

At a programme held at the Gorakhnath temple premises, he said, "Don't worry, your problems will be addressed. The government stands with every needy person". Adityanath directed officials to ensure timely and effective resolution of all public concerns without any negligence, according to an official statement.

During the event, several individuals,



including women, sought financial assistance for medical treatment. The chief minister instructed them to prepare treatment cost estimates, assuring that the government would provide full support. He handed over the applications to relevant officials with strict instructions to expedite the estimation process and submit the necessary documents as soon as possible.

EU unveils AI code of practice amid industry calls for regulatory delay

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Brussels, July 11

The European Commission has released the final version of a voluntary code of practice for general-purpose artificial intelligence (GPAI), aimed at helping companies align with the European Union's AI Act.

The code offers guidance in three key areas: transparency, copyright, and safety and security. It applies to major GPAI models such as OpenAI's ChatGPT, Google's Gemini, Meta's Llama, and X's Grok. Under the AI Act, GPAI models are defined as systems capable of performing a broad range of tasks and being integrated into various downstream applications. These models, typically trained on large and diverse datasets, support services like language generation and multimodal content creation. The code was drafted by a panel of 13 independent experts and reflects input from over



1,000 stakeholders, including AI developers, academics, civil society organizations, rights-holders and safety professionals, the Commission said while releasing the code yesterday. The code will need to be endorsed by European Union (EU) member states before GPAI providers can voluntarily sign it. Signatories would benefit from reduced administrative burdens and greater legal certainty, according to the Commission.

However, a recent letter signed by over 50 business leaders, including representatives from ASML, Airbus, Mercedes-Benz, and French AI startup Mistral, urged the EU to delay the implementation of GPAI-related rules by two years. They warned that "unclear, overlapping, and increasingly complex" regulations risk undermining Europe's AI ambitions and could hamper the global competitiveness of European firms.

Ensure timely solution to people's problems: Yogi to officials

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
Mexico City, July 10

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has assured people during Janata Darshan that their issues would be resolved promptly. "Don't worry, your problems will be addressed. The government stands with every needy person," he said.

CM Yogi moved among the attendees seated on chairs, patiently hearing each grievance one by one. He directed officials to ensure the timely and effective resolution of all public concerns without any

negligence. During the event, several individuals, including women, sought financial assistance for medical treatment. Responding empathetically, the Chief Minister instructed them to prepare treatment cost estimates, assuring that the government would provide full support. He handed over the applications to the relevant officials with strict instructions to expedite the estimation process and submit the necessary documents to the government as soon as possible.

Earlier, on the auspicious first day of the holy month of Sawan, Chief Minister and Goraksh-

peethadishwar Yogi Adityanath performed Rudrabhishek and havan on Friday morning. At the Shakti Peeth located on the first floor of his residence within the Gorakhnath temple premises, CM Yogi offered sacred items to Lord Shiva, including 'bilva' leaves, 'durva', 'madar' leaves, and lotus flowers. He then performed Rudrabhishek using water, milk, and the juices of seasonal fruits. The ritual was conducted by the temple's acharyas and priests through the chanting of the powerful mantras of the Rudrashtadhyayi from the Shukla Yajurveda Samhita.

BJP Making Attempts To Hijack Elections In Bihar As It Did In Maharashtra, Alleges Rahul Gandhi

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi 10 JUL 2025

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Friday accused the BJP of making attempts to "hijack upcoming elections in Bihar, as it did in Maharashtra".

Addressing the party's 'Samvidhan Bachao Samavesh' here, Gandhi, the leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha, said the INDIA bloc parties have decided to prevent the BJP from "hijacking" the Bihar assembly polls.

"Like Maharashtra, attempts are being made to hijack the elections in Bihar. The BJP is attacking our Constitution across the country," Gandhi



alleged. During an INDIA bloc meeting held on Thursday, it was decided to "prevent the BJP from hijacking the elections in Bihar" where assembly polls are due later this year, he claimed. He also accused the Election Commission of India (ECI) of "not doing its duty but working for the interest of the BJP". Gandhi also alleged, "The

BJP runs the government for five to six capitalists. It does not work for the common people of the country."

Stating that the 'Jal, Jangal, Jamin' (water, forest and land) belongs to the tribals and will remain for them, Gandhi claimed that Odisha's BJP government has "not implemented" the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996. "Forest rights patta are not provided to the tribals. The Congress has brought the PESA and Tribal Bill. We will enforce these laws and ensure the tribals get their land," Gandhi said. He alleged, "Odisha is being looted by the BJP government.

Objectionable social media posts against PM Modi, RSS: Cartoonist moves SC for anticipatory bail

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
NEW DELHI, July 11

The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear the anticipatory bail plea of Indore-based cartoonist accused of uploading "objectionable" cartoons of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and RSS workers on social media.

A bench of Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi agreed to hear on July 14, the plea filed by Hemant Malviya challenging the Madhya Pradesh High Court order refusing to grant him relief after advocate Vrinda Grover sought urgent hearing in the matter.

The high court had observed that it was gross misuse of freedom of speech. Grover submitted the matter pertains to a cartoon which Malviya made in 2021

during Covid and the high court said no landmark cases like in Aradesh Kumar and Imran Pratapgarhi, which dealt with life and liberty, will be followed.

She submitted that the high court has condemned the cartoonist, "The offence is under which BNS which entails a maximum of three years of punishment," Grover submitted.

Justice Dhulia ordered that the matter will be listed on July 14 before the appropriate bench.

On July 3, the high court refused to grant anticipatory bail to Malviya.

A FIR was registered against Malviya at Lasudiya police station of Indore in May on the complaint of local lawyer and Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh worker Vinay Joshi.

Malviya hurt the religious sentiments of

Hindus and disturbed communal harmony by uploading objectionable material on social media, the complaint alleged. The FIR mentioned various "objectionable" posts, including allegedly inappropriate comments on Lord Shiva as well as cartoons, videos, photographs and comments regarding Modi, RSS workers and others. "...on the face of it, the conduct of the applicant in depicting the RSS, which is a Hindu organisation, along with the prime minister of this country in the aforesaid caricature, coupled with his endorsement of a rather demeaning remark, dragging unnecessarily the name of Lord Shiva in the comments tagged to it, is nothing but sheer misuse of freedom of speech and expression as enshrined under Art 19(1) (a) of the Constitution..." the high court said.



TB Mukht Bharat: DC Baramulla chairs TB Forum meeting

Calls for united effort under NTEP

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, today chaired a meeting of the District TB Forum to review the implementation of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Program (NTEP) and to chart out a roadmap for achieving TB-Free status across the district. During the meeting, DC issued a series of key directives aimed at strengthening surveillance, patient care, and public aware-

ness. He stressed that all TB patients must be regularly assessed by designated Medical Officers for treatment adherence, monitoring of adverse drug reactions, and follow-up care. In a major step under the Nikshay Mitra initiative, DC directed that all district officers will adopt at least one TB patient, supporting them with nutritional basket kits and necessary amenities to aid in their recovery and well-being. Aiming for ambitious progress, Sherpa stressed that all Pan-



chayats in Baramulla must be declared TB-Free by November 2025. He emphasized intensified screening, presumptive testing, and early detection across all health blocks. To ensure early diagnosis, the forum also discussed the procurement of CBNAAT machines to enhance testing capabilities at peripheral health institutions. DC called upon all departments, especially ICDS, School Education, Anganwadi Workers, and ASHA Workers, to actively participate in identify-

ing preventive cases and spreading awareness about TB symptoms, prevention, and treatment. He reaffirmed the administration's commitment to a 'TB Mukht Bharat,' encouraging collective action and consistent monitoring to eliminate tuberculosis from every household and every village. DC called upon all departments, especially ICDS, School Education, Anganwadi Workers, and ASHA Workers, to actively participate in identifying preventive cases and spreading

Planned parenthood crucial for maternal, child health, says Nadda

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA
New Delhi, July 11

Union Health Minister JP Nadda, on the occasion of the World Population Day today, underscored the importance of planned parenthood in ensuring improved maternal and child health outcomes. Observed annually on July 11, this year's theme, 'Healthy timing and spacing of pregnancy for the health and well-being of mother and child', highlights the critical role of informed family planning in public health. In a message shared on social media platform X, Nadda stated, "World Population Day serves as a platform to raise awareness about family planning and renew our commitment to



addressing population-related challenges." He emphasised that planned parenthood is integral to achieving healthier outcomes for mothers and children. Highlighting this year's slogan, "The right age to become a mother is when the mind and the body is ready," the Health Minister called for increased awareness around physical and emotional preparedness.

DC Bandipora pays surprise visit to District Hospital; review functioning, patient care

Says no compromise on professionalism and accountability in healthcare

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday, along with a team of officers, conducted a surprise visit to the District Hospital Bandipora to assess its overall functioning and review the quality of patient care and adherence to work culture norms. During the visit, DC inspected various sections of the hospital, including the Emergency Ward, In-Patient Wards, OPD, Maternity Unit, and other critical care units. He interacted with patients and attendants to personally gauge their level of satisfaction with the facilities and services being provided. While taking first hand feedback from the patients, DC emphasized the importance of maintaining patient-centric services, medical



hygiene and a disciplined environment within the hospital premises. He issued on-spot instructions to ensure better upkeep of wards and timely delivery of healthcare services. DC directed the hospital authorities to ensure that all medical and paramedical staff adheres strictly to prescribed dress codes, with their name tags clearly visible on uniforms

as per medical protocol. He further instructed the incharge Medical Superintendent, Dr. Tahira, to enforce the hospital duty rosters strictly and ensure that rotational duties are followed meticulously to maintain round-the-clock medical services. He also stressed the need for punctuality, regular attendance, and effective internal coordination among the hospital teams. On the occasion, DC assured that the district administration is committed to improving healthcare delivery systems and will continue to carry out regular monitoring to bridge any service gaps. He also underscored the importance of grievance redressal mechanisms and urged the hospital management to remain responsive to the needs of the people. Among others, DC was accompanied by ADC Bandipora, Zafar Husson Shawl, CMO Bandipora, Dr. Ishtiyaz Ahmad and other concerned officers.

Monthly NCORD meeting held at Kulgam

Farooq Rather



KULGAM, JULY 11: A meeting of the District Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was convened today at Kulgam to discuss and strategize measures to curb drug abuse and narcotic trade in the district. The meeting held under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kulgam, Viqar Ahmed Giri, reviewed the implementation of directives and decisions taken in previous sessions. A detailed discussion was held on issues related to drug addiction, emerging areas of concern, hotspots of drug use, and the ongoing efforts by various departments to tackle the menace of drugs. The meeting also assessed the action taken by enforcement agencies against drug abuse and narcotic trafficking in the district. It was informed that during the month of June, 10 drug peddlers were arrested and 8 FIRs were registered. Further, it was informed that the district has already achieved 100% target in the installation of CCTV cameras, besides 90 inspections were carried out in pharmacies and 05 medical shops were disallowed/ suspended for violation in maintaining sale/ purchase records. ADC urged all stakeholders for their active participation in eradicating the drug menace. The meeting was attended by SDM-DH Pora Bashir-ul-Hassan, ACD Bilal Kamgar, College Principals of Kulgam/ Kilam/ Frisal, all Tehsildars and other NCORD Committee members.

License of four pharmaceutical firms cancelled over illegal drug trade in J&K

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 11: In strict adherence to the Government's zero-tolerance policy towards drug abuse and illegal diversion of habit-forming substances, the targeted inspections of the wholesale firms were conducted. During the inspections, four pharma establishments were found indulging in clandestine

purchase and sale of habit-forming pharmaceutical preparations, mainly Tapentadol and Pregabalin from neighbouring states without maintaining mandatory sale/purchase records. State Drugs Controller cum Controlling Authority Lotika Khajuria, accordingly undertook decisive enforcement action against these pharmaceutical establishments and has cancelled the drug



sale licences of four pharmaceutical establishments namely M/s Health ways Pharma, Rajouri; M/s Nuegene Pharmaceutical

Distributors, Kansipora, Baramulla; M/s N.T Traders, New Colony, Sopore, Baramulla; M/s Essence Pharmaceutical Distributors, Zampakadal Chattbal, Srinagar. State Drugs Controller has reiterated that these actions reflect the Department's unwavering commitment to public health and safety and its firm resolve to prevent drug misuse, especially

among vulnerable populations and any act that contributes to drug misuse or circumvents the law will be met with the strongest possible action. There will be no tolerance for such practices. The public at large is requested to report any incidence of unethical practices involving sale or misuse of prescription drugs to the department's helpline at controllerdrugsfoodjk@gmail.com.

Pulwama Administration Cracks Down on Unregistered AYUSH Clinics

Mushtaq ul Islam

Pulwama, July 11: On the directions of Deputy Commissioner Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom (IAS), a stringent action has been launched against unregistered AYUSH clinical establishments in Pulwama town and surrounding areas. The drive, led by the District AYUSH Officer Pulwama, is part of a broader initiative to regulate alternative medicine practices and ensure public safety.

As per official sources, a comprehensive inspection drive was carried out across nearly two dozen AYUSH clinics, including Unani, Ayurvedic, and Hijamah (cupping therapy) centres. The inspection team assessed the clinics for compliance with mandatory registration and licensing requirements under the norms laid down by the Ministry of AYUSH. During the operation, several establishments were found functioning without proper registration or authorization from the competent author-


SWD, ALIMCO distribute Prosthetic Aids to PwDs, Senior Citizens in Thathri

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

THATHRI, GANDOH, JULY 11: The Social Welfare Department, Doda, in collaboration with the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) — a public sector enterprise under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India — organized a prosthetic aid distribution camp today at R&B Dak Bungalow, Thathri. The event was held under the guidance



of Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh and overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Doda, Tariq Parveez Qazi. The program was chaired by Sub Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Thathri, Sheetal Sharma. During the camp, assistive devices and appliances were distributed to 34 beneficiaries identified during prior assessment camps in Thathri. The aids provided included adult and child wheelchairs, CP chairs, hearing aids, MSIED kits, smart canes, smartphones, Daisy players, Braille kits, crutches, walking sticks, rollers, calipers, artificial limbs, knee braces, lumbo-sacral belts and silicon foam cushions, among others. These modern and scientifically designed devices aim to improve the mobility, independence and quality of life of the recipients. The initiative was undertaken under two flagship schemes of the Government of India: the Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) Scheme for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs) and the Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) for senior citizens. These schemes aim to reduce the impact of disability, prevent secondary disabilities and promote physical, social and psychological rehabilitation, thereby enhancing the economic potential of the beneficiaries. Such camps play a vital role in empowering the differently-abled and elderly population by providing them tools for self-reliance and inclusion in society.



Dr. Sheikh Mustafa
M.B.B.S, MD (OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY)
Former Associate Professor GMC Srinagar
Fellowship reproductive health & research
(Geneva Switzerland)

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DDC Baramulla approves Rs.115.31Cr. District Capex Plan 2025-26 for 3,510 developmental works

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

BARAMULLA, JULY 11: In a significant stride towards grassroots development and inclusive governance, District Development Council (DDC) Baramulla, under the chairmanship of the DDC Chairperson, Safina Baig, today approved the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2025-26 amounting to Rs.115.31 crore.

The plan was approved during a comprehensive District Council meeting held at Dak Bungalow Baramulla.

The approved Capex Plan includes 9,981.53 lakh for 2,446 new developmental works and 1,550.39 lakh for 1,064 ongoing works, totaling 3,510 works across key sectors such as rural infrastructure, health, education, agriculture, roads, and social welfare.

At the outset, Chief Planning Officer Baramulla presented a detailed sector-wise Capex Plan before the Council, outlining allocation priorities, performance



metrics of the previous year, and expected outcomes for the upcoming financial year.

The meeting was attended by Member Legislative Assembly Baramulla, Javed Hassan Baig; MLA Sopore, Irshad Rasool Kar; MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmad Shah; MLA Wagoora-Kreeri, Advocate Irfan Hafeez Lone; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; District Development Council Members; and senior officers of the District Administration.

During deliberations, Members of Legislative Assembly shared key suggestions, urging focus on critical public service sectors such as roads, drinking water, education, and healthcare. They emphasized the need for equitable geographical distribution of projects and prioritization of people-centric and high-impact initiatives. The MLAs also lauded the inclusive and consultative approach adopted by the district administration in framing the plan.

In her remarks, DDC Chairperson Baramulla appreciated the proactive participation of elected representatives and officials in shaping the Capex Plan. She underlined that the approved works aim to ensure balanced and inclusive development, reflecting the aspirations of the people. She also stressed the importance of timely execution, transparency, and accountability by all implementing agencies.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, reaffirmed the administration's commitment to quality execution and community participation. He highlighted that the Capex Plan represents a collective resolve for people-first, results-driven governance, aiming to elevate service delivery and quality of life across all areas of the district.

With the plan now approved, district administration is poised to begin implementation, ensuring accelerated progress and stronger development outcomes across Baramulla.

DC Srinagar reviews status of solarization of Government buildings

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a meeting of Engineers of JAKEDA and KPDC here at the Meeting Hall of DC Office Complex to review the status of solarization of Government buildings in the district and progress of installation of Solar Rooftops under PM Surya Ghar-Muft Bijli Yojna (PMSGM-BY).

The meeting was attended by Chief Executive Officer, Jammu & Kashmir Energy Development Agency (JAKEDA), Dr. P.R. Dhar; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Executive Engineers of KPDC & JAKEDA and other concerned.

At the outset, DC highlighted that the solarization of Government buildings under PMSGMBY in an initiative to install rooftop solar panels on major Government buildings aimed to reduce dependence on conventional power sources, promote clean energy generation, and potentially lower electricity bills for the Government.



He stressed that the initiative must be executed swiftly & seamlessly. He directed all departments to work in close coordination and ensure timely implementation of solarisation of

all the Government buildings.

DC instructed that solarisation be completed immediately and made functional at buildings where material have already been delivered. He also called for swift installation of smart meters at sites where materials are still in transit.

During the meeting, DC was apprised that as many as 413 Government buildings have been identified for solarisation in Srinagar.

Eminent medico awarded 'Academic Life Membership' of top national diabetes research organization

HT NEWS NETWORK

Srinagar, July 11: Eminent Kashmiri medico and noted health columnist Dr Tasaduk Hussain Itoo has been awarded with the prestigious 'Academic Life Membership' by Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), the top national diabetes research organization and leading scientific authority of diabetologists in India.



Dr Itoo completed his Bachelor of Science degree from University of Kashmir, MBBS degree from University of Jammu and went on to earn a postgraduate Certificate Program for Clinicians in Diabetes Management (CPCDM) accredited by Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI).

Dr Itoo further pursued a postgraduate training course in Clinical endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism from European Society of Endocrinology (ESE) accredited by European Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (EACCME) and European Union of Medical Specialists (UEMS). He also did a specialized course in Diabetology from International Diabetes Federation (IDF) School of Diabetes.

Currently serving as a doctor at Narayana Health, Dr Itoo also holds the distinguished title of Fellow of the International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium). He is further affiliated with prestigious medical organizations including the American College of Physicians (USA), Research Society for the Study of Diabetes in India (RSSDI), Royal College of Physicians of London, and Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Pertinently, Academic Life Members are elected by the Executive Committee (EC) of RSSDI as distinguished professionals who have recognized teaching or research experience, academic affiliation with significant contribution in the field of diabetes.

As an Academic Life Member of RSSDI, Dr. Itoo will continue to collaborate with fellow professionals, advance diabetes research, and promote high-quality patient care.

Kashmir Educators honoured for championing Theatre-Based learning

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: Directorate of School Education Kashmir (DSEK), in partnership with Piramal Foundation and the National School of Drama (NSD), felicitated 53 Master Facilitators at a convocation ceremony for completing the "Theatre in Education" professional development program.

This initiative, aligned with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, champions theatre as a transformative pedagogical tool to foster creativity, empathy, and resilience in classrooms.



rooms.

The event, attended by Director of School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo; Joint Director (Central), Syed Shabir Ahmad; NSD Registrar, Pradeep Kumar Mohanty; and Zeeshan Hassan, Senior Program Director at Piramal Foundation,

underscored a shared vision to integrate arts into education.

"Theatre-based pedagogy ignites imagination, builds confidence, and nurtures emotional intelligence," said Dr. Itoo, urging continued collaboration to create resilient classrooms

for Kashmir's students.

NSD's Mohanty emphasized theatre's unique role in Kashmir, stating, "Theatre empowers communities to heal, reconnect, and reclaim their stories, offering students safe spaces to express and process their realities."

The convocation featured keynote addresses, teacher reflections, and certificate distribution, marking a milestone in blending Kashmir's cultural heritage with innovative pedagogy. This initiative promises to nurture expressive, empathetic, and resilient young citizens through the power of theatre.

DC Srinagar visits Rehabilitation Home for Marginalised individuals

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday visited Rehabilitation Home established under Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise (SMILE) scheme here in Hawal area of the district for persons previously engaged in begging.

On the occasion, DC took a detailed tour of the Rehabilitation Home and inspected the facilities and rehabilitation measures for the persons previously engaged in the act of begging.

While interacting with the officers and staff of the Rehabilitation Centre, DC said that the initiative has been taken to address the issue of begging in the district under SMILE (Support for Marginalised Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise) scheme. He emphasized a holistic approach, focusing on social reintegration and the well-being of these individuals.

DC said that the district administration is committed to ensure that those affected receive the support they need to earn livelihood with dignity and honour.

He stressed the staff of the Rehabilitation Home to work in a compassionate manner towards the affected section of the society and enable them to lead a life of value and dignity.

DC was apprised that, under the SMILE scheme the individuals previously engaged in beggary are rehabilitated at the centre through various methods viz, vocational training and livelihood opportunities, aiming to empower them to become self-sufficient.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; District Social Welfare Officer, Tehsildar Eidgah, NGO members and other concerned.

Astan Mohalla Residents Urge Drainage Fix Amid Waterlogging Woes

HT NEWS DESK / KNS

Kulgam, July 11 (KNS): Residents of Astan Mohalla in Laisoo area of Kulgam have urged the district administration to resolve the ongoing problem of rainwater logging that has disrupted daily life in the locality. Locals said that after every rainfall, water collects in both residential areas and on the main road leading to the district headquarters. The problem has worsened, with water even entering homes, making it especially difficult for school-going children and the elderly. "Children struggle to reach school during rains, and the road becomes unsafe and unhygienic," said a resident. People have demanded a proper drainage system to prevent further inconvenience and protect their homes from damage.

Responding to the issue, SDM Noorabad Bashir Ullah Hassan said, "We have already sent a team to assess the area, and the problem will be resolved in the coming days." Residents hope the administration will act quickly to bring lasting relief. (KNS)

Five Injured in Road Accident Near Narsu Nallah on Udhampur-Chenani Highway

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

Udhampur, July 11 (KNS): A major road accident occurred on Friday morning at curve number M.S. 72.400 near Narsu Nallah along the Udhampur-Chenani road, leaving five people seriously injured. According to officials, a Maruti Alto car (registration number JK06A 1529) was travelling from Udhampur towards Chenani when it reportedly moved onto the wrong side of the road and collided head-on with a truck (registration number JK13F 4252) that was coming down the slope in its correct lane. All five occupants of the Alto car sustained serious injuries in the accident and were immediately shifted to Government Medical College (GMC) Udhampur for medical treatment. The driver of the truck, identified as Amir Ahmad, son of Farooq Ahmad, a resident of Kadipora village in Pulwama district, was unharmed

ACB Nabs PDD Lineman Red-Handed While Taking Bribe in Baramulla

HT NEWS DESK / KNS

Srinagar July 11 (KNS): Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau (ACB) received a written complaint alleging therein that Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Lineman-II (designated as Meter Reader Panzinara) in the Power Development Department (PDD), Sub Division Pattan Baramulla demanded a bribe of 25,000 from the complainant for processing fresh electricity connection to a newly residential house at Panzinara, Shalteng Srinagar.

Since the complainant didn't want to pay bribe, he approached ACB for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law. On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification through designated officer was carried out. The verification report confirmed the allegations and accordingly, a case

FIR No. 13/2025 under Section 7 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (as amended) was registered in Police Station ACB Srinagar and investigation was initiated.

During the course of investigation a trap team was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and caught the accused public servant Manzoor Ahmad Bhat R/o Buran Pattan Baramulla, Lineman-II (designated as Meter Reader Panzinara) in Power Development Department (PDD) Sub Division Pattan Baramulla red-handed while demanding and accepting the bribe amount of 25,000 from the complainant at Panzinara Shalteng Srinagar. The accused was arrested on spot by the ACB team after following the due procedure of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team.

We Will Restore July 13 Holiday and Honour the Martyrs: Tanvir Sadiq

Says Apni Party and Mehbooba Mufti showed no respect for July 13 martyrs during their time in power with BJP

HT NEWS DESK / KNS

Srinagar, July 11 (KNS): National Conference Chief Spokesperson Tanvir Sadiq on Friday reaffirmed his party's commitment to restoring the public holiday on July 13 to honour the martyrs of 1931. According to Kashmir News Service (KNS), Sadiq criticised Apni Party and PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, accusing them of showing "no respect" for the historic day during their alliance with the BJP.

"Not even once did any of their cabinet ministers visit the martyrs' graveyard on July 13 to offer Fatiha or pay Kharaj-e-Aqeedat. Mehbooba Mufti's own ministers did not even carry the Jammu and Kashmir flag on their cars," Sadiq said.

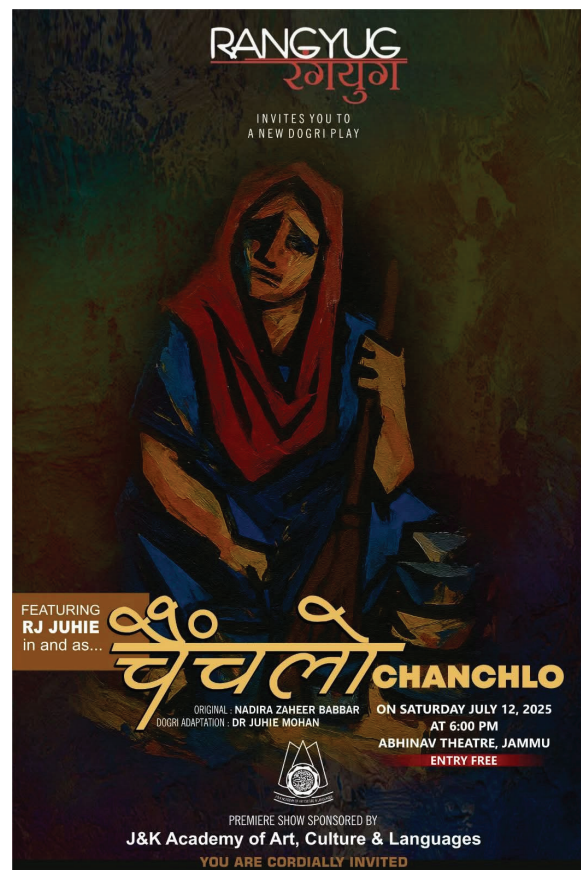
He added that members of the BJP, part of their cabinet in 2019, never recognised the importance of July 13. "And today, the same people point fingers at us? This is pure politics. People have



rejected them," he said.

Reiterating National Conference's stand, Sadiq said, "We have made a promise to restore the July 13 holiday. We have already submitted our request and hope it will be approved soon. We will continue to offer Fatiha and Kharaj-e-Aqeedat to the martyrs — without fail."

He also called for the early return of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, saying only then can the damage of the past years be repaired. (KNS)





I&C deptt Kashmir holds Interactive Session with PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: In a proactive step towards strengthening the implementation of the PM Vishwakarma Yojana, Director of Industries and Commerce, Kashmir, conducted an impactful interaction session with scheme beneficiaries at Conference Hall, Sanat Ghar, Directorate of Industries and Commerce Srinagar.

The meeting, aimed to understand the on-ground impact, challenges, and suggestions directly from stakeholders, was organised in collaboration with the PM Vishwakarma State Level Project Management Unit (SLPMU). PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, coordinators from various ITIs, and departmental representatives were present in the meeting.

The session served as a platform for gathering first-hand feedback from trained artisans and craftspeople, understanding issues related to training, toolkit distribution, and credit support, besides identifying gaps in market linkages and post-



training engagement. It also discussed convergence efforts across institutions and implementation partners. Addressing the participants, Khalid Majeed, Director Industries & Commerce Kashmir, emphasised the importance of direct engagement and feedback-based governance for the success of such large-scale livelihood initiatives.

"The PM Vishwakarma Yojana is not just about training—it's about restoring dignity and economic secu-

rity to our traditional artisans. This interaction helps us ensure that the benefits reach the right hands, on time, and with full effect," Director said. PMVK beneficiaries and representatives from Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) shared updates on training progress and placement linkages. The scheme beneficiaries expressed their gratitude for the opportunity and raised concerns regarding credit support, e-voucher utilisation.

Awareness & Coordination meeting on POCSO Act and Child Protection Units held

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: In a significant move to reinforce the protection and empowerment of children through legal awareness and institutional collaboration, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar today organised a comprehensive 'Awareness & Coordination Meeting' focusing on the POCSO Act, JAGRITI Unit, DAWN Unit, and ASHA Unit. The programme, held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, aimed at creating an inclusive platform for dialogue, sensitization, and commitment to safeguarding the rights and dignity of children.

Aadil Mushtaq, Chief Judicial Magistrate/Chairman, Tehsil Legal Services Committee (TLSC), Srinagar chaired the meeting, which saw enthusiastic participation from heads of educational institutions, representatives of the School Education department, Para-legal volunteers, members of units and officials of DLSA Srinagar.

At the outset, the objective of the meeting was outlined, to raise awareness among educational stake-

holders about the provisions and importance of the POCSO Act and to ensure effective functioning and coordination of institutional mechanisms such as the JAGRITI Unit, DAWN Unit and ASHA Unit. The forum provided a robust space for sharing insights, identifying challenges, and evolving a collective strategy to enhance outreach and impact at the school level. In his address, CJM emphasized the pressing need to integrate legal awareness and child protection strategies within the framework of the school education system. He reiterated that children, being among the most vulnerable sections of society, must be equipped with knowledge about their rights and have access to responsive and supportive mechanisms.

He also underlined the importance of early legal literacy and community-level intervention in preventing exploitation, abuse, and neglect.

Adv. Suhaila Ali (Panel Lawyer) highlighted the role of Legal Services Institutions in building protective frameworks around children through legal outreach, sensitization drives, and collaborative training

modules.

A unanimous resolution was passed during the meeting to launch a joint action plan between DLSA/ TLSC Srinagar and the School Education department to conduct structured awareness programmes in all schools of district Srinagar. These programmes will particularly focus on educating students, teachers, and staff about the legal provisions of the POCSO Act, available support units like JAGRITI, DAWN, and ASHA, and the channels to report any instances of abuse, harassment, or neglect. DLSA also announced that regular

sensitization drives, legal literacy sessions, and interactive legal camps will be organized in both urban and rural schools with the active involvement of trained Para Legal Volunteers, and legal aid defense counsels. These initiatives aim to empower school communities to act as first responders in matters of child protection and ensure that no child is left behind in accessing justice, safety, and dignity. The meeting concluded with a shared sense of responsibility, mutual commitment, and a pledge to continue working 'Together for a Safer Tomorrow.'



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

Kashmiri Handicrafts Exhibition cum Sale

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

Sale For:-

Kashmiri handicrafts items, Semi Pashmina shawls, stools, jamawar, Pashmina Shawls, Cushion Cover, Ladies Top, Bed Covers, Sarees & all kind of handicraft items are available

on Discount rates

Sponsored by:-

O/o the Development Commissioner Handicrafts Ministry of Textiles, Government of India

Sanction order No:-

C-12011/25(PC)2024-25-(NR)/F-EXB/GEN-3 Dated:- 09-05-2025

Under:-

NATIONAL HANDICRAFTS PROGRAMME (NHDP) Scheme DEVELOPMENT

Organized By:-

M/s REHMAN HANDICRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED BUIHAMA

W.e.from:- 08-07-2025 To 17-07-2025

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 entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

HT CLASSIFIED / ADVT

Principal Secretary APD reviews progress under CAPEX, HADP, CSSs, NABARD

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 11: Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate of Agriculture, Jammu.

The meeting was convened to review the progress on fund utilization under CAPEX, Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and NABARD for the financial year 2025-26 besides assessing the status of issuance of fertilizer and pesticide licenses across the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD, Mission Director HADP/ JKICP, Director Finance APD, Director Agriculture Jammu, Director Horticulture Jammu, Director Law

Enforcement, Director Command Area Development Jammu, Managing Director JKAGROS, Director Research SKUAST-Jammu, Joint Directors of Agriculture and allied departments, Deputy Director Agriculture (Planning), Scientists from SKUAST-J, Plant Protection Officer, Chief Agriculture Officers (CAOs), Chief Horticulture Officers (CHOs) from all districts of Jammu division and other senior officers.

The departmental heads presented detailed updates on scheme implementation, challenges encountered and strategic measures to expedite the pending activities.

The Principal Secretary underscored the need for timely execution, optimal fund utilization and enhanced inter-departmental coordination to ensure the benefits of these schemes reach the grass-

roots level.

Shailendra Kumar reviewed the significant advancements made under HADP, which has been instrumental in promoting sustainable agricultural practices and improving the farmers' livelihoods. He observed that special attention has been given to ensure the expenditure under HADP, CSSs and CAPEX projects align with the overall goal of infrastructure development in the sector. He also had detailed discussion on CSS projects-Krishonnati Yojana, focusing on key flagship schemes like PMKSY, PDMC, SMAM, RAD, RKVY, PKVY, ATMA, NFSM and others aimed at boosting the rural prosperity.

Key directions issued during the meeting included establishing a Centre of Excellence for Entrepreneurship in Precision Vegetable and Floriculture

Farming in each district, accelerating bee hive insurance coverage across all districts, prioritizing completion of district-wise unit tracking through the KSOT App and developing a comprehensive calendar for national and international exposure visits for the farmers.

The Principal Secretary also emphasized for resolving the fertiliser and pesticide licensing issues, particularly those faced by krishudyamis, strengthening district-level enforcement wings, ensuring GPS-based tracking of fertilizer movement and intensifying regular monitoring of pesticide manufacturers and retailers. The meeting concluded with formulation of a time-bound action plan focused on fast-tracking project implementation and strengthening the agricultural ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir.

DLSA Srinagar observes 'World Population Day'

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 11: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, observed World Population Day on Friday, by organizing a series of legal awareness programmes to highlight the issues arising from overpopulation and to educate the public about their legal rights and entitlements.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and was conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

As part of the observance, awareness programmes were conducted in slum areas of district Srinagar and at Legal Literacy Club, Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GHSS), Chanapora.

In GHSS Chanapora, the session was facilitated by



Para Legal Volunteer, who served as resource person and engaged with students and staff on the theme of population issues, legal awareness, and rights education.

Simultaneously, in the slum areas, a special initiative was organized to support underprivileged families through the distribution of essential eatables and food items. The

event aimed to raise awareness about population related issues while also addressing immediate nutritional needs of marginal communities which was led by Tasneem Kausar, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel and Sunila Kumari (JLA) DLSA Srinagar.

The distribution drive was carried out with the help of NGO Justice Foundation.

The initiative reinforced DLSA Srinagar's commitment to bringing legal literacy and rights-based awareness to the grassroots, especially among underprivileged and marginalized populations. The

event was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and was conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

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 Qonsar, 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 ABDUL HANAN SHAH S/O JAVID AHMAD SHAH R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 16/09/2021 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 FATIMA MUSHTAQ D/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O HAIL JAGIR Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18/05/2022 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 entertained

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI





2nd International conference on 'Sustainable Power and Energy Research' begins at NIT Srinagar

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

Srinagar, July 11: The 2nd International Conference on Sustainable Power and Energy Research (ICSPER-2025) commenced on Friday at the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar.

The two-day event, being held in online mode from July 11-12, is being organized by the Department of Electrical Engineering, NIT Srinagar, in collaboration with NIT Warangal, Telangana.

The conference was formally inaugurated in a virtual ceremony graced by eminent academicians and industry experts from India and abroad. The conference is being held under the patronage of Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, Director NIT Srinagar, and Prof. Bidyadhar Subudhi, Director NIT Warangal.

Prof. Roohie Naaz Mir, Dean (Research & Consultancy), NIT



Srinagar is the Co-Patron of the conference, while Prof. Mairaj Ud Din Mufti, Head Department of Electrical Engineering, is serving as the General Chair. Prof. Shameem Ahmad Lone is the Organizing Chair, supported by Organizing Secretaries Dr. Farhad Ilahi Bakhsh (NIT Srinagar), Dr. Ram Krishan, Dr. Altaf Badar, and Dr. M. N. Alam (NIT Warangal).

While welcoming the delegates, Prof. Shameem Ahmad Lone highlighted the primary objective of ICSPER-2025 to bring together researchers,

academicians, and industry professionals to address key challenges and innovations in sustainable power and energy systems.

"This conference provides a collaborative platform to exchange ideas, knowledge, and experience in various domains of energy engineering and technology," he said. In his message, Director NIT Srinagar, Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia, said that the future of energy lies in sustainable solutions that can meet the growing global demand while

safeguarding the environment.

"ICSPER-2025 serves as an ideal platform for scholars and experts to present transformative research that contributes to building an energy-resilient world. I am confident that this conference will foster a rich dialogue on innovative ideas and lead to new avenues for academic and industrial collaborations," he added.

Prof. Atikur Rehman, Registrar NIT Srinagar, praised the organizers for successfully conducting the international conference on a theme of global significance. Scholarly engagements play a vital role in strengthening academic culture and fostering a collaborative research environment, he said. Prof. Mairaj Ud Din Mufti, Head Department of Electrical Engineering and General Chair of the Conference, expressed his privilege in briefing about the 2nd International.

Slams NC & Congress for Misleading People, Lauds Bharat Sanrachna Exhibition.

HT NEWS DESK / DIPR

On Fri, 11 Jul 2025, 3:37 pm Bhartiya Janata Party Kashmir, <mailbjpheadofficekmr@gmail.com> wrote:

Member of Parliament (MP Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana Holds Public Darbar at BJP Headquarters in Srinagar.

Slams NC & Congress for Misleading People, Lauds Bharat Sanrachna Exhibition.

Srinagar, 11 July 2025:- Hon'ble Member of Parliament Ghulam Ali Khatana held a Public Darbar at the BJP Headquarters, Jawahar Nagar, Srinagar, where he met with numerous delegations, local citizens, and party workers who presented a wide range of public issues including development, infrastructure gaps, and employment concerns.

During the public interaction, MP Khatana patiently heard the grievances and assured people of timely action by taking up matters with the con-



cerned departments.

The Darbar was a part of BJP's initiative to strengthen direct grassroots-level engagement and deliver transparent and responsive governance.

While addressing media persons after the event, Shri Ghulam Ali Khatana launched a scathing attack on the National Conference (NC) and Congress, accusing them of misguiding the people of Jammu & Kashmir for decades. "NC and Congress have made

non-sensitive issues appear sensitive just to stay politically relevant. Instead of leading the people towards development, they deliberately kept the region trapped in confusion and backwardness," Khatana said.

He praised the BJP-led Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for transforming Jammu and Kashmir through peace, development, and technology.

Member of Parliament (MP Rajya Sabha) Ghulam Ali Khatana Holds Public Darbar at BJP Headquarters in Srinagar.

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"NC and Congress have made non-sensitive issues appear sensitive just to stay politically relevant. Instead of leading the people towards development, they deliberately kept the region trapped in confusion and backwardness," Khatana said.

He praised the BJP-led Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra

Modi for transforming Jammu and Kashmir through peace, development, and technology. He said the youth of J&K are now being connected to national platforms of innovation, education, and employment, which had never been a focus of earlier regimes.

Highlighting the importance of innovation and nation-building, Khatana spoke proudly about the ongoing "Bharat Sanrachna Exhibition" being held at SKICC, Srinagar, saying: "From ISRO to DRDO, this exhibition is a live showcase of India's technological and infrastructural strength. It reflects the new face of India and the new vision for Jammu and Kashmir. Our youth should visit this exhibition and see how India is building its future with world-class capabilities."

He also lauded the efforts of Lieutenant Governor J&K Manoj Sinha, saying that under his able leadership, development projects are being executed with speed and transparency, and the administration is more accessible and accountable than ever before.

He reaffirmed BJP's commitment to empowering youth, women, and marginalized sections, and said the party will continue working to ensure a peaceful, prosperous, and forward-looking Jammu & Kashmir.

Stray Dog Menace Alarms Residents in Ompora Colony

HT NEWS DESK / KNS

Budgam, July 11 (KNS): Residents of Ompora Housing Colony in Budgam are living in fear as the area has become overrun with stray dogs. Despite several complaints, the Municipal Committee Budgam has reportedly taken no concrete steps to control the situation.

Children and elderly people are most at risk, with many avoiding going out after dark. The presence of dog packs near schools, parks, and markets has raised serious safety and hygiene concerns.

"We are scared to even send our children to school. Every morning we see dogs chasing people, but no one is doing anything," said Aamir Hussain, a local resident.

Locals blame poor sanitation and waste management for the



rising dog population. They have urged the district administration to begin a sterilization and relocation drive without delay.

So far, officials have not responded to the growing concern. Residents warn that without action, the situation could lead to a serious incident. Children and elderly people are most at risk, with many avoiding going out after dark. The presence of dog packs near schools, parks, and markets has raised serious safety and hygiene concerns.

M. Ramzan Mir (Kundi) Honored with National Icon Award 2025 for Outstanding Contributions to Social Welfare.

Farooq Rather

From championing forest conservation to facilitating peace and social harmony, Mr. M. Ramzan Mir (Kundi) has exemplified a life dedicated to public service, ethical leadership, and unparalleled commitment to the greater good of the society. Thus in recognition of this exceptional contributions of Mr. M.R. Mir Resident of Kund Kulgam to social welfare and nation-building, he has been conferred the prestigious National Icon Award 2025 (Session-1) by the Bharti Yuva Welfare Association. Awarded in the Social Worker category, this national honor celebrates Mr. Mir's lifelong dedication to compassion, public service, and the empowerment of communities. Throughout his distinguished career, he has stood as a steadfast advocate for society, demonstrating courageous leadership during crises, spearheading vital forest conservation efforts, and initiating numerous projects aimed at public welfare and peace-building. Upon receiving the award, Mr. Mir said that "This prestigious award stands as a testament to my lifelong commitment to the ideals of compassion, public service, and



community empowerment. It not only acknowledges the work I have done but also strengthens my resolve to remain a source of inspiration, integrity, and service to the people of our great nation." He also expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Defence, the Pradhanmantri Sangrahalaya, and all those who have believed in his mission and offered their support along the way. The National Icon Award is among the country's most esteemed recognitions presented by the Bharti Yuva Welfare Association to individuals who demonstrate exemplary dedication to nation-building and social service. Mr. M.R. Mir's recognition serves as an inspiration to all who strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others and in the progress of the nation.

MGNREGA Turned Mafia in Bandipora: Usman Majid Demands Impartial Vigilance Probe

HT NEWS DESK / KNS

Bandipora, July 11 (KNS): Former Minister and Ex MLA Bandipora Usman Majid has raised serious concerns over alarming irregularities in the implementation of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme in Bandipora district. Expressing strong anger and dismay, Majid has demanded an immediate and impartial probe by the Jammu and Kashmir Vigilance Department, calling the revelations not only shocking but a direct betrayal

of the trust reposed by the public and the central government.

"It is deeply astonishing that from labourers from outside Jammu and Kashmir are being engaged under MGNREGA in Bandipora, a scheme that was exclusively intended to benefit our unemployed local laborers," Majid said. He further alleged that MGNREGA cards are being used to siphon money into the accounts of relatives and close aides of GRS. He revealed that lower-level staff, particularly the GRS, are at the heart of this nexus, employing their own relatives, creating fake work



records, and diverting funds into their personal and family accounts. Some contractors are also hand-in-glove in this network, allowing large-scale misuse of public money with near-total impunity. "Machines are being used for work meant to be manual,

while payments are manipulated and misappropriated. What we are witnessing is not just negligence, this is a well-orchestrated scam. The system has been hijacked and turned into a mafia," he stated. Majid also pointed out that instead of entire communities benefiting from developmental work, the scheme has been manipulated to serve individual interests, particularly those with political links. He acknowledged that some honest and young officers are making efforts to curb the menace, but their actions are being undermined by a nexus of corrupt elements. "The issue

has been blatantly politicised to protect the wrongdoers. There is a dire need to conduct a detailed audit of assets and properties of those linked to the implementation of MGNREGA in the district," he asserted.

Calling the situation a betrayal of public trust and central government policy, Majid has urged the Lieutenant Governor's administration and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to personally intervene. "Let us not allow a poverty-alleviation scheme to become a playground for corruption. The very soul of MGNREGA is being crushed."

CUKashmir holds seminar on 'Strong Leadership in Modern India-Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Legacy'

HT NEWS NETWORK

Ganderbal, July 11: Central University of Kashmir (CUK), in collaboration with the Range Police Headquarters, Srinagar, organized a one-day national seminar on "Strong Leadership in Modern India - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Legacy" at Tulmulla on Thursday.

The seminar was organized to celebrate the legacy of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, popularly hailed as the "Iron Man of India." In his welcome address, Prof. Syed Zahoor Ahmad Geelani, Dean, School of Education stressed the need to re-engage with the legacy of Sardar



Patel, emphasizing the relevance of his ethical leadership and administrative vision in contemporary governance and education. In his address, Mr. Pir Zahoor Ahmad, JKPS, Staff Officer to DIG CKR,

underscored the need for strong, principled leadership in a democratic setup. Drawing from his vast experience in policing, Mr. Ahmad linked Patel's decisive leadership style to the core values

of law enforcement and governance. He applauded the students for their insightful presentations and reminded them of the critical role they play in shaping the nation's future. Addressing the participants, Prof. Sandhiya Tiwari, Dean, School of Languages and International Affairs, and Chairperson, ICC, offered a spiritually uplifting narrative by connecting Patel's legacy with the ethos of "Viksit Bharat" and Guru Purnima. She described leadership as a deeply human endeavour that must embody emotional intelligence, inclusivity, and social awareness. "Leadership must not only be visionary but also spiritually aware,"





Starc on 100 Tests: "Makes Me Feel Old"

■ United News of India

While last week Kraigg Brathwaite became the 82nd player to reach 100 Tests, only 12 have done so as what would be considered a frontline pace bowler. Starc will join that group against West Indies at Sabina Park, nearly 14 years after his debut, and he also stands five short of 400 wickets.

But Starc was able to reflect on the journey to reach this point. "Growing up I was always wanting to pull on the baggy green. I didn't think I'd play one game, but to have 99 chances to do that has been a real privilege."

Despite only taking up bowling at the age of 14, once he reached the professional level Starc knew he had the ability to bowl quickly and swing the ball but didn't always have the "tools" to master a variety of conditions and match situations. He credits the long-standing alliance and friendships with Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins in helping him develop, including adopting the wobble seam.

"I didn't have a lot through the period where the ball didn't do anything," he said. "I obviously had the ability to reverse swing it, but that portion through the middle [of the game]. To grow up in international cricket with two of my closest mates who are two of the world's best, to learn from them along the way and develop a bit more to my game over the years has probably certainly helped me in the long run."

"Then to be able to bowl in different facets of the game, different conditions around the world. It's probably helped me get as far down the track as I have."

The bond between the three quicks, and overlapping nature of their careers in which they have played 37 Tests together, has also helped each of them. "It's not lost on myself or the three of us how lucky we are that we're all from the same place," Starc said. "We train together, we sit in rehab rooms together over the years. The ability to push each other along the way, whether it's a flat week or a Test week. I think

that contributes to the longevity of the three of us, in particular."

"Test cricket was probably the hardest format to either feel like I was good enough for or felt like I was capable of doing. To get that opportunity, I wasn't going to let that pass at all. The years that I did miss franchise cricket, I don't regret that at all. To get my body in as good a spot as I could for Australia to play 99 games, spend some time at home, spend some time with Alyssa [Healy] and family. That's the reason why I did those things."

Starc himself has not missed a Test through injury since damaging a finger against South Africa in late 2022 which forced him out of three matches, although he still bowled through it in the game itself at the MCG.

"There's a few scars and a few sore bits most days," he said of the toll of fast bowling. "Whether it be jabs or pain killers along the way, I know what I can and can't get through. I'm never going to go into a game that I don't think I can get through."

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