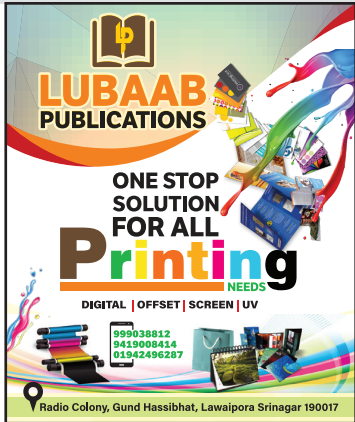


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HEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



PM Modi Stresses Job Creation Focus

■ [United News of India](#)

NEW DELHI, JUL 12: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday emphasised his government's focus on generating employment in the public and private sectors, asserting that the country has progressed in every field in the past 11 years.

In a virtual address after the distribution of over 51,000 appointment letters, he said his government's welfare schemes, be it building over 4 crore houses for the poor, distributing over 10 crore new LPG connections or the rooftop solar programme, have created lakhs of new employment opportunities and so have a host of other initiatives that led to growth in manufacturing sector.

Speaking of his recent five-nation tour,



he said the whole world now recognises the strength of India's demography and democracy. The ability of India's youth is its biggest capital and a guarantee of the country's bright future, he added.

He said, "The world acknowledges today that India possesses two infinite powers. One is demography, the other is

TURN ON PAGE 2

Women-Led Development Key To Peace, Prosperity In J&K: LG Sinha

■ [HT News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 12: Women-led development is key to overcoming challenges like terrorism and drug addiction, and building a peaceful and prosperous Jammu and Kashmir, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha said on Saturday.

Sinha attended the valedictory function of the women's vocational training course at the Army Goodwill School in Balapur in south Kashmir's Shopian.

He felicitated the women train-

ees who completed their vocational training and life enhancement skill courses at the school and five other Entrepreneurship and Livelihood Enhancement Centres at Pulwama, Kulgam, Budgam, Anantnag and Pampore.

The Lieutenant Governor said that under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, women's empowerment has been transformed into a mass movement in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The social and economic upliftment of women has been our top



priority. I strongly believe that women-led development will lead us to overcoming challenges like terrorism, drug addiction, other social evils, and to build a peaceful and prosperous J&K," he said.

Nari Shakti has brought a tremendous change to the rural economy. Our multi-pronged approach and women-centric initiatives have empowered women in Jammu and Kashmir with training and financial support, he said.

"It is being ensured that

TURN ON PAGE 2



We must wholeheartedly recognise and respect women's inherent abilities and invaluable contributions, and make continuous efforts to promote their leadership role across the sectors, ensuring they have every opportunity to excel and inspire," Sinha lauded Monica Pal Bharti, her entire team of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vikas evam Sewa Sansthan, Project Toha Social, and the Indian Army for the initiative of women empowerment and providing vocational training to 1,481 women, including 125 women trainees of the recently concluded training course.

Every terror attack, from Uri to Pahalgam given befitting reply: Amit Shah

■ [HT News Desk / KNO](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 12: Stating that the Government of India responded to the Uri terrorist attack with a surgical strike and to the Pulwama attack with air strikes, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said that 'Operation Sindoor' was another example of decisive cross-border action.

Speaking at a public meeting in Kerala, Shah, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) referred to the 2016 Uri attack and the 2019 Pulwama attack as examples of how the government responded with military action. "We responded to the Uri attack with a surgical strike and to the Pulwama attack with air strikes," Shah said.

He also cited "Operation Sindoor" as

another example of decisive cross-border action, describing it as an instance where Indian forces entered terrorist hideouts and carried targeted operations. "Terrorism has no place anywhere. The BJP-led government will eliminate it wherever it exists," he added.

He said that terrorism cannot be countered by anyone other than

TURN ON PAGE 2

Speaker Yet to Decide on July 13 Holiday Resolution

Mehbooba's Statement Misleading, Not Fact-Based

■ [MK News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JULY 12: In response to Ms. Mehbooba Mufti's post on social media platform regarding Resolution by PDP on declaration of holiday on 13th July, the Hon'ble Speaker, Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly Advocate

TURN ON PAGE 2

CS Reviews Welfare Schemes for Marginalized in J&K

■ [HT News Network](#)

SRINAGAR, JULY 12: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of various welfare schemes meant for marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department (SWD), Anil Kumar Singh; Secretary in SWD; Mission Direc-

tor, ICDS/ICPS/Mission Vatsalya; Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Board (JJB); Director, Social Welfare, Jammu/Kashmir; District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) and other senior officials of the department.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to upgrade all the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) with basic facilities such as electricity, drinking water, toilets and other utilities.

TURN ON PAGE 2

Amarnath Yatra

Pilgrim count set to cross 2 lakh mark today

■ [HT News Desk / KNO](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 12: As the annual Amarnath Yatra continues smoothly amid tight security and favourable weather, a total of 19,020 pilgrims performed the holy darshan at the sacred cave shrine on Saturday, taking the cumulative figure to 1,82,746, officials said.

According to the figures accessed by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Saturday's darshan count included 13,980 males, 4,272 females, 225 children, 103 sadhus, 20 sadhvis, and 420 personnel

TURN ON PAGE 2

SDRF personnel saves ill pilgrim by carrying him 3 km on back

■ [HT News Desk / KNO](#)

QAZIGUND, JUL 12: Ashiq Hussain, a State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) personnel

TURN ON PAGE 2

Adhikari Should Visit Kashmir: Raina

■ [United News of India](#)

JAMMU, JUL 12: As BJP leader Suwendu Adhikari's remarks asking people of West Bengal not to visit Kashmir or any Muslim-majority area sparked a row, a senior leader of his party from J-K on Saturday said Adhikari should visit Kashmir to experience the patriotism and nationalism of its people for the country.

BJP's national executive member and former president of J-K unit Ravinder Raina also reminded Adhikari, the Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Assembly, that numerous youths of Kashmir have sacrificed their lives for the country in the fight against terrorism over the past three decades.

In his remarks, Adhikari said that people of Bengal should avoid visiting Kashmir or any other area with a large Muslim population for the sake of their security, and that they can go to Jammu or other states like Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Odisha. He said he was not speaking as a BJP MLA and that it was his personal view as a citizen.

The remarks came close on the heels of the recent visit of J-K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to the state as part of his efforts to revive tourism in the Valley, which was badly hit following the Pahalgam terror attack. Abdullah also met West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and invited her to visit Kashmir.

TURN ON PAGE 2

Sanat Nagar flyover 'likely to open by August 2025'

R&B officials say power line hurdle resolved

■ [HT News Desk / KNO](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 12: The much-delayed Sanat Nagar flyover—considered the final critical bridge along the Srinagar Bypass, is now expected to be completed and opened for the traffic by the end of August, senior officials in the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department here said.

Officials in the R&B department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the construction had earlier slowed down due to a 132 KV high-tension electricity line that passed

TURN ON PAGE 2

JLNM to Become DHSK's First Super Speciality

■ [HT News Desk / KNO](#)

SRINAGAR, JUL 12: The historic Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial (JLNM) Hospital, a 145-year-old institution located in the heart of Srinagar, is on a track to become a Super Speciality hospital under the Directorate of Health Services Kashmir (DHSK), Director Dr. Jehangir Bakshi said on Saturday.

Speaking to the reporters at JLNM, Dr. Bakshi, as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), said that every year the government is committed to strengthening healthcare services across Jammu and Kashmir, and

TURN ON PAGE 2

LG Manoj Sinha orders transfer of 7 IAS Officers

■ [HT News Desk / KINS](#)

SRINAGAR, JULY 12: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Saturday ordered a key administrative reshuffle involving seven senior IAS officers in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to an official order issued by the General Administration Department (GAD), a copy of which is available with KINS, Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, IAS (AGMUT: 1994), who was awaiting posting, has been appointed as Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Tourism Department.

He will also hold the additional charge of Administrative Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, until further orders.

Anil Kumar Singh, IAS (AGMUT: 1995), Principal Secretary to the Government, Social Welfare Department, holding additional charge of the Mining Department, has been transferred and posted as Principal Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department. He will continue to hold the additional charge of the Mining Department.

Yasha Mudgal, IAS (AGMUT: 2007), Commissioner/Secretary, Tourism Department, has been transferred and posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Youth Services and Sports Department.

Sarmad Hafeez, IAS (AGMUT: 2009), Commissioner/Secretary, Youth Services and

TURN ON PAGE 2

'Miracle' In Waters: Lotus Beds Reappear In J&K's Wular Lake After 3 Decades

■ [United News of India](#)

BANDIPORA, JUL 12: After nearly three decades, the lotus has bloomed once again in the Wular Lake in north Kashmir – the second largest freshwater lake in Asia – thanks to conservation efforts after the devastating floods in 1992 had wreaked havoc with its rich ecosystem.

A sea of pink lotuses – not just crucial for ecology but for the livelihoods

TURN ON PAGE 2



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Modi.....

democracy. In other words, the largest youth population and the largest democracy.”

The prime minister asserted that the agreements signed during his tour will benefit Indian youth both within the country and abroad. The treaties cover critical sectors such as defence, pharmaceuticals, digital technology, energy, and rare earth minerals and will create far-reaching benefits.

“These initiatives will not only strengthen India’s global economic standing but also generate meaningful opportunities for young Indians in both manufacturing and services,” he said.

Noting that over 25 crore people were lifted out of poverty in the past 10 years, the prime minister said it would not have happened but for the employment and sources of income generated for them.

These poor people used to have a difficult living and feared death but became so strong that they defeated poverty, he added.

Citing an International Labour Organization report, Modi said over 90 crore people were covered under the ambit of welfare schemes in the last decade.

India, based on its Gini index, is among the countries with the highest equality, he said, underscoring his government’s pro-people efforts.

Modi said his government’s focus on boosting manufacturing has paid off, saying electronic manufacturing has risen over five times to be worth Rs 11 lakh crore in 11 years and mobile manufacturing units number nearly 300 from two to four earlier.

Defence manufacturing is being discussed proudly after Operation Sindoor, he said in an apparent reference to the display of India’s indigenous military capability during the conflict with Pakistan.

The worth of defence production has gone beyond Rs 1.25 lakh crore, he said, adding that India is now on its way to becoming the third-largest economy.

Modi said India has emerged as the largest locomotive producer in the world and rail and metro coaches have registered strong exports. The automobile sector, he added, has attracted USD 40 billion in FDI in just five years, resulting in new factories, new job opportunities, and record vehicle sales.

The government, he said, is also focusing on creating new employment opportunities as he referred to the Employment Linked Incentive Scheme, under which people in their first job in the private sector will be given Rs 15,000.

The government will contribute to the first salary of their first job and has allocated a budget of approximately Rs 1 lakh crore, he said, adding that it is expected to help in the creation of about 3.5 crore new jobs.

He stressed the transformative power of India’s manufacturing sector in driving national growth, generating employment, and accelerating India’s journey toward becoming the world’s third-largest economy.

Appointment letters were distributed as part of the government’s Rozgar Mela.

The Rozgar Mela will play a significant role in providing meaningful opportunities to the youth for their empowerment and participation in nation-building, a government statement has said.

Over 10 lakh recruitment letters have been issued so far under it, it said. (Agencies)

Women-Led.....

women are not just beneficiaries of development, but a key partner in Jammu and Kashmir’s growth journey,” the LG added.

Sinha called for an annual follow-up after the participants complete training and start their businesses.

He emphasised a planned approach to close the gap between the number of women and men entrepreneurs, especially in rural areas, and encourage the women workforce to scale up their businesses.

“We must wholeheartedly recognise and respect women’s inherent abilities and invaluable contributions, and make continuous efforts to promote their leadership role across the sectors, ensuring they have every opportunity to excel and inspire,” he said.

Sinha lauded Monica Pal Bharti, her entire team of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Vikas evam Sewa Sansthan, Project Toha Social, and the Indian Army for the initiative of women empowerment and providing vocational training to 1,481 women, including 125 women trainees of the recently concluded training course.

Paying homage to Bhim Rao Ambedkar, the LG said Baba Saheb was the pioneer of women’s rights and women’s empowerment, and his timeless values and resolve for selfless service, equality, and social justice continue to guide the nation.

He also lauded the Army’s community engagements and development programme.

The Indian Army is not only ensuring the unity and integrity of India with full alertness, but also continuously performing virtuous work of transforming the society, he said.

Every terror....

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, and pointed to past operations in Jammu and Kashmir as evidence of that stance.

He also said the government is working toward making India free of Naxalism by March 31, 2026. “This goal is part of a broader national security strategy aimed at addressing internal threats,” he added.

The Home Minister criticised opposition-led state governments for what he called a lack of effective action against extremist groups.

Without naming specific parties, he questioned their silence on the activities of banned outfits and called for a national consensus on security issues.

Speaker Yet.....

Abdul Rahim Rather categorically denied the statement made by Ms Mehbooba Mufti on social media and said that the said statement is misleading and not based on facts. Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather stated that the said Resolution submitted by Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra was admitted during the

Budget Session 2025-26 held in the month of March at Jammu.

Abdul Rahim Rather, Hon’ble Speaker said that Assembly Secretariat received total 111 Resolutions from 34 Hon’ble Members and out of which 87 resolutions were admitted for balloting and rest were disallowed as per rules. Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, Hon’ble Member also submitted four Resolutions and out of which two Resolutions were admitted which includes the Resolution “Declaring 13th July as official holiday to remember the sacrifices of the protestors against autocratic monarch forces”. Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra was accordingly informed through Assembly Secretariat Bulletin No.LA1353/Legn/2025 dated 14/03/2025.

As per prescribed Rules relative precedence of the Private Members’ Resolutions was determined by separate Balloting in terms of Rule-28 of Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in J&K Legislative Assembly in presence of 7 Hon’ble Members on 25th of March 2025 and 14 Resolutions secured place in balloting which were listed in the House on 7th & 9th of April, 2025. The Resolution submitted by Mr. Waheed-ur-Rehman Parra, Hon’ble MLA, though admitted, did not secure place during Balloting process. So process was completed as per the Rules of procedure.

He further said that the post of Speaker is the epitome of impartiality and in no case it can be construed that the Resolution has been rejected out rightly by the Speaker, which is not factually correct.

CS Reviews.....

He directed for according priority to those centres housed in government-owned buildings through convergence with departments like Rural Development. He also asked for shifting of centres operating from private premises lacking such infrastructure.

Reviewing the outreach and impact of various flagship programmes, Dulloo laid emphasis on monitoring the outcomes of nutrition-based interventions targeting the children, adolescent girls and lactating mothers under the Poshan Scheme. He stressed that tracking measurable outcomes is critical for ensuring real progress at the grassroots level.

The Chief Secretary also called upon the Programme Officers and DSWOs to frequently conduct field visits to assess on-ground realities and align their actions with actual needs. He remarked that all decisions should stem from field-level insights and reflect the actual realities of our people.

In a forward-looking suggestion, Dulloo asked the department to explore the concept of Composite Homes in districts to house the orphaned children, elderly citizens and the destitute women together, providing them with a sense of community and shared care, reducing isolation.

Providing an overview of the department’s scope and responsibilities, Principal Secretary Anil Kumar Singh informed that the Social Welfare Department is currently implementing 37 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and 9 UT schemes, backed by a budgetary allocation of Rs 4,361 crore for the year 2025-26. He highlighted the presence of around 28,000 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the UT, which cater to nearly 9 lakh beneficiaries, ensuring last-mile delivery of services.

The Principal Secretary also presented a detailed account of the current status, outcomes and future roadmap of various schemes under the department’s ambit. Mission Directors and Directors briefed the Chief Secretary on the functioning and implementation status of their respective schemes and programmes.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed key initiatives under Mission Poshan (7 schemes), focusing on improving the nutritional levels among children and others. Mission Shakti (6 schemes) aimed at empowering the women ensuring their safety, empowerment and protection. Mission Vatsalya (7 schemes) focuses on institutional care and protection for different sections of the society in need.

Other centrally sponsored schemes discussed included SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise), Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY) and SAPS-Cr, PM-AJAY (Prime Minister’s Anusuchit Jaati Abhiyan Yojana), PM-YASASVI Scholarships, NAPDDR (Drug Demand Reduction), NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme), Scholarships for Minority, SC and OBC communities, ALIMCO-supported Prosthetic Aids, implementation of SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, NAMASTE (Sanitation Workers’ Welfare), PMJVK (Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram) besides others.

The review also covered UT government schemes like ISSS (Integrated Social Security Scheme), Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance Scheme, SC Scholarship, Homes for those in distress, Pahari Hostels, Mobility Support to Specially-abled (scooties/prosthetics), Pensions for the needy and assistance to militancy-affected families.

As part of the ongoing efforts for the upcoming fiscal year 2025-26, the Department revealed that consolidated proposals under various centrally sponsored schemes, amounting a total of Rs 1088.75 crore stands submitted. Out of these, major schemes such as Mission Poshan and ICDS (Rs 759.67 Cr), Mission Shakti (Rs 40.79 Cr) and Mission Vatsalya (Rs 126.54 Cr) have already received approval. Additionally, proposals for PMMVY (Rs 64.39 Cr) and BBBP (Rs 6.20 Cr) have also been approved.

Several proposals have been submitted and are currently awaiting approval. These included financial allocations for the implementation of schemes under the Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989, Senior Citizen Homes, Saksham Anganwadi Centres, Creche (Palna), Pre- and Post-matric Scholarships for SC students, NAPDDR including NMBA and PM-YASASVI, the meeting was apprised.

Pilgrim count.....

from security forces.

The pilgrimage entered its tenth day on Saturday and continues to witness a huge influx of devotees

from across the country. Officials said the yatra is progressing smoothly, with all necessary arrangements in place to ensure the safety and comfort of the pilgrims.

“Given the current trend, the cumulative pilgrim count is expected to cross the two lakh mark by Sunday. This year, the yatra has not been halted due to rains or any other reason,” an official told KNO.

Authorities have also deployed additional teams for medical aid, sanitation, and route clearance, especially in light of recent weather fluctuations along the Pahalgam and Baltal routes.

Ambika Soni, a devotee from Jaipur, expressed her deep satisfaction with the ongoing arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra.

“The government has made very good arrangements this year. Everything from security to basic facilities like food and medical support is well-managed. It feels safe and spiritually uplifting to be part of this sacred journey. I will offer prayers at the holy cave for peace, prosperity, and happiness for everyone,” she said.

Another devotee, Nilesh Upadhyay, who is undertaking the pilgrimage, said that he had come for the 13th time.

“I have come here for the 13th time, and I must say the arrangements have continuously improved over the years. There is a sense of peace and divine energy all around. The yatrīs are being taken care of at every step of the way. The environment is calm, the people are cooperative, and the security forces are doing a commendable job,” he said.

Meanwhile, the 11th batch of 6,639 pilgrims set out from the Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu on Saturday morning to undertake the sacred journey to the Amarnath cave shrine in south Kashmir.

The group included 1,462 women, 41 children, and 181 sadhus and sadhvis. As per officials, the pilgrims left in two separate convoys amid tight security arrangements, heading towards the twin base camps of Nunwan in Pahalgam and Baltal in Ganderbal district.

Out of the total, 4,302 pilgrims opted for the traditional Pahalgam route, travelling in 159 vehicles, while 2,337 pilgrims preferred the Baltal route and were accommodated in 116 vehicles.

The 32-day yatra, which commenced on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 9.

SDRF personnel.....

from Qazigund, became a real-life hero during the Amarnath Yatra by saving the life of an ill pilgrim, carrying him on his back for nearly 3 kilometres through treacherous terrain from Pissu Top to Chandanwari.

A devotee from Gujarat was reportedly experiencing severe breathlessness and was on the verge of collapse. Unable to walk further through the steep and rugged path, his situation turned critical.

“I was at Sheshnag along with DSP to inspect the arrangements when we received information about the pilgrim in distress,” Ashiq told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO). “We immediately rushed to the spot. I lifted him from Pissu Top and carried him all the way to Chandanwari, around 3 kilometres, despite heavy rains and the tough, slippery trail.”

Ashiq said the man had a relative with him who was in tears, overwhelmed by the situation. “We administered preliminary care (PCR), and thankfully, he showed signs of recovery. I then shifted him to the hospital at Chandanwari for further treatment,” he added.

The emotional moment was captured on video by the pilgrim’s relative, who can be heard saying with deep gratitude, “You helped us a lot...”

The 38-day annual Amarnath Yatra to the 3,880-metre high cave shrine started from the two routes on July 3 and is scheduled to end on August 9.

Over 1.80 lakh pilgrims have so far visited the shrine, which houses a naturally formed Shivalingam.

Adhikari Should.....

“I would like to request Adhikari to come to Kashmir. He should come and see that every Kashmiri loves India. When the terrorists killed humanity in the meadows of Pahalgam on April 22, it was the people of Kashmir who reached the spot barefoot to rescue the injured tourists,” Raina said in a statement to PTI here.

“It was the people of Kashmir who sheltered the tourists and helped them reach their homes safely. Mohammad Maqbool Sherwani sacrificed his life in 1947 by hoisting the tricolour in Baramulla and gave the slogan ‘beware Pakistani attackers, we Kashmiris are ready,’” Raina said.

He said thousands of Kashmiri youths have sacrificed their lives for the security of the country, serving in various security agencies.

“There are so many Kashmiri activists (from the BJP) who achieved martyrdom fighting the terrorists. India lives in the heart of every citizen of Jammu and Kashmir and Jammu and Kashmir is in the heart of India. Every Indian should come to Jammu and Kashmir,” Raina said, inviting Adhikari and the people of West Bengal to visit the valley to experience the “patriotism and nationalism of local residents”.

He said the people of J-K are true Indians. “This is our motherland and Kashmir is the crown of India. Every Kashmiri is our brother and they are our own.”

“They have rendered numerous sacrifices for the country and if the tricolour is flying high in Kashmir proudly, it is because of the people of Kashmir,” Raina said.

Meanwhile, National Conference provincial president Rattan Lal Gupta condemned the “provocative and communally charged” remarks of Adhikari.

“Adhikari’s appeal... is not only appalling but also reflects the BJP’s persistent agenda of sowing communal discord. Such statements are not only a direct assault on the idea of India but also an insult to the composite culture and pluralistic ethos of Jammu and Kashmir,” Gupta said in a statement.

He said the people of Kashmir, regardless of their

religion, have always welcomed tourists with open arms.

“Reducing the Valley to a religious demographic to incite fear and hatred is not only factually wrong but also highly irresponsible. Such rhetoric has the potential to damage the national fabric and cause deep fissures in society,” he asserted.

Calling the BJP’s approach a “politics of polarisation”, the senior NC leader alleged that the party thrives on Hindu-Muslim divisions by creating fear among communities.

The NC leader called upon the people of West Bengal and the entire nation to reject any such “hate-mongering” and instead embrace the spirit of unity, secularism and mutual respect.

Gupta appreciated the decision of Banerjee that she would visit Kashmir after Durga Puja and said the people of Jammu and Kashmir, both from Jammu and the Valley, want peace, progress and brotherhood, not communal poison.

He urged the BJP leadership to rein in its leaders and “stop weaponising religion for political gains”. (AGENCIES)

Sanat Nagar.....

directly above the under-construction structure.

They said the power line posed a major safety concern and required realignment, delaying progress for months.

An R&B official told KNO that the issue has finally been resolved. “The power line hurdle has been cleared and amendment work is underway. We are aiming to make the bridge operational by August this year,” the official said.

The official added a new tower has been constructed for line realignment after land acquisition and foundation work were completed in coordination with Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited (KPDC).

Meanwhile, the flyover is part of the National Highway Authority of India’s (NHAI) broader plan to decongest traffic at Bemina, Sanat Nagar and Nowgam by constructing three flyovers along a 3.23-kilometre stretch on NH-44.

Moreover, while the Bemina and Nowgam flyovers are already functional, the Sanat Nagar section was held up due to prolonged utility clearance.

Daily commuters say the delay has only worsened traffic congestion. “Every day there are long traffic jams at Sanat Nagar. We have waited long enough. It is time the flyover is finished,” said Zubair Ahmad, a commuter from Natipora.

The locals hoped that the flyover would finally ease the pressure on this key intersection. “Once it is completed, travel time from Barzulla to Nowgam will improve significantly,” said Tahoor Wani, a local from Baghat.

Notably, with the amendment work underway and key technical hurdles resolved, officials say the city’s last pending important bypass flyover is finally on track for completion.

JLNM to.....

JLNM is a clear example of that progress.

“The hospital is expanding every year, with new departments, advanced equipment, and modern facilities being added. This year too, the momentum continues,” he said.

Highlighting future upgrades, Dr. Bakshi revealed that an MRI machine will be installed soon at JLNM, alongside the addition of high-tech allergy testing machines. “These additions will further JLNM’s transformation into a fully-fledged super speciality hospital. We are also installing state-of-the-art machinery to ensure advanced diagnostics and treatment,” he added.

Dr. Bakshi while acknowledging the challenges said that there remains a shortage of doctors and, more critically, paramedics in hospitals and medical colleges across the region. “The government has taken the matter seriously and extraordinary steps are being taken to bridge the gaps,” he said.

The event also marked a triple milestone celebration for JLNM Hospital, which hosted a conference on allergy and immunology attended by prominent figures including Health and Education Minister Sakina Itoo and MLA Zadibal Tanveer Sadiq.

The conference gathered top allergy experts and researchers and aimed to explore new frontiers in the field. During the event, Minister Sakina Itoo officially launched JLNM’s annual general and awards ceremony. Several post-graduate researchers were felicitated for their commendable contributions in clinical science and research.

In her address, Minister Itoo praised the hospital’s medical staff for their unwavering commitment. “JLNM Hospital holds historical and emotional value for Kashmiris. Its transformation into a leading tertiary care center reflects the dedication of the doctors and management,” she said. She also expressed appreciation for the hospital administration, including Medical Superintendent Dr. Mohammad Tariq Jaan, Allergy Specialist Dr. Taha Ashraf, Deputy MS Dr. Asifa Jaan, and Media Cell Incharge Aafaq Bashir, for their continued efforts in improving healthcare delivery.

The hospital, which has witnessed a steady evolution over the decades, is now being revived with modern infrastructure and a growing focus on specialty care, marking a new era for public health in the Kashmir Valley.

LG Manoj Sinha.....

Sports Department, has been posted as Commissioner/Secretary, Social Welfare Department.

Talat Parvez Rohella, IAS (AGMUT: 2010), Secretary, Planning, Development and Monitoring Department, has been posted as Chairman, Bureau of Public Enterprises, J&K.

Bhupinder Kumar, IAS (AGMUT: 2011), Secretary, Public Works (R&B) Department, holding additional charges as Director of Census Operations/Director of Citizen Registration for J&K and Ladakh, Resident Commissioner, New Delhi, and Administrative Secretary, Hospitality and Protocol Department, has been formally posted as Resident Commissioner, J&K Government, New Delhi. He will continue to hold all existing additional charges.

Ananth Dwivedi, IAS (AGMUT: 2021), Chief Executive Officer, State Health Agency, J&K, currently also serving as Mission Director, Ayushman Bharat Digital Health Mission, has been assigned additional charge as Additional Secretary to the Government, Revenue Department.

'Miracle' In.....

of locals – can be seen in a part of the lake, which is spread in a total area of 200 square km, covering almost 24 km in length, stretching from the foothills of the Haramukh mountain range in the Bandipora district to Sopore town in the neighbouring Baramulla district.

“This is nothing short of a miracle,” Abdul Hameed, a resident, said.

He said that earlier, the locals used to disperse the lotus seeds into the lake, but they achieved nothing. “It did not work. They could not grow because of silt,” Hameed said. Kashmir Valley witnessed a devastating flood in 1992 that caused damage to the rich ecosystem of Wular Lake, situated about 70 km from Jammu and Kashmir’s summer capital Srinagar.

The flood deposited a large quantity of silt in the lake that buried the lotus vegetation over the years.

However, owing to the conservation efforts by Wular Conservation and Management Authority (WUCMA) – including desilting of the lake – in the last few years, the lotus beds have appeared once again.

“Last year, there were signs of revival of lotuses. Then this year, the WUCMA dispersed lotus seeds in the lake, and there was a bloom,” said Mudasir Ahmad, an official of the lake authority.

Ahmad, who is the zonal officer at WUCMA, said the bloom has spread to nearly three sq km of the lake, and the turnaround was achieved by desilting the lake as part of the restoration of the water body.

Chief Conservator of Forests, Kashmir Division, Irfan Rasool, said the return of the lotus is a strong indicator of the improving ecological health of the lake, which had suffered significant degradation over decades, with heavily silted area reported up to 27 sq kms, impacting its water holding capacity, ecological functions and the livelihoods of communities.

He said WUCMA embarked on the major project by utilising Cutter Suction Dredgers.

Rasool said the project aimed to restore the critically silted-up area by undertaking dredging.

“As of July 2025, around 80 lakh cubic metres of silt has been cleared by WUCMA from Wular lake. By removing vast quantities of silt, the project has successfully restored nearly five sq km of the lake’s area, significantly increasing its water holding capacity,” he added.

The desilting initiative has been instrumental in restoring the lake’s original depth and improving water flow, the official said.

Rasool said it restored sunlight penetration to the lake bed and revitalised conditions, allowing the dormant root structures of the lotus plant to regrow.

The return of lotuses has renewed hopes among the locals of harvesting their edible stems, known as ‘nadru’ in local parlance.

The water body was once a major source of income for hundreds of families. ‘Nadru’ is one of the popular delicacies in Kashmir, and its harvesting provided seasonal employment to many.

The harvesting involves diving neck deep into the water to retrieve the stem. “Nadru was non-existent in the lake for all these years,” Ahmad said, adding that it can now be grown and harvested.

The economy of the local population would get a boost now, he said.

Hameed expressed gratitude to the WUCMA for the dredging undertaken in the lake, saying it contributed to the revival of the aquatic plant.

“It is all because of dredging and desilting that we are seeing lotuses blooming once again. This is a blessing from God,” Hameed said.

He implored the people to safeguard the biodiversity of the lake and stop polluting it.

“We have to mend our ways now. It was taken away from us once, and if we do not change, it may be taken away again,” he added.

And it is not just the comeback of lotuses. The increased water depth and improved water quality in the lake have also created a more hospitable environment for diverse aquatic flora and fauna, Rasool said.

“This ecological revival has thus contributed to attracting a greater variety of migratory birds, enhancing the lake’s biodiversity,” the chief conservator of forests said.

The rare migratory birds sighted in the lake in the last two years include Great Bittern, Long-tailed Duck, Falcated Duck, Horned Grebe, Western Reef Heron, Snew Duck, Pacific Golden Plover, Broad-billed Sandpiper, Marbled Teal, Pallas’s Fish-eagle, Common Pochard, and Grey-lag Geese.

Vice Chancellor University of Kashmir inaugurates SOCACON-2025 at GMC Srinagar

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar today witnessed the grand inauguration of the 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON 2025).

The conference, being held in hybrid mode from July 10-12, 2025, has attracted over 300 delegates from across India and abroad.

The inaugural session was graced by Prof. (Dr.) Nilofer Khan, Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, who in her inaugural address, said that today, we gather to celebrate the confluence of visionary leadership, innovation, and global collaboration in clinical anatomy.

The 13th International Conference of the



SOCACON 2025 is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our medical fraternity towards excellence in anatomical sciences. "I commend the organizing team led by Prof. (Dr.) Iffat Hassan Shah, Principal of GMC Srinagar, for orchestrating an event of such national and international significance. I wish the conference all success and hope it will provide a platform for meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," added the Vice Chancellor.

Prof. (Dr.) Iffat

Hassan Shah, Patron of SOCACON-2025 and Principal/Dean Government Medical College Srinagar, delivered the welcome address, stating "It is my privilege to welcome all to SOCACON 2025. This conference is a celebration of anatomical excellence, collaborative spirit, and the rich academic tradition of Kashmir. I praise the department's efforts in hosting a global academic platform in Srinagar and look forward to fruitful deliberations and outcomes."

Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam

Mohammad Bhat, Head, Department of Anatomy, GMC Srinagar, stated that the department of Anatomy is committed to academic excellence and interdisciplinary research in anatomical sciences. "SOCACON-2025 is a significant milestone in our journey, and I am confident that it will foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration among participants," he added.

The 13th International Conference of the Society of Clinical Anatomists (SOCACON 2025) is a premier academic event that

brings together leading anatomists, clinicians, and researchers from across the globe to discuss the latest advancements in anatomical sciences. The conference aims to foster collaboration, innovation, and excellence in the field of anatomy.

The conference features keynote speakers from renowned institutions, including Prof. (Dr.) Ghulam Nabi (University of Dundee, UK); Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Ashraf Ganie (SKIMS, Srinagar); Dr. Mohammad Sultan Khuroo; Prof. (Dr.) P. Vatsala Swamy (D.Y. Patil Vidyapeeth, Pune); Prof. (Dr.) Bashir Ahmad Shah, Organizing Secretary; Prof. (Dr.) Mohammad Saleem Itoo, Co-Organizing Secretary; Mohammad Ashraf Hakak, Administrator, Associated Hospitals, GMC Srinagar.

DLSA Shopian holds interaction with Ex-Servicemen; assures free Legal Aid



HT NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 12

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian today organized an interactive session with ex-servicemen and Veer Naris (war widows) of district Shopian to listen to their issues.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhury, Principal District & Sessions Judge,

Shopian, and conducted by Rafie Ahmad Ganie, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), Shopian along with Deputy Chief LADC, Shahnawaz Raina.

During the interaction, ex-servicemen shared their grievances and highlighted pending cases in various courts across the district. DLSA assured them of full support in providing free legal aid as per the

directives of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA).

Chief LADC reiterated DLSA's commitment to ensuring accessible and efficient legal assistance to ex-servicemen and Veer Naris, in line with the vision of NALSA (National Legal Services Authority) and emphasized that all necessary steps will be taken to address their legal concerns promptly.

Rana asks for upgrades in Gujjar-Bakerwal Hostels; reviews facilities in hostels

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

Minister for Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today called for upgrading the Gujjar-Bakerwal hostels with provision of all modern facilities to address the existing gaps and foster a conducive environment that supports both academic and personal growth of the students.

He underscored the commitment of government to enhance the living conditions and educational environment for the tribal students.

He made these observations during his visit to Gujjar-Bakerwal hostels in Bemina and Tulsi Bagh where he conducted a thorough inspection of the facilities and



had an in-depth interaction with the students.

In line with this vision for enhancing the quality of facilities for the students, Rana instructed the Director Tribal Affairs to take concrete steps to improve hostels' management and implement upgrades to the hostel facilities.

"These upgrades are expected to address the existing shortcomings and provide students with a nurturing environment that supports

their overall development," Rana said.

He also undertook a comprehensive review of DPR of the under construction buildings and directed for expedited completion by PWD.

During the visit, Rana evaluated the quality of facilities being provided to the inmates, assessing the infrastructure to identify areas that require improvement.

The Minister's inspection of the hostel's infrastructure was comprehensive, covering key areas such as classrooms, mess facilities, library services and recreational spaces.

He had a first-hand understanding of the challenges faced by the students and the scope for improvement in the existing facilities.

Rana also engaged with the students, gathering valuable feedback on hostel management and facilities.

The Minister's emphasis on creating a supportive environment highlights the importance of enabling the students to excel academically and reach their full potential.

"We are taking proactive steps to address the students' concerns and improve hostel facilities", the Minister said.

DC Bandipora inaugurates ASMITA Kickboxing League 2025-26

HT NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 12

The ASMITA Kickboxing League 2025-26, a nationwide initiative under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, was inaugurated on Saturday by the Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri at Salvatore International School Shilvat, Sumbal.

The league is being organized under the flagship Khelo India programme and is aimed at empowering girls through sports. As many as 150 girl athletes from various districts across the Kashmir province are participating in the event.

The league is part of the ASMITA (Achieving Sports Milestone by Inspiring Women through Action) campaign, which is being implemented across India



to promote the active participation of women folk in competitive sports, enhance self-defense skills, and foster discipline among young girls.

During the inaugural ceremony, National Kickboxing Coach Faisal Ali Dar (Padma Shree Awardee), Sub Divisional Magistrate Sumbal, Murtaza Ahmad, and other dignitaries were present.

On the occasion, DC felicitated some of the participating athletes and lauded their dedication,

courage, and sporting spirit.

Speaking at the event, DC emphasized the importance of such leagues not just in advancing careers in sports but also in building confidence, self-discipline, and self-defense skills among young girls.

He appreciated the efforts of the WAKO Kickboxing India and Kickboxing Association of Kashmir for organizing the event in Bandipora and providing a platform for young girls to excel in martial arts.

J&K Judicial Academy organizes one-day sensitization programme



HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

Jammu and Kashmir (J&K) Judicial Academy Saturday organized a one day sensitization programme on 'Law of Bail, Remand etc. with Reference to the Principle - Bail Not Jail' at its premises in Mominabad, Srinagar.

The programme was held under the patronage of Justice Arun Kumar Pali, Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy), and under the guidance of Chairperson and Members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy.

The event aimed to equip judicial officers of the Kashmir province and the Union Territory of Ladakh with in-depth understanding and operational clarity on the legal principles, procedural nuances, and evolving jurisprudence governing bail and remand, with

particular emphasis on the constitutional mandate of personal liberty and the Supreme Court guidelines.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta in her welcome address and introductory remarks outlined the critical importance of bail jurisprudence in upholding the constitutional mandate of personal liberty, while also balancing the interest of justice and societal security.

Registrar Vigilance, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Rajiv Gupta conducted the technical sessions. He focused on the fundamentals of bail, covering key aspects such as balancing personal liberty with societal interest, importance of writing reasoned and consistent bail orders, and the evolving application of the cardinal rule of "bail, not jail."

The sessions also addressed the significance of timeliness in bail matters and explored innovative mechanisms

to streamline the bail process.

Resource person also presented a detailed analysis of two landmark Supreme Court judgments: Siddharth vs. State of UP and Satender Kumar Antil vs. CBI, underscoring the judiciary's approach in safeguarding liberty and reducing unnecessary incarceration.

The interactive session and case study-based discussion enabled participants to delve into practical aspects of bail adjudication, share real-life experiences from courtrooms, and reflect on gaps in implementation. Participants also offered feedback aimed at refining future training modules.

The programme proved to be an insightful and thought provoking forum for judicial officers, reinforcing best practices in bail-related adjudication and contributing to the larger goal of a more efficient and rights sensitive criminal justice system.

Sakeena Itoo addresses Triple Milestone Moment-2025 of JLN Hospital Srinagar

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today addressed the Triple Milestone Moment-2025 of Jawahar Lal Nehru Memorial Hospital (JLNMH) Rainawari here, organized to celebrate knowledge, care and clinical advancement of the hospital.

MLA Zadibal, Tanvir Sadiq; Director Health Services Kashmir, Medical Superintendent JLNMH, doctors, researchers and medical students were present on the occasion.

The milestones being celebrated included 'Allergy Alert-2025' a conference-cum-workshop, launch of JLN Journal and PG Research presentation.

Addressing the gathering, the Minister emphasized the importance of early diagnosis and community-based education on allergies, especially in light of environmental changes and lifestyle factors contributing to their surge. "Awareness and timely intervention are key to managing allergies effectively. Initiatives like 'Allergy Alert 2025'



reflect our commitment towards equipping the healthcare providers and the public with essential tools to combat this growing health concern", she stated.

The Minister further said that the medical science is evolving day by day and doctors need to keep themselves abreast with the growing advancements in the medical care and research. She also spoke in length about the recent efforts of government for amplifying the healthcare infrastructure

across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister also praised the hospital staff for their tireless efforts and appreciated them for making JLN a top-notch tertiary care setup in the valley. She also spoke about the hospital's historic significance and the ongoing efforts to equip it with the best facilities for patients.

On the occasion, the Minister released JLN Journal titled 'Asian Journal of Clinical Practice and Research'. She

also distributed awards among the postgraduate researchers for outstanding work in medical field.

The hospital administration expressed gratitude to the Minister and the government for reviving the hospital and establishing advanced healthcare facilities for patients.

Presently, the Allergy Alert 2025 conference aimed to explore new frontiers in allergy and immunology, bringing together experts and researchers in the field.

Inter-Zonal Handball & Volleyball competitions for U14 & U17 conclude in Baramulla

HT NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JULY 12

The thrilling inter-zonal district level Handball and Volleyball competition for boys under 14 and 17 concluded today with great enthusiasm and sportsmanship at GDC Boys Ground Khawaja Bagh and Indoor Stadium Khawaja Bagh.

The event was organized by the Youth Services and Sports department, district Baramulla.

In the Under-14 Handball final, Zone Sopore emerged victorious after a spirited contest against Zone Wagoora. Meanwhile, in the Under-17 Handball final, Zone Wagoora turned the tables and clinched the title after defeating Zone Sopore in an intense matchup.

On the Volleyball side, the Under-14 final saw Zone Wagoora claim the championship by overcoming Zone Dangiwach in a competitive game. In the Under-17 category, Zone Dangerpora outplayed Zone Tangmarg in a match that drew applause for its skillful display of teamwork and resilience.

DYSSO Baramulla congratulated all the winning and participating teams, emphasizing the importance of such competitions in nurturing sports talent and encouraging healthy competition among youth.

The spotlight now shifts to the Under-19 boys' Handball and Volleyball competitions, scheduled to begin on 14th July at the same venues, where new champions will be crowned in the senior category.

HT EDITORIAL

Provide quality affordable transport to people of Kashmir

With the introduction of smart buses and e-rickshaws the services of public transport have improved to a great extent in Srinagar city, but the picture is not rosy with respect to the city outskirts and other districts of the Kashmir valley. As soon as the sun sets the public transport vehicles plying on different routes in the city outskirts and other districts go off the roads and as a result the same people suffer.

Curious people could be seen waiting for the contract carriage vehicles at the busy intersections and the absence of the same makes them worrisome. Even though some of the smart buses ply on different routes in the city outskirts and different districts, as the number of such buses is less, not much relief is being felt by the common masses. It is important that the concerned stakeholders pay attention to the same so that there is an end to the sufferings of the people.

Some years back the Jammu & Kashmir Road Transport Corporation (JKRTC) introduced the environmentally friendly green buses on different routes of Kashmir. The people living in different districts of the valley felt relieved over the introduction of such buses, but here too there are some loopholes. The number of the green buses has remained static over the years and there has been no increase whatsoever. As a result of this the people are suffering and there seems to be no end to their miseries.

It is imperative that quality and affordable transport services are provided to the people across the valley since the masses want to cover the distance in the shortest possible time. There are people who are ready to pay more as transportation charges, but at the same time they want the time to be minimized. It is important that multiple modes of public transport are made available to the people and they be given the chance to choose from any of such modes.

It has been observed that many vehicles being used as public transport vehicles are not fit to run on the roads and as such the lives of people boarding such vehicles are jeopardized on a regular basis. As on date no action has been taken against the owners of these vehicles and they are playing with the rules like anything. Stern action needs to be taken against such people so that precious lives are saved.

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The Enduring Relevance of Urdu in Governance and Competitive

Examinations in Jammu and Kashmir

*Urdu ki naubat-e-tarannum hai,
Dil ka har saaz is mein humdum hai.*

Josh Malihabadi



■ Dr Mohiudin Zore Kashmiri

In the shifting sands of policy and progress, the fate of regional languages—most notably Urdu, the official tongue of Jammu and Kashmir—has once again emerged as a subject of fervent discourse. A recent notification by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), announcing 75 vacancies for the esteemed post of Naib Tehsildar, has stirred debate across the aspirant landscape. The crux of contention? The inclusion of Urdu and English as compulsory subjects in the written examination.

This requirement, seemingly modest, has ignited disquiet in certain quarters, especially among candidates from Jammu, many of whom feel alienated due to their unfamiliarity—or at times, indifference—toward Urdu. Ironically, while a vast number

of these aspirants engage fluently with the language in everyday speech—owing to its cultural prominence across the subcontinent—they falter when tasked with reading or writing it. This linguistic gap has led to demands for the removal of Urdu as a mandatory paper, a move that has not only dismayed lovers of the language but also sparked introspection across the Union Territory.

The question arises: If we, the residents of a region where Urdu is both officially sanctioned and widely spoken, cannot shoulder its academic weight, who else can? And more provocatively: If Urdu is dispensable in our examinations, what regional language stands poised to take its place?

The matter transcends academic convenience. Urdu is no esoteric relic like Persian or Sanskrit, nor is it a foreign linguistic artifact. It is a living, breathing thread woven deeply into the cultural and administrative tapestry of Jammu and Kashmir. To strip it from essential examinations would be to fracture a vital artery of our bureaucratic heritage and public identity.

The posts under question—be they Patwaris, Naib Tehsildars, court

clerks, Urdu writers, Munshis, or document readers—are not merely jobs, but roles sculpted by the demands of Urdu proficiency.

One must also consider the real-world duties of a Naib Tehsildar. Such an officer is expected to traverse every corner of the Union Territory, engaging with documents, land records, and local correspondence—all predominantly rendered in Urdu. Without a functional command of the language, administrative integrity would falter, disrupting not just workflow but the dignity of official conduct itself.

The real challenge lies not in Urdu's relevance, but in the failure of our educational institutions to instill fluency in it. Schools and colleges, both public and private, have long neglected to foster Urdu literacy with the seriousness it demands. The result is a generation that stumbles over the script of its own soil, unprepared to meet the linguistic expectations of public service.

Rather than questioning Urdu's place in competitive examinations, the onus lies on students, teachers, and institutions alike to resuscitate Urdu instruction, to uplift it from marginality and place it where it

rightly belongs: at the heart of language education across Jammu and Kashmir.

Only then can we prepare youth not just for exams, but for a lifetime of civic participation and cultural stewardship.

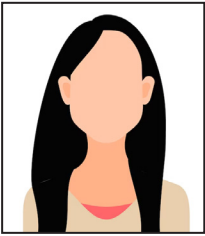
To allow Urdu to wither would be more than an educational oversight—it would be a cultural amputation. Our roads are named in Urdu, our administrative orders composed in it, our identity echoed in its script. Preserving and promoting it is not a sentimental gesture; it is a pragmatic necessity.

In summation, regional languages like Urdu are not mere academic subjects to be ticked off a syllabus—they are the lifeblood of governance, the pulse of communication, the voice of a people. The time has come to recognize their worth, restore their presence in our curricula, and ensure our youth are equipped to carry them forward—beyond the realm of exams, into the heart of society itself.

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Light Beyond Shadows: The Inner Journey to Bliss

To seek bliss is not to chase a fleeting joy, but to return to the light that has always been within us.



■ Jasmine Fatima

In every life, there are moments when we find ourselves standing at the edge of darkness—confused, weary, and unsure of where the path leads. These shadows, cast by grief, fear, loss, or longing, often appear as obstacles. Yet, hidden within them lies a secret: the deeper the shadow, the brighter the light it conceals.

To embark on the inner journey to bliss is not to escape life's shadows, but to walk through them with open eyes and a willing heart. It is the soul's quiet pilgrimage—a return not to a destination, but to its own forgotten essence.

The Call of the Inner World

At some point in every life, the soul begins to whisper—softly at first, then louder. It calls us inward, asking not for more achievement or acquisition, but for stillness. This is the moment the journey begins—not out into the world, but into the deep, divine space within.

Like the mystics who withdrew into caves or the saints who wandered into deserts, the seeker must enter the sacred sanctuary within. Here, stripped of the world's noise, we begin to see our suffering—not as punishment but as invitation to grow closer to the truth within.

Here, inner reflection becomes our guide. It shows us the hidden wounds that shape our choices, the thought patterns that entangle us, and the false identities we wear like garments. With courage and compassion, we begin to ask: Who am I, really?

It is in this sacred space—raw, vulnerable, and honest—that the real alchemy begins. In stillness, the illusions slowly begin to fade away. Ego, once adorned in pride and identity, now stands exposed before the soul's awakening. The heart, once distracted by outward pursuits, begins to whisper truths it long buried beneath ambition and fear.

This simple act of turning inward is the first step toward divine bliss.

Silence: The Language of the Soul

In a world saturated with noise and distraction, silence becomes a sacred portal. Not an absence, but a presence—a quiet in which the divine can speak.

When we embrace silence, we begin to hear what was always there: the subtle stirrings of the heart, the murmur of truth, the voice of the soul. Silence washes over the mind like morning dew, softening its restlessness and creating space for grace to enter. Silence opens the path to where our shadows dwell.

Shadows as Sacred Teachers

Shadows are the unseen and unacknowledged aspects of our inner being—the emotions, memories, and patterns we have suppressed or denied. Though hidden from our conscious awareness, they quietly shape our thoughts, choices, and in turn our destiny. In spiritual traditions across time, shadows are not enemies to be banished, but teachers to be embraced. The darkness is not rejected but transformed through awareness and divine action. The lower self is not destroyed but purified..

Our wounds—those ancient scars carried in silence—hold within them the seeds of awakening. They humble us, slow us, and finally bring us to the feet of stillness. Pain, once honored and understood, becomes a lantern illuminating the terrain of the soul.

As Rumi wrote: "The wound is the place where the Light enters you."

Purification: Thoughts, Intentions, and Actions

The inward journey is one of purification—not in a moral or judgmental sense, but as a gentle clearing of mental noise, misplaced desires, and unconscious patterns.

As we begin to observe our thoughts, we reclaim our inner authority. When we anchor our intentions in love rather than fear, the direction of our life begins to change. And when our actions arise from integrity and simplicity, we stop draining energy into illusions. This inner cleansing creates space for stillness. The purer the vessel, the more freely light can flow through it.

The Light that Was Never Absent

As we journey inward, we do not find bliss like a hidden treasure buried in the forest. Rather, we remember it. Bliss is not a state to be attained; it is our original nature. It was always there, quietly waiting beneath the layers of forgetting.

The light beyond the shadows is not distant. It is not elsewhere. It is the radiant, unchanging awareness that has quietly witnessed us, even in our moments of sorrow. The mystics call it the Divine Spark. The moment we stop searching outside and turn inward with reverence, we behold it—we experience it. Not as an idea, but as a living flame within.

The Sacred Art of Simple Living

Simplicity is not renunciation—it is refinement. It is the conscious choice to keep only what nourishes the soul and supports our journey. Simple living honors slowness, authenticity, and presence. It replaces excess with essence.

When we simplify our lives, the clutter—both outer and inner—dissolves. We discover that joy does not reside in possession, but in the depth of our presence and the truth of our being. In a single breath. In a shared glance. In a quiet moment.

Bliss is found not by adding more, but by releasing what weighs down the soul.

Nature: The Mirror of Divine Order

To walk in nature is to walk through scripture written in light, wind, and earth. Trees do not strive; rivers do not hurry. Yet everything flows in perfect

harmony. Nature does not preach—it reminds us. It teaches presence. It models surrender.

Spending time in nature reconnects us to the sacred rhythm of life. It purifies our senses, slows our breath, and grounds us in the now. In the whisper of leaves and the stillness of mountains, we find a reflection of our own potential for peace and balance.

Meditation: The Gateway to Stillness

At the heart of every spiritual tradition lies meditation—a timeless doorway into the Divine.

In meditation, we sit not to control the mind, but to witness it. With patience, the waves of thought grow gentle. The noise settles. And in that sacred silence, we catch glimpses of the eternal light—what sages have called the Self, the Soul, and the Divine Spark.

With practice, meditation becomes more than a technique; it becomes a state of abiding awareness. We begin to live from this center—not reacting, but responding. Not grasping, but trusting.

This stillness is not passive; it is radiant. It is alive.

The Return : Living from the Light

Having touched the eternal and walked through the shadows, the journey does not end—it circles back. The awakened soul returns to the world, not to escape it, but to sanctify it. Having purified the heart and tasted the sweetness of silence, we emerge transformed—not as saints on pedestals, but as luminous beings quietly anchored in truth. Every act, however small, becomes meaningful, carrying the fragrance of the sacred. Our presence becomes our prayer. We move gently through the world, blessing it not with sermons, but with our stillness. Bliss, no longer fragile or fleeting, becomes a state of being—calm amidst chaos, compassion amidst conflict, and clarity amidst confusion. The inner light, once buried, now shines through every gesture, every word, and every silence. The shadows remain, for they are part of life, but they no longer frighten us. For we have seen the light beyond them, and we know it is not elsewhere. It is here, now, and within.

In Closing

The inner journey to bliss is not a path of denial, but of deep remembrance. It is a sacred undoing—a falling away of what is false, so that what is eternal may emerge.

Light Beyond Shadows is not merely a title or a poetic phrase—it is a spiritual truth and a living path. For those willing to walk the quiet way, to meet their own darkness with courage and compassion, it leads step by step—through reflection, silence, meditation, and purification—to the quiet ecstasy of simply being. The light they discover is not a destination; it is who they are. And in that knowing, there is peace. There is radiance. There is bliss. We were never lost. We were always the light.

The author is a Editor in Chief- Wadi Ki Awaaz (Email: fatimajasmine2024@gmail.com)



■ **Munish Bhatia**

As we advance into the modernity and progress of the 21st century, it is important to reflect on whether our society—especially our youth—is moving forward in the direction we envisioned. The youth of India, who are expected to build the nation and shape a new India, are increasingly falling into the deadly trap of tobacco—a slow poison.

Tobacco consumption in any form—whether bidi, cigarette, paan-gutkha, khaini, or mawa—leads only to death. It is a slow poison that gradually destroys the body from within, causing diseases that bring unbearable pain and fatal consequences. Lung cancer, mouth cancer, heart disease, respiratory problems, stomach ailments, and high blood pressure are directly linked to tobacco use. Treating these diseases is difficult and expensive, but the social, economic, and familial damage caused by tobacco is far more harmful.

This growing use of tobacco is especially worrying in a country like India with a large youth population. Among school and college students, tobacco is often seen as a “fashion,” “symbol of masculinity,” or a “status symbol,” which lowers their morale. When children see elders or film heroes using tobacco, they get the false impression that it is a normal or even admirable habit. This is where a small crack of destruction enters their lives, which gradually widens into a deep chasm.

Though tobacco products are not directly advertised through movies, TV serials, social media, or advertisements, they are made so attractive indirectly that young people feel drawn towards them. Cigarettes are portrayed as the “identity of young hearts,” and alcohol as the “choice of men,” reflecting a distorted mindset that impacts our youth directly. Despite government regulations to control tobacco advertising, companies skilfully use branding strategies to influence youth indirectly. This is why

The Fight Against Tobacco Is Essential For A Healthy India



we still see scenes on streets, shops, paan stalls, and TV channels that attract young people to tobacco.

Tobacco use is not just an individual habit; it affects the entire family, society, and ultimately the nation. When a person becomes addicted to tobacco, their health deteriorates, productivity declines, family finances suffer, and the whole family faces mental, physical, and economic crises. Many families spend lakhs of rupees on treatment for tobacco-related diseases, and sometimes even this treatment fails, resulting in death.

This leads to economic hardship and mental depression in the family, which negatively affects future generations as well.

To combat this problem, we must first strengthen families and education. If a child sees parents using tobacco, it becomes difficult for them to understand what is right or wrong. Therefore, it is essential that parents themselves overcome this addiction and openly inform their children about its dangers. Schools and colleges must re-emphasize moral education. Regular lectures, film screen-

ings, and sharing of experiences should be organized to make students aware of the scientific, social, and moral harms of tobacco. Only when children develop a hatred and vigilance against tobacco from the beginning will they be able to stay away from it throughout their lives.

The government has also taken several steps to control tobacco. Smoking is banned in public places, tobacco packages are required to have graphic warnings, the sale of tobacco products near schools is prohibited, and several states have imposed a complete ban on gutkha

and flavored tobacco. However, these rules will be effective only if strictly enforced. We must accept that laws alone cannot control tobacco unless society becomes active in this effort.

In this regard, NGOs, religious organizations, educational institutions, and local administrations must unite. Wide awareness campaigns, street plays, rallies, poster exhibitions, health camps, and public dialogues should be conducted in villages and cities to educate people that tobacco is not a hobby but self-destruction. Moreover, for those who want to quit, special de-addiction centers and medical support should be expanded to help them make a fresh start.

From an economic perspective, tobacco is a burden on our country. While the government earns revenue through taxes on tobacco products, the cost of treating tobacco-related diseases far exceeds this revenue. According to reports by the Ministry of Health, India spends a significant portion of its Gross Domestic Product every year on treating illnesses caused by tobacco. This economic loss directly slows down the country's progress and pushes the poor further into poverty.

When discussing the harmful effects of tobacco, it is important to understand that it destroys not only the body but also the soul. When a young person wastes their golden years in smoke, they destroy not only their body but also their dreams, the hopes of their family, and the progress of society. It is a shame that the generation expected to shape the nation's future is caught in the grip of such a destructive habit.

Therefore, the time has come for us to launch a powerful movement against tobacco at both individual and collective levels. On this World No Tobacco Day, every citizen should pledge to stay away from tobacco and help others do the same. If we can free even one person from tobacco, we can save millions of lives and make India a strong, healthy, and self-reliant nation. Victory in this great war will be possible only when tobacco becomes socially unacceptable. The day society views tobacco users as sick, self-destructive, and socially irresponsible will be the day tobacco disappears from our lives.

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When the Mountains Call You Back: From Dubai's Skyline to the Soul of Kashmir



■ **Aarib Bhat**

There comes a moment in one's life when the noise of achievement is silenced by the echo of identity — when the towering skyline before you fails to outshine the humble silhouette of your homeland's mountains. I found myself at such a crossroad beneath the shimmering heights of Dubai, a city that thrives on ambition, precision, and the relentless pursuit of scale. After a decade of navigating the high-stakes corridors of Bangalore's luxury real estate and Dubai's elite NRI sector, closing multimillion-dollar transactions and catering to clients across continents, I stood at a place most would call the pinnacle. But within me, a quieter, persistent voice stirred: What if all this knowledge, vision, and professionalism could be brought back to the Valley that raised me? That voice, once a whisper, soon became a call. A call I could no longer ignore.

My name is Aarib Bhat — a real estate professional, a son of Kashmir, and the founder of Kashmiri Realtor, one of the first RERA-registered, structured real estate firms in the Valley. My decision to return home in late 2023 was not an escape from opportunity, but a conscious journey toward meaning. For while Dubai offered polish, Kashmir offered purpose. I didn't come back for comfort. I came back to construct — not merely buildings, but belief.

The narrative of my return is more than a personal voyage — it's a testimony to the idea that one can embrace global excellence without forsak-

ing their roots. It's a reminder that ambition need not be divorced from belonging. I left behind glittering skylines, not because they had dimmed, but because the glow of home outshone them. In Kashmir, I didn't just see land — I saw potential: raw, untapped, yearning for structure. I saw a responsibility to rebuild trust in a sector long clouded by informality and opacity.

Historically, Kashmir's real estate market was a landscape plagued by fragmentation — deals closed on handshakes, documents buried in doubt, brokers operating without accountability. Local buyers were cautious; NRIs were apprehensive. The absence of regulation bred a climate of mistrust. But where others saw chaos, I saw the need for a code — a professional system rooted in ethics, documentation, and service. Thus, Kashmiri Realtor was born — not as another brokerage, but as an institution of integrity.

Today, with a trained network of over 40 brokers across the Valley, we are redefining the property experience in Kashmir. From modest plots in Pulwama to premium assets near Dal Lake, every transaction is anchored in legal clarity, transparency, and truth. Our vision goes beyond selling land — we aim to restore confidence. And in doing so, we are rewriting what it means to be in real estate here.

But the mission isn't confined to property deals. We've empowered over 10,000 individuals across India through real estate training programs, equipping them with the tools to navigate this dynamic sector. We've created digital platforms to educate buyers and sellers, helped NRIs interpret evolving land laws, and partnered with local developers to bring structure where none existed. We've even sponsored cultural and community initiatives — because real development isn't just about land; it's about lives.

In emerging zones like Lethpora, we've closed multi-crore deals and introduced professional standards where none prevailed. Our most valued

asset, however, isn't listed on paper — it's the intangible rebuilding of trust. That, to me, is the true currency of transformation.

Why Kashmir? Because our Valley deserves more than the binary of conflict and postcard beauty. It deserves institutions, professionalism, and the dignity of systems that uplift its youth and safeguard its future. The terrain may be rugged, but its spirit is fertile. And who better to cultivate it than those who understand its soul?

To the youth of Kashmir, let me say this: You do not have to exile your dreams to realize them. You do not have to choose between ambition and home. Success is no longer a one-way ticket out — it can be a journey back in. Our generation is uniquely positioned to be the bridge between what is traditional and what is transformational. Between global standards and local wisdom. Yes, the road here is steep. But so is the view from the top.

I returned not because I lacked a future abroad — but because I saw a future here worth building. I came not to withdraw from the world but to help shape one — brick by brick, transaction by transaction, life by life. In every square foot we touch, we are not just dealing in land; we are laying the foundation of a new Kashmir — one where systems replace slogans and transparency triumphs over tradition.

This story, though personal, carries a universal message: Revival will not come solely from policy or prayer. It will rise from the entrepreneurs, teachers, artists, engineers, farmers — and yes, realtors — who dare to return, to stay, or to invest. Those who are not waiting for change, but becoming it.

The mountains called me home — and in answering, I found not just my address, but my purpose. And I invite others to listen closely — for often, the most important call is not the loudest, but the one that speaks from the silence within.

**The Author is a Founder – Kashmiri Realtor,
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13th July Birth Anniversary Special Guru Daksh Prajapati: Symbol of discipline and rituals of creation



■ **Priyanka Saurabh**

Guru Daksh Prajapati, son of the creator Brahma, is considered to be the pillar of Vedas, yagnas and family system. He established discipline and dignity in the society, but through the Shiva-Sati episode he also showed that love dies due to harshness. His life message for today's generation is - "Duty, tolerance and balance are the form of true religion. In the Indian Vedic tradition, "Daksha Prajapati" is a name that is associated with the beginning of creation. Brahma ji's Manas Putra, the best among Prajapatis, whose name itself is a symbol of 'Daksha' meaning 'skill'. Guru Daksha was not only a sage or creator, he is also considered to be the originator of Vedas, Yajna, discipline, dignity and family value system. In the Vedas, Puranas and Upanishads, he is not mentioned as a deity, but as a sage whose life was exemplary and whose vision of life still guides social balance and morality.

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

Daksha Prajapati holds the highest title of Yagyacharya in the Vedic tradition. The purpose of Yagya, which we know as a rit-

ual or religious act, was not just to please the gods, but to maintain natural and social balance. In Daksha's Yagyas, special attention was paid to the recitation of Vedic verses, decorum and rules. He established Yagya in the society not just as a ritual, but as a social duty.

Family dignity vs. personal ego
The life of Guru Daksha is like a wonderful philosophical treatise. The chapter where he opposed the marriage of his daughter Sati and Shiva sheds deep light on our social psychology. Daksha did not accept Shiva's antisocial, ash-wearing, crematorium-dwelling nature. He considered a life of dignity, discipline, and in accordance with the rules of the Vedas to be the best. Whereas Shiva was a free yogi, a neutral Mahadev, who was beyond this tradition and was beyond social norms.

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

The story of destruction of Yagya: symbols and message

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

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

The author is a Research Scholar in Political Science, Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Ubba Bhawan, Aryanagar, Hisar (Haryana)-127045.



CS reviews implementation of welfare schemes for marginalized sections across J&K

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to review the implementation of various welfare schemes meant for marginalized and vulnerable sections of the society across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Social Welfare Department (SWD), Anil Kumar Singh; Secretary in SWD; Mission Director, ICDS/ICPS/Mission Vatsalya; Chairperson, Juvenile Justice Board (JJB); Director, Social Welfare, Jammu/Kashmir; District Social Welfare Officers (DSWOs) and other senior officials of the department.

The Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need to upgrade all the Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) with basic facilities such as electricity, drinking water, toilets and other utilities. He directed for according priority to those centres housed in government-owned buildings through convergence with departments like Rural Development. He also asked for shifting of



centres operating from private premises lacking such infrastructure.

Reviewing the outreach and impact of various flagship programmes, Dulloo laid emphasis on monitoring the outcomes of nutrition-based interventions targeting the children, adolescent girls and lactating mothers under the Poshan Scheme. He stressed that tracking measurable outcomes is critical for ensuring real progress at the grassroots level.

The Chief Secretary also called upon the Programme Officers and DSWOs to frequently conduct field visits to assess on-ground realities and align their actions with actual needs. He remarked that all decisions should stem from field-level insights and reflect the actual realities of our

people.

In a forward-looking suggestion, Dulloo asked the department to explore the concept of Composite Homes in districts to house the orphaned children, elderly citizens and the destitute women together, providing them with a sense of community and shared care, reducing isolation.

Providing an overview of the department's scope and responsibilities, Principal Secretary Anil Kumar Singh informed that the Social Welfare Department is currently implementing 37 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and 9 UT schemes, backed by a budgetary allocation of Rs 4,361 crore for the year 2025-26. He highlighted the presence of around 28,000 Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across the UT, which cater to nearly 9

lakh beneficiaries, ensuring last-mile delivery of services.

The Principal Secretary also presented a detailed account of the current status, outcomes and future roadmap of various schemes under the department's ambit. Mission Directors and Directors briefed the Chief Secretary on the functioning and implementation status of their respective schemes and programmes.

The meeting comprehensively reviewed key initiatives under Mission Poshan (7 schemes), focusing on improving the nutritional levels among children and others. Mission Shakti (6 schemes) aimed at empowering the women ensuring their safety, empowerment and protection. Mission Vatsalya (7 schemes) focuses on institutional care and

protection for different sections of the society in need.

Other centrally sponsored schemes discussed included SMILE (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise), Atal Vayo Abhyudaya Yojana (AVYAY) and SAPSrC, PM-AJAY (Prime Minister's Anusuchit Jaati Abhiyan Yojana), PM-YASASVI Scholarships, NAPDDR (Drug Demand Reduction), NSAP (National Social Assistance Programme), Scholarships for Minority, SC and OBC communities, ALIMCO-supported Prosthetic Aids, implementation of SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Act, NAMASTE (Sanitation Workers' Welfare), PMJVK (Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram) besides others.

The review also covered UT government schemes like ISSS (Integrated Social Security Scheme), Ladli Beti, Marriage Assistance Scheme, SC Scholarship, Homes for those in distress, Pahari Hostels, Mobility Support to Specially-abled (scooties/prosthetics), Pensions for

the needy and assistance to militancy-affected families.

As part of the ongoing efforts for the upcoming fiscal year 2025-26, the Department revealed that consolidated proposals under various centrally sponsored schemes, amounting a total of Rs 1088.75 crore stands submitted. Out of these, major schemes such as Mission Poshan and ICDS (Rs 759.67 Cr), Mission Shakti (Rs 40.79 Cr) and Mission Vatsalya (Rs 126.54 Cr) have already received approval. Additionally, proposals for PMMVY (Rs 64.39 Cr) and BBBP (Rs 6.20 Cr) have also been approved.

Several proposals have been submitted and are currently awaiting approval. These included financial allocations for the implementation of schemes under the Prevention of Atrocities Act 1989, Senior Citizen Homes, Saksham Anganwadi Centres, Creche (Palna), Pre- and Post-matric Scholarships for SC students, NAPDDR including NMBA and PM-YASASVI, the meeting was apprised.

DC Bandipora inspects Transit Camp Shadipora for Amarnath Yatris



HT NEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 12

As the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025 continues in full swing, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Saturday visited the Transit Camp Shadipora at Sumbal to take stock of arrangements for the pilgrims.

During the visit, DC interacted with officers on duty and reviewed the facilities being provided to the pilgrims, including accommodation, sanitation, drink-

ing water, and medical services. Officers briefed the DC that all arrangements were functioning smoothly and pilgrims were being provided with every necessary facility.

Meanwhile, DC also visited adjoining areas of Shadipora to address local issues. Responding to concerns raised by residents regarding irrigation problems affecting their agricultural activities, DC assured that the administration is actively working to resolve issues flagged-off, especially in the Shadipora belt.

Javid Dar visits Fruit Mandi Kanispora

HT NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JULY 12

Minister for Agriculture Production Department, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited Fruit Mandi Kanispora in Baramulla, where he interacted with members of the Fruit Growers Association, progressive orchardists and farmers to understand their issues and seek suggestions.

He was accompanied by MLA Baramulla Javid Ahmad Beigh, MLA Sopore Irshad Rasool Kar, MLA Wagoora Irfan Hafeez Lone, Director Agriculture Kashmir, Director Horticulture Kashmir, Director Command Area Development, Director Horticulture (Planning & Marketing) and other senior officers.

Reaffirming the government's commitment to farmers' welfare, the Minister assured that all concerns raised by the fruit growers would be addressed in a time-bound manner. He stated that the Agriculture Production Department is actively working to rationalize the rules and ensure strict enforcement of agricultural regulations. He added that strict penalties would be imposed on the violators to ensure accountability.



The Minister also announced that a state of the art testing laboratory is being established in Baramulla, which will serve as a key facility for testing and research in the interest of the farming community. He further informed that cold storage infrastructure is being developed to reduce the post-harvest losses and improve the shelf life and marketability of horticultural produce.

Highlighting the government's broader support mechanisms, he said that Weather based Crop Insurance Scheme for fruit growers is also expected to be launched soon. This initiative aims to protect growers against natural disasters and crop failures, thereby ensuring sustainable income and resilience for the agricultural sector, he added.

Later, the Minister visited various areas of Baramulla district including Tujar Sharif, Harwan, Zaingeer, Zaloor and the rainfed areas of Bomai to assess the status of irrigation facilities.

During the field tour, he instructed the concerned departments to identify feasible locations and prepare DPRs for borewells to augment irrigation facilities in the areas.

Pertinently, the Agriculture department has rolled out a new NABARD funded scheme for setting up community borewells in rainfed areas to improve irrigation facilities. Similarly, 6200 borewells in rain-fed areas are being targeted under HADP for overall improvement of irrigation in rain-fed areas across J&K.

He emphasized the need for focused interventions in rain-fed and water-stressed areas and called for better coordination between allied departments to address gaps in irrigation and water management.

The Minister reiterated that the government is fully committed towards enhancing the irrigation infrastructure, increasing farm productivity and improving rural livelihoods across Jammu and Kashmir.

Sakeena Itoo inaugurates CRWM for Water Supply Schemes at Noorabad Kulgam

HT NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 12

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, inaugurated the Common Raw Water Main (CRWM) for three major water supply schemes including Dranbal Waripora, H N Guri and C S Rather at Dadran, Noorabad, D H Pora here today.

The project, completed with at a cost of Rs. 7.42 crore, Rs. 1.71 crore and Rs. 1.22 crore respectively, will tap raw water from two alpine lakes of Pir Panchal, Bramha Sar and Chir Sar and carry it to a water treatment plant.

Addressing a huge gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah-led government is committed towards ful-



filling the promises made to the people and is working tirelessly to ensure the prosperity, welfare and holistic development of Jammu and Kashmir. She added that the government is focused on delivering quality infrastructure and public services for people to improve their lives.

She also raised serious concern over the growing drug menace, terming it

as a grave issue that poses a threat to the fabric of society.

Highlighting the development journey over the past months, the Minister also shared various works and initiatives undertaken across sectors including education, social welfare and public infrastructure.

Sakeena said that commissioning of this vital infrastructure is expected to significantly improve

the drinking water supply to the beneficiary areas and strengthen the region's water management network.

On the occasion, several locals and public delegations interacted with the Minister and apprised her of several issues and problems of public importance.

Sakeena Itoo assured them that their genuine issues and problems will be addressed promptly.

SKUAST-Kashmir, KVK Srinagar kick-start 3-day Skill Development Training

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

KVK Srinagar organised three days ESDP on "Scientific Management of Broiler and Backyard Poultry Farming at its campus, here.

The programme aimed to equip rural youth with the necessary skills for sustainable poultry farming. The opening session began with a presentation on the overall scenario of poultry farming in J&K and futuristic strategies to make the sector a commercially viable and employment generating enterprise.

Head K V K, Dr.S.A.Simnani urged the trainees to take up poultry farming as it is self-sustaining enterprises requiring minimal investment.

During the interactive sessions with the trainees, Dr.Simnani stressed on integrating Poultry with other agricultural



practices for optimising feed efficiency and waste management practices. He emphasised the reduced use of antibiotics through adoption of biosecurity measures.

Dr.Ishtiyak A Mir, Scientist (Animal Science), delivered a comprehensive presentation on scientific management, covering breed selection, nutrition, health management, and

bio-security measures. He also provided hands-on training on feed preparation methodology as well as management of poultry manure at Kendra's Poultry/Duckery demonstration unit.

The training was attended by 24 rural youth and farmers, who gained valuable insights and hands-on experience in poultry farming practices.

Mehfil-e-Mushaira organised at Pulwama



HT NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JULY 12

Department of Information & Public Relations Pulwama, in collaboration with the District Cultural Society Pulwama, today organized a Mehfil-e-Mushaira here, celebrating the district's vibrant literary culture.

The programme was presided over by GM Dilshad, General Secretary of the District Cultural Society, while the introductory and welcome address was delivered by Shamas Siddique, President of the Society. Both speakers highlighted the significance of literary expression as a vehicle for cultural continuity and moral reflection.

An impressive lineup of

poets from across the district mesmerized the audience with their compositions in Kashmiri and Urdu, touching upon themes of spirituality, social awareness, devotion, and sacrifice.

The Mushaira also provided a platform for budding poets to showcase their talent, gain encouragement from senior writers, and engage with a wider literary audience.

The Mehfil-e-Mushaira served not only as a celebration of literary richness but also as a moment of collective remembrance and moral reflection. The poetic contributions resonated deeply with the audience, affirming the district's commitment to preserving its cultural and spiritual heritage.

DLSA Srinagar holds awareness programme on POCSO Act, drug abuse

HT NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 12

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with School Education department conducted an awareness programme on Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, and drug abuse at Govt. Girls High School Chaterhama Srinagar.

The programme, held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal



District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, aimed to sensitize students, teachers and staff of the school about the key provision of POCSO Act, 2012 and the harmful consequences of drug addiction. Speaking on the occasion, resource person Adv.

Suhaila Ali (Panel Lawyer) DLSA Srinagar highlighted the role of Legal Services in safeguarding the rights of children and explained how the POCSO Act provides the strong legal framework to deal with offences related to child abuse.

DHSJ convenes district-level review meeting of health programmes in Poonch



HT NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 12

Director Health Services Jammu, Abdul Hamid Zargar, chaired a district-level review meeting at CMO Office Poonch to evaluate health schemes and service delivery. CMO Poonch, Pervaiz Ahmed Khan presented a

detailed PPT on key indicators and achievements. Dr. Zargar reviewed performance in e-Sahaj, ambulance referrals, TB elimination, e-Sanjeevani services, NCD screening, C-section availability, oxygen plant functionality, blindness control programme, ASHA activities and IDSP monitoring via

IHIP. He appreciated the district team and issued on-spot directions to address service gaps. He emphasized community engagement, digital reporting and capacity building for field staff. The meeting concluded with a pledge to improve healthcare in remote areas.

Legal Metrology cracks whip on cement manufacturer: seizes 550 bags in Jammu, Udhampur

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 12

Acting swiftly on the directions of Controller Legal Metrology Department, Rajinder Singh Tara, the teams of Legal Metrology Department carried out special surprise inspection of trade establishments dealing with hardware and building materials. The team seized 550 bags of cement for violation of provisions of Legal Metrology laws like non-declaration of month and date of manufacture and MRP. As part of the initiative, a team headed by Legal Metrology Officers conducted major enforcement drives and unearthed serious vio-

lations at two separate locations in Jammu and Udhampur. During the inspection, cement bags of a prominent brand found lacking mandatory information like month and year of packaging. The team registered cases against the cement manufacturer and seized 300 cement bags at Jammu. In another surprise inspection at Udhampur, the team conducted raid on manufacturing premises at Battal Ballian. The team found that cement bags ready for retail dispatch were without the mandatory declaration for which the company was booked under Section 18(I) of the Legal Metrology Act, 2009 and around 250 cement bags

were seized. As per a communication issued here in this regard, the Controller Legal Metrology reaffirmed the department's commitment to consumer protection and fair trade practices. He further highlighted that the department will continue its rigorous inspections in days to come. The Controller urged upon the consumers to remain vigilant and report any irregularity found in pre-packaged goods. Proper labelling helps ensure transparency and provide consumers with accurate product information of pre-packaged commodities which discourages deceptive or fraudulent practices, he added.

DC Doda chairs meeting to discuss arrangements for Independence Day 2025 celebration



HT NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 12

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh chaired a meeting at the DC Office to review Independence Day 2025 arrangements. Present were SSP Doda Sandeep Kumar Mehta, ADDC Roshan Lal, ACR Ashraf Pervez, PO ICDS Akhtar Hussain Qazi, ACD Din Mohammad Afaqi, ACP Musharaf Ali Haif and officers from line depart-

ments. The main function will be held at Doda Sports Stadium with the flag hoisting, March Past and cultural performances. The program will start with Shehnai Vadan by the Information Department and patriotic songs will play in town as proposed by the Municipal Council. Directions were issued for cultural programs, stadium renovations, illumination of public spaces, installation of a public

address system and tricolour hoisting at Amrit Sarovars. The DC emphasized inter-departmental coordination and instructed departments on water, power, sanitation, first aid, fire safety and traffic management. The SSP assured comprehensive security arrangements. Departments were also asked to conduct plantation drives and promote the Nasha Mukh Bharat initiative during the celebration.

DC Poonch reviews PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana implementation

HT NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 12

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a review meeting to assess the implementation of the PM Surya Ghar

Muft Bijli Yojana in the district. The meeting covered progress on rooftop solar installations, application status and financial disbursements. A total of 1,125 applications have been received

under the scheme with 157 rooftop solar systems installed so far. The review included bank-wise and sub-division-wise progress, reasons for application rejections and pending cases.

Principal Secretary APD reviews progress on major schemes of Animal Husbandry department in Jammu division

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 12

Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production Department (APD), Shailendra Kumar, today chaired a review meeting here at Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tillo. The meeting was attended by Secretary in APD; Mission Director HADP/JKCIP; Directors in APD; Joint Directors; Deputy Directors; Chief Animal Husbandry Officers from all districts of Jammu division besides other senior officers of the department of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry. The meeting had detailed discussion regarding progress on various schemes and programmes under CAPEX, HADP, CSSs and NABARD of Animal Husbandry sector in Jammu division for the current financial year. Shailendra Kumar reviewed the physical and financial progress on



several key CSS schemes including Rashtriya Gokul Mission, Entrepreneurship Development under National Livestock Mission, National Animal Disease Control Programme and Nationwide Artificial Insemination Programme. A comprehensive presentation was delivered by Director Animal Husbandry Jammu, Dr. Parvinder Singh, providing an overview of district wise progress achieved under different schemes. The status of ongoing Foot and Mouth disease vaccination for cattle, buffaloes, sheep and goats under NADCP was discussed. Besides, the existing cold-chain and other vital infrastructure status

was evaluated to identify any gaps or need for additional equipment or infrastructure. Other topics included the components under Dairy Development, Poultry Development and Development of Fodder Resources of J&K UT under flagship Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). Further, the expenditures on key infrastructure projects including upgradation/ strengthening of Veterinary Hospitals at District and Sub-district levels under NABARD funding were also reviewed. The meeting was informed that the department of Animal Husbandry has completely switched over to digital mode as all

the departmental welfare schemes are now available on Kisan Saathi portal thus improving transparency and accessibility for general public. He said that reliable, easy-to access and timely information available on these portals help farmers, government field functionaries and also policy makers for informed decision making at all levels. He urged the officials to record all established projects under various components of HADP on Kisan Sathi Output Tracking app to prevent misuse of funds and ensure accountability in public spending. The Principal Secretary underscored the need for promoting the cooperative

movement in the Jammu division. He stressed that the cooperative societies are instrumental in promoting financial inclusion by providing credit to farmers and small entrepreneurs who may face difficulties in accessing conventional banking services. 'These societies play a crucial role in rural development, empower local communities and reduce socio-economic disparities', he added. He further advised the officials to increase the coverage of organized dairy sector, promote value addition of milk and develop marketing strategies to strengthen the dairy cooperative sector in the region. The Principal Secretary stressed the need for completion of all sanctioned projects at the earliest besides improving financial progress by achieving above 90% expenditures across all the works undertaken.

Dy CM inspects SDH Akhnoor, emphasises quality healthcare services

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 12

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, today visited Sub District Hospital Akhnoor and took stock of healthcare facilities available for the patients there. The Dy CM inspected various sections of the hospital and assessed the services being extended to the patients. He interacted with the patients and their attendants, seeking feedback regarding the quality of treatment and related services available at the SDH. While interacting with them, the Dy CM assured them that the government is focusing on increasing medical care facilities in rural areas so that they can get access near their vicinities. He urged the hospital authorities to ensure timely treatment, streamlined processes and patient-centric care for the patients coming from different far flung areas of the Jammu. The Dy CM asked for maintaining proper sanitation and hygiene in and around the hospital prem-



ises besides checking the availability of medicine, duty rooster and staff strength. He maintained that the government under the leadership of CM Omar Abdullah is committed to provide all modern healthcare facilities and infrastructure to the people at their door steps. Later, the Deputy Chief Minister visited the Gurudwara Tapo Asthan Sant Baba Sunder Singh Ji at Akhnoor. He paid obeisance at the Gurudwara and prayed for progress, peace and prosperity of J&K. The Gurudwara committee, on the occasion,

requested for a cantilever platform in the river Chenab, so that the people can perform the 'Asthi Visarjan' ritual in the river instead of its bank. It was informed that the DPR with an estimated cost of Rs 4.82 crore for the cantilever platform has already been submitted. Acting swiftly on the demand, the Dy CM allocated Rs 1 crore for the project and directed the department to tender for the same before 20th of July. He also asked for extra budget for beautification of Gurudwara premises and other allied works.

DDC reviews Rural Development Department performance in Poonch

HT NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 12

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a review meeting at the DC Office Complex to assess the progress of developmental works under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes being implemented by the Rural Development Department (RDD) across all blocks of the district. The meeting reviewed physical and financial achievements under key schemes including MGNREGA, PMAY-G and other community development initiatives for the financial year 2025-26. The DDC reviewed issues related to timely wage payments, Aadhaar seeding, Aadhaar-based payments and geo-tagging under various schemes. Progress under Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Capex Budget PRI Grants was also discussed.

He directed all Block Development Officers (BDOs) to commence new MGNREGA works especially in border areas without delay and ensure their timely completion. Emphasis was laid on Aadhaar linkage of Job Card holders' accounts to enhance transparency. On PMAY-G, the DDC instructed officials to begin construction of newly sanctioned houses and expedite pending units to achieve full saturation. He also called for recovery from defaulters in pending PMAY-G cases. The Assistant Commissioner Development and Assistant Commissioner Panchayat were directed to intensify monitoring of all ongoing works for timely and quality completion. The meeting was attended by ACD, ACP, District Panchayat Officer, Executive Engineer REW, Headquarter Assistant, BDOs, AEEs and JEs of the department.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where, I Mrs. /Munira Jan W/o SYED NIAZ AHMED SHAH R/o170 LAM BAGTOO, BRIEN, NISHAT 191121, J&K INDIA intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House /Home Stay under the name and style "ZABARWAN SERAI" Situated at 170 LAM BAGTOO, BRIEN, NISHAT 191121, J&K INDIA under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/ Partnership Deed/Affidavit issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.



Nukkad Natak organised to promote cleanliness and safety awareness among Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 12

A Nukkad Natak was organised at the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Token Centre, Railway Road, Jammu, to promote cleanliness and safety among pilgrims. The event was organised by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu in collaboration with District Administration Jammu. The play conveyed messages on



cleanliness, biodegradable waste use, disposal practices and following safety guidelines. The initiative was held under the directions

of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

DC Samba releases pocket-sized statistical handbook 'District at a Glance'

HT NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 12

District Development Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma, released a pocket-sized handbook titled District at a Glance, compiled by the District Statistics and Evaluation Office.

Present were Chief Planning Officer Kasturi Lal, DSEO Rupinder Kaur, ACR Ajay Bharti, Statistical Officer DSEO Office and other staff.



The publication provides a summary of key socio-economic and demographic data for 2022-23 and 2023-24. It is intended for use by planners, researchers and departments for develop-

ment initiatives.

The Deputy Commissioner appreciated the DSEO team and the cooperation of government departments for their contribution in finalizing the publication.

Troops of Gigril Bn rescues Pangolin along International Border

HT NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, JULY 11

In a heartwarming display of environmental awareness and compassion, troops of the Gigril Battalion, deployed along the International Border (IB), successfully rescued a pangolin one of the world's most endangered and heavily trafficked mammals. During routine patrolling in a forward area, alert soldiers spotted the rare creature, vulnerable and far from its natural habitat. Recognizing the ecological importance of the pangolin and the threats it faces due to illegal wildlife trafficking, the troops responded with swift and responsible action. With utmost care, the animal



was safely secured and subsequently handed over to the concerned wildlife and forest authorities for proper rehabilitation. This act underscores the Indian Army's commitment not only to national security but also to the conservation of India's rich and

diverse wildlife. This compassionate gesture by the Gigril Battalion reflects the Army's ethos of service to the nation in all forms including the protection of its natural heritage even while operating in high-alert and sensitive border areas.

Indian Army organizes Interaction with Gujjar, Bakkarwals at Daraba, Kulali, Surankote, Poonch District

HT NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 12

The Indian Army conducted an "Interaction with Gujjar & Bakkarwal" event across all villages on 12 July 2025. In continuance of its zeal to achieve greater heights in coordination with the local population, the Indian Army has always been at the forefront of maintaining cordial civil-military relations. During the interaction, various issues concerning education, health and socio-economic development were discussed. The event provided an opportunity for the Army to address the community's concerns and explore avenues for future cooperation and support. This engagement was part of Operation Sadbhavana, which aims to promote



peace, development and goodwill in the region. The initiative underscores the Indian Army's commitment to the welfare of all communities, especially those in remote and underserved areas. Community members expressed their gratitude for the Army's

efforts and appreciated the continuous support extended to them. The event witnessed the participation of 72 community members and aimed to foster stronger ties and mutual understanding between the Indian Army and these communities.

Joint mock drill on flood preparedness conducted by NHPC Salal and District Administration Reasi

HT NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 12

A joint mock drill on flood preparedness was conducted near Chenab River, Reasi, by NHPC Salal Power Station and District Administration under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, in coordination with CAPF and Police.

The drill tested the early warning system and inter-departmental coordination. Scenarios included rising water levels, medical emergencies and evac-



uations.

Quick Response Teams (QRTs) were activated and medical and evacuation drills were conducted. Departments performed designated roles, including medical aid, crowd control, transport and rescue.

Present were ACR Reasi Nitin Verma, Tehsildar Thakrakote and representatives of NHPC, Police, NDRF and SDRF.

The exercise showcased the region's readiness and public awareness regarding flood risks.

Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan: DC Kishtwar reviews progress of IEC campaign against drugs

HT NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 12

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, chaired a review meeting on the ongoing IEC campaign against drugs under Nasha Mukht JK Abhiyan.

The meeting assessed awareness activities conducted in educational institutions, panchayats and urban areas. Issues such as inadequate display of IEC materials, limited video screenings, incomplete event documentation and absenteeism of resource persons were noted.

DC directed nodal officers to ensure broader



public participation, including SMCs, Biodiversity Committees and youth volunteers. Officers were asked to upload event details promptly and ensure visibility of content.

Officers will attend a training workshop on July 14, 2025, at the DC Office, Kishtwar, to strengthen campaign implementation. DC also chaired a

District NCORD Committee meeting to review anti-drug measures and enforcement performance.

The meeting was attended by PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Sharma, ACD Kaiser Bhawani, SDM Paddar Amit Kumar, SDM Chatroo Naem Ur Rehman, District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed and other officers.

Indian Army pays Tribute to Bravehearts of J&K on 26th Anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas

HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 12

On the solemn occasion of the 26th anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas, the Indian Army paid heartfelt tribute to the valiant sons of Jammu & Kashmir who displayed unmatched courage and made the supreme sacrifice during the 1999 Kargil War. Commemorative events were held across Jammu, Kathua, RS Pura, Hiranagar and Mendhar to honor these heroes and acknowledge the unwavering spirit of their families.

From the 13 Jammu & Kashmir Rifles (Kargil), Major Ajay Singh Jasrotia, Sena Medal, Lance Naik Harish Pal, Sena Medal and Havildar Jagan Nath laid down their lives in the treacherous heights of Kargil. Fighting against all odds they led from the front and carved a legacy of heroism that continues to inspire generations.

From the 12 Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry, Havildar A.B. Kareem, Havildar Daler Singh, Havildar Rajinder Singh, Rifleman Ravinder Singh, Lance Havildar Yougal Kishore, Rifleman Rattan Chand, Naik Surjeet Singh and Naik Pawan Kumar displayed extraordinary valor across various battlefronts. Their bravery, unity and sacrifice played



a crucial role in turning the tide of the war.

The 8 Sikh Regiment's Subedar Ravail Singh, Sena Medal and Sepoy Balwinder Singh fought fiercely at strategic locations such as Tiger Hill, forcing the enemy into retreat. Their valor remains etched in the collective memory of a grateful nation.

From the 9 Mahar Regiment, Sepoy Raman Kumar made the ultimate sacrifice during intense enemy offensives, standing tall in the face of danger.

In the 18 Grenadiers, Havildar Madan Lal, Vir Chakra and Gunner Swaran Singh, Sena Medal, fought till their last breath, defending the motherland with unmatched devotion and courage.

From the 28 Rashtriya Rifles, Rifleman Manzoor Hussain laid down his life in counter-terror opera-

tions, exemplifying the spirit of duty beyond the battlefield.

Special outreach and tribute events were held in the hometowns of these bravehearts. The Indian Army visited their families, presenting them with mementoes and letters of gratitude—symbols of a nation's everlasting respect. These moments were not mere ceremonies but profound gestures of remembrance and honor.

An Army officer remarked, "These stories of valor are not just a part of history—they are the soul of our nation." As India marks 26 years of Kargil victory, the sacrifices of Major Jasrotia, Subedar Ravail Singh, Havildar Madan Lal and all their comrades remain a living flame of courage, duty and patriotism.

Jai Hind. Vande Mataram.

Notification for Haj 1447 (Hijri)/2026 (CE) issued

HT NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 12

The District Administration Ramban informs Haj aspirants that the Haj Committee of India

(HCoI) has invited online applications for Haj 1447 (H) - 2026 (CE) from 7th July to 31st July 2025.

Applicants must read the guidelines and undertakings on www.hajcom-

DLSA Jammu conducts inspection of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal



HT NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 12

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the guidance of Y.P. Bournay, Chairman DLSA Jammu and Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu and the supervision of Smriti Sharma, Sub Judge and Secretary DLSA Jammu, conducted an inspection of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu today.

The visit began with a plantation drive aimed at promoting a greener and healthier environment within the jail premises. The drive was carried out by the Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu along with Smriti Sharma, Secretary DLSA Jammu, Veerinder Kumar Bhat, Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal and Anil Sharma, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu.

Following the drive, the team inspected the jail to assess living conditions, health facilities, legal aid availability, and the overall welfare of inmates, in line with directives from the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and provisions under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987.

The inspection included direct interaction with under trial, detenu and convict prisoners in the jail's ground area to get a firsthand understanding of the facilities available. Key areas inspected included the Jail Legal Aid Clinic, virtual VC rooms, inter-

view area, prisoner calling system, hospital, kitchen and barracks.

The medical centre and hospital were thoroughly checked and the team reviewed the quality of food prepared for inmates. Inmates' concerns and grievances were heard attentively, offering them a platform to provide feedback on services extended by DLSA Jammu.

During the inspection, certain areas of the jail premises were identified as needing renovation. On-the-spot directions were issued to the Superintendent of Central Jail Kot Bhalwal to raise the matter with the appropriate authority.

As part of the initiative, the Principal District and Sessions Judge Jammu also reviewed cases related to the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC). The next UTRC meeting is scheduled for July 15 to assess cases of under-trial prisoners eligible for release under legal provisions, including Section 436A of the CrPc and those who may benefit from legal aid or plea bargaining.

This initiative aims to reduce overcrowding in jails, promote speedy trials and ensure justice for prisoners from economically or socially disadvantaged backgrounds. The judiciary remains committed to upholding constitutional rights and ensuring fair and humane treatment of individuals in custody.

CO 9 JAK LI listens problems of ex-servicemen



HT NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, JULY 12

An interactive conference was organised by the Commanding Officer of 9 JAK LI with ex-servicemen, Veer Naris and widows today. Brigadier DN Sharma, Brigade Commander, 52 Brigade was the Chief Guest. Most of the members of Ex-Servicemen Welfare Association Akhnoor attended it and President of the Association, Veteran S. Lakhbir Singh discussed the grievances of the ex-servicemen. Addressing the gathering, the Brigade Commander said,

To our ex-servicemen: You may have retired, but your contribution continues to inspire the ranks every day. Your discipline, valour and dedication laid

the foundation on which the Indian Army stands today. We are committed to ensure that you get all the entitled benefits, pension, medical aid through ECHS, and assistance in rehabilitation and employment opportunities and to the Veer Naris, he said,

You are not alone - you are an inseparable part of the Army. We are here to support you in every possible way - whether it is a pension issue, legal aid, housing assistance, or emotional well-being. We salute your patience and promise that the sacrifice of your loved ones will never be forgotten. A wonderful lunch was served and the Brigade Commander met everyone in the conference one by one.

mittee.gov.in before applying. They must have a Machine-Readable International Passport issued on or before 31st July 2025 and valid at least up to 31st December

2026. Applications can be submitted via www.hajcommittee.gov.in or through the official app "HAJ SUVIDHA" available on iOS and Android.

New gene therapy shows potential for restoring hearing loss

IANSS
NEW DELHI

In a significant scientific breakthrough, an international team of researchers has developed a novel gene therapy that can improve hearing in children and adults with congenital deafness or severe hearing impairment.

In the study, Swedish and Chinese used gene therapy and improved hearing in 10 patients, and the treatment was well-tolerated.

“This is a huge step forward in the genetic treatment of deafness, one that can be life-changing for children and adults,” said Maoli Duan, consultant and docent at the Department of Clinical Science, Intervention and Technology, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden.

The study, published in the journal Nature Medicine, comprised 10 patients between the ages of 1 and 24 at five hospitals in China, all of whom had



a genetic form of deafness or severe hearing impairment caused by mutations in a gene called OTOF.

These mutations cause a deficiency of the protein otoferlin, which plays a critical part in transmitting auditory signals from the ear to the brain.

The gene therapy involved using a synthetic adeno-associated virus (AAV) to deliver a functional version of the OTOF gene to the inner ear via

a single injection through a membrane at the base of the cochlea called the round window.

The gene therapy worked rapidly and helped the majority of the patients to recover some hearing in just a month.

A six-month follow-up showed considerable hearing improvement in all participants, with the average volume of perceptible sound improving from 106 decibels to 52.

The younger patients, especially those between the ages of five and eight, responded best to the treatment.

One of the participants, a seven-year-old girl, quickly recovered almost all her hearing and was able to hold daily conversations with her mother four months afterward. However, the therapy also proved effective in adults.

“Smaller studies in China have previously shown positive results in children, but this is the first time that the method has been tested in teenagers and adults, too,” Duan said.

“Hearing was greatly improved in many of the participants, which can have a profound effect on their life quality. We will now be following these patients to see how lasting the effect is,” the expert said.

Importantly, the results also show that the treatment was safe and well-tolerated.

New pocket-sized sensor to detect asthma, lung damage causing sulphur dioxide

IANSS
NEW DELHI

Scientists from the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences (CeNS), Bengaluru, have developed a new low-cost sensor that can help detect toxic sulphur dioxide (SO2) gas responsible for respiratory irritation, asthma attacks, and long-term lung damage, at extremely low concentrations, said the Ministry of Science and Technology.

CeNS, Bengaluru is an autonomous institute of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), under the Ministry.

SO2 is a toxic air pollutant commonly released from vehicles and industrial emissions, and even minute exposure can cause serious health issues and long-term lung damage. It is hard to detect before it has an adverse effect on health.

While real-time monitoring of SO2 levels is



essential for human health and environment existing technologies are often expensive, energy-intensive, or unable to detect the gas at trace levels.

The team fabricated the sensor by combining two metal oxides -- nickel oxide (NiO) and neodymium nickelate (NdNiO3), through a simple synthesis process.

“While NiO acts as the receptor for the gas, NdNiO3 serves as the

transducer that efficiently transmits the signal, enabling detection at concentrations as low as 320 ppb, far surpassing the sensitivity of many commercial sensors,” said the researchers, led by Dr. S. Angappane.

Angappane and team also developed a portable prototype that incorporates the sensor for real-time SO2 monitoring.

“The prototype features a straightforward threshold-based alert

system that activates visual indicators, green for safe, yellow for warning, and red for danger, allowing easy interpretation and response, even by users without scientific expertise,” said the researcher, in the paper published in the journal Small.

The sensor is compact and lightweight, which makes it suitable for use in industrial areas, urban locations, and enclosed spaces where continuous air quality monitoring is necessary.

“With its high sensitivity, portability, and user-friendly operation, this sensor system offers a practical solution to monitor and manage SO2 pollution, supporting public health and environmental safety,” said the team, while highlighting the potential of material science to create accessible technologies for real-world challenges.

Traditional medicine crucial to achieving global goals of Universal Health Coverage: Ayush Ministry

IANSS
NEW DELHI

Global goals like Universal Health Coverage (UHC) can only be met when traditional medicine becomes an essential part of the national health policy and wellness delivery, said Dr. Kashinath Samagandi, Director, Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, Ministry of Ayush.

Speaking at the third conference on beauty, wellness, and traditional medicine organised by ASSOCHAM, Samagandi said India's holistic health future lies in combining traditional medicine with modern policy and practice.

“Holistic health is a fundamental right and to truly achieve it, India must integrate traditional systems into the core of its healthcare framework,” he added.

The conference brought together key stakeholders from the industry and



policy tables to deliberate on the theme.

“Beauty and wellness are not just about appearance; they are a reflection of balance, harmony, and inner well-being. By aligning nature, science, and self-care, we don't just

enhance how we look, we elevate how we feel and live,” said Dr. Blossom Kochhar, co-chairperson, ASSOCHAM National Wellness Council and Chairperson.

“By working together -- industry, academia,

and government -- we can ensure safe, high-quality solutions that build trust, foster global leadership, and make a positive impact on millions of lives, both here and around the world,” added Suresh Garg, CMD, Zeon Lifesciences.

The experts also emphasised the need for standardisation of beauty and cosmetic products to ensure consumer safety and reinforce market credibility.

“By adhering to regulatory benchmarks like those set by CDSCO and BIS, the industry not only protects public health but also empowers Indian brands to compete confidently at home and abroad,” said Vikas Tiwari, Lead - Regulatory Affairs-HPC, Reliance Retail.

Deliberations at the conference centered on the immense potential that India's beauty and wellness heritage holds to lead the global shift toward holistic wellness.

the younger patients, especially those between the ages of five and eight, responded best to the treatment.

One of the participants, a seven-year-old girl, quickly recovered almost all her hearing and was able to hold daily conversations with her mother four months afterward. However, the therapy also proved effective in adults.

“Smaller studies in China have previously shown positive results in children, but this is the first time that the method has been tested in teenagers and adults, too,” Duan said.

“Hearing was greatly improved in many of the participants, which can have a profound effect on their life quality. We will now be following these patients to see how lasting the effect is,” the expert said.

Importantly, the results also show that the treatment was safe and well-tolerated.

Should anti-ageing medicines be banned in India?

IANSS
NEW DELHI

In the wake of the untimely death of actress Shefali Jariwala that raised concerns over the effects of cosmetic procedures, experts said that although the anti-ageing medicines have gained significant popularity, these are mostly unregulated and pose severe health risks.

Shefali, widely known for her breakout performance in the iconic 2002 music video 'Kaanta Laga', passed away in Mumbai on June 27. She was 42.

Preliminary reports suggest cardiac arrest behind her death. However, reports also reveal the usage of a cocktail of anti-ageing injections, allegedly self-administered while fasting.

“Anti-ageing medicine is becoming very popular but it's mostly unregulated. Many of these products are sold without proper scientific studies to prove they work. Some



may even have harmful side effects, especially if taken for long periods,” former AIIMS Director Dr Randeep Guleria, said.

“Anti-ageing is not a scientific term. Such products do not reverse or stop natural ageing. Skin whitening is possible with certain medications, but that is not the same as anti-ageing,” added Rajeev Jayadevan, Convener, Research Cell, Kerala State IMA.

Media reports citing police investigation noted

that Shefali was using skin whitening and anti-ageing treatments, particularly glutathione and Vitamin C for about eight years without active medical supervision after an initial consultation.

“When a medication is given as an IV injection, it bypasses the natural protection offered by gut absorption and liver metabolism. Thus, the drug may reach very high concentrations in blood and tissues,” Jayadevan, said.

said. “IV medications must be carefully regulated and contamination avoided at all costs,” he added.

The expert also noted “reports from Australia and Philippines about contamination of IV glutathione vials with toxins and also serious side effects of such products”.

India is currently seeing a rapid rise in the cosmetic race. According to the latest ISAPS Global Survey, India ranked among the top 10 countries globally for aesthetic/cosmetic procedures, trailing only global leaders like the US, Brazil, and Japan.

“There is definitely a need to regulate such medicines. If there's no proper evidence about their safety or usefulness, and they are found to be harmful, then yes -- they should be banned. The same applies to other medicines, like muscle-building drugs that are often misused,” Guleria said.

Study shows cancer in childhood may raise risk of severe Covid in adults

IANSS
NEW DELHI

While medical advances are boosting the survival rate of cancer in childhood, the survivors could be at a higher risk of developing severe Covid-19 as adults, according to a new study published in the journal The Lancet Regional Health-Europe.

The study from Karolinska Institutet in Sweden showed that health risks may remain long after treatment has ended.

The results show that childhood cancer survivors had a lower risk of contracting Covid but were 58 per cent more likely to develop severe disease if they did become infected.

Severe Covid was defined as the patient receiving hospital care, intensive care, or death related to the infection.

“It is important to understand that even



though these individuals were not infected more often, the consequences were more serious when they did become ill,” said Javier Louro, a postdoctoral researcher at the

Institute of Environmental Medicine at Karolinska.

The team investigated how adult childhood cancer survivors in Sweden and Denmark were affected by the Covid

pandemic.

The study included over 13,000 people who had been diagnosed with cancer before the age of 20 and who were at least 20 years old when the pandemic began.

They were compared with both siblings and randomly selected individuals from the population of the same gender and year of birth.

The differences in risk were particularly clear during periods of high transmission, such as when new virus variants such as alpha and omicron spread rapidly.

“Our results suggest that childhood cancer survivors should be considered a risk group in future pandemics or other health crises,” Louro, said.

“This could involve prioritising them for vaccination or offering special protection during periods of high transmission,” the researcher added.

NEW DELHI

Women with poor cardiovascular health may be at a higher risk of developing gestational diabetes and coronary artery calcium (CAC) in midlife, according to a study.

CAC refers to the build-up of calcium deposits in the walls of the coronary arteries, which supply blood to the heart. It is a significant indicator of heart disease risk.

The findings, published in JAMA Cardiology, suggest that gestational diabetes is a marker of pre-pregnancy cardiovascular health. It also underscores the importance of healthcare providers in helping patients improve their cardiovascular health both prior and after pregnancy.

“We need to optimise cardiovascular health early in the life course,” said lead author Natalie Cameron, instructor in the Department of Medicine's Division of General Inter-

Poor heart health may signal gestational diabetes risk in pregnancy: Study

IANSS
NEW DELHI

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“We need to optimise cardiovascular health early in the life course,” said lead author Natalie Cameron, instructor in the Department of Medicine's Division of General Inter-



nal Medicine at Northwestern University, US.

In the study, the investigators analysed patient data originally collected from 1985 to 2010. Of the more than 1,000 participants included in the cohort, the average age

was 28.6 years.

All participants had at least one singleton birth and did not have pre-pregnancy diabetes.

Overall, the investigators found that participants with poor pre-pregnancy cardiovascular

health compared to those with better pre-pregnancy cardiovascular health were more likely to have a pregnancy complicated by gestational diabetes and were more likely to develop CAC.

“Patients with gestational diabetes and other adverse pregnancy outcomes should follow up with a primary care provider so we can optimise heart health after pregnancy,” Cameron said.

“We need to take a good pregnancy history, ask about lifestyle behaviours such as diet and physical activity, and screen for cardiovascular disease risk factors. Then we can work with patients to help them optimise their heart health throughout their life course,” she added.

The researchers also urged revamping postpartum primary care for women with adverse pregnancy outcomes to seamlessly help patients get from obstetrics to a primary care provider.

Subject: - Grant of Registration of Paying Guest House/Home stay under the name and style "ZABARWAN SERAI" Situated at 170 LAM BAGTOO, BRIEN, NISHAT 191121, J&K, INDIA

PUBLIC NOTICE

Where, I Mrs. /Munira Jan W/o SYED NIAZ AHMED SHAH R/o170 LAM BAGTOO, BRIEN, NISHAT 191121, J&K INDIA intends to apply in the office of Prescribed Authority of Directorate of Tourism Kashmir for registration of my proposed Paying Guest House / Home Stay under the name and style "ZABARWAN SERAI" Situated at 170 LAM BAGTOO, BRIEN, NISHAT 191121, J&K INDIA under the Tourist Trade Act 1978/82/2011.

Whereas, I will submit Landownership Certificate from Concerned Tehsildar with attested photographs of the unit through Dy. Commissioner concerned, Rent/Lease Deed/Partnership Deed/Affidavit issued by concerned Sub-Registrar, Judicial Magistrate (if applicable NOC from the owner to the effect that the property can be used as Home stay), Character Certificate of the applicant from the concerned Police Station, undertaking from the owner as self declaration, Public Notice inviting objections, if any in print media, list of family members Name, Age, and Photograph self attested by owner, Photographs of the unit as mentioned in the application (each of exterior and individual bed rooms and bathrooms), Inspection report by the Committee (The recommendation of the inspection Committee shall decide whether to issue a registration to the unit or not keeping in view, the type of accommodation and amenity, adhar card.

Now before my case is processed for registration by the Prescribed Authority. The matter is hereby notified for information of general Public/ organizations for objections if any and the same should reach to the office of Prescribed Authority within a period of 7 days from the publication of this notice in leading local newspaper of the Valley. Objections received beyond the period of 7 days from the date of publication shall not be entertained and the case shall be processed under rules as per merit.

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 objection will be considered

State inchargeMASRAT IQBAL TANTARY R/O PALHALLAN PATTAN DISTTBARAMULLA

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

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

NAIB TEHSILDAR KREERI

GOVT DEGREE COLLEGE
BARAMULLA

Dept of Business
Administration

PRESENTS

Legacy to Launchpad

"CULTURAL HERITAGE MEETS E-COMMERCE
IN KASHMIR"

"Where heritage speaks and
culture dances"
"where curiosity sparks
creation"

Event date: 22 July
2025
Venue: Auditorium
& BBA
front Lawn

KASHMIR LIT
MULAKAAT GANIMAT

TRIBUTE

Abdul Rehman Azaad
Poet, Critic & Journalist

Speakers
Farooq Fayaz
Nazir Azad
Majrooh Rashid

Hosts
Dr. Shaida Bhat
Gulab Saify
Sagar Sarfraz

14th July, Monday 8pm Kashmir Time

Livestreamed on KashmirLit's & Mulakaat Ganimat's Streamyard, Kashmir Lit Youtube, Facebook pages of KashmirLit, Mulakaat Ganimat & Saaz o Awaaz, Kishwar.com, Mai mohbat baagrawo panevaani & Kashmir Television Network
Image © original creator, sourced from the internet.

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN
ADHARA AUQAF GOUSIATM
SARAFI PATELJI MUMBAI INDIA KASHMIRI LITERATURE

AHLE BAYAT -E
RASOOL
CONFERENCE
2025

Religious 13 JULY 2025 (SUNDAY) IN BURGIA ALIYA
PEERANI PEER HAZRAT SHEIKH SYED ABDUL QADIR JELANI

VENUE
PEER DASTEGER SAHAB
SARAFI PATELJI MUMBAI INDIA KASHMIRI LITERATURE
SRINAGAR

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION BEERWAH
Near: Main Town Beerwah-193411E-mail: xenrnbbeerwah@gmail.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS (for Road work/bridges/Buildings)
TWO COVER SYSTEM(above Rs. 2.50 Crores)
E-Tendering NIT No. 12-BRU of 2025-26/1958-64 Dated:-10-07-2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, e-tenders are invited on %age basis, from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K State Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works:-

S. No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (Rs. In Lacs) incl. cost of GST	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rupees)	Earnest Money CDR/FDR/BG(Rs. In Lacs)	Time of completion (Days)	Class of Contractor	Major Head of Account
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
1.	Construction of 06 roomed Double Storied Building at HSS Khag Budgam	318.64	5500	637280	36 months	AAY	UT Capex Budget 2023-24

Project Authority: = Director School Education Kashmir
Position of AAA = Accorded
Position of TS = Sanctioned
Position of Funds = Committed

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	10-07-2025
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	10-07-2025
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	12-07-2025 at 11.00 A.M in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Budgam
4.	Bid submission Start Date	14-07-2025 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	31-07-2025 upto 4.00 P.M
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	01-08-2025 at 11.00 AM in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Budgam
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, Drawings, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental website www.jktenders.gov.in as per below schedule:

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document (as mentioned above) in shape of Treasury challan Receipt (under M.H-0059) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Beerwah (Tender Inviting Authority), (The Date of Treasury Challan, must be between the date of start of bid and Bid Submission End date).
2. At the time of tendering all bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to Rs. 637280/- of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the Tender Receiving Authority i.e. Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Budgam(The Date of Earnest money must be between the date of start of bid and bid submission end date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @ 5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR/BG before the contract award. The earnest money/ bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security @ 5% of the allotted cost, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.
3. Bidders can resubmit/withdraw the bids as specified.
4. The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The Financial-bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online in the Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&B) Circle Budgam. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No.:EE/BRU/2025-26/1958-64
Dated:- 10-07-2025

DIP No:DIPK-3606/25
Received Dt-12-07-2025 |Publishing Dt-13-07-2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
(R&B) Division Beerwah

WORLD EXPO 2025 : India's Sprint Shines on Global Stage

Vande Bharat and Chenab Bridge Take Spotlight at World Expo 2025 in Osaka

New Delhi: Vande Bharat and Chenab Bridge have emerged as a star attraction at the ongoing World Expo 2025 in Osaka, Japan, drawing enthusiastic crowds and

magnificent Chenab Bridge, the world's highest Railway bridge soaring across the Chenab River in Jammu and Kashmir; the iconic Anji Khad Bridge, India's first

cable-stayed rail bridge in the challenging Himalayan terrain; the state-of-the-art Vande Bharat Express trains, known for their speed and passenger comfort; and many more latest advancements in electric locomotives underscore India's commitment to sustainable mobility.

Several Japanese visitors gathered around the Indian Railways exhibit, keenly listening to presentations about the genesis of one of the world's largest Rail networks and its incredible transformation over the decades. The blend of engineering marvels and sustainable technology left many in awe. Visitors have

praised not only the scale of the projects but also India's vision of integrating modern infrastructure with environmental consciousness.

The theme for the Expo 2025 is "Designing Future Society for Our Lives", with three sub-themes, namely - Saving Lives,



high praise from Japanese visitors for its remarkable journey of modernisation and technological innovation.

Held at Yumeshima, an artificial island on Osaka's waterfront, the World Expo 2025 opened its doors on April 13 and will continue till October 13, welcoming millions of visitors from across the globe. Amid the vibrant international exhibits, the Indian Pavilion, particularly the section dedicated to Indian Railways, has become a focal point of admiration.

In the showcase, the



Empowering Lives and Connecting Lives , beautifully aligns with Indian Railways' vision of delivering safe, inclusive and sustainable transportation. Through interactive sessions and immersive digital displays, Indian Railways is actively engaging global audiences, reinforcing its image as a modern, innovative and eco-conscious mobility leader.



Engines shut down due to fuel 'cutoff' within seconds leading to Jun 12 crash : Probe

UNI
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

A Preliminary report on the Air India flight AI171 crash in Ahmedabad on June 12 today revealed that fuel cutoff switches were moved from 'run' to 'cutoff' within a second of each other which led to the tragedy.

The crash led to 1270 people losing their lives.

The report reveals that within 90 seconds of take off, both engines of the aircraft shut down unexpectedly during the initial climb leading to a loss of thrust and rapid descent. After the switches of both engines flipped, the Boeing 787 Dreamliner immediately shut down mid-air seconds after take-off and began to lose thrust and sink down, the report by India's Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AIB) said.

"The aircraft achieved the maximum recorded airspeed of 180 Knots IAS at about 08:08:42 UTC and immediately thereafter, Engine 1 and Engine 2 fuel cutoff switches transitioned from RUN to CUTOFF position one after another with a time gap of 01 sec. The Engine N1 and N2 began to decrease from their take-off values as the fuel supply to the engines was cut off," the 15-page report said.

The pilots attempted to restart the engines by moving the fuel control switches back to the 'run' position. Engine 1 started to recover but Engine 2 was unable to arrest core speed deceleration despite



repeated attempts to reintroduce fuel and increase core speed acceleration.

The report also revealed that just seconds before the aircraft lost power and went down near Ahmedabad airport, one pilot asked the other why he had cut off fuel to the engines, the second pilot reportedly denied, saying, "did not do so."

"In the cockpit voice recording, one of the pilots is heard asking the other why he cut off. The other pilot responded that he did not do so," the report said.

"The EAFR recording stopped at 08:09:11 UTC At about 08:09:05 UTC, one of the pilots transmitted "Mayday Mayday Mayday". The Air Traffic Controller (ATC) enquired about the call sign but did not get any response and saw the aircraft crashing outside the airport boundary.

Significantly the report rules out any doubt about the fitness of the pilots to operate the ill-fated flight.

"The crew of flight AI171 arrived at the airport and underwent preflight Breath Analyzer test at 06:25 UTC and were found fit to operate the flight. The crew is seen arriving at the boarding gate in the CCTV

recording at about 07:05 UTC (12:35 IST)."

It also rules out any shortage of fuel or bird activity in the adjoining areas.

"Fuel on board was 54,200 Kgs and as per the load and trim sheet of the flight, the Take-off Weight was 2,13,401 Kgs (Max. allowed -2,18,183 Kgs). The take-off weight was within allowable limits for the given conditions."

"There was no 'Dangerous Goods' on the aircraft." The report also ruled out any bird activity saying "No significant bird activity is observed in the vicinity of the flight path."

Boeing in its initial reaction to the catastrophe said they would "continue to support" the investigation and the customers. The aviation company said it would defer to the AIB probe to provide information about AI 171, id adherence with the United Nations International Civil Organization Protocol.'

"Our thoughts remain with the loved ones of the passengers Nd crew on board Air India Flight 171 as well as everyone affected on the ground in Ahmedabad. We continue to support the investigation

and our customer. We will defer to the AAIB to provide information about AI 171 in adherence with the United Nations International Protocol known as Annex 13,' it said in a statement.

Air India in a statement acknowledged that it had received the preliminary report by AAIB and is working closely with stakeholders and would continue to fully cooperate with AAIB and other authorities as their investigation progresses.

"We stand in solidarity with the families and those affected by the AI171 accident. We continue to mourn the loss and are fully committed to providing support during this difficult time. We acknowledge receipt of the preliminary report released by the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) today, 12 July 2025. Air India is working closely with stakeholders, including regulators. We continue to fully cooperate with the AAIB and other authorities as their investigation progresses."

Air India, however, did not comment on the findings of the report saying "Given the active nature of the investigation, we are unable to comment on specific details and refer all such enquiries to the AAIB."

The Report said "Investigation is continuing and the investigation team will review and examine additional evidence, records and information that is being sought from the stakeholders."

HT-NATIONAL

UNI
NEW DELHI, JULY 12

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today expressed pride and joy over the inclusion of the Maratha military landscapes of India in the UNESCO World Heritage List.

He also urged the citizens to visit the inscribed heritage of 12 historic forts, 11 located in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu.

In a statement, the Prime Minister highlighted the enduring legacy of the Maratha empire, describing it as synonymous with good governance, military prowess, cultural pride, and a deep commitment to social wel-



fare. "Great rulers inspire us with their refusal to bow to any injustice," he remarked.

Urging citizens to visit these forts, the Prime Minister emphasised the importance of engaging with India's rich historical and cultural heritage.

Modi also recalled his 2014 visit to Raigad Fort,

sharing a photograph in which he paid tribute to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. He described the visit as a cherished memory.

Responding to a social media post by UNESCO announcing the inscription, the Prime Minister stated:

"Every Indian is elated with this recognition.

These 'Maratha Military Landscapes' include 12 majestic forts, 11 of which are in Maharashtra and one in Tamil Nadu. When we speak of the glorious Maratha empire, we associate it with good governance, military strength, cultural pride, and emphasis on social welfare. The great rulers inspire us with their refusal to bow to any injustice. I call upon everyone to go visit these forts and learn about the rich history of the Maratha empire."

He shared photographs from his visit to Raigad Fort, noting, "Had the opportunity to bow to Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Will always cherish that visit."

NIA arrests key conspirator in ISIS Pune sleeper module case

UNI
PUNE, JULY 12

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) has arrested a suspected terrorist associated with the Islamic State (ISIS) in connection with a planned terror conspiracy.

NIA in a statement today said that the 11th accused Rizwan Ali, along with the 10 other accused, had conspired to commit a series of terror acts to destabilize the country and spread communal disharmony.

The accused, Rizwan Ali, is known by multiple names Sami Ali, Abul Salina, and Danish, was apprehended from Lucknow.

He is a resident of the Daryaganj area in Delhi.

The arrest comes as part of an ongoing investigation into attempts to carry out terror attacks across major Indian cities including Pune and Mumbai.

The case first surfaced in 2023 when two individuals were arrested in Pune's Kothrud area in connection with a motorcycle theft. During the probe, authorities discovered their involvement in a larger terror plot, including plans to launch attacks across the country. Further investigation revealed that the duo had

been residing in the Kondhwa area of Pune.

A police raid at their residence in Kondhwa led to the seizure of bomb-making materials and documents containing sensitive information related to key defence establishments of the city. Initially handled by the Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), the case was later transferred to the NIA.

Upon taking over the investigation, the NIA discovered the accused had links with ISIS operatives active in Pune, Mumbai,

and Thane. It was also found that these individuals were trying to radicalize and recruit local youth into the terror network. A case was filed by the NIA against 11 suspects, including a doctor from Pune.

Rizwan Ali had been on the run since the case was registered. He was actively involved in training others in the use of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and firearms. His arrest is considered a significant breakthrough in the Pune terror conspiracy case.

In addition to Rizwan Ali, ten others have been named in the charge sheet filed under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA).



CJI Gavai urges lawyers to uphold integrity, mental health, and inclusion

UNI
HYDERABAD, JULY 12

Chief Justice of India (CJI) Justice Bhushan Ramkrishna Gavai, CJI was delivering the convocation address at the 22nd Annual Convocation of NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad today.

During his address he urged the legal fraternity to uphold integrity, remain grounded in legal fundamentals, seek mentorship, and prioritise mental well-being.

Praising NALSAR's journey since its inception in 1998, Justice Gavai described the institution as a beacon of legal scholarship in South Asia.

"NALSAR has carved a distinct identity not just in India but across the region, with its academic excellence and commitment to the spirit of law," he said, highlighting its research in areas like disability rights, gender justice, tribal rights, law and technology, and constitutional governance.

He acknowledged the achievements of NALSAR alumni many of whom subsequently became senior advocates in the High Courts and the Supreme Court, legal scholars, policy experts, and international researchers. "Today, you are not just receiving degrees- you are joining a living tradition of impact and integrity," he told the graduates.

Justice Gavai offered



candid advice about the challenges of the legal profession. "It is noble and important- but never easy. You will often question yourself and face pressures, but your belief, persistence, and presence will keep you going," he said.

Highlighting the often-overlooked issue of mental health, he called it a vital strategy for survival in the legal world. "This profession can be emotionally isolating and mentally demanding. Self-care is not indulgence-it is preservation," he said, quoting activist Audre Lorde.

He also addressed structural inequalities in the legal system. Citing global research, he noted that access to opportunity often depends more on institutional pedigree than on merit. "This is unfair, but real. We must

confront this reality without accepting it," he said, urging the profession to become more inclusive and equitable.

Encouraging students to build strong legal foundations, he emphasised the importance of mastering the basics- constitutional law, contract law, civil and criminal procedure. "There is no shortcut to legal excellence," he said. "Trends will come and go, but clarity in fundamentals will carry you through."

Speaking on mentorship, he called it a game-changer. "Not everything can be learned from books or judgments. Some lessons are passed on through conversation, guidance, and encouragement," he said. "Seek mentors with integrity, and one day, become a mentor yourself."

Justice Gavai also advised students to carefully consider foreign education. "A foreign degree is not a stamp of worth. Do not put yourself or your family under financial stress for validation," he said, advocating for thoughtful planning over peer pressure.

Calling for investment in India's postgraduate legal education and research, he said, "We must build nurturing academic ecosystems that retain and welcome talent, restore dignity to legal research, and offer transparent opportunities."

He ended his address with heartfelt advice to the graduates: "Never ignore five things- friends, family, books, hobbies, health, and imagination. The law is not just a profession- it is a canvas to express, reform, and heal."

The convocation was presided over by Justice Sujoy Paul, Acting Chief Justice of the Telangana High Court and Chancellor of NALSAR. Telangana Chief Minister A Revanth Reddy and Supreme Court Judge Justice P S Narasimha graced the ceremony as Guests of Honour.

Several other judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, along with Telangana Ministers, were present at the convocation, celebrating the achievements of graduating students, postgraduates, and Ph.D. scholars.

Kerala has devised several strategies to contain Nipah: Dr. Rajan Khobragade

UNI
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 12

In view of the rising Nipah cases, the Health Department in Kerala has devised and implemented several strategies across the state to contain the epidemic, said Dr. Rajan Khobragade, Additional Chief Secretary, Health and Family Welfare.

Dr. Khobragade made these remarks while inaugurating an international conference on 'Nipah and Other Zoonotic Spillovers- Integrating Health Strategies for Prevention' held here yesterday and emphasized the need for collaboration.

Pointing out the state Government's commitment to detecting and containing epidemics that have affected the state since 2019, he highlighted the importance of One Health concept in the current scenario and sought support from institutions such as the Institute of Advanced Virology to strengthen the public health system in the state.

The conference was organized in collaboration with the Department of Infectious Diseases, Government Medical College, Thiruvananthapuram, and the Kerala One Health Centre for Nipah Research and Resilience.

Dr. Simmi Tiwari, Joint Director of the National

Centre for Disease Control, congratulated the Government of Kerala for establishing the Institute of Advanced Virology (IAV), stating that the institute has already made a mark in the field of virology and can significantly contribute to improving public health and epidemic preparedness in both the state and the country.

She emphasized the need to expand diagnostic facilities for the timely detection of zoonotic spillover infections that frequently impact the state.

Sessions on various topics were delivered by eminent international and national experts, including Dr. Emily Gurley, Professor of the Practice, Infectious Disease Epidemiology, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, USA; Dr. Vidya Arankalle, National Institute of Virology, Pune; Dr. Guruprasad R. Medigeshi, Professor, IISER Tirupati; Dr. Sobha Mammen, Professor, CMC Vellore; Dr. Ummer Karadan, Baby Memorial Hospital, Kozhikode; Dr. Sheen Job, Consultant, Union Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; Dr. Biju Soman, Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology; Dr. Sreelekshmi M, National Institute of Virology, Pune; and Dr. Jon Epstein, Epidemiologist, One Health Science, USA.

ED files supplementary chargesheet against MLA in MSCB laundering case

UNI
MUMBAI, JULY 12

Troubles mounted for NCP (Sharad Pawar faction) MLA Rohit Pawar as the Enforcement Directorate (ED) filed a supplementary chargesheet against him in connection with the Maharashtra State Cooperative Bank (MSCB) scam.

The chargesheet has been submitted under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), in a special court in Mumbai.

The court has yet to take cognizance of the supplementary chargesheet. The development is seen as a major blow to the Pawar family, a prominent political dynasty in Maharashtra.

Before filing the chargesheet, the ED had already attached assets worth over rupees 50 crore belonging to Rohit Pawar's company, Baramati Agro.

In January 2023, the ED conducted raids at several locations, including premises linked to Baramati Agro. Subsequently, Rohit Pawar, who represents the Karjat-Jamkhed constituency, was summoned to the ED's Mumbai office for questioning.

In March 2023, the ED provisionally attached assets worth Rs 50.20 crore, which included 161.30 acres of land in Kannad (Aurangabad district), a sugar factory, machinery, and buildings. The ED alleges that the properties originally belonged to Kannad Cooperative Sugar Factory Ltd. (Kannad SSK) and were acquired by Baramati Agro through a "fraudulent auction process."

The agency contends that these properties represent "proceeds of crime" and that the acquisition violates anti-money laundering laws.

Four killed as car hits goods-laden truck in West Medinipur

UNI
KOLKATA, JULY 12

Four people were killed when their Scorpio on a high speed jumped the divider and fell on the other lane on NO 16 NH and hit a tomato-laden truck at Rani Sarai under Belda in West Bengal's West Medinipur, police said today. All the victims, the residents of Asansol in West Burdman, were the occupants of Scorpio, which turned into a mangle of scrap by the impact of the violent accident. Only one occupant was identified as Atanu Guha. All the victims were taken to Belda hospital where medics declared all dead. The accident happened around 6 am when the victims were travelling towards Baleswar in Odisha and the truck on the other lane was heading in the opposite direction.

Joe Root Suggests Cap on Ball Change Requests

■ United News of India

LONDON: Joe Root has proposed that each team be given three chances to swap the ball over the course of 80 overs in a bid to ease frustration over the repeated changing of the Dukes ball during England's home Test series with India. His suggestion, at the end of the second day's play in the third Test at Lord's, came after India had expressed their displeasure with the replacement for the second new ball, which came after just 10.3 overs of use. Jasprit Bumrah had taken three wickets in his first 14 deliveries with the original, but his side was unable to take another during the first session with Jamie Smith and Brydon Carse at the crease.

The ball was changed again, 48 deliveries after the previous change, the incident adding to criticism of the Dukes ball during this series, and dating back five years, over its loss of shape and becoming soft too quickly.

"I personally think that if you want to keep getting the ball changed then each team gets three challenges every 80 overs and that's it, if you want to get it changed," Root said when asked about the issue at the close of play. "But

the rings have to be the right size, not too big.

"That would be a nice way of compromising and saying it's not all on the manufacturer. Sometimes these things happen but you can't just keep asking and wasting time and slowing the game down at the same time."

But Root, who had been unbeaten on 99 overnight and brought up his 37th Test century with the first ball of the morning, also suggested teams needed to adapt to conditions regardless and get on with the game.

"I don't know the ins and outs of how they make it," he said. "I do know that they're handmade so you're never going to get two balls exactly the same. I do think this summer has been a bit of an anomaly for us. We're not used to getting this much sun and this much heat and squares as hard and outfields as firm so whether that plays a part or not [I don't know]. "It's one of those things where if the balls are going out of shape, you change them, and you don't make a big deal out of it. I don't think it's the end of the world. I think it adds a different dynamic to the game and you've got to be skilful enough to adapt to the changes, whether it stops swinging or starts swinging or does a little bit more."

Over rates also came under scrutiny for a second day running. After seven overs were lost on a slow opening day, a further 15 were left unbowed when stumps were called at 6.33pm on the second evening.

"I don't want to get myself in trouble by trying to rewrite the thing but I think that's one way of policing the ball thing," Root said. "In terms of over rates, it can be quite difficult on a day like today. We're not used to this, are we? Thirty [degrees] in England feels like 45 elsewhere. But I guess just try and keep on top of it as much as you can."

Bumrah said he didn't have a clear memory of the ball being changed during his two previous tours of England in 2018 and 2021 or the two World Test Championship finals he has played.

"The ball changes, I don't really control that," Bumrah said. "Obviously I don't really want to lose out on money because I worked very hard, I bowled a lot of overs, so I don't want to say any controversial statement and get my match fees deducted. But we were bowling with the ball that we were given and that's how it is. We can't change it, we can't fight it."



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