



Srinagar

Thursday

July 17 | 2025

21 Muharram, 1447 AH

Issue No: 168

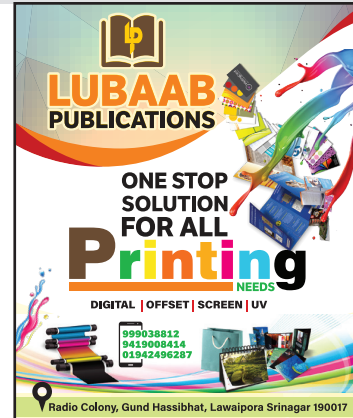
Volume: 15

Pages: 12

Price: Rs 02/-

15TH
YEAR OF
PUBLICATIONHEADLINES
TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless

PM Fulfilling Bapu's
Dream of Peaceful,
Developed J&K:
LG SinhaLG addresses seminar on "J&K's March Towards
Peace" at Gandhi Smriti, New Delhi

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed a seminar on "J&K's March Towards Peace" as part of lecture series organized by Gandhi Smriti, at New Delhi. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated a newly developed 'Gandhi Smriti Art Gallery'.

The event was also graced by former Union Minister and Vice-Chairman of Gandhi Smriti, Shri Vijay Goel.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the profound and deep bond between Mahatma Gandhi and Jammu Kashmir.

"Pujiya Bapu's philosophy is a source of inspiration for UT and our education system is inculcating the values of truth, non-violence and compassion among youth. Gandhiji saw a ray of hope in Jammu and Kashmir. Gandhiji wanted to see peace and progress in Jammu and Kashmir. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is fulfilling the dream of Mahatma Gandhi. Since 2019, he has been building a fear-free, terror-free J&K, which would make its place among the developed states and UTs as a symbol of peace," the Lieutenant Governor said.



The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the resolve of the Government of India, Police and the security forces to completely wipe out the entire terror ecosystem and establish a lasting peace in Jammu Kashmir.

"Our policy is peace, driven by the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. We believe in establishing Peace and not buying Peace. India has always followed the path of

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CM Omar Launches 'Project 13-13'
for Women's Surgical Care

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today inaugurated Project 13-13, a new healthcare initiative launched by National Hospital Jammu aimed at providing women's surgical care at a capped cost of ₹13,000.

The initiative, led by Dr. Jasbir Kaur and her team, is intended to support women from financially weaker sections of society by making essential surgical treatments more affordable.

The event was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo and MLA for Uri Assembly constituency, Sajjad Shafi. Additionally, Mahant Manjeet Singh was also present.

Speaking at the launch event, Chief Minister Abdullah described the initiative as "a meaningful step in service of the people."



He noted that while healthcare systems face complex challenges, efforts such as this contribute to easing the burden on ordinary citizens.

"This project stands for the welfare of all," the Chief Minister said. "Its foundation rests on principles of universal service to humanity, a spirit long championed by many traditions, including the Sikh faith. It's heartening to see the community step forward once again in times of need, without distinction or

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CM Omar Addresses IIT
Jammu Summer School Finale

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today presided over the valedictory function of Summer School: 2025 at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu, marking the successful conclusion of a month-long programme

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CM Omar Unveils Badyal
Statue, Stresses Duty

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 16: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today unveiled the statue of Late Principal Kuldeep Kumar Badyal at Government Gandhi Nagar Boys Higher Secondary School, Jammu. The ceremony paid homage to the educator

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Statehood at Right Time, Trust
PM Modi: Jitendra Singh

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUL 16: Union Minister Jitendra Singh on Wednesday said that restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir will happen at an appropriate time and everyone must trust the public assurance given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on this issue.

In an exclusive video interview with

news agency, Singh also dismissed as "irrelevant" a letter written by top Congress leaders Mallikarjun Kharge and Rahul Gandhi to the prime minister seeking a legislation in the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"I think that the question doesn't carry much relevance for the simple reason

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Omar Hails
Shukla, Hopes for
Tricolour on Moon

■ United News of India

JAMMU, JUL 16 : Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday hailed the successful mission of astronaut Shubanshu Shukla aboard the International Space Station and said this is a step in the direction of hoisting the national flag on the Moon.

Abdullah also expressed satisfaction at the cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas registering a footfall of over 2.50 lakh since the beginning of the 38-day yatra on July 3, and said it was unimaginable in the aftermath of the Pahalgam attack. The April 22

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Met Issues Weather
Advisory; Warns Of Heavy
Rain, Flash Floods In J&K

■ HT News Desk / JKNS

SRINAGAR, JUL 16: The Meteorological Department Srinagar has issued an advisory for Jammu and Kashmir, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall, flash floods, and landslide risks in the coming days.

Director MET, Dr. Mukhtar Ahmad said that the weather from July 16-17 and July 21-23 is expected to remain generally cloudy, with intermittent spells of light to moderate rain/thundershowers across many parts of the Union Territory.

"Intense showers and isolated incidents of heavy to very heavy rainfall are likely during these periods," Dr. Mukhtar said.

From July 18-20, scattered to fairly widespread areas are also expected to receive light to moderate rain/thundershower activity, he added.

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Slain Basantgarh
Terrorist Was Top JeM
Commander: DGP

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JUL 16: Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said the terrorist eliminated in an encounter in Dudu-Basantgarh forest in Udhampur district was a top most commander of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Moham-

mad (JeM) outfit who was active in the area for the last four years.

Asserting that the security forces are continuing their operations to neutralise terrorists, he highlighted the good relations between police

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Amarnath Yatra Is Progressing Smoothly

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 16: Amarnath Yatra is going on seamlessly, and pilgrims are taking darshans of Baba Barfani without any interruption" Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir informed today reacting

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13,000 Perform Darshan at Cave Shrine

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 16: Braving inclement weather conditions, as many as 13,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath on Wednesday, officials said.

An official informed that the pilgrims who paid

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Drones Are
New OGWs for
Terror: ISI Using
UAVs in J&K

■ United News of India

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: Drones have emerged as the new "Over Ground Workers" (OGWs) for terror groups in Jammu and Kashmir, causing concern among security agencies as this shift from human networks to unmanned aerial vehicles for surveillance and logistics marks a new frontier in the

region's security landscape, officials said here on Wednesday.

The reliance on the human network of OGWs has drastically been cut down as many of them have been arrested or have gone into hiding due to increasing pressure from the security forces, they said.

The shift from human networks to drone technology is a new frontier in

asymmetric warfare, with Pakistan's ISI also intensifying its efforts to push terrorists across the Line of Control (LoC) with the help of drones, the officials said.

Some of the terrorists holed up in heights in the Kashmir region, as well as in Kishtwar and Rajouri, have been using these drones for maintaining

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'Properties of Pak-
based handlers
attached'

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JUL 16: In a major crackdown on terror operatives and their support structures, Police in Budgam on Wednesday said to have attached three properties belonging to Pakistan-based terrorist handlers (JKNOP) located in Khag, Chewa Beerwah, and Harwani Khansahib in presence of concerned Executive Magistrates.

The action was carried out in connection with case FIR No. 58/2024 under section 7/25

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Skill Upgradation Key to Lifelong Success: CS

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: A landmark two-day conference aimed at transforming the skilling ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir commenced today at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The participants, among others, included representatives from the Union Ministry of Education, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE); NITI Aayog; GDI and senior Administrative Secretaries of the Government of J&K besides representatives from CII, NSDC, BISAG, SIDBI, NABARD, FICCI and industrial houses such as Maruti Suzuki Lim-



ited, TATA Strive and J&K Bank. The conference is also being attended by the Director IIT Jammu, Director IIM Jammu, Vice Chancellors of some prominent Universities along with

representatives from Federation of Chambers of Industries Kashmir (FCIK).

The conference seeks to foster a robust, demand-driven skilling framework by encouraging interactive sessions, consultations and collaborative discussions. Over the next two days, the participants will contribute valuable insights and policy suggestions to build a future-ready, inclusive and industry-aligned skill development roadmap for J&K.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Secretary underlined the significance of aligning the skill development ecosystem with the emerging

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AN APPEAL TO MAKE A
COLLECTIVE EFFORTVMS SPECIALTY
HOSPITAL (VMSSH)

FROM THIS:



TO THIS:



YOU SUPPORTED US ALL THROUGH

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

Our vision is clear:

Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society

The hospital is taking form—paint, tiles, and firefighting systems are in place—

But vital work remains: air conditioning, medical gas pipelines, electrical systems, and partitioning.



JK HOPE AND HEALTH
FOUNDATION
TMO16418915@jkb
0005010100009519

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

Advt - Comp...

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

PM Fulfilling.....

peace. Indian State authority has been completely established in J&K. Today, the common citizens of Kashmir have understood that their future lies with India. Our youth are being guided towards building a more prosperous future for J&K and their growing involvement is instrumental in this transformative journey.

The local terrorist recruitment is at an all-time low. The decisive action against terrorism and their facilitators and thorough investigations against those trying to radicalize the youth has ensured that peace prevails.

A month-long peace march is organised in the Kashmir valley every year to commemorate Pujya Bapu's birth anniversary. Gandhi Jayanti, Teachers Day, Har Ghar Tiranga, Independence-day celebrations and numerous other national integration programmes across the UT reflect that J&K is reclaiming its legacy as a land of peace. Youth are now conscious of the fact that J&K of Bapu's dreams is J&K of unity and peace.

This wind of change has rattled the terrorist nation Pakistan and it constantly tries to hurt the soul of India and its cultural-spiritual fabric. Aim of Pahalgam terrorist attack was to stall economic progress of UT as well but we are marching ahead with renewed strength.

Terrorism is in the DNA of Pakistan and they continue to spread it. The entire global society must unite against this terrorist country Pakistan. We are determined to completely wipe out terrorism and remnants of the terror ecosystem. We will not spare anyone who speaks the language of terror outfits. Strict action will be taken against such elements. Those behind the Pahalgam terror attack have been identified. NIA is investigating and soon the perpetrators will meet the same fate as other top terror commanders," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, also highlighted the transformation across the sectors in J&K UT under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the era of Post Abrogation of Article 370 represents a defining moment in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "The Union Territory has marked significant milestones, over the past few years, creating new paradigms for inclusive development. Our economy has doubled in the last 5 years," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

CM Omar Launches.....

expectation, in the service of people." Commending the affordability framework of the program, he added, "To make all types of surgeries for women available at a capped cost of ₹13,000 is a commendable effort, especially for families who otherwise find treatment costs overwhelming."

The Chief Minister also underscored the importance of compassion in healthcare delivery. "Doctors must prioritise patient care above all else," he remarked. "Similarly, private hospitals must do their part in ensuring that treatment is not out of reach for the common citizen. Affordability should not be an afterthought, it must be part of the design."

He acknowledged the ongoing contributions of government hospitals, which continue to provide essential services across Jammu and Kashmir despite operational and infrastructural challenges. "Our public institutions remain pillars of healthcare delivery, and I hope more such initiatives, whether from public or private sectors, are taken up in the spirit of public service."

Dr. Jasbir Kaur, who conceptualised Project 13-13, expressed gratitude for the support extended to the program and reaffirmed its focus on community care. "This initiative is about ensuring dignity and access in women's healthcare. It's our way of giving back," she said.

The event marks the beginning of Project 13-13's implementation at National Hospital Jammu. Though limited in scope to a single institution, the initiative has been widely appreciated for its targeted approach and its potential to inspire similar models of accessible healthcare elsewhere.

CM Omar.....

that brought together over a thousand students from across the nation.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah lauded IIT Jammu as a hub of talent and underscored the significance of such initiatives in providing young people, particularly from Jammu and Kashmir, with platforms to grow and realise their potential.

Such programmes must encourage broad-based participation and give students from J&K the opportunity to turn their ideas into action, the Chief Minister emphasised.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah revealed that the J&K Government is actively exploring collaborative opportunities with IIT Jammu across multiple domains, including water conservation, climate change adaptation, industrial growth and business incubation. IIT backing lends credibility to any project, he observed, adding that the government remains committed to fostering venture funding framework that support innovation.

The Chief Minister welcomed the institute's proposals on tourism interventions and green transport solutions, while encouraging students from outside the region to explore Jammu and Kashmir and serve as its ambassadors.

Reflecting on recent challenges, the CM struck an optimistic note. "The unfortunate incident earlier this year is behind us now. Our focus is to hand over a better, more empowered Jammu and Kashmir to this generation. May the future generations carve out opportunities through challenges."

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, who was also present at the function, described IIT Jammu as a landmark institution of the region and stressed the need to enhance and expand sectors such as tourism and hospitality.

Tourism is our unique strength and we must

continue to build on it through innovation, training and infrastructure, Wani stated.

The initiative, organised under IIT Jammu's innovation ecosystem, witnessed remarkable participation from students representing more than 25 states and union territories. In a significant indicator of the region's growing aspirations for technical skills, nearly one-third of the participants, 319 students, came from Jammu and Kashmir itself.

Students from diverse backgrounds converged at the campus, including representatives from Delhi, Punjab, Karnataka, Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and several northeastern and eastern states. The programme offered structured learning modules in cutting-edge technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Full Stack Web Development, Internet of Things (IoT), Data Science and Additive Manufacturing.

Each module comprised over 40 hours of intensive instructions, combining theoretical lectures with hands-on training, industry interactions and feedback-driven mentoring sessions.

The programme brought together faculty, researchers and education partners, including alumni-led startups, who contributed significantly to the initiative's delivery.

The ceremony was attended by senior dignitaries including Director IIT Jammu Dr Manoj Gaur, Board of Governors' Chairman Sharad Kumar Saraf, Chief Innovation Officer Prof MT Arvind and Dr Navneet, along with faculty and students.

CM Omar Unveils.....

who was martyred while performing his duties. The solemn event was attended by dignitaries including senior government officials, legislators, educators besides students and the public.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the sacrifice of Principal Badyal will "forever remain a guiding light" for society, especially students. He added, "Our society and cultural values hold teachers in the highest regard. Badyal was steadfast in his duty when he was killed in a planned murder. His life and dedication must always light the path of students."

He also announced that the school will be renamed in the late principal's memory, as a mark of enduring respect. "His life teaches us that one must have steadfast dedication towards one's duty. That is a great virtue we must all inculcate. Fearless conduct of duty must be our ideal attitude," he added.

Omar Abdullah then interacted with the martyr's family, including his children Dr. Ashima Badyal and Ashish Badyal and extended his heartfelt condolences. He remarked that Former Chief Minister Dr. Farooq Abdullah, too, would be gratified by today's tribute to KK Badyal.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani and Minister for Health & Medical Education, School & Higher Education, Sakina Masood Itoo, were present at the occasion.

Minister Sakina Masood Itoo stated that the ceremony was organised on the instructions of the Chief Minister. She conveyed her shock and anguish that such a dedicated educationist could fall in the line of duty and emphasised the need to reinforce moral and social values among students.

Also in attendance were Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma, along with legislators Vikram Randhawa and Dr Sajjad Shafi.

MP Jugal Kishore Sharma expressed that the honour today will be a source of pride and inspiration for the Badyal family.

MLA Vikram Randhawa recalled the tragic events and expressed deep sorrow while paying tribute to the late principal.

Senior officers, including Secretary, School Education Department; Director, School Education; Director, Samagra Shiksha and Additional Deputy Commissioner, Jammu, were also present.

Statehood at.....

that more than once Prime Minister Modi has himself said, not once but more than once, also publicly in some of the public rallies, that the government of India is committed to provide statehood to Jammu and Kashmir and it will happen at the appropriate time," Singh said.

He was replying to a question on the letter written by Congress chief Kharge and Gandhi, as also demands made by Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in this regard.

"I think after what has been said by the Prime Minister of India, there is no need to add to what is being said by him," said Singh, a Union Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office.

Asked whether efforts were underway for a legislation for the restoration of statehood to J-K in the upcoming Parliament Session starting Monday, the minister said he was not privy to any such proposal. "No, I am not privy to that and I don't speak out of turn," Singh said.

Jammu and Kashmir was stripped of full statehood in 2019 when the government bifurcated the state into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

At the time of bifurcation, the Union government had assured in Parliament as also in the Supreme Court that statehood to Jammu and Kashmir would be restored in due course.

While assembly elections were held in Jammu and Kashmir last year and a government was formed under National Conference leader Abdullah, the full statehood is yet to be restored.

"When the prime minister says, I think we have every reason to trust what he says," said Singh, a three-term Lok Sabha member from Udhampur in Jammu Division.

Asked whether the government had a timeline in mind, the minister said he was not mandated to speak on this issue. "But I would satisfy myself by stopping short of saying or repeating only what the prime minister has said," Singh said. (Agencies)

Omar Hails.....

attack left 25 tourists and a local pony service provider dead.

"It is good that he (Shukla) returned safe and sound. Earlier, our astronauts had gone on a space mission with Russian teams, but this time he went there aboard the International Space Station.

"The government of India had a mission to send humans to the Moon on our own, and this is a step in that direction. I hope the time will come when the country's flag will be hoisted on the Moon," the chief minister told reporters on the sidelines of a function here.

Talking about the ongoing Amarnath Yatra, Abdullah expressed hope that the number of pilgrims would cross 3.5 lakh this year.

"There was a time when we were sceptical about anyone coming for the yatra this time due to the Pahalgam incident. So far, 2.50 lakh people have visited, and if this trend continues, the number will easily cross the 3.50 lakh as the yatra will continue till August 9... I hope the number will increase further," he said.

On the controversy surrounding his government's decision to make Urdu mandatory for the Naib Tehsildar recruitment examination, the chief minister defended the move, saying, "We do not have any wrong intention to keep anyone outside." "You have to keep in mind that our revenue records, even before independence, were in Urdu, so we will not deploy staff who cannot read Urdu. What work will they do?" he said.

The chief minister said earlier, IAS and JKAS officers with no knowledge of Urdu were given six months to one year to acquire basic knowledge of the language.

"So, it will be better if there is some policy to give the Revenue Department staff time so that they can achieve some sort of proficiency in Urdu otherwise, they cannot read the revenue records," he said. (Agencies)

Slain Basantgarh.....

and public and said the police cannot be successful without the support of the people.

"The anti-terror operations are taking place continuously, and recently, we got a very big success in Dudu-Basantgarh, where a senior and top JeM commander, who was active in that area for the last four years, was killed. The operations are taking place and all the terrorists will be eliminated one by one," the police chief told reporters at the Akhnoor police station near here.

On June 26, JeM terrorist Haider, code-named Maulvi, from Pakistan, was killed in a gunfight while three of his associates managed to escape, taking advantage of inclement weather, challenging topography and dense forest in the Basantgarh area.

However, the DGP declined to give the exact number of terrorists active in the forest areas of the Jammu region and said "that number cannot be given in the public domain".

The DGP, along with Inspector General of CRPF Gopal Sharma; Inspector General of Police, Jammu Zone, Bhim Sen Tuti; and Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jammu-Samba-Kathua range, Shiv Kumar, visited Akhnoor police station to felicitate the personnel for receiving the prestigious 'Award of Excellence' from the Ministry of Home Affairs in the annual ranking of police stations in J-K for 2024.

Handing over the award to the police station, the DGP hailed the officers and men posted at the police station for their rapport with the public and said the successful operation in the Akhnoor sector early this year was the result of timely input received from the public.

"Police cannot be successful without the support of the public. The public support makes all difficult tasks easy, otherwise there will be challenges," he said, lauding the Jammu police for their outstanding performance against the drug menace, bovine smuggling and gangsters.

He also lauded the exceptional performance of the then station house officer (SHO) Tariq Ahmed, Sub-Divisional Police Officer (SDPO) Mohan Sharma and Superintendent of Police Brijesh Sharma for their outstanding leadership and dedication in 2024.

He extended his best wishes to incumbent SHO Sanjeev Chib and SDPO Varinder Gupta for continuing the legacy of excellence. (Agencies)

MeT Issues.....

Advisory issued by MET Centre Srinagar reads, There is a possibility of intense showers at a few locations with isolated heavy to very heavy rainfall during July 16-17 and July 21-23. The advisory also warns of potential flash floods in vulnerable locations, as well as landslides, mudslides, and shooting stones in hilly terrains and along major highways.

Residents, especially those living in flood-prone and landslide-prone areas, have been advised to remain vigilant and avoid unnecessary travel. Authorities have been urged to stay on alert and take necessary precautionary measures to prevent disruption and ensure public safety.

Jammu and Kashmir has been experiencing rainfall over the past two days, bringing much-needed relief from the recent scorching heatwave. Meanwhile, as per official data, various parts of Jammu and Kashmir received varying rainfall amounts over the past 24 hours. In the Kashmir Region, Pahalgam recorded 16.6 mm, followed by Kulgam (17.2 mm), Gulmarg (15.2 mm), and Awantipora (12.0 mm). Other notable figures include Tangmarg (12.2 mm), Kokernag (10.8 mm), Nowgam Handwara (10.8 mm), Qazigund (9.5 mm), Charar-i-Sharif (8.2 mm) and Sonamarg (8.5 mm).

Srinagar city received 4.3 mm, while its airport recorded 4.8 mm. Pulwama and Kupwara received 6.0 mm and 5.0 mm respectively. Light showers were also reported in Sopore (2.4 mm), Bandipora (1.0 mm), and Shopian (0.5 mm).

In the Jammu Region, Udhampur recorded the highest rainfall at 43.0 mm, followed by Katra (35.8 mm), Reasi (25.0 mm), and Rajouri (23.0 mm). Jammu city and its airport received 15.9 mm and 15.6 mm

respectively. Poonch registered 12.0 mm, while Banihal, Batote, and Ramban received between 3–5 mm of rainfall. Kathua recorded no rainfall during this period.

In the Ladakh region, Leh received 2.6 mm and Kargil 0.5 mm of rainfall in the last 24 hours. (JKNS)

Amarnath Yatra.....

to the false news being circulated on various Social Media Channels that the Yatra has been suspended.

As on 15th July, 2025 more than 2.34 lakh pilgrims have taken darshans, and today on 16th July, pilgrims have proceeded to the Holy Cave from both the routes without any interruption and are taking darshans.

All media outlets are advised to verify facts from official sources before publishing or circulating any information regarding the yatra.

Public is requested to rely only on official updates for accurate and timely information.

13,000 Perform.....

obesance at the holy cave shrine included 8,877 males, 3,798 females, 145 children, 70 sadhus, and 8 sadhvis. In addition, 314 security forces personnel also performed darshan today.

The cumulative number of yatrīs who have performed darshan in the two weeks since the commencement of the Yatra has reached 2,47,213, officials said, adding that the Yatra continues to proceed smoothly with a steady influx of devotees from different parts of the country.

Despite occasional weather challenges, the administration has ensured that all necessary arrangements are in place for the comfort and safety of the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 6,064 Amarnath Yatra pilgrims left from the Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Wednesday morning, officials said. The pilgrims, escorted by security forces, departed in a fleet of 234 vehicles, comprising both Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMTVs), under a multi-tier security arrangement.

According to officials, 3,593 pilgrims proceeded via the Pahalgam route, while 2,471 pilgrims took the Baltal route. So far, the pilgrimage has continued peacefully with robust participation despite intermittent downpours along the route.

Contrary to some false reports circulating on social media regarding the suspension of the Amarnath Yatra due to rains, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has clarified that the Yatra is ongoing without any interruption, and pilgrims are safely having darshan of Baba Barfani.

"The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 is proceeding smoothly, and pilgrims are taking darshan of Baba Barfani without any interruption," said the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

All media outlets are advised to verify facts from official sources before publishing or circulating any information regarding the Yatra, the statement said, adding that the public is requested to rely only on official updates for accurate and timely information.

Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of pilgrims undertaking the sacred Amarnath Yatra, the Indian Army carried out a swift medical evacuation at Barari Marg on Monday night.

A defence spokesperson in a statement said that at around 8:00 PM, a 38-year-old pilgrim, Ajay Kumar from Ludhiana, began feeling unwell while descending the yatra route. "Acting promptly, the Medical Evacuation Team, led by the NCO Incharge stationed at Barari, responded immediately," he said.

The pilgrim was escorted to the nearest Medical Aid Post, where he received timely medical care and was kept under observation as per standard protocol, the Army said, adding that after being stabilised and showing improvement, Ajay Kumar reported feeling better and continued his descent without assistance, accompanied by his fellow pilgrims.

"This incident underscores the Indian Army's proactive humanitarian efforts in ensuring the health, safety, and morale of all yatrīs. Army medical teams remain on round-the-clock alert along the entire yatra route, committed to providing immediate assistance and facilitating a safe and smooth pilgrimage for all," the spokesperson said.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, which commenced earlier this month on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 9 this year. (KNO)

Drones Are.....

surveillance over the approaching troops, they said while citing it as a reason for the little success in past counter-terror operations.

The drones, in some instances, are believed to be carrying dry ration for the holed-up terrorists in the higher reaches of the Jammu region, the officials said.

The use of drones by terrorist groups to target vital installations in Jammu and Kashmir began on June 27, 2021, when two unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) struck buildings at the Jammu airport, marking a significant escalation in the conflict.

Post 2017, the use of drones initially for drug smuggling and later for arms dropping along the International Border in Punjab was viewed by the officials as the first step before shifting their use for direct attacks in Jammu and Kashmir.

The officials said the ISI is leveraging drone technology for precise real-time situational

assessments ahead of infiltration attempts.

The officials also said that under the new strategy, the ISI has been using drones for monitoring the presence of the army along the Line of Control or the International Border, identifying vulnerabilities and analysing terrain to assist terrorists in crossing the LoC while minimising the risk of detection.

There were credible inputs that in third week of May this year, ISI officials and top terrorists of the banned Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) and Jaish-e-Mohammed outfits in Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK) had a meeting during which focus was laid on increasing recruitment and the "importance of drone surveillance along the LoC to monitor conditions prior to infiltration attempts, the officials said.

They said there were plans to replace active guides with local residents from PoJK or Pakistan to manage infiltration routes more effectively.

The officials said that ISI was working on a detailed plan for the terror outfits that included relocating terror training camps and launching pads within PoK and constructing underground bunkers in preparation for potential armed conflict with India.

This move from ISI is believed to be a response to "Operation Sindoor," in which the Indian Air Force targeted and destroyed nine terror facilities in PoJK and Pakistan which included the headquarters of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba terror groups.

The rise of drone technology has opened a new and dangerous chapter in global terrorism, with UAVs now being used by terror groups for a variety of nefarious operations, including intelligence collection and the delivery of explosives.

A report from the Association of the United States Army (AUSA), a nonprofit professional association dedicated to serving America's Army, said, "Once Pandora's box was open, bad actors adapted quickly and began using drones to plan and conduct attacks." (Agencies)

'Properties.....

Indian Arms Act, 18, 20, 23 Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) of Police Station Khag, and under proceedings-initiated U/S 25 of UAPA for attachment of properties used in terrorist activities. The properties attached belong to the following accused persons presently operating from across the border Viz: Manzoor Ahmad Chopan @ Rayees son of Gh. Mohi-ud-din Chopan, resident of Harwani Khanshab, (Double-storied residential house with premises at village Harwani Khanshab, Budgam under Khasra No. 763), Mohammad Yousuf Malik @ Molvison of Ab. Rahim Malik, resident of Chewa Budgam (Double-storied residential house along with 05 Kanals, 13 Marlas of land at village Chewa Budgam under Khasra No. 151) and Bilal Ahmad Wani @ Umer son of Gh. Ahmad Wani, resident of Nagbal Khag (Land measuring 19.5 Marlas situated at Khag under Khasra Nos. 1093 and 1094), a police spokesman said.

"These terrorist handlers, operating from Pakistan, have been actively orchestrating and facilitating terrorist activities in the region for several years. The attachment of their properties is a part of the ongoing efforts to dismantle the logistical, financial, and operational networks of terror outfits and their cross-border sponsors. This decisive move sends a strong message to those involved in anti-national activities that such actions will invite strict legal consequences," police said.

Police reiterated its commitment to uphold the rule of law and ensure that no individual or network is allowed to endanger the peace and security of the region.

Skill Upgradation.....

needs of the industry. While highlighting the priorities, he stressed on Industry-Academia collaboration. He recommended that industries must actively co-develop curricula with academia to ensure relevance and employability of the skilled manpower produced by the skilling institutions.

The other priority, Dulloo emphasized upon is early vocational exposure. He unequivocally maintained that the vocational education should be integrated from the school and college levels to build foundational skills early. He remarked that such an educational framework would be a precursor towards creating the skilled workforce that is in sync with the latest market requirements therefore highly employable anywhere in the country.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary impressed on the fact of nurturing entrepreneurial mindset among all the youngsters. He underscored that the youth should be nurtured not merely as job seekers but as job creators, empowered to innovate and lead from the front.

Quoting futurist Alvin Toffler, he called for adopting at an earliest the adaptability and lifelong learning model in J&K. He mentioned the author saying that "The illiterate of the future will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."

The Chief Secretary also stressed the role of convergence and coordination among various departments, institutions and private players to drive impactful and sustainable outcomes.

Pertinently, this workshop is being organised by the Labour & Employment Department and is envisioned not just as a forum to boost employment, but as a strategic effort to build an adaptable, inclusive and futuristic ecosystem. This will greatly help in equipping youth with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving job market world over.

Committee on Estimates reviews Jal Shakti Department's functioning, progress on WSSs in J&K

Calls for safe drinking water supply, restoration of clogged springs

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: The House Committee on Estimates today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review the functioning of Jal Shakti Department besides assessing progress on ongoing Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) across Jammu and Kashmir. The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson Shamim Firdous and attended by Committee Members Abdul Majid Bhat (Larmi), Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Ajaz Jan, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Chander Prakash Ganga, Pyare Lal Sharma and Arjun Singh Raju. Senior officers present included Shaleen Kabra, Finan-

cial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secretary), Jal Shakti Department; Fayaz A Lone, Director General Accounts and Treasuries; Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM); along with Directors of Finance and Planning and Chief Engineers of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions. The Chairperson stressed the importance of providing safe and adequate drinking water to every household in Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized the need for uninterrupted piped water supply in both rural and urban areas, highlighting the importance of water quality and sustainability of water resources. She called for regular testing of water samples to ensure sup-



ply of clean and safe water, and instructed replacement of old and defunct pipes to maintain smooth water flow. The Committee also underscored the



need for improved coordination among the departments, particularly with the Public Works Department (PWD), to avoid disruptions in connectivity dur-

ing execution of works. Legislator Salman Sagar, who attended as a special invitee, highlighted the need to identify grey areas and address

water shortages through special funding approvals. The Chairperson further emphasized strict monitoring and effective utilization of funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). She called for timely completion of all ongoing JJM and other WSS projects to ensure public convenience and stressed for restoration of blocked or defunct springs and key water sources. The Committee also directed the officials to respond promptly to public grievances, inspect ongoing projects regularly and ensure immediate relief to areas facing water crises. The members of the Committee offered valuable suggestions and raised key concerns regarding the execution and

progress on various WSSs. During the meeting, Financial Commissioner Shaleen Kabra informed the Committee that a total of 6,897 civil works have been allotted under 3,253 schemes across Jammu and Kashmir. Out of these, 6,887 works have been taken up and 3,596 works have been completed as of May 31, 2025. The Committee resolved to continue monitoring the performance of key departments and to scrutinize budget estimates, revised allocations and actual expenditures to ensure accountability and transparency in developmental works. Earlier, Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, deliberated regarding agenda of the meeting.

Distt admin Budgam accords warm farewell to outgoing CPO Irfan Ahmad Giri

HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, JULY 16: District Administration Budgam today organized a farewell function for the outgoing Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Ahmad Giri on his transfer from district Budgam. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; ADC Budgam, ACR, all SDMs, senior district officers, all Tehsildars and other officials of various departments were also present. Speaking on the occasion, DC said, "Outgoing CPO served the district with great zeal and sincerity, excelling not only in his departmental respon-



sibilities but also in the additional assignments entrusted to him by the district administration, especially during the parliamentary elections of 2024 and JK assembly elections of 2024. He added that all the assignments given to officer were completed sincerely and well in time. DC further said, the workmanship & dedication of the officer will be missed in the district. District administration is wishing him the best on his transfer for his future assignments, DC added. All the officers present in the function extended their best wishes to Irfan Ahmad for his future assignments. Irfan Ahmad Giri the outgoing CPO Budgam thanked the district administration for their active support and cooperation during his tenure. He also expressed his gratitude to the people of Budgam for their love and affection.

Distt admin B'la bids farewell to ADDC & CPO; welcomes new CPO & AO

HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, JULY 16: In a warm and heartfelt gesture, district administration Baramulla today organized a grand farewell-cum-welcome function at Dak bungalow Baramulla to bid farewell to outgoing Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ghulam Rasool Mir and Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Javid Ahmad Najar, while also welcoming the newly appointed Chief Planning Officer and

Accounts Officer. Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, presided over the function and praised the outgoing officers for their sincere and dedicated service to the district. He highlighted their valuable contributions in planning, development, and administrative affairs, and wished them success in their future assignments. Several senior officers from various departments also spoke on the occasion, appreciating the professionalism, commitment, and



coordination displayed by the outgoing officers during their tenure.

As a mark of respect and affection, tokens of love and appre-

ciation were presented to both officers by DC and other officers from different departments. The event also served as a platform to formally welcome the newly posted Chief Planning Officer and Accounts Officer. DC and other speakers extended their best wishes to the new officers, assuring full cooperation and support in carrying forward the district's developmental vision. The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and a warm interaction session among all present.

Committee on Subordinate Legislation holds meeting in Srinagar

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: The Committee on Subordinate Legislation today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine and review the rules and regulations under the mandate of the Revenue Department. The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Satish Kumar Sharma, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Rajeev Kumar, Irfan Hafiz Lone, and Dr. Rameshwar Singh. At the outset, the Committee undertook a detailed examination of various Rules, Sub-Rules, Regulations, and Bye-laws framed by the Revenue Department. The Committee held an in-depth discussion on key legal provisions related to land laws, with a special focus on ensuring environmental safeguards during land use conversions — particularly from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes.



Other important issues deliberated upon included the Migrant and Forest Acts, provisions for compassionate appointments under SRO-43, and land compensation mechanisms for landless individuals. Chairman Hasnain Masoodi underlined the significance of land laws in ensuring justice and equity and reaffirmed the Committee's com-

mitment to promoting public welfare. He urged members to contribute constructively toward the betterment of all sections of society. During the meeting, members shared their valuable suggestions and raised various issues related to the Committee's jurisdiction, reaffirming their resolve to ensure transparency and accountability in subordinate legislation.

Legislators meet Javed Rana, discuss public welfare issues

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: Legislators Mubarak Gul, Pawan Kumar Gupta and Payare Lal Sharma today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana at the Civil Secretariat here. They discussed various important issues of public welfare pertaining to the Forest, Tribal Affairs and Public Health Engineering (PHE) departments. During the interaction, the legislators brought forth key concerns and suggestions related to their constituencies, focusing on issues that impact the daily lives of the people. Rana attentively listened to their concerns and directed the matters to the concerned authorities for prompt and effective action. The Minister appreciated the legislators' efforts in highlighting critical public issues. He urged them to continue their endeavors in projecting the concerns of their constituents to ensure effective redress of public.

Sarmad Hafeez reviews functioning of Social Welfare Department

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, today chaired a review meeting at Women Development Corporation, Bemina here. The meeting took stock of overall functioning, financial performance and key initiatives under Centrally Sponsored and UT funded schemes. The Commissioner Secretary emphasized that the Social Welfare Department operates as a dynamic, continuous service delivery system rather than a one-time initiative. He instructed the officers were to adopt this process-driven approach while implementing the welfare programmes. Comprehensive presentations were made on major missions such



as Mission Poshan, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya besides pension and scholarship schemes. The department's financial performance for 2024-25 was reviewed, revealing an overall fund utilization of 86 percent while budgetary pro-

visions for 2025-26 were also discussed. The Commissioner Secretary issued key directives focusing on strengthening the cross-departmental convergence, particularly for Early Childhood Care and Edu-

cation (ECCE) and expediting the completion and timely operationalization of the ongoing infrastructure projects. He asked the officers to prioritise disposal of pendencies in Marriage Assistance and Ladli Beti Schemes besides ensuring proper gender-responsive budgeting and monitoring mechanisms. He also directed them to ensure timely submission of Utilization Certificates and preparation of impact assessment reports. Reiterating the importance of a proactive and transparent approach, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the need to ensure efficient service delivery to all eligible beneficiaries. The meeting was attended by the senior officers from all the Directorates, mission directorates, boards and Corporations of the Social Welfare Department.

Ganderbal Police, Education Dept Hold Debate on Sardar Patel at Kangan School

HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 16: In a remarkable initiative aimed at fostering patriotic values and encouraging critical thinking among the youth, Ganderbal Police organized a Debate Competition at Government Higher Secondary School, Kangan on the thought-provoking theme: "Sardar Patel's Legacy Be Given More Emphasis in India's Education." The event was held to commemorate the towering contributions of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, the Iron Man of India, whose vision, lead-



ership, and efforts in uniting the nation continue to inspire generations. The program witnessed enthusiastic participation from students of various schools across the Kangan Sub-Division, who expressed their

views with great fervour, eloquence, and insight. Senior police officers from Ganderbal Police, prominent educationists, school faculty members, and local dignitaries were present to witness the event.

HT EDITORIAL

Take proactive measures so as to avoid 2014 flood like situation

For the past few days most of the areas of Kashmir valley are witnessing intermittent rainfall and there is a forecast for more rainfall in days to come. Given this situation the people are somewhat worried since the ghost of 2014 flood is haunting most of them. There are people who feel that the light or moderate rainfall may lead to a flood like situation in some of the areas of the valley with the brunt being borne by those falling adjacent to the water bodies.

The cause of worry is that most of the water bodies in Kashmir have lost their carrying capacity over the years. In the aftermath of 2014 devastating flood the authorities carried out dredging in Jhelum and flood channels but the process was discontinued after some time. As on date a lot of silt has been deposited in the Jhelum and some other water bodies located across the Kashmir valley. The situation is also the same in the flood channels of Jhelum and the masses are somewhat perplexed.

Over the years it has been observed that the people at helm tend to forget about the damages caused by different disasters both natural and man-made. Same happened with context to 2014 flood situation and the consequences of the same have somewhat been erased from memory especially by those who matter a lot. The discontinuation of the dredging process is one of the grave mistakes done by the administration and one fears that people might have to bear the consequences if God forbid flood hits Kashmir valley.

It is imperative that the irrigation and flood control department carries out dredging of different water bodies and flood channels across the valley during the upcoming autumn season. Once dredging is carried out in a serious manner it is quite natural that the carrying capacity of water bodies and flood channels is enhanced. This would ensure that the people would be relieved once there is rainfall in Kashmir valley and the fear of a flood would also diminish.

It would be in place to mention here that Lal Chowk the city centre of Srinagar got deluged due to flood in 2014. The development was unprecedented as it was for the first time in the history that the city centre got submerged due to flooding. The inundation of Lal Chowk and adjacent areas should have alerted the administration but more than a decade later there is not much difference and the people at helm seem to be in slumber.

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Thought Shapes My Being

Worldly Desires Are Not As Important As They Seem



■ Amir Iqbal Khan

"I ponder, hence I exist." My existence is validated through my ability to think. While this is true, I've observed that many people's thoughts often lead them in a negative direction. In fact, I would argue that thinking has become a disease—a lethal and dangerous one. It seems like we are the ones doing the thinking, but in reality, our minds play tricks on us.

There is a constant voice inside us that keeps us restless. Distancing oneself from this voice is the path to true enlightenment. In this article, I am to explain that if you truly wish to be free, you must integrate yourself with your constantly thinking mind. You must break free from the confines of your habitual thinking. It might seem strange to suggest separating oneself from one's thoughts, but this is the best formula for happiness in life. Our minds bombard us with thoughts 24/7. "Hey Amir, your childhood was difficult; you should dwell on this forever." "Hey Salman, stop worrying about the future." "Hey

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Our minds bombard us with thoughts

24/7. "Hey Amir, your childhood was difficult; you should dwell on this forever." "Hey Salman, look how far your friend has come and how successful her husband is, while you're standing still." "Hey Sachin, how long will you keep driving that old, broken car? Borrow money and get a new one." These negative thoughts distract you from the present moment, which is the only time that truly matters.

Rahul, look how far your friend has come and how successful her husband is, while you're standing still." "Hey Sachin, how long will you keep driving that old, broken car? Borrow money and get a new one." These negative thoughts distract you from the present moment, which is the only time that truly matters.

Therefore, today's moment is everything. Yet, our minds often pre-

vent us from staying in the present. Instead, we are stuck in the past or fear the future. The "power of now" is about eliminating this unnecessary and compulsive thinking. But how do we free ourselves from the tyranny of our minds? Some tips are provided in this article, the first of which is crucial: recognize that your mind is separate from your existence. Observe your mind as a third party.

Imagine your mind as a cricket stadium, where you are the spectator watching the players (your thoughts). Regularly observing your emotions and behaviors in this way begins your journey to the power of now, eliminating worries about the past and future.

The 2nd tip is learning to control your ego. Ego is a profound concept in psychology and is often our greatest enemy. Don't let the fear of the future hinder your present. Avoid letting your ego keep you from living in the moment. This article emphasizes meditation and yoga, with the main essence being the differentiation between "I" and "Self." The "Self" lives in a world of deception, obsessed with worldly pursuits and emotions like depression, frustration, anger and excitement. By developing the ability to monitor your emotions and view them objectively, you can achieve happiness in life.

Many realize near the end of life that worldly desires weren't as important as they seemed. The sooner you reach this realization, the sooner you'll enjoy the present moment. The ultimate conclusion is that happiness, anger, frustration and depression aren't due to circumstances but the state of your mind. You are a victim not because of your circumstances but because of your mind. Decide whether you want to waste your life or seize it.

Planting Trees Can Minimize Pollution in Cities



■ Sahil Manzoor

In today's era of rapid modernization, our demands are constantly increasing. Despite having ample space in our homes, we aspire for villa-style houses, towering buildings, wider highways, and road networks that stretch to every corner. This infrastructural expansion has come at a cost—our agricultural land is shrinking steadily. With the world population now surpassing eight billion, it is vital to manage our natural and built environments wisely and preserve essential resources for future generations.

Balancing Development with Environmental Protection

Development is essential for every nation. While some countries are already economically strong and offer employment through forward-thinking policies, others are steadily progressing. With global connectivity and modern communication tools—like emails, messaging platforms, and video conferencing—business and trade have become seamless and virtual.

Infrastructure development, including roads, railways, commerce hubs, and bridges, is critical for national growth. However, such progress should not come at the cost of our environment. Governments have established dedicated environmental agencies and frequently issue guidelines to safeguard nature. But real development demands more than just building skyscrapers and dams—it requires vision, planning, coordination, and a commitment to sustainability.

An efficient and proactive public workforce is crucial in managing urban life, resolving citizen grievances, and ensuring the delivery of basic services. In this context, one highly effective and natural solution to combat the negative side effects of development—especially in densely populated and industrialized areas—is tree plantation.

Why Tree Plantation Matters

As demands grow, so does traffic—and with it, pollution. Industries discharge harmful pollutants into the air, water, and soil. While we cannot eliminate urban or industrial activity altogether, we can reduce its environmental footprint. Tree plantation offers a simple yet powerful remedy.

The environment is central to human existence. It encompasses all living and non-living components—plants, animals, birds, air, water, and soil. Unfortunately, many development projects like road widening, factory construction, and hydro-electric dams result in environmental degradation.



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Cutting down trees for such projects can cause soil erosion, lower soil fertility, and increase the risk of floods.

Mitigating Urban Heat with Greenery

Cities are economic engines, but they are also prone to higher temperatures due to greenhouse gas emissions from vehicles and industries. These gases trap heat, leading to the urban heat island effect, where cities become significantly warmer than surrounding rural areas.

To make cities livable, governments must ensure clean air, preserve water bodies, build efficient drainage systems, and manage waste from households, hospitals, and businesses. Trees play a pivotal role here. They absorb carbon dioxide, release oxygen, regulate temperatures, and significantly

improve air quality.

Planting trees in urban areas can also reduce noise pollution and improve the mental well-being of residents. Trees serve as natural coolants, bringing both environmental and psychological comfort to city dwellers.

A Sustainable Future Begins with Small Steps

We must view tree plantation not just as a beautification project, but as a critical strategy for sustainable development. Every sapling planted today contributes to cleaner air, a more stable climate, and a healthier life for tomorrow.

Let us strive to balance growth with greenery—for our well-being and for the generations yet to come.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Sisters, Let Intelligence Define You—Not Reel Culture



■ Priyanka Saurabh

We are living in an era where appearing on screen has become more important than actually living. Where life has been confined to the frame of the camera, and a person's worth is determined by his 'likes', 'followers' and 'views'. In this digital race, women's expression has also come to a strange turn - where making reels is not a bad thing, but in the name of reels, a woman's dignity and her social image are being shamelessly ripped off.

Gym, mall, street, bathroom and bedroom—every corner has now become a content studio. The kind of obscene and vulgar reels some girls are making on social media is not only tarnishing their own dignity but that of the entire womanhood. Do you really think that merely going "viral" makes someone powerful?

The biggest asset a woman has is her self-respect and conscience. Today, the girls who are wearing such clothes in the name of exercise that even looking at them makes one feel embarrassed, probably do not know that they are not promoting women's liberation but women's commercialization. Creating an identity by showing the body is not a matter of pride. If you have to make reels, then why not make such reels in which your art, hard work, thinking and sensitivity are reflected?

Today, in every third reel, the "backside" is in the middle of the frame, the camera zooms in on the waist, and the caption is - "Classy and Sexy!" Is this becoming the definition of a woman?

The women's movement was never run with this objective. We fought for education, equality, freedom and self-reliance, not to stand on stage and display our bodies. Ask those who say, "This is women's freedom" - is making the body a product



freedom or modern slavery?

And this is not just the fault of the girls who make such reels. This is also the crime of society - especially of men. These same men give millions of views to such videos, give likes, and then also lecture on morality in the comments. In the same video, the man's eyes move and his fingers also type morality. This hypocrisy should stop.

Think about it, what will happen when

a little girl grows up seeing all this? When she sees that those who show more body get more likes, in which direction will she go? This reel culture is a silent conspiracy to snatch away femininity. In this race of digital glamour, we are again taking women to that place where they were made just an object to be 'seen'.

The true definition of freedom is when a woman lives for herself, not for the click-baazi market of society. A girl can be beau-

tiful, fashionable too, but is it necessary that she sells her body every time? What thoughts, what ideas, what character, what struggle - all these have remained only the stuff of novels?

On the other hand, the platforms that were considered tools for social reform—like Instagram, YouTube, Facebook—we have turned them into digital brothels. This is not just the failure of the government, but the result of the silence of all of us.

This fight should not be just of women, but of every person who dreams of a healthy, dignified, and moral society. Who wants his daughter, sister, friend or wife

too - don't run the society with your clicks anymore.

If you want to stop pornography, then stop watching it.

Reels go viral when those who view them wink out and pour their hearts out.

One more thing - girls who think that people are liking them, they should understand that there is a difference between liking and consumption.

Looking at one gives you respect, looking at the other arouses lust.

You decide for yourself, which look do you want to have?

Perhaps now is the time for a new digital revolution,

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The biggest asset a woman has is her self-respect and conscience. Today, the girls who are wearing such clothes in the name of exercise that even looking at them makes one feel embarrassed, probably do not know that they are not promoting women's liberation but women's commercialization. Creating an identity by showing the body is not a matter of pride. If you have to make reels, then why not make such reels in which your art, hard work, thinking and sensitivity are reflected?

to be recognized in the digital world by her talent, not by the curve of her waist.

Now the time has come for women themselves to come forward and say - "Enough is enough."

If you want to make reels, then make them, but make them thoughtfully.

Dance, but with soul—not for the camera.

Make them laugh, tell them, teach them, connect - because a woman is not just an attraction, she is an inspiration.

And I have to say the same thing to men

Where a woman has a mobile phone in her hand - but in front of the camera, it is not her body but her thoughts.

"Don't get lost in the reel, sister, give voice to your thoughts,

Whatever you are from within, give that real music.

Identify your intellect, not your body. This is the highest flight of a woman!"

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

How will AI impact India's white-collar job market?



■ Vijay Garg

AI is poised to bring about a significant transformation in India's white-collar job market, characterized by both challenges and opportunities. Here's a breakdown of the key impacts:

Job Displacement and Reshaping:

Automation of Repetitive Tasks: AI excels at automating rules-based, repetitive, and procedural tasks. This puts jobs involving data entry, quality inspection, demand forecasting, language translation, and certain administrative and clerical roles (like invoice processing and scheduling) at high risk of partial or full automation.

Impact on Entry-Level Roles: Many entry-level white-collar jobs, particularly in sectors like technology (coding), customer support, technical helpdesks, and content creation, are seen as highly susceptible to AI automation. Some experts predict that up to 50% of current entry-level office roles could be eliminated within the next five years.

Changing Nature of Existing Jobs: Instead of outright replacement, AI will augment many existing professions. For instance, copywriters might use AI to generate first drafts, allowing them to focus on deeper narrative development and strategic content planning. Similarly, accountants will remain critical for auditing, compliance, and financial strategy, with AI assisting in analytics.

Supervisory and Compliance Roles: AI tools are increasingly impacting supervisory roles (by monitoring and managing systems) and compliance roles (like quality control inspectors and IT support).

Creation of New Job Roles:

Specialized AI-related Jobs: The rise of AI is simultaneously creating new, specialized roles. These include positions like prompt engineers, AI support engineers, data annotation specialists, cybersecurity analysts, AI ethics assistants, visualization experts, and natural



language processing (NLP) experts.

Roles Requiring Human-Centric Skills: Jobs that heavily rely on human judgment, empathy, critical thinking, creativity, strategic communication, and emotional intelligence are proving more resilient to AI's reach. This includes professions in education, healthcare, leadership, and counseling.

Upskilling and Reskilling Imperative:

Skill Redundancy: A significant percentage of Indian white-collar employees (around 40% in a 2024 IIM Ahmedabad study) perceive their current skills will become redundant due to AI.

Demand-Supply Gap: India faces an urgent need for large-scale upskilling, with a projected shortfall of over one million skilled AI professionals by 2027. The demand for AI-related jobs is estimated to be 1.52 times the available talent.

Focus on Future-Ready Skills: To thrive in an AI-driven economy, individuals and organizations must prioritize continuous learning and develop skills that AI cannot replicate. This includes technical skills in AI and machine learning, as well as soft skills like problem-solving, adaptability, and critical thinking.

Government and Industry Initiatives: Programs like "Skill India Digital Hub" and collaborations between educational institutions and industry are crucial for bridging the AI talent gap.

Industry-Specific Impacts:

IT Sector: The IT sector, once a major engine for white-collar jobs in India, is already seeing changes. While AI creates new opportunities, there's also a trend of downsizing in some traditional IT roles as automation takes over.

Financial Services: AI-driven fraud detection, algorithmic trading, and risk assessment are transforming financial services, making transactions safer and more efficient.

Manufacturing: AI is optimizing production planning, smart automation, and research and development in manufacturing, leading to increased efficiency and reduced costs.

Broader Economic Implications:

Productivity Gains: AI is expected to significantly boost productivity and efficiency across various sectors.

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Impact on Entry-Level Roles: Many entry-level white-collar jobs, particularly in sectors like technology (coding), customer support, technical helpdesks, and content creation, are seen as highly susceptible to AI automation. Some experts predict that up to 50% of current entry-level office roles could be eliminated within the next five years

Potential for Recession: Some experts warn that large-scale white-collar job displacement due to AI could lead to short-term economic disruptions and even recessions if not managed effectively.

Shifting Value of Work: AI may strip roles of their expert value by commoditizing once-specialized skills, potentially forcing workers into lower-paying, lower-skill roles if they don't adapt.

In conclusion, AI's impact on India's white-collar job market will be profound and multifaceted. While job displacement in certain areas is inevitable, it will also spur the creation of new roles and necessitate a massive push for upskilling and reskilling across the workforce. India's ability to adapt and invest in its human capital will determine whether it leads the AI revolution or struggles to keep pace.

Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab

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■ **Shahnaz Husain**

CHOCOLATE FOR BEAUTY

Who doesn't love chocolates? Resisting chocolates is hard, no doubt! chocolate tastes good and it's easy to overeat it.

Well, it's not just the perfect treat to lift your mood, but a great ingredient for the skin too because your skin loves chocolates as much as your plate.

The good news is that chocolate facials suit almost every skin type. Pure dark chocolate and cacao are actually rich in antioxidants, which help support optimized functions in our skin.

Rich in vitamins A, B1, C, D and E, plus iron and calcium, it can boost your skin's moisture, protect from sun damage and diminish wrinkles. Dark chocolates are very nutritious and have a number of beauty benefits.

As tasty as chocolate is, of late this sweet treat is being revered for everything it can do for your skin.

Here's all you need to know about this luxurious facial and its benefits.

In the high-end spas and salons, chocolate facials are premium treatments.. It also helps to nourish the skin and make it soft and smooth. Chocolate

is also said to induce relaxation, which is an advantage in skin treatments.

Chocolate range used in home facials comprises of a scrub, a cream and a mask. The scrub for exfoliation contains coffee beans along with cocoa powder. These products also contain plant ingredients and oils, like walnut, aloe vera, almond oil, grapefruit, rose, etc. The facial softens the skin, calms the senses and imparts a glow. The anti-oxidant properties of chocolate also help to rejuvenate the skin and preserve its youthful properties.

To derive the benefits of chocolate skin care, chocolate face packs can be made at home, using chocolate or cocoa powder along with some kitchen ingredients. Plain chocolate can be powdered and used in the pack.

Now chocolate waxing has caught on. It is done with a specially formulated wax, which contains cocoa beans or dark chocolate. Research has revealed that dark chocolate benefits the skin due to its cocoa content. It is said to be very high in antioxidants, which help to prevent oxidation damage by free radicals.

It also boosts the skin's cell renewal process.

As far as using chocolate wax is concerned, it offers all the benefits of applying chocolate on the skin. For example, chocolate helps to soften and smoothen the skin. It also boosts the skin's cell renewal process due to its antioxidant properties. Cocoa beans are also anti-inflammatory. In this respect, chocolate waxing reduces inflammation and there is less redness and even pain. It is said that chocolate waxing causes less discomfort. The effects are also longer lasting. As we all know, chocolate has a delicious aroma and is said to actually induce relaxation, because it has mood altering properties. It calms the mind and provides a "feel-good" mental state. Therefore, it has aromatherapy benefits, because the delicious aroma of chocolate is most appealing and helps to induce relaxation. This helps the entire waxing process.

Here are a few chocolate masks which you can mix at home:

Mix together three teaspoons cocoa powder and 2 teaspoons oats with egg white and one teaspoon each honey and curd. Adjust the ingredients, so that it is a thick paste, which does not drip. If it is too thin, add more cocoa powder. To make it thinner, add more curd or milk. For dry skin, add egg yolk, instead of egg white. First cleanse the skin and then apply the mask, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. Wash it off after 20 to 30 minutes with plain water.

For an oily skin, mix cocoa powder or chocolate with Fuller's Earth or "multani mitti", egg white and rose water. Apply on the face and wash it off when it is dry. In fact, fruit pulp can also be added to this pack. Ripe papaya would be ideal. It contains enzymes and helps to loosen dead cells and help their removal. It also helps to remove tan. Mashed banana can also be added to the pack, as it helps to tighten the skin.

You can also make a chocolate scrub at home. Mix cocoa powder with coffee powder, ground almond or walnut powder and curd. In fact, you can have a luxury treatment at home, using chocolate formulations. After cleansing, apply your home made scrub. Leave it on for a few minutes. Then, moisten with water and rub gently on the skin with small circular movements. Wash off with water. Exfoliation with scrubs helps to remove dead skin cells and brighten the skin.

A chocolate nourishing cream can be used to massage the face with a little cold water, using upward and slightly upward movements. Massage with creams suits normal to dry skin. Wipe off with moist cotton wool.

After the massage, give the skin cold compress with chilled rose water and cotton wool pads. Then apply your Chocolate face pack, avoiding the lips and area around eyes. After 20 to 30 minutes, moisten with milk and then wash off with water.

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

Even healthy brains decline with age. Here's what you can do

■ **Jon Hamilton**

After about age 40, our brains begin to lose a step or two. Each year, our reaction time slows by a few thousandths of a second. We're also less able to recall items on a shopping list.

Those changes can be signs of a disease, like Alzheimer's. But usually, they're not.

"Both of those things, memory and processing speed, change with age in a normal group of people," says Matt Huentelman, a professor at TGen, the Translational Genomics Research Institute, in Phoenix.

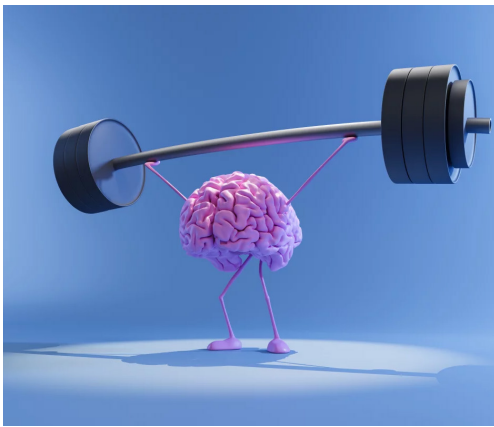
Huentelman should know. He helps run MindCrowd, a free online cognitive test that has been taken by more than 700,000 adults. About a thousand of those people had test scores indicating that their brain was "exceptional," meaning they performed like a person 30 years younger on tests of memory and processing speed.

Genetics played a role, of course. But Huentelman and a team of researchers have been focusing on other differences. A key protein called Reelin may help stave off Alzheimer's disease, according to a growing body of research.

"We want to study these exceptional performers because we think they can tell us what the rest of us should be doing," he says.

Early results suggest that sleep and maintaining cardiovascular health are a good start. Other measures include avoiding smoking, limiting alcohol and getting plenty of exercise.

Huentelman was one of several dozen researchers who met in Miami this summer to discuss healthy brain aging. The event was hosted by the McKnight Brain Research Foundation,



which funds studies on age-related cognitive decline and memory loss. To preserve cognitive function in later life, "we're going to have to understand [brain] aging at a mechanistic level," says Alice Luo Clayton, a neuroscientist who is the group's chief executive officer.

Various pieces of colorful trash, such as plastic bottle caps and plastics forks, are arranged in the shape of a human brain, on a light blue background. Another speaker was Christian Agudelo, a sleep neurologist at the University of Miami's Evelyn F. McKnight Brain Institute.

"I think the value of sleep and sleep deprivation became true to me when I had kids," Agudelo says. Those kids are 4 and 6 now, so Agudelo is getting more sleep. But his own experience is consistent with his research on the relationship between sleep and cognitive decline.

Courtesy NPR.ORG

SDH Kupwara Does Not Refer; It Responds

■ **Dr Basharat Khan**

In a world where health headlines are dominated by mega hospitals, robotic surgeries, and cutting-edge technologies, it is easy to overlook the silent revolutions that take place in modest hospital wards tucked away in distant hills. But every now and then, a story emerges from the margins that reminds us what true public healthcare is about: skill, commitment, and the will to care where it's needed most.

Recently, a quiet milestone was achieved at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara, nestled in the border district of North Kashmir. A 55-year-old man, suffering for over a month with unrelenting fever and abdominal pain, was diagnosed with a pyogenic liver abscess; a condition that, if not treated on time, can turn fatal. Imaging studies, including ultrasonography and a contrast-enhanced CT scan, confirmed abscesses in segments VI and VII of the liver.

Under normal circumstances, this case would have followed a familiar script: an ambulance ride, a hurried referral to Srinagar, and anxious waiting for a procedure in an overloaded tertiary care centre. But this time, Kupwara chose to heal its own.

With clinical clarity and courage, the Surgical team at SDH Kupwara's opted to perform a pigtail catheter drainage of the abscess under ultrasound guidance; a procedure typically seen in more advanced centres. Six hundred millilitres of pus was successfully drained, bringing quick relief to the patient. No complications followed. The recovery began not in a faraway city, but right



here, in Kupwara.

The procedure was led by Dr Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Consultant Surgeon, and Dr Wasif Bashir, Consultant Radiologist, with support from Dr Anil (PG in Surgery), Mr Tariq Ahmad (OT Technician), Mr Tanveer, and a dedicated nursing team. The patient responded remarkably well: his fever subsided, his discomfort eased, and he began walking the path to recovery under the watchful care of his own community doctors.

This may seem like a small medical event, but it carries with it a larger message; that SDH Kupwara can rise above the reputation of being a mere referral centre. When provided with skilled manpower, basic infrastructure, and, most importantly, institutional trust, such hospitals can manage critical cases with dignity and success.

The implications are far-reaching. In a remote district like Kupwara, where geography and socioeconomic challenges already burden access to care, every procedure performed locally saves not just lives, but livelihoods. It saves patients from travel costs, emotional distress, and long absences from home. It strengthens the very idea of community-based, decentralised healthcare.

For young medical professionals posted in far-off places, this is also a moment of affirmation. It proves that their work matters; not only in statistics or performance sheets, but in human stories of recovery and hope. And for health administrators, this should be a cue: strengthening district hospitals isn't charity; it is smart policy.

SDH Kupwara's modest operating room did more than drain an abscess. It restored confidence; in local care, in homegrown skill, and in the idea that healing need not always come from far away. Sometimes, it happens quietly, humbly, in a room where a team decides to stay, to act, and to heal.

Let us celebrate this moment not just as a first for Kupwara, but as a symbol of what is possible in every remote corner of Jammu and Kashmir; when competence is given a chance, and care is allowed to flow freely, even at the periphery.

Dr Basharat Khan is a columnist, critic, and author of the book Literary Beats. He can be reached at chogalwriter@gmail.com.

Study of 1.2 Million Children Finds No Risk From Common Vaccine Additive

■ **Carly Cassella**

A massive, 24-year-long study of more than 1.2 million children provides reassurance to parents around the world. The research has found no compelling evidence that childhood vaccines lead to autism, asthma, or dozens of other chronic disorders. Researchers in Denmark examined the safety of a specific vaccine ingredient – aluminum salts – which, despite frequent debunking, remains a common talking point among vaccine skeptics.

Clinical trials have tested their safety extensively, and they've been used in non-live vaccines for more than 70 years to boost the immune system's response to lower doses of medicine.

Though the salts contain aluminum ions, their chemical properties are quite different to those of pure aluminum. "It's really important for parents to understand that we are not injecting metal into children," epidemiologist and senior author Anders Hviid from Statens Serum Institute in Denmark told NBC News. "Our study addresses many of these concerns and provides clear and robust evidence for the safety of childhood vaccines."

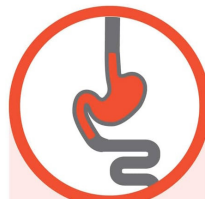
From 1997 through 2020, Hviid and colleagues tracked the health outcomes of more than 1.2 million Danish children using a nationwide registry containing details on childhood vaccinations, diagnoses, and potential biases. Some of the children were born at a time when fewer vaccines with aluminum salts

were recommended. Others grew up when more were recommended.

Ultimately, a kid's exposure to vaccine-related aluminum salts before age 2 was not significantly related to any of 50 chronic disorders, including 36 autoimmune, 9 allergic, and 5 neurodevelopmental conditions. The lack of dose-dependent relationship between aluminum salts and a child's ongoing health strongly suggests the ingredient is safe for use. Early childhood vaccination with aluminum-

adsorbed vaccines in Denmark from 1997 through 2020. (Andersson et al., Annals of Internal Medicine, 2025) Edward Belongia, a retired epidemiologist who studied vaccine safety for decades and who was not involved in the current research, told Stat News that this is "the largest and most definitive observational study on the safety of vaccine-related aluminum exposure in children" he knows of.

Courtesy Science Alert



Dr. Amarendra Singh Puri
Vice Chairman
Gastroenterology

Renowned
Gastroenterologist
of Medanta Gurugram now at

New City Hospital,
Srinagar

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Sunday, 20 July 2025
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Tengpora Bypass, Srinagar





DC reviews progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan in District Kishtwar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, JULY 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who is also chairman of District Health Society Kishtwar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan in the District.

During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajinder Kumar presented a brief on the execution of the action plan aimed at eliminating Tuberculosis in the District. The DC emphasized the need for scaling up TB screening, especially focusing on the vulnerable populations for timely intervention.

He also issued strict directions to intensify efforts at the Panchayat level by implementing focused strategies aligned with the six key indica-

tors of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Further, directions were issued to ensure timely disbursement of benefits under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, to support the nutritional needs of TB patients during the course of their treatment.

Directions were passed to prepare comprehensive Panchayat-level action plans, besides to conduct massive IEC Campaign, including door to door awareness with the involvement of religious leaders, healthcare professionals, sportspersons, prominent citizens, Self-Help Groups and Social organisations to reduce stigma associated with tuberculosis.

Stress was laid on IEC through daily SMS and phone calls to the patients to ensure they do not miss



their daily dose of medicine. "Identification of cases based on the 10 com-

mon TB symptoms is imperative to achieve TB-free status," he said.

He further directed to enhance the distribution of nutritional food

baskets under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMBA) to ensure that all eligible TB patients receive the full spectrum of care and support during their treatment.

District officers & Doctors were directed to adopt two TB patients, besides exhorting the Health Department to ensure that its field functionaries work tirelessly for the success of the programme.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work collaboratively and decisively toward the goal of eliminating TB from District Kishtwar.

Meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACD/CEO KDA Kaiser Bhawani, SDM Chatroo, SDM Marwah, MS District Hospital besides concerned district officers/officials.

Chairman CII J&K Calls on Omar Abdullah

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 16: Dr. M A Alim, Chairman of CII Jammu & Kashmir UT Council along with Mr. Khurshid Dar, Head of CII J&K called on Hon'ble Chief Minister of J&K, Jenab Omar Abdullah.

Dr. Alim had a constructive discussion centred on key initiatives to propel the economic growth of J&K. The primary focus was on strategies to position Jammu & Kashmir prominently on the global MICE Tourism (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions) map. Dr. Alim also briefed the Hon'ble Chief Minister on the upcoming CII events and initiatives



planned for J&K, highlighting CII's commitment to fostering industry development and investment in the region.

Marking a significant step in enhancing stakeholder communication, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Omar Abdullah, unveiled the First Edition of the CII&K Quarterly Newsletter for 2025. This new publication is designed to serve as a vital platform for disseminating valuable insights, critical policy updates, and information on initiatives driving growth and development across Jammu & Kashmir. The newsletter aims to connect industry, government, and other stakeholders with relevant knowledge and updates.

Training for Booth Level Officers organised in Reasi District

■ HT News Desk

REASI, JULY 16: To enhance the capacity of field staff, District Election Office Reasi organised comprehensive training programmes for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) across the three Assembly Constituencies of the District. The training sessions were held from July 15 to July 16 under the overall supervision of District Election Officer Nidhi Malik. The training aimed to strengthen the preparedness of BLOs and ensure better implementation of electoral revision at the grassroots level.

The sessions were conducted at the constituency level and facilitated by Assembly Level Master Trainers and Booth Level Officers who had recently attended the National Level Training Programme held in New Delhi.

The training programmes were held in 56-Gulabgarh (ST) Assembly Constituency at Government Degree College, Sarh Bagga, 57-Reasi Assembly Constituency at Auditorium, DC Office, Reasi and 58-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly Constituency at Government Higher Secondary School, Katra.

The participating officials showed keen interest in attending the training. It is pertinent to mention that updated knowledge of the Booth Level Officers will prove fruitful during the Summary Revisions of the Electoral Rolls, as and when announced by the Election authorities.

DEO Nidhi Malik emphasized the pivotal role of BLOs in ensuring free, fair and inclusive elections. She urged the officers to remain vigilant, well-informed, and proactive in discharging their duties and to maintain the highest standards of integrity and efficiency in their work.

BJP felicitates Kavinder Gupta on appointment as Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 16: In a grand and emotionally charged function held at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, hundreds of leaders and activists of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, gathered to felicitate senior leader Kavinder Gupta on his appointment as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Union Territory.

The auditorium was packed with enthusiastic party workers and supporters who came together to celebrate the elevation of one of the party's most dedicated leaders. Among the prominent leaders present were J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Dy CMDr. Nirmal Singh, General Secretary & MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, former MLA Ashok Khajuria, and MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa, among others.

Kavinder Gupta, who earlier served as Deputy Chief Minister and Speaker in the erstwhile BJP-PDP coalition government, has had an illustrious political journey. He also served thrice as Mayor of Jammu, has remained a committed RSS Swayamsevak from his student days, served the jail term during emergency and played his part on key party positions.

Speaking on the occasion, J&K BJP President Sat Sharma lauded Kavinder Gupta's appointment and termed it a



proud moment for every party worker. "Kavinder Ji's elevation is not just a personal achievement but an inspiration for every grassroots activist. His disciplined life, ideological clarity, and organizational commitment set him apart as a leader with both vision and humility. We have all seen him grow through the ranks, and he has remained grounded throughout. His journey shows how BJP nurtures leadership from the bottom up," Sharma said, adding that the party remains united as a strong ideological and organizational force.

Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma called Kavinder Gupta's political journey a beacon of hope for thousands of BJP workers. "His life teaches us that hard work, dedication, and ideological conviction can help one reach any position," he said.

Ashok Koul emphasized that BJP values the contribution of every activist and stands firm on its ideological and organizational pillars.

Jugal Kishore Sharma praised Gupta's commitment and his selfless service in every responsibility he has shouldered.

Expressing his gratitude, Kavinder Gupta shared anecdotes from his early days as an RSS volunteer and highlighted how his political journey was driven by service, dedication, and teamwork. "From Sangrur during the Emergency to serving in various key roles, it has been a long journey. In BJP, no background is too humble, only commitment matters," he said. He also reiterated his commitment to serving the people of Ladakh with utmost sincerity and dedication.

Gupta paid tribute to icons like Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya, and Pandit Prem Nath Dogra, and said he draws strength from their vision. He pledged to work in close coordination with the administration in Ladakh and leave no stone unturned in fulfilling the aspirations of the people.

Cong should learn to think of nation: Chugh

Rahul takes breakfast at Chinese embassy secretly and objects to FM meeting China President: Chugh

■ HT News Desk

NEW DELHI, JULY 16: BJP national general secretary Tarun Chugh today blasted senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for questioning foreign minister S Jaishankar's meeting with China President Xi Jinping to express nation's concern over Pakistan-sponsored Pahalgaon terrorist attack.

Chugh said being leader of the Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi is bringing shame to the nation.

"We all know how Rahul Gandhi used to hold secret meetings with the China officials for breakfast or whatever in Delhi without disclosing the agenda to the people of the nation," said Chugh.

Chugh said the Congress should stop indulging in cheap politics of targeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has catapulted the status of India as one of the leading nations in the world.

Rahul Gandhi, Chugh said, seems to be fearing that his secret ties with China are not exposed.

On the international platform India has sounded one and all how the Pahalgaon massacre was engineered. The Prime Minister has spread this message across the world and the Foreign Minister is taking the Prime Minister's message further, Chugh added.



"SHRAMIK WARTA" launched to enhance grievances redressal for workers

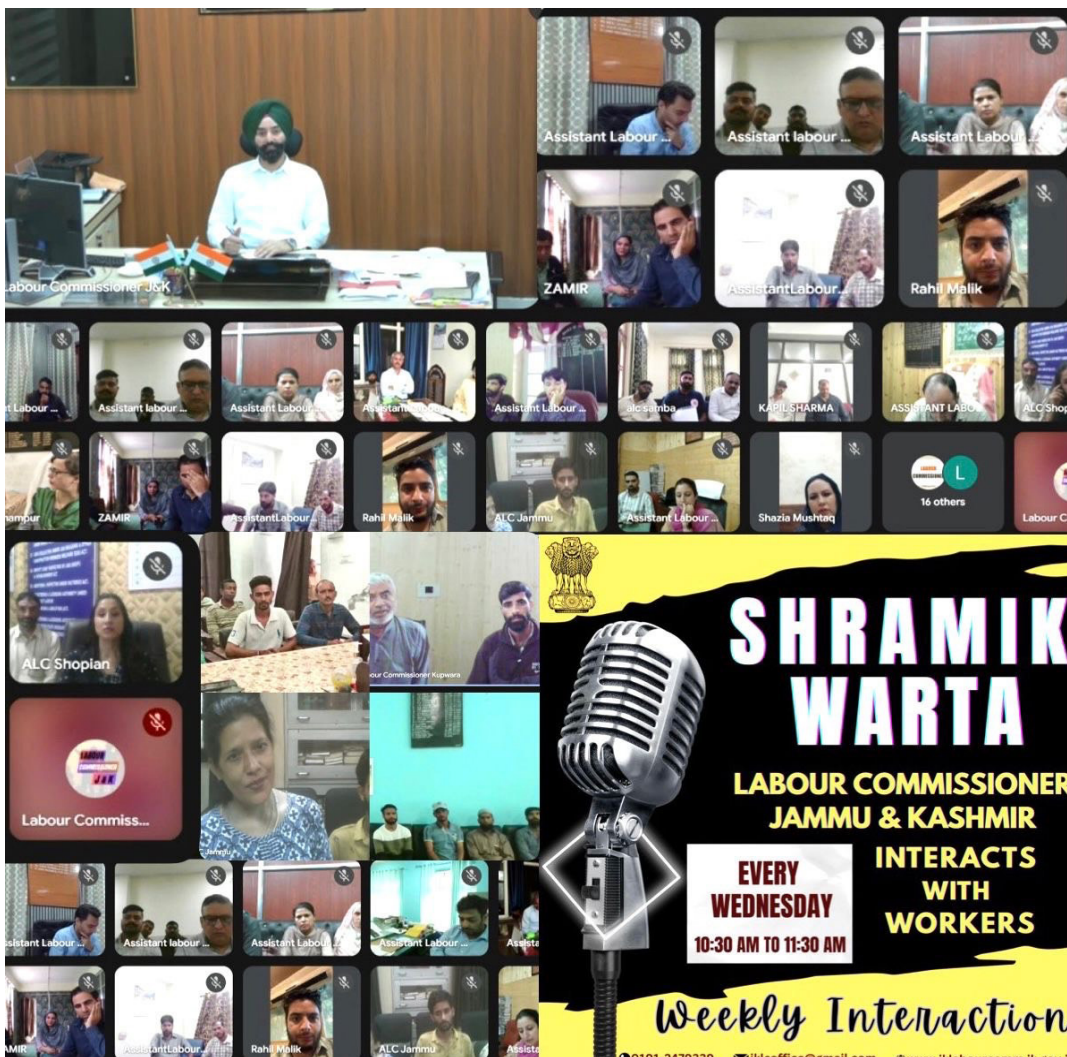
■ HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 16: In a significant step towards promoting transparent governance and effective grievances redressal in the labour sector, the Labour Commissioner Jammu and Kashmir S. Charandeep Singh today launched a new initiative titled "Shramik Warta".

The innovative programme is designed to establish direct communication channels with workers and labourers across the Union Territory through virtual platforms. The core objective of Shramik Warta is to ensure prompt and time-bound resolution of genuine labour-related grievances, while fostering accountability and responsiveness within the Labour Department.

During the inaugural session held today, the Labour Commissioner interacted virtually with all 20 Assistant Labour Commissioners (ALCs) of the UT and personally heard the grievances of around 45 complainants from various districts. The Labour Commissioner, J&K attentively listened to each grievance and issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers for early redressal.

The issues raised by the complainants primarily revolved around payment of wages, gratuity, compensation, shop registration and issuance of labour cards. Several complainants expressed satisfaction with the swift action



taken by the Labour Department, appreciating the initiative as a much-needed platform for direct resolution and communication.

One of the complainant, Mr. Prince Sharma of Siot, Rajouri, of

M/S AM Agencies (CFA & Distributors for Procter & Gamble India Pvt. Ltd. and Gillette India Ltd.) employed as a Comber with a monthly salary of ₹15,115/-, brought out his grievance regard-

ing non-payment of salary and dues TA, and retention incentives. He filed a complaint on 19.06.2025 under the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. The Labour Department acted promptly, issuing notices

to the employer the same day. A hearing was held on 02.07.2025 before the Labour Court, Rajouri, following which the employer was directed to pay ₹75,979/-. The amount was transferred to the worker on the same day, resolving the grievance within 15 days through timely departmental intervention. Similar other issues were also resolved during the WARTA.

Reinforcing the department's commitment, S. Charandeep Singh directed the district-level officers to organize awareness camps across the UT. These camps aim to sensitize the labour force about their rights, entitlements, and welfare schemes available under various labour laws and policies.

He further reiterated that Shramik Warta is not just a grievance redressal mechanism but a step toward streamlining departmental processes, fostering transparency, and enhancing collaboration between field functionaries and the labour force. He announced that every Wednesday at 10:30 am to 11:30 am will be designated as the day for direct interaction between workers and the concerned authority, ensuring consistency and accessibility for all stakeholders.

The launch of Shramik Warta marks a progressive shift in labour administration in Jammu and Kashmir, ensuring that the voices of workers are heard and their rights are protected in a proactive and systematic manner.



Registrar BGSBU reviews development projects

Announces Girls' Hostel for the Nursing College

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, JULY 16: Registrar Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Abhishek Sharma conducted a detailed review of ongoing and proposed development initiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure and student amenities within the university campus.

During the inspection, the Registrar visited the faculty quarters and the guest house, directing concerned officials to initiate renovation works to upgrade facilities. He also

inspected the Day Care Centre and instructed for the provision of sports equipment for holistic development of children availing the facility.

In a significant move to boost accommodation for female students, the Registrar gave directions for the construction of a dedicated Girls' Hostel for the Nursing College, keeping in view the growing demand and need for secure residential facilities.

Further, he emphasized on campus beautification, particularly the fountain gate area, and called for the installation



of signage across the campus for better navigation. He also proposed the renaming of a prominent chowk within the campus in honour of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, recognizing his supreme sacrifice and contribution to the nation.

The Registrar also suggested exploring possibilities for creating a Children's Park and a Trekking Track to promote recreational activities among students and families residing on the campus.

As part of safety and surveillance measures, instructions

were issued for the installation of sufficient number of CCTV cameras and street lights to ensure a secure environment.

The visit also included an inspection of the proposed site for the construction of an indoor stadium, with facilities to support sports like shooting, Olympic-level disciplines and archery.

Registrar Abhishek Sharma was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, Dr. Pervez Alam, Dr. Shams Kamal Anjum, Dr. Titi Xavier and Joint Registrar Qasim Kohli during the visit.

Rang Tarang Sets New Benchmark, Completes 10 Shows on Day 2

■ HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 16: Rang Tarang, a festival of young performers from IIM Jammu, is set to create history by showcasing the highest number of performances by a group of 128 brilliant artists in a festival of 4 days. The festival was inaugurated yesterday, with opening shows including Rehearsal written by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav, The Dear Departed by Stanley Houghton, Andher Nagri by Bhartendu Harishchandra, and Refund by Fritz Karinthy. The shows were blessed by the presence of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of Indian Institute of Management, Jammu and Director Natrang Padmashri Balwant Thakur.

The day also featured a remarkable performance of Jagarna, a traditional Dogri folk dance, by the students of IPM Batch 4. Commenting on the performance, Balwant Thakur, Director of the Rang Tarang Festival, said, "It is amazing to see a Dogri dance being performed so brilliantly by young performers coming from different parts of India. The most astonishing part is the level of perfection they attained during their training in performing arts, guided by the experienced faculty of Natrang Jammu."

Day 2 opened with a mesmerizing Pahadi Dance, followed by four thought-provoking plays: Budhi Kaaki based on a story by Munshi Premchand, Antral Ke Baad written by Pratap Sehgal, Gadda based on a story by Krishan Chander, and Aaj Ki Aurat written by



Balwant Thakur. With the culmination of Day 2, Rang Tarang created history by presenting ten vibrant events in just two days. Each performance was so impressive that it became difficult for the audience to compare their levels of excellence, as every successive act kept them spellbound. Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director of IIM Jammu, appreciated the performances and congratulated Balwant Thakur for transforming young artists. He also emphasized the urgent need to include arts in the curriculum of Business Management.

Animal Husbandry Department Udhampur Reaches Remote Areas with Veterinary and Awareness Camp

■ HT News Desk

UDHAMPUR, JULY 16: In a significant outreach effort to serve remote communities, the Animal Husbandry Department Udhampur successfully organized a veterinary-cum-awareness camp today at Panchayat Ghar Thanua. This special initiative, spearheaded by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Sanjay Gupta, aimed to provide essential services and knowledge to farmers in far-flung areas.

The camp was presided over by Dr. Anwar Hussain, Superintendent of the District Veterinary Hospital (DVH) Udhampur, and conducted in collaboration with



the Mobile Veterinary Unit Udhampur. Approximately 150 farmers mostly women from both the poultry and dairy sectors attended the event, benefiting

from a range of services.

Farmers received crucial information on various Central and UT-level employment-generating schemes, designed to enhance

their livelihoods. Additionally, attendees were provided with free veterinary consultations and complimentary medicines for their livestock.

Participants expressed their deep appreciation for the Animal Husbandry Department's efforts, recognizing the department's commitment to doubling farmers' incomes. The event also served as a platform for several Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and beneficiaries of Animal Husbandry Schemes to share their inspiring success stories and experiences.

Dr. Hussain assured the community that the department plans to organize more such camps in the near future, reinforcing its dedication to supporting the region's animal husbandry sector.

Balwant Thakur Meets Union Minister for Tourism and Culture; Calls for Cultural Revival in J&K

■ HT News Desk

NEW DELHI, JULY 16: Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, an eminent theatre director and cultural icon from Jammu & Kashmir, today met Hon'ble Union Minister for Tourism and Culture, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, at his official residence in New Delhi. During the meeting, Thakur passionately pleaded for substantial and targeted support for the revival and development of arts and culture in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

Having devoted his life to the service of art and culture, Thakur shared his visionary roadmap for the holistic cultural upliftment of the region. Drawing upon decades of hands-on experience in managing and promoting the arts of J&K, he urged the Union Minister to consider Jammu & Kashmir under a special cultural provision, similar to the model adopted for the North Eastern states, in order to address the long-standing neglect of the region's rich cultural heritage.

A key point raised in the discussion was the pending demand for a region-



centre of the National School of Drama (NSD) in Jammu. Despite previous efforts, including course module structuring and identification of local collaborators, the proposal has not materialized on the ground. Thakur emphasized that such a centre is vital for nurturing talent and institutionalising theatre education in the region.

He also highlighted the absence of regional centres of the three premier national cultural institutions, namely Sangeet Natak Akademi, Sahitya Akademi, and Lalit Kala Ak-

demi, in Jammu & Kashmir. While each of these national bodies has dedicated centres in the North East, J&K continues to remain overlooked. Thakur strongly advocated for the establishment of one regional centre each of these academies in Jammu & Kashmir to ensure equitable access and representation.

Expressing grave concern over the disappearance of numerous traditional art forms in the region, Thakur called for a defined cultural policy focused on the preservation and promotion of endangered art forms. He noted that many national schemes aimed at directly funding cultural organisations have failed to reach Jammu & Kashmir due to its geographic and administrative disconnect from the national mainstream.

He concluded by appealing to the Union Minister for urgent and sustained efforts to recognise and support artistic excellence in Jammu & Kashmir, ensuring that its artists and cultural institutions receive the respect, resources, and opportunities they rightly deserve.

Mission YUVA: DLIC approves 112 loan assistance cases at Udhampur

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, JULY 16: Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of the District level implementation committee for the Mission YUVA scheme. The meeting was convened to evaluate, screen and approve Start-Up proposals under Nano and MSME sectors, and to assess the overall progress of the implementation of the scheme in the district.

The meeting was attended by IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Deputy Director Employment Mohinder Sharma; Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta; DSWO, Kanika Gupta, representatives from the banking sector and other concerned officers.

After thorough scrutiny and discussion, the Committee approved 112 cases out of the 118 applications put up at the meeting. The DC emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of implementation through coordinated efforts by all line departments. LDM was directed to ensure prompt processing and disbursement of sanctioned loan cases.

Highlighting the significance of Mission YUVA, the DC stressed the importance of continuous monitoring of YUVA Doots and directed that regular awareness camps be organized across the district.

7th DCDC Meeting held at Samba

4 new Food Processing Units Approved; Cooperative Mandap inaugurated at Chichi Mata

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SAMBA, JULY 16: The 7th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting was held today to review the progress of cooperative sector initiatives and approve new interventions for rural development in District Samba. District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma chaired the meeting convened by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies and attended by Assistant Registrars and other staff of the Cooperative Department, reflecting the department's strong commitment to grass-roots cooperative development.

A major decision of the meeting was the approval of four new food processing units under the JK Cooperative Flagship Scheme. These units will be established by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and other cooperative bodies to promote value addition, self-employment, and rural enterprise development, focusing on processing cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables and herbal products.

The Committee also reviewed the implementation of two existing food processing units engaged in bakery



production. Operated by PACS, these units have demonstrated strong community engagement and financial viability resulting in employment generation, especially for rural youth and women.

Their performance was acknowledged as a model initiative, encouraging replication by other cooperative societies in the district.

Another significant highlight of the meeting was the inauguration of a Cooperative Mandap at Chichi Mata,

aimed at promoting cooperative-based rural tourism, cultural activities and services delivery in the religious tourism hub. The initiative is expected to boost local cooperative visibility and economic engagement.

Other major agenda items discussed included, Computerization of PACS, progress of the Grain Storage Project, activities under the International Year of Cooperatives, besides review of PACS functioning as Common Service Centres (CSCs) and Jan Ausha-

dhi Kendras.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Thakur; Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Ajay Bharti and the functionaries from the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, FCS&CA and representatives from NABARD, DCCB and other key institutions.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Rajesh Sharma emphasized the importance of timely implementation, inter-departmental coordination and ease of technical support to ensure the sustainability of both new and existing cooperative ventures. He particularly appreciated the success of the bakery units as an inspiring path for rural cooperative entrepreneurship in the district.

The Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, as the Convener, assured that the department would closely monitor implementation timeline, provide technical and administrative handholding and ensure that the approved units become operational, aligning with the vision of "Sahkar Se Samridhi."

AADHAAR ENROLMENT CAMP HELD AT BATHRI-DODA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, JULY 16: An Aadhaar Enrolment Camp was successfully conducted at village Bathri of the Poshan Project Thathri. The camp was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the supervision of District Programme Officer, Poshan Project Akther Hussain Qazi.

The event witnessed active participation from local residents, who availed themselves of the opportunity to register for Aadhaar, update their details and resolve any discrepancies in their records. The Poshan Project staff and technical team led by CDPO Thathri Nisar Hussain were present to assist the beneficiaries and ensure smooth and effi-

cient registration of locals.

Aadhaar enrolment plays a crucial role in enabling citizens to access essential services and entitlements offered by the government. During the camp, officials also sensitized participants about the benefits of Aadhaar and how it strengthens their ability to benefit from public welfare programs.

The District Administration expressed satisfaction over the successful conduct of the camp and appreciated the cooperation of the residents. More such camps are planned to cover the remaining areas, and residents are encouraged to participate actively to complete their enrolment and updates in time.

BLOs imparted training at Kishtwar

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, JULY 16: The District Election Office (DEO) Kishtwar today hosted training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of 48 Inderwal and 49 - Kishtwar, Assembly Constituency.

District Election Officer Pankaj Kumar Sharma presided over the session in presence of ERO 49 Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal and ERO 48 Inderwal Mohammad Idrees Lone. The training, conducted in morning and afternoon sessions at Con-

ference Hall DC Office Complex, aimed to equip field-level election functionaries with updated knowledge and practical guidance for carrying out revision-related tasks as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).



Pulwama joins workshop on 'Transforming Skilling Ecosystem in J&K'

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, JULY 16: District Pulwama today virtually joined a two-day workshop on 'Transforming the Skilling Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir', being organised at SKICC Srinagar by the department of Skill Development.

The workshop is aimed at providing a platform for collaborative ideation, expert dialogue, and strategic planning to develop a future-ready, inclusive, and industry-aligned skilling ecosystem in the Union Territory.

Among those who attended the workshop were the Principal, Government Degree College (Boys) Pulwama; Principal, Government Degree College for Women Pulwama; Principal, Government Degree College Rajpora; Chief Education Officer Pulwama; Assistant Director Employment Pulwama; District Nodal Officer, EDI Pulwama; Lead District Manager Pulwama, and other district and sectoral officers along with officials of various departments.

DR. SANJEED SULTAN KAWOOSA
(MBBS, MD DGO)

SENIOR CONSULTANT GYNAECOLOGIST & OBSTETRICIAN

(Reg. No.: 23527)

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

Kashmiri Handicrafts Exhibition cum Sale

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

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

Sponsored by:-

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

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

Under:-
NATIONAL HANDICRAFTS PROGRAMME (NHDP) Scheme DEVELOPMENT

Organized By:-
M/s REHMAN HANDICRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED BUIHHAMA
W.e.from:- 08-07-2025 TO17-07-2025

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of SUHAIL MANZOOR BHAT S/O MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT R/O BURZAWACHAN Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his / her / their favor.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of BURZAWACHAN of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the BHAT community having annual income 240000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT father 50 years Numberdar
2. HABLA BEGAM Mother 48 years Housewife
3. MUBEENA MANZOOR Sister 29 years student
4. SAHIR MANZOOR Brother 29 years //
5. SUHAIL MANZOOR self 22 years //

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of INSHA IMTIYAZ D/O IMTIYAZ AHMAD BHAT R/O BURZAWACHAN Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his /her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of BURZAWACHAN of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the BHAT community having annual income 320000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. IMTIYAZ AHMAD BHAT father 40 years Labour
2. SHAHEENA BEGAM Mother 39 years Housewife
3. INSHA IMTIYAZ self 18 years student
4. KAISER IMTIYAZ Brother 15 years //
5. SAHIL IMTIYAZ Brother 12 years //
6. ZANAIB IMTIYAZ Sister 11 years //
7. HASHIM IMTIYAZ Brother 8 years //

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of SHAYESTA GANI & BASIT GANI SHAH S/O ABDUL GANI SHAH R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his / her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KAKOTHAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the SHAH community having annual income 344000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. ABDUL GANI SHAH father 60 years FARMER
2. RAFAEEQ BEGAM Mother 55 years Housewife
3. NAZIR AHMAD SHAH Brother 27 years Labour
4. BILAL AHMAD SHAH Brother 25 years Labour
5. PARVEENA BANO sister 24 years student
6. BASIT GANI SHAH Brother 20 years //
7. SHAYESTA GANI self 18 years //

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of MOHAMMAD SALIQ SHEIKH S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD SHEIKH R/O KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 28/09/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at CHC KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that an Electricity Bill is being issued in the name of Hotel Raj Palace, C/o Parvaiz Ahmad Sofi, S/o Haji Noor Mohammad, and Dildar Ahmad Khan, S/o Haji Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Khan, Consumer ID No.: 0209020031680

Any objections regarding the issuance of the electricity bill in the above-mentioned name(s) may be submitted in writing to the concerned Electricity Department within 07 days from the publication of this notice. After the stipulated period, no claims or objections shall be entertained.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of SUHAIL MANZOOR BHAT S/O MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT R/O BURZAWACHAN Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his / her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of BURZAWACHAN of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the BHAT community having annual income 240000 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. MANZOOR AHMAD BHAT father 50 years Numberdar
2. HABLA BEGAM Mother 48 years Housewife
3. MUBEENA MANZOOR Sister 29 years student
4. SAHIR MANZOOR Brother 29 years //
5. SUHAIL MANZOOR self 22 years //

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABDUL AHAD WAZA S/O MOHAMMAD SULTAN WAZA R/O FRASTHAR Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/01/1964 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of ATIQA BEGUM D/O ABDUL RAHIM WAZA R/O FRASTHAR Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 01/01/1968 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

My name wrongly mentioned in my Aadhar card as Neelofar Mustaq instead of Neelofar Masooda.Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/ She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

NEELOFAR MASOODA W/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD WANI R/O NOORBAGH BARAMULLLA

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri (Executive Magistrate 1st Class)

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of AYRA DAWOOD D/O DAWOOD AHMAD LONE R/O NAID KHAIE Tehsil HAJAN Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 28/12/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection .

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

GOVERNMENT OF (U.T.) JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.

Ground Water Division Srinagar | Baghi-Ali-Mardan, Nowshara Srinagar.

E-mail:-phegwd@yahoo.com | Tel./FaxNo:-0194-2411285

Extension Notice 3rd

Subject: Construction of Bore Well at Chapran District Bandipora.

Reference: This office Fresh e-NIT No.16-JS-PHE/GWDS/Mech. of 2025-26, issued vide endorsement No: JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./2581-91, dated: 19-06-2025. Bearing Tender ID No. 2025_PHE_279213_1.

Due to "No Response" for the above mentioned works advertised vide-NIT No. and Tender ID No's under reference. Which was scheduled to be downloaded till 15-07-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM are extended as per the details given below: -

S.No.	Item	Fresh Date
1.	Period of submission of bids	28-07-2025 Up-to 11:00 AM
2.	Date of opening of tenders	29-07-2025 11.00 AM

NOTE: All other terms and conditions shall remain same as laid down in the aforesaid e-NIT issued vide above referred endstt: nos.

No: -JS-PHE/GWDS/25-26/Camp./3380-90. | Dated: 15-07-2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Deptt.
Ground Water Division Srinagar.

DIPK: 3808/25 | Dated: 16-07-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR HOME DEPARTMENT Civil Secretariat, J&K.

Subject: Final Seniority List of the members of the J&K Fire and Emergency (Gazetted) Services (Deputy Directors).

Government Order No.: 346-Home of 2025
Dated: 11.07.2025.

Whereas, in pursuance of Rule 11 of the J&K Fire and Emergency (Gazetted) Services Recruitment Rules, 2017, notified vide SRO- 286 dated 12.07.2017, read with Rule 24 of Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956, it is imperative to maintain updated seniority of the members of the service; and

2. Whereas, a tentative seniority list of the members of J&K Fire and Emergency (Gazetted) Services (Deputy Directors), as it stood on 01.01.2025, was issued vide Government Order No. 259-Home of 2025 dated 15.05.2025, for inviting objections, if any, from the members of the service within a period of 21 days from the date of its issuance; and

3. Whereas, Director, Fire and Emergency Services, J&K, vide communication No. DFES-GEN/4/2021-02 (CC-87023) dated 01.07.2025 has intimated that no objections have been received with regard to the Tentative Seniority list of Deputy Directors, Fire and Emergency Services, J&K, issued vide ibid Govt. Order.

4. Now, therefore, the final seniority list of the members of the J&K, Fire and Emergency (Gazetted) Services (Deputy Directors), as it stood on 01.01.2025, forming Annexure-A, to this order, is hereby notified for information of the concerned members of the services, which shall be subject to condition that the date of birth reflected in the seniority list shall in no manner be construed as final and shall be subject to the entries recorded in the Service Book/Date of Birth Certificate of the concerned officer, issued by the Competent Authority.

By Order of the Government of Jammu and Kashmir.

No: HOME-FES/66/2025-01-HOME Dated: 11-07-2025

Sd/- (Chandraker Bharti) IAS
Principal Secretary to the Governemnt

DIPK: 3792/25 | Dated: 16-07-2025

Anant National University to Preserve Kashmir's Musical Heritage of Sufiana Mausiqi

Signs MoU with Tulkul Arts and Media Collective

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: Anant National University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Tulkul Arts and Media Collective, Kashmir, to study, document and preserve the musical instruments of Sufiana Mausiqi, a classical musical tradition central to Kashmir's cultural landscape. The collaboration aims to build a design archive of these rare instruments, many of which are only being crafted by a handful of artisans, map their cultural, social and historical contexts and explore possibilities for contemporary use, preservation and revival.

The MoU was formally announced in Srinagar, in the presence of reputed dignitaries,

including MLA Dr Bashir Ahmad Veeri and MLA Sajad Shaheen, Principal Secretary Department of Culture BM Sharma IFS Herinder Kaur, Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Dr Raja Muzaffar, social activist, Nisar Naseem, Cultural Activist, Dr Sukamal Deb, Lead, Anant Centre for Documentation and Development of Crafts (ACDC), Anant National University, Prof Parth Shah, Assistant Professor, School of Design and Manager, Makerspace, Ravice Rashid, artist-in-residence, Anant National University, among others.

The MoU will facilitate a two-way knowledge exchange. Traditional craftsmen and practitioners from Kashmir will visit Anant to teach design stu-

dents the process of crafting these unique and endangered instruments, along with the cultural and musical heritage associated with them. Anant students will, in turn, get first-hand exposure to the making techniques, traditional compositions and the rich history of Sufiana Mausiqi, deepening their understanding of India's rich indigenous design traditions from Kashmir.

Anant, through ACDC, will support documentation, preservation and potentially the revival of this art form through design innovation, archiving and research. ACDC documents, supports, nurtures and disseminates knowledge of crafts and traditional systems and seeks to revive the languishing crafts of India by promoting and



preserving traditional crafts, modernising ancient practices, teaching Mind-to-Market

(M-M) approach, organising upskilling programmes and more.

Speaking on the collaboration, Dr Sanjeev Vidyarthi, Pro-vost, Anant National University, said, "Preserving a traditional art form is not just about archiving artefacts, it is about taking forward centuries old legacy by introducing it to the young minds of today who will shape our tomorrow. Anant is committed to systematically documenting and improving India's rich and diverse indigenous knowledge systems. Our students actively engage with local communities to understand real-world challenges and co-create practical, sustainable solutions. This initiative is another step forward to expand our students' engagement with design while preserving and integrating Indigenous knowledge into the contemporary

discourse."

Tulkul Arts, led by cultural activist and theatre artist Ravice Rashid, artist-in-residence at Anant National University, brings years of grassroots experience in reviving folk traditions through storytelling, street theatre and performance. This partnership will also include fieldwork, oral history documentation and workshops with practitioners and craftspeople.

The initiative aligns with Anant's commitment to promoting indigenous knowledge systems and integrating traditional wisdom with modern design education and emerging technologies. The effort also reflects Anant's broader vision to create sustainable, culturally rooted solutions that honour and evolve India's heritage.

Illegal extraction & transportation of minerals

Kulgam Police seized 08 vehicles (06 Dumpers & 02 Tippers), arrests 08 persons

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 16: In continuation of its ongoing drive against illegal mining, Kulgam Police have intensified efforts to combat illegal mining activities and have seized 08 vehicles used in illegal extraction and transportation of minerals besides, arrested 08 persons involved in the commission of crime.

Acting tough against the persons involved in



illegal extraction and transportation of minerals, Police party headed by SHO PS Qaimoh seized 06 Dumpers and 02 tippers bearing registration numbers JK14B-5645, JK03B-2234, JK03G-3214, JK05F-7211, JK03L-4788, JK19A-2088, JK13J-7160 and JK13D-8811 and arrested eight drivers.

Accordingly, cases vide FIR No. 52, 53 & 54/2025 under relevant sections of law have been registered in Police Station Qaimoh and further investigation is going on in all cases.

Kulgam Police is committed to take action against violators. Community members are requested to come forward with any information regarding illegal mineral-related activities in their neighbourhood.

The Cry of Pensioners: Wandering from Door to Door

■ Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: Senior citizens who have dedicated the prime years of their lives in the service of the nation are now left in a state of helplessness and neglect. The All India Pensioners' Federation (AIPF), Kulgam district unit, has for the past several weeks been holding meetings across various tehsil headquarters of the district. These meetings, though peaceful, resonate with a deep sense of frustration and sorrow, highlighting the longstanding demands and hardships of retired employees.

All these meetings are being spearheaded by the district president of the federation, Haji Abdul Hameed Mir, himself a veteran pensioner. He has been actively visiting different locations, standing shoulder to shoulder with his fellow pensioners and reminding the authorities that those who once upheld the country's institutions are now left to struggle for their basic entitlements in old age.

"We gave our all to the nation, and now the nation has forgotten us,"

Mir remarked emotionally during a meeting held today in Yaripora, where dozens of pensioners were in attendance.

Speaking to the media, he said,

"Pensioners served the nation for decades, contributing to its development and governance. Now they are crushed under the weight of inflation, illness, and governmental apathy."

He emphasized that no adequate hike has been

made in pensions in proportion to rising inflation, and many pending dues have yet to be released, causing severe financial distress among elderly retirees.

Discrimination Against J&K Pensioners?

One of the pressing issues raised during the

meeting was the medical allowance disparity. Mir pointed out that while pensioners in Ladakh receive a monthly medical allowance of ₹1000, those in Jammu and Kashmir are given a mere ₹300.

"Are the illnesses of J&K's elderly any less serious? Is the life of a J&K pen-

sioner worth less than that of someone in Ladakh?"

The All India Pensioners' Federation has made a heartfelt appeal to the central government, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, and former Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, urging them to listen to the voices of these marginalized citi-

zens and take immediate action to address their genuine grievances.

Pensioners have made it clear that if their concerns are not addressed soon, they will escalate their movement, though it will always remain peaceful and within the bounds of the law.

Rest in Peace

With Profound Grief And Sorrow, We Inform All The Concerned That
Mohammad Ramzan Khan S/o Haji Abdul Khaliq Khan R/o Rampora
Qamarwari Srinagar Breathed His Last Today The 15th of July 2025
inna Lillahi Wa Inna Ilayhi Raji'un. The Deceased Was A Noble Soul
And Popular Among All His Concerned. In This Concern, The
Iltimaye Fatheh Khawani Shall Be Held On Friday The 18th Of July
2025 At 9:00 am At Their Ancestral Graveyard Malkha, Near Cable
Car Station, In sha allah.
The Family And Relatives Are In Grief, So The Ladies Are Strictly
Advised Not To Bring Along With The Fruits or Eatables Along With.

Bereaved Family Through:-
Haji Abdul Khaliq Khan (Father)
Shabir Ahmad Khan (Son)
Mobile No:- 7006822150, 9622720264

DC Kulgam Reviews AMRUT 2.0 for 100% Urban Tap Water

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 16: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of works being carried out under the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 in the district.

During the meeting, officers from the Jal Shakti Department gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, briefing the DC on the status of various water supply and infrastructure development projects approved under AMRUT 2.0.

It was informed that in the four towns of Devsar, Kulgam, Frisal, and Yaripora, the total treated water requirement is 3.28 MGD (Million Gallons per Day), while the current availability stands at 1.489 MGD. The shortfall of 1.80 MGD is to be addressed through interventions under AMRUT 2.0.

Officials further informed the chair that four water supply schemes have been approved under the mission, all of which have been allotted for execution at an estimated cost of Rs.14.62 crore.

The identified water sources for these schemes include Nallah Veshow, Nallah Sonman, and Shankarpaul Spring.

The DC instructed all implementing agencies to ensure regular monitoring,



maintain transparency in execution, and fast-track the completion of AMRUT 2.0 projects for the benefit of the district's urban population.

The DC stated that the primary aim of AMRUT 2.0 is to provide universal access to functional household tap connections in all urban areas of the district.

He added that the ongoing interventions under the scheme would significantly enhance urban water infrastructure and improve service delivery to the residents.

The meeting was attended by Joint Director Planning, Malik Suheel, Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic Circle Anantnag-Kulgam, Nawaz Ahmad,

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Riyaz Ahmad Shah, Executive Engineer Kulgam, Ishfaq Hameed, EOs and other concerned officials.

از دفتر نایب تحصیلدار پہلگام

استیوار بمسرا داگانی خاص عام

درخواست منجانب

یاور حسین لون پسر سکینہ بانو ساکن ننون پہلگام

سابل نے ایک درخواست بغرض حصول لیگلایز سرٹفکٹ دفتر
ہذا میں پیش کی ہے جس کے مطابق سابل کی والدہ سکینہ بانو
زوجہ غلام مہی دین لون

28/11/2008

کوفت بوی ہے

وارث جانیز افراد

غلام مہی دین سو پر متوفی

==یاور حسین پسر

==عذر جان دختر

==مسکن جان

==افسان جان دختر

اسکے علاوہ اور کوئی افراد کمبہ مہن موجود نہیں ہے

زیر کاروباری سرٹفکٹ اجراء کرنے میں کسی کو کوئی عذر ہو
تو وہ سات یوم کے اندر اندر دفتر ہذا میں پیش کرے

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office of the Chief Education Officer,
Mini-Secretariat Complex Arhama Shopian

Subject:- Invitation of applications for deputation of Warden/Assistant Warden in Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel (Boys) Shopian.

Reference:- Communication no. DCS/ADC-PS/25-26/2344-45, Dated:- 04/07/2025 from Deputy Commissioner Shopian.

NOTICE

Applications as per the prescribed format attached herewith are invited from the eligible Masters/Teachers working in the School Education Department District Shopian for working on deputation basis in Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel (Boys) Shopian in terms of Government Order No. 557-JK(GAD) of 2023, Dated:- 09/05/2023 and instructions issued by the Tribal Affairs Department J&K vide communication no. TA-ADM/500/2022-04-TAD, Dated:- 09/05/2023.

S.No.	Name of Hostel	Applications invited on Deputation basis for the post of
01	Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel Shopian	Warden G&B Hostel Shopian Assistant Warden G&B Hostel Shopian

The recommendations for the selection of the of the suitable candidates will be made by the Committee comprising of Addl. Deputy Commissioner Shopian, Chief Education Officer Shopian, Representative of Tribal Affairs Department, and Representative from the Criminal Investigation Department (CID), and the selection will be recommended on the basis of following parameters.

A) Vigilance Clearance
B) Favourable Character and Antecedents from CID.
C) Seniority/Length of Services.
D) Administrative Skills
E) Suitability for the post.
F) Career Record.
G) Willingness to serve
H) Proximity to the Hostel.

The Application forms along with certified service particulars, PS Copy of qualification certificates, non-involvement & work and conduct certificate along with other requisite testimonials shall reach this Office through the concerned DDO within seven (07) days from the date of publication of this Notice in the newspaper.

(Application form for posting of Warden and Assistant Warden in Gujjar and Bakerwal Hostel Shopian)

Post Applied for _____

Name of Applicant:- _____

Designation with Place of Posting _____

Date of 1st Appointment and Design. at 1st appt _____

Date of Birth _____

Education Qualification _____

Addl. Qualification _____

Length of Substantive Service _____

Whether Previously served in any Hostel (if yes) period of working _____

Email ID _____ Mobile No _____

Photograph

Signature of Applicant

Declaration :-

I Solemnly hereby declare that the information submitted herein above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief and nothing therein has been concealed.

Signature of Applicant

Forwarded in original to the Chief Education Officer, Shopian. It is certified that Mr. _____, working as _____ in the Department is eligible to apply for the post of Warden /Assistant Warden G&B Hostel Shopian.

Signature of DDO

No: CEO/SPN/IMW/9805-10 Dated: 15-07-2025
Sd/- Chief Education Officer Shopian

DIPK: 3775/25 | Dated: 16-07-2025

DC reviews drainage system in Anantnag town; conducts field visit

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, JULY 16: In view of the prevailing weather conditions and forecast, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. S.F. Hamid chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and working of the Drainage system in the district.

Officers from key departments including Revenue, Flood Control, PHE, Irrigation, Municipal Council, ULB, Health, SDRF, and FCS&CA were present.

DC directed concerned depart-



ments to maintain readiness of manpower and machinery, and to undertake preventive desilting at key drainage points. He emphasized timely deployment of sand-

bags along embankments where necessary, with improved coordination and real-time information flow among all line departments.

The Urban Engineering department was instructed to prioritize manhole clearance and stormwater drain cleaning, while Fire & Emergency Services and

SDRF were asked to stay alert for any eventuality.

ADC (CEO DDMA) was tasked with updating the evacuation plan and ensuring operational readiness of Control Rooms.

DC later conducted an on-ground inspection of low-lying and vulnerable areas of Anantnag town including Laizbal and S.K. Colony. He instructed removal of obstructions in drains and stressed on public cooperation to ensure smooth response and mitigation efforts.

Dr. Younis Sofi Nominated for Uttam Bharat Puraskar 2025

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: In a moment of pride for Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Younis Ali Sofi, a passionate and tireless Agriculture Officer currently serving at IMDC, Lalmandi Srinagar, has been nominated for the prestigious Uttam Bharat Puraskar 2025 — one of India's highest recognitions for excellence in agricultural sciences.

Renowned for his dedication, innovation, and grassroots impact, Dr. Sofi has emerged as a key figure in transforming Kashmir's agricultural ecosystem. From spearheading flagship initiatives like



the National Mission on Saffron, Organic Farming Movements, and Exotic Vegetable Cultivation, to hands-on work with farmers in remote areas, Dr. Sofi's contributions have reshaped both policy and practice.

What sets Dr. Sofi apart is not just his technical expertise, but his unwavering commitment to farmers' welfare. Widely respected for his "farmer-first" philosophy, he has conducted numerous awareness and training camps, bringing modern techniques and scientific knowledge directly to the field. Farmers from across the region laud him for being available round the clock, offering support, advice, and encouragement in times of need.

Dr. Sofi's extraordinary service has earned him accolades from both state and national platforms. A recipient of the Rabindranath Tagore Award, among many others, his nomination for the Uttam Bharat Puraskar only adds to his growing legacy.

The Uttam Bharat Puraskar honors individuals who exemplify dedication, innovation, and transformative impact — values that Dr. Sofi embodies in every facet of his work. As the nation watches with anticipation, his story continues to inspire a new generation of agricultural professionals committed to building a sustainable and self-reliant India.

DCDRC Bla delivers judgment in favour of flood-affected shopkeeper

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, JULY 15: In a landmark decision, the District Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (DCDRC) Baramulla/ Bandipora has ruled in favour of a local shopkeeper, Syed Ibrahim Rizvi, in a case related to the non-settlement of an insurance claim following the devastating floods of September 2014.

The complainant, a resident of Malmoh Pattan, had insured the stock of his shop through a policy issued by Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company, facilitated by J&K Grameen Bank Khore Sherabad. After the floods submerged his shop for over 15 days, causing complete damage to the insured stock, the complainant approached the bank and submitted a written request to process his claim.

However, despite the bank forwarding the claim to the insurance company, no further action was taken by the insurer, leading the complainant to file a case before the Consumer Commission.

After a thorough examination of evidence, witness testimonies, and legal submissions, the Commission held that there was a clear deficiency in service and unfair trade practice on the part of the insurance company and the bank. The Commission emphasized that once the bank forwards the claim, it constitutes valid and effective intimation to the insurer, regardless of whether the insurer acknowledges receipt.

In its final order, the Commission directed Bajaj Allianz General Insurance Company and J&K Grameen Bank to register the claim and pay an amount of Rs.3,00,000 along with 7% interest from the date of the order till its realization. Additionally, they have been directed to pay Rs.1,00,000 for causing mental agony and indulging in unfair trade practice, and Rs.20,000 towards litigation expenses.

The order, issued on July 15, 2025, was pronounced by Commission President Peerzada Qousar Hussain and Member Nyla Yaseen. The parties have been given a deadline of four weeks to comply with the directions.

DAJGUA concludes with appreciable achievements in Anantnag

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, JULY 16: The month-long extensive Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), launched with the aim to empower rural and tribal communities across all 16 blocks of the district concluded on Tuesday here in Anantnag. The key aspects of the campaign were to enhance access to essential government services and schemes like Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan and PMUY, promoting financial inclusion through PM JDY and KCC, promoting health by conducting screening for TB and Sickle Cell Anemia, and raising awareness about development programs through innovative methods like painting, hoardings, posters and selfie points.

Notably the DAJGUA had appreciable achievements across all blocks of the district with active involvement of govt functionaries and large scale community participation. With 386 camps organized, around 20,000 participants reached, DAJGUA has set a new standard for grassroots upliftment and community engagement.

Significant accomplishments, among others, include issuing 830 Aadhaar cards, distributing 778 Ayushman Bharat cards and 601 PMUjjwala connections and identifying 45 tuberculosis cases for follow-up care. Additionally, 52 Forest Rights Act pattas were issued and 13 PVTG households were provided targeted benefits during the campaign. Besides 221 Kisan Credit Cards were provided, 245 PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts were opened and 124 beneficiaries were enrolled under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna.

To expand and boost the employment opportunities, 182 registrations under MGNREGA and 131 PM Vishwakarma registrations were made in the district. As a matter of top priority, district administration spearheaded the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan as a well planned outreach program for both urban and remote tribal communities with full coordination and collaboration among the line departments like Health, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development and others.

DC Bandipora visits remote Buthoo village; listens public grievances, assures timely redressal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JULY 16: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Wednesday visited the remote upper-reach village of Buthoo in Bandipora district and presided over a public darbar to hear the grievances and demands of the local residents.

On the occasion, residents of Buthoo village presented a detailed memorandum highlighting various developmental issues and pressing demands. These included the resumption of work on the road from Ziarat Buthoo onwards, repair of the Ahamsharief-Buthoo road including construction of protection walls, establishment of a health centre, identification of land for a playground, and improvements in drinking water and electricity supply.

After giving a patient hearing, DC assured the villagers that all genuine grievances will be addressed in a time-bound manner. He also sought immediate feedback from the concerned officers regarding the issues raised during the darbar.

Taking serious note of the road connectivity concerns, DC issued on-the-spot directions to the



Executive Engineer, R&B, to expedite the resolution of bottlenecks and ensure timely completion of road works.

While interacting with the public, DC described Buthoo as one of the most scenic villages in the district and reiterated the administration's commitment to its holistic development. He assured the locals that their concerns would be prioritized and necessary steps would be taken by

the administration to ensure long-term solutions.

DC was accompanied by a team of district and sectoral officers including the Chief Planning Officer Bandipora, Assistant Commissioner Development, Tehsildar Bandipora, Block Development Officer Bonakoot, Executive Engineers from R&B and Jal Shakti departments, as well as officers from KPDC and other concerned departments.

Commissioner SMC reviews progress of National Clean Air Program

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 16: In a continued push towards improving urban air quality, Commissioner, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, Fazlul Haseeb chaired a comprehensive review meeting today at SMC headquarters, Karan Nagar to assess progress under the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP).

The session involved a detailed evaluation of the initiatives undertaken during 2025-26 to mitigate air pollution in the city.

Commissioner acknowledged the progress made so far, applauding the departments for their efforts, while also drawing atten-

tion to areas that demand focused and accelerated action.

"Clean air is not just an environmental imperative, it's a fundamental public health priority," the Commissioner emphasized. "It is our collective duty to implement these initiatives with efficiency and purpose, so that the people of Srinagar can breathe cleaner, healthier air. This calls for innovation, commitment, and strong inter-departmental coordination."

Haseeb urged all concerned departments, including the Roads & Buildings (R&B) department, to fast-track pending projects, improve coordination mechanisms, and streamline adminis-



trative procedures to facilitate timely execution. Stressing trans-

parency and accountability, Commissioner directed officials to

maintain a collaborative and result-oriented approach in achieving NCAP goals.

In his closing remarks, Commissioner reaffirmed that air quality improvement remains a top priority for SMC. He pledged continuous monitoring of project implementation and emphasized the shared responsibility of all stakeholders in creating a sustainable and livable city.

Srinagar Municipal Corporation remains steadfast in its mission to ensure a cleaner, healthier environment for current and future generations.

The meeting was attended by key officers from various line departments.

BLOs Trained for Special Intensive Revision of Photo Electoral Rolls 2025 in Ramban District

■ HT News Desk

RAMBAN, JULY 16: The District Administration Ramban today conducted training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) as part of the preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Photo Electoral Rolls for 2025, in both Ramban and Banihal Assembly Constituencies.

In Assembly Constituency (AC)-55 Banihal, a total of 127 BLOs were trained, while in AC-54 Ramban, 90 BLOs were trained across two batches. The training sessions will continue tomorrow for the remaining BLOs to ensure complete coverage and proper understanding of the revised guidelines. District Election Officer (DEO), Mohammad Alyas Khan, presided over the training session held at Ramban. Deputy District Election Officer Abdul Jabbar and other senior officers from the district administration were also present during the program.

The training was conducted in accordance with the directions of the Election Commission of India (ECI), which has initiated the

Special Intensive Revision exercise under Article 324 and relevant provisions of the Representation of the People Act, 1950, with 01.07.2025 as the qualifying date. The primary objective of the revision is to ensure that no eligible citizen is left out and no ineligible individual is included in the electoral rolls.

During the SIR, BLOs will undertake House-to-House Enumeration and provide Enumeration Forms to all existing electors. These forms can also be downloaded by electors. BLOs will collect one copy of the filled form and acknowledge receipt on another copy to be retained by the elector.

The District Election Officer emphasized the need for BLOs to provide maximum facilitation to vulnerable groups, including senior citizens, persons with disabilities (PwDs), and economically weaker sections, to safeguard their electoral rights.

The training sessions are designed to equip BLOs with the necessary technical know-how and procedural clarity for efficient implementation of the SIR.

DC RAMBAN INTERACTS WITH MEDIA FRATERNITY

■ HT News Desk

RAMBAN, JULY 16: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today interacted with media persons of the district to foster a collaborative dialogue and understand the issues faced by the media fraternity at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by representatives from various print and electronic media organizations, who engaged in a candid discussion with the Deputy Commissioner on several matters of public interest. During the interaction, the media representatives also raised the demand for the establishment of a Press Club at the district headquarters, citing the need for a common platform to facilitate journalistic work and strengthen coordination.

Responding positively, Deputy Commissioner Alyas Khan assured the media fraternity that their genuine demands and concerns would be duly considered.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC emphasized the vital role of media in the democratic setup, calling it the fourth pillar of democracy. He said the media acts as a bridge between the government and the public, helping to ensure transparency, accountability, and participatory governance. He also underscored the importance of responsible and ethical journalism in bringing government schemes and welfare initiatives to the attention of the public, particularly those aimed at empowering youth through livelihood and self-employment opportunities.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the District Administration's commitment to address genuine public issues and facilitate their prompt resolution.

Earlier, President of the Journalist Association Ramban, Mohammad Taskeen Wani, welcomed the Deputy Commissioner and expressed gratitude for his outreach and commitment to strengthening the role of media in the district.

ZUBAIR DAR, THE MAESTRO BEHIND BARAMULLA'S CRICKETING EXCELLENCER

■ HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 16: In the picturesque town of Baramulla, cricket is more than just a sport – it's a way of life for the young Cricketers and behind the region's cricketing success story is a man whose dedication and passion have been the driving force behind the Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF). Zubair Dar, a name synonymous with commitment and excellence, has worked tirelessly to shape the future of cricket in the Baramulla region.

With an unwavering commitment to the sport, Zubair has spent years identifying and nurturing young talent, providing them with opportunities to excel. His efforts have not only elevated the standard of cricket in Baramulla but have also inspired a new generation of cricketers. As a stalwart of the BCF, Zubair's contributions have been instrumental in promoting cricket in the region, and his legacy continues to inspire and motivate aspiring cricketers.

Early Days and Passion for Cricket

Zubair's love for cricket began at a young age. Growing up in Baramulla, he was fascinated by the game and spent hours watching international matches and practicing with his friends. As he grew older, his passion for cricket only intensified, and he began to realize the impact the sport could have on young lives. He remains the Skipper of well known Club BCC Baramulla for a long time. He saw cricket as a way to build character, discipline, and teamwork, and he knew he wanted to be a part of it.

The Birth of Baramulla Cricket Forum

Zubair's vision for cricket in Baramulla led him to establish the Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF) Seven years ago. The organization was founded with the aim of promoting cricket in the region, identifying young talent, and providing them with opportunities to excel. Under Zubair's leadership, the Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF) has



become a hub for cricketing excellence, providing a platform for talented players to showcase their skills.

Mastermind Behind Success

Zubair's contributions to Baramulla cricket have been multifaceted. He has been the mastermind behind numerous tournaments, coaching clinics, and selection trials, ensuring that the best talents are given a platform to shine. His efforts have not only elevated the standard of cricket in the region but have also inspired a new generation of cricketers.

Through the Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF), Zubair has organized several successful tournaments, bringing together teams from across the region. These events have provided a platform for young cricketers to showcase their skills, and many have gone on to represent the region in state and national-level competitions.

Leadership and Vision

Zubair's leadership and vision have been instrumental in the success of the Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF). He has a keen eye for talent

and has worked tirelessly to identify and nurture young cricketers. His commitment to the sport has earned him the respect and admiration of the community, and his legacy continues to inspire and motivate aspiring cricketers.

Under Zubair's guidance, the Baramulla Cricket Forum (BCF) has become a hub for cricketing excellence, providing a platform for talented players to showcase their skills. His dedication and passion have made a lasting impact on the sport, and his contributions will be remembered for years to come.

Impact on the Community

Zubair's efforts have had a profound impact on the community. Cricket has become a way of life in Baramulla, and the sport has brought people together like never before. The BCF has become a symbol of hope for young cricketers, and Zubair's legacy continues to inspire and motivate them.

Through his selfless efforts, Zubair has shown that with dedication and passion, anything is possible. He has inspired a new generation of cricketers, and his contributions will be remembered for years to come.

A Lasting Legacy
Zubair Dar's legacy will continue to inspire and motivate aspiring cricketers in Baramulla for years to come. His dedication and passion for the sport have made a lasting impact, and his contributions will be remembered for generations. As the BCF continues to thrive, Zubair's vision for cricket in Baramulla will remain a guiding force, shaping the future of the sport in the region.

In conclusion, Zubair Dar's story is a testament to the power of dedication and passion. His contributions to Baramulla cricket have been instrumental in shaping the future of the sport, and his legacy will continue to inspire and motivate aspiring cricketers. As the region continues to produce talented cricketers, Zubair's impact will be felt for years to come, and his name will remain synonymous with excellence in cricket.

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