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# Focus on Changing Lives of People, Push for Inclusive Growth: LG Sinha to IIM Students

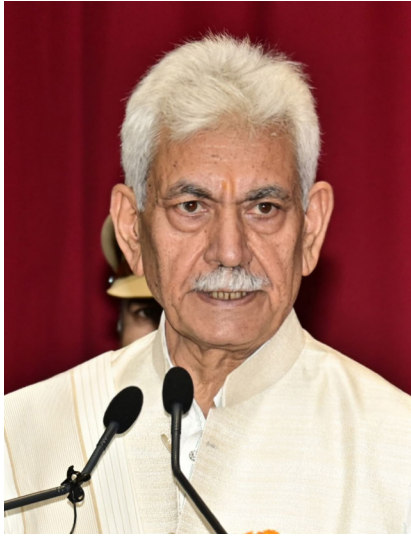
HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 18:** Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Valedictory session of 5-day Orientation Programme at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated Tejas Sports Complex within the campus.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the students on the beginning of their new journey.

He called upon the management students to focus on changing the lives of people, push for inclusive growth and make sure no one is left behind.

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## CS inspires new batch at IIM Jammu

HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** In an insightful address to the newly admitted batch of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today exhorted students to embrace their journey with purpose, passion and a deep commitment to public good.

The event marked the commencement of the academic year for one of India's youngest and most dynamic IIMs.

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# CM Omar Meets Public at Raabita Office Srinagar

HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** CM Omar Abdullah after his interaction on Thursday with public at his Jammu Raabita office, today listened to public grievances at Srinagar Raabita office. Several deputations and individuals today called on the Chief Minister at the weekly public outreach programme and apprised him of various issues, demands and challenges faced by different sections of society.

Prof. Iqbal S. Hasnain, Padma Shri awardee and Member of the Board of Trustees at the National University of Science and Technology, Muscat, Oman presented his book "Fault Lines in the Faith" to the Chief Minister. Prof. Hasnain also serves on the Executive Committee of Hamdard University and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, and is the former Pro-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard.

Javid Ahmad Tenga, President of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), met the Chief Minister to discuss various trade-related



matters and shared insights into the challenges faced by the business community in Kashmir.

A delegation of international martial arts

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# Amarnath Yatra resumes after daylong suspension

HT News Desk / KNO

**SRINAGAR, JUL 18:** The annual Amarnath Yatra resumed on Friday after remaining suspended for a day due to bad weather, while over 16,000 pilgrims had darshan at the holy cave today, officials said.

An official informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that the Yatra had been halted on Thursday following relentless rains, which triggered landslides along the routes, posing a threat to the safety of pilgrims. However, with improved weather conditions, authorities gave the green light for pilgrims to proceed.

Amid religious fervour and passion, 16,858 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Friday, he said.

The pilgrims who paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine included 11,357 males, 4,816 females, 220 children, 125 sadhus, 18 sadhvis, and 322 security personnel. The cumulative number of pilgrims who have performed darshan so far has reached 2,73,091.

The official said the 16th batch comprising

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# Rajnath, Shah Review 'Operation Sindoor' Ahead of Monsoon Session

HT News Desk / KNO

NEW DELHI, JUL 18: Ahead of Parlia-

ment's Monsoon Session slated to commence from July 21, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high level meet here on Friday.

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) the meeting held at Rajnath Singh's Delhi residence was attended by National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff, Tri-Services Chiefs and other top officers.

The top officers, according to the sources, briefed the ministers about the success of "Operation Sindoor" and other proactive steps that were taken after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

The Defence Minister is likely to give a statement on "Operation Sindoor" in the upcoming monsoon session of the Parliament.

Sources said that the Singh and Shah took feedback from the security top brass on the host of issues that are likely to come up during the customary all-party meeting

scheduled to be held on Sunday and during the "Monsoon Session."

Later another meeting of the Group of Ministers chaired by the Defence Minister and the Union Home Minister discussed government's stand over a host of matters amid the opposition raising heat on issues, including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, the Pahalgam attack and "Operation Sindoor," sources said.

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# Every disaster a lesson to learn from: Chief Secretary

HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** In a significant step towards enhancing the disaster resilience and preparedness, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir conducted a high-level workshop on the Incident Response System (IRS) today.

The workshop was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker

Bharti, senior Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Heads of Departments and National Disaster Management experts including Brigadier Kuldip Singh (Retd), Former Senior Consultant, Ministry of Home Affairs.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Secretary underlined the critical importance of building a culture of disaster preparedness among the citizens

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# DGP REVIEWS SECURITY IN DODA, KISHTWAR, RAMBAN

HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JUL 18:** Jammu and Kashmir Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Friday reviewed the security situation and anti-terror operations in the mountainous districts of Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar, an official said.

The DGP, who visited Baderwah and Batote areas, laid emphasis on eliminating both existing and newly formed terrorist groups hiding in the higher reaches of these districts.

The DGP underscored strengthening the intelligence grid and focused on conducting successful operations.

"The Director General of Police visited the range police headquarters in Batote to review the security, law and order situation, anti-terror operations and administrative readiness in Doda, Kishtwar and Ramban districts," said a police officer.

The DGP was during his visit briefed by

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# Rains Uplift Mood in Rural Kashmir

HT News Desk / KNO

**SRINAGAR, JUL 18:** After weeks of relentless heat and parched landscapes, the orchards and fields of Kashmir have finally received much-needed rainfall, bringing immense relief to thousands of apple growers and paddy farmers across the region.

Just a couple of weeks ago, Kashmir was grappling with soaring temperatures and dry spells that

left the land cracked and the faces of farmers withered in worry. The absence of rain posed a serious threat to the region's famed apple orchards and paddy fields, with growers concerned about stunted fruit size, reduced quality, and poor yields—especially for early and high-density apple varieties that are particularly sensitive to moisture stress.

"Every drop of rain felt like a blessing," said Ishfaq Ahmad Malik,

an apple farmer from the Shopian district, one of south Kashmir's major apple-producing areas.

Speaking to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), Malik said the recent showers not only revived withering crops but also lifted the spirits of the farming community. "Nature has been kind to us," he added.

The rainfall over the past few days has ended the prolonged

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# Rains Bring Relief to Farmers in Kashmir

HT News Desk / KNO

**SRINAGAR, JUL 18:** After weeks of scorching heat and a prolonged dry spell that had left Kashmir's paddy fields parched and orchards wilting, the recent spell of rainfall has brought immense relief to the farmers across the Valley.

With water levels rising in rivers, canals and streams, the irrigation pump stations

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# ACB Arrests JDA Official for ₹10,000

HT News Desk / UNI

**JAMMU, JUL 18:** Jammu and Kashmir Anti Corruption Bureau received a complaint alleging therein that public servant namely Kewal Krishan, Junior official of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for allowing further construction of the double storey building at Ballain Domana, Jammu.

The accused had demanded a bribe of ₹20,000 from the complainant for allowing further construction of the double storey building at Ballain Domana, Jammu and has agreed to receive 1st installment amounting ₹10,000 out of demanded bribe. Since, the complainant didn't want to pay bribe and he approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against the accused public servant under law.

On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborates the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR No. 14/2025 U/S 7

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# Modi Govt Enabled Public-Private Synergy: Dr Jitendra

United News of India

**NEW DELHI, JULY 18:** "The Modi Government has removed unreasonable barriers between public and private sectors, enabling a healthy synergy of best practices from all domains to be harnessed".

This was stated here today by Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science & Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Personnel, Public

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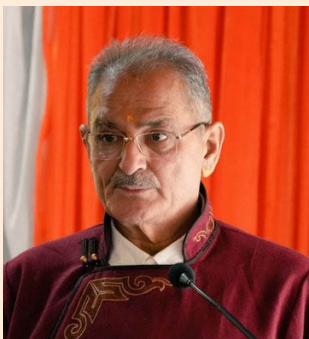
# Kavinder Gupta Takes Oath As New Ladakh LG

United News of India

**LEH/JAMMU, JUL 18:** Senior BJP leader Kavinder Gupta on Friday took oath as the new lieutenant governor (LG) of the Union Territory of Ladakh, four days after President Droupadi Murmu appointed him to the constitutional post.

Gupta was administered the oath of office by the chief

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**Aim to Make Ladakh Top Global Tourist Spot: LG Gupta**

United News of India

**LEH/JAMMU, JULY 18:** Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta

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## AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

**Future Leaders.....**

"I wish to see the young and bright minds as business leaders and thinkers of tomorrow who will shape the economic progress of society and the future of this great country.

As we seek to make India a developed country by 2047, we must ensure greater prosperity for all.

Future of India's business innovation and resource management rests on the shoulders of business leaders and thinkers of tomorrow. It will be business leaders and thinkers' responsibility to accelerate industrial growth, secure private investment, promote economic activity and build a private sector that supports the country's economic stability," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has emerged as a major hub of education and innovation.

He lauded the IIM Jammu for its significant contribution in J&K's education sector. He said the Tejas Sports Complex inaugurated today symbolizes IIM Jammu's commitment to students' holistic growth.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the students' new journey at IIM Jammu will forge a powerful connection between the academic world and the real world, ensuring that through a blend of skills and values, they emerge competent professionals ready to contribute to nation-building.

He emphasised that 5Cs: Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, Creativity and Curiosity will equip business leaders of tomorrow with essential life skills, empowering them to effectively navigate challenges of the rapidly evolving world.

"Technology is rapidly reshaping our world, especially the business landscape. Your role will be to utilise management practices and technological innovation for ease of doing business and enhancing ease of living for all.

Your leadership and problem-solving skills will provide fresh impetus to social development, fostering local entrepreneurship culture through sustainable business models," the Lieutenant Governor further said.

The new batch of students at IIM Jammu brings together a diverse group across its various academic programs, with a total enrolment of 474 students for the academic year. This includes participants in the MBA, MBA (Healthcare & Hospital Management), Ph.D. & Ph.D. (Working Professionals), and EMBA programs.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Shri Sudhir Langer, CEO & MD, RPSG FMCG, senior officials, HoDs, faculty members, and incoming batches of students were present on the occasion.

**CS inspires.....**

Congratulating the students for securing admission to a premier national institution, the Chief Secretary emphasized that IIM Jammu is not merely an academic campus, but a crucible of transformation. "You have crossed a significant milestone and now stand at the threshold of an experience that will transform your lives," he said, calling upon the students to not only become professionals but also leaders of values and vision.

Quoting Malcolm X, he remarked, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today," setting the tone for an address that combined wisdom, pragmatism and inspiration.

Describing IIM Jammu as a symbol of aspiration and excellence in New India, the Chief Secretary said the institution carries the energy and potential to shape the future leaders who can contribute to the region and the nation. "You are not just students you are ambassadors of this institution," he told the gathering, underlining the mutual responsibility between the individuals and institutions.

Dulloo highlighted that an MBA is more than a degree, it is a holistic journey that shapes decision-making, leadership character and ethical thinking. "You will learn the language of markets and innovation, but more importantly, you will learn collaboration, humility and empathy," he said, quoting Martin Luther King Jr., "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

Speaking on India's evolving economic and developmental landscape, the Chief Secretary observed that the country is witnessing a historic transformation through rapid digitalization, infrastructure growth, start-up momentum and global positioning. However, he stressed that along with these opportunities come challenges like climate change, social equity and sustainable development.

Emphasizing on developing the leadership traits, he maintained that the nation doesn't need managers who maintain the status quo but it needs leaders who think boldly, act ethically and lead with courage.

Touching upon the region's rapid development, the Chief Secretary noted that Jammu & Kashmir is emerging as a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship and governance reforms. He encouraged the students to engage with the region meaningfully. He urged them not to be just passive observers but to be catalysts to bring the necessary change.

Drawing from his experience in public life, Dulloo offered five principles for personal and professional success. He asked for staying curious, being resilient, acting ethically with full integrity, being inclusive showing respect to diversity and leading with compassion saying that kindness is a powerful leadership characteristic. The Chief Secretary encouraged the students to see the next two years as the foundation of a meaningful life. "Don't just aim for a good job only aim for a good life too," he said, urging them to build a legacy of purpose and service.

**CM Omar.....**

players also called on the Chief Minister to deliberate on the emerging challenges concerning international-level sports persons from Jammu and Kashmir, and sought the government's continued support for developing their talent and giving them ample opportunities.

President and Secretary of the Kashmir Labour Union's Federation, brought to the Chief Minister's attention the pressing concerns regarding the Jammu and Kashmir Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCVWB). He urged the government to expedite the appointment of the Board's Chairman and to facilitate prompt approval of welfare funds for lakhs of construction workers across J&K.

In addition, deputations from Beerwah, Inderwal, Baramulla, and other regions also met the Chief Minister to highlight issues specific to their constituencies and local population.

Representatives from minority communities too called on the Chief Minister and flagged various issues and demands for his attention.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing with all visiting delegations and individuals and assured them that their genuine concerns will be addressed on priority, reaffirming his government's commitment to inclusive and responsive governance.

**Rajnath, Shah.....**

They said the meeting was attended by Union Ministers J P Nadda, Kiren Rijiju, Piyush Goyal and G Kishan Reddy.

Pertinently, the opposition has been pushing for debate in Parliament on issues like "Operation Sindoor" and the claims of US President Donald Trump that he brokered the "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan.

The government has rejected Trump's claim, but the opposition has been insisting on a debate and has even demanded a special session of Parliament over the issue. The government has termed Operation Sindoor a big success, which inflicted massive damage on terror sites and military facilities in Pakistan.

It may be recalled that a few days after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, armed forces on May 6, 2025, launched "Operation Sindoor" and destroyed nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The attack on terrorist camps led to breaking out of skirmishes between India and Pakistan that continued till May 10. Hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) approached his counterpart in India and requested for a ceasefire—(KNO)

**Amarnath.....**

7,908 pilgrims left from the Jammu base camp early on Friday morning under tight security.

The convoy departed in 261 vehicles, with 92 on the Baltal route and 169 on the Pahalgam axis. The batch comprised 5,957 males, 1,613 females, 26 children, 290 sadhus, and 22 sadhvis.

The pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced on July 3 and will conclude on August 9—(KNO)

**Every disaster.....**

and institutions. "Disasters often arrive without warning and in every such instance, citizens are the first responders," he said. "Each capable individual has a moral responsibility to contribute to disaster resilience by being aware, prepared and proactive."

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's unique geopolitical and environmental vulnerabilities, the Chief Secretary emphasized the UT's susceptibility to earthquakes, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, cross-border tensions and climate-induced challenges. "Given our exposure to multiple hazards, our preparedness must be all-encompassing, institutionally sound and technologically enabled," he stated.

Dulloo stressed that disaster readiness is not measured by paperwork but by the number of lives saved and the responsiveness of the system during crisis. He noted that increasing urbanization and climate change have escalated the intensity and frequency of disasters, placing greater responsibility on governments, institutions and citizens to act decisively.

He advocated for clear institutional frameworks with defined roles and responsibilities. He emphasised the need of optimising use of advanced technologies such as GIS mapping, real-time weather forecasting and drone-based surveillance besides active community engagement, capacity building of NGOs, civil society and local volunteers. He also asked for integration of mid-career training for the officers and regular mock drills to ensure readiness.

The Chief Secretary called for customisation of IRS protocols based on local risk profiles at the district and block level. He proposed development of a Disaster Dashboard to map available resources, machinery, manpower and vulnerable zones across the UT.

In his inaugural address, Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, described the IRS as a newly notified system in J&K aimed at establishing a well-coordinated command structure during disasters. He explained that the IRS, modeled on international best practices and customized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), defines precise roles for each officer to eliminate confusion during emergencies.

Bharti highlighted the ongoing initiatives under the Disaster Management Department including the Mitigation plans for GLOFs and landslides, Integration of the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN), Deployment of Decision Support Systems and Establishment of Emergency Operation Center (EOC). He expressed optimism about significantly strengthening the disaster management mechanisms through these efforts and urged the officials to institutionalize the disaster response protocols across all levels.

Delivering a detailed presentation, Brigadier Kul-dip Singh (Retd), a distinguished disaster management expert, shared his insights on disaster typologies, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the defined responsibilities of various stakeholders during emergencies. Drawing from real-life disaster incidents across India, he emphasized that "no region is immune to disasters", and increased development must go hand-in-hand with increased vigilance and responsibility.

Brigadier Singh stressed the critical roles of central and UT governments, NDMA, SDMA, DDMAs and block-level institutions in developing a seamless and

scalable disaster response framework. He reiterated the need for integrated planning, resource allocation, and community-based preparedness to make India one of the most disaster-resilient nations in the world.

Later, a comprehensive Handbook on the Incident Response System (IRS) was unveiled, clearly delineating the roles and responsibilities of each officer and department involved in disaster response.

At the Union Territory level, the IRS is being headed by the Chief Secretary, who functions as the Response Officer. The handbook also outlines the hierarchical structure, including designated roles for the Incident Commander, Nodal Officer, Liaison Officer, Planning and the Media Communication System, thereby institutionalizing a well-coordinated and structured mechanism for disaster preparedness and response in the UT.

**DGP Reviews.....**

Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Shridhar Patil and other district police chiefs.

"A detailed review meeting was held at Bhandarwah to assess deployment for the Amarnath Yatra and anti-terrorist operations," the officer added.

Lauding the efforts of the civil and police administration in ensuring peaceful conduct of the Amarnath Yatra, the DGP emphasized on strengthening the intelligence grid, focusing on the successful execution of operations and ensuring the welfare of police personnel.

He laid special emphasis on eliminating both existing and new terrorist groups hiding in the higher reaches of these districts as well as dismantling the overground support networks of anti-national elements.

The DGP during his visit to Batote highlighted strengthening the intelligence grid and conducting successful operations.

The DGP's visits reinforced the importance of inter-agency coordination in maintaining peace and stability in the region, the officer said. (Agencies)

**Rains Uplift.....**

drought, rejuvenating orchards and fields. Farmers like Rafiq Ahmad Khan from Zainapora said the persistent heatwave had caused sunburnt apples with reduced juice content, resulting in crop losses and diminished returns. "The timely rains have brought great relief to both apple and paddy farmers," Khan told KNO, recalling how paddy fields had developed deep cracks due to the lack of water.

The impact of the drought was widespread, with water levels in Kashmir's major rivers and streams, including the Jhelum—often called the region's lifeline—dropping to alarming lows. At several locations, the river level was reported to be only knee-deep. Shabir Ahmed, another local farmer, said, "The rain has refilled many drains and rivers, reviving our hope."

Rain-fed farms, which lack irrigation infrastructure and depend entirely on natural rainfall, were among the worst affected during the drought. "The soil had become friable and we had almost given up hope," Shabir said. The recent rains, he added, arrived just in time to save apple, paddy, and vegetable crops from potential damage.

Official data confirms a marked improvement in water levels across the region's rivers and tributaries. As of July 17, the Jhelum was flowing at 9.50 feet at Sangam (flood mark: 21 feet), 1.55 metres at Pampore (flood mark: 4.5 metres), 9.57 feet at Munshi Bagh (flood mark: 18 feet), 5.33 feet at Asham (flood mark: 14 feet), and 15.75.08 metres at Wular Lake (full level: 1578.00 metres). Tributaries have also seen a rise but remain below danger levels, with Visho Nallah at Khudwani at 5.36 metres (flood mark: 7.75 metres), Rambiara Nallah at Wachi at 0.40 metres (flood mark: 5.4 metres), Lidder Nallah at Batkot at 0.67 metres (flood mark: 1.5 metres), and Sindh Nallah at Dodarhama at 1.84 metres (flood mark: 3.65 metres).

Compared to previous reports—when water levels at Sangam, Munshi Bagh, and Asham were as low as 3.85 feet, 5.94 feet, and 3.84 feet respectively—the current situation marks a significant recovery. Officials have reiterated that there is no immediate risk of flooding, and water levels are being closely monitored, with the impact of rain in upper catchment areas expected to be seen after a short delay.

Weather experts say the rainfall has significantly eased water shortages. They said that the recent rains have raised the water level of the Jhelum river, which will go a long way in overcoming the water shortage and that the rivers and tributaries are in spate, providing sufficient water for irrigation needs.

The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has forecast more rainfall in the region in the coming days, particularly between July 21 and 25, offering further respite to the farming community—(KNO)

**Rains Bring....**

that had gone defunct due to low water availability have now started functioning again, thereby reviving hopes for a better crop yield this season.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the farmers in different parts of the Valley were seen rejoicing, as the rains came just in time to save standing crops that were under severe stress due to lack of water.

"We were really worried that the crop would get damaged completely. The paddy land had dried up and cracks had appeared in fields. But the recent rains have been no less than a blessing," said Ghulam Nabi, a farmer from Awantipora. "Now, our land has absorbed water and we have resumed our irrigation routines. There's new hope," he added with a sigh of relief.

The heatwave and dry weather had also affected orchards in South and Central Kashmir, with many fruit growers complaining of early fruit drop and stressed leaves. However, orchardists say the rainfall has brought some balance.

"We were spending heavily on irrigating orchards through different means but were unable to irrigate whole orchards. The rain has come at a perfect time and it's a big relief for us," said Mushtaq Ahmad, a fruit grower from Shopian. "Rainwater is far better for the trees than any other means of irrigation," he added.

Agriculture experts say that while the rainfall may not completely reverse the damage caused by the dry spell, it will certainly help in stabilizing crop conditions and restoring soil moisture.

"The impact of the dry spell was visible in both paddy and horticulture sectors. Rain was essential at this stage. This spell has replenished water bodies and helped restore irrigation schedules. It has also enhanced the availability of groundwater to some extent," said Dr. Talib Shah, an agriculture scientist.

According to the Irrigation and Flood Control Department, the water level in major streams and rivers like Jhelum and Lidder has increased, enabling irrigation pump stations to resume operations.

"Pump stations had either stopped or were operating at low capacity. Now, with improved water levels, they are functional again, and canals are being supplied adequately," said an official from the department. "This will significantly help the farmers," he added.

Experts, however, caution that a single rainfall spell is not a long-term solution. "While this rain has been beneficial, the larger issue of climate variability and decreasing water availability needs long-term planning and water conservation efforts," Dr. Talib Ahmad said.

"We had lost hope," said Fayaz Ahmad, a farmer from Budgam. "But Allah heard our prayers. This is what we were desperately waiting for."

The Meteorological Department has predicted more light to moderate rainfall in the coming days, which may further improve the agricultural prospects for the region—(KNO)

**ACB Arrests.....**

of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation taken up.

During the course of investigation, a trap team headed by Gazetted rank officer was constituted. The team laid a successful trap and accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting bribe amount of 10,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses. The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, search is being conducted in the residential house of the accused situated in Flore Haramkund Gajanso, Tehsil Marh, District Jammu in presence of independent witness and Magistrate

Further investigation of the instant case is going on.

**Modi Govt....**

Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, Dr. Jitendra Singh while launching the "National Standards for Civil Service Training Institutes 2.0" (NSCSTI 2.0) at the Civil Services Officers Institute (CSOI), here. Developed by the Capacity Building Commission (CBC), the revamped framework marks a major leap in India's mission to build a future-ready civil service.

Speaking at the launch, Dr. Jitendra Singh said, "This milestone has been made possible because Prime Minister Narendra Modi has always encouraged out-of-the-box thinking and empowered us to break taboos of the past. NSCSTI 2.0 is not just a compliance tool—it is a transformative step toward institutional excellence."

The Minister highlighted how the framework supports cooperative and competitive federalism, empowering institutes to evaluate and upgrade themselves. "Just as the Aspirational Districts Programme enabled backward districts to outshine expectations, NSCSTI 2.0 encourages CSTIs to introspect, innovate and pursue excellence," he noted.

The upgraded NSCSTI 2.0 framework presents a more refined, inclusive, and future-ready approach to civil services training. It has been simplified and streamlined, with the number of evaluation metrics rationalized from 59 to 43, ensuring greater clarity and a sharper focus on outcome-based assessments. The framework is field-informed, drawing extensively from consultations with over 160 Civil Service Training Institutes (CSTIs), assessors, and domain experts, making it grounded in real-world training challenges and needs. Its inclusive design makes it adaptable for training institutes across all levels of government—Central, State, and Urban Local Bodies (ULBs).

Recognizing the shifting learning landscape, the framework is also digitally aligned, embracing hybrid learning models and AI-driven training mechanisms. Most importantly, it is forward-looking, integrating progressive elements such as Indian Knowledge Systems (IKS), the Karmayogi Competency Model (KCM), and the Amrit Gyaan Kosh (AGK), thereby aligning with India's vision of building a future-ready, competent, and citizen-centric civil service.

Dr. Jitendra Singh added, "The Modi Government has removed unreasonable barriers separating public and private sectors, enabling the best practices from all domains to be harnessed. This framework is an outcome of that vision." He emphasized the need for extending customized training modules to scientific institutions, stressing the importance of administrative preparedness in addition to technical expertise.

Recounting the global interest in India's civil services reform model, Dr. Jitendra Singh shared that countries like Bangladesh, South Africa, and Maldives have shown keen interest in studying Mission Karmayogi. "This is a testament to India's leadership in governance reform," he said.

NSCSTI 2.0 also marks a significant step forward in strengthening the civil services training ecosystem through multiple strategic outcomes. It enhances policy visibility, reaffirming the Government of India's commitment to institutional excellence and long-term capacity building. The framework serves as a strong motivational tool for CSTIs, encouraging them to embrace innovation, adopt best practices, and pursue continuous improvement. It also builds public awareness by positioning accreditation not merely as a compliance requirement but as a meaningful driver of quality and performance. With the reactivation of the accreditation portal, the framework ensures full operational readiness for a streamlined and transparent accreditation process. Additionally, it fosters cross-learning, enabling training institutes to benefit from the shared experiences and success stories of top-performing CSTIs across the country.

In just two years, over 195 CSTIs have already been accredited under NSCSTI. The upgraded version builds on real-time feedback and CBC's principle of participatory governance.

The event was attended by Adil Zainulbhai, Chairperson, Capacity Building Commission; Dr. R. Balasubramaniam, Member (HR); Dr. Alka Mittal, Member (Admn); V. Lalithalakshmi, CEO, Karmayogi Bharat; Syama Prasad Roy, Joint Secretary, CBC and other senior officials. Faculty members from Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) and Central Training Institutes (CTIs) also participated.

Dr. Jitendra Singh concluded by thanking CBC's leadership for creating a dynamic and adaptable framework that brings India closer to the vision of "Viksit Bharat" and a citizen-centric governance model.

**Kavinder Gupta.....**

justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice Arun Palli, at a ceremony held at Ladakh Raj Niwas in Leh, officials said.

Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal read the warrant of Gupta's appointment by President Droupadi Murmu.

He is the third Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory and succeeds Brigadier BD Mishra, who took over as LG of the Union Territory on February 19, 2024. Mishra had succeeded R K Mathur, a bureaucrat appointed as the first LG of Ladakh in 2019, after the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir was split into two Union Territories.

President Murmu appointed Gupta as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on Monday.

Gupta has held several key posts in the past, both in the government and within his party. He was the J&K deputy chief minister for 51 days in 2018 during the BJP-PDP government. He quit the post when the BJP withdrew its support from the Mehbooba Mufti-led government.

Hailing from Jammu city's Janipur area, 66-year-old Gupta has also served as Jammu mayor for a record three consecutive terms from 2005 to 2010. He also served as general secretary of the BJP's state unit and headed the J&K unit of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM) for two consecutive terms from 1993 to 1998.

Gupta was elected as an MLA for the first time from the Gandhi Nagar constituency, defeating sitting Congress minister Raman Bhalla in the 2014 Assembly elections.

Following the PDP-BJP alliance's victory in those elections, Gupta was unanimously elected as the speaker of the House.

Gupta, who also earlier served as secretary of the Vishva Hindu Parishad (VHP), spent about 13 months in jail during the Emergency as a Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) worker.

**Aim to Make.....**

on Friday expressed his commitment to rebuilding the Union Territory with people's support, and said they want to take Ladakh to a level where its name will be recognised globally as a top tourism destination.

Gupta on Friday took oath as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. Earlier, he had held several key positions including those of deputy chief minister and Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

He was administered the oath of office by the Chief Justice of the Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, Justice Arun Palli, at a ceremony held at the Raj Niwas.

"I have been appointed here to the post of lieutenant governor. I want to assure the people of Ladakh that rising above religion, caste, and party politics, we will all work together to rebuild a new Ladakh," Gupta told reporters soon after taking over as lieutenant governor.

Gupta pointed towards discrimination with the region in the past and said, "There is still a lot to be done. There's no doubt that Ladakh has faced a lot of discrimination in the past."

Spelling out his agenda for the development of the region, he said, "We want to take Ladakh to a level where its name will be recognised globally as a top tourism destination—just like those places in the world known for tourism, Ladakh's name will also be counted among them."

MLA Vikram Randhawa, who took part in the oath ceremony, said it is fortunate for Ladakh and unfortunate for Jammu and Kashmir that such a person, "a true son of the soil of Jammu", has been appointed as the LG of Ladakh.

"He has taken charge as LG today. He is a leader with administrative skills, having served successfully as a three-time MLA from Jammu City, as deputy chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, and as Speaker of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly," he added.



# Govt Intends To Make J&K 365 Days Destination Beyond Seasons: Dy CM

Addresses 1st meeting of CII Northern Regional Committee on tourism, hospitality

HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, today chaired the maiden meeting of Confederation of Indian Industry Northern Regional Committee on tourism and hospitality held in Srinagar to discuss the strategic interventions on revival of tourism and position J&K as global tourism hub.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Aslam Wani and MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmed Shah were present in the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, the Dy CM highlighted several key points on boosting tourism growth through collaboration and value-added verticals in Jammu and Kashmir. He maintained that the government intended to position J&K as a premier 365-Day destination beyond seasons. He urged the CII to support the government in shifting focus from summer/winter peaks to year-

round tourism through curated experiences.

"Tourism and Kashmir are inter-related in such a way that one can't be described in absence of other. It is not like that tourism in Kashmir is for a particular season but round the year. Every season has its own significance" he added.

The Dy CM said that the CII has been working closely with government on policy issues, enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and expanding business opportunities for the industry through a range of specialised services and global linkages. He urged the CII to come forward with a special focus on tourism, handloom and handicrafts, adventure sports and skill development to explore more possibilities of campaigning and awareness about high scope in J&K.

The Dy CM stated that our partnership with CII will unlock sustainable growth, generate employment and showcase our



cultural heritage to the world. He reiterated that the government is taking all steps to boost tourism in J&K with special focus on enhancing the infrastructure, diversifying tourism offerings, promoting safety and security besides engaging the local communities.

While speaking on the occasion, the Advisor to CM said that CII with its National and International connects should help government in targeting niche markets for sustainable growth and higher tourist spending. He invited the CII members and industry at large to promote

J&K on MICE Tourism map and suggest ways to further strengthen the tourism infrastructure in J&K.

Highlighting the importance of handlooms and handicrafts, the Dy CM suggested showcasing them through live demonstrations, craft village tours, and

immersive shopping experiences to captivate audiences." He asserted that J&K is famous for its rich culture and heritage and one of our endeavours should be reviving folk festivals, sufi music circuits, heritage walks in Srinagar/Jammu.

MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmed Shah, emphasized that adventure sports can be a key driver for tourism promotion, suggesting that Gulmarg and Pahalgam be leveraged to host national and international adventure sports competitions.

He further said that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is also one area where government and CII could jointly work and develop specialized infrastructure like adventure parks, wellness centers, heritage hotels via transparent PPP models. He also suggested to explore possibility of joint marketing campaigns with airlines, hotel chains and travel aggregators and empower the local cooperatives for homestay, guided

tours and artisans markets.

Earlier, Chairman CII Northern Regional Committee on Tourism & Hospitality, K.B Kachru, highlighted the agenda of the meeting which mainly included police interventions, yearly action plan, tourism review of northern states, skill development, capacity building and flagship schemes.

He said that CII took a conscious decision to hold its first regional committee on tourism meeting in Srinagar to send a message to larger industry that we must promote J&K at this juncture. He reiterated that CII and its members would like to contribute in overall tourism development of this region. "Our priority is to drive policy reforms, sustainable practices, and public-private synergies" he added.

Lastly, Chairman CII J&K, Dr. M.A Alim, while presenting the vote of thanks, said that J&K government and CII will soon roll out certain initiatives to further boost growth in this sector.

## Awareness Camp on PMFME Scheme Held to Boost Rural Entrepreneurship in Langate

Dr. Ab Qayoom

**LANGATE, JUL 18:** The Area Marketing Office Kupwara of the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing on Thursday organized a day-long awareness camp on the Pradhan Mantri Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme at Town Hall Langate in district Kupwara.

The camp was aimed at spreading awareness among stakeholders about the objectives, scope, and benefits of the PMFME scheme, which is a Government of India initiative to strengthen the unorganised micro food processing sector and promote formalisation, competitiveness, and

sustainability of local enterprises.

Representatives from various allied departments including Horticulture, Agriculture, Animal and Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, and the District Resource Person (DRP) of the PMFME scheme participated in the event. The officers provided comprehensive information about the scheme's provisions related to financial support, skill development, infrastructure assistance, and entrepreneurship training for new and existing micro food processing units. More than 100 participants, including young farmers, aspiring entrepreneurs, and existing food processing unit holders from across



the Langate constituency, attended the camp and engaged in interactive sessions with the officials.

Speaking on the occasion, officers from the Department of Horticulture Planning and Marketing, along with the District Officer Animal Husbandry and other departmental heads, emphasized the potential of the PMFME scheme to enhance rural livelihoods, empower local entrepreneurs, and improve food processing capabilities at the grassroots level. The camp concluded with a call for youth and farmers to avail the benefits of the scheme and contribute to the growth of the agro-based economy in all over district especially in the Langate area.

## Farooq Hails Congress For Taking Up J&K Statehood Issue With PM Modi

HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JUL 18:** National Conference president Farooq Abdullah on Friday congratulated the Congress for writing to Prime Minister Narendra Modi seeking restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

"I congratulate (Mallikarjun) Kharge and Rahul (Gandhi) who raised the issue with the PM and a meeting of all leaders will take place on (July) 19 evening in which this issue will be raised again," he told reporters here.

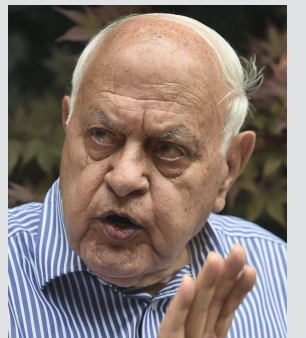
Abdullah was responding to a question about Gandhi and Kharge's letter to Prime Minister Modi seeking restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir during the upcoming Monsoon session of Parliament.

Asked if the Centre will restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, the former chief minister said it was the right of the people.

"Why not? It is our right. If they don't, we will see," he said. The Centre on August 5, 2019 scrapped J-K's special status, bifurcating the region into two Union Territories - Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Asked about the US designating terror outfit The Resistance Front (TRF) as a foreign terrorists group for its involvement in the Pahalgam attack, Abdullah said it was too premature to comment as the incident was still under investigation.

"That (Pahalgam attack) is under investigation. Till the investigation is complete, commenting on it will be wrong," he added.



## Achabal Set to Get New Bus Adda

Signage Installation Marks Formal Launch of Tourism Infrastructure Project

Farooq Rather

**ACHABAL, JULY 18:** In a significant step towards boosting tourist infrastructure in Achabal, the Kokernag Development Authority, under the leadership of its CEO, officially began work on the much-anticipated Bus Adda project with the installation of signage at the proposed site.

The Bus Adda will be developed over 12 kanals of land at an estimated cost of Rs 25 lakh, and will feature macadamised surfaces to ensure smooth and durable transport and parking facilities.

Designed to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance overall connectivity for tourists and locals alike, the project is seen as a major leap in the town's development. Locals have welcomed the initiative and expressed gratitude for the long-overdue infrastructure upgrade.

Today's signage installation marks the formal commencement of the project, which is expected to be a game-changer for tourism and transportation in Achabal.



## First woman from Nowgam Sonawari gets PhD degree

Dr. Shahina Akhtar creates new history in Persian literature

HT News Desk

**BANDIPURA, JULY 18:** Shahina Akhtar, daughter of Muhammad Yousof Bhutto, a brave and intelligent student from Rukh-e-Sultan Pura, Nowgam Sambal, Sonawari, has created new history in the Sonawari region by obtaining a PhD (Doctor of Philosophy) degree in Persian literature from the University of Kashmir. She is the first woman from her region to receive this academic honor.

Dr. Shahina Akhtar had chosen the topic of her research "Children's Literature in Iran: A Critical Study of the Fables of Mohammad Reza Sarshar", on which she successfully completed her thesis after many years of hard work, research and study. This achievement of hers is a source of pride not only for her family but also for the entire Sonawari, especially Nowgam Sambal.

She is being congratulated profusely by academic circles, teachers,

students and on social media. Many believe that Dr. Shahina Akhtar has not only achieved a significant milestone in the field of education but has also set an example for Kashmiri women that every dream can be made a reality with hard work, dedication and determination.

Several social and educational organizations have expressed happiness over her success, saying that youth like Shahina Akhtar are the bright future of the state.



NC Senior Leader Mohammad Yaqoob Wani was felicitated by District President NC Baramulla Shahid Ali Shah for being nominated as Joint Secretary (Coordination) NC for Kashmir Province. Scores of NC delegates and workers of various areas were present on the occasion.

HT EDITORIAL

Take effective steps to improve drainage system in Srinagar

Some days back chief minister Omar Abdullah while addressing a function took a dig at the development works taken under the smart city project in Srinagar. Omar said that an hour of rainfall virtually submerged the Lal Chowk and adjacent areas adding that there is a need to have a proper drainage system in Srinagar city. There is no denying the fact that the drainage system is not in place in Srinagar especially in city centre areas.

However, this is not a new problem and it has been going on for decades now. The successive governments have failed to address this all important civic issue and it is due to this reason that the city centre gets inundated even after a few millimetres of rainfall. In the past huge amounts have been spent on improving the drainage system but the situation has not improved. People are surprised that if a huge amount has been spent on improving the drainage system why the situation has not improved.

The Comptroller and Auditor General of India in its annual reports have been highlighting the wastage or mis-utilization of funds in various government departments including the Housing & Urban Development Department. It would be appropriate that the government comes out with a white paper and makes the position clear with respect to sanctioning of funds for improvement of drainage system in Kashmir valley especially Srinagar city. This would make the picture clear and people would come to know where the money has gone.

People as a whole have a right to know about the money that is being spent on the building the new infrastructure or improving the existing infrastructure. Given the fact that the drainage system is linked with the daily life of the masses it is imperative to know what progress has been achieved in this sector. The Right to Information (RTI) Act is the best tool to extract the information from the concerned department and the conscious citizens should take up this as their responsibility to make a difference in this respect.

The people at helm can be forced to mend their ways provided the people do their bit with sincerity and dedication. Improvement in the existing infrastructure is possible only when the lacunae are highlighted and suggestions are put forward. As on date there seems to be no headway and people continue to suffer. The union territory government should take the matter seriously so that the drainage system is improved overall with special focus on Srinagar.

15TH ANNIVERSARY HEADLINES TODAY Voice To The Voiceless

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Reviving the Legacy of Education in J&K:

Progress, Challenges, and the Way Forward

"learning gives creativity, creativity leads to thinking, thinking provides knowledge, knowledge makes you great"

APJ Abdul Kalam



Dr. Mohiudin Zore Kashmiri

Jammu and Kashmir is not only celebrated worldwide for its scenic beauty and cultural richness but has also been a historic hub of knowledge, wisdom, and literature for centuries. This fertile land has produced many distinguished scholars and intellectuals. While Jammu is known as the "City of Temples", Ladakh (now a separate Union Territory) is famed as the "Land of Lamas", and Kashmir is revered as the "Valley of Saints and Sufis", often described as "Paradise on Earth."

Historically, before modern institutions like Oxford, Harvard, and Al-Azhar came into existence, the region was home to Sharda Peeth—a world-renowned ancient university and Buddhist centre of learning. Located today in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Sharda Peeth played a vital role in shaping early intellectual traditions.

Jammu and Kashmir has made significant contributions to global literature, generating nearly 70% of Sanskrit and 30% of Persian literature in India. It has also stood as a major centre for Urdu literature, alongside Delhi, Lucknow, Dakhin, and Lahore.

Despite facing severe conflict and unrest since 1990, the focus on education in the region has remained strong. Both government and private sectors have worked hard to improve the education system. Students from the region continue to excel in national-level exams and higher studies,



showing resilience and dedication.

After the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019, and even through the COVID-19 pandemic, education reforms accelerated. Online learning became necessary during lockdowns, and educational institutions gradually reopened in digital mode. In the post-pandemic era, several positive steps have been taken:

- New schools, colleges, and universities have been established or upgraded.
- Teaching posts have been created and filled, with remaining gaps covered by contractual appointments.
- Infrastructure has been improved.
- Students now receive better

academic support and facilities.

- The New Education Policy 2020 was first introduced and implemented in Jammu and Kashmir.
- Teachers are trained regularly and provided with modern teaching tools.
- Academic and technical syllabi are being revised to meet present-day needs.

However, a worrying trend has emerged among students after the pandemic. Many have grown too reliant on digital resources and have neglected the traditional classroom environment. The following issues have been observed:

- 1. Students often remain

- absent despite teachers being available.
- 2. Discipline has declined.
- 3. There's an overdependence on shortcuts and brief notes.
- 4. Many rely solely on mobile screen materials.
- 5. Textbooks are being ignored.
- 6. Parents interfere unnecessarily in academic matters.
- 7. Examination malpractice is on the rise.
- 8. Students are engaging in part-time or full-time businesses.
- 9. Unhealthy social relationships are growing within campuses.
- 10. Disrespect towards teachers and elders is increasing
- 11. A large number of students prefer enrolling in IGNOU and other distance education universities. Consequently, many seats in conventional higher education institutions remain unfilled, which affects the optimal use of resources and contributes to a decline in the standard of education.

These behaviours are contributing to a decline in real learning, lack of maturity, and poor job readiness. Despite massive efforts from the government, institutions, and educators, the responsibility also lies with students, parents, and society to make the most of these opportunities and preserve the legacy of learning that this land is so deeply rooted in.

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HT - PUBLIC FORUM

The Truth About Drug Addiction and Its Consequences



Shahid Shafi

Drug addiction is becoming a big problem in our society. Every day, more and more young people are falling into the trap of drugs. It starts with trying something "just once," but very quickly it turns into a habit that is hard to break.

What is Drug Addiction?

Drug addiction means a person cannot stop taking harmful drugs, even when they know it's bad for them. These drugs affect the brain and make people feel high for a short time, but cause serious harm to the body and mind over time.

Why Do People Take Drugs?

Many people start using drugs because of:

- Pressure from friends
- Sadness/loneliness
- Unemployment
- Family Issues
- Curiosity (just to try something new)

But they don't realize how dangerous it is until it's too late.

Consequences of Drug Addiction

Drug addiction can destroy a person's life. Here are some serious consequences:



Health Problems: Drugs damage the brain, heart, lungs, liver, and more. People can lose weight, fall sick often, or even die.

Mental Illness: Addiction can lead to depression, anxiety, and even suicidal thoughts.

Family Issues: Addicted people often fight with family and lose the trust of loved ones.

Crime: To buy drugs, people may steal, lie, or do illegal activities.

Lost Future: Students leave school. Adults lose jobs. Dreams get destroyed.

How Can We Stop This?

Say NO to drugs – even if your friends offer them.

Talk to someone – like parents, teachers, or counselors – if you're feeling stressed or sad.

Help others – if someone you know is taking drugs, support them and help them get treatment.

Government action – The government should run awareness programs, and punish those who sell harmful drugs.

Drug addiction is a silent killer. It not only affects the person taking drugs but also hurts their family and society. Let's stay strong, stay aware, and help build a drug-free future.

The author is a Class 12th Student at Govt Hr Secondary School Delina Baramulla



# Waterlogging in Cities: System Failure or Citizen Indifference?



■ **Munish Bhatia**

Waterlogging in cities is a problem that takes a terrifying form every year, especially during the monsoon. From metropolitan areas, often called the country's 'Smart Cities,' to small towns, even a little heavy rain turns roads into rivers and alleys into ponds. In this situation, all the blame is directly placed on the administration – and there's no doubt they have their own constraints – but it's equally important to understand that this is not just a "system failure" issue. Citizen indifference also plays a major role. This is a complex problem with many facets, and its solution is possible only through a multi-faceted approach.

In recent times, heavy rains in many parts of the country have exposed the weaknesses of 'Smart Cities.' From large cities like Mumbai, Delhi, Gurugram, Patna, Lucknow, Kolkata, and Hyderabad to small towns – everywhere there was water, water everywhere. Low-lying areas saw homes flooded, vehicles swept away, and boats moving on the roads. This isn't the first time this has happened, but the same conditions repeat every monsoon. Earlier this July, just two days of rain in Mumbai brought local train services to a halt. Many schools and colleges had to be closed, and low-lying



areas were completely submerged. In Delhi-NCR, several main roads were flooded with 3-4 feet of water, causing traffic jams for hours. Commuters in Gurugram's IT companies couldn't reach their offices. In Lucknow, emergency services at a hospital were disrupted because waterlogging prevented ambulances from entering. These incidents are not merely acts of nature; they are the result of social negligence.

The drainage systems in cities are in a very dilapidated state. In many places, sewers and drains are decades old and

have not been modernized. The absence of regular drain cleaning, repair of drainage paths, and flood control plans turns today's heavy rains into a disaster for cities. In many cities, buildings, shops, and settlements have encroached upon old drains and waterways. Lakes and ponds have either been filled or converted into residential areas. This blocks the natural outflow of rainwater, causing it to accumulate on roads, alleys, underpasses, and inside homes. Waste from homes, shops, restaurants, and construction sites is not disposed of properly. People unhesitatingly throw

plastic bottles, chip packets, leftover food, pieces of cloth, and even construction debris and sanitary napkins into drains and sewer lines. They need to understand that a drain is not a dustbin. Although the government has banned single-use plastic, the reality is that plastic is still used in every street, every shop, and every home. This plastic goes into drains and sewers, completely blocking them. When it rains, this choked system becomes the cause of the deluge. Often, the real root of waterlogging is this plastic waste, which citizens carelessly throw into drains.

A deep indifference towards cleanliness is observed in Indian society. People keep their homes clean, but they don't hesitate to throw garbage outside their homes or in public places. Mindsets like "This is not my job" or "This is the government's responsibility" further exacerbate the problem. Until every citizen understands that the cleanliness of their surroundings is their personal responsibility, the situation will not improve. Citizens' active participation in maintaining the cleanliness of their surroundings or keeping the drainage system in order is very low. People often rely only on government machinery for solutions to problems. If local communities unite to help clean the drains in their area, or stop those who throw garbage, it could make a significant difference. Every citizen should dispose of waste from their home and shop only in a dustbin. They should cultivate the habit of separating wet and dry waste so that it can be disposed of properly. Completely stop or at least reduce the use of plastic and polythene. Use cloth or jute bags for shopping. Use reusable bottles instead of plastic bottles. This is a small habit that can bring a big change.

The problem of drowning cities is not just about engineering or management; it is also a question of social behaviour and civic awareness. When citizens, along with the administration, honestly fulfil their responsibilities, only then can the dream of truly smart and clean cities be realized. This is a shared battle that we can only win together. We must understand that the city is our home, and taking care of it is our collective responsibility.

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## JKSSB and the Crisis of Trust: Safeguarding Students Future in Kashmir

■ **Yawar Hamid**

In the valley of Kashmir, where education is seen as a path to empowerment and progress, the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) holds a critical responsibility. As a premier recruitment body, its actions and integrity directly influence the lives and mental well-being of thousands of aspirants. However, the recurring issues surrounding its functioning – frequent examination delays, paper leaks, abrupt cancellations, and lack of transparency have deeply shaken the confidence of the student community.

What was once regarded as a beacon of opportunity has now become a source of anxiety and psycho-

**“For a student in the valley, every notification by JKSSB is not merely an announcement but a matter of hope, livelihood, and dignity. When these**

**announcements are followed by irregularities or abrupt reversals, it leads to a deep psychological injury. Youth, who should be confident contributors to society, are instead left feeling helpless, demoralized, and alienated. The role of any examination body, especially in conflict-affected regions like Kashmir, must be above reproach**

logical distress. Students who dedicate years preparing for competitive exams under difficult social, political, and economic conditions are being subjected to systemic uncertainty. This uncertainty isn't just logistical it causes a profound mental welding, an inner turmoil that hampers academic motivation and creates a sense



of injustice.

For a student in the valley, every notification by JKSSB is not merely an announcement but a matter of hope, livelihood, and dignity. When these announcements are followed by irregularities or abrupt reversals, it leads to a deep psychological injury. Youth, who should be confident contributors to society, are instead left feeling helpless, demoralized, and alienated. The role of any examination body, especially in conflict-affected regions like Kashmir, must be above reproach. It must act not merely as a bureaucratic organ but as a custodian of the public trust. JKSSB, therefore, must urgently reform its mechanisms. Transparent recruitment, timely notifications, third-party auditing of processes, and addressing student grievances proactively should be the top priorities. Moreover, mental health support must be extended to aspirants who suffer due to administrative failures.

The young minds of Kashmir are not statistics they are the builders of tomorrow's society. Playing with their future is not just administrative negligence; it is a moral failure. The JKSSB must reflect, reform, and reconnect with the students not as distant authorities but as enablers of dreams and defenders of fairness. Only then can it restore the trust it has lost and help create a future where merit, not manipulation, determines success.

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## Mental rabies means distance from humans, closeness with dogs



■ **Dr. Satyawan Saurabh**

We live in a time where people leave their mothers in old age homes but buy velvet beds for dogs. Where paying child's fees is difficult but throwing an anniversary party for a pet is considered 'cute'. This is the age where the direction of compassion has changed, not expanded. It is not bad to love animals and birds, but when this love turns into distance and neglect from humans, it is not a sign of mental balance but of mental confusion.

Nowadays people say that dogs are the most loyal. True, but should we make loyalty so great that parents, siblings, old neighbours and needy society all become secondary? To what extent is it justified to disregard humanity in the name of loyalty? This question is disturbing today's modernity.

There are expectations from humans, questions, and demands for responsibility. On the other hand, dogs, cats, parrots and rabbits only take affection without asking for anything. This is why people are now more attracted to creatures who have no social responsibilities attached to them. This is not compassion, but convenience-based love.

On the one hand people order birthday cakes for dogs, make them sit in the front seat of the car, and dress them in expensive clothes, while on the other hand they frown if a poor child's clothes get dirty. If they find an injured bird, they take a picture and express compassion, but they consider a labourer crying out of hunger on the roadside as a 'problem of the system'. What kind of compassion is this that is for the innocent but not for the needy

human being?

The market has sensed this trend. Now there are bathrooms for dogs, cakes for cats, and toys for rabbits. This has become a multi-crore industry. The media also promotes this 'compassion-love'. One who is emotional for animals is civilized. One who is emotional for humans is called a fool. This is the new global form of empathy, in which not emotions but 'coolness' sells.

A new disease is growing in today's society – mental rabies. Just as a dog becomes mad and starts biting when it has rabies, similarly this social rabies is forcing people to bite, despise and ignore fellow humans like themselves. This disease is spreading wearing the mask of love. This disease says that loving humans is a dangerous task, but loving animals is safe and prestigious.

It has also been observed that many people impose their unfulfilled feelings on animals and birds. Those who did not get affection in childhood start calling dogs their sons. Those whose relationships broke, start considering cats as their life partners. This is not love, but emotional escape. This is an attempt to escape from the truth that the mirror shows. Animals do not show the mirror, so they are now becoming the ideal.

The biggest problem with this trend is that priorities have been distorted. Now we adopt animals, but not orphans. We feed birds, but do not spare a single roti for the neighbour's widow. We pay a thousand rupees for a dog's haircut, but hesitate to spend ten rupees for a poor person's medicine.

This mentality is making the society insensitive. Empathy is that which is for everyone without any discrimination – for both humans and animals. But when it is limited only to animals, then it is not empathy, it becomes a pretense.

Humans build society with mutual cooperation, affection and co-existence. If we start hating each other, then this is not

civilization, but suicide. Animal love is necessary, but not at the cost of crushing humanity. If someone loves a dog, it is commendable, but only till the time he does not forget his mother's medicine, father's care and neighbor's help.

The most ironic aspect of this topic is that this trend is increasing with education, understanding and prosperity. Even today a poor man cuts his roti in half and feeds it to his guest, but the rich class now feels proud in adopting animals, not humans.

There is only one solution to this – balance. We should love animals and birds, but not by keeping a distance from humans. Compassion is an instinct, it cannot be limited to a particular class. The day we understand that every living being, every creature and every human being deserves our love and help at their own level, that day this mental rabies will end.

A society is healthy when there is food for the birds, biscuits for the dogs and support for the old people. When birds chirp in the house and the elderly smile in the yard. When cats are in the lap and children are in school.

The true form of love is that which values every life. If your compassion is only for those wagging their tails, and not for a hungry child with tears in his eyes, then it is not love, it is pretense.

Dogs are loyal, but not as loyal as parents. It is good to keep birds, but it is necessary to teach children. There should be a place for every creature – but not at the expense of humans.

If we cannot maintain this balance, it will become a social epidemic. And then we should really be afraid – not of a virus, but of the 'brain rabies' that will force us to bite humans.

The Author is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana

## Experimental Shot Wipes Out Tumors Without Even Targeting Them

■ Science Blog

**FLORIDA, JULY 18:** Scientists at the University of Florida have developed an experimental mRNA vaccine that fights cancer through an unexpected approach—by stimulating general immune responses rather than attacking specific tumor proteins.

The vaccine significantly improved survival rates in mouse studies when combined with common immunotherapy drugs, bringing researchers closer to a potential universal cancer treatment.

Published in Nature Biomedical Engineering, the study revealed that the vaccine works by triggering the immune system to respond as if fighting a virus, even though it doesn't target any tumor-specific proteins. This counterintuitive strategy enhanced the effectiveness of immune checkpoint inhibitors, drugs that help the immune system recognize and destroy cancer cells.

The research team, led by Dr. Elias Sayour, tested their vaccine in mouse models of melanoma, bone cancer, and brain tumors. The results showed promising outcomes in normally treatment-resistant cancers when the mRNA formulation was paired with PD-1 inhibitors, a common type of immunotherapy.

"This paper describes a very unexpected and exciting observation: that even a vaccine not specific to any particular tumor or virus—so long as it is an mRNA vaccine—could lead to tumor-specific effects," explained Sayour, who directs the RNA Engineering Laboratory at UF's Preston A. Wells Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy.

The vaccine works by stimulating expression of a protein called PD-L1 inside tumors, making them more receptive to treatment. In some mouse models, tumors were eliminated entirely when the vaccine was used as a standalone treatment.

Current cancer vaccine development typically follows two approaches: finding targets expressed in many cancer patients, or creating personalized vaccines tailored to individual tumors. This study suggests a third option that could revolutionize treatment accessibility.

# Kashmiri medico receives NCD Academy Badge in Non-Communicable Diseases

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished medico and health columnist from Kashmir, has received the prestigious Clinical Courses Completion badge from the NCD Academy, a global initiative powered by the American College of Cardiology (USA).

This accolade highlights Dr. Itoo's proficiency in evidence-based practices and treatments for the Big 5 Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs): Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, Mental Health, Diabetes, and Chronic Respiratory Diseases.

These programs, which are accredited by globally renowned medical organizations such as the World Heart Federation (WHF), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), World Psychiatric Association (WPA), American Diabetes Association (ADA), and the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), underscore his commitment to advancing healthcare.

Additionally, Dr. Itoo has successfully earned individual badges and certifications for each of the five specialized programs offered by the NCD Academy, further cementing his expertise and dedication to tackling these critical health challenges. Pertinently, NCD Academy badge is awarded to the medical professionals who



have demonstrated exceptional knowledge, tools, and skills required to effectively address and mitigate the leading risk factors of non-communicable diseases (NCDs).

By fostering a deeper understanding of prevention, early detection, and comprehensive care strategies, NCD Academy aim to improve outcomes and reduce the burden of NCDs worldwide.

**NCD ACADEMY COURSE COMPLETION**  
Clinical Courses  
**NCD ACADEMY COURSE COMPLETION BADGE**

Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, a distinguished medico and health columnist from Kashmir, has received Clinical Courses Completion badge from the NCD Academy, an initiative powered by the American College of Cardiology (USA). This accolade highlights Dr. Itoo's proficiency in evidence-based practices and treatments for the Big 5 Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs): Cardiovascular Disease, Cancer, Mental Health, Diabetes, and Chronic Respiratory Diseases. These courses, which are accredited by globally renowned medical organizations such as the World Heart Federation (WHF), American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO), World Psychiatric Association (WPA), American Diabetes Association (ADA), and the Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS), underscore his commitment to advancing healthcare. Additionally, Dr. Itoo has successfully earned individual badges and certifications for each of the five specialized courses offered by the NCD Academy, further cementing his expertise and dedication to tackling these critical health challenges.

**Individual badges**      **Certificates**

## New mRNA Vaccine Boosts Immune Fight Against Cancer

■ News Medical

**FLORIDA, JULY 18:** An experimental mRNA vaccine boosted the tumor-fighting effects of immunotherapy in a mouse-model study, bringing researchers one step closer to their goal of developing a universal vaccine to "wake up" the immune system against cancer.

Published today in Nature Biomedical Engineering, the University of Florida study showed that like a one-two punch, pairing the test vaccine with common anticancer drugs called immune checkpoint inhibitors triggered a strong antitumor response.

A surprising element, researchers said, was that they achieved the promising results not by attacking a specific target protein expressed in the tumor, but by simply revving up the immune system - spurring it to respond as if fighting a virus. They did this by stimulating the expression of a protein called PD-L1 inside of tumors, making them more receptive to treatment. The research was supported by multiple federal agencies and foundations, including the National Institutes of Health.

Senior author Elias Sayour, M.D., Ph.D., a UF Health pediatric oncologist, said the results reveal a potential new treatment path - an alternative to surgery, radiation and chemotherapy - with broad implications for battling many types of treatment-resistant tumors.

"This paper describes a very unexpected and exciting observation: that even a vaccine not specific to any particular tumor or virus - so long as it is an mRNA vaccine - could lead to tumor-specific effects," said Sayour, principal investigator at the RNA Engineering Laboratory within UF's Preston A. Wells Jr. Center for Brain Tumor Therapy.

"This finding is a proof of concept that these vaccines potentially could be commercialized as universal cancer vaccines to sensitize the immune system against a patient's individual tumor," said Sayour, a McKnight Brain Institute investigator and co-leader of a program in immuno-oncology and microbiome research.

Until now, there have been two main ideas in cancer-vaccine development: To find a specific target expressed in many people with cancer, or to tailor a vaccine that is specific to targets expressed within a patient's own cancer.

This study suggests a third emerging paradigm. What we found is by using a vaccine designed not to target cancer specifically but rather to stimulate a strong immunologic response, we could elicit a very strong anticancer reaction. And so this has significant potential to be broadly used across cancer patients - even possibly leading us to an off-the-shelf cancer vaccine."

Everything there is to know about biosimilars eBook Compilation of the top interviews, articles, and news in the last year.

For more than eight years, Sayour has pioneered high-tech anticancer vaccines by combining lipid nanoparticles and mRNA. Short for messenger RNA, mRNA is found inside every cell - including tumor cells - and serves as a blueprint for protein production.

This new study builds upon a breakthrough last year by Sayour's lab: In a first-ever human clinical trial, an mRNA vaccine quickly reprogrammed the immune system to attack glioblastoma, an aggressive brain tumor with a dismal

prognosis. Among the most impressive findings in the four-patient trial was how quickly the new method - which used a "specific" or personalized vaccine made using a patient's own tumor cells - spurred a vigorous immune-system response to reject the tumor.

In the latest study, Sayour's research team adapted their technology to test a "generalized" mRNA vaccine - meaning it was not aimed at a specific virus or mutated cells of cancer but engineered simply to prompt a strong immune system response.

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# RAHUL ECHOES PAK LINE, SHOULD MATCH PM'S MATURITY: RIJJU

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, JULY 18:** Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju on Friday accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of "parroting" Pakistan's narrative on Operation Sindoor and wished he was "more mature" and "more intellectual" to at least "match our leader" while raising issues in Parliament.

Ahead of the Monsoon session beginning Monday, Rijju said that the government was ready for debate on any issue in accordance with rules of procedure and slammed the opposition for trying to "hijack Parliament" by insisting to "occupy all the space".

He said the government has sufficient legislative business

for the Monsoon Session which will continue till August 21. Earlier, the session was to conclude on August 12, but the government opted for a longer duration.

Rijju said Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, had initially supported the government on Operation Sindoor, but later started echoing the Pakistani narrative on the conflict.

"If our leader of opposition is providing fuel to our enemy country, thereby causing harm to our national interest, how do we take it? Internally, we may have all kinds of disagreement, because that is the nature of democracy... but outside you are broadcasting the narrative of the other country. This is

something that is unacceptable to us," he said.

The minister said Gandhi could argue that as the leader of the opposition, his job is to criticise the government, but he was "parroting" the line taken by Pakistan during Operation Sindoor.

Rijju said initially, Gandhi was egging the government to take action against Pakistan, then started calling for de-escalation and later wanted to know the number of aircraft India lost during the conflict.

"That is why I have made a very categorical difference between which is internal and which is external. He is parroting the lines taken by Pakistan during the Operation Sindoor," the minister said.



He said a group of opposition parties tried to damage India's image but the strong leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ensured that the entire country was united during the

conflict.

"I wish our Leader of Opposition is more mature, more understanding, more intellectual, because we need a leader of opposition at least to match our leader. Our prime minister, all the senior ministers, are very serious about parliamentary business," Rijju said.

He said the government was open to debate and discussion but the opposition only wanted to stall parliamentary proceedings, which was not a healthy sign in a democracy.

"Parliament constitutes all the MPs. We are in the government. We have more members of Parliament. But, some of the opposition MPs say that only they should speak. They want to hijack Parliament. That will

not happen," Rijju said.

"What is a democracy? Democracy is giving space to everybody. In Parliament, it is very proportionate. Every MP represents certain areas, some states and some constituencies. So, if they think that the opposition should occupy all the space, that will not happen," he said. Rijju said Indian democracy is very vibrant and was in favour of the same spirit reflected in Parliament.

"Many people may say that the Indian Parliament is very noisy, very messy, but I welcome it. Being a very vibrant democracy, there should be some fireworks, there should be some, you know, heated debates and discussions. It's okay," the minister said. (Agencies)

## India Welcomes US Listing Of TRF As Global Terrorist Outfit

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, JULY 18:** India on Friday welcomed the US move to designate The Resistance Front, a proxy of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) that was behind the Pahalgam attack, as a global terrorist organisation.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar described Washington's decision on The Resistance Front (TRF) as a "strong affirmation" of India-US counter-terrorism cooperation.

In a social media post, he specially complimented US Secretary of State Marco Rubio for designating the proxy of Pakistan-based LeT.

"Appreciate @SecRubio and @StateDept for designating TRF - a Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (LeT) proxy - as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT). It claimed responsibility for the April 22 Pahalgam attack," the external affairs minister said.



Earlier, the US State Department said it is adding TRF as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

The US State Department also noted that the TRF claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam attack which killed 26 civilians.

"This was the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks conducted by LeT," it said.

"TRF has also claimed responsibility for several attacks against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024," it said.

"TRF and other associated aliases have been added to LeT's designation as a FTO and SDGT pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and Executive Order 13224, respectively. The Department of State has also reviewed and maintained the FTO designation of LeT," Rubio said.

The State Department said its actions demonstrates the Trump administration's commitment to "protecting our national security interests, countering terrorism, and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack". (PTI)

## Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) to Announce ₹50 Crore Scholarship for Bihar Students

■ **HT News Desk**

**CHANDIGARH, JULY 18:** The Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) will announce scholarship of worth ₹50 crore for students from Bihar on July 19 at Hotel Gargee Grand in Patna.

Dr Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA, Chairman Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh mentioned that the summit in association with educational counselors welfare association (ECWA) will bring together over 20 colleges from Punjab and approximately 300 education counselors from Bihar, with the goal of discussing innovative strategies for educational upliftment and strengthening collaboration between educational institutions across the two regions.

In this education summit, every college will announce scholarship worth 2.5 crores to the deserving students of Bihar. Abhishek Kumar, President



ECWA said that I welcome PUCA to this Bihar Education Summit and would like to specially thank Dr. Anshu Kataria. We all members of ECWA Association want that such programs should be organized in future too, so that students of Bihar get good opportunities outside the state as well. He expressed his gratitude to all the member colleges of PUCA. Adv Amit Sharma, Sen Vice president, PUCA and Chairman

Amritsar Group of Colleges said that Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) is a collective of unaided colleges in Punjab dedicated to promoting quality education and fostering an environment conducive to academic excellence. Through initiatives like the upcoming education summit and scholarship program, PUCA continues to support students and educators in achieving their full potential.

In this education summit of Bihar, famous educationists of Punjab Dr. Anshu Kataria, Amit Sharma, Raminder Mittal, Tarsem Saini, Engr. Jaswant S. Khaira, Raman Bhalla, S. Manjit Singh, Dr. Mohit Mahajan, Dr. Akashdeep Singh, S. Gurkirat Singh, Ankit Jain, Dr. Kapil Katyal, Dr. G.S. Nagpal, Ashok Garg, Dr. Gursimranjit Singh, Dr. Swarn Prakash Garg, Engr. S.K. Punj, Dr. Rajesh Bhardwaj, Dr. Gopal Munjal, Dr. Gur-

preet Singh, Dr. D.J. Singh will participate.

It is worth mentioning that Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura; Amritsar Group of Colleges, Amritsar; Ashoka Group of Institutions, Patiala; Asian Group of Colleges, Patiala; Akal College, Mastuana; Aman Bhalla College, Pathankot; Doaba Group of Colleges, Kharar; Golden Group of Institutions, Gurdaspur; Global Group of Institutes, Amritsar; Gulzar Group of Colleges, Khana; Jain Group of Colleges, Abhor; Longowal Group of Colleges, Mohali; Punjab College of Pharmacy, Bathinda; SVIET Group, Banur; Sukhjinder Group of Institutions, Gurdaspur; Saraswati Group of Colleges, Maur Mandi; Sri Sai Group of Inst, Pathankot; SBS Group of Educational Institutions, Patti; Swift Group of Colleges, Rajpura; Universal Group of Institutions, Lalru, Vidya Jyoti Eduversity, Derabassi from Punjab will participate.

## EU approves new pack of strict sanctions against Russian oil

■ **United News of India**

**BRUSSELS, JULY 18:** The European Union (EU) approved a new round of sanctions against Russia today, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas said.

"The EU just approved one of its strongest sanctions packages against Russia to date," Kallas wrote on the social media platform X. The package contains a provision to lower the price cap on Russian oil sold to third countries by 15% below the market rate. Initially set at \$60 per barrel by the G7 in 2022, the cap under this new EU scheme will launch at \$47.6, with the flexibility to adjust in line with future oil price movements.

As part of the package, measures are also included to ensure that the Nord Stream 1 and 2 gas pipelines in the Baltic Sea cannot be reactivated.

Kallas further said that the bloc will impose sanctions on a Russian-owned oil refinery in India and blacklist more than



100 additional vessels from Russia's so-called "shadow fleet," believed to be circumventing EU sanctions by carrying mainly Russian oil.

Slovakia, which relies heavily on Russian gas, had been holding up the proposed EU sanctions package.

However, it also greenlit the new EU sanctions yesterday, after securing guarantees from European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen that the bloc will protect Slovakia's energy interests. UNI/XINHUA ANV SSP

## India participates in plenary of Australia Group on its 40th anniversary year

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, JULY 18:** India participated in the plenary of the Australia Group, a key multilateral export control regime, from July 14-18 on its 40th Anniversary year.

The MEA spokesperson in a post on X said that India is an active participant of the Australia Group.

"India participated in the Australia Group Plenary from 14-18 July 2025 on its 40th Anniversary year. "India is an active participant of the Australia Group, a key multilateral export control regime that contributes to the international non-proliferation architecture on chemical & biological weapons & related items."

The Australia Group was established in 1985 after Iraq's use of chemical weapons during the Iran-Iraq War. It is an important platform for international cooperation in preventing the spread of chemical and biological weapons through harmonized export controls and information sharing.

The 40th anniversary plenary meeting of the Australia Group was held in Sydney,



Australia. Australia is the chair and manages the secretariat for the Australia Group.

India joined the group in January 2018. The group now has 43 members, including Australia, New Zealand, the European Commission, all 27 member states of the European Union, United Kingdom, the United States, Canada, India, Ukraine, and Argentina. The name comes from Australia's initiative to create the group. Australia manages the secretariat.

UNI/RN

## Govt planning to bring international sporting events to India: Shah

■ **United News of India**

**NEW DELHI, JULY 18:** Union Home Minister Amit Shah today while highlighting the government's ambitious plans to bring the world's biggest sporting events to India, including the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games said that the aim is not just to host international events but make sports an essential part of everyday life of all.

Addressing the felicitation ceremony of Indian Police and Fire Brigade contingent, who returned after participating in the 21st World Police and Fire Games-2025 held in Birmingham, Alabama, USA, Shah said, "Modi gov-

ernment is trying to host the Olympics, Commonwealth Games, and Asian Games in India so that sports become a part of the people's nature" a Home Ministry statement said.

He said that India is going to bid for hosting the 2036 Olympic Games and has already submitted a bid for the Commonwealth Games, and also submitted bid to host the Asian Games. The purpose of hosting these events in India is to make sports a natural part of the lives of the country's people and different sections, such as the police and fire brigade.

Emphasising that sports should be an integral part of life, Shah said, "A child who does not play becomes dis-

couraged by defeat, and a child who does not resolve to win after losing never develops the habit of winning. There is only one place to learn - the ground, the playing field - and it is on the playing field that the habit of accepting defeat and the passion to achieve victory are developed. He said that gradually this attitude should develop among our youth".

Shah expressed happiness over the Indian contingent winning 613 medals at the 21st World Police and Fire Games and congratulated the Indian police and fire services team for their excellent performance and for making the country proud.

He said that the next World Police

and Fire Games will be held in India. Shah said, "Our aim should be to ensure that at least one athlete from every police force under the All India Police Sports Control Board participates in the next World Police and Fire Games. Our participation should be inclusive. Each team should aim to win at least three medals. By setting such a goal, the record of winning 613 medals will break on its own".

Shah urged the All India Police Sports Control Board to provide world-class coaches to the Indian police teams and to give specialized training to the medical teams of the forces for treating sports-related injuries. Adding that both these tasks need to be carried out

in a planned manner and assured that full support will be provided by the Ministry of Sports.

The Home Minister also urged the Directors General of all Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) to create an environment where every police personnel and officer develops a sporting spirit.

Shah said that today the Indian team was given an incentive amount of Rs 4,38,85,000. He said that earlier, the Police and Fire Games were not given much importance in the country. However, in terms of participation, this is the world's largest sporting event after the Olympics and the Commonwealth Games.

He said, "Last year the Ministry of Home Affairs made several initiatives, including changes in recruitment rules for talent identification, formation of 25 outdoor sports teams in each force, and creating combined teams of the CAPFs. The proposed National Sports Bill includes a provision to recognize police forces at the state level, enabling each police force to participate as a single unit in national sporting events".

Praising the athletes from various police forces for performing well by participating in the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games, Shah said, "Now our focus should be on the World Police and Fire Games - 2029.

# Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**JAMMU, JULY 18:** Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti reviewed the arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The review meeting, held here the other day was attended by senior officials including the DIG CRPF, DIG JSK Range, DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi, along with heads of key departments such as JPDC, Tourism, Health,

PWD, Jal Shakti, BRO and Traffic Police. Representatives from civil society also participated and shared suggestions.

The Yatra's first batch will depart from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, on July 28, 2025, moving towards Tehsil Mandi in Poonch in a regulated convoy amid full security arrangements.

The Divisional Commissioner directed officials to establish a help desk and registration counter at Bhagwati Nagar and Jammu Railway Station to facilitate the pilgrim Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch were instructed to ensure adequate accommodation with essential facilities including



power supply, drinking water, langars, parking, waterproof tents and mobile toilets along the route.

The Tourism Department was tasked with promoting the Yatra through newspapers and hoardings from Lakhampur to Poonch to ensure wide publicity.

Emphasizing safety, the IGP Jammu stressed strict adherence to convoy timings and urged public awareness for travelling only with the official convoy.

The BRO was directed to maintain road conditions and clear any debris promptly on the Jammu-Poonch highway. JPDC was asked to ensure uninter-

rupted power supply with back-up generators, while the PHE Department will provide drinking water at halt points, night stays, and at the Budha Amarnathji Temple.

PWD officials were instructed to repair the Poonch-Mandi road and the SSP Traffic Rural will arrange parking spots for convoy vehicles. The Deputy Commissioner Reasi also apprised the arrangements for devotees visiting Shri Shiv Khori shrine during the Yatra period.

The meeting concluded with valuable inputs from civil society members for the peaceful and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

## JMC Shines in Swachh 2024, Citizens Urged to Join Clean Drive

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**NEW DELHI, JULY 18:** Marking a moment of pride for Jammu City every residents, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has achieved a significant milestone by winning the Promising Swachh Sheher Award, and earning the prestigious Garbage Free City (GFC) 3-Star Rating, securing ODF++ certification and ranking 42nd among the top 100 cities in India (3-10 lakh population category) in the Swachh Survekshan 2024, conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

These achievements were announced at the Swachh Survekshan Award Ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where the awards were presented by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, in presence of senior dignitaries including Minister of State (MoHUA) Tokun Sahu, Secretary MoHUA Srinivas R. Katikithala and Joint Secretary



MoHUA Roopa Mishra.

On behalf of JMC, the award was received by Dr. Devansh Yadav, Mission Director, SBM (J&K), Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation) and Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer, JMC.

JMC has made remarkable progress by improving its rank from 248 in 2023 to 42 in 2024, which reflects the dedication of the corporation, the hard work of sanitation workers and above all, the cooperation of the people of Jammu.

Across Jammu & Kashmir, other urban local bodies also performed well. Srinagar Municipal Corporation secured 32nd rank in the Million Plus Cities category, Beerwah Municipal Committee earned a 1-Star Rating in the Small Cities category and all other Urban Local Bodies in J&K were awarded ODF+ certification, highlighting improved sanitation and open defecation-free status.

This success has been made possible by sustained efforts of the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), J&K and JMC, which focused on regular door-to-door garbage collection and scientific disposal of waste, establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in all urban local bodies, scientific bioremediation of legacy waste at dumpsites and development of Construction and Demolition Waste Processing Plants that will soon become operational in both Jammu and Srinagar. Special attention has also been given to the maintenance and cleanliness of public and community toilets, and new aspirational toilets are being constructed to make sanitation more accessible and hygienic.

While these awards bring honour to the city, maintaining and improving cleanliness is a shared responsibility. Citizens are urged to segregate their waste at home, cooperate with sanitation workers and follow collection schedules, avoid littering in public places, use public and community toilets responsibly and actively participate in cleanliness and plantation campaigns.

This recognition is proof that when citizens and the administration work together, even the most ambitious goals can be achieved. Everyone is encouraged to take this achievement as inspiration to make Jammu a model clean and green city of India. Together, we can build a city we are all proud to call our home.

## MLA JASROTA CONVENES MEGA PUBLIC DARBAR, GRIEVANCE REDRESSAL CAMP AT VILLAGE JUTHANA

■ HT News Desk

**JASROTA, JULY 18:** With an aim to redress the problems of the people living in far-flung areas, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia along with officers/officials of different govt departments today convened a mega public Darbar, grievance redressal camp at village Juthana of Jasrota constituency. The Public Darbar witnessed an overwhelming turnout of people from diverse areas and backgrounds, who came forward to voice their civic and administrative issues. A wide cross-section of citizens, including senior citizens, youth, women, and representatives from various localities, approached the MLA with issues ranging from water and electricity supply, lane and road repairs, sanitation, pension, ration, police, and other public welfare matters.

The concerns raised also included problems related to pension schemes, financial assistance and other welfare programs. Many individuals expressed difficulties in receiving their pensions on time, citing delays and bureaucratic hurdles. Some people sought assistance with financial aid programs, highlighting the need for more effective implementation and awareness about these schemes. Locals also raised concerns about the effectiveness of various welfare programs, suggesting



improvements to better serve the community.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia conveyed his strong commitment to ensuring that the Social Welfare Department addresses the concerns raised by our citizens. He instructed the officials to look into these issues and work towards resolving them in a timely manner. We will strive to improve the implementation of welfare programs and ensure that our citizens receive the benefits they are entitled to, said Jasrotia. The MLA's commitment to addressing these issues has brought relief to the citizens of Jasrota constituency, who are hopeful for a better future.

Jasrotia gave a patient hearing

to each individual and deputation. He personally took note of every concern raised and immediately communicated several issues to the concerned departments, both verbally and through written directives, while pressing for the immediate remedial measures. He reiterated the commitment of the BJP to address the public issues at the grass root level. He said that while the public faces routine issues related to their daily chores, they also come across various other issues that require the intervention of specific government departments for the prompt resolution of the issues. He said that for the diverse range of public issues, they need to get connected to a medium, which is

provided by the BJP through these Public Darbars, which are held on routine basis to facilitate the masses on an open basis. "The BJP believes in proactive governance and direct engagement with the people. Public Darbars are a crucial platform where citizens can freely voice their concerns and receive on-the-spot responses. I am committed to ensuring that no genuine grievance goes unheard or unattended", Jasrotia said.

Jasrotia maintained that "The Janta Darbar is an opportunity for us to listen to the concerns of our people and work towards resolving their issues. I have instructed the officials to take immediate action on the grievances put forth by the locals, and ensure that they

are resolved in a time-bound manner. We are committed to serving the people of Jasrota constituency and improving their quality of life." The Jana Darbar was a successful event that provided a platform for the locals to voice their concerns and for the government to respond to their needs. The MLA's commitment to addressing public issues in a timely manner is a testament to his dedication to serving the people of Jasrota constituency.

Later addressing Media persons present on the occasion, Jasrotia said: I am pleased to convene this Jana Darbar, which provides a platform for us to listen to your concerns and work towards resolving your issues. I am committed to ensuring that your voices are heard and your problems are addressed in a timely and efficient manner. I would like to assure you that the officials present here today have been instructed to take immediate action on your grievances and ensure that they are resolved in a time-bound manner. We are committed to serving the people of Jasrota constituency and improving their quality of life. I urge you all to utilize this opportunity to share your concerns and suggestions with us. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to better serve our community, added Jasrotia.

## ABVP CU Jammu submits memorandum to Registrar and Chief Warden against the Hostel Fee Hike

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 18:** Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) Central University of Jammu unit today submits a memorandum to Registrar and Chief Warden of Central University of Jammu highlighting the serious concerns of students regarding the unjustified increase in hostel fees over the last three academic years.

ABVP raises concern that hostel fees have risen from ₹8000 to ₹12000 and now to ₹18000. This 125% rise is unacceptable and is unjustified with the students. Many students at the university come from different states and modest backgrounds.

In comparison to other central universities, Hostel Lodging Fees of CU Himachal is ₹6000 per semester, CU Punjab ₹8600 per semester, CU Haryana ₹6070 per semester and CU Rajasthan ₹8500 per semester while Central University Jammu is taking ₹18,000 per semester which is totally wrong and unjustified.

ABVP has strongly urged the administration to roll back the fee hike, a transparent breakdown of fee components in both academic and hostel fee structure & proposes to form a committee in which there is participation of both student representatives and concerned authorities to review hostel facilities and fee structure.

Abhishek Choudhary, ABVP CU Jammu unit Secretary said, "The continuous rise in hostel fees is unjustified and unacceptable. This increase not only undermines the accessibility and



affordability of education but also places unnecessary hardships on students who have come here with aspirations for a better future".

Abhishek also said that ABVP stands firmly with the student community and will continue to protest against such

policies that hurt students' interests.

ABVP has also warned that if the administration fails to respond positively within four days, the university administration will be solely responsible for any student protest or agitation.

## Vaishno Devi Board Uses Drones for Trikuta Seed Dispersal

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JUL 18:** The Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) has leveraged drone technology for seed dispersal to preserve the cave shrine's natural grandeur and planted over 17 lakh saplings under the annual green plan in Trikuta hills in Reasi district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials on Friday said. The Shrine Board took this step towards environmental conservation, with several organizations joining hands to promote eco-protection and sustainable practices in the local community, they said. "The Board has leveraged drone technology for seed dispersal to preserve the shrine's natural grandeur and has planted over 1.7 million (17 lakh) saplings under the annual green plan," said SMVDSB Chief Executive Officer Anshul Garg.

This initiative exemplifies a successful institutional partnership and community engagement in environmental conservation, he added.

The Shrine Board and the Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association (CGPWA), Jammu, have joined hands to foster eco-protection and sustainable practices in the local community. "The collaboration with the CGPWA has amplified awareness of eco-protection and promotes sustainable practices in the local community, leveraging their extensive network and outreach capabilities," said Garg.

With the onset of the monsoon season this year, the two organizations have once again come together to offer various plant species to the public through the "Vaishnavi Vatika" plant sale counter at Vaishnavi Dham in Jammu. The plant sale counter offers a diverse selection of around 28 indigenous plant species, meticulously nurtured and cultivated in the Board's high-tech nursery situated in Kunia village, Panthal, near Katra.

**Public Notice**

My Name has been wrongly written in my Adhaar Card As Rafia Rehman while my actual Name is Afshana Shaban .Now I want to correct it. If anyone have any objectionIn this regard He/She claim this with concerned authority within a period of 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

**Name: Afshana Shaban**  
**Adhaar No: 341857748437**

**Public Notice**

I, Faisal Farooq Najar, son of Farooq Ahmad Najar, resident of Laripora, Pahalgam, District Anantnag, do hereby inform the general public that my date of birth is 10-10-2010. I am applying for the issuance of my Birth Certificate from the office of the Block Development Officer (BDO), Pahalgam.

If anyone has any objection regarding the same, they may contact the BDO Office, Pahalgam within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After this period, no claims will be entertained.

This notice is issued for the purpose of obtaining the birth certificate.

**From the Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam**

**Public Notice for General Awareness**

Application by: Yawar Hussain Lone, son of Sakina Bano, resident of Nownan, Pahalgam.

Mr. Yawar Hussain has submitted an application in this office for the issuance of a Legal Heir Certificate, stating that his mother Sakina Bano, wife of Ghulam Mohiuddin Lone, passed away on 28/11/2008.

**According to the application, the legal heirs of the deceased are as follows:**

- Ghulam Mohiuddin – husband of the deceased**
- Yawar Hussain – son**
- Adfar Jan – daughter**
- Muskan Jan – daughter**
- Afsan Jan – daughter**

Apart from the above-mentioned individuals, no other family members are present.

If anyone has an objection to the issuance of the certificate, they are advised to submit their claim in this office within seven days.

**Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam**

**Public Notice**

I, Gowhar Farooq Najar, son of Farooq Ahmad Najar, resident of Laripora, Pahalgam, District Anantnag, do hereby inform the general public that my date of birth is 11-03-2008. I am applying for the issuance of my Birth Certificate from the office of the Block Development Officer (BDO), Pahalgam.

If anyone has any objection regarding the same, they may contact the BDO Office, Pahalgam within 7 days from the publication of this notice. After this period, no claims will be entertained.

This notice is issued for the purpose of obtaining the birth certificate.

**Public Notice**

It is inform to general public through the medium of notice that i am zamrooda bano I want change my fathers name with husbands name as per adhaar card if anybody have any objection he or she can contact jk bank singpora within seven day no objection will b accepted after given time

**Name: Zamrooda Bano**  
**W/o: Mohd Maqbool Hajam, R/o: Matipora**

**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 Wagoor) / chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of MEHAK JAN S/O AB HAMEED MAGLOO R/O BANGDOORA Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/03/2010 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**

I, Suhail Ahmad Kumar S/o Gh. Nabi Kumar, Mother's Name: Shakeela Begum, R/o Nutnussa, Handwara, wish to state that I have lost my original 10th Class Date of Birth Certificate / Marks Card bearing Roll No. 466460. I had appeared and passed the 10th Class Bi-Annual Examination 2012-13 from Govt. Boys High School Nutnussa under JKBOSE.



My Date of Birth as per records is 01/03/1996. I am applying for a duplicate certificate. If anyone has any objection in this regard, they may contact the undersigned or Board office Langate within 07 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

**Suhail Ahmad Kumar**  
**S/o Gh. Nabi Kumar**  
**R/o Nutnussa, Handwara**

**Public Notice**

I have Changed my name in Adhaar from old name Aadiya Ashiq S/O Tasleema Akhtar to New Name Aydia Ashaq S/O Ashaq Hussain Tali. if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact within 7days After 7 days no objection will be accepted.

**Aydia Ashiq S/O Ashaq Hussain Tali R/o Lodhu**  
**Pampore District Pulwama Adhaar No 826505330972**

**Public Notice**

I have Changed my name From old name Mohd Maqbool S/O Ramzan Dar M/O Khateja Begum Dar to New Name Mohd Maqbool Dar S/O Mohd Ramzan Dar M/O Khateja Begum if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office Srinagar within 7days After 7days no objection will be accepted

**Mohd Maqbool Dar S/O Mohd Ramzan Dar M/O**  
**Khateja Begum R/o Khanpora Tehsil Handwara**  
**district Kupwara passport no Z2316108**

**Government Of Jammu & Kashmir**  
**Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri**

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of MOHAMMAD AKBAR RESHI S/O GH RASOOL RESHI 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 RESHI community having annual income 580000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. GH MOHD RESHI father in law 75 years old aged
2. SHAREEFA BEGAM Mother in law 70 years old aged
3. MOHD AKBAR RESHI 50 years self labour
4. HAFEEZA BEGUM wife 48 years H/W
5. TANZEEL AKBAR Daughtet 15 years student
6. AASIM AKBAR son 12 years //
7. AZHAR AKBAR son 10 years //
8. RUBERNA AKHTER sister in law 25 years H/W

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**

**Public Notice**

I have lost my date of Birth (DOB) certificate bearing DOB 12/05/1998 issued by POLICE STATION KREERI at somewhere Now i am applying for its duplicate if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his /her objection in the office of POLICE STATION KREERI within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

**SITARA BEGUM M/O MUZAFFAR AHMAD SHAH**  
**W/O GH NABI SHAH**  
**R/O WATERGAM**  
**TEHSIL.....WAGOORA**

**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. HABLEA 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. RAFEEQ 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 EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA**

**NOTICE INVITING TENDERS | e- NIT No. 37/2025-26 Dated 17-07-2025**

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Of Union Territory Of J&K , e-tenders (In Single cover system) are invited on Percentage basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt., CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for the following works:

**Call 1st Call 3rd (01 & 02)**

S.No	Name of the work	Block	Est. / Adv Cost (in lacs)
1	C/O CSC At Primary School Chopan Basti seer	Aripal	2.996
2	C/O CSC At primary School Shojan Panzoo	Aripal	2.996
3	C/O CSP at Eid Gah near Masjid Sultan-ul-Arfeen Wanpora Hunipora	Newa	0.83
4	C/O Community Soakage Pit near Darsagah MNQ Kharipora Parigam B	Newa	0.83
5	C/O Community Soakage Pit near H/O Farooq Ah Wani S/O Ab Gani Wani at T.N Pora Block Newa	Newa	0.83
6	C/O Soakage Pit near H/O Shakeel Ahmad Reshi and others near graveyard Chewakalan	Newa	0.83
7	C/O Community Soakage Pit near New Meeting Hall Block Newa	Newa	0.83
8	C/O Community soakage pit near Iqra Masjid at Parigam A	Newa	0.83

**Cost of tender documents: 200/- EMD (in %): 2 Class of Contractor: DEE**

**Time of Completion: 30 Days Major Head: SBM II**

**Position of A/A: - Accorded Position of T/S: - Accorded**

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	17-07-2025
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	17-07-2025 from 06:55 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	31-07-2025 up to 06:55 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	01-08-2025 at 10:00 AM or any convenient day In the office of the Executive Engineer REW Pulwama.

Note: Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bids opened. In case The original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bids Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall take action as per Rules.

Special Condition 01:

Only the eligible contractors of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process for works under District Capex with Advertised Cost 3.0 Lacs or below for District Capex works only. Bidders must upload any document viz residential certificate/ Adhar Card/ Ration Card/Electricity Bill showing panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the respective Panchayat Halqa (Applicable for DEE Class contractors in call Ist only).

SC02: - Contractors Strictly not eligible

The Bidders who had participated in 2023-24 and has not completed the works within stipulated time frame/who had left the work midway/ who had not started/taken up the works are strictly not eligible. Any such participation may lead to cancellation of their bid and No claim shall be entertained in this regard.

**Xen/REW/Pul/1277-83 | Dated: 17/07/2025**

**DIPK: 3895/25 | Dated: 18-07-2025**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer REW Division Pulwama**

**Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT**

**OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION BEMINA SRINAGAR**

Subject: BALANCE WORK FOR COLLEGE/LAB BLOCK AT SKIMS MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL BEMINA SRINAGAR.

Reference: This Office NIT No.18/EE/R&B/BM/CS/ of 2025-26 DATED: 23.06.2025 issued under endorsement No.: 2057-64 dated: 23.06.2025

**EXTENSION NOTICE**

In view of representations made by the contractors the bid submission end date and bid opening date in respect of the above noted NIT is hereby extended details whereof given as under

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	23.06.2025 at 6.00 P.M
2.	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 24.06.2025 from 10.00 A.M
3.	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	26.06.2025 at 02.00 P.M in the Office of Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Central Kashmir.
4.	Bid submission Start Date	24.06.2025 From 10.00 A.M
5.	Bid Submission End Date	28.07.2025 up to 4.00 P.M
7.	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	29.07.2025 at 11.00 AM in the Office of Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Central Kashmir.
8.	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

**No: EE/R&B/Divn/BM/2742-49**  
**Dated: 16.07.2025**

**Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Bemina Srinagar**

**DIPK: 3906/25 | Dated: 18-07-2025**

**Public Notice**

It is inform to general public through the medium of notice that i am zamrooda bano I want change my fathers name with husbands name as per adhaar card if anybody have any objection he or she can contact jk bank singpora within seven day no objection will b accepted after given time

**Name: Zamrooda Bano**  
**W/o: Mohd Maqbool Hajam**  
**R/o: Matipora**

**Public Notice**

It is inform to all general public notice to all general public through the medium of notice that i am hashmat bano I want change my fathers name with husbands name as per adhaar card if anybody have any objection he or she can contact jk bank Sherabad khore within seven day no objection will b accepted after given time

**Name: Hashmat**  
**W/o: Amir Shabir Rather**  
**R/o: Matipora**

# DC Kulgam reviews progress of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Catch the Rain campaign

Instructs depts to take concrete steps to minimize runoff & enhance rainwater harvesting efforts

■ Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, JULY 18:** The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) campaign in the district.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on ongoing initiatives, future strategies, and departmental roles to ensure effective water conservation and rainwater harvesting.

During the meeting officers from the Rural Development,

Forest, Agriculture, Irrigation, Jal Shakti, and other line departments briefed the chair on the status of ongoing water conservation initiatives.

Emphasizing the importance of sustainable water management, the DC urged all departments to minimize runoff and maximize water harvesting efforts.

He stressed the need for greater inter-departmental coordination to fast-track the execution of JSA-CTR projects.

To enhance impact on the ground, the DC instructed departments ensure construction of a minimum of five rainwater har-



vesting structures per Panchayat to improve groundwater recharge and rainwater storage.

He also instructed for regular cleaning, rejuvenation, and maintenance of water bodies to ensure their long-term sustainability.

The DC directed all concerned departments to ensure proper data uploading on the portal.

The meeting was attended by the District Programme Officer, Joint Director Planning,

Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Executive Engineers, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chief Agriculture Officer and other concerned officers.

## DC Kulgam Visits Dardagund Devsar to Condole Accident Victims' Families

■ Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, JULY 18:** Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), today visited Dardagund Devsar to express condolences to the families who lost three members in a tragic road



accident on NH-44 near Awantipora last Tuesday.

The DC handed over immediate relief assistance from the Red Cross to the bereaved families.

He was accompanied by ACR Reyaz Ahmad Shah, SDM D.H. Pora, ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar, and Tehsildar Devsar. Raqib Ahmad.

## 41 Loan Cases Sanctioned Under Mission YUVA in Ramban

■ HT News Desk

**RAMBAN, JULY 18:** In a significant step towards promoting youth-led entrepreneurship and fostering self-reliance, the District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with J&K Bank, today sanctioned and handed over 41 loan cases under the Mission YUVA initiative.

The sanction letters were formally handed over to the beneficiaries by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, during a brief ceremony organized in the district. The event witnessed the



presence of key officials including General Manager DIC Ravinder Anand, Cluster Head J&K Bank, Ravi Kumar, Lead Bank Manager, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Counselling Officer, Employment Department Ramban, along with other stakeholders from the Employment Department and J&K Bank.

While addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of Mission YUVA in addressing local unemployment by enabling youth to engage in sustainable and gainful economic activities. He encouraged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial assistance diligently and build successful entrepreneurial ventures that contribute to the district's economy.

The DC said that Mission YUVA forms part of a larger vision to empower the youth through access to finance, capacity building, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, thereby nurturing a self-reliant and progressive Ramban.

Meanwhile, Officials from J&K Bank reiterated the institution's commitment to supporting youth through smooth implementation of government-sponsored schemes. They assured continued cooperation in the timely processing and disbursement of loans while emphasizing the importance of repayment discipline to ensure the long-term success of such initiatives.

# "Say No To Drugs, Save Life" Kulgam Police organize awareness programme on NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN" at GHSS Devsar Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

**KULGAM, JULY 18:** On the directions of SSP Kulgam Shri Sahil Sarangal-IPS; Kulgam Police under the aegis of Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2024-2025, conducted an awareness programme on "NASHA MUKT BHARAT ABHIYAAN" at Government Higher secondary school Devsar.

The programme was attended by Principal, faculty members of GHSS Devsar, Senior Police officers of Kulgam Police including; DySP DAR Kulgam Shri Mohd

Ayub Rather, SHOPS Devsar, students and other respectable citizens.

Officers emphasized the need to protect the young generation from the menace of drug abuse, highlighting its devastating impact on individuals and society. Also stressed the importance of youths staying drug free and propagating the ill effects of drugs to the society thereby ensuring a Nasha Mukht Bharat.

Debate competition was held wherein the participants shared their perspectives, views, assumptions and exploring con-



crete solutions to the complex, challenging and pressing issue of drug abuse that threatens the very fabric of our society.

This initiative demonstrates Kulgam Police's commitment to eradicating drug abuse and promoting a safer, healthier community. Participants thanked Kulgam Police for conducting such awareness programmes, thus building a bridge of trust between police and the youth.

At the conclusion, first three position holders were awarded with mementos with cash prize to boost their morale.

## Rang Tarang Festival Culminates with Record Breaking Performances at IIM Jammu

■ HT News Desk

**JAMMU, JULY 18:** Breaking all records and by creating a new history 'Rang Tarang'- a festival of theatre and dance concluded here today at Mandapam, IIM Jammu. Featuring 16 plays and 4 dance events all under the direction of Balwant Thakur offered a vast variety of plays and dances covering different genres, periods, approaches and forms of theatre. From world classics to Indian classics, from classical to traditional and contemporary, the festival will be remembered for this amazing diversity. 'Rang Tarang' was inaugurated on 15th of July, 2025 by the Director IIM Jammu Prof. B.S. Sahay who appreciated the efforts of all the participants, faculty members and the festival director for making this historic event happen at IIM Jammu. Over four vibrant days, from July 15 to July 18, the festival witnessed an extraordinary display of talent, setting a record with the highest number of performances by a group of 128 brilliant artists.

The festival opened with a spectacular blend of theatre and dance, captivating audiences with powerful stage performances and energetic cultural displays. A wide array of plays, both contemporary and classic, were showcased during the event. These included Rehearsal by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav, Aaj Ki Aurat by Balwant Thakur, Gadda, based on a story by Kishen Chander, and The Dear Departed by Stanley Houghton. The audience



was also treated to Sabse Bada Aadmi by Bhagwati Charan Verma, Koi Aur Raasta and Antral Ke Baad, both written by Pratap Sehgal, and Budhi Kaaki, based on a story by Munshi Premchand. Other notable performances included Ander Nagri by Bhartendu Harishchandra, Coffee House Wali Ladki by Dr. Satya Parkash, Girgit, based on a short story by Anton Chekhov, as well as Janta Pagal Hogayi Hai by Shiv Ram, Jangi Ram Ki Haveli written by Gurusharan Singh, Miss World Undeclared written by Satyendra Shrivastava, Refund by Fritz Karinth and Jonk written by Upendeer Nath Ashk.

In addition to theatre, the festival highlighted the cultural richness of the region through mesmerizing dance performances. Students of IIM Jammu presented traditional region-

al dances including Gojri, Pahadi, and Dogri Jagarana, which drew loud applause and admiration from the audience.

Speaking on the occasion Director Natrang Padmashree Balwant Thakur who was also the festival director of 'Rang Tarang' shares that, with its dynamic blend of drama and dance, Rang Tarang 2025 not only showcased the immense talent of the students but also celebrated the vibrant cultural heritage of India. The event has truly set a new benchmark for artistic expression and youth engagement in academic institutions.

The festival Young Tarang is coordinated and assisted by a team of senior professionals from Natrang including Neeraj Kant, Pawan Verma, Sunny Mujoo, Kananpreet Kaur and Brijesh Avtar Sharma.

## Lack Of Sanitation In Markets Raises Concern Across Kashmir

KTS Urges Immediate

Construction of Public Toilets And Drinking Water Facilities At All Markets & Bus Stands

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** The Kashmir Traders Society (KTS), Senior Vice President Umar Mukhtar Bhat, has expressed deep concern over the lack of basic public amenities, particularly toilets and clean drinking water, in public spaces especially in marketplaces, bus stops and major transit points across the Valley.

In a strong appeal to the J&K administration, KTS Senior Vice President Umar Mukhtar stated, "The general public especially women, elderly citizens, tourists, students and daily commuters face immense hardship due to the absence of functional public toilets and drinking water facilities. Despite the ongoing Smart City projects, these basic needs continue to be ignored."

He further pointed out that even where public toilets do exist, they are often locked or in a poor condition, making them completely unusable. "This defeats the very purpose of a clean and smart city. These facilities must be accessible, hygienic and regularly maintained," he added.

The KTS has urged the Jammu & Kashmir government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, as well as the Commissioner Secretary of the Housing and Urban Development Department, the Srinagar Municipal Corporation Commissioner and all District Municipal Committees, Councils, to immediately prioritize this critical issue.

"I also call upon our Hon'ble MLAs to take personal initiative in developing proper sanitation and drinking water infrastructure within their constituencies. These essential amenities must be available in every district, tehsil level and especially in the heart of Srinagar city," said Umar Mukhtar.

He emphasized that such measures are not only vital for the local population but also for visiting tourists, who often face the same lack of basic services. "If we are truly serious about promoting Kashmir as a clean and tourist-friendly destination, this infrastructure must be prioritized."

KTS continues to support various awareness campaigns and seminars under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and other environmental initiatives. "A clean and well-equipped city is not a luxury, it is a basic right. The government must act now," Bhat concluded.

## Nationalist Congress Party Holds Workers Meeting in Wagar, Khansahib

■ HT News Desk

**BUDGAM, JULY 18:** The Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) on Thursday organized a Workers Meeting at Wagar village in the Khansahib subdivision of Budgam district, drawing a sizable crowd of grassroots workers, supporters, and local leaders.

The convention was aimed at mobilizing party workers at the block and panchayat level and discussing local governance issues, development demands, and upcoming political strategies.

Speaking on the occasion, senior NCP leaders State youth president Arif sarmo highlighted the party's commitment to grassroots empowerment, youth participation, and regional development in Jammu and Kashmir. The speakers urged workers to strengthen the party structure in rural areas and ensure effective public outreach.

Issues such as unemployment, power crisis, lack of road connectivity, and healthcare infrastructure in the Khansahib area were prominently discussed.



Local residents also raised their concerns about the non-function-

al mobile networks and poor sanitation facilities in many parts

of Budgam.

NCP district representatives assured the public that their grievances would be taken up with the concerned authorities and emphasized the party's role as a strong voice for the marginalized.

The event concluded with a pledge of unity and dedication from party workers, who vowed to work tirelessly for the betterment of the region and to promote the ideology of the Nationalist Congress Party across Jammu and Kashmir.

# CS to Visit Bandipora Today; MLA Nizamuddin Bhat Seeks Swift Action on Key Issues

■ HT News Desk

**BANDIPORA, JULY 18:** Bandipora is set to welcome Chief Secretary Shri Atal Dulloo, son of the soil, who will visit the district tomorrow. Shri Dulloo is known for his compassionate leadership and commitment to addressing the real issues of the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat has expressed gratitude for the Chief Secretary's visit, stating that Bandipora looks towards him with trust for fast-tracked development. Bhat, is once again bringing to his notice the dilapidated condition of the Sumbal-Bandipora road, reminding that he had raised this issue in two earlier

meetings with the Chief Secretary. He stressed that hurdles in upgrading the Srinagar-Bandipora road, including the demand for National Highway status, should be removed at the earliest to ease the difficulties faced by commuters.

Bhat, also highlighted the issues of District Hospital Bandipora, including the non-functional lift, inadequate heating arrangements and staff shortages, which have been affecting patient care, requesting urgent intervention to ensure dignified healthcare for the people.

Concerned about local livelihoods, Bhat urged the Chief Secretary to facilitate the reopening of Wullar, Watlab tourist points



and Gurez for tourists, allowing people to earn during the peak season while ensuring necessary safety measures.

He also stressed the need for

the beautification of Bandipora town with proper street lighting and innovative steps to develop it as a model town of North Kashmir.

Looking towards Bandipora's future, Bhat is requesting the establishment of a Youth Skill Development Centre to address unemployment, eco-tourism projects around Wullar Lake to generate livelihoods while preserving ecology, implementation of solid waste management for a cleaner Bandipora, development of sports infrastructure to positively channel youth energy, and promotion of local handicrafts with strong market linkages for artisans.

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat urged the Chief Secretary to consider these demands on priority during his visit so that the long-pending issues of Bandipora can be addressed without further delay.

## AIFOF office bearers call on Forest Minister

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** The office bearers of the All India Forest Officers Federation (AIFOF) today called on Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, here.

Led by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta, the delegation apprised the Minister that the main function of the Forest Martyrs Day, 2025, will be observed in Srinagar on September 11, 2025.

The purpose of this observance is to commemorate the sacrifices of the foresters who have laid down their lives in the line of duty to protect India's precious forests and wildlife.

The Minister appreciated the decision of the Federation to hold the national level function in Srinagar. He



acknowledged the crucial role that forest officials, guards and environmentalists play in preserving the country's natural resources.

The Minister instructed the Forest authorities to extend all possible assistance to the Federation in collectively organising the national level event. This celebration will ensure that the sacrifices of those who have given their lives in the service of the environment are duly honored.

The Minister stated that the government is committed to support the initiatives that recognize and celebrate the bravery and dedication of individuals working towards environmental conservation.

"The commemoration of Forest Martyrs Day is a tribute to the selfless service and ultimate sacrifices made by forest officials and others who have worked tirelessly to protect India's forests and wildlife," he said.

The event serves as a reminder of the importance of conservation efforts and the need to continue protecting the country's natural heritage for future generations, the Forest Minister said while highlighting the need of honouring and celebrating selfless public service.

## ANTF Kashmir Seizes Large Quantity of Poppy Straw in Beerwah, Budgam

■ Ubaid Mehdi

**BUDGAM, JULY 18:** The Anti-Narcotics Task Force (ANTF) Kashmir carried out a major operation in the Mulshula area of Beerwah in central Kashmir's Budgam district. Acting on specific intelligence inputs, the team raided a location and seized a significant quantity of poppy straw.

In a statement issued here to news reads, According to preliminary reports, one accused individual



was apprehended at the site. The seized narcotics were reportedly stored for illegal trafficking, it reads.

An FIR has been registered, and further investigation is underway to trace the broader network possibly involved in drug smuggling in the region, it reads.

The ANTF has reiterated its commitment to curbing the narcotics menace in Jammu and Kashmir and has urged the public to cooperate by sharing credible information related to drug activities, reads the statement.

## JKEDI hosts orientation program for SKUAST-K students

Offers hands-on exposure to startups and entrepreneurship

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**PULWAMA, JULY 18:** Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Friday organized a one-day Entrepreneurship Orientation Program (EOP) for the students of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) here at its Sempora campus.

The program was specifically designed for B.Sc. Forestry students, who were accompanied by faculty from the Department of Forestry, SKUAST-K.

The primary objective of the program was to develop an entrepreneurial intention among the students besides awareness about the vast opportunities and institutional support mechanisms available for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The orientation session placed a strong emphasis on educating students about the critical role that entrepreneurship and innovation play in shaping modern careers. Participants were encouraged to view entrepreneurship not only as a viable career path but also as a means to contribute to economic growth and societal transformation.



Around 83 students participated in the orientation programme who interacted with the faculty and were briefed about the evolving entrepreneurship culture in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir along with business plan modelling, Detailed Project Report (DPR) formulation, capacity building and providing financial and market linkage including handholding and mentorship support to the aspiring entrepreneurs. The students were also briefed about the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

A key focus of the interaction was to encourage students to explore

entrepreneurship as a viable career option. They engaged in brainstorming sessions on innovative startup ideas and discussed their potential to be developed into successful business ventures. The event also included a Q&A session where students shared their perspectives on entrepreneurship and clarified their doubts with the experts.

This EOP-cum-interaction session is part of JKEDI's ongoing initiative to introduce students to the world of entrepreneurship and enhance their understanding of startups as key drivers of innovation and economic development.

## DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Independence Day Celebrations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**GANDERBAL, JULY 18:** Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, convened a meeting today to review the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat.

At the outset, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of all necessary arrangements for the smooth and dignified conduct of the celebration. The preparations reviewed included the readiness of the main venue, podium arrangements, security measures, seating, transportation, power, electricity, parking, refreshment, medical care,

deployment of fire tenders, decoration of major buildings and sanitation.

The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal, where the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest, followed by a march past featuring contingents from the District Police, CRPF, Armed Police, SSB, PTS Manigam, Forest Protection Force, and students from various educational institutions. Students will also present patriotic cultural programmes during the event.

The DC underscored the importance of cleanliness, the illumination of government offices and flag hoisting at



iconic locations, tourist destinations, and government establishments to honor the day with appropriate enthusiasm and respect.

Responsibilities for various arrangements were assigned to respective departments, and the

committees were constituted to monitor implementation on the ground to ensure smooth conduct of the function.

Additionally, the DC directed all Tehsildars to ensure timely arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day at the Subdivision and tehsil levels.

The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal; Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bhaqi; CEO SDA, ACR, Executive Engineers of various wings; EO Municipality; ARTO; Tehsildars, and other concerned officers and officials.

## MP Jugal Kishore chairs DISHA meet at Reasi

Stresses fast-tracking of development projects

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

**REASI, JULY 18:** Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore today chaired the District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here to review the implementation and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSS) and ongoing development works in the District. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Reasi and attended by DDC Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag; MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey; MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma; Vice Chairperson DDC Sajra Qadir; Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik; SSP Paramvir Singh; ADDC Sukhdev Singh

Samyal and other district and sectoral officers from the development departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who also serves as the Member Secretary of DISHA, gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting the physical and financial progress made under flagship schemes and major developmental initiatives across the district.

MP Jugal Kishore reviewed the progress of key infrastructure projects, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, BMG Road, RAM Road and other centrally sponsored initiatives. He directed officials to complete the targets within

the stipulated time frame to ensure timely delivery of services to the beneficiaries.

The MP emphasised the need to fast-track the execution of all projects and ensure proper utilisation of allocated finances. He directed officials to take prompt action on all suggestions discussed during the meeting and to address the issues raised effectively. He advocated for a collaborative inter-departmental approach to ensure the timely completion of development projects.

MP further instructed officials to prioritise resolving the issues raised by the DDC Chairperson, MLAs, and other members during the meeting. He underscored the importance of collective field visits by

officials and public representatives to enhance service delivery.

MP Jugal Kishore also appreciated the commendable efforts of the District Administration for their continuous work under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan and their sustained crackdown on drug trafficking. He termed it a significant step toward building a drug-free and secure society.

MP laid special emphasis on schemes such as PM SHRI, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, integrated watershed and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, with instructions to fast-track their implementation while maintaining high quality standards.

## Formation and Expansion of All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association

■ HT News Desk

**SRINAGAR, JULY 18:** The All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA), one of the oldest religious and socio-cultural organisations of the Shia community in J&K, was founded in 1938 by the revered late Molvi Jawad Ansari (RA). Over the decades, the Association has served as a pillar of support for the Shia population of the region, standing firm in faith and service through changing times.

Among those who held the office of President after the founder were respected community figures Haji Jafar Khan, Haji Syed Hussain Jalali, and Molvi Iftikhar Ansari (RA), whose contribution in religious, social, and political spheres remains deeply etched in the hearts of the people.

Currently, the Association is led by Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, who has committed himself to reviving and strengthening the organisation in line with its founding values: service to the community (khidmat-e-khalq), preservation of religious traditions, and unity of the followers of Ahlul Bayt (AS).

In an effort to re-energise the organisational structure, Molvi Imran Reza Ansari has recently appointed key office bearers:

Irfan Ansari as Vice President  
Abid Hussain Ansari as General Secretary  
Mohammed Hassan Zakri, Dr Syed Tayyab Rizvi, and Syed Mohammed Razi as Spokespersons.

The All JK Shia Association manages and supervises several Imam Bargahs, Mosques, and Madrassas across Kashmir, which have been centres of religious learning, mourning (azadari), and spiritual guidance for generations. These institutions serve not just as places of worship but also as sanctuaries of reflection, remembrance of Karbala, and propagation of the message of Imam Hussain (AS).

As per the vision of the current leadership, AJKSA is now expanding its outreach and structure in underserved areas including Uri, Poonch, and Jammu, with a goal of establishing a well-knit network of local units to carry out religious, educational, and social welfare activities.

The District Unit of Srinagar is already functional, with active members including Haji Firdaus Mirza, Munshi Bashir, Yaseen Mustafa, Nisar Sultan, and Arshed Sultan. District bodies in Budgam, Bandipora, Baramulla, and Pulwama will soon be formally announced, along with a provisional provincial structure.

AJKSA has always stood with the community in times of crisis and need, whether in organizing Muharram processions, supporting families in distress, or providing scholarships and assistance to students and the underprivileged. Rooted in the values of Imam Ali (AS) and Imam Hussain (AS) — justice, truth, sacrifice, and service — the Association continues its legacy of upholding the faith and defending the dignity of the followers of Ahlul Bayt (AS) in Jammu & Kashmir.

In these months of Muharram and Safar, the Association reaffirms its resolve to preserve the sanctity of Azadari, support all Imam Bargahs across the Union Territory, and ensure a peaceful and spiritually uplifting atmosphere for the remembrance of the martyrs of Karbala.

(May all success be from Allah alone.)

# Gayle, Pollard to don most expensive jersey in Cricket history

United News of India

**BIRMINGHAM, JULY 18:** Boasting of legends like Chris Gayle, DJ Bravo and Kieron Pollard, the West Indies Champions are ready to roar in the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025 and will wear the most expensive cricket jersey in the history of the sport, designed by Dubai-based luxury brand Lorenze in partnership with Channel2 Group corporation.

Scheduled from July 18 to August 2 across Birmingham, Northampton, Leicester, and Leeds, WCL 2025 brings together the heroes of yesteryears in a grand summer spectacle sanctioned by the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

The iconic jersey, designed exclusively for the West Indies Champions, is embellished with real 18K gold, available in 30g, 20g, and 10g editions. This landmark



release is a tribute to the rich heritage and legendary spirit of West Indies cricket greats — from Sir Clive Lloyd to Chris Gayle and the modern generation of icons. "This landmark release is a tribute to the rich heritage and legend-

ary spirit of West Indies cricket greats — from Sir Clive Lloyd to Chris Gayle and the modern generation of icons. This isn't just sportswear— it's wearable history. A seamless fusion of royal craftsmanship, cultural pride, and sport-

ing excellence, the Lorenze jersey stands as a collector's item and global statement of luxury in sport," commented Raj Karan Duggal, Founder of Lorenze.

Chairman of Channel2 Group corporation, owners of West Indies Champions, Ajay Sethi said, "West Indies Champions have many legends in the team, and the jersey is a fitting tribute to all the greats of West Indian cricket. World Championship of Legends is one of the best cricket competitions around the world, and we aim to clinch the trophy this year."

WCL 2025 features an all-star line-up including Chris Gayle, DJ Bravo, Kieron Pollard, Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, Brett Lee, Chris Lynn, Shaun Marsh, Eoin Morgan, Moeen Ali, Sir Alastair Cook, AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Chris Morris, Wayne Parnell, and more.  
UNI RKM

## Buttler challenges Lancashire to win biggest T20 games

United News of India

**LONDON, JULY 18:** Jos Buttler said Lancashire Lightning must rise to the challenge of winning the "big prize" if they want to claim only their second T20 Blast title.

Buttler top-scored with 77 in Lancashire's win at old rivals Yorkshire at Headingley on Thursday to secure a top-two finish in the North Group with one match to spare.

That guarantees a home quarter-final in September as they chase a spot in Finals Day at Edgbaston later that month.

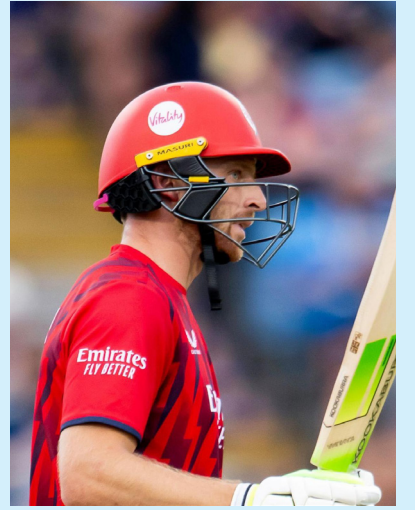
Since the competition began in 2003, Lancashire have qualified for the knockout stages 18 times, but their sole success remains in 2015.

"We've been a really consistent team but we haven't won the big prize enough," Buttler told BBC Radio Lancashire.

"We have to find a way to win and the quarter-final is our next challenge."

Buttler and Liam Livingstone are the only players left at Lancashire from their T20 Blast title triumph a decade ago.

The Red Rose have been back to Finals Day on three occasions since then, but have won only one game out of four on the biggest domestic stage.



They have avoided a trip to South Group powerhouses Surrey and Somerset by finishing in the top two and can look forward to one more game at Emirates Old Trafford.

"Lancashire has a history of playing well in T20 cricket," Buttler added. "We've had a really good side for a number of years so it's important we can make the most of that."

"We've got a really good team and it's important we drive that forward, try to get into Finals Day and go all the way."  
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