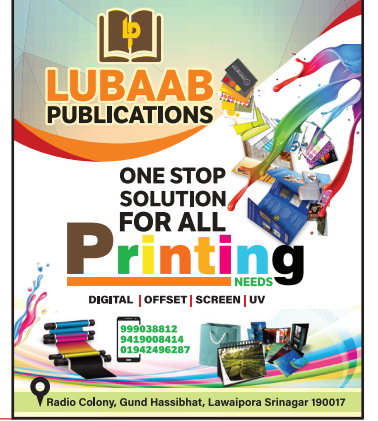


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 Voice To The Voiceless



Citizens Must Build Terror- and Drug-Free J&K: LG Sinha

Lieutenant Governor addresses Provincial Arya Mahasammelan at Jammu

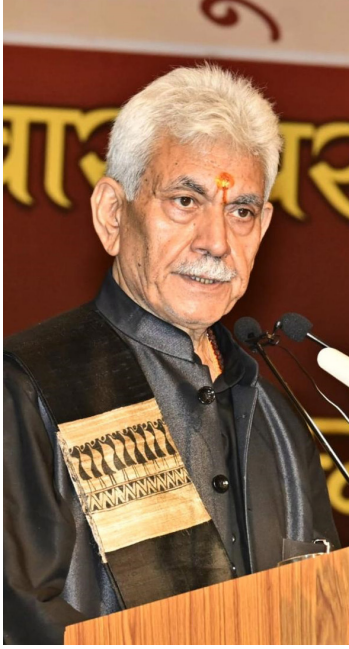
HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 19: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today addressed the Provincial Arya Mahasammelan at Baba Jitto Auditorium, SKUAST Jammu.

The two-day Mahasammelan is being organised by Arya Pratidhi Sabha Jammu Kashmir to commemorate 200th birth anniversary of Maharshi Dayananda Saraswati and 150th anniversary of the founding of Arya Samaj.

The Lieutenant Governor paid tributes to the Army, J&K Police and CAPFs personnel, who have made supreme sacrifice for J&K's peace and progress.

"But, there are few elements who speak the language of TRF. Police administration and security forces are committed to ensure



peace and action against such elements as per the law," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor said every citizen of J&K has the onerous responsibility to build Terror-free and Drug-free UT.

He observed that the Provincial Arya Mahasammelan will provide the new generation with an opportunity to connect with its cultural roots and inspire them to imbibe the noble teachings and ideals of Maharshi Dayananda Saraswati that holds great significance to humanity in the 21st Century.

The Lieutenant Governor emphasised that the revival of Vedic knowledge and its integration into the school curriculum is crucial to offer the young generation great classics of world

TURN ON PAGE 2

LG Launches 'Indus Water Treaty' Monograph in Jammu

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 19: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha launched a monograph 'Indus Water Treaty-Mirroring the Facts' authored by Shri Sant Kumar Sharma, at Jammu today.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the author on his remarkable work to bring out various historical aspects of 'Indus Water Treaty'.

He said the thoughtful and timely monograph offers interesting insights on 'Indus Water Treaty' with Pakistan and Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji's decisive move to terminate the

TURN ON PAGE 2

Amarnath Yatra set to cross 3 lakh mark Today

WE FEEL SAFE & RESPECTED HERE, SAY PILGRIMS

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 19: The ongoing Amarnath Yatra is set to achieve a major milestone, with the number of pilgrims expected to cross the 3 lakh mark by tomorrow.

Officials informed the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a total of 2,87,098 pilgrims have performed Darshan at the holy cave shrine in the South Kashmir Himalayas since the Yatra began on July 3.

On Saturday, 14,007 pilgrims, including 9,796 men, 3,587 women, 201 children, 47 sadhus, 6 sadhvis, and 3 transgender persons visited the cave shrine, while 367 security personnel also paid obeisance, they said.

Officials said the Yatra has been witnessing a consistent daily turnout, and with more batches arriving, the cumulative figure is likely to cross 3 lakh on Sunday if all goes well.

Pilgrims expressed satisfaction over the arrangements made by the administration. "The food, lodging, and medical facilities are excellent throughout the route. We did not face any difficulty, and everything has been well-organised," said Ravi Kumar, a pilgrim from Uttar Pradesh.

He added that security personnel are cooperative, and the entire Yatra track is well-maintained. "We feel safe and respected here," he said.

Several pilgrims appreciated the overall peaceful

TURN ON PAGE 2

J&K braces for three-day wet spell from Monday

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 19: The weather conditions are expected to witness a shift again on Monday as the weatherman here has predicted a three-day wet spell from July 21 to 23 with the Meteorological department (MeT) here issuing yellow and orange alerts again for the region.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the day temperature witnessed a rise once again today with Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir, recording a maximum temperature of 32.7 degrees.

As per the data, the mercury in Qazigund, a gateway of Kashmir, recorded a maximum

TURN ON PAGE 2

DGP Prabhat Urges Forces to Tackle Emerging Threats

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 19: Director General of Police Nalin Prabhat on Saturday directed the officers to maintain close synergy and real-time coordination to effectively respond to any emerging security challenges.

Chairing a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir, DGP Prabhat, according to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) commended the dedication of all forces. He highlighted their professionalism and commitment in challenging terrains & urged upon all the person-

nel to remain vigilant while adopting innovative approaches to tackle evolving security dynamics.

An official said that the hybrid security review meeting of all formations of J&K Police, Army, BSF, CRPF, SSB, ITBP, CISF and agencies was attended by GOC 15 Corps, Lt Gen Prashant Srivastava, GOC 9

Corps, Lt Gen Rajan Sharawat, SDG Coord, SJM Gillani, ADsG of CRPF, Armed Police, CID, IsGs of BSF, CRPF, ITBP, Kashmir/Jammu Zones, Security, Traffic & Railways.

They participated in the deliberations which focussed primarily on the ongoing Amarnath Yatra and the obtaining security sce-

nario.

"At the outset, participating officers briefed the chair about overall security challenges across the Union Territory. A detailed assessment was carried out on current security scenario and the coordinated efforts of various

TURN ON PAGE 2

J&K Edu Dept Denies Sanskrit Curriculum Claim

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: School Education Department, Jammu & Kashmir has strongly rebutted the news report published in an English local daily newspaper on 18 July, 2025 with the headline 'Mandatory subject: Union Education Ministry mulls to introduce Sanskrit in Kashmir

TURN ON PAGE 2

Handmade Exports Triple in Q1, Cross ₹300 Cr

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: In a major fillip to Kashmir's famed craft sector, hand-made products worth ₹309.62 Cr have been exported to various overseas destinations in the First Quarter of the current financial year,

up from ₹126.90 Cr in the same quarter last year.

As per figures made available by the concerned financial institutions, exports have recorded a huge jump of 243% and is the highest for Q1 in last four years.

In a press statement issued here

today, a spokesperson from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that the Department is targeting craft exports of over Rs.1500 Cr during the current FY, provided global conflicts relent. "Higher exports of

TURN ON PAGE 2

Quality Education, Accountability Key to J&K Reforms: CS



HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting of the School Education Department to take stock of the teaching scenario and implementation of other education reforms in the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Secretary, School Education Department was attended by PD, Samagra Shiksha; Director, School Education, Kashmir/Jammu; Secretary, JKBOSE and other concerned officers of the department.

The Chief Secretary stressed on further improving the quality of education in

TURN ON PAGE 2

CS reviews development scenario of Bandipora district

HT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JULY 19: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday chaired a comprehensive review meeting with the district administration of Bandipora to assess the ongoing development works and the status of Centrally Sponsored and UT Sector schemes in the district.

The meeting, held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora, was attended by Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, SSP Bandipora Harmeet Singh and other district and sectoral officers.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner presented a detailed overview of the district's

TURN ON PAGE 2

J&K Police Detain 10 in Terror-Linked Case

HT News Desk / UNI

SRINAGAR, JUL 19: The counter-intelligence wing of Jammu and Kashmir Police has detained 10 people for allegedly using encrypted messaging applications for coordinating, financing and executing terror activities on the instructions of handlers from Pakistan, officials on Saturday said.

The detentions were carried out during searches conducted by the Counter-Intelligence Kashmir (CIK) at multiple locations in the valley, they said.

The officials said that searches were conducted at 10 locations across Kashmir by the CIK

TURN ON PAGE 2

Strict Action Ahead: ARTO Warns Traffic Violators

HT News Desk / KINS

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: In a strong push to curb rising traffic violations and road accidents, the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO), Headquarters Srinagar, Anees Ahmad, on Saturday supervised an intensive traffic enforcement drive, vowing strict action against violators in the coming days.

Expressing serious concern over the increasing number of fatal road accidents, Anees Ahmad said, "Every day we are witnessing deaths on the roads. Unfortunately, many of the victims are teenagers. It's heartbreaking and unacceptable. That is why we are conducting these drives with utmost seriousness."

The ARTO emphasized that traffic safety must be

a shared responsibility. "People are not following rules, and that is a big concern. We have kept a dedicated roster for enforcement drives. We seize vehicles and penalize violators. But more importantly, we want to create a sense of responsibility among citizens. We don't want more people dying on the roads," Anees told news agency KINS.

Highlighting the dangers of underage driving, ARTO Anees Ahmad made a direct appeal to parents: "Giving vehicles to minors is both illegal and dangerous. I request all parents not to allow their underage children to drive. If anyone is found guilty, we will take legal action. No one will be spared if found violating the law."

TURN ON PAGE 2

AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

VMS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL (VMSSH)

FROM THIS: **TO THIS:**

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

Our vision is clear:
Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society

The hospital is taking form—paint, tiles, and firefighting systems are in place—
 But vital work remains: air conditioning, medical gas pipelines, electrical systems, and partitioning.

JK HOPE AND HEALTH FOUNDATION
 TMO16418915@jkb
 0005010100009519

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

Advt - Comp...

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Citizens Must....

literature, values and ideals of our ancient civilization and also a treasure of knowledge in science, arts, humanities and mathematics.

The Lieutenant Governor said when the Vedas were composed 6000 years ago, India was the centre of world culture and spirituality. There is no evidence of development of civilization and culture in any other country at that time, he added.

"Thousands of years before the European Renaissance, the foundation of socio-economic progress was laid in India through development in the fields of science, mathematics, astronomy and medicine. The same vibrancy is visible today.

India will soon reclaim its position of Vishwa Guru under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and our great country will show the new path to the world. Hon'ble Prime Minister's vision is propelling India's economic growth," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the Arya Samaj to spearhead the efforts in disseminating the message of unity, peace, and the collective well-being of humanity.

"The teachings of Swami Dayananda will ensure lasting peace and stability in the world. Today the entire world is acknowledging India's soft power and its spiritual wealth. Today, our society is balancing traditional values with modern advancements. The time has come when India will guide the world towards peace and harmony and institutions like Arya Samaj will have to play a major role," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor felicitated the people from different walks of life for their outstanding contributions in fostering teachings of Maharshi Dayananda Saraswati.

Prof BN Tripathi, Vice Chancellor SKUAST Jammu; Shri Narender Trehan, President, Arya Pratinidhi Sabha J&K; Shri Prakash Arya, President, Madhya Bhartiya Arya Pratinidhi Sabha; Shri Vinay Arya, General Secretary, Delhi Arya Pratinidhi Sabha; Swami Devrrat Saraswati Secretary, Arya Veer Dal; Acharya Nandita Shastri, Principal, Panini Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi; senior officials of civil and police administration, religious leaders and prominent citizens were present.

LG Launches.....

treaty post Pakistan Sponsored Pahalgam Terror Attack.

"India has made it clear that blood and water cannot flow together, terror and talk cannot go together and terror and trade cannot happen together. Termination of 'Indus Water Treaty' is a befitting response to Pakistan and it will have far-reaching consequences since it's dependent on Indus River system," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor said the historic step has marked a new beginning, and reiterated Government of India's commitment to utilize India's water exclusively for the benefit of its citizens.

"India's water will now flow within India and remain in India. With the termination of Indus Water treaty, we now have full control over the Jhelum and Chenab rivers, he said further adding that the termination of IWT will ensure immense benefit to J&K, which will be able to harness its real hydro power potential, the barren areas of Jammu can be irrigated and there will be new momentum in the development of infrastructure in Jammu Kashmir.

He said India will now create infrastructure, power plants and diversion to new areas with proper infrastructure to use the water and it will enable construction of new reservoirs.

The Lieutenant Governor citing the debate in Parliament in November 1960 and statements of prominent leaders in the house also observed that Indus Water Treaty was a historical mistake, unfair, one-sided and hampered infrastructure development in Jammu Kashmir and restricted growth of development projects.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also paid tribute to the civilians who were martyred in the Pakistan sponsored terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

He also reiterated his resolve to honor and deliver justice to the terror victims of Jammu Kashmir.

"No Terror Victim Families will be left behind. It is being ensured that Family members, who have been waiting for justice for decades, will receive jobs, financial assistance and necessary hand-holding. Their culprits will not be spared. The properties of terror victims which were encroached by terrorists or terror sympathisers will be vacated soon," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Author Shri Sant Kumar Sharma, Smt Anuradha Sharma; Shri Ashok Bhan, Member, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board; Prof. BK Kuthiala, former Vice-Chancellor, Makhanlal Chaturvedi National University of Journalism & Communica-

tion; Shri Zorawar Singh Jamwal, Chairman Team Jammu, senior officials, prominent literary personalities, journalists, and people in large number were present at the launch ceremony.

Amarnath Yatra....

atmosphere in the Valley. "There is complete peace in Kashmir. Locals are very welcoming and helpful. The perception outside is different from the reality on the ground," said Mahesh Kumar, a pilgrim from Madhya Pradesh.

Moreover, amid tight security arrangements, the 17th batch of 6,365 pilgrims left Jammu on Saturday morning to perform the annual Amarnath Yatra through the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam.

As per the data, 2,851 pilgrims departed via the Baltal axis, while 3,514 pilgrims chose the traditional Pahalgam route.

The batch included 4,690 males, 1,499 females, 41 children, 108 sadhus, and 27 sadhvis.

Officials said the pilgrims were accommodated in 211 vehicles, including 133 buses, 31 mini-motor vehicles (MMVs), and 47 light motor vehicles (LMVs). The Baltal convoy consisted of 92 vehicles, while 119 vehicles were allotted for the Pahalgam axis—(KNO)

DGP Prabhat....

forces to ensure peace in Jammu and Kashmir," the official added.

"The DGP besides reviewing multi-tiered security arrangements, emphasized upon the seamless coordination among all agencies. He also deliberated on the contribution of Army, along with other sister agencies, in maintaining a robust counter-infiltration grid and supporting civil authorities in sensitive areas.

Their active collaboration with J&K Police, CAPFs, and Int agencies in high-risk zones was appreciated, particularly in securing Yatra convoys and strengthening area domination to ensure a peaceful and incident-free environment" he said—(KNO)

J&K braces.....

temperature of 32.5 degrees while Pahalgam recorded 27.3 degrees.

In Kupwara, the mercury settled at 32.5 degrees followed by 31.4 degrees in Kokernag while Gulmarg, a famous ski-resort, recorded a maximum temperature of 22.0 degrees.

Jammu division has also recorded the above normal temperatures today while the weatherman here has predicted hot & humid weather conditions for tomorrow as well with brief spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower at scattered to fairly widespread places.

Director MeT, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad told KNO that generally cloudy weather with intermittent spells of light to moderate rain and thundershower is expected from July 21 to 23 at many places with intense showers at few places with heavy rain at isolated places of J&K.

From July 24 to 27, he said that there is a possibility of brief showers at scattered places.

Moreover, the MeT has issued an advisory, stating that there is a possibility of intense showers with gusty winds at few places with heavy rain at isolated to scattered places of J&K during 21-23rd July.

"Flash floods at few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides & shooting stones," it reads, adding that rise in water level in rivers, streams, local Nallas & water logging in few Low lying areas is also expected.

Meanwhile, the farmers have been advised to spray till tomorrow—(KNO)

J&K Edu Dept....

schools from class 6th to 10th."

In an official communiqué issued here, the department has taken serious note of a misleading news item circulating in certain sections of the media, which claims that Sanskrit is being introduced as a mandatory subject for classes 6th to 10th and an optional subject for classes 3rd to 5th in Kashmir division.

"The School Education department of J&K has not received any communication/direction from the Ministry of Education, Government of India, regarding mandatory/optional introduction of Sanskrit in the curriculum of School Education," the department stated in the rebuttal.

Clarifying on the matter, the department said that the Secretariat of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor had received a representation from Shri Purshotam Lal Dube (NGO) for inclusion of Sanskrit in the schools / colleges of JKUT under the provisions of NEP 2020.

The said communication was forwarded to Higher/ School Education department by Secretariat of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor.

Accordingly, School Education department J&K forwarded the communication of GAD to Director School Education Jammu /Kashmir for furnishing of comments in the matter. Subsequently, he communication was forwarded to the sub-offices for comments.

Further, the School Education department has stated that the department has not proposed, approved, or initiated any process for the inclusion of Sanskrit as a mandatory or optional subject in schools across Jammu & Kashmir.

In the rebuttal the department said that it follows a transparent and consultative process for curriculum changes, in line with NEP 2020.

Any future decision regarding the inclusion of new subjects will be officially communicated through proper channels after due deliberation.

Meanwhile, the public and media have been advised to verify facts from official sources before publishing such unfounded and baseless claims.

Handmade....

craft products to overseas destinations secures the welfare of Kashmir's famed artisans and weavers," he said.

Last year, craft products worth ₹733.59 Cr were exported, largely affected due to various global conflicts. "While Kani, Sozni shawls and hand-knotted carpets continue to lead exports, the other products exported include crewel, papier mache, chain stitch and wood carving items," he added.

The spokesman urged the exporters to avail Export Subsidy Scheme notified by the Government, which provides incentive of 10% of the total volume of GI registered handloom/ handicraft export products to any country with maximum reimbursement up to ₹5.00 crore in favour of eligible exporters registered with the Department," he explained.

Highlighting the Government's strategy for welfare of artisan community, the spokesman further stated that the Department has a well-established Design Studio in the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology at Bagh-e-Ali Mardan Khan and unique prototypes conceived by the School of Designs and Craft Development Institute. "We urge the business stakeholders to access these designs and packaging models to add value to their products in high-end global markets," he added.

Quality Education....

government schools, highlighting the department's substantial budget of approximately Rs 11,000 crore that should commensurate with the quality of education imparted.

Dulloo underscored the pivotal role of teachers, stating that "none of the infrastructural or technological upgradation would bear fruits unless the teachers do not play their roles in an efficient manner." He further remarked that there is no alternative to the dedication and creativity of teachers in teaching the students.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the critical need to monitor the teacher punctuality and time spent in classrooms. He called for use of IT tools to identify teachers demonstrating a lackadaisical approach, tardiness or unauthorized departure from schools for personal matters. He directed that teacher salaries be linked to their school attendance and lawfully availed leave. He was informed that JK Attendance App, a geo-coordinates-based face recognition attendance system, has already been implemented, with 1.14 lakh employees actively marking their attendance.

The Chief Secretary enjoined upon the senior functionaries of the department to conduct surprise visits, both physical and virtual, to schools, especially in remote areas, to assess the staff presence and teaching effectiveness.

Dulloo stressed the importance of utilizing the modern infrastructure such as ICT labs, Computer-Aided Learning (CAL) labs, smart classrooms, Atal Tinkering Labs and other available resources. He directed the department's IT team to develop a dashboard for daily monitoring of IT infrastructure usage in each school. Currently, 1420 CAL Centers and 2036 ICT Labs and 4272 Smart Classrooms are fully operational across the UT.

Regarding vocational education, the Chief Secretary impressed upon the department for regular handholding and support to the vocational learners until they secure placements in the job market. Over 141,000 students from classes 9th to 12th were said to be currently enrolled in 15 different trades imparted in the schools.

Dulloo directed the department to exercise caution and make thorough preparation before adopting the ECCE model, emphasizing the extensive groundwork required for merging pre-primary education with childhood care in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department. He asked for appointment of nodal officers for each zone to ensure the feasibility of such mergers and prevent difficulties for children seeking admissions.

It was informed that Pre-primary classes are scheduled to be initiated in 15,550 schools and 13,804 AAYAs/helpers have been engaged in schools with ECCE

sections.

The Chief Secretary reviewed the progress on various works under different schemes, including establishment of Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas (KGBVs), Girls Hostels, modern infrastructure and particularly the PM SHRI scheme in designated schools across the Union Territory.

While throwing light on the overall educational landscape of J&K, Secretary, SED, Ram Niwas Sharma, revealed that 20 districts had been distributed into 188 Education Zones (Jammu: 97, Kashmir: 91) for managing the affairs of the department.

He also revealed that the literacy rate (UT, NSO Survey 2017) has been shown as 77.30% across the UT. He added that J&K has total schools strength of 24,137 (18,724 Govt. and 5,413 Pvt. + Other) with a cumulative enrolment of 2,617,817 students (1356838 in Govt+ 1260979 in Pvt Institutions) from Primary to Higher Secondary level.

The meeting was also apprised that the total budgetary allocation for the department for FY 2025-26 is Rs. 11,356.43 crore (including UT Capex and CSS) with an overall approved budget allocation of Rs. 13,492.27 crore. It was added that the expenditure on each enrolled student in a government school accrues to around Rs 1 lakh/year which is much higher than the national average.

It was further divulged that in J&K 396 schools had been selected for being taken up under PM SHRI programme.

Regarding the Vidhya Samiksha Kendra, it was informed that it has fully been completed and operational in Jammu, ensuring data-driven decision-making and improved educational outcomes. Four chat bots (Smart Attendance J&K, J&K Study Buddy, Field Monitoring Bot, J&K Parent Pulse Bot) have been rolled out, so far, from there.

CS reviews....

developmental status, covering key sectors such as health, education, power, tourism, agriculture, rural development and water supply.

The Chief Secretary emphasized mission-mode implementation of schemes by the departments like Power, Education, Health, Agriculture, Horticulture and Tourism. He directed the officials to accelerate the infrastructure works to improve the overall ease of living for the citizens.

He also stressed on effective implementation of Centrally and UT Sponsored Schemes, including the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), promotion of cooperatives, PMAY and saturation of healthcare schemes, with a particular focus on achieving the set targets under different schemes.

During his visit, Atal Dulloo laid foundation stones for several key projects worth ₹805 lakh, including construction of a 100-bedded ST/G&B hostel and a district veterinary hospital at Bandipora.

As part of the review, the Chief Secretary was also briefed on the District Capex Plan 2025-26, under which a total allocation of ₹41 crore has been earmarked for Bandipora. This included ₹10 crore under DDC grants, ₹3 crore under BDC grants, ₹25 crore under PRI grants, ₹2 crore for Aspirational Block Development and ₹1.2 crore for Aspirational Panchayat Development. The plan encompasses 483 works under DDC grants (including 139 spillovers), 107 under BDC grants (30 spillovers) and 1,488 under PRI grants (579 spillovers).

In addition, projects worth ₹1.86 crore in the health sector and ₹2.85 crore in elementary education are under execution, with ₹1.04 crore available for new initiatives under the Aspirational Block schemes.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted several key issues, including the need for human resource and infrastructure augmentation at the District Hospital Bandipora and the road widening of the Sumbal-Bandipora stretch.

The Chief Secretary called for improved departmental coordination, timely submission of pending estimates and proactive measures to resolve the execution bottlenecks, especially in remote and difficult terrains of the district.

Atal Dulloo underscored the importance of community participation and emphasized strict adherence to transparency, quality control and public accountability in project execution.

Later, the Chief Secretary inter-

acted with the delegations comprising civil societies, trade unions, tribal representatives, NYCs and youth groups, assuring them of time-bound redressal of their grievances and developmental concerns.

Earlier, Atal Dulloo, accompanied by the Deputy Commissioner, inspected various departmental stalls set up on the occasion.

Among others, Chief Planning Officer, Executive Engineers from R&B, PHE, PDD, and officials from the Departments of Tourism, Health, Education, Agriculture, Horticulture, Social Welfare and Rural Development were present during the day-long proceedings.

J&K Police....

officers in a two-year-old terror-linked case registered under various sections of the ULA(P) Act read with Section 120-B of the IPC.

Suspicious technical signatures were traced at 10 locations falling in Budgam, Pulwama, Ganderbal and Srinagar districts of Kashmir during the investigation of the case, they said.

The officials said that the the suspects were found using suspected encrypted messaging applications.

During further analysis, various suspects were found using a 'specific encrypted messaging application' which is widely used by terrorists/handlers from across for coordinating, financing and executing a variety of terrorist related activities, including recruitment into terrorist ranks, they said.

"These individuals /users are suspected to be in touch with adversaries, including Abdullah Gazi, a Pak-based LeT/JeM terrorist handler across the border," the officials said.

Maintaining an element of surprise, the searches were meticulously planned and conducted in furtherance of the investigation by the CIK into this terrorist recruitment/financing module of the JeM/LeT terrorist outfit, operating from a known city in Pakistan which has been established by peeking into the server of encrypted messaging application, they said.

The officials said that the terrorist commander/ handler was in continuous touch with these local Kashmiri youth and was reportedly trying to radicalise them for recruitment into terrorist ranks.

The terrorist commander/handler is operating in close coordination with Pakistan's intelligence agency ISI, they said.

The officials said that a large number of documentary evidence and digital devices having bearing on the investigation of the case were seized during searches.

"So far, 10 suspects have been rounded up. Analysis of the data would follow and leads that would emerge would become the basis for further investigation," they added.

The officials further said the operation is primarily aimed at prevention and saving the lives and careers of local youth from falling prey to the designs of terror organisations.

"It is also aimed to uncover crucial evidence, curb illicit activities, prevent the misuse of communication devices such as mobile phones and dismantling the terror ecosystem in the UT by identifying terrorist associates/ Over Ground Workers (OGWs) supporting and abetting terrorism, and also ensuring legal action against them as envisaged by the law of the land," they added. (Agencies)

ARTO Warns.....

He further added that law-abiding citizens are respected and that the department's goal is to ensure safe and sensible driving practices for everyone.

"We respect those who follow the rules. But we will punish those who don't. Sensible driving is everyone's responsibility. We have to collectively work towards making our roads safer," he asserted.

The enforcement drive included on-the-spot inspections, seizure of vehicles without valid documents or being driven by minors, and immediate challans against traffic rule violators.

Inspector Manzoor Ahmad Qureshi, who was also present during the drive, reiterated the department's resolve.

"These drives are necessary because we see a large number of violations daily. We will continue them regularly. My appeal to drivers is to obey traffic rules sincerely. It's for everyone's safety," he said.(KINS)



CS visits Vicharnag Temple, Srinagar

Launches renovation, upgradation works under heritage conservation scheme

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, on Saturday visited the ancient Vicharnag Temple, a site of historical and religious significance, in Nowshera area of Srinagar city. The visit was aimed at to take onsite appraisal of the works being taken up for revival, restoration and conservation of the monumental asset under government's initiative of preserving the rich cultural and architectural heritage. Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo and Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), Faz Lul Hasseb accompanied the Chief Secretary during the visit. On the occasion, the Chief

Secretary kick started the renovation and restoration works of the ancient Vicharnag temple, also known as 'Vichar Sahab'. The Chief Secretary, while reviewing different project components at the site, directed the officers to execute the works at fast pace, strictly adhering to the set timelines and quality of the work as envisioned under the project guidelines. Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Secretary emphasized that the renovation and conservation work on the prestigious project is aimed to restore the temple's centuries old past glory and preserve its cultural and architectural legacy. The Chief Secretary said that the Vicharnag temple holds



significant historical, cultural and religious importance, reflecting Kashmir's diverse cultural society. He expected that the renovation work will revive and preserve the temple's aesthetic, heritage and social

values. On the occasion, the public, particularly the members of Pandit community from various parts of the country participated in the event and sought blessings from Shri Vichar

Sahab. Earlier, the Chief Secretary was apprised that the work on the project is being executed by R&B Srinagar at a cost of Rs 4.58 crore which included conservation and restoration of the

main Temple structure, earth filling around the temple precincts to restore the site's original topography, construction of entry gate to provide a formal and aesthetic look, construction of toilet block, desilting of egress

channel up to Gilsar Lake to be undertaken by the Irrigation & Flood Control Department. The restoration works also include the use of traditional lime mortar and Budloo/Fir wood, ornamental wood and stone work preserving original aesthetics, grills, signage, and landscape integration to enhance the visual appeal of the temple. The project is planned to be completed within one year, i.e., by July 2026. Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, senior Officers from R&B, PHE, PDD, I&FC, SMC, Police, Revenue and other concerned departments were present on the occasion.

SDH Kupwara Manages Rush Well; Locals Praise CMO, MS

N.S Shah

KUPWARA, JULY 19: Despite an overwhelming influx of patients in recent days, Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Kupwara continues to function smoothly and efficiently, thanks to the tireless efforts of its dedicated medical staff and the robust leadership of the district's top health officials. Locals have widely appreciated the role of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Kupwara, Dr. Masrat, for her unwavering commitment to strengthening the healthcare infrastructure across the district. Under her dynamic leadership, significant improvements have been observed in patient care, hospital sanitation,



and emergency response services. Equally commendable is the role of SDH Kupwara's Medical Superintendent, Dr. Mir Shafi, whose hands-on approach and constant presence at the hospital have ensured that medical operations continue uninterrupted even during peak hours. His efforts in coordinating staff, managing critical cases, and maintaining discipline within the hospital premises have not gone unnoticed. Residents of Kupwara have expressed satisfaction with the overall functioning of the hospital, noting that even in times of high patient load, no one is left unattended. "We are witnessing real change on the ground. The hospital is cleaner, better managed, and the staff is responsive," said one local resident. Healthcare observers in the region have also noted that the coordination between the CMO's office and the hospital administration has resulted in better delivery of medical services and a more organized response system in emergencies. As the district continues to navigate healthcare challenges, the combined leadership of Dr. Masrat and Dr. Mir Shafi stands out as a shining example of public service and administrative efficiency in Jammu & Kashmir's health sector.

G.M. Shaheen Calls for Urgent Reforms to Uplift Farmer Rights and Strengthen the Rural Economy in J&K

Aashiq Hussain

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: The President of Janata Dal United (J&K), Shri G.M. Shaheen, has strongly reiterated the party's commitment to fighting for the rights of farmers and revitalizing the rural economy across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. While addressing the media today in Srinagar, Shri Shaheen emphasized that farmers are the backbone of our economy, yet continue to face extreme hardships due to outdated policies, loan burdens, and lack of proper infrastructure. "It is unacceptable that thousands of farmers in Jammu & Kashmir are still waiting for basic support systems—be it irrigation,

crop insurance, or timely access to markets. We demand the waiver of Kisan Credit Card (KCC) loans for small and marginal farmers, and the introduction of zero-interest agricultural loans to boost productivity," said Shaheen. He further stressed the need for a comprehensive rural development package that includes: Revival of defunct irrigation canals and lift irrigation projects Establishment of cold storage and local mandi networks Deployment of mobile soil testing units and agri-clinics Promotion of organic and high-value crops suited to local conditions Shaheen also called upon the Union Government and the LG administration to immediately



address the long-pending demand for regularisation of daily-wage

workers in the agriculture and rural development departments, many of whom have served for decades without job security. "If the nation wants a strong economy, it must begin with strong villages and empowered farmers. Our fight is not just political—it is a moral obligation," Shaheen stated. He announced that the JDU will soon launch a "Kisan Nyay Yatra" across rural belts of Jammu & Kashmir to raise awareness and mobilize support for long-overdue reforms. The press conference concluded with a firm message: "Farmer justice is national justice. And our party will stand with every farmer, every rural household, until their voice is heard at the highest level."

DC Kulgam reviews saturation of Govt welfare schemes and financial inclusion initiatives

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 19: To ensure the saturation of government welfare and financial inclusion of social security schemes at the grassroots level, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the DC Office here. During the review, DC was apprised about implementation status and saturation levels of various welfare schemes, with a particular emphasis on financial inclusion schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY). DC instructed all bank heads to work in close coordination with the Rural Development department (RDD), and Social Welfare department to ensure comprehensive coverage of all eligible beneficiaries and achieve the targets well in time. DC emphasized that special attention is to be given to enhancing enrollment in schemes like PMJJBY, PMSBY, and other insurance and pension-



based initiatives under the Jan Dhan umbrella. DC emphasized that the success of these schemes lies not just in numerical enrollment but in their actual impact at the community level, urging all stakeholders to work with renewed commitment and ensure no eligible beneficiary is left out. Later, the DC assessed the implementation status of various agricultural and developmental schemes in Agriculture & allied sectors in the district. During the meeting the DC

reviewed Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY), and the implementation of the scheme in the district. This review meeting aimed to ensure the effective implementation of the flagship program, which provides economic security to farmers by insuring their crops against natural calamities and crop damage. The meeting was attended by JDP Malik Suheel, Lead Bank Manager, all the District Officers of Agriculture and allied sectors, heads of all leading banks operating in the district and Xen's of different wings.

Distt admin Kulgam accords warm farewell to outgoing CPO Zahid Sajjad

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 19: District Administration Kulgam today organized a farewell function for the outgoing Chief Planning Officer, Zahid Sajjad on his transfer from district Kulgam. Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan, ACR, senior district officers, and other officials of various departments were also present. Speaking on the occasion, DC said, "Outgoing CPO served the district with great zeal and sincerity, excelling not only in his departmental responsibilities but also in the additional assignments entrusted to him by the district administration, especially during the parliamentary elections of 2024 and JK assembly elections of 2024. He added that all the assignments given to officer were completed sincerely and well in time. DC further said, the workmanship & dedication of the officer will be missed in the district. District administration is wishing him the best on his transfer for his future assignments, DC added. All the officers present in the function extended their best wishes to Zahid Sajjad for his future assignments. Zahid Sajjad the outgoing CPO Kulgam thanked the district administration for their active support and cooperation during his tenure. He also expressed his gratitude to the people of Kulgam for their love and affection.

Kulgam Police arrests 2 drug peddlers Substantial quantity of contraband substance recovered

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 19: Continuing its efforts to eradicate the menace of drugs from the society, Police have arrested 2 drug peddlers and recovered substantial quantity of contraband substance from their possession. A police party of police station Kulgam at a checkpoint

established at Village Chancer intercepted a vehicle (Truck) bearing registration number JK19-4106 with two persons on board. During search, 6.785 Kg of Poppy Straw like substance was recovered from their possession. They have been identified as Mohd Sahil son of Irshad Ahmad wani resident of Seri Ramban (driver) and Majid Ahmad Malik son of Rafiq



Ahmad Malik resident of Tazipora, Mohammadpora, Kulgam. They have been arrested and shifted to police station where they remain in custody. Also vehicle used in commission of crime has been seized. Accordingly, a case vide FIR No. 76/2025 under section 8/15 NDPS act has been registered at Police Station Kulgam and investigation has been initiated.

We urge the common masses that if you witness drug peddling or any other crime anywhere near you, feel free to contact nearest police establishment or dial 112. People are requested to cooperate with police in curbing the menace of drugs from the society. We reassure the community members that police will act tough against the criminals as per law.

HT EDITORIAL

Discourage online gambling sites, unethical games applications

Some days back a local lost more than one crore rupees while losing a game in an online game application. Such things are normal in the other parts of the country and the people easily fall prey to the different online gambling sites. Over the years there has been an increase in such trends and more and more people are taking part in such games or online gambling sites.

In most of the cases it has been witnessed that the personalities belonging to sports and entertainment endorse the online gambling sites and games applications. Since most of the people tend to follow the actions of their stars it is quite natural for them to fall easily in the trap laid by online gambling sites and games applications. There are people who look upon the sports stars and film actors as their role models and follow their steps without caring for the consequences thereof.

It is imperative that there is no promotion of online gambling sites and games applications. Once such things are discouraged then it is quite possible that people would remain aloof from them. In fact there is a need to carry out an awareness campaign about the ill-effects of taking part in online gambling sites and games through different mobile applications. Once people are made aware about the disastrous consequences of such unethical activities it is possible that not many people will take part in online gambling and related activities.

The role of law enforcing agencies is very important in this regard and they should leave no stone unturned in ensuring that people are saved from losing their hard earned money. Prominent personalities holding a sway among the masses should be roped in this regard and the message needs to be strong. The message should hit the people hard so that they get awakened from slumber and take corrective measures at the earliest. No ifs and buts should be allowed in this regard and there should be no going back.

It is the responsibility of other allied government departments and agencies to watch the activities of the people closely. Given the fact that we are passing through a digital age it would not be difficult for the people at helm to get details about the section of the population involved in online gambling. Once the details are collected then the law enforcing agencies should get in touch with the people who have been trapped. Each and every step should be taken to them out of the morass.

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INSPIRE Awards – MANAK: A Great Platform for Young Scientific Minds

Nominations Now Open for FY 2025–2026



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Humans are not merely born to eat, sleep, and survive. Beyond food, shelter, and clothing—the basic needs of life—we are gifted with an extraordinary capability: the power to think, imagine, and innovate. Nature has blessed us with a limitless brain, and when harnessed with curiosity and purpose, it can lead to miracles of scientific innovation.

In today's world, science has touched every aspect of human life. From transportation to communication, from healthcare to artificial intelligence, science has opened doors that once seemed unimaginable. And at the heart of every discovery lies one thing—the human mind.

Science: Where Imagination Ends and Discovery Begins

As the saying goes, "Science begins where our thinking stops." It dares to go beyond imagination, converting dreams into reality. Have you ever dreamed of flying in the sky or talking to someone miles away? Science makes these fantasies possible.

Science is not just a theoretical subject—it is practical, evidence-based, and aimed at solving real-world problems. From the mysteries of the cosmos to the microcosm of atomic particles, science uncovers what was once invisible.

What we see around us today—phones, laptops, machines, appliances—was once just an idea in someone's mind. That's the power of human intellect and innovation.

INSPIRE Awards – MANAK: A Launchpad for Young Scientists
The INSPIRE Awards – MANAK (Million Minds Augmenting National Aspirations and Knowledge) is a flagship initiative of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India. It aims to:

- Nurture creativity and innovation among students of classes 6 to 10
- Promote problem-solving skills for social and environmental challenges
- Create a pipeline of scientific talent at the school level

This is a golden opportunity for school students to present original ideas that have the potential to bring about meaningful change in their communities and beyond.

Who is a Scientist?

A scientist is not just someone in a white lab coat working in a sophisticated lab. A scientist is anyone who uses creative thinking to solve problems. Whether it's repairing a gadget, finding a smarter way to cook, or designing something useful—science is happening everywhere, every day.

India's Legacy of Scientific Excellence

India has produced some of the finest scientific minds whose contributions continue to shape our nation and the world:

- C.V. Raman – Discovered the Raman Effect

- Homi J. Bhabha – Father of nuclear science in India
- Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam – The Missile Man of India
- Vikram Sarabhai – Founder of ISRO
- J.C. Bose – Pioneered wireless communication and invented the Crescograph
- Srinivasa Ramanujan – Revolutionized mathematics
- S.N. Bose – Formulated quantum statistics
- Salim Ali – India's birdman and renowned ornithologist
- S.S. Abhyankar – Known for his work in algebraic geometry
- Raj Reddy – A pioneer in Artificial Intelligence

Who Can Apply?

All middle and secondary schools (classes 6 to 10) are eligible to nominate up to five student ideas per academic year. These ideas should be:

Original and creative. Technically feasible. Socially or environmentally beneficial. Economically viable. Relevant to national development and government schemes

Steps to Apply for INSPIRE Awards – MANAK

Conduct an Internal Idea Competition:

Select up to 5 students with the best ideas.

Documentation:-Collect student bank details. Prepare a brief synopsis mentioning: Objective of the idea. Materials used. Working principle. Innovation involved. Expected benefits (social, economic, environmen-

tal)
Online Registration and Submission: Go to Google and search: "Inspire Awards MANAK" Visit the official link and log in as "School" If your school is not registered, contact your District Nodal Officer or DIET (District Institute of Education and Training) Save login details and keep recovery information updated

Assign a Mentor Teacher: Appoint a science/computer teacher to guide students and manage online submissions

What Happens After Selection?

If selected at the national level, the student receives a grant of ₹10,000 to develop a working model or prototype. This is followed by opportunities to participate at the District, State, and National-level exhibitions and competitions.

This is a chance for students to gain recognition, funding, mentorship, and possibly even patent support for their ideas.

The Beauty of INSPIRE Awards – MANAK

The INSPIRE Awards – MANAK scheme is not just a program—it's a movement. A movement toward fostering scientific thinking and innovation at the grassroots level. It's about empowering students to think big, solve real-life challenges, and become the scientists, engineers, and innovators of tomorrow.

Let's together encourage young minds to dream, discover, and design the future of our nation.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Murder of literature and insult of wordsmiths in newspapers



■ Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

Literary pages have either completely disappeared from most newspapers today or are limited to mere formality. Writers are made to feel 'favoured' by publishing their works, but are not given respectable remuneration. Now some owners are pretending to respect writers by making award schemes, whereas the basic need is - value of labour and place for literature. Writing is not a hobby, it is hard work, which requires wages and respect. Give awards later, first give the writer his wages - this will be the biggest respect.

Once the literary pages of newspapers were called the soul of the country. There were not just news there, but a shared heritage of thought, wisdom and sensitivity breathed there. But today when we flip through the newspaper, there are news, advertisements, speeches by politicians, but the literary side of poetry, stories, essays, reviews and ideology is missing.

It is a great irony that the media which goes around carrying the flag of 'freedom of press' and 'freedom of expression' has marginalized its most important part - literature and writers. Literary pages have been quietly removed from newspapers, and even those which are left are just a formality.

There are writers left, but who will print them? Even today, thousands of writers, poets, essayists and thinkers in India want to share their thoughts with the society. But where do they find space? If you send a literary article to a newspaper, you will either get the reply 'The editor is busy' or there is no reply at all. If you get a reply, you don't know whether it is a rejection or just a formality. And even if it gets published - then the honorarium? That is like asking for an insult! Many newspapers publish regular content from writers without paying a single penny. And in some places, there is a system which can be called a model of writer exploitation - "Be happy after getting published, don't raise the question of money."

There will be no honorarium for writers, but the owners will give awards!

Now listen to the latest drama - some media

The literary columns that are left in the newspapers have also become the centers of clubbing, factionalism and politics of personal relations.

Only some special names are printed again and again. It is as if there is no entry for new writers. In the name of honorarium, you call after a month, send an email, and even then... "Your payment is in process". Once columns like 'Dharmayug', 'Saptahik Hindustan', 'Kadambini', 'Navbharat Times' were the voice of literature.

organizations are now planning to give 'awards to writers'. Wow! First you get the writers to write articles for free, then you consider publishing them as a 'favour', and now you are killing self-respect by luring them with awards. It is true that the tradition of awards is old in literature. But when these awards start coming from those hands that consider writers as objects of use, not creative labourers, then questions are bound to arise. Should the award come from that organisation which considers even paying honorarium as a burden?

'Literary page' is now just a formality
The literary columns that are left in the newspapers have also become the centers of clubbing, factionalism and politics of personal relations. Only some special names are printed again and again. It is as if there is no entry for new writers. In the name of honorarium, you call after a month, send an email, and even then... "Your payment is in process". Once columns like 'Dharmayug', 'Saptahik Hindustan', 'Kadambini', 'Navbharat Times' were the voice of literature. Today some institutions have become allergic to the word 'literature' itself.
Wordsmiths are also workers, not just those

with microphones

In journalism, cameramen, reporters, anchors, designers all get salaries. But writers are still considered 'creatures of the air' - they only need the satisfaction of respect, not money. This thinking is indicative of deep insensitivity.

A writer is not an amateur artist, he creates with the soil of time, labour, study and sensitivity. His writing gives direction to the society, awakens public consciousness. Then why be stingy in paying him wages?

Do you want journalism to run without ideas? Today's newspaper is becoming a medium of nexus between corporate and power. But the people who read newspapers do not want only incidents, scandals and politics - they want perspectives that force them to think. And this work can be done only by literature and ideology. If there is no literature, the newspaper will become just a 'garbage house of information'.

Think about it - if the literature that gives direction to society is made to disappear, then you are only creating a graveyard of ideas in the crowd of information.

Respect is given when the price of labor is given
If you are saying to the author, "We will honor you"

So first ensure that you are paying him on time, not distorting his work without editing it, and not using it as a mere filler. The first form of respect is the value of labour. The rest of the awards, trophies, certificates, platforms - all come later.

An appeal: Know the value of the word newspapers which cannot pay wages to their workers,

They do not have the moral right to organize events in the name of literature. If you are a writer, stop submitting your works without remuneration. Raise the question on open platforms as to where is the place for literature. And those institutions which give you only the "joy of getting published", ask them - is this the respect of a writer?

The backbone of media is not just breaking news. The soul of media are those ideas which make the society aware. And these ideas come from the pens of writers, poets, thinkers, essayists. If you stop respecting their pens,

Then one day that same pen will expose your advertisement-based newspapers.

The Author is a Poet, freelance journalist and columnist, Radio and TV panelist, 333, Fairy Garden, Kaushalya Bhawan, Barwa (Siwani) Bhiwani, Haryana - 127045

An Untold Story of Public Crisis on Roads: Anarchy in the Guise of Rights



■ **Munish Bhatia**

India, a vibrant democratic nation, grants its citizens numerous fundamental rights, prominently including freedom of religion, freedom of expression, and the right to peaceful protest. The core purpose of these rights is to provide every citizen with the opportunity to voice their opinions, practice their beliefs, and raise their voice against injustice. It envisions a society where every individual can live with dignity and freedom. Unfortunately, currently, these rights are often exercised in a way that infringes upon the rights of other citizens, creating a situation where the line between rights and duties has blurred. Especially when public roads and pathways are blocked under the guise of these rights, the question inevitably arises: is this truly the exercise of rights, or an open display of anarchy?

Every year, various religious processions, demonstrations, movements, and protests are organized in different parts of the country. When roads become chaotic with loud, ear-splitting DJ music and sometimes turn into violent clashes, it takes on the form of a show of strength rather than mere religiosity. Ordinary citizens are stuck on roads for hours, their daily routines and lives disrupted. On the other hand, in some places, there is insistence on performing religious rituals on

public roads. This is an important aspect of faith for some communities, part of their religious observances. However, when this faith begins to obstruct the movement of common citizens and blocks roads for hours, it naturally raises the question of whether the nature of worship should be such that it encroaches upon the freedom and convenience of others. The fundamental essence of religion is restraint, service, and co-existence. It teaches us to be sensitive towards others and respect their rights. In such a scenario, do prayers performed by obstructing public roads truly adhere to this core message of religion, or do they merely cause inconvenience?

Similarly, dharnas and protests organized by various social organizations and political parties have also become a serious concern. Protest has an important and legitimate place in a democracy; it is a powerful means of expressing discontent and conveying demands to the government. But when this protest extends to stopping trains, jamming roads, and completely paralyzing the lives of ordinary people, it becomes an insult to the dignity of democracy. In a large and diverse country like India, where millions of people travel for employment and education, blocking roads and railway lines creates terrifying consequences.

It's often observed that political parties announce events like 'Bharat Bandh', 'Rail Roko' (stop trains), or 'Chakka Jam' (roadblock) in support of their demands. Millions of people are directly or indirectly affected by these events. Firstly, there's human suffering: patients cannot reach hospitals on time, often leading to fatal outcomes. Students from remote areas cannot attend their examinations, jeopardizing their future. The economic loss is also enormous:

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daily wage labourers lose their earnings, directly impacting their families. Trade and commerce come to a standstill, causing heavy damage to the national economy. Additionally, these protests create an atmosphere of tension, fear, and discontent throughout society, which is harmful to social harmony. Does this kind of protest fall within democratic norms, or is it merely a way to display power, the cost of which is borne by the common citizen?

In all these situations, the greatest loss is to the common citizen who honestly pays taxes, tries to move forward peacefully in their life, and believes in the societal order. This citizen expects the government to provide them with better roads, safe rail services, and an orderly life. They fulfill their duties and in return seek the protection of their rights. But when the same citizen cannot even walk on a road built with their taxes, when they are stuck for hours trying to reach their destination, it seems like a deep satire on the entire system. This is not just inconvenience; it is an insult to that citizen's self-respect and their contribution.

The Supreme Court of India has clarified its stance on this issue in various judgments. The Court has repeatedly stated that no individual, group, or organization can block public places indefinitely. The Supreme Court has also made it clear that no movement, protest, or religious event can be placed above the fundamental rights of the general public. Yet, we often see that this legal principle remains confined to paper.

It is also noteworthy that approximately 64% of the Indian government's budget comes from direct and indirect taxes. Every citizen of the country pays these taxes in some form – be it income tax, GST, toll tax, or tax on petrol-diesel. The government

uses these funds to build roads, construct bridges, operate railway services, and develop public infrastructure. But when citizens do not even receive the right to smooth movement in return for their tax contributions, it is not only a grave injustice but also contrary to the fundamental spirit of the Constitution, which promises equal opportunities and quality of life for all citizens. This raises a serious moral and constitutional question: does our democracy truly represent the interests of all citizens equally?

In these circumstances, it becomes essential that we understand and fulfil our duties along with our rights. This is not just the responsibility of the government or administration, but the collective responsibility of every member of society. Most importantly, it is necessary to spread awareness in society. It is essential to understand that individual or group freedom does not mean crushing the rights of others. In a democracy, "my freedom ends where another's nose begins." Children should be taught about civic duties and the importance of co-existence in schools, citizens at the community level, and religious leaders among their followers.

Today, the need of the hour is to put the spirit of 'equal rights to public resources' into practice. Roads, railways, hospitals – all these are built for the millions of citizens who are honestly running the country, paying taxes, and living their lives peacefully. They should receive convenience and security in their daily lives, not obstruction. The foundation of democracy is to provide equal opportunities and facilities to all – regardless of their religion, caste, class, or political ideology.

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Beneficial Vedic Mathematics for children today



■ **Vijay Garg**

When it comes to Mathematics, a lot of kids struggle, since it is known as a tricky subject. Apart from regular methods of teaching, the traditional Indian system of Mathematics, known as Vedic Mathematics, provides quick methods and simple formulas that reduce child math anxiety. However, how does Vedic Mathematics work, and what are its pros and cons? We take a closer look...

The ancient mathematical system called Vedic Mathematics, presents easy methods to solve complicated problems with speed. The system operates through 16 fundamental "Sutras", together with 13 secondary formulas, that address arithmetic and algebraic problems as well as geometric and calculus applications. An 18th century Mathematician, Swami Bharati Krishna Tirthaji, systematised the ancient Indian Vedic scriptures during the early 20th century, to make them suitable for modern school teaching.

The primary goal of Vedic Maths aims to reduce calculation time, while eliminating the need for memorisation. Children can solve most mathematical problems without writing them down, and come up with solutions through mental calculations in minimal steps.

How Does Vedic Mathematics Work

The core concept of Vedic Mathematics consists of "Sutras", which represent short and easy-to-learn mathematical rules.

Children learn to perform mental calculations through patterns and number relationships, instead of using pencil-and-paper methods. This approach enables children to handle numbers with creativity, while developing their confidence level.

What Are the Benefits for Children

1. Faster Calculations and Mental Math

Children using Vedic Maths techniques, can solve complex mental math problems more quickly than they would with a calculator.

Children benefit from these mental shortcuts, because they help save time, especially during competitive tests where speed is crucial.

2. Boosts Confidence and Reduces Math Anxiety

Tricky mathematical operations become simple for children who experience success.

Vedic methods result in student achievement, which develops confidence while creating a positive learning attitude.

3. Improves Focus, Memory, and Concentration

The process of mental calculation helps children develop their ability to focus their minds and develop memory skills, along with clear thinking abilities.

The practice of this system develops problem-solving abilities, together with general intellectual performance.

4. Enhances Number Sense and Logical Thinking

The mathematical system of Vedic Maths teaches students about number relationships, while eliminating the need to memorise basic arithmetic facts.

The system promotes adaptable thinking, instead of forcing students to follow strict step-by-step procedures.

5. Makes Learning Fun and Engaging

The system converts mathematics into an engaging puzzle format that stimulates student curiosity.

Students maintain their motivation, because they take joy in demonstrating their skills, by performing clever math tricks, and delivering swift solutions.

Is it useful

The modern technological era with calculators and computers, makes manual calculations seem less important. However, Vedic Mathematics continues to be relevant in multiple ways:

Fast mental calculation abilities, provide students with a major competitive advantage, when taking school tests and competitive entrance exams.

The program teaches children to handle financial transactions and time management/measurement tasks with confidence.

Early exposure to math leads to better academic performance in science, and engineering fields.

Every profession in modern times places value on problem-solving abilities, as well as memory function and innovative thinking.

Are There Any Drawbacks

No single system is perfect. Similarly, basic operations become faster when students learn Vedic Maths as an additional tool that develops their number sense skills. Students should not stop traditional schooling methods, since advanced mathematical understanding demands conventional methods for geometry, calculus and higher math subjects.

How Can Parents and Teachers Introduce Vedic Maths
Young children can start their learning of simple addition and multiplication tricks at home only.

Teach children the Vedic methods, while doing grocery shopping or when sharing snacks, or during fun contests.

Children can achieve both fluency and confidence, through daily practice of 5 to 10 minutes.

The Vedic techniques should be used as an additional resource, instead of replacing standard school mathematics curriculum.

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

Death: An Accepted Aspect Of Life



■ **Mool Raj**

When a person lies in constant pain, unable to move, eat, or communicate, entirely dependent on others for every need, can we still call it a dignified life? Life is the most sacred gift we possess. It is not merely about survival, but about living with dignity, autonomy, and purpose. While it deserves to be protected at all costs, there comes a point when life becomes a prolonged state of irreversible suffering, where the body continues to function but the essence of living quietly fades away. In such moments, we must ask ourselves: does preserving such life truly honour its value?

This reflection leads us into the complex and sensitive subject of euthanasia. Euthanasia, often known as mercy killing, refers to the deliberate act of ending a person's life to relieve them from unbearable and incurable pain. It can take the form of active euthanasia, where direct medical steps are taken to cause death, or passive euthanasia, where life support or treatment is withdrawn, allowing the natural process of death to take its course. Though it remains one of the most debated issues in the legal and religious spheres, euthanasia is ultimately about compassion, dignity, and the right to choose peace over prolonged agony.

As a researcher exploring euthanasia and the right to die with dignity, I have spent months in studying legal frameworks, constitutional interpretations, and religious texts under the guidance of my supervisor. But beyond the documents and doctrines, I have been confronted with silence. The silence of patients who cannot speak, families caught between hope and helplessness and a society unwilling to engage in one of life's most difficult conversations: how do we let someone go when there is no hope left?

The issue of euthanasia is not simply an academic exercise. It is deeply personal, human, and emotional. It is both necessary and important, as it is directly linked with life. I believe dignity should not only define how we live, but also how we are allowed to leave. And in that belief lies a truth: mercy is not abandonment; it is compassion.

When a person lies in constant pain, unable to move, eat, or communicate, entirely dependent on others for every need, can we still call it a dignified life? When machines keep the body functioning but the soul quietly withdraws, what meaning does such existence hold? In these moments, families silently grieve. And those in pain do not beg for more time. They whisper, "Why am I not dying?" For such individuals, death is not an end to fear. It is peace,

it is release, it is dignity.

The conversation around death with dignity in India began with the landmark case of Aruna Shanbaug v. Union of India (2011) 4 SCC 454; in this case, the Supreme Court allowed passive euthanasia under strict conditions for patients in a Permanent Vegetative State. While the Court did not recognize a constitutional right to die, it opened the door for future legal and ethical discussions, laying the groundwork for what was to come.

Later, the Supreme Court of India reaffirmed this reality in the landmark judgment of Common Cause v. Union of India, (2018) 5 SCC 1; the Court held that when a person is in an irreversible medical condition, with no hope of recovery, they have the right to die with dignity. Article 21 of the Constitution of India, which guarantees the right to life, was interpreted to include this right. Through this judgement, the Court legalized passive euthanasia and introduced the concept of a Living Will, a legal document that allows an individual to express in advance their wish to withdraw life support if recovery becomes impossible.

Yet even after this progressive step, awareness remains low. Many are unaware of their rights, and others are too hesitant or confused to exercise them. For some, the hesitation does not come from ignorance of the law. It comes from within. The law may grant them the right, but their faith or traditions often hold them back. Death remains a taboo, even when it is the most compassionate conversation we must have.

Behind every such patient is a family, devoted but silently breaking. People in irreversible states, those who can no longer speak, move, or swallow, often become completely dependent. Families try their best, but over time, the emotional, physical, and financial toll becomes overwhelming. Yet they remain silent. Not because they do not see the suffering, but because love often comes wrapped in guilt. Sometimes, letting go is not surrender. It is the most courageous and loving act one can offer.

According to divine law, we are taught that illness and suffering are a test from above. Enduring them with patience brings spiritual reward. We believe that only the one who gives life has the right to take it.

But in modern times, medical advancements have raised difficult ethical questions. Life can now be prolonged indefinitely, even when the body is breaking and pain has replaced every other feeling. After examining various religious texts and interpretations, it becomes evident that certain interpretations within religious traditions suggest that, under exceptional circumstances, passive euthanasia may be viewed as morally permissible, provided it is guided by compassion and carried out with dignity.

These interpretations suggest that when the time to return the soul has arrived, prolonging life through extraordinary means may prevent a person from experiencing a peaceful and dignified death, which is otherwise considered a basic and inherent human right.

THE AUTHOR IS A REGULAR COLUMNIST AND FREELANCE WRITER

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How AI Can Enhance Early Detection of Emerging Viruses: UNLV Study

News Center

LONDON, JUL 19: Wastewater surveillance became a popular choice among public health officials looking to track rapid virus mutations and spread patterns during the COVID-19 pandemic. But what if there was a way to detect emerging viruses even faster — or to even sniff out new variants possibly before patients even realize they're ill?

A new UNLV-led study is moving that dream one step closer to reality by pairing wastewater sample surveillance with artificial intelligence. The results appear in the latest issue of the journal Nature Communications.

Lead author and UNLV neuroscience graduate student Xiaowei Zhuang developed an AI-driven algorithm that scans wastewater to detect budding influenza, RSV, mpox, measles, gonorrhoea, Candida auris, or other pathogen variants — often before they're identified by clinical tests. Scientists say being able to map virus emergence, mutation, and transmission faster with AI than with existing wastewater surveillance methods could significantly enhance public health officials' ability to roll out rapid, targeted interventions.

"Imagine identifying the next outbreak even before the first patient enters a clinic. This research shows how we can make this possible," said study co-author Edwin Oh, a professor with the Nevada Institute of Personalized Medicine at UNLV. "Through the use of AI we can determine how a pathogen is evolving without even testing a single human being."

While the study details how the team's AI method can separate overlapping signals in complex datasets, its real promise lies in on-the-ground impact. "The tool could especially be useful in improving disease surveillance in rural communities, empowering health workers in low-resource settings," said study co-author and Desert Research Institute research professor Duane Moser. The research team tested its theory by analyzing nearly 3,700 wastewater samples collected from Southern Nevada wastewater treatment facilities between 2021 and 2023. They discovered that the AI-driven system could accurately identify unique signatures for different virus variants with as few as two to five samples, significantly earlier than existing methods.

Half Fry Eggs Not Bad for Cholesterol: Study

ETV Bharat Health

NEW DELHI, JUL 19: From poached to pan-fried, when it comes to eggs, it's all sunny side up, as new research from the University of South Australia confirms that this breakfast favourite won't crack your cholesterol.

Long blamed for high cholesterol, eggs have been beaten up for their assumed role in cardiovascular disease (CVD). Now, UniSA researchers have shown definitively that it's not dietary cholesterol in eggs but the saturated fat in our diets that's the real heart health concern.

In a world-first study, researchers examined the independent effects of dietary cholesterol and saturated fat on LDL cholesterol (the 'bad' kind), finding that eating two eggs a day — as part of a high cholesterol but low saturated fat diet — can actually reduce LDL levels and lower the risk of heart disease.

CVD is the leading cause of death worldwide, responsible for nearly 18 million deaths each year. In Australia, one person dies from CVD every 12 minutes, accounting for one in four of deaths nationwide. Lead researcher, UniSA's Professor Jon Buckley, says it's time to rethink the reputation of eggs. "Eggs have long been unfairly cracked by outdated dietary advice,"



Prof Buckley says. "They're unique — high in cholesterol, yes, but low in saturated fat. Yet it's their cholesterol level that has often caused people to question their place in a healthy diet. In this study, we separated the effects of cholesterol and saturated fat, finding that high dietary cholesterol from eggs, when eaten as part of a low saturated fat diet, does not raise bad cholesterol levels," confirms the researcher.

Instead, he said, it was the saturated fat that was the real driver of cholesterol elevation. "You could say we've delivered hard-boiled evidence in defence of the humble egg." So, when it comes to a cooked breakfast, it's not the eggs you need to worry about — it's the extra serve of bacon or the side of sausage that's more likely to impact your heart health.

According to Nutritionist Anupama Mishra, Sunny side up or half-fried eggs are not inherently bad for cholesterol, but it depends on the quantity consumed, your overall diet, and existing cholesterol levels.

"Half Fry is popular in India which we also call sunny side up eggs. They are not bad if consumed in moderation and as part of a balanced diet. But if you have existing cholesterol issues, consult your doctor or nutritionist for personalised advice," suggests the nutritionist.

Here are some key points:
Egg yolk contains cholesterol: About 186 mg per egg. However, for most people, dietary cholesterol has less impact on blood cholesterol compared to saturated and trans fats.

Method matters: Sunny side up or half-fry uses minimal oil if done right, which is better than deep-fried or heavily buttered versions.

Portion control: For most healthy individuals, up to one egg per day is generally considered safe.

Balance with diet: If the rest of your diet is high in saturated fats, processed meats, and low in fiber, even moderate egg consumption can contribute to higher LDL (bad cholesterol).

For people with high cholesterol or heart disease:

Limit whole eggs to 3-4 per week, or opt for egg whites which contain no cholesterol.

Use healthy oils like olive oil in minimal amounts for frying.

AI expands usefulness of common heart test

Health World

LONDON, JUL 19: Artificial intelligence (AI) can turn a common doctor's office test into a screening tool for detecting structural problems in patients' hearts, researchers reported in Nature.

Their publicly available AI tool, called EchoNext, analyzes ordinary electrocardiogram (ECG) data to identify patients who should have an echocardiogram — a noninvasive ultrasound exam — to look for valve diseases, thickening of the muscle tissue, and other structural defects that can impair heart function.

"We were all taught in medical school that you can't detect structural heart disease from an electrocardiogram," study leader Pierre Elias of Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons said in a statement.

"We think that ECG plus AI has the potential to create an entirely new screening paradigm." EchoNext uses the cheaper ECG to figure out who needs the more expensive ultrasound, he said.

When 13 cardiologists reviewed a total of 3,200 ECGs, they detected structural heart problems with an accuracy rate of about 64%, compared to a 77% accuracy rate for EchoNext, the researchers found.

They next used the tool to review ECGs obtained in the past from nearly 85,000 patients. Based on those ECGs, the patients' doctors had sent 4,100 of them to get echocardiograms, which found structural problems in roughly 3,000. But EchoNext identified an additional 3,400 patients as being at high risk and needing the ultrasound exam.

Because AI was unavailable when those ECGs were obtained, many of the additional patients may have had potentially serious structural heart disease that went undiagnosed, the researchers said.

"You can't treat the patient you don't know about," Elias said. "Using our technology, we may be able to turn the estimated 400 million ECGs that will be performed worldwide this year into 400 million chances to screen for structural heart disease and potentially deliver life-saving treatment at the most opportune time."



Worldwide, structural heart disease impacts 64 million people with heart failure and 75 million with valvular disease, with costs in the U.S. alone exceeding \$100 billion annually, the researchers said.

Neurons, the nerve cells that transmit information to and from the brain, are equipped with "backup batteries" that kick in to keep the brain running during periods of metabolic stress, researchers have discovered.

Traditionally, it was believed that brain cells called glial cells served as "energy warehouses" for the neurons, storing a form of sugar known as glycogen and supplying it as needed for fuel.

"But we now know that neurons themselves store glycogen and can break it down when the pressure is on," study leader Milind Singh of the Yale School of Medicine said in a statement.

"It's like discovering that your car is a hybrid — it's not just reliant on gas stations, it's been carrying an emergency battery the whole time."

Their discovery was made during experiments with a microscopic roundworm called *C. elegans* and a fluorescent sensor that glows when cells break down sugar for energy.

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CDS visits DSSC Wellington, highlights tri-services synergy in successful Op Sindoor

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 19: Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Anil Chauhan today highlighted the important aspects of Tri-Services synergy that were effectively demonstrated during the successful execution of Operation Sindoor.

The CDS delivered a talk on Operation Sindoor during his visit to the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington in Tamil Nadu, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Addressing the student officers of 81st Staff Course, permanent staff of the college and station officers of Wellington, General Chauhan emphasised on important aspects of Tri-Services synergy demonstrated during the successful operations by the Indian Armed Forces.



Later, while interacting with the faculty of the college, General Chauhan laid stress on integration and jointness imperatives, capability development, Aatmanirbharta and an in-depth understanding of the transformative changes being pursued in the military.

The CDS was also briefed by the DSSC Commandant Lt Gen Virendra Vats on the ongoing training activities at the college, where emphasis is being laid on fostering jointness and inter-services awareness, specifically with the institutionalisation of the Deep Purple Division.

The 45-week 81st Staff Course is presently underway at the college. The present course comprises 500 student officers, including 45 from 35 friendly countries.

UNI RBE GNK

India's millet standards recognised at global food panel meet

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 19: India's leadership in developing a group standard for whole millet grains was acknowledged at a session of the Codex Alimentarius Commission (CCEXEC88), held at the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) headquarters in Rome from July 14 to 18.

According to a statement from the Union Health Ministry here, the appreciation came at the 88th session of the Executive Committee of the CCEXEC88.

India is chairing the work on millet standards, with Mali, Nigeria, and Senegal serving as co-chairs. The terms of reference were finalised during the 11th session of the Codex Committee on Cereals, Pulses and Legumes (CCPL) in April this year.

India, currently serving as an elected member



of the Codex Executive Committee, also received appreciation for its work on standards for fresh dates, as discussed during the 23rd session of the Codex Committee on Fresh Fruits and Vegetables (CCFFV) earlier this year, said the statement. The Executive Committee endorsed the proposed standard for adoption at CAC48, scheduled for November 2025.

Additionally, India will co-chair upcoming standard-setting work for fresh turmeric and fresh broccoli.

The Indian delegation, comprising officials from the Ministry and the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), participated in discussions on the Codex Strategic Plan 2026-2031. India advocated for the adoption of SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, and Time-bound) Key Performance Indicators, with a focus on outcome-based monitoring.

India also shared details of its regional capacity-building initiatives for neighbouring countries such as Bhutan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. These initiatives have been recognised by the FAO.

During the deliberations, India urged less active Codex member countries to avail of the Codex Trust Fund (CTF) for mentorship and twinning programmes. Drawing on its experience with Bhutan and Nepal, India recommended incorporating such initiatives into the performance indicators for the strategic plan, as per the statement.

India has been chairing the Codex Committee on Spices and Culinary Herbs (CCSCH) since its inception in 2014.

UNI AJ RN

PM Modi pays tribute to Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 19: Prime Minister Narendra Modi today paid tribute to freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on the occasion of his birth anniversary, describing him as one of the leading warriors who challenged British colonial rule.

In a post shared on social media platform X, the



Prime Minister wrote, "Respectful tribute to the great freedom fighter Mangal Pandey on his birth anniversary. He was one of the foremost warriors who challenged British rule. His courage and valour will continue to inspire generations of Indians."

Mangal Pandey is widely regarded as a key figure in India's First War of Independence in 1857, whose actions sparked widespread rebellion against British authority.

UNI AJ RN

Priyanka accuses BJP of handing over forests to Adani, silencing Oppn in Chhattisgarh

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 19: Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra today hit out at the BJP-led central government, accusing it of handing over the forests of Chhattisgarh to the Adani Group in violation of environmental laws and tribal rights.

In a post on X, Priyanka alleged that the government is blatantly violating the PESA Act and the directives of the National Green Tribunal (NGT), leading to the destruction of forested land in the state.

She further claimed that former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was preparing to raise this issue in the State Assembly. However, in an apparent attempt to silence him, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) conducted a raid at his residence early Friday morning and arrested his son.

"The BJP government has handed over all of Chhattisgarh's forests to Adani. In blatant violation of the PESA Act and the directives of the NGT, the forests are being destroyed. Former Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel was going to raise this issue in the Assembly. To stop him, the ED conducted a raid at his residence early in the morning and arrested his son." the Way-



anad MP said.

She further added, "Over the past 11 years, the country has come to understand very well that these are tactics used to suppress the voice of the people and silence the opposition. But such methods can neither suppress the truth nor intimidate the

opposition. Every single Congress worker stands firmly with Baghel."

It may be mentioned that the ED yesterday arrested Chaitanya, son of Bhupesh Baghel in connection with money laundering related to an alleged liquor scam.

UNI RBE ARN

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

Trump mocks BRICS nations, says his 10pc tariff threat 'hi them very hard'

United News of India

WASHINGTON, JULY 19: Doubling down on his 10% tariff threat against all BRICS countries, US President Donald Trump in press briefing yesterday claimed that he 'hit' the intra-governmental organisation 'very hard', adding that he will never allow another any of the group's attempts at de-dollarisation, calling USD 'the king'.

Mocking the multi-nation bloc's attempts at de-dollarisation, Trump, while talking about his administration's attempts at strengthening the US dollar said "You have this little group called BRICS, it's fading out fast. But they wanted to take over the dominance of the dollar, and the standard of the dollar. 'Anybody that's in the BRICS consortium; we are going to tariff you 10%.'"

Reasserting that the USD will remain the world reserve currency for 'generations to come', he called losing a world war. "When I heard about this group from BRICS, six countries, basi-

cally, I hit them very, very hard. And if they ever really form in a meaningful way, it will end very quickly." Trump said without naming the countries. "We can never let anyone play games with us."

On June 7, Trump had threatened all countries who were aligning with BRICS an additional 10% tariff, claiming that the group's policies were "anti-American." "Any Country aligning themselves with the Anti-American policies of BRICS, will be charged an ADDITIONAL 10% Tariff. There will be no exceptions to this policy. Thank you for your attention to this matter!" Trump said in a post on Truth Social.

During the summit in Rio De Janeiro, BRICS countries had condemned the US tariffs and its strikes on Iran's nuclear facilities. Stating that Washington's arbitrary tariffs were a violation of WTO rules, the member states noted that they "threaten to reduce global trade, disrupt global supply chains, and introduce uncertainty."

Focusing on creating a multi-polar

world order and present an alternative to Western hegemony, in recent years, BRICS has attracted many countries who seek to shift from Western dominance, and seek greater representation.

The bloc formed Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa, has expanded considerably over the years, joined by Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Iran, the UAE, Ethiopia, and Egypt.

Additionally, while not members, BRICS also has trade partnerships with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Thailand, Malaysia, Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Nigeria, Vietnam, Uganda.

The bloc's eleven member nations alone represent over 40% of the world population, contribute to over 37.3% of the global GDP by PPP, control 40% of the global oil supply, 75% of rare earth minerals, and account for 50% of the world's solar power.

They also have their own money lending bodies such as the New Development Bank, offering an alternative to the IMF, ADB, and World Bank.

UNI XC ANV GNK

Former SKorean President Yoon Suk-Yeol indicted on additional charges post detention

United News of India

SEOUL, JULY 19: South Korea's special counsel investigating former President Yoon Suk-yeol's short-lived martial law imposition, indicted the ousted leader under detention on additional charges today.

Cho Eun-suk, independent counsel leading the investigation into Yoon's

insurrection and other charges, prosecuted Yoon for abusing power, obstructing justice, writing bogus official documents, violating the presidential records act and committing other wrongdoings.

Yoon was charged with failing to follow proper procedures for the martial law imposition, ordering the presidential security service to block attempts in January



to arrest him and giving order to delete information on security phones offered to military commanders.

A warrant to detain Yoon, sought by the special counsel team that launched its investigation on June 18, was issued nine days earlier for fear of his destroying evidence.

Yoon was apprehended in the presidential office on January 15 and was indicted

under detention on January 26 as a suspected ringleader of insurrection, but was released on March 8 as prosecutors decided not to appeal against the court's release approval.

The constitutional court upheld a motion to impeach Yoon on April 4 over his botched martial law bid last December, officially removing him from office.

UNI/XINHUA ANV RN

IIM JAMMU DIRECTOR PROF. B.S. SAHAY HONOURS PADMA SHRI BALWANT THAKUR

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 19: In a grand ceremony held at Mandapam, IIM Jammu, eminent theatre personality and former cultural diplomat of India, Padma Shri Balwant Thakur, was honoured by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, Indian Institute of Management Jammu, for his outstanding contribution in training 128 students and devising a vibrant performing arts festival titled 'Rang Tarang', featuring 16 plays and 3 dance presentations.

Commending Balwant Thakur's exceptional work, Prof. B.S. Sahay remarked, "This marks the second batch of IIM students trained under him.

What makes his engagement truly unique is the way he tailors each session to meet the specific professional demands of our institution, transforming theatre into a powerful soft-skills engine relevant to corporate leadership." He added, "His work is not just theatre—it's cultural engineering. He's not seeking applause from the stage; he's nurturing resonance in the minds of tomorrow's leaders."

Prof. Sahay further noted, "I was truly amazed to see IIM students performing on stage with such professional finesse—acting and dancing with a grace and confidence that often surpassed even seasoned performers. It is a testament to his

extraordinary vision and mentoring. His magic lies in his ability to unlock hidden potential, transforming each student completely. The confidence, discipline, and creative expression he has instilled in them are clearly visible in every performance."

In his address, Balwant Thakur expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Director and the IIM Jammu team for the opportunity to be part of such a meaningful initiative. "I am deeply thankful for the chance to be engaged in something so enriching and inspiring. It not only allows me to share my experiences but also enables me to learn and grow through interaction with such curious



and enthusiastic minds," he said.

He highlighted the students' exceptional energy, eagerness to learn, and openness to experiment, calling them a source of inspiration that constantly pushed him to innovate. "Their enthusiasm motivated me to think beyond conventional approaches and rediscover theatre as a dynamic and evolving discipline," he noted.

Reflecting on his 45-year journey in the world of theatre, Balwant Thakur emphasized that theatre is far more than performance. "Theatre is for thinkers, innovators, leaders, and healers," he said. "It is a transformative art that shapes individuals, provokes thought, instills empathy, and

drives social change. As artists, we carry the responsibility to harness this magical power of the arts for the greater good of society."

Sharing insights from his experiences in over 100 countries, he said these global interactions have broadened his understanding of cultures, deepened his perspective on human stories, and enriched his creative vision—all of which he channels into his work today.

He concluded with an earnest hope that such collaborations between arts and professional education would continue to flourish, contributing not only to individual growth but also to a more empathetic, imaginative, and humane society.

DC Ramban Reviews Arrangements for Independence Day 2025 Celebrations

HT News Desk

RAMBAN, JULY 19: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a meeting to review the arrangements for the Independence Day 2025 celebrations in the district.

The meeting was attended by senior civil and police officers including SSP Ramban Kulbir Singh, SSP Traffic NHW Raja Adil Hamid, ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, ACR Skokat Hayat Mattoo, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, along with other district and sectoral officers.

It was decided that the district-level function will be held at the District Police Lines Ground, where the chief guest will hoist the National Flag, followed by a march past by contingents of JKP, IRP, CRPF,



Home Guards, PPF, and school students.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure all necessary arrangements well in time including seating, barricading, drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, fire safety, security, transport, traffic regulation, medical facilities including Ambulances and illumination of government buildings.

He further instructed all district heads to ensure their presence along with all subordinate staff at the District Headquarters during the function and also ensure participation of their subordinate staff at national functions within their jurisdictions.

The DC outlined the celebration plan and emphasized the inclusion of various cultural performances, instructing the cultural committee to involve renowned and budding local artists to infuse the event with patriotic fervor and enthusiasm.

To ensure the smooth conduct of the event, the DC constituted several committees, including the Cultural Programme Monitoring Committee and Reception Committee.

During the meeting, SSP Ramban briefed about the security arrangements, assured foolproof deployment for the national event. SSP Traffic also presented the traffic management plan for ensuring smooth vehicular movement.

Special Enforcement Drive Conducted by ARTO Ramban across Key Locations

HT News Desk

RAMBAN, JULY 19: In compliance with the guidelines issued by the Secretary Transport, Transport Commissioner J&K, and under the directions of the Deputy Commissioner Ramban, a special enforcement drive was conducted by the Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Ramban, along with a team of Motor Vehicle Inspectors (MVIs), across various routes of the district.

The drive covered key areas including Ballwat, National Highway, Ramban, Maitra, and surrounding regions. During the operation, over 300 vehicles were checked for violations of the Motor Vehicles Act. As a result, 75 vehicles were e-challaned for various offenses. These included 6 vehicles without Pollution Under Control Certificates (PUC), 21 riders without helmets, 5 vehicles without insurance, 1 without a valid route permit, 9



for overloading passengers, 24 drivers without driving licenses, 3 vehicles without fitness certificates, 3 without Speed Limiting Devices (SLD) and 4 other violations under Section 177 of

the MV Act. The total amount of penalties collected through e-challans amounted to 2,93,800.

Additionally, 22 vehicles were seized under Section 207 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. The MVIs also recommended suspension of 10 driving licenses based on the nature of violations.

Beyond enforcement, the ARTO Ramban conducted counseling sessions with bike riders and other road users to raise awareness about road safety, traffic rules, and responsible driving behavior. These interactions aimed at encouraging the public to adopt safe and lawful practices on roads.

The Transport Department reiterated its commitment to ensuring road safety, minimizing traffic violations, and safeguarding public lives through a consistent approach of enforcement and awareness initiatives across Ramban district.

5th DCDC meeting reviews Cooperative Development Initiatives in Kathua District

HT News Desk

KATHUA, JULY 19: The 5th District Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting was held today under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kathua, Surinder Mohan.

The meeting was convened by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies and attended by the officers from line departments and representatives of cooperative societies.

The meeting reviewed key components of the cooperative development roadmap in the district, with focus on the establishment of Food Processing Units (FPUs), support to Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), implementation status of the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan, observance of the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) 2025 and strengthening inter-departmental coordination.

The Committee approved the establishment of four Food Processing Units by MPSC Bakhta, MPSC Chack Sona Nupa, MPSC Basantpur and



MPSC Narianpur. These initiatives are aimed to boost the rural economy and promote self-reliance among cooperative societies through value addition and agro-based entrepreneurship.

Besides, the ADDC directed the Assistant Director CAPD to grant Public Distribution System (PDS) centres to Bakhta MPSC and Salore MPSC, thereby enhancing the reach of essential commodities to rural populations through the cooperative network.

The Deputy Registrar Cooperatives briefed the Committee on the progress of the World's Largest Grain Storage Plan underway at Rajbagh. He

also shared updates on other departmental initiatives, including the installation of Cooperative Mandaps at the designated Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra camp sites in Hiranagar and Lakhampur to provide services during the ongoing yatra season.

The ADDC emphasized the need for proactive convergence among departments for the effective implementation of cooperative development schemes, skill-building programmes, and subsidy-based interventions. He stressed on building the capacity of PACS and other cooperative institutions to serve as engines of rural development.

SCERT Punjab and Dream a Dream signed a MoU to Strengthen Life Skills Education

HT News Desk

CHANDIGARH, JULY 19: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Punjab, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Dream a Dream, a non-profit organisation working to empower young people from vulnerable backgrounds to overcome adversity and thrive in a fast-changing world. The MoU is to integrate life skills and social-emotional learning (SEL) into school education across the state. Dream a Dream has been working in Punjab for the past one and a half year, supporting the implementation of the Happiness Curriculum and SEL programmes.

The MoU was signed in the presence of Director Ms. Kiran Sharma, State co-ordinator Sunil Kumar and CEO of Dream a Dream Suchetha bhatt along with Pankaj Sinha, Manorma Kashayap, Varinder Kaur and Ashmeet Kaur.

This partnership aims to create emotionally safe and inclusive classrooms where children can thrive as confident learners, teachers as empathetic facilitators and every individual in the system can thrive emotionally, become socially aware and future-ready. This collaboration marks a progressive step toward transforming education in Punjab by focusing not just on academics, but also on emotional wellbeing and life readiness for every child.

Chairman DLSA Jammu chairs 3rd meeting of Under Trial Review Committee-2025

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 19: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Jammu, under the guidance of its Chairman Y.P. Bournay (Principal District and Sessions Judge) and under the supervision of Secretary Smriti Sharma (Sub Judge) today convened 3rd meeting of the Under Trial Review Committee - 2025.

The meeting was held in the office Chamber of Principal District & Sessions Judge Jammu. The aim of the meeting was to evaluate cases of under-trial prisoners and to ensure compli-



ance with legal safeguards and timely justice.

The meeting was chaired by Y.P. Bournay, Chairman District

Legal Services Authority (Pr. District and Sessions Judge) Jammu and was attended by Ansuja Jamwal, Additional Dis-

trict Commissioner (Adm) Jammu; Smriti Sharma, Secretary DLSA Jammu; Vivek Shekhar, Superintendent of Police

Jammu North; Prashant Mahajan, Deputy Director Prosecution Jammu; Veerinder Kumar Bhat Superintendent of Central

Jail Kot Bhalwal Jammu; Dharminder Katoch Superintendent of District Jail Amphalla Jammu and Anil Sharma, Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel Jammu. During the meeting, the Committee reviewed cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners with no proper representation or those who have spent substantial time behind the bars.

The Committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, by filling bail applications before the appropriate Courts and ensuring that the

benefits of legal provisions reach to the intended beneficiaries, especially prisoners. The meeting also discussed action taken, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated data sheet to monitor prisoner cases, and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with appreciation expressed by Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Pr. Distt. & Sessions Judge) Jammu to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

Grand Hussaini Mushaira Held at Muradabad Kreeri

We here-by produce a Photo Feature about a grand Hussaini Mushaira Organized by Kruhin Cultural forum Kreeri in Collaboration with J&K Academy of Art Culture and Languages. Well attended Mushaira was held at Community Hall Muradabad Kreeri.

Glimpses of the event through HT Lenz ... HT Photo Feature by Aashiq Hussain



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

Kashmiri Handicrafts Exhibition cum Sale

Venue:- MFC Restaurant National Highway main Bazar Khawja Bagh Baramulla
Sale For:-
 Kashmiri handicrafts items, Semi Pashmina shawls, stools, jamawar, Pashmina Shawls, Cushion Cover, Ladies Top, Bed Covers, Sarees & all kind of handicraft items are available on Discount rates
Sponsored by:-
 O/o the Development Commissioner Handicrafts Ministry of Textiles, Government of India
Sanction order No:-
 C-12011/25(PC)2024-25-(NR)/F-EXB/GEN-3 Dated:- 09-05-2025
Under:-
 NATIONAL HANDICRAFTS PROGRAMME (NHDP) Scheme DEVELOPMENT
Organized By:-
 M/S REHMAN HANDICRAFTS PRODUCER COMPANY LIMITED BUIHAMA
 W.e.from:- 08-07-2025 To17-07-2025

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Death of MOHAMMAD ASSADULLAH MIR S/O ABDUL AHAD MIR R/O WAGOORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 08/08 /2001 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 death certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.
Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Wagoora

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR

Office Of The Executive Engineer Pwd (R&B) Projects Division III, Srinagar
 NOTICE INVITING TENDER | e-NITNo. 16-NP of 07/2025 | Dated: 16-07-2025

Forand on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt.Governor of Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders (In Single Cover System) are invited on Percentage basis for the below mentioned works from approved and eligible Contractors Registered with UT of J&K Govt. CPWD, JKPWD, MES, Railways, and other State/Central Governments as per pre-qualification criteria in this bid document for each of the following works: -

Table 1

S. No.	Name of Work	T.D Cost	Class	MHA
1.	Annual Maintenance Contract by way of Electrical repairs 2 x 1 MVA Receiving station and Control Room including Fuel at Assembly Complex Civil Secretariat Srinagar for the year 2025-26.	600/-	Registered Approved Electrical Contractors	M&R

Adv. Cost (Incl; GST & Carriage) (Rs. In lacs): 10.00
Earnest Money @ 2% of Adv. Cost (In Rupees): 20000/-
Time of Completion: Upto 25thof March-2026

Position of AAA: Authorized by Director, Estates Department Kashmir
Position of TS: Accorded by Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Project Division-III, Kashmir
Position of Funds: Assured by Director Estates, Kashmir
Project Authority: Estates Department, Kashmir

1. SCHEDULE OF TENDER: -

The Bidding documents consisting of pre-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 the scheduled date given below in Table 2.

Table 2

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	16.07.2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	17.07.2025From 10.00AM
3	Bid submission Start Date	17.07.2025From 10.00AM
4	Bid Submission End Date	23.07.2025 up to 4:30 PM
5	Date and Time of Opening of Bids (Online)	24.07.2025 up to 12:30 PM in the office of the Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Project Division-III, Polo View, Srinagar.

2. DOCUMENTS COMPRISING THE BID: -

Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)

Bill of Quantities (BOQ)

3. INTEGRITY OF THE BID PROCESS: -

Information leading to clarification, examination, evaluation, Comparison of bids and recommendations for award of contract extra during the bid process is confidential.

All bidders are advised not to make any attempt to influence any officer or official of the department or any person related to them, and any such attempt made will result in disqualification of the bidder at any stage of the bid process including appropriate action under existing provision of law.

Misconduct / Misbehavior observed during the tender opening process with any officer/official shall be dealt under rules and in terms of the enlistment of registration of contractor in the Department and shall be subject to cancellation of registration card issued by this department or any other department.

All documents relating to the bid shall be in the English language.

No: XEN/R&B/PDIII/2024/633-43 /T-1 | Dated: 04-07-2024

Sd/- Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Project Division III Srinagar

DIPK: 3955/25 | Dated: 19-07-2025

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION KRALPORA
Final Notice

MS JK Construction Company,
Contractors & Engineers/ HMPO,
R/o: Athwajan Srinagar.

No: Div-KRLO/1368-71 | Dt: 18-07-2025

Subject: Construction/Upgradation of Vilgam Bhat Mohalla including allied links. Reference:- 1. Superintending Engineer Baramulla/Kupwara's Allotment No. 8442-46 dated 25-11-2022.

2. This Office Final Notice No. Div-KRLO/1342-44 dated 16-07-2025.

3. Assistant Executive Engineer R&B Sub-Division Ramhall's Final Notice No. SDR/516-17 dated 15-07-2025.

The subjected work stands allotted to you vide the above referred allotment. In this connection you were supposed to start the work despite issuance of several notices from the divisional as well as sub-divisional office from time and again.

Whereas, you were called so many times by the field engineers to start the work but you have not paid any heed to the issue. Despite of many assurances given by you regarding the start of the work, you have failed in your commitment so far.

It is imperative that you understand the seriousness of the issue and allocate the necessary resources and manpower to ensure that the project is completed well in time and as per the agreed-upon schedule.

Therefore, you are finally directed to start the work on the project in full swing within 02 days positively from the issuance of this notice. Any failure to comply with this directive will leave us with no choice but to initiate the process for the termination of the contract and further action against your firm will be followed as per the relevant SBD guidelines.

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Kralpora

DIPK: 3979/25 | Dated: 19-07-2025

Sakeena Itoo Inaugurates NTPHC and Sheep Extension Centre at Khull, Kulgam

Says Omar-led Government Committed to Ensuring Basic Facilities in Rural J&K

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JULY 19: To strengthen healthcare infrastructure and livestock services in remote areas, the Minister for Health, Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today inaugurated a New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) and Sheep Extension Centre at Khull village in DH Pora area of district Kulgam.

The NTPHC has been constructed at an estimated cost of ₹1.88 crore, and is aimed at providing upgraded and accessible healthcare services to the people of Khull and its surrounding villages. The modern facility is expected to significantly ease the burden on distant hospitals and bring essential

tial medical care closer to the rural population.

In addition to the health centre, a Sheep Extension Centre, built by the R&B Department at a cost of ₹40.62 lakh, was also inaugurated on the occasion. The facility is equipped to offer routine veterinary treatments, minor surgeries, extension activities, and shearing services, thus improving livestock health and boosting animal husbandry support in the region.

Addressing a large public gathering after the inauguration, Minister Sakeena Itoo emphasized that the Omar Abdullah-led government is fully committed to bringing all essential public services to the doorsteps of people in rural and far-flung areas. She noted that the newly con-



structured NTPHC will play a vital role in improving the health outcomes of the local population,

especially women, children, and the elderly.

She further remarked that the government is ushering in a new era of development, welfare, and prosperity across Jammu and Kashmir. "All promises made to the people will be fulfilled. We are not just laying foundations, but ensuring timely completion of developmental works that directly benefit the common citizen," she said.

Reiterating the administration's vision, she said that inclusive development of all regions remains a central focus of government policy. "No region, no village should be left behind in the journey of progress," she added.

Later, the minister interacted with several public delegations and individuals, listen-

ing to their concerns and local demands. She assured them that genuine grievances will be addressed in a time-bound manner, and necessary instructions will be passed to the concerned departments.

Sakeena Itoo was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, Director Health Services Kashmir, SDM Noorabad Bashir ul Hassan, senior officers from the Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Department, the Health Department, and other officials from the district administration.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from the local community, who welcomed the initiative and appreciated the government's efforts in bringing crucial services to their doorstep.

Chief Education Officer Ganderbal Addresses Teachers of Zone Tullamula

■ **HT News Desk**

GANDERBAL, JULY 19: Mr. Oneel Kumar Bhat, Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ganderbal, today addressed the teachers of Zone Tullamula during a workshop on "Theatre in Education," organized in collaboration with the Piramal Foundation.

In his address, the CEO emphasized the "vital role of teachers in shaping the future of students". He urged educators to work with zeal, dedication, and a student-first mindset, while promoting "creativity and innovation" in classrooms. Teachers were encouraged to actively integrate "ICT tools, CAL techniques, and smart classrooms" to create a more engaging and modern learning environment.

Underscoring the significance of school leadership, Mr. Bhat stated that the "Head of Institution (HOI)" must act as the leader of their school, demonstrating strong leadership qualities to ensure the smooth functioning of the institution. He also highlighted the importance of instilling "moral values" in students and encouraged teachers to take on the role of "guardians", providing not only academic instruction but also emotional and ethical guidance.



He further stressed the need for regular monitoring of "academic progress, including maintaining and checking notebooks and closely tracking class performance."

Referring to the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, Mr. Bhat emphasized its focus on career-based and holistic education, and described theatre as a powerful tool for student motivation, personality development, and creative engagement.

The Head of Institution of GHSS Tullamula and Zonal Education Officer (ZEO) Tullamula were also present at the event and appreciated the initiative, which aims to strengthen the educational framework across the zone.

Notably, Theatre in Education workshops have been conducted in all four zones of the district, reflecting the department's commitment to progressive and experiential learning practices.

Major Enforcement Drive Conducted by MVD Kupwara

116 Vehicles E-Challaned 35 Blacklisted Rs.2.10 Lakh in Fines

■ **HT News Desk**

KUPWARA, JULY 19: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Kupwara conducted a major enforcement drive today across multiple routes in the district, inspecting over 350 vehicles and imposing fines amounting to Rs.2.10 lakh for various traffic violations

under the Motor Vehicles Act.

During the day-long operation, enforcement teams inspected over 350 vehicles across key routes including Kupwara-Lolab, Kupwara-Tangdhar, Kupwara-Sopore, Kupwara-Sogam, Kupwara-Kralpora, Kupwara-Kalaroo, and Kupwara-Handwara.

The operation resulted in 116 vehicles being

e-challaned, 35 vehicles blacklisted, and recommendations for suspension of 6 driving licenses and 3 route permits for serious violations including over-speeding, absence of helmets or seatbelts, lack of permits, and non-functional Speed Limiting Devices. ARTO Kupwara, Mohammad Shafait, informed that the drive was carried out as part of a statewide

campaign directed by Transport Commissioner J&K, Shri Vishesh Paul Mahajan, and that such enforcement actions will continue to promote road safety and rule compliance. The drive was supervised by ARTO Kupwara and executed by a dedicated team led by MVI Waheed Ul Islam, MVI Karan Kumar, AMVI Arun Kaw, and SMVI Adil Ahmad.

Major Traffic Crackdown in Kulgam: ARTO Issues 175 Challans, Collects ₹1.70 Lakh in Fines

30 Vehicles Seized, 43 Blacklisted, 14 Licenses Suspended During District-Wide Enforcement Drive

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JULY 19: In one of the most comprehensive traffic enforcement initiatives undertaken this year, the Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Kulgam launched a massive crackdown across the district to rein in violations of motor vehicle laws. The high-intensity drive was conducted under the instructions of Secretary to the Government Transport Department, Sh. Naveen SL (IAS), Transport Commissioner J&K, Sh. Vishesh Mahajan, and RTO Kashmir, Sh. Irfan Qazi.

The operation was led on the ground by ARTO Kulgam, Dr. Showkat Ahmad Bhat (JKAS), and was supported by a dedicated team comprising Motor Vehicle Inspectors Shahid Cherag and Mushtaq Ganai, along with Motor Vehicle Traffic Assistants Rakesh Raina, Suhail Wani, and Shabir Dar. Over 300 vehicles were checked at multiple high-traffic and strategic points across the district.

The enforcement resulted in 175 challans being issued to violators for a variety of offenses including lack of valid documents, permit violations, overloading, and unauthorized modifications. The total amount of fines imposed is estimated at 1.70 lakh. Officials also seized and impounded 30 vehicles found operating without proper documentation, while 14 drivers were served with license suspension notices due to repeated or serious violations of road safety norms.

In a further move to enforce compliance, 43 vehicles were blacklisted for possessing expired or fraudulent documentation. Additionally, 12 vehicles were issued notices for possible suspension of their route permits, pending further inquiry.

Dr. Showkat Ahmad Bhat emphasized that the purpose of the drive was not just punitive but reformative. "The goal is to encourage a culture of accountability and lawful conduct among motorists. Road safety cannot be compromised, and our job is to ensure that rules are followed by all," he said. He added that such drives will continue in the future



with the same intensity and reach.

The authorities noted that the operation was also aimed at sending a strong message to habitual violators who continue to flout traffic norms despite repeated warnings. Officials reiterated that the crackdown was not a one-time initiative but part of a sustained strategy to ensure compliance and public safety across the district.

The ARTO Kulgam enforcement team appealed to the public to regularly update vehicle documents including registration,

insurance, pollution certificates, and driving licenses. Citizens were also urged to respect traffic laws and cooperate with enforcement officers to ensure safer roads for everyone.

Transport Department officials stated that similar action will continue in the coming weeks and will be further strengthened with the use of technology and real-time tracking. The department remains committed to ensuring safe, lawful, and efficient transport operations throughout Jammu and Kashmir.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that I, Abdul Majeed Dar, S/o Wali Mohd Dar, holder of Indian Driving License No. JK-1820110004966, issued by the Licensing Authority, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, currently residing at Tangmarg Baramulla, Hardu Ochloo, Tangmarg, Baramulla-193102, have changed my residential address.

As per my Aadhaar card, my new address is: C/o Wali Mohd Dar, 01, Tangmarg, District Baramulla, PO: Hardu Ichloo, Jammu & Kashmir - 193402.

I am applying for a change of address in my driving license accordingly. If anyone has any objection to the same, they may kindly inform the concerned RTO office within 7 days of this notice.

Sd/-
Abdul Majeed Dar
Dated: 19/07/2025

From the Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Pahalgam

Public Notice for General Awareness

Application by: Yawar Hussain Lone, son of Sakina Bano, resident of Nonwan, 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 25/11/2008.

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

This is information for all concern that the Name of my daughter Ziyana Rahim Has been wrongly shown in school records as Ziyana Raheem.

Now I want to correct it. Any body having any objection to the above may submit the same within one week as otherwise it may not entertained.

Ab Rahim Gouchoo
R/O Mugal Mohallah Ranawari

PUBLIC NOTICE

Correction in Name:

This is to be made public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhar card as Aadiya Ashiq D/O Tasleema Akhtar, While my correct name is Aydia Ashiq D/O Ashaq Hussain Tali.

Now I intend to make the above mentioned correction on my Aadhar card bearing No -826505330972.

Anybody having any objection in this regard may approach the concerned authorities within seven days of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the said time.

Sanction letters under Mission YUVA distributed at Kupwara

Beneficiaries express gratitude towards Government for the initiative

HT News Desk

KUPWARA, JULY 19: District Administration Kupwara in collaboration with Lead District Bank today organized a well attended function at Lead Bank Office Kupwara today to distribute sanction letters among the prospective beneficiaries under Mission YUVA Scheme. Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Fareed Ud Din was chief guest on the occasion. Lead District Manager (LDM), Tariq Ahmad Jan; Cluster Head, Abdul Majid Bhat, besides, Branch Heads and large number of beneficiaries attended the function.

Speaking on the occasion, the ADDC emphasized the

importance of schemes like Mission YUVA in promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among the youth of the district. He encouraged the beneficiaries to make the best use of the opportunities provided under the scheme and contribute to the economic growth of the district. He urged them to use the loan amount exclusively on the targeted business, without wasting a single penny on any unproductive activities.

The ADDC assured complete support to the beneficiaries from the District Administration and the J&K Bank for addressing their issues in availing the financial assistance under Mission YUVA scheme. He appealed the aspirants to



take maximum benefit of the scheme by earning their livelihood with dignity.

LDM in his speech said that the function marked a crucial step towards achieving the goals of youth empowerment and financial inclusion in Kupwara district. He urged upon the beneficiaries to focus on their business and become successful entrepreneurs, being the first batch in the queue. Cluster Head also spoke and motivated the prospective beneficiaries in establishing their business units by proper and sensible use of the financial assistance given by the Government.

It was given out that the beneficiaries will also be given a short term training course by

RSETI Kupwara to upskill their business management for their success.

Meanwhile, 42 sanction letters were distributed among the beneficiaries for establishing their self employment generating units under Micro & Small Enterprises (MSE) sector of Mission YUVA scheme.

The beneficiaries who had come from different areas of Kupwara district interacted with the ADDC and other officers. They expressed their gratitude towards the government for launching the Mission YUVA initiative which provides them financial assistance and handholding in establishing their own business ventures.

PUCA Delegation meets Bihar Governor

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: A delegation of Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) met Governor Bihar, Arif Mohammed Khan under the leadership of Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA & Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura, Near Chandigarh.

Renowned educationist of Punjab & PUCA office bearers including Adv Amit Sharma, Senior Vice President; S. Gurpreet Singh, General Secretary; Ashok Garg, Treasurer; Dr. DJ Singh, S. Jaspal Singh, Executive member, PUCA were the part of delegation.



Dr. Anshu Kataria informed the Governor that the member colleges of PUCA have announced to provide scholarships worth Rs 50 crore to the students of Bihar for pursuing higher education in various professional courses.

Kataria added and appreciated that Punjab and Bihar share a deep historical and cultural bond. It is noteworthy that one of the revered Akal Takhts, Takht Sri Patna Sahib, is located in Bihar, symbolizing the longstanding spiritual and social connection between the two states. The people of Bihar have also made valuable contributions to Punjab's agricultural and social landscape, especially during the Green Revolution.

Governor gave a patient hearing and encouraged all PUCA members to create such opportunities for Bihar students.

Pic Caption- PUCA Delegation While Meeting Bihar Governor under the Leadership of Dr Anshu Kataria President PUCA Chairman Aryans

MAJOR ENFORCEMENT DRIVE AT KUPWARA

116 Vehicles E-Challaned, 35 Blacklisted, Licenses and Permits Recommended for Suspension

HT News Desk

KUPWARA, JULY 19: The Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) Kupwara on Saturday conducted a major enforcement drive across multiple routes in the district, imposing fines amounting to 2.10 lakh for various traffic violations under the Motor Vehicles Act.

During the day-long operation, enforcement teams inspected over 350 vehicles across key routes including Kupwara-Lolab, Kupwara-Tangdhar, Kupwara-Sopore, Kupwara-Sogam, Kup-

wara-Kralpora, Kupwara-Kalraoos, and Kupwara-Handwara.

The enforcement drive led to the e-challanning of 116 vehicles for a range of offences such as over-speeding, driving without seatbelts or helmets, overcharging of fares, non-functional Speed Limiting Devices (SLDs), plying without route permits, and absence of High-Security Registration Plates (HSRPs). Furthermore, 35 vehicles were blacklisted, and recommendations were made for suspension of six driving licenses and three road permits—all within a single day.



Giving further details, ARTO Kupwara, Mohammad Shafait, stated that the drive was part of an intensified statewide enforce-

ment campaign, being undertaken as per the directions of Transport Commissioner J&K, Vishesh Paul Mahajan. He added

that similar drives will be regularly carried out throughout the district to promote road safety and ensure strict adherence to traffic regulations.

ARTO Shafait urged drivers and commuters to strictly follow traffic rules and adopt road safety practices to help reduce accidents and protect lives.

The enforcement drive was conducted by teams operating under the direct supervision of ARTO Kupwara, and led on-ground by MVI Waheed Ul Islam, MVI Karan Kumar, AMVI Arun Kaw, and SMVI Adil Ahmad.

DC Budgam chairs Public Darbar at Chadoora, reviews development works, addresses public grievances

HT News Desk

BUDGAM, JULY 19: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a Public Darbar at Town Hall Chadoora, where he met and interacted with multiple delegations from Chadoora town and adjoining areas, listened to their grievances, and assured timely redressal of genuine demands.

Delegations included representatives from the Traders and Shopkeepers Association Chadoora, Civil Society Gowherpora, as well as local groups from Buchroo, Roopora, Namtehal, Shovepora, Doien, Brenwar, Chattergam, and Khanda.

During the public interaction, citizens raised key developmental concerns and put forth several demands including provision of quality drinking water in main town Chadoora, upgradation of healthcare

facilities at SDH Chadoora, including 24x7 ambulance services, demarcation and development of Kunzvera Park, development of sports playfields at Nowbugh, Roopora, and Brenwar, establishment of a Mini-Secretariat at Chadoora, completion and handover of the NTPHC building at Gowherpora to the Health department, protection of government land at Gowherpora from encroachments and making Kunzvera Water Scheme Filtration Plant functional.

They also sought construction of retention walls along Nalah Shaliganga to prevent flood damage in Buchroo, establishment of a Netting Centre through NRLM at Doien, Chadoora, additional accommodation for Government High School Brenwar, tourism development of Hajin Brenwar to boost local economy, provision of ambulance services at PHC Brenwar, augmentation of High School

infrastructure in Chattergam and completion of JJM schemes in Khanda.

While responding to the public concerns, DC assured that all genuine and critical issues raised will be taken up with concerned departments on a priority basis. He reiterated the administration's commitment to responsive governance, participatory development, and inclusive infrastructure planning.

He said district administration is committed towards addressing every genuine issue in a time-bound manner.

Dr Bilal emphasised that public participation is key to good governance and assured that field visits and direct interaction with citizens will continue across the district.

"Every genuine concern raised today will be followed up with the concerned departments," DC added.

DDC Budgam conducts extensive tour of Charar-i-Sharief area

HT News Desk

BUDGAM, JULY 19: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, conducted an extensive tour of Charar-i-Sharief area today to assess ongoing developmental works, interact with local stakeholders, and redress public grievances through a detailed public darbar held at Townhall Charar-i-Sharief.

The tour began with a visit to the revered Charar-i-Sharief Shrine, where the DC inspected multiple works underway as part of a major heritage conservation and infrastructure augmentation project. These include the canopy path from the main entrance to the shrine, development of access pathways, Debrhi path surrounding the shrine, additional lavatory blocks, and the beautification of the historic Bada Talab, including fencing around the water body.

He also reviewed the upgradation of the shrine facade and ongoing planning for a new Clock Tower in the Charar-i-Sharief area, scheduled to commence soon.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Bilal said, "These interventions aim to preserve the spiritual and cultural essence of Charar-i-Sharief while providing better amenities to pilgrims and visitors."

DC later visited the Government Degree College Charar-i-Sharief, where he inspected the under-construction 8-room Academic Block, reviewed the progress of infrastructure works, and also assessed the adjoining sports field being developed at the college.

He stressed upon the authorities to ensure timely completion of academic infrastructure and called for proper maintenance of playfields to facilitate regular sports activities at the sub-division level.

He further inspected the car parking facility and the Filtration Plant at Zaloosa to assess public utility readiness and water quality management.

DC also visited Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Charar-i-Sharief, where he took stock of the availability of essential drugs and inspected key wards including gynecology, obstetrics, and post-operative units. He directed hospital authorities to publicly display the list of free medicines on a dedicated notice board and instructed that TSH testing of newborns be started immediately to strengthen early child healthcare.

Later, the DC chaired at Public Darbar at Town Hall Charar-i-Sharief and met various delegations including Traders Association Charar-i-Sharief, Fruit Growers Association, Mutawalli Shrine Committee, Youth Forum Charar-i-Sharief, Syed Ali Committee Pakherpora, residents from Hafroo and adjoining areas. These delegations presented a series of demands and developmental issues concerning the region.

Key demands included declaration of Charar-i-Sharief as a Model Town as promised in 1987, Charar-i-Sharief to be declared as Kandi district, creation of dedicated parking space near the shrine and Pakherpora, filling of staff vacancies at SDH—including specialists like dermatologist, ENT, physician, orthopedic and ultrasound expert, Introduction of job-oriented streams like BCA, Commerce in the local Degree College, Macadamisation of key roads including Tilsara and Ropwan-Charar-i-Sharief stretches and establishment of ARTO sub-office.

Asmita Pencak Silat League 2025 Inaugurated in Srinagar with Over 500 Female Athletes

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: The Asmita Pencak Silat League 2025 was inaugurated today at the Indoor Stadium, Polo Ground, Srinagar, ahead of the main league matches scheduled to be held from July 19 to 21, 2025. The event, organized under the Khelo India initiative, aims to promote sports excellence and empower women athletes across India. More than 500 female athletes from different districts of J&K have gathered in Srinagar for the three-day competition.

The three-day Asmita Pencak Silat event is being organized by the Pencak Silat Association of J&K under the aegis of the Sports Authority of India and the Jammu and Kashmir Sports Council. The event began with an impressive showcase of Pencak Silat techniques by the athletes.

The inauguration was graced by Ms. Nuzhat Gul, Secretary of the J&K Sports Council, who emphasized the importance of increasing women's participation in sports and praised the develop-



ment of Pencak Silat across the country, particularly among female athletes. She announced that the J&K Sports Council will host the Asian Junior Pencak Silat Championship in Srinagar from September 25 to 30, 2025, with participation from more than 15 countries, stating that such events will play a vital role in boosting sports tourism in the region.

Ms. Gul also congratulated the parents of the athletes, especially the mothers who accompanied their daughters to the event, for their support and encouragement in pursuing sports. The Guest of Honor, Smt. Mamta Shree Ojha, Director of Khelo India Games, Sports Authority of India, lauded the efforts of the organizers and

praised the host state for facilitating such a grand event with enthusiastic participation and public support.

Other dignitaries present at the event included Abhinav Sharma, Deputy Director, Khelo India Games; Aman Sharma, High Performance Director, SAI; Gopal Kandpal, Joint Commissioner, SAI; Nuzrat Gazala, Sports Officer,

Kashmir; Hilal Ahmad and Mohd Iqbal, Managers, J&K Sports Council; and Gautam Shukla from the J&K Sports Council.

The Asmita Pencak Silat League 2025 marks a significant step towards empowering women through martial arts and further solidifies Kashmir's growing role as a hub for national and international sporting events.

From Fear to Freedom: 36 Youngsters Celebrate Swimming Milestone at Nigeen

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 19: In a heart-felt gesture to promote youth development and water safety, Deputy Labour Commissioner (Central), Mr. Masrat Hashim, felicitated over 36 young participants with certificates and mementos upon successfully completing a basic swimming training course at the picturesque Water Sports Centre, Nigeen, on Thursday morning.

The felicitation was held under the ongoing 100-day swimming programme led by the Swim N Survival Society-Kin collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Kashmir. The initiative, which runs from May to September, aims to introduce non-swimmers—especially children—to the basics of swimming, equipping them with a life skill that is both recreational and potentially life-saving. The programme has received overwhelming support and enthusiastic participation from the community.

Each morning, children from



various age groups—often accompanied by their parents—have been arriving at the centre with dedication and energy. Their presence

has transformed the serene waters of Nigeen Lake into a vibrant hub of learning, skill-building, and confidence development.

While addressing the young swimmers, Mr. Masrat Hashim praised their enthusiasm and perseverance, emphasizing that

swimming is far more than a sport—it is a vital life skill, particularly for those living in flood-prone areas. Reflecting on his association with the Society during his earlier tenure in the Tourism Department, he shared that he had personally taken part in some of the initial training sessions and expressed his confidence in the Society's commitment to continuing this crucial initiative.

Also present at the event was Mr. Shahzada Kabir Madoo, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), Anti-Corruption Bureau. He voiced a serious concern about the lack of public swimming facilities in the region. "In the absence of public swimming facilities, many young people take to rivers and lakes without supervision or safety equipment. Tragically, this has led to avoidable accidents. We've lost lives in places like Gandibal, where a boat capsized, and in Gantmulla (Baramulla), where four individuals drowned. Such tragedies underline the need for structured training like this," he said.

Offering a spiritual and health-centered view, Dr. Manzoor Ahmad Wani, noted Consultant Interventional Gastroenterologist & Hepatologist, spoke about the value of swimming as recognized in Islamic teachings. He encouraged the youth to adopt swimming not just for physical fitness, but also as a form of self-discipline and holistic well-being.

The event was also graced by several notable personalities including Mr. Shakeel Ahmad, President of Swim N Survival Society-K; Mr. Yasir Makhdoomi, Secretary of the Society; and Mr. Riyaz Ahmad, a well-known swimming and cycling mentor.

The training was made possible by a team of dedicated coaches and trainers—Mudasir Chasti, Mohammad Faaliq Najar, Rayees Naqashbandi, Sheikh Rashid, Owais Rashid, Moonis Majid, among others—who, along with a group of committed volunteers, ensured that each child received safe, hands-on guidance and a positive, enriching learning experience throughout the camp.

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