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Web Portal Will Expedite Process of Providing Relief to Terror Hit Families : LG Sinha

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: In a significant move to provide institutionalized support to victims of terrorism, Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today launched a dedicated portal for the terror victim families in Jammu Kashmir. "The initiative will streamline and expedite the process of providing relief, compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from terrorism in the UT," the Lieutenant Governor said. The Web portal, developed by the Home Department in collaboration with NIC, will serve as a centralized platform to capture and maintain comprehensive district-wise data on Terrorism-affected families. The details of any encroachments on the property of the victims or their NOKs are also being captured. It will ensure that no legitimate



case is left unaddressed and timely support is extended to eligible families in terms of financial relief, ex-gratia

LG visits Nunwan and Chandanwari Base Camps

HT News Desk

PAHALGAM, JULY 22: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today visited Nunwan and Chandanwari Base Camps and reviewed the services and facilities for the pilgrims. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the pilgrims, service providers, langer sevadars, sanitation workers, medical staff, and administrative, Police and security officials deputed for the ongoing Shri Amarnathji Yatra. He took stock of department-wise arrangements, logistics, lodging, disaster management, healthcare and other facilities that have been put in place on travel route and Yatra base camps at Pahalgam axis.

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CM Omar Urges Holistic NEP Implementation, Learner Empowerment



HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today underscored the need for comprehensive, inclusive and locally adaptable implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, calling it a visionary document whose success depends entirely on its understanding and execution at the grassroots level.

TURN ON PAGE 2

CM Omar Offers Condolences to Reyaz Ahmad Wani

HT News Desk

GANDEMBAL, JULY 22: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today condoled the demise of the mother of Reyaz Ahmad Wani, Officer on Special Duty (OSD) with the Chief Minister. In a show of solidarity and compassion, the Chief Minister visited the bereaved family at their residence to offer his condolences. Accompanying him were Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, MLA Kangan Meher Ali, Deputy Commissioner

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CS Calls for Independent Check of Rural Waste Infra

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo today reviewed the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)-II (SBM-G Phase-II), to highlighting significant achievements in rural sanitation and outlining ambitious plans for the future. The review meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, RDD was attended by MD, Rural Sanitation; COO, Himayat and others to take appraisal of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing Solid and Liquid Waste Management (SLWM) in rural areas. During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on furnishing a detailed report on the door-to-door waste collection status in rural areas. He directed that a sample survey be conducted through the Economics & Statistics (E&S) offices in each district to assess the actual implementation and progress of this initiative at the village level.

Dulloo further called for a comprehensive audit of assets created by the Department. He underscored the importance of verifying the dashboard data with the ground realities, ensuring both are aligned. Highlighting the purpose behind these infrastructural investments, he stated that the ultimate goal is to enhance cleanliness, and to make villages more liveable and environmentally ambient.

The MD, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra

TURN ON PAGE 2

Amit Shah to unveil National Cooperative Policy 2025 on Thursday

HT News Desk / KNO

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperative Amit Shah will unveil the National Cooperative Policy 2025 on Thursday (July 24).

According to the details available with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the

event will be organized at Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, officials said.

Members of the drafting committee of the National Cooperative Policy, Chairmen and Managing Directors of all National Cooperative Unions, senior officials of the Ministry, senior officials of National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), National Council of Cooperative Training (NCCT) and Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNICOM) will be present on the occasion, officials said.

They said the new cooperative policy will prove to be a milestone in the cooperative movement of India for the next two decades

from 2025-45. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able guidance of Union Home Minister and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah, the new cooperative policy 2025 aims to revive and modernize the cooperative sector as well as realize the vision of prosperity through cooperation by creating a road-

map at the grassroots level," they added. "Earlier in the year 2002, the country's first National Cooperative Policy was issued, which gave a basic framework for better management of the economic activities of cooperative institutions. In the last 20 years, many major

TURN ON PAGE 2

Amarnath Yatra crosses 3.35 mark since July 03

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 22: The annual Amarnath Yatra continued on Tuesday with around 11,000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas of

South Kashmir.

With this, the cumulative figure of devotees, who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement on July 3, has reached 3.31 lakh, officials said.

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DIPR Announces Online Competitions to Celebrate Independence Day 2025

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: In connection with the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, has launched three online competitions to encourage citizens—

particularly students and youth—to participate in creative and patriotic expressions.

Participants are encouraged to take part in the National Anthem Singing Competition, where they can showcase their love for the nation by submitting their renditions of the National

TURN ON PAGE 2

Centre owes Rs 274 cr to J&K under MGNREGS

Sajid Raina

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: As of July 16, 2025, the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh have pending liabilities worth over Rs 274 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), according to data tabled in the Lok

Sabha by the Minister of Rural Development, Shivraj Singh Chouhan on Tuesday.

Jammu & Kashmir alone accounts for 272.60 crore in unpaid dues, while Ladakh has 1.75 crore pending, the government informed the House in response to a question by MPs E Tukaram and Rajiv Pratap Rudy.

The liabilities include both wage and material components, with payments under the material component routed via state governments to respective districts.

The Ministry said that MGNREGS is a demand-driven wage employment scheme, and fund releases are an ongoing process

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BSF Raises 'Drone Squadron' For Indo-Pak Border Post-Operation Sindoor

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: The Border Security Force (BSF) is raising a maiden "drone squadron" for deployment along the India-Pakistan border even as it has begun "hardening" its defences and posts against lethal UAV attacks in the wake of lessons drawn during Operation Sindoor. The squadron, to be based in specific border

outposts (BoPs) at this front, will comprise an assortment of reconnaissance, surveillance and attack drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and specially-trained personnel who can operate these machines, official sources in the security establishment said.

The squadron will be navigated by a control room based in the western command

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High Altitude Destinations Safe For Visitors, Pilgrimages In Doda: Police

United News of India

BHADERWAH/JAMMU, JUL 22: The high altitude tourist destinations in Jammu and Kashmir's Doda district are safe for tourists as Army personnel are dominating all the mountain peaks, a senior police officer has said.

Doda Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Sandeep Mehta

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Seller Blacklisted for Passing Machine Carpet as Handmade

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, Jul 22: In a major crackdown on unfair trade practices threatening the very credibility of Kashmir's world-famous handicraft and handloom industry, Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has blacklisted and deregistered a craft showroom – The Kashmir Art Bazaar, Tangmar – after the showroom was found guilty of selling a machine-made carpet for ₹2.55 lakh to a tourist by fraudulently passing it off as a hand-knotted Kashmiri GI-certified

product.

As per the Order No. 10-HD(QC) of 2025 dated 22.07.2025, issued by Director Handicrafts and Handloom, the seller used a fake QR label resembling the official label issued by the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) to mislead the buyer into believing the carpet was a genuine GI-certified craft. "A formal criminal complaint has been ordered, and further legal proceedings have been recommended under the GI Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Hand-

loom Department, Kashmir revealed. Meanwhile, a team from the Quality Control wing of the Department has reached Konchipora, Tangmar and completed the blacklisting process of the showroom.

The matter came to fore after a tourist, Syed Furqan Alam, complained to Director IICT, Srinagar stating therein that he had paid ₹25,000 in advance for a carpet from The Kashmir Art Bazaar, located in Konchipora, Tangmar, with the total transaction amounting to ₹2.55 lakh. The showroom allegedly present-

ed a certificate and QR code claiming IICT certification. "Upon verification, IICT confirmed the QR label was forged and not issued by their institution. The case was escalated to the department's Quality Control Division, which conducted a physical inspection, seized the carpet, and issued a show-cause notice to the proprietor," the spokesman added.

The spokesman further stated that in his response, the proprietor denied the fraud, claiming the customer

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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

Advnt - Comp...

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Web Portal.....

compensation and compassionate employment while ensuring elimination of any bogus or multiple claims.

The Lieutenant Governor is personally monitoring and overseeing the redressal of all cases across the UT of J&K.

A toll-free helpline numbers have also been established at the offices of the Divisional Commissioners in both Jammu (0191-2478995) and Kashmir (0194-2487777) divisions, to facilitate the registration of any overlooked or pending claims.

These helplines are being attended through dedicated control rooms as citizen interfaces for receiving grievances or queries related to pending government support to terror affected families viz. compensation, Ex-gratia relief and Compassionate appointments.

The helplines have been staffed with trained personnel and will be integrated with the centralized application to ensure that every claim is formally recorded and acted upon.

In order to ensure regular oversight, coordination, and follow-up on the grievances and pending claims, Special Monitoring Cells have been constituted in the offices of Chief Secretary and Director General of Police.

These Special Cells will periodically review the status of pending and resolved cases, analyze delays or bottlenecks in processing, and coordinate with relevant departments to ensure timely and just resolution of claims.

Shri Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Shri Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Shri Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Dr Mandeeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu and S. Jaskaran Singh Modi, SIO, NIC were present, in person and through virtual mode.

LG visits.....

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the dedication, passion and commitment of Camp directors, officials of Shrine Board, Civil and police administration, security forces, service providers, volunteers and every-one involved in the holy yatra for ensuring a pleasant and memorable pilgrimage for the devotees of Baba Barfani.

"Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has crossed 3,35,000 mark. The success of the yatra will give a significant boost to the tourism sector in the Union Territory. 97 percent positive feedback received from Pilgrims. The Yatra is going on smoothly, meeting all the expectations. We are witnessing an overwhelming atmosphere of spiritual fervor and festivity throughout the base camps," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor directed health officials to conduct an in-depth analysis of patterns and causes for the health-related incidents among pilgrims, and take precautionary measures to improve overall health outcomes for the devotees.

He also reviewed the Yatra feedback system and directed for incorporating traffic feedback option for better traffic management and to facilitate the smooth movement of the pilgrims.

The Lieutenant Governor was accompanied by Dr Mandeeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor and CEO, Shri Amarnath Ji Shrine Board; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Shri VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Shri Rahul Yadav, MD, JKPDCL and Nodal Officer, Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra for Pahalgam Axis; Shri Saeed Fakhrudin Hamid, Deputy Commissioner Anantnag and other senior officers of District Administration, SASB, Police and Security Forces.

CM Omar.....

The Chief Minister was speaking at a One-Day Conference on NEP-2020 held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC), themed "Empowering Education Leaders for Holistic Education."

Emphasizing the importance of reflection and course correction, the Chief Minister said, "The New Education Policy is now five years old. This is the time to evaluate where we have succeeded, where we have fallen short, and what more can be done to implement it better. A policy is only as effective as its application and understanding."

Terming the NEP-2020 a "magnificent and far-reaching" framework, Omar Abdullah stressed that real change will come only when the policy is understood in its true spirit and implemented with sensitivity to local needs and realities.

He said the future of Jammu and Kashmir will be shaped significantly by the educators, policymakers, and institutional leaders who guide the younger generation. "You will decide how capable our children will be in contributing to the development of J&K and the country at large. You will shape their competitiveness, confidence, and capacity," he added.

Pointing to persistent gaps in subject availability and staffing, the Chief Minister noted that many government schools and colleges are unable to offer a wide range of subjects due to faculty shortages. "In Jammu, only a few schools offer Urdu; in Kashmir, few offer Hindi. Even regional languages like Kashmiri, Dogri, or Punjabi are taught in very limited number of institutions. These gaps need to be filled gradually, within our available resources," he said.

He also addressed frequent comparisons between government and private schools, highlighting that government institutions operate in

areas where private schools often do not venture. "Setting up a school in Srinagar is easy. Try opening one in Gurez, Tangdhar, or Machil. Our teachers work in extreme conditions, away from the spotlight, and deserve recognition," he stated.

Commending the spirit of innovation among students, the Chief Minister appreciated the exhibition held at the venue where students showcased practical solutions to real-life problems—ranging from water conservation, low-plastic alternatives, climate change awareness, to winter-specific water pipe systems.

"Our children don't lack talent; they lack exposure and opportunities. Their creativity, thinking, and innovation give us hope that we are moving in the right direction," he said.

Omar Abdullah also emphasized the importance of inclusivity in education. "Every child—regardless of physical or learning challenges—deserves a chance to learn. Are our schools truly inclusive and accessible to all? This workshop is a good step in that direction," he said.

Speaking about the dynamic nature of education discourse, the Chief Minister observed that decisions regarding school holidays, exam schedules, and even online learning often spark debates in every household, reflecting the deep connection society has with the education system.

He acknowledged the challenges posed by the digital divide and affirmed that as the government's financial capacity improves, efforts to bridge that divide will be intensified.

The Chief Minister said, "The future of Jammu and Kashmir is in the hands of our educators. You are not just teaching curriculum—you are shaping citizens, instilling values, and building futures. Let us work together to make our education system more resilient, inclusive, and transformative." The Chief Minister congratulated the organizers for holding the conference and expressed hope that such engagements will continue to inspire positive change across the education landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the exhibition stalls set up by various government schools, showcasing innovative models and live demonstrations prepared by students and teachers. Minister for Education, Sakina Itoo, also spoke on the occasion and said that one of the foremost priorities of the government, soon after its formation, was to reform the education system to make it more equitable, inclusive, and future-ready.

Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakeel Romshoo, and Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma also addressed the conference, sharing insights on the implementation and impact of NEP-2020.

The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director & CEO of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, Director of The Times of India Group, Rohit Sharma, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, along with senior officers, senior officials of the Education Department, Chief Education Officers, school principals, masters, teachers, NEP experts, students, and other stakeholders.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between IUST and the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir, to foster academic collaboration and strengthen school-university linkages.

CM Omar Offers.....

Ganderbal Jatin Kishore, SSP Ganderbal Khalil Poswal, and the entire staff of the Chief Minister's Secretariat.

The Chief Minister extended his heartfelt sympathies to Reyaz Ahmad Wani and other members of the bereaved family, praying for eternal peace to the departed soul. "In this hour of grief, I stand in support with the family and pray that Almighty Allah grants them strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss," Omar Abdullah said.

The Chief Minister, along with his staff, also participated in feteha held at the residence for the departed soul. Earlier Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani also visited the family to offer his condolences.

CS Calls for.....

while speaking of the progress and achievements made out that since its initiation in February 2020, SBM-G Phase-II has made substantial strides in J&K. She elaborated that 18,29,495 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) have been constructed including 8,450 Community Compost Pits, 1,69,158 Individual Compost Pits for waste management in rural areas.

For Grey Water Management she mentioned that 7,334 Community Soak Pits, 3,56,458 Individual Soak Pits 4,89,250 Individual Kitchen Gardens have been developed by the Department.

Moreover about the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2024-25 it was said that significant achievements were noted against planned targets, including the construction of 43,280 IHHLs against a target of 36,000, and 740 CSCs against a target of 1,000. With respect to 2025-26 the meeting was informed that an AIP of Rs 405 Cr has been approved for SBM(G) in J&K out of which Rs 61.25 Cr as 1st instalment of Central share for 2025-26 was sanctioned on June 27, 2025. Similarly, the corresponding UT share of approximately 700.00 lakhs has been released, the meeting was informed.

Regarding the functionality of Assets an online platform called mWaterdash Board gives insights about each asset created by the Department. It was revealed that as per the report generated on this dashboard 7,317 out of 7,562 CSCs stands verified and reported functional (100% verified).

Similarly 2,585 out of 2,900 Segregation Sheds had been said to be verified and found functional (45% verified). About Plastic Waste Management Units 96 out of 131 verified assets are functional (100% verified). 560 dysfunctional/defunct units are currently being retrofitted for functionality.

It was given out that out of the total of 6,650 villages, 4,585 villages (69%) are covered by door-to-door garbage collection. User charges collected until December 2024 amounted to 141.40 Lacs, with an additional 32.14 Lacs collected in the first quarter of FY 2025-26. The UT has 874 procured and 84 hired collection vehicles.

The meeting was also appraised that extensive preparations had been made to ensure a clean, green, and sustainable Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, with a focus on robust sanitation measures including the deployment of 7,404 sanitation workers, installation of 5,613 toilets/baths, 15 waste management facilities, and 80 soak pits.

A dedicated IEC campaign using visuals, signage, and social media is being conducted along the yatra routes, complemented by a tech-enabled waste monitoring system via a web-cum-mobile application. As of July 2025, a total of 192.61 metric tonnes of waste has been collected which includes 125.75 MT from the Baltal Axis and 66.86 MT from the Pahalgam Axis.

Some of the SBM-G best practices showcasing innovative initiatives taken up by the Department includes ECO-KARIGARI (Waste to Wealth initiative), Sandesh-e-Swacha, PWMU facilitated under PMEGP, Public Parkon Community Soak Pit, DEWAT System, a community-led greywater management unit and organic waste composting machine within the Central Jail Srinagar, run by trained inmates, converts 500 kg of solid waste into organic fertilizers daily.

Later on the Chief Secretary also took note of the functioning of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grammeen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme here. The scheme focuses on skill training and placement for rural poor youth in the age group of 18-35 years. The scheme provides placement-led skilling, with a focus on post-placement support, career progression, and sustainable employment.

The Chief Secretary impressed on the concerned to enhance the pace of implementation of this scheme here for the funds are available and the expenditure stands on the lower side. He also underscored the need for evaluation of both the quality and quantity of placements made under this programme.

The COO, Himayat Rajneesh Gupta threw light on the implementation and success of this scheme here. He gave out that 17,000 placements had been made till date under this scheme. He assured that the expenditure would show an upward trend as the implementation has started gaining pace after initial phase of its operation in the UT.

Amit Shah to.....

changes have taken place in the society, country and the world due to globalization and technological advancement. Keeping these changes in mind, it became necessary to formulate a new policy, so that cooperative institutions can be made more active and useful in the current economic scenario and the role of the cooperative sector can be strengthened in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047," they said.

"The objective of the National Cooperative Policy is to make cooperative institutions inclusive, manage them professionally, prepare them for the future and be able to create large scale employment and livelihood opportunities especially in rural India."

Pertinently, a 48-member national level committee headed by former Union Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has prepared the new National Cooperative Policy. This committee included members from national/state cooperative federations, cooperative societies of all levels and sectors, representatives of the concerned Central and State Government Ministry/Department and academicians. To ensure a participatory and inclusive approach, the Committee held 17 meetings and 4 regional workshops in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Gurugram and Patna. 648 valuable suggestions received from stakeholders were carefully evaluated and incorporated in the new cooperative policy—(KNO)

Amarnath Yatra.....

Officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that a total of 10,829 pilgrims performed darshan at the sacred cave on Tuesday. Among them were 7646 men, 2,660 women, 97 children, 76 sadhus, 2 sadhvis, 3 transgender persons and 345 security personnel.

While the footfall at the shrine remained good, the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu—the starting point for most yatris—has shown a consistent downward trend over the past few days. From 7,908 pilgrims on July 18, the number dropped to 6,365 on July 19, 4,388 on July 20, 3,791 on July 21 and 3536 on July 22—the lowest daily departure figure recorded so far during this year's yatra.

Despite the decline, officials said that the pilgrimage is progressing smoothly and peacefully, with robust security and logistical arrangements in place across all transit and base locations. Escorted by Central Reserve Police Force and police personnel, the 20th batch of 3,536 pilgrims -- 2,601 men, 822 women, 11 children and 102 sadhus and sadhvis -- left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp Jammu this morning.

The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 1,250 pilgrims in 48 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The second convoy of 2,286 pilgrims in 84 vehicles

undertook the yatra via the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag district.

"Even though there is a slight decline in pilgrim turnout from Jammu, the overall yatra is proceeding without disruptions. All necessary facilities including shelter, food, medical assistance, and route security are fully operational," an official said.

This year's Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to conclude on August 9, is being conducted amid unprecedented security measures, including drone surveillance, RFID tracking for pilgrims and a multi-layered deployment of forces—(KNO)

DIPR Announces.....

Anthem. The best entries will be awarded cash prizes. Entries can be submitted through the link: <https://forms.gle/qrn6gau0Uu9tNHzRZ7>.

To inspire thought leadership and visionary thinking, an Online Essay Writing Competition has been announced on the theme "Viksit Bharat @2047". Participants are invited to pen down their aspirations and innovative ideas for a developed India as we approach 2047, marking 100 years of independence. Entries can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/ebK8Fe2hQWx2zMWv8>.

In addition, DIPR has also initiated an Online Painting Competition on the theme "Draw Your Favourite Freedom Fighter". Budding artists are encouraged to honour and depict the legacy of India's freedom fighters through colours and creativity. Entries for this competition can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/PH4GXKvDqK6Ad-PLf9>.

All competitions are open to the general public and aim to instill patriotic spirit, nurture talent, and celebrate the idea of India. Attractive prizes and certificates await the winners.

DIPR urges citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to participate enthusiastically and make this Independence Day truly memorable by contributing their voice, vision, and creativity.

Centre owes.....

based on labour budgets, work demand, utilization pace, and prior liabilities.

"Wages under the scheme are paid through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mechanism directly into the accounts of registered workers. However, wage payment sanctions are issued daily via the Public Finance Management System (PFMS), depending on fund transfer orders initiated by the States or UTs," it reads.

The government acknowledged that delays in fund disbursal can affect implementation of works and timely wage payments, indirectly impacting rural employment and livelihood security.

The Central Government stated that it bears 100% of the wage and administrative costs and 75% of the material costs under MGNREGS, with the remaining 25% of material expenditure shared by the respective States or UTs.

While no specific corrective steps exclusive to the two UTs were mentioned, the Ministry said that it remains committed to ensuring timely fund availability for uninterrupted execution of rural employment works across the country. (KNO)

BSF Raises.....

headquarters of the BSF in Chandigarh, the sources said. The BSF is primarily tasked to guard the India-Pakistan international border (IB).

The decision to raise the unit was taken after a recent review of the strengths, weaknesses and threats facing the force post-Operation Sindoor.

The operation was launched by India to strike at terrorist and defence bases in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as a retaliation against the Pahalgam attack of April 22 in which 26 people, mostly tourists, were killed in the Baisaran meadows.

The BSF actively participated in the operation, launched on May 7, along with the Army.

Pakistan sent thousands of drones, including a swarm of these flying objects, in response to Operation Sindoor to target Indian bases as well as civilian areas along the western front.

On May 10, a bomb-laden Pakistani drone dropped explosives at its border post Khar-kola in the RS Pura sector of Jammu. Two BSF personnel and an Army jawan deployed at the post were killed while four troops were critically injured, with one of them undergoing a leg amputation during treatment.

Sources said the BSF drone squadron will be located in a specific number of BOPs located along the more than 2,000-km-long India-Pakistan border running from Jammu in the north to Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat on the western side of the country.

The squadron will be equipped with a variety of small and large surveillance, reconnaissance and attack drones that will be launched during operations or any 'hot war' like situation similar to Operation Sindoor, the sources in the security establishment said.

A small team of about 2-3 personnel each will be deployed in "vulnerable and speci-

fied" BOPs. Some drones and gadgetry are being procured for the maiden squadron and the personnel chosen for the task are being trained in batches, they said.

The BSF, learning from the May 10 drone attack, has also begun hardening its defences and bunkers, along the border with Pakistan to fend off attacks in which enemy drones cross over and drop bombs and explosives.

The roofs and walls of the BOP bunkers are being strengthened using alloy sheets. Some more measures are being taken to fortify the posts that are vulnerable to drone attacks, sources said as they refused to elaborate, citing operational confidentiality.

A BSF officer deployed along this front added that the force is in touch with defence research and intelligence agencies to deploy counter-drone machines at select border posts so that "rogue or armed drones" flying in from across the frontier can be neutralised.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah had said that the BSF destroyed more than 118 Pakistani posts and "completely dismantled" their surveillance system during Operation Sindoor. (Agencies)

High Altitude.....

said a security plan is in place in the district to ensure peaceful culmination of over 70 major and small pilgrimages in the higher reaches of the hilly district.

"The tourist footfall in the district is increasing with each passing day and we have taken all necessary arrangements for the safety of the holiday-makers. We have also requested the Army for securing the mountain peaks and all such peaks overlooking the district," Mehta said.

He said the security agencies are working overtime to prevent any untoward incident in the district which witnessed several terror attacks on security forces in the past one-and-a-half years.

The SSP said the police had mapped all routes to ensure peaceful culmination of annual pilgrimage to high altitude destinations like Kailash Yatra, Manimahesh and Machail Yatra which are starting in the coming weeks.

"A total of 70 pilgrimages, big and small, take place in this district. Some start from here while some others culminate in this district after starting from somewhere else.

"We ensure adequate deployment on the route and entrust responsibility to senior officers to ensure the peaceful culmination of the yatra which mostly takes place in the higher reaches," he said.

Mehta said complete care is being taken with deployment of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and other paramilitary forces all along the yatra routes, while the forces work in synergy and act immediately on getting any information about movement of suspected persons.

He said the police and other security agencies are fully capable of tackling the threat of drones by terrorists in the mountainous district.

"Drone activity (by terrorists and their handlers) has mostly been restricted on the borders. We have no reports of the use of drones by terrorists in the district but if they use it, we have an anti-drone system in place to successfully tackle the threat," he said.

He appealed to people, especially those living in high-altitude areas, to report any drone activity to security agencies so that appropriate action is taken. (Agencies)

Seller Blacklisted.....

declined the purchase once told the carpet wasn't GI-certified. "However, this was contradicted by photographic evidence submitted by the complainant, as well as findings from IICT that confirmed the fake label had been pasted onto a machine-made carpet," he added.

The official spokesman further said that the Department, upon examining the reply, found it totally misleading and unsatisfactory and concluded the act was a deliberate attempt to cheat the buyer by exploiting Kashmir's GI craft reputation. "The Director in his order stated that the seller had deliberately created a fake QR label resembling the original GI label of IICT and pasted the same on a machine-made carpet to cheat the concerned tourist," he said.

Citing violations of Sections 6 and 7 of the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978, the Directorate ordered immediate blacklisting and deregistration of the seller.

"Furthermore, it is hereby ordered that a formal complaint shall be filed against the proprietor of The Kashmir Art Bazaar with the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Tourism Enforcement, Kashmir, for initiating strict action against him for pasting a fake QR label purportedly in the name of IICT, and requesting to investigate the network which seems to run this racket of pasting fake GI QR labels on machine-made items.

The order further observed that once the seller realised the fraud had been detected, he attempted to remove the fake QR label from the carpet to cover up the malpractice. However, evidence provided by the complainant and expert verification from IICT confirmed the wrongdoing.



NIT Srinagar Alumni to Host 'SANGAM-2025' on Oct 10-11

Launches multiple alumni initiatives

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: The National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar in collaboration with Alumni Association will host its grand Alumni reunion, "SANGAM - 2025" (Student Alumni Networking for Growth, Aspirations and Mentorship), on October 10 and 11, 2025.

The event will bring together former students from within the region, across the country and abroad for two days of celebrations, expert's talks, mentorship, cultural programs and branch wise alumni-student interactions.

In his message, Director NIT Srinagar Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia said that Alumni are the true ambassadors of an institute, and their success reflects the strength of our academic and cultural foundation.

"SANGAM 2025 will not only celebrate past achievements but also lays the groundwork for a future of collaboration, mentorship, and shared growth", he said.

"We are committed to make this event memorable and impactful, and I extend my full support to all initiatives taken in this direction," Prof Kanaujia

added.

Registrar NIT Srinagar, Prof. Atikur Rehman said the alumni community is one of the greatest assets of our Institute and their experiences, guidance, and contributions can transform, motivate the journey of our current students.

"Through SANGAM 2025 and associated programs, we aim to strengthen this vital relationship," he added.

These initiatives were thoroughly discussed during the first and second Alumni Association meetings held on June 15 and July 16, 2025 at NIT Srinagar. Key association members, along with representatives from the Office of the Dean, Alumni and International Affairs, contributed ideas and finalized the event schedule and the budget.

Prof. M.A. Shah, Dean of Alumni and International Affairs, along with the team which include Dr. H.S Pali, Associate Dean and Dr. Dinesh Kumar coordinator of Alumni Affairs announced the event in consultation with all Members of Alumni Association, including President Prof M.S Mir, Vice President Er. Aamir Ali, General Secretary Er. Ali Mohammad Rather, Secretary Syed Javed



Bukhari, Additional Secretary Dr. M. Mursaleen, Joint Secretary - I, Prof Manzoor Ahmad Ahanger, Joint Secretary II, Er. Ajit Singh and Treasurer, Prof Shahid Saleem.

Prof. M.A. Shah, Dean Alumni & IA, expressed gratitude to Prof. Binod Kumar Kanaujia for his wholehearted support and patronage of the newly launched alumni initiatives.

He said that a series of new programs have been introduced to strengthen the relationship between alumni, current stu-

dents, and the faculty of this institute.

"We have launched to reinforce the bonds between our alumni and the Institute. As part of these efforts, NIT Srinagar will publish its first annual alumni bulletin, titled "Bridges & Beacons - A Chronicle of NIT Srinagar Alumni," he said.

Prof. Shah said that the inaugural edition will be unveiled during SANGAM - 2025 by Director NIT Srinagar in presence of various dignitaries. The bulletin will feature contributions from

both alumni and current students, including articles, short stories, personal reminiscences, life lessons and practical knowledge and the last date for submission has been extended to 30th July 2025.

It will be edited by Er. Rashid Ahmed Fani, a distinguished alumnus of the erstwhile Regional Engineering College Srinagar.

To support students who are yet to secure campus placements, the office of Dean Alumni & International Affairs has launched

the Hand Holding Abhiyan (HHA). Under this initiative, alumni are encouraged to extend guidance, mentorship, job referrals, and career advice to our outgoing students.

"We call upon our alumni to extend a guiding hand—through mentorship, referrals, or career support. Together, we can ensure that no student feels left behind," Prof. Shah said.

Another key initiative, Eminent Alumni Lecture Series (EALS) or the Students Alumni Interaction (SAI), will include department-wise alumni-student sessions during SANGAM and throughout the academic year.

Departmental coordinators are currently being appointed. Alumni are invited to propose talks and interactive sessions aligned with their fields of specialization and industry experience. Dr. M Mursaleen will be the overall in charge of this Lecture Series.

Additionally, the institute has introduced Support Alma Mater (SAM), an open appeal to alumni to contribute in any possible way. This may include donating books, educational materials, or offering financial assistance to

underprivileged students.

Prof. Shah said that even heartfelt advice can have a meaningful impact on the lives of our students. Meanwhile, the Dean's office has asked alumni to actively participate in these initiatives and to share their ideas, concerns, and contributions. "We look forward to hearing from you—your thoughts, your feedback, and your suggestions".

The Alumni Association is also inviting potential sponsors to participate in various roles for our vast multitude of events, ranging from Alumni Day, Reunions, Chapter Events, Cultural shows, Seminars, & Alumni Lecture Series (ABC) etc.

Meanwhile, the Dean's office has invited alumni to actively participate in these initiatives and to share their ideas, concerns, and contributions.

"We look forward to hearing from you—your thoughts, your feedback, and your suggestions.

These initiatives are part of NIT Srinagar's broader vision to build a more vibrant, engaged, and inclusive alumni network, one that plays an active role in the institute's growth and in shaping the future of its students," it said.

Distt Admin B'la bids adieu to CEO MC B'la with Appreciation and Cultural Tribute

HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 22: District Administration Baramulla today organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony in honor of Naveed Ajaz, outgoing Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council (MC) Baramulla, following his transfer to Ganderbal.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa presided over the function, which witnessed the participation of the District Information Officer (DIO), Iftakhar Naseem officials from Information and other departments, besides other dignitaries.

The ceremony featured captivating cultural performances by local artists and students, celebrating the district's cultural richness and adding a vibrant touch to the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, DC praised Naveed Ajaz for his commendable service during his tenure, highlighting his administrative efficiency, integrity, and commitment to public welfare. He acknowledged Ajaz's pivotal role in improving municipal services, infrastructure, and overall civic management in Baramulla.

As a token of appreciation, the DC presented a memento to Naveed Ajaz on behalf of the district administration.

DIO Baramulla and other officers also extended their best wishes to the outgoing officer, lauding his professionalism, dedication, and positive working relationships across departments.

In his address, Naveed Ajaz expressed heartfelt gratitude to the district administration, colleagues, and staff members of the Information office also for their support and cooperation throughout his tenure. He shared fond memories of his time in Baramulla and conveyed his best wishes to the entire team.

DC Ganderbal reviews progress of PM-Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

Selection of Model Solar village also finalized

HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired a review meeting to assess the status of the PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana in the district here in the V.C Room of DC Office.

The meeting focused on evaluating the progress of the scheme, identifying bottlenecks and devising strategies to ensure 100 percent coverage under the scheme as per the assigned targets.

Reviewing the implementation of the scheme, DC stressed the need for an aggressive public awareness campaign to educate people about the benefits, subsidies and key features of the scheme. He highlighted the scope for improvement in achieving the



targets and directed the concerned officials of the KPDCI to improve their performance in this regard.

Highlighting the importance

of coordinated efforts, DC instructed the KPDCI, banks and other stakeholders to work in close synergy to resolve any technical, financial or procedural

issues being faced by the applicants.

The meeting also deliberated on the selection of villages to be developed as Model Solar Vil-

lages in the district. DC highlighted the transformative potential of the initiative in promoting clean energy adoption, reducing dependence on conventional power sources, and bringing long-term socio-economic benefits to rural communities.

Reiterating the need for expedited processes, collaborative functioning, and active public participation, C called for concerted efforts to maximize the outreach and impact of the scheme in Ganderbal.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineer KPDCI Ganderbal, LDM, AEEs KPDCI, AEE JAKEDA and other concerned.

15 Years On, Justice Delivered in Gruesome Acid Attack Case in Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 22: In a significant legal milestone, the Fast Track Court Kulgam has convicted two individuals in a 15-year-old acid attack case that left a Rehbar-e-Taleem teacher Nazir Ahmed deeded of Kolinad Lamad blind and his wife severely injured.

The 2010 incident took place in Kolinad Lamad, where the couple was attacked with acid inside their home. The assault caused permanent disability and trauma, leaving a lasting impact on

their lives.

The convicted individuals have been identified as Mohammad Yaseen Kully, son of Ali Mohammad Kully, and Mohammad Iqbal Kully, son of Mohammad Yousuf Kully—both residents of Kully Nad Lamad, Devsar.

The court found them guilty under FIR No. 214/2010 registered at Police Station Qazigund under sections 452, 307, 326, and 34 of the RPC, related to attempted murder and grievous injury through acid attack.



The court observed that the attack was pre-planned and carried out with extreme cruelty. The conviction comes after years of proceedings supported by strong evidence and witness testimonies.

The court is yet to announce the quantum of punishment, with sentencing arguments expected in the coming days.

The verdict has been widely welcomed as a step toward justice for acid attack survivors and a strong message against such inhuman acts.

Contractual Lecturers in J&K Demand Fair Pay, Urge Minister to Reconsider Statement

HT News Desk

PULWAMA JULY 22: Jammu and Kashmir's Higher Education Minister, Sakina Yatoo, has sparked strong reactions from the academic community, particularly contractual lecturers across the region. During an address at a local college, the Minister stated, "Contractual lecturers apply by their own choice, knowing they will be paid ₹28,000. If they are not willing, they should not apply."

The comment has drawn sharp criticism from educators, who say it reflects a lack of empathy for the struggles faced by thousands of highly qualified lecturers working on a contractual basis in the region.

In a heartfelt public appeal, Waqur Yonis, a contractual lecturer from Cluster University Srinagar, spoke on behalf of many like him, calling the Minister's statement "deeply disheartening" and urging the administration to address their long-standing demand for fair compensation.

"We chose this path not with the primary motive of earning wealth, but with a dream—to contribute meaningfully to nation-building by guiding the youth of this country," Yonis wrote. "To be told, after years of service, that 'you applied by choice' feels like a betrayal of our commitment and qualifications."

Contractual lecturers in J&K typically hold postgraduate



EQUAL PAY FOR ALL

degrees, Ph.Ds., and have cleared national-level competitive exams like the UGC-

NET, JRF, and SET. Despite their credentials and responsibilities—which include teaching,

mentoring, and contributing to academic research—they receive ₹28,000 per month, a

salary far below the UGC-recommended entry-level pay of ₹57,500 for Assistant Professors.

"We shoulder the same academic responsibilities as permanent staff, yet we are paid a fraction," the appeal states. "This is not about greed; this is about dignity."

Lecturers argue that their appointment processes follow UGC norms and that they deserve compensation that reflects their qualifications and contributions. They also pointed out that many such promises of regularization and fair pay are routinely raised during election campaigns but forgotten once political goals are achieved.

The appeal calls on Minister Yatoo and the Higher Education Department to respond not with criticism, but with "empathy and urgency."

"A financially secure educator can focus better, perform better, and guide students toward excellence," Yonis emphasized. "We do not seek sympathy; we seek fairness."

As the debate grows louder, contractual lecturers across Jammu and Kashmir continue to press for long-overdue reforms in the treatment and compensation of temporary academic staff—a call many believe is essential not just for educators, but for the future of higher education in the Union Territory.

HT EDITORIAL

Take precautions to avoid electrocution incidents

Over the past few years unfortunate incidents have increased across Jammu & Kashmir and these incidents have led to death of many people irrespective of age. Electrocution has come up as one of the disturbing incidents and the same have consumed numerous lives in the different areas of the union territory. Day in and day out reports emanate stating that a person has lost his life after getting electrocuted in any area of Jammu & Kashmir.

In most of the cases it has been observed that young and productive lives are lost and at the end of the day the families suffer like anything. In majority of these cases the young people come in close contact with live wires following which they get electrocuted thus losing their precious lives. In many other cases people lose their lives when they come in close contact with electricity transformers and the electric wires carrying power supply from a transformer to a locality.

Employees of the Power Development Department (PDD), especially those working on a casual basis have turned out to be the worst sufferers with respect to electrocution incidents. These hapless fellows come in direct contact with the electric current while carrying out repairs of transformers, transmission towers and supply lines. Even though directions have been issued to these employees and workers to put on helmets and use other protective equipment while carrying out repairs the directions are followed rarely. The negligence in this respect proves to be costly with precious lives being lost.

In most of the European countries a junior engineer is assigned the responsibility of carrying out repairs as and when some breakdown happens. The junior engineer takes all precautions while carrying out repairs and it is due to this reason that negligent cases of electrocution take place. Given the fact that there is 100 percent cabling in the advanced countries, very few employees of the power department get electrocuted while carrying out their professional obligations.

In our country the cabling has been done in most of the metro and important cities but it is yet to be completed in the countryside. As far as Jammu & Kashmir is concerned the cabling was taken up some years back but the entire process is going on at a tardy pace. The process needs to be speeded up so that cables replace the old and worn out electricity wires. Once cabling is complete then one can hope that there is an end to the electrocution of PDD employees and workers.

An endowed and peaceful hamlet in district Budgam



■ Sahil Manzoor

There are ten districts in Kashmir Valley. Every district has its own unique, special, and endowed history, and district Budgam is one of them. The district of Budgam is 12 km from the heart of Srinagar's Lal Chowk. In the past, most popular areas presently included in Srinagar district were considered in Budgam. So Budgam and Srinagar have been close bounds for decades.

Budgam district is one of the mesmerizing, picturesque districts in Kashmir Valley. Sheikh ul Alam (RA) Shrine in Charar-e-Shareef in district Budgam is very special for the district. The district has lavish, sensuous tourist places like Doodhpathri, Tosamaidan, Sotchal Pathri and Sukhnag; many more will be explored in the future.

Today in this article I am going to explore the mesmerizing beauty of Raiyar Ich.

Raiyar Ich is an emerging village in terms of rapid development. Raiyar Ich is a panchayat Halqa with nine panch wards and beautiful topography.

Raiyar Ich: It is a picturesque hamlet and resting place for tourists who come from different corners of the world. Facts to know about the Raiyar



Ich. Raiyar comprises of two Kashmiri words, i.e., "Rai" means lost and "Yaar" means friend in the Kashmiri language. So the name had been given to this hamlet, by the mystic Kashmiri Sufi saint, Sheikh Noor Ud Din Wali (RA). It's so when he reached the said village from the forests of the Pir Panjal, he sent his friends to different parts of Kashmir to spread Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) teaching, and he managed to start his journey alone towards Dreygam cave. (Source: Local legend of the village).

Why Raiyar is attractive for the tourists

The village is literally endowed with vast and rich culture covered with lush green forests; during late nights, the crispy wind bestows peace

of mind to everyone present in its surroundings. The smoothening sound of the Sukh-Nag River feels like someone touches the guitar and is producing heart-touching music. The people of the village are so innocent and humble, living peacefully with inherited culture. Raiyar is famous for rajma (kidney beans), maize bread, and walnuts.

Sources of income for the locals
It is very fortunate for the locals that Doodhpathri got a place on the tourist map. Doodhpathri is one of the emerging tourist destinations in the Khansahib tehsil and in district Budgam and generates employment for thousands of unemployed local youth.

What locals demand
1. Higher Secondary School: As the Raiyar Ich becomes the central

hub for the adjoining villages, locals demand the upgradation of high school Raiyar Ich into higher secondary school. The population is underprivileged and can't afford to send their children to Khansahib; they have to spend Rs 50 as fare.

2. A highly equipped sports stadium for the local emerging sports stars.

3. Children park for local children with safe sports equipment.

4. Grazing area for the locals: The population has been grazing cattle for centuries, and most of them are earning their livelihood and boosting the economy of the district.

5. Computer skill centers under centrally sponsored schemes are very important for the local unemployed youth. The youth of the area are desirous of achieving their goals in all the fields, like medicine, teaching, etc.

6. Stay home scheme: All the households of the village should be covered under the stay-home scheme so that they get a chance to earn their livelihood. Benefits under stay-home should be given to all the registered households for further upgrading of their residential houses.

7. Bhatti mohallah, Tangnar road connectivity should take priority: During harsh winters, tourist flow should be diverted from Bhatti mohallah Tangan via TRC Tangnar. Tourists can enjoy and may know the culture of the locals of the area, and it becomes a way of earning a cause for the locals.

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National Flag Day 2025: The Tricolour as a Pillar of India's Sovereignty and National Identity



■ Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai

As July 22, 2025, marks another National Flag Day, it prompts a scholarly introspection into the enduring significance of India's National Flag. This annual observance is not merely a ceremonial acknowledgement but a profound reminder of the historical journey, philosophical underpinnings, and contemporary relevance of a symbol that encapsulates the very essence of a sovereign, socialist, secular, democratic republic. The Tricolour, far from being a static emblem, is a dynamic representation of national identity, sacrifice, and aspiration, constantly interacting with the evolving narrative of the nation.

The genesis of the Indian National Flag is deeply intertwined with the nation's struggle for independence. While July 22, 1947, marks its formal adoption by the Constituent Assembly, its conceptualization traces back to earlier designs that emerged from the fervent nationalist movements. Early iterations, such as the 1906 Calcutta Flag and Madam Bhikaji Cama's flag of 1907, reflected nascent nationalist sentiments. The design presented by Pingali Venkayya to Mahatma Gandhi in 1921, incorporating a spinning wheel, laid the foundational blueprint. This evolution culminated in the present form, where the spinning wheel was replaced by the Ashoka Chakra, a deliberate choice reflecting ancient Indian wisdom and forward momentum. This historical trajectory underscores the flag's role as a culmination of collective nationalist aspirations, refined through thoughtful deliberation.

Each element of the Tricolour carries profound symbolic weight. The top saffron band represents valour and the spirit of renunciation, a homage to the sacrifices made for the nation's liberty. The white middle band signifies peace, truth, and purity, articulating the nation's commitment to ethical conduct and transparency. The green band at the bottom denotes fertility, growth, and the nation's relationship with its rich natural bounty. Central to the white band is the navy blue Ashoka Chakra, the "wheel of law" (Dharma Chakra) derived from the Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath. Its 24 spokes epitomize continuous movement and progress, symbolizing life in dynamism and the stagnation associated with inertia. It is a power-



ful visual metaphor for the nation's commitment to justice, righteousness, and the relentless pursuit of advancement.

The legal framework governing the flag's display reinforces its sacred status. The Flag Code of India, 2002, alongside the Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971, provides detailed guidelines for its hoisting, usage, and respectful handling. These provisions are not arbitrary restrictions but a structured approach to maintain the dignity and sanctity of a national symbol. They prescribe that the flag must always be positioned at a place of honour, never allowed to touch the ground, and never used as drapery or costume. Such regulations ensure that the flag remains an object of reverence, distinct from ordinary objects, and that its display universally conveys respect for the nation. Beyond its symbolic and legal dimensions, the National Flag possesses a profound significance in binding together a diverse populace. It serves as a visual representation of national unity, transcending linguistic, regional, religious, and socio-economic differences. In a country as heterogeneous as India, the Tricolour stands as a common denominator, reminding citizens of their shared heritage and collective future. This unifying power is evident in moments of national celebration, such as Independence Day and Republic Day, where its presence evokes a shared sense of belonging and collective pride. It is a constant reminder of the ideals of democracy, justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity enshrined in the Constitution.

Historically, the flag has been a potent rallying point. During the pre-independence era, movements like the Flag Satyagraha in Nagpur in 1923 highlighted the people's assertion of their right to display the flag, thereby challenging colonial authority. In the post-independence period, while ceremonial unfurling by the Prime Minister at the Red Fort and Chief

Ministers in state capitals has become an established tradition, the flag has consistently appeared during moments of both jubilation and sorrow. It is draped over the coffins of martyrs, acknowledging their supreme sacrifice, and waves prominently during national sporting events, connecting individual achievements to national pride.

In contemporary India, the flag continues to hold immense relevance. Its presence in public spaces, government institutions, educational establishments, and even private homes contributes to a subtle but pervasive sense of nationhood. This phenomenon, often termed "banal nationalism," integrates the national symbol into the fabric of daily life, embedding the idea of the nation without overt proclamation. Educational institutions, in particular, play a crucial role in imparting civic responsibility through regular flag-hoisting ceremonies and the singing of the national anthem. The Tricolour thus encourages citizens to reflect on their duties and rights, promoting active participation in the democratic process and adherence to constitutional principles. National Flag Day in 2025 thus offers an opportunity for reflection, not just on the flag's visual appeal, but on its profound historical weight, its ethical symbolism, and its continuing role as a central pillar of India's national identity. It is a symbol that commands respect, not through coercion, but through the inherent values it represents and the collective memory it embodies.

About the author.
Prof. Dinesh Chandra Rai, Vice Chancellor of BRA Bihar University, is a distinguished academician who holds a profound respect for the Indian Knowledge System. He possesses a deep understanding of Indian ethos and values, reflecting his comprehensive grasp of India's cultural and moral principles.

LG J&K Shows True Leadership Through Action



By M S Nazki

We've crossed these battle lines too many times, it passes through the heart but it never leaves a mark, cause your love just keeps on healing me (the people of Jammu and Kashmir who were traumatized by terror!)

The psychological distress symptoms of traumatized people simultaneously call attention to the existence of an unspeakable secret and deflect attention from it! The Hon'ble Lt. Governor UT J&K has some great innovative plans for the victims of terror in J&K!

I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.

In order to escape accountability for his crimes, the perpetrator does everything in his power to promote forgetting. If secrecy fails, the perpetrator attacks the credibility of his victim. If he cannot silence her absolutely, he tries to make sure no one listens.

Condition of the terror victims in Kashmir a decade ago was something like this: After a traumatic experience, the human system of self-preservation seems to go onto permanent alert, as if the danger might return at any moment. When trust is lost, traumatized people feel that they belong more to the dead than to the living.

But recovery can take place only within the context of relationships; it cannot occur in isolation. And that is the bottom line!

The definition of a victim of terrorism includes people who are directly affected by a terrorist crime as well as the families of people who die as a result of a terrorist crime. The families of surviving victims are also entitled to certain support services and protection measures.

A terrorist crime is a crime committed with the intention of frightening the population or a specific group within the population. For an act to be regarded as a terrorist crime it has to have the potential of harming a state, for example, and of inflicting a severe strain on society.

All crime victims have several needs in common, which include being given respect, security, protection, information and support. Victims of terrorist crimes and their families may additionally have special needs due to the special nature of the crime. Such needs must be assessed on the basis of individual circumstances in each case.

Because victims of terrorism are often random, they may feel that they are particularly vulnerable and have difficulties understanding and processing the fact that they became the victims. The considerable general and media interest that terrorist crimes generate can make the situation additionally stressful for victims. Some countries apply special protection and support measures for victims of terrorism.

Therefore:
All victims of crime are entitled to be treated with respect. They are also entitled to considerate, professional and non-discriminatory treatment adapted to the individual in question.

Some of the most fundamental rights of crime victims are:

To be given information about their rights and about how their case is progressing

To understand and be understood regardless of language differences or other circumstances

To participate in the legal process
To be given various forms of protection during and after the legal process

To be able to claim damages from the perpetrator

To be able to seek compensation from the state

To be able to seek redress from an authority if a right is not respected.

For the first time, governance in Jammu and Kashmir is not being steered by political convenience or selective outrage. It's being driven by moral clarity and a deep sense of duty to the people.

The Hon'ble Lt. Governor has exemplified what real leadership means: quiet determination, a sense of justice, and a focus on action, not applause.

From reopening grievance cells and revisiting old FIRs, to probing land encroachments and recognising victims not as statistics but as citizens this is not just administration. It's a reckoning. A healing. Along-awaited restoration of truth.

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha distributed 40 appointment letters to victims of terrorism. At the event in Baramulla, Mr Sinha spoke to families of those who were killed by terrorists. He assured them the government



remains committed to supporting all victims of terrorism through jobs, compensation, and inquiry-based redressing.

Mr Sinha said a narrative had been running for a long time by frontal groups of terrorists by taking out processions with bodies of terrorists who were killed by the security forces.

One day I met a young man who asked me to meet with families of terror victims. I met 150 such families and spoke to them at length. In one case, a man who was killed by terrorists was survived by his wife and three children. One got a government job and the wife got financial help, but the two other children were in trouble," Mr Sinha said. Many things came to my mind. For example, how do we help the other two children? I discussed it with the Home Minister," the Lt Governor said.

After handing over the 40 appointment letters today, Mr Sinha announced the launch of a helpline which victims of terror attacks can contact to send their applications for aid. The authorities will conduct a proper check and take a call on the application, he said.

Mr Sinha said he also thought about talking to foundations across the country that work to help people in need.

During a visit to Pahalgam to see the base camp for the Amarnath Yatra on June 29, I met some families from south Kashmir. There was a young girl, who said her father was a special police officer. He was killed by terrorists. The girl said her mother begged and raised her and her younger

sister. Even their relatives refused to help," the Lt Governor said.

What the girl said next was devastating.

The killers are in a government job, the young girl told me. That day it occurred to me that there could be many more such cases. The killers have a government job, and the families of those they killed were begging on the road," Mr Sinha said.

The Lt Governor said he held a series of meetings with all the top officials in the Union Territory and set up a process to ensure every victim of terror attacks got help.

We made three-four decisions. There are some people who got financial aid, but did not get a job. Some did not get financial aid, but got a job. We identified gaps and helped them," he said.

Anyone who wants to try entrepreneurship can apply for collateral free aid of Rs 10 lakh. Now, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has enhanced it to Rs 20 lakh.

We spoke to the managing director of Jammu and Kashmir Bank. If there are 1,000-2,000 young people who need finance to start small businesses, we will make a special cell for them to take their applications," Mr Sinha said.

He said the government received many applications for jobs and aid. The authorities are going through the applications properly with the help of the police and other agencies.

Indeed a great initiative!
Our pain was finally felt and heard with passion, sympathy and empathy!
Families of terrorism victims in Jammu

and Kashmir said that their pain had been ignored for over three decades, their voices unheard, but for the first time, they feel someone is finally listening. Someone's mother was killed by terrorists. The ones who destroyed our lives were strengthened, and we were left to survive without help or recognition, said a lady!

Someone lost his father and described the enduring repeated cycles of paperwork and unfulfilled promises. We lived through the loss, and then through years of being asked to prove it again and again. It broke us. Past governments only mocked our pain with false promises.

Someone lost her husband in 1994 and raised children alone. If someone says that I sold our land to build two rooms without a roof and none of my daughters are married yet. I've never received any government aid. This is nothing but trauma at large!

More was still to come:
Someone lost brothers who were killed decades ago, said their family was never acknowledged. But now the same id being!

Lt Governor, Manoj Sinha directed the Deputy Commissioners and SSPs of the UT to reopen cases on priority which were deliberately buried and file an FIR and ensure jobs to the next of kins of all terror victim families. He informed that a Special Cell will be established in LG Secretariat to address concerns of terror victim families.

He further directed them to take immediate measures to free terror victim families' property and land grabbed by terrorists and their sympathisers. Chairing a high-level meeting in Srinagar to discuss the issues concerning victim families whose loved ones were brutally killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists, Mr. Sinha urged the officials to identify those elements from the terror ecosystem who were involved in killing of common Kashmiris and currently working in Government Departments. He said financial assistance under MUDRA and handholding must be extended to the terror victim family members who want to start their self-employment venture.

We will conclude by saying: No pain can harm the way I'm feeling now, Sir, I know that your love is healing. I've kicked around those lines in my head But I've never listened to the words that You said. See where its lead, well I know I have it now, cause You showed me how and all I had to do was just to keep my eyes on You! This is what we could make out from the picture with the story!

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Data Brokerage And Credit Rush: The New Democracy Of Private Banks



Priyanka Saurabh

"Hi Sir/Madam, would you like to take a personal loan?"

Sometimes during an afternoon nap, sometimes during a meeting, sometimes outside a temple, and sometimes while driving – this sound has now become an indispensable background in our lives.

It is not just a voice, but an artificial oppression – proclaiming that our names, telephone numbers and needs are now the property of the market.

When governments raise slogans of 'Digital India', at the same time private banks come to sell the peace of our lives in installments.

Who gives them our telephone numbers?

This question arises in the mind of every aware citizen today - from where do private banks or loan giving agencies get our mobile number, name and other personal information?

The answer is simple – we ourselves, unknowingly, hand over this information to the market. When we click on "I agree" without reading it while downloading a mobile application, enter our mobile number on an online shopping website, or fill in our details on a job portal – we hand over our privacy to the market.

There are many mobile applications that ask for access to our contact list, messages, location and even our photos. And we, in the name of convenience, give them consent. Later this information is sold to private banks and sales agents by different middlemen.

This is a form of "data brokering" – in which an



individual's privacy is auctioned off as a valuable commodity.

Why don't government banks commit such audacity?

While private banks send loan offers on mobile phones day and night, public sector banks operate in a relatively quiet and traditional manner.

Even today, government banks require a lot of paperwork, authenticity of documents, guarantors and many kinds of credentials to get a loan. These banks give priority to service, not sales.

They do not have huge marketing budgets like private banks, nor is there as much competition to give commissions to agents. So they do not call anyone without being asked.

This is why you never get a call from any Government Bank offering "instant loan facility", while the private banks see you more as a "lucrative opportu-

nity" than a customer.

No loans, no calls for the poor – why?

People who are really economically backward, who need loans the most – they neither get a call nor does any bank representative come to their doorstep.

Such people do not have a "credit score", their income is irregular, and they have no assets or banking history. So banks consider them a risk, not a prospect.

At the same time, people who have already paid back a loan on time, those who shop online or those with higher incomes – these are the "targets" for private banks.

Thus credit facilities do not reach those who really need them – but rather reach those who are already rich. Is this call not mental harassment?

This question is no longer just a matter of opinion – it has become a real experience. Most people are bothered by unwanted calls four to five times a day.

"Hello, you are approved for a loan up to Rs.5 lakhs..."

"Just submit one document and get the money today..."
"Your loan is already approved, just the final step is left..."

Even after rejecting these calls, there is no peace. If one number is disconnected, another call starts coming. Despite activating the 'Please do not disturb me' service (DND), these calls keep coming.

This is a form of "financial mental violence" – making a person feel like he or she is missing out on an opportunity or falling behind financially if he or she doesn't take a loan.

Who are selling the data?

This theft of privacy is not done only by banks. There is a big and organized system behind it - which may include mobile service provider companies, various mobile applications, job search portals, insurance sellers, e-commerce companies and even some government websites. These organisations collect our personal details through a variety of means – and then often sell them on the open market.

Many times bank representatives call you and tell you your father's name, your date of birth, your job, and even your monthly income. This clearly shows that our personal life has now become a commodity for sale on a public platform.

What is the government doing?
The government passed the 'Digital Personal Data Protection Bill' in the year 2023. According to this, no organization should have the right to use your personal data without your permission.

But in practice, this bill is still limited to papers. Neither the calls have stopped, nor the brokering of data has stopped. Unless there are strict penalties and clear controls to enforce these rules, citizens' privacy will remain a mere ridiculous concept.

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

Dr. Tasaduk attends RCPE Evening Medical Update

Kashmiri doctor and columnist Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo, attended the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh's (RCPE) evening medical update on recent advances in internal medicine.

The update, held virtually live from United Kingdom (UK) threw light on recent advances in medicine, with prime focus on managing the complex medical conditions to improve patient care.



The update brought together experts from around the world to share knowledge and insights on the latest developments and best practices in the field of medicine.

Being an associate member of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, Dr. Itoo's participation in the conference reflects his dedication to advance in the field of medicine and improve patient outcomes.

A credited certificate was awarded to Dr. Itoo for successfully attending the update, which has been approved by the Federation of Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom.

Currently serving at Narayana Health, Dr. Itoo besides having affiliations with leading medical organizations -- is also a distinguished Fellow of International Diabetes Federation (IDF Fellow, Belgium).

Indian Army's 29 RR Organises Special Medical Camp in Baramulla, Benefits Over 580 Locals

HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 22 (HT): In a remarkable gesture of community outreach, the Indian Army's 29 Rashtriya Rifles (RR) organised a comprehensive medical camp at Tilgam Pattan village in the Baramulla district on Tuesday. The initiative aimed to extend quality healthcare services to the local population, with a special focus on underprivileged residents in the region.

The camp witnessed a massive turnout, with over 586 people receiving expert consultations and free treatment. Medical specialists in General Medicine and Gynaecology were present at the venue, offering



crucial diagnostic and therapeutic services to villagers, many of whom lack easy access to regular healthcare facilities.

In addition to general check-ups, patients were also counselled on preventive healthcare practices, maternal and child health, and lifestyle management. Free medicines were distributed, and serious cases were advised follow-up treatment in nearby hospitals.

Local residents expressed deep gratitude to the Indian Army for their continued support and humanitarian efforts. "We are thankful to the Army for thinking about our well-being and bringing healthcare to our doorstep," said Firdous Ahmad, a

resident of Tilgam.

The event is part of the Army's ongoing "Operation Sadbhavna", aimed at winning hearts and minds in the Kashmir Valley by building trust and supporting local development.

An officer from 29 RR remarked, "This initiative strengthens the bond between the Indian Army and the local community. We remain committed to ensuring the welfare and upliftment of our people."

Such initiatives not only address pressing local needs but also build bridges of trust and mutual respect between the armed forces and the civilian population in Jammu and Kashmir.

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UK F35 fighter jet, grounded since June 14 at Thiruvananthapuram airport, departs after repairs

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, JULY 22: A UK F-35B fighter jet, which had been grounded at Thiruvananthapuram airport since June 14, departed today after a British engineering team completed the repairs and safety checks, a statement said.

The UK thanked India for the cooperation extended during the entire process.

A spokesperson of the British High Commission said: "A UK F-35B aircraft, which landed following an emergency diver-

sion on June 14, departed today from Thiruvananthapuram International Airport. A UK engineering team, deployed since July 06 completed the repairs and safety checks, allowing the aircraft to resume active service.

"The UK remains very grateful for the support and collaboration of the Indian authorities and airport teams throughout the repair and recovery process. "We look forward to continuing to strengthen our defence partnership with India."

The aircraft is part of the



HMS Prince of Wales Carrier Strike Group of the UK's Royal Navy.

The UK F-35 aircraft was unable to return to HMS Prince of Wales due to adverse weather conditions. The aircraft was diverted to Thiruvananthapuram International Airport in India, where it landed safely.

The aircraft subsequently developed an engineering issue whilst on the ground which delayed its return to the Carrier Strike Group.

Engineers from HMS Prince of Wales assessed the aircraft

and it was decided that the support of a UK based engineering team was needed.

The UK had accepted India's offer to move the aircraft in the Maintenance Repair and Overhaul (MRO) facility.

To ensure minimal disruption to regular airport operations, it was decided to move the aircraft once UK engineering teams arrive with specialist equipment.

The UK has complied with all standard requirements for commercial airports, it said. UNI RN

SC declines to stay QR code rule for Kanwar Yatra eateries

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, JULY 22: The Supreme Court today refused to examine the legality of directives issued by Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand authorities requiring eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display QR codes revealing owners' details, stating that the matter had become infructuous with the Yatra ending.

A bench of Justice MM Sundresh and Justice NK Singh disposed of the interlocutory applications challenging the mandates, while clarifying that eateries must continue to display their licences and registration certificates as per statutory requirements.

"We are told today is the last day of the Yatra. In any case, it is likely to come to an end in the near future. Therefore, at this stage, we would only pass an order that hotel owners comply with the mandate of displaying licences and registration certificates," the bench ordered, adding that it was not entering into other contentious issues raised.

During the hearing, Justice Sundresh emphasised the importance of consumer choice, observing, "Peo-



ple have different food preferences. A vegetarian person may prefer to go only to a place serving exclusively vegetarian food, especially during a religious pilgrimage. If a hotel was earlier serving non-veg and switches to veg only during the Yatra for business reasons, the consumer should know. The choice is of the consumer... Customer is the king."

Senior advocate Dr Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the petitioners, argued that the directives mandating QR codes and owner names promoted religious profiling in violation of constitutional rights.

"How does the surname of the owner ensure good service? The only intent is to cause religious profiling. This is the most divisive initiative, to ostracise people as if they are untouchables," Singhvi submitted, citing media reports of attacks on shops due to such identity disclosures.

Senior advocate Huzefa Ahmadi also objected, illustrating that under the directive, even a neutral business name like 'Bombay Mart' would require adding the owner's personal name, thereby exposing religious identity. "This promotes untouchability through the back door," he warned.

Justice Sundresh, however, maintained that while personally agnostic, he recognised that food choices matter deeply to many pilgrims.

He added, quoting Marx in passing, "Religion is the opium of the masses," and clarified that the bench was seeking a balance between consumers' rights to know and avoiding discrimination.

Senior advocate Mukul Rohatgi, for Uttar Pradesh, defended the directives as compliance with FSSAI regulations, arguing that last year's Supreme Court order was only ad-interim and that misrepresentation by eateries regarding vegetarian food had previously triggered law-and-order issues.

"As per regulations under the Act, they require photo identity. Why are you scared of showing your name?" he asked. The bench refused to entertain further arguments, noting that the petitions had become infructuous with the Yatra's conclusion, and advised petitioners to approach the High Court if they sought further clarification.

"We have said that we are not going into it. If you want to challenge it, go before the High Court," Justice Sundresh said. UNI SNG PRS

LS adjourned for second day amid continued ruckus by Opposition

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, JULY 22: The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the second consecutive day today without any proceedings, following persistent disruptions by Opposition parties.

As soon as the House re-assembled at 2 pm, Opposition members trooped into the well of the House, holding placards and shouting slogans.

Presiding officer Dilip Saikia urged the agitating members to go back to their seats and let the House function. But the sloganeering by the protesting members continued.

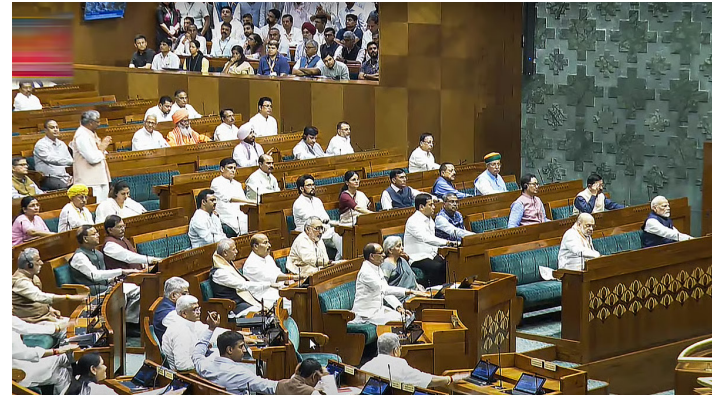
Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijju while condemning the action of the Opposition said, "It was decided in the meeting

that 'Operation Sindoor' would be discussed first, and a specific time has been allotted for it. How can all issues be addressed simultaneously?"

He further said that the members protesting with placards is not acceptable. "In the Business Advisory Committee we have said that the government is ready to discuss. But they (Opposition) don't want to run the House".

"You waste crores of tax payers' money by disrupting the House," Rijju slammed the Opposition. But the Opposition ruckus continued and the Chair adjourned the House till 11 AM on Wednesday.

Earlier, the zero hour was disrupted, leading to the adjournment of the House until 2 pm. When the proceedings resumed



at 12 noon following the first adjournment, Opposition members entered the well of the House, shouting slogans and causing an uproar.

After the papers were laid on the table, presiding officer Jagdambika called for the zero hour.

Opposition members raised slogan, demanding discussion on SIR (Special Intensive Review) and other issues and trooped into the well of the House.

Pal informed the members that, based on their demand, the Business Advisory Committee

has agreed to discuss Operation Sindoor for 16 hours. Therefore, members of all parties should remain seated and participate in the House proceedings. He said that the government is willing to discuss any issue raised by the Opposition, but they did not listen to him and continued to create ruckus.

Meanwhile, Union Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal assured the members that the government is ready to hold discussions on all issues. Jagdambika Pal also stated that instead of displaying placards and shouting slogans, members should cooperate in the smooth functioning of the House. As the uproar intensified, he adjourned the proceedings of the House until 2 pm. UNI RBE PRS

Trump says US will carry out new strikes on Iranian sites if need comes

■ **United News of India**

WASHINGTON, JULY 22: US President Donald Trump has said that the United States will carry out new strikes on Iranian nuclear facilities "if necessary."

"Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi, on the Iran Nuclear Sites: 'Damages are very severe, they are destroyed.' Of course they are, just like I said, and we will do it again, if necessary! ...

"Fake News CNN should immediately fire their phony 'reporter' and apologise to me and the great pilots who 'OBLITERATED' Iran's nuclear sites," Trump said on social media platform Truth Social yesterday.

On June 13, Israel launched a military operation against Iran after accusing it of secretly pursuing a nuclear weapon.

Airstrikes targeted nuclear facilities, military leadership as well as air bases and killed several military commanders and nuclear scientists.

Iran rejected the allegations and



retaliated. The United States conducted a one-time attack on Iranian nuclear sites on June 22. Tehran struck the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in response but said it had "no intention of further escalation."

Trump suggested Iran had "let off

steam" by attacking the Qatari base, opening a potential path to peace in the Middle East. He announced that Israel and Iran had agreed to a ceasefire that formally ended the "12-day war" on June 24. UNI/SPUTNIK ANV PRS

Rahul leads INDIA bloc protest in Parliament against Bihar SIR drive

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, JULY 22: Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today held a protest in the Parliament complex along with INDI Alliance party leaders against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The Opposition members of both the Houses held protest with slogans "SIR: Stealing Indian Rights" written on placards.

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi on social media said, "Joined the protest today in the Parliament complex along with INDIA alliance partners against the vote theft happening in Bihar under the guise of SIR".

"Voting is the right of every citizen, and we will not allow it to be taken away at any cost. We will fight unitedly against the anti-constitutional forces," he added.

Wayanad MP and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra told media, "SIR process is a murder of democracy, that's why we keep saying again and again that it is completely wrong."

Those who participated in the protest included Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal, Misa Bharti, Akhilesh Yadav and Kanimozhi. UNI RBE PRS

Iran, China, Russia, to hold trilateral meet to discuss Tehran's nuclear programme

■ **United News of India**

TEHRAN/BEIJING/MOSCOW, JULY 22: Iran, China and Russia are set to hold a trilateral meeting in Tehran today to discuss the country's nuclear programme, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei announced yesterday.

While the Iranian Foreign Ministry has not named the participants, the trilateral discussion in Tehran is expected to take place below the ministerial level, reports Russian state media TASS.

The trilateral meet come ahead of a meeting in Istanbul between Iran and France, Germany and the United Kingdom, or the E3 nations, on July 25.

The E3 nations, China and Russia are the remaining nations involved in the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, the nuclear deal that lifted sanctions on Iran in return for restrictions



on its nuclear program.

On June 13, Israel launched a military operation against Iran after accusing it of secretly pursu-

ing a nuclear weapons program, after detecting signs of highly enriched uranium, way above what was needed for civil use.

The IDF strikes targeted nuclear facilities, military leadership as well as air bases and killed several members of Tehran's top

brass, including the military commanders of the Iranian Army and the IRGC, and key nuclear scientists.

Iran rejected the allegations and retaliated, launching drones into Israeli airspace. The United States conducted a one-time attack on three of Iran's nuclear sites in Natanz, Isfahan, and Fordo, on June 22.

Tehran struck the US Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar in response but said it had "no intention of further escalation."

Both Tehran and Jerusalem are currently holding an uneasy and fragile ceasefire, with both countries keeping their militaries battle ready and weapon systems operational.

Adding further urgency, the Tehran meeting precedes renewed nuclear talks with France, Germany, and the UK scheduled for July 25 in Istanbul. UNI XC ANV GNK

Sat Sharma asks BJP Cells to intensify outreach across both Jammu and Kashmir regions

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 2: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held a meeting of party's All Cells at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The meeting was addressed by Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), Bharat Bhushan, Vice-President and DDC Chairperson, Rakesh Mahajan, Vice-President, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA, and Ved Sharma, All Cells Incharge.

Convenors and Co-convenors of all the Cells of BJP participated in the meeting which witnessed the resolve to further strengthen the party's structure and outreach across Jammu & Kashmir, through the effective functioning of party's Cells.

Sat Sharma, in his address, emphasized the pivotal role that the Cells play in fortifying the

organization at the grassroots. "BJP Cells are not just organizational units, they are the nerve centres of our political working," he stated. He further said that Cells are the bridge between the party and various sections of society and are instrumental in policy feedback, public mobilization, and dissemination of the party's ideology.

"Every Cell plays a unique role in connecting the BJP to the people. These Cells help us stay rooted in ground realities and shape our political strategies accordingly," he added. He stressed that the activities of BJP Cells will now be intensified in both the Jammu and Kashmir regions, strengthening the party's presence and outreach.

Ashok Koul appreciated the party's growing influence in the Kashmir region and expressed confidence that the All Cells would work rigorously to further deep-



en BJP's presence through targeted outreach and community-based programs.

Bharat Bhushan highlighted

the importance of Cells in connecting people with the party, noting that such structures act as vital links between the pub-

lic and the BJP's ideology and initiatives.

Rakesh Mahajan, who previously served as the All Cells

Incharge, shared insights into the Cells' performance during his tenure. He reflected on past initiatives and expressed hope

that under the new leadership, the Cells would achieve greater outreach and effectiveness.

Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal praised the role of BJP Cells in both rural and urban settings, stating that their proactive engagement has benefitted both the people and the organization significantly.

Ved Sharma, who conducted the meeting proceedings, expressed gratitude to the senior leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility of All Cells Incharge. He assured the gathering of his commitment to expanding the Cells' activities and taking their performance to new heights.

The convenors and the co-convenors of all cells of BJP resolved to enhance grassroots engagement and strengthen the BJP's organizational base through the dynamic functioning of its Cells.

Central University Jammu, Research Scholar Awarded Prestigious CSIR Senior Research Fellowship

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 22: The Central University of Jammu is proud to announce that Ms. Dhiksha Sharma, a Research Scholar from the Department of Chemistry and Chemical Sciences, has been selected for the prestigious Senior Research Fellowship (Direct) awarded by the Human Resource Development Group (HRDG), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Government of India.

Ms. Diksha Sharma is currently conducting her research under the supervision of Dr. Tapta Kanchan Roy (Supervisor) and Dr. Sujata Kundan (Co-Supervisor). Her selection for this highly competitive and esteemed fellowship stands as a testament to her



academic excellence, perseverance, and commitment to advancing scientific research.

The Senior Research Fellowship (SRF-Direct) by CSIR is awarded to meritorious doctoral students who demonstrate outstanding research potential and competence. This achievement highlights not only the scholar's individual capabilities but also the vibrant research environment fostered by the Central University of Jammu.

Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu extends its heartfelt congratulations to Miss Dhiksha Sharma and her mentors, and wishes her continued success in her academic and research endeavors.

Sat Sharma assures swift action on Ramban man missing in Niger, Africa

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 2: A deputation called upon the J&K BJP President Sat Sharma at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to raise concern over the missing case of Ranjit Singh, a resident of village Chakka Kundi in district Ramban, who has reportedly gone missing in Niger, Africa since July 15, 2025.

Ranjit Singh, who had been serving as a Safety Officer with Transrail Lighting Limited for the past five years, was currently posted at Gosso, Niger. The deputation informed the BJP leader that all forms of communication with Ranjit Singh have ceased in recent days, leaving the family and com-

munity in deep distress.

Recognizing the gravity and urgency of the matter, the deputation urged Sat Sharma to take up the issue with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, for immediate intervention and assistance in tracing the missing individual and ensuring his safe return.

Responding with promptness and concern, Sat Sharma immediately communicated the matter to the MEA, personally writing to External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar. He strongly urged the Ministry to initiate all necessary measures through diplomatic and official channels to locate and repatriate Ranjit Singh safely and



at the earliest.

Speaking to the deputation, Sat Sharma said, "The safety and well-being of every Indian citizen

abroad is of utmost importance to us. I have taken up this matter with the highest urgency and have personally requested the Hon'ble

External Affairs Minister to take swift and decisive steps. We stand firmly with the family in this hour of anxiety and will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that Ranjit Singh is traced and brought back safely."

Led by Arun Prabhat, President of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha (BJYM), Jammu & Kashmir, the deputation included Dr. Gurdev Sharma, Dr. Vipin Singh, Onkar Singh, Adv. R.D. Bandral, and several prominent citizens from diverse backgrounds, who all appreciated the immediate response of the BJP President and expressed hope that swift intervention by the Government of India will bring relief to the anxious family.

Army Organizes Medical Camp at Marhote & Surankote, Poonch

HT News Desk

POONCH, JULY 22: In its continued efforts to foster goodwill and provide humanitarian assistance, the Indian Army conducted a comprehensive Medical Outreach Camp in the remote and underserved areas of Marhote & Surankote. This initiative is part of the Army's ongoing commitment to nation building and civil-military cooperation under the banner of Operation SADB-HAVANA. The camp saw enthusiastic participation from 550 local residents, including elderly citizens, women and children. A dedicated team of Army medical officers, the Medical Officer of PHC Marhote, paramedics and support staff provided free medical consultations, diagnostic services and essential medicines. Specialized care was offered in general medicine, Pediatrics, Orthopedics and Gynecology, addressing critical health concerns in these isolated communities. This proactive initiative aims to bridge the healthcare gap in far-flung regions where access to medical infrastructure is limited due to challenging terrain



and climatic conditions. The camp not only reinforced the Indian Army's image as a people-centric and mission-ready force but also enhanced the trust and cooperation between the local populace and the armed forces. Local residents expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts in ensuring their well-being, especially in areas where civil health infrastructure is sparse. Such outreach programs play

a pivotal role in strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the citizens it serves, fostering a climate of peace, development and mutual respect. The Indian Army reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Marhote & Surankote and will continue to undertake such initiatives to uplift and empower the region's remote communities.

Army Organised Ex-Servicemen Widows Conclave at Budhwal, Rajouri

HT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 22: A conclave for the widows of Ex-Servicemen (ESM) was organized by the LaukiKhad Battalion at Budhwal on 19th June 2025. The event witnessed the active participation of over 49 widows who benefitted from the informative session aimed at raising awareness on various welfare schemes and policies for the families of Ex-Servicemen. The widows were briefed on several vital service benefits, including the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS), which ensures healthcare facilities for the veterans and their dependents. Additionally, the attendees were introduced to the latest welfare schemes, the Sparsh pension portal and other policies that directly affect their well-being and future security. The conclave also focused on addressing grievances and concerns raised by the widows. A dedicated team actively took steps to resolve their issues, ensuring that they received prompt attention and assistance in dealing with any challenges they faced. The event highlighted the continued commitment of the Indian Army to the welfare of Ex-Servicemen families, ensuring they remain supported and informed about their rights and entitlements.

Soulful Bhajan Sandhya by Rakesh Kalotra, Harsh elevates Sawan Celebrations

Reviving Roots Panjvaktra Mandir offers Stage for Devotion and Culture

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 21: As part of the ongoing Sawan Mahotsav 2025, the historic Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir once again became a vibrant centre of devotion and classical music, hosting its second Bhajan Sandhya of the holy month, drawing a large number of devotees and music lovers.

The evening witnessed a spiritually immersive atmosphere as Dr. Rakesh Kalotra, HoD Music Dept GCW Parade, 'A' Grade artist of Akashvani (All India Radio), and Shri Harsh Sharma, an acclaimed classical vocalist from Uttar Pradesh—both dis-

ciples of the Gwalior Gharana—captivated the audience with their deeply moving and melodious bhajans. Dr. Kalotra has trained under Prof. Ojesh Partap Singh and Pandit T.K. Jalali.

Gauri Shankar on (Harmodium) Parshotam Kumar (Pakhawaj), Rakesh Anand (Flute), and Dr. Vinay (Tabla) accompanied the artists, enhancing the Bhajan Sandhya with their melodious support in the serene and spiritually charged atmosphere of the historic Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir.

Earlier in the evening, the programme commenced with a soulful Ganesh Vandana by the newly inducted students of Pan-



vaktra Mahadev Ved Pathshala, followed by powerful chanting of Shiv Tandav Stotram by senior

Vedarthis. Suresh Kumar Sharma, Receiver, Panjvaktra Mahadev

Mandir, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the participating artists, dignitaries and devotees

for their overwhelming response. He said, "Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir continues to radiate the spirit of our rich spiritual traditions. These Bhajan Sandhyas are a beautiful way to celebrate our cultural roots and encourage the younger generation to stay connected with devotion and divinity."

He further shared that in the coming weeks, more nationally acclaimed artists will grace the Mahotsav with their presence, presenting spiritually enriching musical offerings. He warmly invited devotees to continue being part of these uplifting musical evenings held every Monday.

Panjvaktra Mahadev Mandir has long served as a spiritual and cultural hub, offering a platform to artists to express their devotion through music and art. However, with the recent addition of a dedicated stage within the temple premises, this role has been further strengthened.

The Mandir is now actively enhancing its efforts to promote regular cultural activities in the heart of the city, allowing both seasoned and budding artists to perform. This initiative not only nurtures artistic expression but also deepens public engagement with our rich cultural and spiritual traditions.

Ladakh set to get 5 new districts

■ HT News Desk / KNT

LEH, JULY 22: In a move that could significantly reshape the administrative landscape of Ladakh, the Union Territory is set to witness the creation of five new districts, three in Leh and two in Kargil.

The proposal, backed by political representatives and local administrative bodies, is seen as a landmark decision ahead of the crucial elections scheduled for September-October this year.

The decision is in response to long-standing demands from various regions within Ladakh for improved governance, enhanced administrative outreach, and equitable development. Government sources stated that the creation of these districts aims to ensure the improved delivery of public services, enhanced infrastructure, and more localized governance in the remote and often inaccessible regions of the UT.

Sources said that a high-level delegation from the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) Leh is preparing for a crucial meeting with Union Home Minister Amit Shah in New Delhi. The meeting, expected to take place in the coming days, will cover a range of issues including the upcoming elections, the need for delimitation following the announcement of new districts, and broader concerns about governance and representation in the region.

Officials privy to the matter said that the delegation will seek the Home Minister's immediate attention on the reorganization of district boundaries, proper legal and administrative sanction for the new districts, and necessary updates to the electoral framework ahead of the September-October polls.

The demand for new districts is not new. Over the past several years, people from Nubra, Changthang, Zaskar, Drass, and other remote areas have repeatedly voiced concern over administrative neglect. With Leh and Kargil headquarters located far from many of these regions, locals have struggled to access basic public services, government offices, and developmental schemes. The new districts are expected to decentralize power, bring the administration closer to the people, and empower local governance systems.

While the final names and boundaries of the new districts have yet to be officially disclosed, sources indicated that Nubra, Changthang, and a third area in Leh are being considered, while in Kargil, the focus is on granting district status to Zaskar and Drass, two of the most isolated and often neglected regions of the division.

Apart from the creation of new districts, the LAHDC delegation is also expected to push for clarity on delimitation guidelines and timelines for publishing updated electoral rolls. Given the short window before the elections, the delegation will press for urgent action and firm assurances from the Centre. (KNT)

Er Rashid gets custody parole to attend Parliament

■ Sajid Raina

NEW DELHI, JUL 22: Member of Parliament from Baramulla Lok Sabha constituency, Sheikh Abdul Rashid, popularly known as Engineer Rashid, has been granted custody parole by a Delhi Court to participate in the Monsoon Session of Parliament.

The court, however, turned down his application for interim bail.

The Patiala House Court passed the order on Tuesday, allowing Er Rashid to attend the Lok Sabha proceedings from July 24 to August 4 under police escort.

The Court stated that the custody parole would be applicable for all future parliamentary sessions, subject to conditions, including payment of travel-related expenses.

The plea was heard earlier this month, and the court reserved its verdict on July 15. Rashid's lawyer, Vikhyat Oberoi, argued for interim bail to allow his client to represent his constituency.

In the alternative, he requested custody parole without financial conditions, saying Rashid should not be required to bear the travel expenses.

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) objected to the bail plea. The agency said that interim bail should not be approved in the current case and insisted that custody parole could only be granted if all associated costs were covered.

Rashid has been in judicial custody since 2019, after his arrest by the NIA under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act. The case against him is linked to an alleged 2017 funding network that supported separatist groups and armed outfits in Jammu and Kashmir.

His name was mentioned in the course of an investigation involving businessman Zahoor Watali, who was also arrested in the same case. The NIA claims that Rashid played a role in channeling funds to groups involved in activities against the state.

Formal charges were filed against Rashid and others in October 2019. In March 2022, a special NIA court framed charges under the Indian Penal Code sections related to conspiracy, waging war, and sedition, along with provisions of the UAPA.

Rashid, an independent candidate, won the Baramulla seat in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, defeating National Conference leader Omar Abdullah. Despite being in prison, Rashid secured a significant margin of votes. (KNO)

Public Notice

My name has been wrongly mentioned as Rubina Batool D/o= Sajjad Ali R/o: Trespone Kargil instead of Rubeena Batool D/o= Sajjad Ali R/o: Trespone Kargil in my ST and LRC records. Now the rectification is to be done. Objections, if any, can be submitted in the concerned office within 7 days after that no objection will be entertained.

Rubeena Batool
D/o: Sajjad Ali
R/o: Trespone Kargil

Public Notice

My daughters Mother's name has been wrongly written as ROZIA in school record while her mother's name is ROOZA JAN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his objection in the office of RP SSCHOOL LAWAPOR within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name....NIMRA JAN
D/O ROOZA JAN
SCHOOL ...RP SCHOOL LAWAPORA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my son's name and dob has been incorrectly mentioned on her Adhar card 338900910934, namely Wahid Rasool dob 26/01/2008 S/O Ghulam Rasool, Bhat while her correct Name and dob is as per record Ubaid Rasool dob 10/04/2013, S/O Ghulam Rasool Bhat r/o, Kandikhass/Tehsil/ Handwara, now i have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection at UDAI Office Or BDO Office Natnussa within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: UBAID RASOOL DOB 10/04/2013
Parentage: GHULAM RASOOL BHAT
R/O: KANDI KHASS/ Tehsil/ Handwara/

Public Notice

District/ Kupwara
My son's name has been incorrectly mentioned as MOHAMMAD AATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMID MALIK R/O DOULTHPORA while his correct name is MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK S/O ABDUL HAMEED MALK R/O DOULTHPORA as per adhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his /her objection in the office of concerned authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

ABDUL HAMEED MALIK
F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK
R/O DOULTHPORA TEHSIL KREERI

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of ABDUL AHAD RESHI S/O HABIBULLAH RESHI R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his/her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KAKOTHAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the RESHI community having annual income 707112 // the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. ABDUL AHAD RESHI self 55 years Govt employee
2. NASEEMA BEGAM wife 50 years H/W
3. NASREENA AHAD 31 years student
4. TASLEEMA AHAD daughter 28 years student
5. RUKSANA AHAD Daughtet 19 years student
6. DANISH AFTAB son 18 years student
7. SUBIA AHAD 16 years daughter //

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of ABDUL AHAD RESHI S/O HABIBULLAH RESHI R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his/her / their favor.

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7. SUBIA AHAD 16 years daughter //

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of HUMAIRA JAN D/O LATE HANEefa BEGUM R/O KREERI for the issuance of Dependent certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that HANEefa BEGUM D/O GHULAM HASSAN WANI R.O KREERI has passed away on 25/03/2011. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1. HUMAIRA JAN 26 years daughter student unmarried
- The applicant has applied for Issuance of Dependent certificate in favour of Self

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora/) chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of AISHA SHABIR D/O SHABIR AHMAD BHAT R/O ALAPORA Tehsil WAGOORA Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 21/02/2022 and event has been shown to be occurred at SDH KREERI for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Government Of 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

Public Notice

This is being made public that the name of my daughter has been incorrectly recorded in her Aadhar card Aroba Manzoor. However her name in School records stands recorded as SYED HOORAIN MANZOOR.

Now I want to correct the name of my daughter in all her record documents including aadhar as SYED HOORAIN MANZOOR, D/O SYED MANZOOR AHMAD BUKHARI.

Anybody having any objection may file objections if any with the concerned departments within seven days of publication of this notice. No objection shall be entertained after the said time.

Syed Manzoor Ahmad Bukhari

Government of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER MECHANICAL AND HOSPITALS DIVISION SRINAGAR

Subject: 1. SITC of 1000 Kg/hr capacity steam generator with allied works for Laundry Section of SMHS Hospital , Srinagar
2. SITC of Semi automatic Oxygen and Nitrous Panels along with manifolds and allied works near OPD Block at Govt. Dental College and Hospital, Srinagar

Ref :1. This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/40/e-tendering Dated: 02.07.2025.
2. This office NIT No: M&HDS/TS /2025-26/43/e-tendering Dated: 09.07.2025

EXTENSION

In order to have wider participation and better competition, the critical dates of above subject work tendered vide above referred e-NIT(s) are extended as follows:

S.No	Description	Date and Time
1.	Last Date of Bid Submission	26.07.2025 (13:00 hrs)
2.	Date of Bid Opening	26.07.2025 (15:00 hrs)

All other Terms and Conditions of the NIT shall remain the same.

No: M&HDS/TS/ 2760-63 | Dated: 21.07.2025

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Mechanical & Hospitals Division, Srinagar**

DIPK: 4063/25 | 22-07-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Executive Engineer R&B Division Rafiabad,Watergam NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No: EE/R&B/Rafiabad/14 of 2025-26 | Dated: 21.07.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited by Executive Engineer R&B Div.Rafiabad (watergam) on (Aggregate Percentage Basis) from approved and eligible CivilContractors registered with J&K UT Govt., PWD, CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Govt. for the following work:-

S.No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class
1	Fencing Around Horticulture Development Office AchabalRafiabad.	5.33	300	10660	20 days	"D/C"

Date of Issue of Tender Notice	21/07/2025
Period of downloading of bidding documents	21/07/2025
Bid submission Start Date	21/07/2025
Bid Submission End Date	28/07/2025 4.00 P.M
Date & time of opening of Bids(Online)	29/07/2025Sat 10.30 A.M in the office of Executive Engineer R&B Div.Rafiabad (watergam)

PositionofAAA:-Accorded
Position of TS /Accorded
The Bidding documents Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities (B.O.Q), Set of terms and conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from www.jktenders.gov.in as per schedule of dates given below:-

- I. The intending tenderers must have sufficient skilled /unskilled labour force.
- II. All intending Bidders have to upload Scanned copy of Earnest money @ 2% as per the circular issued by Chief Engineer PW(R&B) Department Kashmir, vide No. CE/RBK/HD/32857-92, Dated: 01-01-2022.
- III. Intending bidders shall upload scanned copies of documents of valid Registration card (2023-24) PAN / GST registration with clearance of May/June 2025 or 1st Quarter 2025-26, Treasury Receipt (Dated between the bid start date and the bid submission end date) deposited in MH 0059 and CDR ,BGor FDR pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Div.Rafiabad (watergam) . However successful bidder shall produce the original copies of same within 3 days after opening of tenders.
- IV. The successful Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as performance security within 03 days after opening of tenders and same shall be released after expiry of Defect Liability period (DLP) and additional performance securities per break up given below in addition to Normal Deposit if applicable in shape of CDR, BG/FDR within 03 days after opening of tenders and same shall be released after successful completion of work.

S.No	%age of unbalanced bid viz-a-viz advertised Cost	Additional Performance Security to be deposit by L1.
1.	Upto and including 15% below	Nil
2.	Greater than 15% upto and including 20% below	5% of advertised Cost
3.	Greater than 20% upto and including 25% below	10.00% of advertised Cost
4.	Greater than 25% upto and including 30% below	15.00% of advertised Cost
5.	Greater than 30% below	20.00% of advertised Cost

Additional security deposit shall be released only after the completion of the work in all respects.
V. The Ernest Money Deposit of 2% of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 5% performance security and Additional Performance Security as per break up given above if applicable.

VI. The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.
VII. The typographical error in the BOQ like unit of item, quantity of item, rate of item etc. If any found during e-NIT or after end date of NIT, shall be rectified as per the estimate in the allotment/Agreement of work.
VIII. In case any corrigendum in the bid document becomes a necessity, the same would be notified on website www.jktenders.gov.in.

**Sd/- Executive Engineer,
R&B Div Rafiabad (Watergam)**

DIPK: 4090/25 | Dated: 22-07-2025

Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of Cluster University Srinagar

Pitches for introducing skill based, job oriented courses in emerging fields

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, conducted comprehensive review of functioning of Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) and its constituent colleges in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today.

Vice Chancellor CUS, Professor Mohammad Mobin; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantanu; Director Colleges J&K, Special Secretary Higher Educa-

tion department, Principals of constituent colleges and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed assessment of academic performance, infrastructure development, faculty strength, student services, admissions and progress of on-going projects in the University.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized the urgent need to align the academic activities with current market demands. She directed the university administration and



affiliated colleges to introduce skill-based, job-oriented courses in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Hospital Management, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Tourism Management and other job oriented fields.

She also asked the officers to maintain coordination with different stakeholders and ensure that the courses are industry-linked and designed in consultation with experts from the respective sector. She also called for strengthening the existing vocational and add-on courses.

“Academic excellence must go hand in hand with employability. Students don’t need just degrees, but skills that make them competitive and employable in today’s dynamic job market”, the Minister stated.

The Minister further reiterated Government’s commitment towards transforming the higher education in Jammu & Kashmir into a dynamic, skill-driven and inclusive system. She assured continued support to the University from the government to implement transformative reforms.

Arrangements for Independence Day celebration reviewed at Shopian

DC Calls for Meticulous Arrangements Reflecting National Pride and Inclusivity

HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting of officers to discuss arrangements for the upcoming celebrations of Independence Day in the district.

In the meeting, various facilities to be put in place at the District Police Line Shopian, finalized as the main function venue, were discussed threadbare and responsibilities were fixed among the concerned departments to ensure the impactful celebration of the national festival.

Adequate and proper arrangements including PAS, uninterrupted power supply with back up, potable water facility, refreshments,



sanitation, traffic, seating, health-care, fire services, decoration, illumination, logistical and security services arrangements were deliberated upon and fixed among concerned departments.

DC instructed officers of all concerned departments to ensure fool proof and advance arrangements for the celebrations at the district level venue and other prominent places across the district.

Flag hoisting functions shall be held across the district at subdivision, tehsil levels and other offices of the government.

The meeting was attended by SSP, Shopian, Anayat Ali; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz; officers of line departments besides officers of CRPF and RR.

Bandipora Intensifies fight against drugs with launch of ‘Anti-Drug Youth Clubs’

HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JULY 22: In a significant step towards curbing the growing menace of drug abuse among youth, District Drug De-Addiction and Rehabilitation Centre (DDAC), Bandipora, in collaboration with the Social Welfare department, Bandipora organized an impactful outreach programme at Government High School Kehnusa, Bandipora.

The awareness programme witnessed active participation from students, teachers, non-teaching staff, and concerned parents. The event aimed to sensitize the community, particularly the younger generation, about the perils of substance abuse and the importance of timely intervention, counselling, and rehabilitation.

Speakers at the event highlighted

various dimensions of drug addiction, from early signs and psychological impacts to available support systems under the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR). They also emphasized the crucial role of schools and families in early detection and prevention.

A key highlight of the event was the formation of Student and Youth Clubs against Drug Abuse under the NAPDDR framework. These clubs are envisioned to serve as proactive peer-led forums that will not only spread awareness but also lead community-level actions and campaigns against drug abuse.

Locals appreciated the initiative, describing it as a much-needed intervention in the wake of increasing substance abuse cases in the district.

Online Safety Awareness Program Held Under BBBP at A.S College Srinagar

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: Department of Social Welfare, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Srinagar today organized an awareness programme on ‘Tips for online safety/safety sessions’ at Amar Singh College Srinagar under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

The programme was organized to raise technology awareness among students as they use it more extensively and are thus more prone to various online risks such as cyberbullying, online harassment, identity theft, and exposure to inappropriate content.

It aimed to promote online safety among students, which involves educating them on how to stay safe and secure online and how to protect their personal information. By promoting online safety, it can help students develop responsible digital citizenship skills and reduce the risks of online harm.

The event witnessed the presence of the Resource Persons (Experts) from Cyber Police Srinagar and the experts from District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, students, faculty of the Amar Singh College Srinagar and the staff from SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar.

The experts interacted with the students and shared different tips for staying safe online, and legal perspective of Cybercrimes was also discussed. They emphasized the precautions which need to be taken to protect oneself and others from online threats and risks such as cyberbullying, identity theft, and online predators.

As students spend more time online, it becomes essential to teach them how to protect their personal information, use social media responsibly, and recognize and respond to online dangers.

To prepare students for the digital age, educational institutions can implement various strategies and practices that promote digital literacy and online safety to ensure that they have the necessary skills and knowledge to navigate the digital landscape safely and responsibly.

Public Undertakings Committee Reviews JKPC Audit Paras in Srinagar Meet

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 22: The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at Assembly Complex here, to review audit paras contained in the J&K Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) Limited.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members Saifullah Mir, Ali Mohammad Dar, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

Principal Accountant General, Principal Secretary PWD(R&B), Director General Expenditure, Director



General Accounts and Treasuries, Director Finance PWD(R&B), Chief Engineer PWD(R&B), senior officers of JKPC and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

The Committee held detailed deliberations on Audit Paras 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 contained in the CAG’s Audit report for the year 2018-19.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman underlined the importance of proactive participation of all members in strengthening the operations

and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

He directed the officers of PWD to take concrete steps for completion of all ongoing projects. He also stressed on the importance of audit and evaluation of PSU’s to ensure transparency and accountability in their operations.

The Members, during the meeting, also raised various issues regarding the works executed by JKPC in their respective constituencies.

Mission Yuva: 70 Sanction Letters Distributed to Youth in Shopian

HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today presided over a distribution function of 70 sanction letters under the ambitious Mission Yuva scheme for entrepreneurship development and employment generation, organised at the Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The event was first of a kind held in the district, following clearance of cases for financial assistance by the District Level Committee.

The function was at-



tended by scores of aspiring entrepreneurs and young budding business owners who were handed over sanction letters by the Banks at the occasion and was a moment of great joy and satisfaction, ushering in a new phase of youth empowerment.

The cases were sanc-

tioned in various kinds of businesses including manufacturing, services, trade and agriculture.

DC congratulated all the youth and the concerned departments besides banks for lending great support to the youth and wished that the new enterprises will succeed in creating ample

opportunities for themselves and for other unemployed youth of the district.

He appreciated the potential of the Mission and said this shall be instrumental in creating employment avenues for a vast majority of potential youth by developing a business ecosystem with integrated and connected businesses.

Other officers of banks on the occasion spoke at length on various benefits in the form of subsidies, interest subventions and handholding support under the Mission.

DC Bandipora chairs Road Safety meeting, sanctions Rs 5.5 lakh relief for accident victims

HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Tuesday chaired a road safety committee meeting at the Mini Secretariat, during which he approved financial relief of Rs 5.5 lakh for the next of kins (NoKs) of road accident victims.



During the meeting, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Mudassir Ahmad Wani, briefed the chair about the recent road accident cases reported across the district.

After a detailed discussion, six accident cases were cleared for financial assistance. Of these, five families of deceased victims were granted Rs 1 lakh each, while one grievously injured individual received interim relief of Rs 50,000.

Emphasizing the need for prompt support to affected families, DC directed the ARTO to expedite the processing of all pending compensation cases in accordance with established norms.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora and other concerned officers.

Market checking drives conducted in Keller, Barbugh areas of Shopian

HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, JULY 22: In order to check overpricing, quality of essential commodities, Market checking drives were today conducted in Keller and Barbugh areas of district Shopian.

The drives were carried out by teams comprising officials from the Revenue department, Food Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), and the Jammu and Kashmir Police.

During these inspections, fines were imposed and realised from erring shopkeepers for various violations.

The teams also verified the installation of CCTV cameras in shops. It was observed that around 60% of shopkeepers had installed CCTV cameras, while the remaining were instructed to comply with the directions of the District Magistrate Shopian and ensure installation within five days.

The hygiene condition of the market at Barbugh was thoroughly inspected, and shopkeepers were advised to maintain proper cleanliness standards. CCTV installations were also checked on the spot.

Arrangements for Hawan-Shrawan Bah at Tirath Raj Kapal Mochan Temple reviewed in Shopian

DC calls for proper and adequate arrangements during the festival

HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting of officers to discuss arrangements for the upcoming celebrations of Hawan-Shrawan Bah at Tirath Raj Kapal Mochan Temple at Deegam Nagbal Shopian.

In the meeting, various amenities and facilities to be put up at the temple were discussed to ensure the success of the festival, commencing from August 03 and culminating on August 07.

DC instructed Officers to ensure



uninterrupted power supply, potable water facility, cleanliness in

and around the Kapal Mochan temple, cleaning of springs, health-

care and security services, logistical arrangements, etc.

Department wise arrangements were fixed in the meeting and all concerned were emphasised to ensure fool proof arrangements for the impactful celebration of the festival.

The festival is being celebrated at the revered and ancient temple, located in the Deegam Nagbal village of the district where thousands of devotees converge to perform the puja during the annual festival.

The meeting was attended by SSP Shopian, Anayat Ali; ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; ADC, Dr. Zakir Hussain Faaz and other officers of line departments.

DC Budgam reviews arrangements for upcoming Indian Army Recruitment Rally

Directs for seamless coordination, logistics, security, sanitation & public facilitation at the venue

HT News Desk / DIRR

BUDGAM, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today convened a high-level meeting at the New Conference Hall, DC Office Budgam, to review and finalize arrangements for the Indian Army Recruitment Rally scheduled to be held at the JAKLI Regiment Centre, Rangreth Srinagar.

During the meeting, department-wise responsibilities were discussed. All the logistics support such as electricity, water supply, availability of buses,

security arrangements, fire services, medical facilities were threadbare discussed in the meeting.

DC instructed all concerned to deploy necessary manpower and resources well in advance of the rally. He stressed on ensuring adequate power and water supply, medical facilities, transportation, and traffic regulation, as well as cleanliness and sanitation at the venue.

DC also directed concerned security and police officials to prepare a comprehensive security and crowd management plan in coordination with the



Army authorities.

He also emphasised the importance of seamless coordination among all stakeholder departments to ensure the successful conduct of the recruitment rally.

DC directed officials to ensure proper logistics, security, sanitation, traffic regulation, and public convenience throughout the event.

Dr Bilal assured full support from the district administration for the smooth and successful execution of the recruitment rally and urged departments to maintain close liaison for effective coordination.

The meeting was attended by ADC Budgam, SP Headquarters Srinagar, ASP Budgam, Joint Director, Srinagar Municipal Corporation, SDM Chadoora, representatives from KPDCI Division-II Rajbagh, PWD Division Chadoora, and Jal Shakti (PHE) Division Chadoora, CMO, CEO, Budgam, Principal ITI Budgam, DYSP traffic rural, AD Fire and Emergency Services Budgam, ARTO Budgam, Assistant Secretary, J&K BOSE Budgam, Sub Divisional Officer, BSNL Barzulla Srinagar, representative of SSP Security Kashmir.

DC Pulwama distributes sanction letters under Mission YUVA

Become ambassadors of the scheme and inspire others: DC to beneficiaries

HT News Desk / DIRR

PULWAMA, JULY 22: District Administration Pulwama, in collaboration with the J&K Bank, organised a mega function today at Circuit House Pulwama to distribute sanction letters among the prospective beneficiaries under the Mission YUVA scheme.

During the event, senior officers addressed the gathering and elaborated on the objectives of Mission YUVA, which include encouraging entrepreneurship, fostering self-employment, and empowering youth through financial assistance and skill development.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, while speaking on the occasion, emphasised the significance of Mission YUVA in realising the entrepreneurial aspirations of the youth. He encouraged the beneficiaries to fully utilise the opportunities provided under the scheme and contribute actively to the economic development of the district.

"All beneficiaries should act as ambassadors of the scheme within their communities and inspire others to take advantage of this opportunity" said the DC.

He further assured the beneficiaries of continued administrative and institutional support in addressing any challenges they may face in accessing assistance under the scheme. He also appealed to the aspiring youth to make Mission YUVA a stepping stone towards sustainable self-employment.

While appreciating the coordinated efforts of the Employment Department and J&K Bank in processing and facilitating cases under the scheme, Dr. Qayoom instructed the concerned departments to ensure timely registration and onboarding of more youth under Mission YUVA and stressed the importance of expediting the disbursal of financial assistance in a hassle-free manner.

During the event, 53 sanction letters were distributed among the beneficiaries for setting up self-employment generating units under Mission YUVA.

Among others, the event was attended by Assistant Director Employment, Pulwama; Zonal Head, J&K Bank; Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama; Branch Heads of various bank branches; officials from the Employment Department; and a large number of beneficiaries and youth aspirants.

The beneficiaries 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.

Mission YUVA: DC Baramulla distributes loan sanction letters among 42 young entrepreneurs

Urges unemployed youth to avail benefits of various govt. schemes to build sustainable livelihoods

HT News Desk / DIRR

BARAMULLA, JULY 22: As part of the ongoing efforts to promote youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, Mission YUVA (MY), a flagship initiative of the Jammu & Kashmir Government, held the 'Roz-e-YUVA' program at the J&K Bank Zone Office Baramulla.

The event organized by the District Employment Office, Baramulla in collaboration with J&K Bank was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Baramulla, Minga Sherpa and was attended by the ADC Sopore, S.A. Raina; LDM Baramulla, Assistant Director Employment, other senior administration and Bank officials.

During the event, DDC, in the presence of the other officers, distributed loan sanction letters under Mission YUVA among 42 young entrepreneurs from the Baramulla district to help them establish new ventures.

Meanwhile, 5 claims under



PM-Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM-Suraksha Bima Yojana were also settled by J&K Bank, and cheques worth Rs 2.00 lakh each were handed over to the next of kin of the deceased person under

the scheme. Speaking on the occasion, DDC highlighted the transformative impact of Mission YUVA, stating that the government, through this flagship initiative, is proactively creating sustainable

revenue-generating avenues for the unemployed youth of the region through subsidized credit support and training.

DDC added that over 200 cases under Mission YUVA have

been approved for further disbursement and urged unemployed youth to take advantage of schemes like HADP and other financial inclusion initiatives to build sustainable livelihoods.

Meanwhile, Sherpa urged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial support responsibly and effectively and channel these funds towards building sustainable and dignified livelihoods, not just for themselves, but for others around them.

Zonal head J&K Baramulla expressed his pleasure at the enthusiasm shown by the youth and reiterated that J&K Bank remains steadfast in supporting the government's vision of empowering youth through these opportunities.

AD employment highlighted the crucial role of J&K Bank in the successful implementation of Mission YUVA and urged beneficiaries to utilize the sanctioned loans wisely to build stable and respectable income-generating ventures.

Arvind calls on Governor of Gujarat; discusses youth engagement through Arya Samaj Values

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 22: Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Shri Arvind Gupta today had the honour of meeting the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devvratji, during his visit aimed at promoting cultural and ideological engagement among the youth.

During the meeting, Shri Arvind Gupta held an in-depth discussion on meaningful ways to inspire and connect today's generation with the timeless principles and values of Arya Samaj. The conversation focused on channelizing youth energy towards nation-building, character development, and social upliftment through Vedic teachings and moral grounding.

Expressing his deep gratitude, Arvind Gupta said, "It was a privilege to receive the valuable insights and



guidance of Hon'ble Governor Shri Acharya Devvratji. His clarity of thought and deep commitment to the ideals of Arya Samaj are truly inspiring. I look forward to working towards initiatives that connect our youth with these powerful values."

The MLA emphasized that the teachings of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, founder of Arya Samaj, are

more relevant today than ever before in countering social evils and encouraging a life rooted in truth, self-discipline, and service.

The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to take forward the message of Arya Samaj among the younger generation through educational initiatives, youth workshops, and community engagement programs.

IBPR, SKUAST-K conduct awareness/ training program for tribal communities in Mamar, Ganderbal

HT News Desk / DIRR

GANDERBAL, JULY 22: As part of the ongoing project titled "Inclusion of Indigenous Survival Skills in Livelihood Security of Tribal Community in Kashmir, India", funded by the Department of Science and Technology (DST-SEED), Government of India, the Institute of Business and Policy Research (IBPR), SKUAST-Kashmir conducted an awareness-cum-training program at Village Mamar, Ganderbal.

The program, held in collaboration with the Animal Husbandry department, brought together key stakeholders including Dr. Omar Fayaz Khan (Principal Investigator of the Project); Dr. Ubair Nisar (Assistant Professor, IBPR); Dr. Mehreen (Veterinary Assistant Surgeon, Mamar), support staff of the veterinary unit, project staff, B.Sc. Economics and Data Science students, and members of the tribal and vulnerable communities.

The primary objective of the

program was to identify, document, and integrate traditional knowledge and indigenous survival skills into sustainable livelihood models for tribal communities.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Omar Fayaz Khan (PI of Project) outlined the project goals, emphasizing the importance of community participation in the baseline survey. He encouraged tribal households to share their traditional practices, which would help design interventions for skill preservation, enterprise

development, networking, and market linkages.

Dr. Ubair Nisar, an expert in agricultural economics, underscored the importance of linking indigenous knowledge systems with modern livelihood strategies. Dr. Mehreen, (VAS) who is closely connected with the local community, played a crucial role in building rapport and encouraging wholehearted participation in the baseline data collection.

The program concluded with the distribution of dairy input kits

to the heads of tribal households, aimed at strengthening animal husbandry-based livelihoods.

Following the event, the project team also visited the tribal settlement in the Hawanpati-Mamar-B belt. During their interactions, several tribal youths expressed a keen interest in photography-based livelihoods linked with eco-cultural tourism, particularly in capturing tourist activities and landscapes: a promising opportunity for community-driven sustainable development.

DC PULWAMA REVIEWS PROGRESS UNDER PMAY (U) 2.0

HT News Desk / DIRR

PULWAMA, JULY 22: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Committee to review the implementation status of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) at the Administrative Complex, Pulwama.

During the meeting, DC took a detailed municipality-wise review of the applications submitted by eligible households under the scheme and sought updates from the concerned officers regarding their progress. Stress was also laid on maintaining utmost transparency and accountability ensuring timely disposal of the cases.

On the occasion, 92 field verified cases were approved. With regard to the pending applications, DC exhorted the concerned officers to extend proactive support and handholding to applicants to facilitate the timely completion of formalities and to ensure that no eligible beneficiary is left behind.

He further directed Executive Officers and Tehsildars to facilitate land title transfer of eligible applicants so that applications are processed in time.

"Beneficiaries of such schemes usually belong to poor and weaker sections of society, Executive Officers and Tehsildars should assist them in completing all formalities and guide them properly to ensure timely access to the benefits," directed the DC.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pulwama; Chief Planning Officer, Pulwama; District Social Welfare Officer, Pulwama; Tehsildars, and Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees of Pampore, Tral, Awantipora, and Khrew; and Lead District Manager, Pulwama.

Manchester brings up old ghosts as India battle to stay alive

United News of India

There is likely a lot of confirmation bias involved in the following statements. Cricket fans tend to not forget dates and places. Among cricket fans, Indian cricket fans particularly tend to cling on much more. You can't bring up November 19 without sending them spiralling into darkness. A drizzly Old Trafford can trigger - not to make light of real world mental health issues - PTSD in many India fans. A drizzly Old Trafford is, after all, the birthplace of the phrase "45 minutes of bad cricket". To be clear it was not bad cricket in those 45 minutes in the ODI World Cup semi-final in 2019. India were caught in the perfect storm of seam-friendly conditions and some awesome bowling from New Zealand.

The larger sentiment - be it the image of Richard Kettleborough's look of astonishment at Martin Gup-

till's direct hit from deep square leg in Manchester or the stunning catch from Travis Head in Ahmedabad - is that India dominated those tournaments, which is why those losses hurt more.

A day before India's second Test at Old Trafford in 35 years, a venue where they have never won, it drizzled the same way it did on the second half of day one of their 2019 World Cup semi-final. Not hard enough to take players off but just enough to prevent resumption of an already stopped contest.

It is hard not to see some similarities between those "45 minutes of bad cricket" ruining the memories of entire tournaments and this ongoing Test series. India are averaging 42.96 with the bat as against England's 38.09, but they find themselves trailing in the series 2-1. India have batted at 85% control as against England's 78%. India have got a wicket



every 12 false shots when England have needed to induce fewer than ten, and this is with India batting more carefully than England.

These are not dominating numbers, although at one point at Lord's

they were. But in most series of decent lengths that can even out extreme results, they should ensure you are not in deficit. India's batters have made fewer mistakes, their bowlers have held lengths for longer, and if

they can keep on doing it, they should still back themselves to come out ahead by the end of five Tests.

What about the frequent "45 minutes of bad cricket", though? India have frequently made errors - either unforced or through lack of experience - that have cost them dearly to put them in this place: be it the collapses through casual shots at Headingley, the nightmare mix of milestone anxiety and quick single resulting in a run out just before lunch at Lord's, or a ball-change request that could perhaps have been avoided. It is these teams' privilege that they get a five-Test series to correct those errors. Other teams often get just two-Test series, and have no room for these errors: you do that in one Test, and boom, it is an unassailable deficit. With the privilege, however, also comes scrutiny and schadenfreude. People can see the mention of lack of experience or luck

as an excuse.

It is to India's credit that they were able to repeat their skills at both Edgbaston and Lord's after they lost the unloseable Test at Headingley. That is the difficult bit. That is what you train for. In Tests, more than other formats, that is actually enough to win matches: you bowl more good balls, you keep out more good balls, and you win Tests. Sometimes, as at Headingley, you have catastrophic half hours, you tell yourself you won't repeat casual shots, and then find a new way of letting the opposition back in, like at Lord's.

In an ideal world, the ideal response is to not think about these moments and focus more on training yourself on your basic skills and fitness. A human mind, though, doesn't work in a vacuum. There is now a series on the line, and now it is the same scenario as it is for other teams who don't have the privilege of playing long series.

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