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'Op-Sindoor', Pahalgam Massacre to be Discussed in Parliament Next Week

PM likely to attend debate after returning from abroad

HT News Desk / KNO

NEW DELHI, JUL 23: After continued protests by the opposition for three consecutive days in the Parliament, the government has agreed to hold a structured discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack

and Operation Sindoor in the coming week.

According to the details, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha faced disruptions again on Wednesday with Opposition demanding a debate on the Election Commission's voter roll revision in Bihar and Operation Sin-

door, launched after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead. Both Houses were adjourned until Thursday.

The Operation Sindoor, India's retaliatory strike targeted nine terrorist camps in Pakistan and PoK. In the Rajya Sabha, BJP MP Shamik

Bhattacharya will move the motion to begin the discussion on "Operation Sindoor."

The decision to allocate time for the debate was taken during a Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting held earlier in the day.

The Lok Sabha will begin the

debate on July 28, followed by the Rajya Sabha on July 29, if the schedule goes uninterrupted.

The decision to hold the 16-hour discussion was taken during the Business Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings held on July 21 and July 23.

The opposition has repeatedly

asked that Prime Minister Narendra Modi to address the House regarding the handling of the Pahalgam incident and the subsequent response by security forces.

While government representatives did not confirm whether the

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Small batch of pilgrims leaves for Amarnath yatra

United News of India

JAMMU, JULY 23: Amid tight security, a small batch of 2,837 pilgrims left Jammu on Wednesday for the cave shrine of Amarnath in the south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

Today's batch of pilgrims is the smallest so far to leave for Amarnath since the yatra began on July 3.

Over three lakh pilgrims have so far paid obeisance at the 3,880-metre-high shrine. The 38-day pilgrimage commenced on July 3 from the valley.

The 21st batch of 2,837 pilgrims, including 2,286 men and eight children, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here in 128 vehicles for the twin base camps in Kashmir, the officials said.

With this, a total of 1,30,378 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the valley since July 2, when Lieutenant

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CM Omar Reviews Hydro Projects, Stresses Timely Completion

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today conducted a comprehensive review of major hydro and solar power projects across Jammu and Kashmir, with a sharp focus on accelerating execution timelines and resolving bottlenecks.

The meeting was attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta,

TURN ON PAGE 2



CM Omar Orders Monthly Reviews, PSGA Timelines Enforcement

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: In a significant push to enhance accountability and efficiency in public service delivery, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today directed all Administrative Secretaries to conduct mandatory monthly review meetings to assess the implementation of the Jammu & Kashmir Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), 2011, within their respective departments.

He also underscored the need for strict enforcement of timelines for service delivery and imposition of penalties on officials for delays, reiterating the government's

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CM Omar Reviews Cooperative Banks' Functioning

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired a comprehensive review meeting on the functioning of Cooperative Banks across Jammu and Kashmir here at the Civil Secretariat.

The meeting was attended by Minister for Cooperatives Javid Ahmad Dar, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Regional Director, Reserve Bank of India (J&K and Ladakh), Principal Secretary Finance, Managing Director & CEO J&K Bank,

TURN ON PAGE 2

MeT predicts more rains today, hot weather tomorrow

Owais Gul

SRINAGAR, JUL 23: Weatherman has predicted that rains will continue to lash Jammu and Kashmir till Thursday.

Director Meteorological department, Dr Mukhtar Ahmad said that light to moderate rain and thunder are expected on Thursday at many places with intense showers and heavy to very heavy rain at isolated to scattered places of Jammu



division, especially in Poonch, Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi,

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Flash floods risk looms over Jammu

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 23: The water levels in River Jhelum and its tributaries remain below danger marks, officials from the Irrigation and Flood

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OVER 1.12 LAKH KG DRUGS SEIZED, 10K ARRESTED IN J&K SINCE 2018: GOI

'83,208 treated for addiction; 17 suicides linked to substance abuse'

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 23: The Union Government has revealed a grim picture of the growing drug menace in Jammu and Kashmir, with over 1.12 lakh kilograms of narcotic drugs seized and nearly 10,000 individuals arrested under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic

Substances (NDPS) Act since 2018.

In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, Minister of State for Home Affairs Nityanand Rai said the Union Territory has witnessed a persistent and troubling increase in narcotics trafficking, illegal cultivation, and substance abuse cases over the past five years.

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'J&K relies on imported power to meet swollen demand'

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 23: For nearly five years, Jammu and Kashmir has been relying on imported power in order to meet the increased electricity demand.

The official documents reveal that Jammu and Kashmir has not been able to increase the internal power generation.

According to the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the official documents reveal that "There has also not been an increase in internal generation in J&K UT for the last 4-5 years, therefore the increased demand had to be met by importing higher power from the interstate network."

It also said that the Ministry of Power urged the J&K to take necessary measures for improvement in transmission and distribution system so that power shortages in J&K can be avoided

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ECI starts process for election to office of V-P

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUL 23: The Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has notified the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India. The MHA vide its Gazette Noti-

fication S.O.3354(E) dated July 22, 2025 has notified the resignation of Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India.

Pertinently, the Election Commission of India, under Article 324, is mandated to conduct the election

to the office of the Vice President of India. The election to the office of the Vice President of India is governed by The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Act, 1952 and the rules made there under,

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GMC Jammu treats over 500 patients daily

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 23: The Government Medical College Jammu continues to witness a heavy rush of patients as over 500 patients are being treated in the emergency department on a daily basis.

As per the details, on average 534 patients were treated in the emergency of GMC Jammu and 148 patients were admitted while as 69 minor and major

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J&K people peaceful, deserve constitutional rights: Farooq

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: National Conference President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Wednesday, made a passionate appeal for the restoration of full statehood, stressing that the people of Jammu and Kashmir are peaceful and deserve their constitutional rights.

Attending a program in New Delhi, Dr Farooq Abdullah said: "We are not the ones who raised weapons or threw stones. When they removed Article 370, what reason did they give? They said Kashmir was not progressing, that there was militancy. But

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Protest at SMHS Hospital as attendant assaults doctor after patient's death

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 23: Tensions ran high at Srinagar's SMHS Hospital on Wednesday after a shocking incident in which a young resident doctor from Uttar Pradesh was assaulted by an attendant of a critically ill patient who later succumbed to his condition.

As per the details obtained by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the incident reportedly took place late Tuesday night in the hospital's emergency ward.

Officials said the attendant became aggressive after the patient's death and physically attacked Dr Shahnawaz—who himself is a specially-abled person due to polio—in full public view.

A CCTV video capturing the moment the doctor was assaulted has since gone viral on social media, sparking outrage across the medical community and beyond.

Dr Shahnawaz, speaking to KNO, said the incident took place at around 12:15 am on Tuesday. "I was at the medical reception when the patient

was brought in. After assessing the patient, his vitals were not recorded, and he was sent to the triage room for further investigation. Unfortunately, the patient later died," he said. "Following the death, an attendant in his 40s came and kicked me. There are no consultants, CMOs, or security personnel present at night, making it extremely risky for us to work under such conditions. We are here to serve patients, not to be assaulted. We demand a thorough investigation and legal action against the perpetrator."

Family alleges medical negligence

This incident, as per the family of the deceased, came to the fore after a patient named Javid Ahmad, an employee of Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC), died due to alleged medical negligence at SMHS hospital.

Family members of Javid told KNO that he had some pain in his heart and was brought to the hospital, where both the patient and attendants were pleading with doctors to keep him on oxygen. However, they claimed

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

Advt - Comp...



CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Parl to discuss....

Prime Minister will reply directly to the debate, sources said he is likely to be present during the proceedings next week after returning from abroad.

A senior leader from the ruling party said the debate on "Operation Sindoor" will have national interest and could attract international observation. He said the Prime Minister may choose to speak on the matter and present the government's stance on various related developments. (KNO)

Small batch.....

Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

The number of pilgrims undertaking the yatra has seen a dip over the past few days.

While 7,908 pilgrims left in the 16th batch for Amarnath on July 18, it was followed by 6,365 pilgrims leaving Jammu on July 19 in the 17th batch. Subsequently, on July 20, 4,388 pilgrims left in the 18th batch, and 3,791 pilgrims departed in the 19th batch on July 21, followed by the 20th batch of 3,536 pilgrims on July 22.

Last year, over 5.10 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine, which houses a naturally formed ice lingam.

The 38-day pilgrimage will conclude on August 9. (PTI)

CM Omar.....

Principal Secretary Finance Satosh D Vaidya, Principal Secretary Power Development Department Rajesh H Prasad, Managing Directors Jammu / Kashmir Power Distribution Corporation Limited and other concerned.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the progress of key power projects including the 1856 MW Sawalkote Hydro Electric Project, 93 MW New Ganderbal HEP, 48 MW Lower Kalnai HEP, and the 5 MW Solar Power Project at Pampore.

The arrears on account of outstanding electricity bills of commercial power consumers was also discussed and the power development department gave details of steps being taken for recovery and expected revenue protection in case of schemes that would be proposed by the department for recovery of arrears.

While reviewing the New Ganderbal and Lower Kalnai hydro projects, both of which have seen prolonged delays due to contractual and financial challenges, the Chief Minister directed the concerned departments to explore viable alternatives to expedite implementation. He emphasized the need for timely decision-making to prevent further cost escalation and energy shortfalls.

The 5 MW Solar Power Project at Pampore, being implemented through SECI, was also reviewed. The Chief Minister instructed for a cost-benefit analysis in light of existing solar tariffs and to put the idle land available at Pampore to productive use for the solar project.

The meeting also deliberated on the Draft Hydro Power Policy 2025, which aims to replace the 2011 policy and open new avenues for private investment through Independent Power Producer (IPP) and Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models. The policy includes transparent allotment mechanisms, financial incentives, streamlined clearances, and guaranteed power off-take—all designed to making investments in renewable energy more inviting. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah reiterated his government's commitment to sustainable development, clean energy, and inclusive growth.

CM Omar Orders....

zero-tolerance policy towards administrative laxity.

Chairing a high-level review meeting attended by Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education; ACS, Jal Shakti; ACS to the Chief Minister; and all Administrative Secretaries. Chief Minister expressed concern over the inconsistent monitoring of PSGA at the departmental level. He emphasized the importance of structured and regular oversight.

"The monthly review at the level of Administrative Secretaries is to be done. Departments must ensure the Act is implemented robustly. Delays without justified cause must invite penalties, as prescribed under the law," the Chief Minister said.

While acknowledging challenges related to budgetary constraints and portal issues, the Chief Minister made it clear that these would be reviewed separately and decisions taken accordingly.

"Where applications are to be rejected, they must be rejected with clear reasons so that citizens retain their right to appeal," he said.

The Chief Minister particularly flagged the misuse of discretionary powers by officials, stressing that the PSGA framework is designed to eliminate arbitrary decision-making. He instructed departments to strictly adhere to defined timelines and ensure the levy of penalties in all cases where services are delayed beyond the permissible limit.

"The spirit of this Act lies in delivering services on time, without exceptions. Where timelines are violated, penalties must be imposed without leniency. Don't be soft," he added.

To strengthen the oversight mechanism further, the Chief Minister announced that a comprehensive review of PSGA implementation will be conducted at his level every three months, based on departmental reports shared with the Chief Secretary's Office.

Earlier during the meeting, detailed department-wise presentations were made by the respective Administrative Secretaries on the current status and operational framework of the PSGA, which was enacted with the objective of ensuring timely, transparent, and accountable delivery of public services across departments.

The Act, notified on April 13, 2011, and followed by the notification of Rules on July 21, 2011, through SRO 223 followed by addition of several other government services through notifications remains a cornerstone of citizen-centric governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

The presentations gave details of the core provisions of the Act, which mandate the delivery of essential public services within prescribed timelines while clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of designated officers. The Act also establishes a structured appellate mechanism with fixed timelines for first and second appeals and empowers authorities to initiate disciplinary action in cases of repeated non-compliance.

It was highlighted that a total of 493 services have been notified under the PSGA, with major contributions from departments such as Power Development (98 services), Revenue (58), Finance (58), Transport, Housing & Urban Development (47 each), and Industries & Commerce (40), along with Health, Education, Forest, Agriculture and others.

CM Omar Reviews.....

Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives and senior representatives from NABARD.

During the meeting, the Chief Minister reviewed the current status and functioning of various Cooperative banks.

He acknowledged the improved financial performance of the Jammu and Anantnag District Central Cooperative Banks, which have achieved operational profitability but called for other loss-making Cooperative banks to devise a roadmap for recovery which would be examined by the Government for appropriate intervention to revive these banks.

The meeting also reviewed key initiatives such as the ongoing PACS Computerisation Project and the formation of new M-PACS, both aimed at strengthening grassroots-level credit delivery and financial inclusion.

The Chief Minister emphasized the need for sustained reforms to ensure institutional resilience, financial stability, and rural empowerment across Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Commissioner Secretary Cooperatives Babila Rakwal gave a detailed presentation on the functioning and progress of Cooperative Banks in J&K.

MeT predicts.....

Udhampur, Jammu & Kathua.

He also predicted the hot and humid weather conditions from July 25 to July 27 with possibility of brief showers at few places.

However, he said that intermittent light to moderate rain and thunder-shower with intense showers and heavy rain are expected at few places of Jammu division mainly towards late night/early morning hours from July 28 to July 30.

Meanwhile, J&K received intermittent rainfall for the third straight day today. Srinagar recorded a rainfall of 19.3 mm during the last 24 hours. The highest precipitation during the period was recorded in Qazigund at 23.9 mm followed by 22.1 mm at Katra.

In its advisory, the MeT has forecasted a possibility of intense showers, gusty winds and heavy to very heavy rain at isolated to scattered places of J&K till tomorrow.

It reads, "Flash floods at few vulnerable places with landslides, mudslides &

shooting stones are also expected."

Also, it added that the water level may rise in rivers, streams, local Nallas & water logging in few low lying areas.

The farmers have been advised to resume farm operations during 25-27 July. (KNO)

Flash floods.....

Control Department said on Wednesday.

However, the Meteorological Department has predicted intense rainfall in some areas of the Jammu region over the next 48 hours, which may lead to flash flooding.

As per the official gauge readings, Jhelum at Sangam was flowing at 4.50 ft which is below the 21 ft danger mark. At Munshibagh in Srinagar, it was at 4.75 ft (against the 18 ft danger level), while Asham recorded 3.46 ft.

Similarly, the water level at Wullar Lake was 1575.45 meters—below its capacity mark of 1578.00 meters.

It says, among tributaries, all key streams including Vishow Nallah (3.11m), Rambiyara (0.05m), Lidder (0.38m), Doodhganga (0.59m), and Sindh Nallah (1.03m) are flowing well below alert levels.

"While Kashmir remains safe in terms of flooding, intense showers forecast in parts of Jammu could trigger flash flood-like situations in vulnerable spots," an official said.

Moreover, the IMD has advised caution in hilly terrain and low-lying areas of the Jammu region. Meanwhile, independent weather forecaster Faizan Arif Keng said, it is good that we are seeing spells of rainfall, especially after the prolonged dry phase. As of now, Kashmir hasn't witnessed heavy rainfall.

He added it is a good thing we are seeing spells of rainfall; however, if it continues, some places in Jammu may receive intense showers in the next 48 hours, which could lead to flash floods. (KNO)

Over 1.12.....

The minister said the data from National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) indicates a sharp escalation in drug seizures from 2018 to 2020, followed by a gradual decline in the years that followed. In 2018, a total of 19,353 kilograms of narcotics were seized along with 87,713 units and nearly 8,000 litres of psychotropic substances.

Seizures rose significantly in 2019 and peaked in 2020, when authorities confiscated over 27,000 kilograms of drugs and more than 40,000 litres of liquid narcotics. However, from 2021 onwards, the volume of seized substances saw a decline, though officials believe trafficking activities have continued, often shifting to more concealed methods.

The number of arrests under the NDPS Act followed a similar trend. In 2018, 1,460 individuals were arrested, with the number rising to 1,884 in 2019. Although there was a slight dip in 2020, arrests surged again in 2021 and reached a five-year high in 2022 with 3,453 people apprehended for narcotics-related offences.

Alongside law enforcement efforts, the government also reported substantial destruction of illicit crop cultivation in the region. From 2020 to 2024, Jammu and Kashmir witnessed the eradication of hundreds of acres of poppy and cannabis cultivation.

While 893 acres of poppy crops were destroyed in 2020, the figure dropped sharply over the next two years but rose again in 2023 and 2024. Similarly, large-scale cannabis destruction was carried out, with over 900 acres cleared in 2023 and nearly 1,000 acres in 2024.

The government also highlighted its de-addiction efforts in the Union Territory. Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the number of individuals receiving de-addiction services rose sharply from just over 1,500 in 2020-21 to more than 35,000 in 2024-25. In total, 83,208 people have been treated and discharged from various de-addiction centres across Jammu and Kashmir since 2020. Currently, ten de-addiction centres are operational in the region.

Meanwhile, the Drug Treatment Clinic at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) Kashmir reported 3,207 new registrations in 2021-22, followed by 3,334 in 2022-23. The number dropped to 1,457 in 2023-24, and 1,389 patients were registered up to January 2025. In total, IMHANS Kashmir has treated 9,387 patients for drug addiction.

In a deeply concerning revelation, the government informed the Lok Sabha that since 2018, at least 17 suicides have been linked to drug abuse and alcohol addiction in Jammu and Kashmir. The data underscores the depth of the crisis

and the urgent need for a more robust, community-driven response to tackle addiction and its consequences.

The Ministry of Home Affairs reaffirmed its commitment to curbing the drug threat through strengthened enforcement, widespread awareness campaigns, and the expansion of treatment and rehabilitation facilities across the Union Territory. (KNO)

'J&K relies on.....

and also take measures for resource adequacy minimizing dependence on day ahead market and real-time market purchases.

"J&K representative stated that load restriction and curtailment are being resorted to by DISCOMS and at SLDC level to limit the over draw from grid," it reads.

Previously, KNO reported that Jammu and Kashmir reels under persistent low voltage issues, reveals the report.

In this regard, the report reveals that "Low voltage related issues of J&K and Ladakh (UT) have been regularly shared by NRLDC with CEA and CTUIL in Grid-India's quarterly operational feedback report as well."

"The issue has been continuously raised in NRPC as well as OCC meetings, still the issues of low voltage persist in J&K especially Kashmir valley," it reads.

Besides, the report further states that power is being imported by J&K from 400KV Moga-Kishenpur D/C lines and 400KV Jalandhar-Samba D/C lines.

The Ministry of Power for Government of India (GoI) in the report further said that it has been discussed and suggested on numerous occasions earlier to J&K to plan and expedite commissioning of reactive power devices especially capacitors at lower voltage level to improve the voltage profile in valley area and also avoid large sums payable as reactive energy charges.

ECI starts.....

namely The Presidential and Vice-Presidential Elections Rules, 1974.

Accordingly, the Election Commission of India has already started the preparations relating to the Vice-Presidential Elections, 2025.

On completion of the preparatory activities, the announcement of the Election Schedule to the office of the Vice-President of India will follow as soon as possible.

Major pre-announcement activities which have already been started include: Preparation of Electoral College which consists of elected as well as nominated members of Rajya Sabha as well as Lok Sabha, finalisation of Returning Officer/ Assistant Returning Officer(s), and preparation and dissemination of background material on all the previous vice-presidential elections.

GMC Jammu.....

surgeries were conducted in June 2025.

Details also reveal that 4933 lab tests are being conducted on daily basis in the emergency while on an average 76 CT scans, 196 USG, 292 X-rays and 254 ECGs are being conducted on daily basis.

Details also reveal that 29 patients are being referred on an average to the hospital from other hospitals of the division with the majority of them Rajouri.

Details further reveal that 263 patients on average were registered in the Medicine department of GMC Jammu, 133 in Surgery, 92 in orthopedics, 28 in Ophthalmology and 19 in anti-rabies department. (KNO)

J&K people.....

who were the people who chose India over that side despite sharing a religious identity with them? We chose Gandhi's India."

"I wish the leaders of that time could rise from their graves and see what we've built, and where we are heading now. When will you speak up? When will you stand up for an India that belongs to everyone?"

"When will this media be free—to write and show what they believe the people need to see? Everything is controlled. How many people will even hear what we've said here today, everything is controlled?"

He also referred to the Emergen-

cy period under Indira Gandhi, drawing a parallel to the current situation: "They talk of Indira Gandhi's Emergency—it lasted only 18 months. I just hope the message we are trying to send reaches Parliament, and that our elected leaders will fight for Indian democracy."

Ending on a powerful note, he said: "We are not here to beg. We are here to demand our right—peacefully. Kashmir was made a testing ground, but other states may face the same future if we don't stand together. That's why we are here—to wake the nation up." (KINS)

Protest at SMHS.....

that doctors repeatedly denied this request.

The family said that even when Javid's condition deteriorated, the same doctor who was later assaulted ignored his worsening state and asked for some medicine to be brought from outside.

Once his brother-in-law brought the medicine, they said Javid died, and doctors were laughing. In anger, his brother-in-law slapped the doctor, the family said.

They, however, said that slapping a doctor is wrong and sought an apology, but also added that alleged medical negligence led to Javid's death.

Family members demanded access to the CCTV footage of the incident, saying it would clearly reveal how negligence led to Javid's death. They called for an independent investigation and warned that anyone involved in negligence must face consequences.

Doctors protest, demand permanent security

The incident sparked a massive protest by resident doctors, interns, and other healthcare professionals from GMC Srinagar and its affiliated hospitals. Hundreds gathered within the hospital premises, raising slogans and demanding immediate action against the attacker. They also called for the implementation of robust, permanent security measures across all government healthcare facilities.

"We're not here to be assaulted; we are here to save lives," a protesting doctor stated. "This is not an isolated incident. Such attacks are becoming too frequent, and we cannot continue working in constant fear."

The protesting doctors also expressed concern over alleged attempts to discourage them from speaking out. "We were told to stay silent, but how long can we remain silent while our safety is at risk?" questioned another doctor.

GMC Srinagar condemns assault
GMC Srinagar issued a statement condemning the assault. The administration said hospitals are "public institutions serving humanity" and appealed to the public, especially patient attendants, to remain calm and respectful during times of distress.

"Our doctors and staff are working round-the-clock under immense pressure. Any violence against them is unacceptable and will not be tolerated," the statement read.

The college confirmed that legal action has been initiated, with an FIR (No. 11/2025) registered at the concerned police station. A senior police official confirmed that investigations are ongoing, and the accused will be brought to justice soon.

Doctors have warned that if their safety concerns are not addressed promptly, they may escalate their protests. "Today it was Dr Shahnawaz. Tomorrow, it could be any of us. We cannot perform our duties unless we feel safe," said a senior resident doctor.

The medical fraternity has appealed to the administration to ensure that hospitals remain safe spaces for both patients and healthcare providers. They have called for strict security measures to prevent future incidents.

It is noteworthy that this is the second such incident in Jammu and Kashmir in recent days. Last week, a female doctor at GMC Jammu was physically assaulted by a patient's attendant following his death in the hospital's emergency ward. In the aftermath, doctors went on a two-day strike, which was only called off after FIR lodging and assurances from authorities that action would be taken—(KNO)



Speaker chairs High Level Apex Committee meet at Srinagar, reviews NeVA implementation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly (JKLA), Advocate Abdul Rahim Rather, today chaired the High Level Apex Committee (HLAC) meeting at Assembly Complex to review progress on implementation of National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) project in Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. The meeting was attended by MLAs Justice (Retd.) Hasnain Masoodi, Nizamuddin Bhat, Tanvir Sadiq, Arjun Singh Raju, Dr Sunil Bhardwaj and Dr Bharat Bhushan, Secretary Information

Technology department, Dr. Piyush Singla and Secretary Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita besides members of HLAC. The meeting was also attended by Secretary Law department, Achal Sethi; DG Budget, SIONIC J&K; representatives of NICS and other concerned officers.

The Speaker, who is also the Chairman of HLAC, took detailed assessment on this flagship project aimed at making the legislature digital and paperless.

Addressing the officers, the Speaker emphasized the importance of timely completion and integration of NeVA project to



modernize the legislative processes and ensure a paperless functioning of J&K Assembly.

He highlighted that NeVA as a milestone initiative aimed at increasing the transparency, efficiency and accessibility in legislative proceedings for both the legislators and the public.

He stressed upon the officers to maintain regular coordination for effective implementation of the project in J&K Legislative Assembly. The Speaker directed all the concerned departments to expedite the remaining tasks and adhere to timelines for timely rollout of this prestigious initiative. He directed the Finance department to fill the resource gap needed by the executing agen-

cy for procurement of different components under the project. "Successful implementation of NeVA will bring J&K at par with digitally empowered legislatures of the country", the Speaker stated. He also directed the NIC and IT department to keep the HLAC updated about the progress achieved on implementation of this project.

During the meeting, SIONIC J&K gave a detailed presentation on current status of the project. Pertinently, NeVA is a flagship project under Digital India Initiative led by Union Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, aimed at making the Legislature paperless.

"Say No To Drugs; Save Life" Kulgam Police Holds Anti-Drug Drive at Govt Boys School

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 23: With an objective to educate students about the risks associated with substance abuse and its consequences and encourage them to adopt healthy habits; Kulgam police under the aegis of Civic Action programme (CAP)-2024-25, conducted an awareness programme on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan at L/



NK Shri Nazir Ahmad wani Govt boys model Higher secondary school Kulgam.

The programme was attended by Senior officers of Kulgam Police including Addl SP Kulgam Shri Aftab Awan-JKPS, DySP DAR Kulgam Shri Mohd Ayoub Rather, staff, students and other participants.

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

Debate competition was held wherein the participants shared their perspectives, views, assumptions and explored concrete solutions to the complex, challenging and pressing issue of drug abuse that threatens the very fabric of our society.

The initiative demonstrates commitment of Kulgam Police to eradicate drug abuse and promoting a safer, healthier community. Participants thanked Kulgam police for conducting such awareness programme, thus building a bridge of trust between police and the youth. At the conclusion, first three position holders were awarded with mementos and cash prize to boost their morale.

DC Kupwara takes comprehensive stock of developmental projects in Handwara Sub Division

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, JULY 23: In a concerted effort to accelerate developmental progress and ensure timely execution of infrastructure projects, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today undertook an extensive tour of Handwara sub division to review various ongoing developmental works.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the ongoing construction of High School Building Batpora Magam and construction of additional accommodation for HSS Magam



and directed the concerned engineers to speed up the pace of work and ensure completion of the projects within the stipulated timeframe. She also inspected the ongoing development of Handwara-Magam road.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Handwara, Javid Naseem Masoodi, CPO, Tehsildar Handwara and Executive Engineers of R&B, PMGSY accompanied the Deputy Commissioner.

The Deputy Commissioner also took stock of the Jaggerpora Water Supply Scheme and Kawari WSS and enquired from the concerned engineers about the status

of the scheme. She directed them to ensure the completion of the projects to facilitate the people of these areas with clean drinking water supply.

Later, the DC chaired a meeting with concerned officers during which a threadbare discussion were held to ensure timely completion of the developmental projects in the Handwara sub division.

During the tour, the Deputy Commissioner interacted with large number of people who apprised her about their day to day developmental issues and she assured for timebound redressal of their genuine issues.

Chief Education Officer Ganderbal Visits BMS Kijpora Zone Kangan

■ HT News Desk

KANGAN, JUL 23: As a part of continuing its Inspection to the Educational Institutions in District Ganderbal, the Worthy Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ganderbal, Shri Oneel Kumar Bhat visited Govt. Boys Middle School (BMS) Kijpora today to review the academic and infrastructural status of the institution.

The visit aimed at assessing the overall functionality of the schools, reviewing the punctuality of the teaching staff, and ensuring adherence to academic standards.

During the visit, the CEO interacted with the school staff, students, emphasizing the importance of quality education and holistic development of children.

The officer inspected classrooms, teaching-learning materials, and



ongoing academic activities to ensure effective implementation of government programmes.

CEO also checked the attendance of staff, students, and Midday meals.

The officer also checked the notebooks of the students and directed

the teachers to see them on a regular basis.

He urged the teachers to make concerted and sincere efforts to bridge the learning gaps among students and ensure holistic development of the students.

Usman Majid Slams MLA Bhat Over Nepotism in Jobs

■ HT News Desk

BANDIPORA, JUL 23: Former Minister and MLA Bandipora, Usman Majid on Wednesday has expressed serious concern over the surfaced recommendation letter by MLA Bandipora, Nizam Ud-Din Bhat, terming it a glaring example of favoritism, nepotism, and abuse of public office. The letter, which recommends the continuation and engagement of eight close relatives of the MLA in outsourced positions at a government medical facility, has triggered widespread outrage among unemployed youth and qualified paramedical graduates across the region.

In a statement, Majid condemned the brazen bypassing of transparent and merit-based recruitment norms. "It is unacceptable that government opportunities meant for the public good are being

distributed like private entitlements. This is not just a procedural lapse, it is a deliberate betrayal of our educated youth," he said.

He emphasized that the letter in question, addressed to the Medical Superintendent of Bandipora, reflects a disturbing trend of institutionalized nepotism where public offices are misused to secure jobs for family members without any public advertisement, open applications, or competitive process. "Out of the eight names recommended, all are his own relatives. This is not influence, it is pure misuse of authority," he stated.

Is this even permissible under a democratic and constitutional system of public employment? Why were only his relatives chosen? Where was the public advertisement? Where were the open applications? Where was the competitive screening process? How can any

deserving student across Bandipora expect a fair chance in such a deeply compromised, rigged system, where nepotism is not just tolerated but institutionalized?, he said.

This is precisely what Nizam Ud-Din Bhat has always stood for, adjusting his relatives, kith and kin at every possible opportunity, with no shame and no regard for merit. In this particular instance, he has written directly to the Medical Superintendent of Bandipora, instructing him to adjust his own family members in outsourced posts. Out of the eight names he has recommended, all eight are his close relatives. Yes, all eight. This isn't just a case of influence, this is a blatant, brazen abuse of power. It is corruption in daylight, unapologetic, unchecked, and completely unaccountable. And tragically, it isn't new. This is what Nizam Ud-Din

Bhat has always stood for; nepotism, favoritism, and placing his relatives above the rights of hardworking and qualified youth, he added.

Highlighting the broader implications, Majid warned that such unchecked practices not only rob deserving candidates of their future but also corrode public faith in democratic systems. "If public jobs are to be decided in drawing rooms rather than examination halls, then what hope do our hardworking, meritorious youth have?" he asked.

He asserted that, if this blatant mockery of justice is not questioned, condemned, and corrected, then the future of the youth of Bandipora will no longer be decided in examination halls, but in the drawing room of the MLA, with pens in their hands and no ethics in their hearts. This is exactly what MLA Bandipora is doing. He is playing with the future of our youth. And

he must be held accountable.

Majid appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, to intervene and take immediate, decisive action. "I urge the LG administration to initiate a thorough inquiry into all such illegal backdoor appointments, particularly those made under the previous PDP regime and in the current dispensation through MLA interference. All appointments lacking transparency and competitive selection must be annulled without delay," he asserted.

Majid further said that such actions insult the dignity and aspirations of thousands of educated youth struggling with unemployment in Jammu and Kashmir. "They have nothing but merit and hope to depend on. Allowing such illegal practices to go unchecked will only deepen despair, resentment, and alienation among the youth."

DC Kulgam reviewed the functioning of Revenue Dept. in the district

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 23: To review the functioning of Revenue Department and to ensure efficient and prompt public service delivery in the district, the Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), on Wednesday chaired a meeting of the Revenue Department in the Meeting Hall of the conference hall Mini-secretariat, here. In the comprehensive review,



the progress and status of service delivery was reviewed of each and every patwar halqa. The meeting had detailed discussion on various issues including:

1. Status of online services provided to citizens.
2. Digitization of revenue record.
3. Removal of encroachment from State/Kacharia land.
4. Change of Land Use Cases.
5. Grievances regarding Migrant properties.
6. Progress of revenue court cases in different offices.
7. Progress of different services under PSGA.
8. Progress of Mussavies and Geo-referencing in each Tehsil.
9. Pendency of SRO cases.
10. Progress on Land allotment to different departments.
11. Vacancy position of Naib Tehsildars in each Tehsil.
12. The Progress on Samadhan registrations disposal.
13. Disposal of grievances on Revenue Plus portal.
14. Issuance of Land Pass books to the farmers.
15. Land identification for CAPMA scheme.
16. Mutation camps attended.

DC urged the revenue officers to ease out the day to day difficulties of common masses by visiting for on spot inspections. The meeting was attended by ADC Vihar Ahmed Giri, ACR Reyaz Ahmad Shah, all Tehsildars, Naib Tehsildars, Girdawars, besides all Patwaris of revenue department.

HT EDITORIAL

Scope for Improvement in Ambulance Services Across J&K

There is an old saying in medical terminology that the first hour of a patient is golden and as such the patient needs to be shifted to any hospital at the earliest. For the same it is imperative that ambulance service is in accordance with the modern day demands. In most of the hospitals and health institutions both in the government and private sectors the ambulance service is not in perfect shape.

In majority of the health institutions vans are being used as ambulances and the patients are being ferried in the same. These vans are not appropriate to be used as ambulances and in some of the cases these are not equipped with the facilities that need to be put in place in an ambulance. As a result of this the patients suffer and in many cases the patient dies while being referred from his house to a health institution or from one health institution to another one.

Given the fact that huge funds are allocated to the health sector in the budget it is imperative that the government pays attention to the all important sector of transport in the health sector. It is important that the latest vehicles being used as ambulances by hospital authorities across the country are purchased by the health authorities of Jammu & Kashmir. This would give a new impetus to the healthcare sector of the union territory with people especially those belonging to middle and lower classes being the ultimate beneficiaries.

At the same time directions need to be issued to the management of the different hospitals that a modern and up to date ambulance facility is available there. This would ensure that the patients don't suffer while getting admitted at the hospitals in the private sector. Even though the attendants of a patient pay huge amounts as charges under different heads still then the ambulance service is not up to the mark. Improvement needs to be made in this regard so that there is relief for the people at the end of the day.

The government hospitals are facing yet another problem and that problem too is a glaring one. There are many health institutions in the government sector that don't have ambulances. Since ambulances are not available in these health institutes people are forced to hire a private vehicle so as to transfer their dear one to a health institute as suggested by a doctor.

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Kashmir's Alpha Generation: Alama Iqbal's Dream Renewed



Aubaid Akhoun

Today's era is the age of technology, and true success belongs to those who have embraced change and kept themselves updated with the times. This ability to adapt has always been felt by every conscious individual throughout history. Allama Iqbal, the great Islamic thinker, deeply understood this need for change. Through his poetry, he not only critiqued but also praised it, reminding us that real success lies in knowing what to accept and what to reject. One of his couplets on change holds great significance in this context:

Allama Iqbal has rightly said:
"Mashriq Se Ho Bezar, Na
Maghrib Se Hazar Kar
Fitrat Ka Ishara Hai Ke Har Shab
Ko Sehar Kar!"

"Don't shun the East, nor look on West with scorn,
Since Nature yearns for change of night to morn."

Long before this generation picked up gadgets and screens, our ancestors picked up the quill, the compass, the telescope, and the printing press — the tools of their age to expand the frontiers of knowledge. They did not fear new directions — East or West — but sought wisdom wherever it blossomed.

Iqbal's timeless verse is more than poetry — it is a reminder that change is Nature's secret law. Stagnant waters gather dust, but flowing rivers nourish valleys. Those who cling to the past, fearing new skills or ideas, risk being left behind in an age where the sun of knowledge never sets.

Today, in Kashmir's classrooms and bustling city corners, we see a generation brimming with talent and dreams — yet many still clutch the

same old maps: Doctor. Engineer. Teacher. But the world outside has changed its shape. The fourth industrial revolution is here — invisible lines of code now shape industries, jobs, and daily life.

So why limit dreams to a few traditional options? Why not look at the ever-expanding world of technology — a world where you can be your own boss, earn with dignity, and create solutions that touch lives far beyond our valleys?

This is not a call to abandon old dreams — it's an invitation to renew them, to give old hopes new wings. Our forefathers never shut their doors to good ideas — they absorbed them, adapted them, and thrived.

The time has come for this Alpha Generation to do the same — to turn every dawn into a new morning of skills, innovation, and self-reliance.

In the serene valleys of Kashmir and the bustling streets of Srinagar, a quiet revolution echoes through classrooms and living rooms alike — a question whispered by worried parents and restless students: What next?

For decades, our dreams wore two coats — Doctor or Engineer. The pride of a stethoscope around the neck or a blueprint in hand was the gold standard. And rightfully so — these professions brought respect, income, and identity to countless families. But the world has changed. The fourth industrial revolution has arrived — coding lines are the new lifelines, digital ideas are the new diagnoses, and innovation is the new cure.

This is the Alpha Generation — Born Digital

Unlike their parents, today's students are digital natives. Coding is their second language. Their classrooms stretch beyond four walls, and their competition is not just across the street but across continents.

Yet, when it comes to choosing a career, too many still hold on to the old map in a world that has redrawn its borders.

The Future is Tech — And It's Here
From artificial intelligence that drives cars and helps doctors diagnose

“Long before this generation picked up gadgets and screens, our ancestors picked up the quill, the compass, the telescope, and the printing press — the tools of their age to expand the frontiers of knowledge. They did not fear new directions — East or West — but sought wisdom wherever it blossomed.

diseases more accurately, to cloud systems that store mountains of data securely, technology is no longer just an industry — it is the backbone of every industry.

Ask yourself — when was the last time you booked a ticket or paid a bill by standing in line, instead of tapping an app? When did businesses rely only on dusty files instead of smart data tools? When did marketing mean only posters on walls, not digital campaigns reaching thousands in minutes?

The new world belongs to those who can speak the language of codes, data, and design. That's where the young minds of Kashmir — and India — must set their sights.

Be the Boss of Your Own Story
The beauty of technology is freedom. A student can earn from a laptop by the Dal Lake — teaching coding to a client in Canada, designing websites for a business in Dubai, or managing data for a company in Delhi. No waiting for years just for a degree — no waiting for someone to hand you a paycheck.

Today's tech courses teach more than skills — they teach independence. They turn job seekers into job makers. They make you your own boss.

Skills That Matter — Skills That Pay

Data Science, AI, Cyber Security, App Development, Digital Marketing, Cloud Computing, Salesforce — these are not just fancy words. They are keys that unlock careers and incomes once unimaginable.

Parents dream of a dignified life for their children — technology makes that possible, without burdening them for decades. It's not about replacing dreams — it's about upgrading them to match the world we live in today.

Learning, Right Here

It is heartening to see Kashmir's education landscape embracing this shift. Modern campuses now offer global-standard tech courses with real-world certifications — right here in our city. Students can study, practice, and build portfolios under industry mentors, without needing to fly miles away for quality learning.

A New Vision for a New Age

As Parents, Teachers, and Students — this is our moment to accept that our children's future won't be secured by old stereotypes but by new skills. Medicine and engineering are noble paths — but they are not the only ones anymore.

A generation that carries smartphones in its pockets must carry digital skills in its mind. It's time to invest in knowledge that pays back not just in degrees but in dignity, income, and freedom.

The world is waiting for new ideas — from a new Kashmir — from you. The Alpha Generation is ready. Are you?

The author is a renowned educator and coaching consultant in Kashmir, also serving as a columnist, motivational speaker, and Associate Editor of Education Quill. He manages operations at Genagogy Nowgam Kashmir in association with Technoglobe Jaipur, a prominent tech training institute. Email: akhoun.aubaid@gmail.com

Morning Assembly: A Source of Morality and Knowledge



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

Education is the key to success. It opens countless doors of opportunity, especially for the youth of our nation. Recognizing this, governments across various states and union territories in India have introduced numerous beneficial schemes for the underprivileged, ensuring education reaches all sections of society.

From early childhood education at the age of three to advanced degrees like doctorates, today's system empowers every learner to explore and grow. For those with a zeal for research and innovation, higher studies offer an open sky of possibilities. Prestigious posts such as IAS, IPS, and careers in defense services inspire millions, and youth are being encouraged through multiple channels to chase their dreams with confidence.

However, it is crucial to remember that success does not demand 24-hour study marathons. Instead, concentration and dedication are key. A focused 6-hour study routine can be far more productive than a whole day spent without purpose. Time is limited; live with passion, set meaningful goals—for your family and for the nation—and always seek guidance from elders and experienced mentors when making life decisions.

The Role of Morning Assembly in Educational Institutions

Among the many elements contributing to a student's development, the morning assembly stands out as one of the most powerful. It sets the



tone for the day and plays a pivotal role in nurturing talent, building discipline, and instilling moral values in young minds.

Key Benefits of Morning Assembly: Inclusive Platform for All:

Morning assembly includes students from all age groups and provides them a stage to showcase their talents and skills. Strengthens Teacher-Student Interaction: It fosters daily communication on diverse topics, allowing teachers and students to build better understanding and rapport. Spreads Important Knowledge Quickly: Morning announcements, news updates, and short speeches ensure students stay informed about global and national events. Encourages Participation: From moral stories and general knowledge quizzes to debates on current issues, cultural shows, and light-hearted comedy—assemblies are packed with engaging activities that boost student confidence. Prayer and

Spiritual Start: Each morning begins with a heartfelt prayer where students collectively seek blessings, fostering a sense of unity and gratitude. Physical Fitness through Exercises: A short session of physical exercises during the assembly promotes fitness, energy, and focus throughout the day. Promotes Hygiene Awareness: Teachers take time to check student hygiene, encouraging personal cleanliness and health awareness.

Morning Assembly indeed beneficial exercise for the learners.

Morning assembly is not merely a ritual; it is a foundation stone for building discipline, awareness, talent, and a positive school culture. It teaches students to stand tall, speak up, and stay grounded in values—all essential ingredients for a successful and responsible life.

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Scroll Culture And Superstition: Mental Slavery In The Age Of Technology



■ **Dr. Satyawan Saurabh**

Today is the age of technology and information. There is a mobile in every hand, internet in every pocket. But have we really become more aware, or have we just become slaves of fingers sliding on the screen?

People are engrossed in an endless world of ads, videos, memes, reels and tricks. The "scroll culture" has cut off our attention span. Things that were previously deeply understood are now reduced to 30-second shorts and 280-character posts.

Our brains are filled with superficial information, but the depth of knowledge has been lost. There was a time when we would read long articles in the newspaper, discuss them, ponder over them. Now we "scroll" - without stopping, without thinking. The result?

Mental exhaustion, loneliness, competition to show off and digital depression. People post smiling selfies but are broken from within. There is a deep emptiness hidden behind 'hashtag happy'.

So-called 'influencers' on social media are now giving advice in every sphere of life - health, education, relationships, even spirituality. But their knowledge is superficial, and the objective? Views and likes. Those who do not know how to manage their own mental health have become 'mental health experts'. The scroll culture has fragmented our thinking. On one hand there is talk of 'mindfulness', on the other hand we are getting disconnected from



ourselves.

People waste hours scrolling through social media but have lost the power of real conversation. One click brings thousands of opinions, but who can verify their validity?

In the technological age, it was hoped that superstitions would end. But now they have become 'digital ghosts'. On WhatsApp: "Must read this mantra at night..." On Facebook: "Send this photo to 5 people, otherwise misfortune will come" On YouTube: "Miraculous remedy to remove Pitra Dosh"

Is this Digital India? Or a new fort of superstition?

Even educated people are looking for solutions from the videos of "Mahadev uncle" instead of scientific thinking.

People are afraid of the uncertainty of life. In this fear, they resort to superstition, which gives them the illusion of emotional security.

There is information on the Internet, but the ability to sort it out has not been taught. As a result, even lies seem true.

Everyone has become a motivational speaker, life coach, astrologer. Without any authenticity. Their aim is traffic and money. In childhood, if we ask questions, we are scolded - 'Have faith'. This thinking enables us to absorb misleading content as we become adults.

According to a report, on an average, an Indian youth spends 4-6 hours on social media every day. How many times does he connect with himself during this time?

While scrolling, we see glimpses of others' lives - pictures of their parties, holidays, happiness - and become dissatisfied with our own lives. This comparison gives rise to an inner restlessness and depression. We have turned life into a reel. What is seen sells - this thinking is hollowing out the soul.

Lack of sleep, distractibility, social anxiety, self-doubt, suicidal tendencies - these are all the mental consequences of scroll culture. Many studies have found that excessive use of Instagram, TikTok and Facebook increases self-doubt and depression in teenagers and young people.

TV channels also now garner TRPs from programmes like 'Mysterious Temple', 'Haunted Haveli', 'Astrological

Solutions'. Advertising companies also sell products by scaring people with words like 'Rahu-Ketu Dosh'. When the institutions themselves work against the scientific approach, how can the public become aware?

Spend 1 hour mobile-free every day. Do digital detox 1 day a week. Do not look at the screen for 1 hour before sleeping at night. Do not form an opinion based on incomplete information. Do not doubt everything, but think about everything. Encourage children to ask questions. Adopt an education system based on science, logic and facts.

There should be courses like 'How to check information' in schools. 'Fact checking' should become a social habit. Don't believe everything you see on YouTube. Connect religion to the soul, not fear. Faith means understanding, not blind following. Investigate so-called miraculous solutions.

Technology claimed to connect us, but today we are disconnected from everything - from ourselves, and from society. We are on the screen, but out of life. We click but don't feel.

In this noise of social media, the voice of introspection has been lost somewhere. Today, the biggest need is digital detox and mental ideological renaissance. Otherwise, this scroll culture and superstition together will take us to that dark age, where there will be light - only emanating from the screen - but there will be utter darkness inside.

Knowledge never comes in a scroll, it demands a pause. Faith is never blind, it gets strength from logic. And the biggest rebellion in today's time is - thinking.

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The Four-Laning NH-44



■ **Mool Raj**

The National Highway-44 (NH-44), the main route that links Jammu and Srinagar, the hilly Banihal-Ramban Sector has become a hotspot for environmental concerns. As most part of this stretch reverberates with periodic rockfalls, landslides, slope collapses, and mud flows. These frequent occurrences are signs of a more serious ecological problem rather than being random occurrences. The phrase "the mountains are taking revenge" is frequently used by locals to convey their grief; it is a potent metaphor for how nature is reacting to unbridled human demands. Despite being deeply rooted in local opinion, this occurrence represents a genuine and serious alteration in the landscape brought about by unscientific development practices, geological fragility, and climate change.

Climate change is one of the main natural elements causing this catastrophe. Unpredictable rainfall patterns, frequent cloudbursts, and a discernible increase in ambient temperatures are among the more unpredictable weather patterns the region is seeing. In addition to directly affecting the frequency and severity of landslides, these changes have upset the conventional weather cycle. For instance, severe rainstorms flood the broken rocks and loose, weathered soil, making slope collapses more likely. In recent years, cloudbursts—sudden, intense rainstorms—have become more frequent. Particularly destructive was the cloudburst that occurred in 2022 close to Seri village, which demonstrated how quickly such severe weather conditions may wash away whole sections of the roadway. The stability of the rocks and soil has also been further diminished by warming temperatures, which have also changed the freeze-thaw cycle and undermined the permafrost at higher elevations.

Ramban's innate geological fragility adds to these natural difficulties. The area belongs to a young fold mountain system, which is distinguished by unstable, fractured, and strongly jointed rock formations. The risk of landslides is naturally increased by the high angles of many of the slopes along NH-44, which often exceed 45 degrees. The sandstones, clayey soils, and decomposed shale that make up these slopes are all

extremely vulnerable to erosion and displacement when disturbed. The already tenuous equilibrium is upset when these fragile strata are exposed during highway building or widening, leading to significant slope collapses. Because they are built without a thorough understanding of the underlying geology, retaining walls and embankments frequently fail.

Human intervention, particularly in the form of haphazard development and infrastructure growth, is another important factor contributing to the so-called "mountain revenge." Along NH-44, roadside shops, dhabas, hotels, and parking lots have grown quickly and frequently haphazardly due to the increasing need for transportation, tourism, and economic linkages. Often, these buildings are constructed without any kind of drainage or slope-retention design on steep or loose slopes. Water seeps into the slopes after rains, raising pore pressure and compromising the soil's structural stability. This causes erosion and mudslides often. Drainage systems are frequently either non-existent or obstructed, which exacerbates the issue by channelling water flow into susceptible locations.

The practice of significant toe cutting and tunnelling during highway expansion and upgrading projects is equally concerning. Tunnelling operations, like those between Nashri and Banihal, pierce geologically delicate areas, upsetting the rock mass's equilibrium and frequently causing internal collapses or surface subsidence. Similarly, the natural stability of slopes is undermined by toe cutting, which is the removal of a hill or slope's base to make room for road building. A hill's higher layers lose its basic stability and are more liable to collapse when the base is removed or disturbed, particularly when seismic activity or rainfall is present. These engineering techniques become a formula for catastrophe if they are not supported by comprehensive geological investigations and mitigation strategies.

Another major factor contributing to the destabilisation of the ground is the high volume of automobile traffic along NH-44. The military uses this roadway as a vital supply line in addition to being a route for civilian traffic. Every day, thousands of vehicles pass through this area, including convoys, buses, and trucks that are fully loaded. The weakly held rocks and sediments along the slopes are disturbed by the continuous vibrations brought on by high traffic. Additionally, the already delicate ecology is further weakened by the heat and pollution released by vehicles in traffic jams. The sheer volume of traffic puts additional strain on the terrain in places like Ramsu, Nachlana, and Mehar that are narrow and prone to landslides.

This ecological catastrophe now has an additional dimension due to deforestation. Because their root



systems bind the soil and absorb excess water, trees and other plants are essential for stabilising mountain slopes. However, the NH-44 corridor has seen the clearing of large tracts of forest cover in the name of development. This crucial natural barrier has vanished as a result of road building, timber harvesting, and population growth. Rainfall immediately affects the exposed soil in the absence of trees, accelerating erosion and making it more vulnerable to slides. Additionally, local biodiversity has been disturbed and the environment's inherent resistance to climatic shocks has been diminished due to the loss of forest ecosystems.

This cumulative deterioration has serious repercussions. Landslides at Ramban cause fatalities, damage to infrastructure and automobiles, and extended highway closures each year for days and even weeks, the financial losses are enormous. Perishable items are frequently wasted, emergency services are delayed, and travellers are left stranded. Even though these

tragedies happen often, the reaction is still mostly reactive, concentrating on debris removal rather than averting more occurrences.

A thorough and sustainable strategy is needed to stop the cycle of devastation and bring equilibrium back to this environmentally delicate area. First and foremost, thorough geotechnical and environmental impact studies must be conducted prior to construction and road-widening projects. Only under rigorous scientific supervision, with appropriate stabilisation measures in place, tunnelling and slope-cutting operations be conducted. Long-term slope stabilisation solutions can be obtained using bioengineering methods such retaining walls with native vegetation, vetiver grass, and geo-grids. To improve soil cohesiveness and restore the green cover, reforestation initiatives must be given top priority. In order to avoid settlements on dangerous slopes, zoning regulations should be severely implemented and unplanned building should be tightly controlled.

Preventing water buildup and seepage into the slopes also requires improved drainage systems. Slope movement can be identified and timely notifications can be sent with the use of real-time monitoring systems, such as early warning networks and remote sensors. Furthermore, the strain on the highway can be lessened by traffic management techniques including use of alternate Routes like Mughal Road and Sinthen-Kishtawar roads and seasonal movement patterns. The introduction of train services to Jammu will emerge as a vital step toward reducing traffic congestion on NH-44, easing the pressure on this already fragile and landslide-prone highway corridor. Last but not least, community involvement and awareness-raising initiatives are essential for fostering local resilience and making sure that development is done in a way that respects the environment.

Finally, Ramban's depiction of the "revenge of the mountains" is a reflection of nature's opposition to unsustainable human behaviours rather than a myth or artistic exaggeration. A perfect storm of environmental fragility has been generated by the region's distinct terrain, unchecked development, and climate change. The consequences will only increase in terms of human lives, ecological balance, and economic stability if we ignore these warning indicators. The moment has come to reconsider our connection with the mountains as living systems that should be appreciated and conserved rather than as challenges to be overcome.

The Author is a Regular Columnist and Freelance Writer

Emerging and Resurging Vector-Borne Diseases



■ Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo



Recently, I attended an educational activity on emerging Vector-borne diseases, organized by American College of Physicians(USA), of which I happen to be a member. The focus of this article is to highlight various aspects regarding the emerging and resurgence of Vector-borne diseases at global level with particular emphasis on our country's response to such emerging trends.

To begin with, Vector-borne diseases are human illnesses caused by parasites, viruses and bacteria that are transmitted by vectors (living organisms that can transmit infectious pathogens between humans, or from animals to humans).

As per World Health Organization data, vector-borne diseases account for more than 17% of all infectious diseases -- causing more than 700,000 deaths annually -- from diseases such as malaria, dengue, schistosomiasis, human African trypanosomiasis, leishmaniasis, Chagas disease, yellow fever, Japanese encephalitis, onchocerciasis, chikungunya fever, Zika virus fever, West Nile fever, and, tick-borne encephalitis.

Malaria is a parasitic infection transmitted by Anopheline mosquitoes. As per World Health Organization, it causes an estimated 249 million cases globally, and results in more than 608,000 deaths every year. Most of the deaths occur in children under the age of 5 years.

Dengue is the most prevalent viral infection transmitted by Aedes mosquitoes. As per World Health Organization, more than 3.9 billion people in over 132 countries are at risk of contracting dengue, with an estimated 96 million symptomatic cases and an estimated 40,000 deaths occurring every year.

While many of these vector-borne diseases are preventable through protective measures and community mobilization, however their distribution is determined by a complex set of demographic, environmental and social factors. Global travel and trade, unplanned urbanization, climate change and silent spread and adaptation of the vectors have all contributed to the spread of vector-borne diseases.

Climate change poses as a biggest environmental threat. It substantially affects pathogens (parasites, viruses and bacteria), vectors, and reservoir hosts, having implications for the transmission of many vector-borne diseases. These trends are expected to continue as the climate continues to get warmer. The Global Vector Control Response (GVCR), 2017-2030 approved by the World Health Assembly in 2017 -- provides strategic guidance to countries and development

partners for urgently strengthening vector control as a fundamental approach to preventing disease and responding to outbreaks.

To achieve this, further strengthening of vector control programmes is required, supported by increased technical capacity, improved infrastructure, strengthened monitoring and surveillance systems, and greater community mobilization.

Moreover, implementation of a comprehensive approach to vector control will enable the achievement of disease-specific national and global goals, thereby contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals and universal health coverage.

In India, the National Center for Vector Borne Diseases Control (NCVBDC) administers an umbrella programme, namely, National Vector Borne Diseases Control Programme (NVBDCP) for prevention and control of vector borne diseases namely Malaria, Japanese Encephalitis, Dengue, Chikungunya, Kala-azar and Lymphatic Filariasis.

Out of them three diseases namely, Malaria, Lymphatic Filariasis and Kala-azar are targeted for elimination. Malaria, Dengue and JE are outbreak prone and climate sensitive. The States/UTs are responsible for implementation of the programme, whereas NCVBDC provides technical and financial assistance to the States/UTs in the form of cash & commodity, under the overarching umbrella scheme of National Health Mission (NHM).

The epidemiology of these vector borne diseases varies considerably on account of ecology, vector bionomics, economic, socio-cultural and behavioral factors. Generally, the high risk areas for VBDs are rural and tribal areas and urban slums inhabited by the poor, marginalized and vulnerable groups with limited access to quality health care, communication and other basic amenities in those focal areas.

A crucial element in reducing the burden of vector-borne diseases is behavioural change. Moreover, access to safe water and sanitation is a very important factor in disease control and elimination.

Personal prophylactic measures are important like -- use of mosquito repellent creams, liquids, coils, mats etc.; wearing of full sleeve shirts and full pants with socks; use of bed-nets for sleeping infants and young children during day time to prevent mosquito bite.

Moreover, environmental management and source reduction methods; biological control; chemical control; health education and awareness in the community -- are crucial in controlling vector borne diseases.

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Emergency or Expediency?

AYUSH Doctors Are Not A Substitute For MBBS Doctors

■ Abu Hasnain
■ HT Spl. Correspondent

Something dangerously dishonest is being passed off as healthcare management in Jammu and Kashmir. In CHC/PHCs and even SDH across the UT, AYUSH doctors: trained in Ayurveda, Unani, and Homeopathy are being made to shoulder emergency night duties meant exclusively for MBBS doctors. It is happening quietly, consistently, and in clear violation of every law, guideline, and ethical code that defines medical practice in India.

This is not a staffing innovation; it is a systemic betrayal. A betrayal of law, of patients, and of the very professionals being misused under the illusion of public service.

Let's call it what it is: illegal substitution. The Directorate of Indian Systems of Medicine (ISM) now renamed as Directorate of AYUSH has repeatedly stated; most notably through Circular No. DISM/NHM/2021/258 that AYUSH doctors are not to be posted in emergency or night shifts in allopathic setups.

Additional circulars, like DISM/681/1205-22 and 1205-23, cite specific provisions of the Indian Medicine Central Council Act and J&K Ayurvedic and Unani Practitioners Act, both of which make cross-practice without dual qualifications a punishable offence. Even the NABH, the national hospital accreditation body, warned in December 2020 that assigning AYUSH doctors in allopathic ICUs or emergencies could strip institutions of their accreditation.

Still, the practice continues. The law is unambiguous. So why does the administration continue to act like it's above both?



Because it can. Because the victims: young, underpaid NHM-contracted AYUSH doctors; rarely have the power to refuse. They are coerced into these roles with little preparation and no legal protection,

integrative medicine; it is institutional malpractice.

AYUSH doctors have a respected place in India's healthcare system. Let them work in chronic care, wellness clinics, preventive health, administrative, community-based services. Let them serve the public within the scope of their training. But don't throw them into a

HT EXCLUSIVE ANALYSIS

left to fend for themselves in emergencies. And if something goes wrong, they alone are made to answer.

This isn't healthcare. It is an administrative shortcut masquerading as crisis management. And it puts lives; patients and practitioners alike; at direct risk.

The argument from the top is predictable: there is a shortage of MBBS doctors. That may be true. But it does not entitle the system to bypass the law and gamble with lives. If there's a shortfall, recruit. If rural postings are unattractive, incentivise them. If support is lacking, build referral networks or strengthen telemedicine. Do what is right; not what is easy.

Because what is happening now isn't

burning theatre and expect them to perform surgery.

To the Chief Secretary of J&K, who once held the health portfolio: this is a crisis you know too well. You know the law. You know the clinical risks. And you know the consequences of silence. If ever there was a moment to act, it is now. Issue the order. Reinforce the boundaries. Restore the dignity of the AYUSH cadre and stop using them as expendable substitutes for a failing system.

Healthcare must be built on law, science, and ethics; not convenience.

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313 Blood Donors Kashmir Volunteers Organize Blood Donation Camp in Sopore



■ Khan Jahangeer

SOPORE, JULY 23: The 313 Blood Donors Kashmir Volunteers Trust, in collaboration with the Tehsil Legal Services Committee Sopore and GMC Baramulla, on Wednesday organized a blood donation camp at the Court Complex Sopore.

As per details available with news agency JKNS, the camp witnessed active participation from the legal fraternity and administration. Chief Judicial Magistrate Sopore/Sub Judge and Chairman Tehsil Legal Services Authority, Mir Wajahat, and Usman Khurshid, DMMT/Munif Sopore, also donated

blood on the occasion.

The event was attended by ADCS.A. Raina Sopore also participated in the camp. Station House Officer Sopore Iftikhar Ahmad, Bar Association President Faisal Jan Anim, Vice President Manzoor Ahmad Gazii, General Secretary Adv Sameer Ahmad Dar, and several other dignitaries.

Around 80 blood points were donated during the camp, with volunteers stating their target was to reach 100 units. Males and females also donated the blood during the camp. "It is a good initiative and an important step towards saving lives," said one of the volunteers. (JKNS)

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Ahmedabad crash: India working with UK on issue of wrong bodies

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 23: Responding to a news report about an alleged mix up in the identification of bodies of two British nationals killed in the Air India flight 171 crash, India today said it is "working closely" with the UK to address the concerns. Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, responding to the Daily Mail's report, said that the Indian authorities are working with their UK counterparts. "We've seen the report and have been working closely with the UK since these concerns were

raised. Following the tragic crash, victim identification was carried out by authorities according to established protocols and technical requirements. All mortal remains were handled with utmost professionalism and dignity. We continue to work with UK authorities to address any related concerns," the official said in a statement. Notably, India's response on the issue comes as Prime Minister Narendra Modi begins a two-day official visit to the UK. All but one of the 242 people on board were killed as the London-bound Boeing 787 flight crashed soon after take-off from Ahmedabad airport on June 12. Nineteen



more people on the ground were also killed. Fifty-two of the killed were British nationals. On Tuesday, the UK's Daily

Mail newspaper reported that the bodies of two British victims were wrongly identified before being repatriated to the UK.

The news report claimed that relatives of one victim abandoned funeral plans after getting to know that their coffin had the body of an unknown passenger, and not that of their family member. Similarly in another case, remnants of more than one person killed in the crash were mistakenly kept in the same casket. They were to be separated before being sent, the report claimed. A high-level probe into the matter is underway in the UK and India, and that British Prime Minister Keir Starmer is "expected to raise concerns" with Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to the UK, it said. UNISKRN

Earth's Spin Speed May Force Clock Change

United News of India

CALIFORNIA, JULY 23: As the Earth is spinning faster this summer, the days have become marginally shorter, attracting the attention of scientists and timekeepers. July 10 was the shortest day of the year so far, lasting 1.36 milliseconds less than 24 hours, according to data from the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service and the US Naval Observatory, compiled by timeanddate.com. More exceptionally, short days are coming on July 22 and August five, currently predicted to be 1.34 and 1.25 milliseconds shorter than 24 hours, respectively, reported CNN. The length of a day is the time it takes for the planet to complete one full rotation on its axis—24 hours or 86,400 seconds on average. But in reality, each rotation is slightly irregular due to a variety of factors, such as the gravitational pull of the moon, seasonal changes in the atmosphere and the influence of Earth's liquid core.

As a result, a full rotation usually takes slightly less or slightly more than 86,400 seconds—a discrepancy of just milliseconds that doesn't have any obvious effect on everyday life. However, these discrepancies can, in the long run, affect computers, satellites and telecommunications, which is why even the smallest time deviations are tracked using atomic clocks, which were introduced in 1955. Some experts believe this could lead to a scenario similar to the Y2K problem, which threatened to bring modern civilization to a halt. Atomic clocks count the oscillations of atoms held in a vacuum chamber within the clock itself to calculate 24 hours to the utmost degree of precision. We call the resulting time UTC, or Coordinated Universal Time, which is based on around 450 atomic clocks and is the global standard for time-keeping, as well as the time to which all our phones and computers are set. Astronomers also keep track of Earth's rotation—using satellites that check the position of the planet relative to fixed stars, for example—and can detect minute differences between the atomic clocks' time and the amount of time it actually takes Earth to complete a full rotation. Last year, on July five, 2024, Earth experienced the shortest day ever recorded since the advent of the atomic clock 65 years ago, at 1.66 milliseconds less than 24 hours. "We've been on a trend toward slightly faster



days since 1972," said Duncan Agnew, a professor emeritus of geophysics at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and a research geophysicist at the University of California, San Diego.

Since 1972, a total of 27 leap seconds have been added to the UTC, but the rate of addition has increasingly slowed, due to Earth speeding up; nine leap seconds were added throughout the 1970s while no new leap seconds have been added since 2016. In 1972, after decades of rotating relatively slowly, Earth's spin had accumulated such a delay relative to atomic time that the International Earth Rotation and Reference Systems Service mandated the addition of a "leap second" to the UTC. This is similar to the leap year, which adds an extra day to February every four years to account for the discrepancy between the Gregorian calendar and the time it takes for Earth to complete one orbit around the sun. The shortest-term changes in Earth's rotation, Agnew said, come from the moon and the tides, which make it spin slower when the satellite is over the equator and faster when it's at higher or lower altitudes. This effect compounds with the fact that during the summer Earth naturally spins faster—the result of the atmosphere itself slowing down due to seasonal changes, such as the jet stream moving north or south; the laws of physics dictate that the overall angular momentum of Earth and its atmosphere must remain constant, so the rotation speed lost by the atmosphere is picked up by the planet itself. Similarly, for the past 50 years, Earth's liquid core has also been slowing down, with the solid Earth around it speeding up. By looking at the combination of these effects, scientists can predict if an upcoming day could be particularly short. "These fluctuations have short-period correlations, which means that if Earth is speeding up on one day, it tends to be speeding up the next day, too," said Judah Levine, a physicist and a fellow of the National Institute of Standards and Technology in the time and frequency division. While one short day doesn't make any difference, Levine said, the recent trend of shorter days is increasing the possibility of a negative leap second. The prospect of a negative leap second raises concerns because there are still ongoing problems with positive leap seconds after 50 years, he explained. UNISKRN

Turtle excluder devices made mandatory in coastal states: Govt

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 23: All nine coastal States—Gujarat, Maharashtra, Goa, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, and West Bengal—have amended their respective legislation to mandate the use of turtle excluder devices (TEDs) in trawl nets to save the endangered marine species from extinction, the Government told Parliament today.

"The move is aimed at strengthening the implementation of India's marine turtle conservation programme," Union Minister of State for Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, George Kurian said in a written reply to the Rajya Sabha.

He said Centre has urged states and UTs to issue appropriate notifications and circulars under existing MFRA provisions, and to consider the immediate declaration of turtle conservation zones.

Meanwhile, the UT Administrations of Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep have disallowed bottom trawl fishing entirely, said the Minister.

He also shared that the ICAR—Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT) has developed a TED model in accordance with specifications issued by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). To facilitate widespread adoption, four agencies have been empanelled by ICAR-CIFT for TED fabrication, with each unit costing Rs 23,485.

The implementation of TEDs has been incorporated as a component under the Central Sector Scheme of the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), with provision for 100% financial assistance. UNISKRN

India's 2nd indigenous pollution control vessel Samudra Prachet launched in Goa

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 23: Samudra Prachet, the last of the two indigenous Pollution Control Vessels (PCVs) constructed by Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL) was today launched for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) in Goa.

With 72 percent indigenous content, the project has significantly contributed to national capability-building, employment generation, and skills enhancement, through active engagement of the local industry and MSMEs, a Defence Ministry statement said.

Director General ICG (DGICG) Paramesh Sivamani during his address highlighted the importance of PCVs for ICG in maritime domain.

He appreciated the efforts put in by GSL and industry in ensuring that major shipbuilding requirements of ICG are fulfilled indigenously. Further, he exhorted all present to ensure that the march towards Aatmanirbharta in defence production is pursued in the right earnest.

Meanwhile, speaking on the occasion, Chairman & Managing Director of GSL, Brajesh Kumar Upadhyay, underscored the critical importance of this platform in advancing India's maritime environmental preparedness. He also commended the dedi-



cated efforts of team GSL for achieving the exceptional indigenous content, a significant contribution to the vision of Aatmanirbhara Bharat.

These ships have been fitted with state-of-art response equipment and these vessels will help ICG in quick and effective response to any oil spill in the Exclusive Economic Zone.

Measuring 114.5 metres in length and 16.5 metres in breadth, the ship has a displacement of 4,170 tonnes and will be crewed by 14 officers and 115 sailors.

It is equipped with two side-sweeping arms capable of collecting oil spills while underway, as well as a modern radar system for detecting oil slicks. The vessel is engineered to recover oil across the full viscosity spectrum, pump in contaminated water, analyse and separate pollutants, and store recovered oil in dedicated onboard tanks.

The First Pollution Control Vessel was launched on August 29, last year and is expected to be delivered soon. UNISKRN

Indian scientists develop affordable nano-sensor to detect deadly infections in minutes

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 23: A team of scientists from the Calicut-based National Institute of Technology under the Department of Science and Technology (DST) has developed a highly sensitive, low-cost, portable device for accurately detecting endotoxins that causes sepsis.

Sepsis is a serious medical condition caused by an infection that can lead to multiple organ failure, shock and even death. Early and accurate diagnosis is crucial for timely therapeutic intervention and improving patient outcomes, which in turn directly impact mortality rates. Early diagnosis is possible with the precise and sensitive detection of specific biomarkers. Endotoxin, a toxic component

of the outer membrane of Gram-negative bacteria, acts as a key biomarker, signalling the presence of an infection that could lead to sepsis.

However, its detection could be easier now with the scientists developing eight distinct sensor architectures and a sensitive, low-cost, portable device that can be used at the bedside of the patient in near future, said a statement from the DST.

Seven of them developed by Dr. N. Sandhyarani, Professor, NIT and her team employed electrochemical detection and one utilized optical detection. "In all the sensors, appropriately modified nanomaterials such as gold atomic clusters or nanoparticles, CuO, or Cu nanoclusters, MoS2, reduced graphene oxide, or carbon nanotubes were used for enhancing

the sensitivity," said the statement.

In a paper published in the journal Langmuir, the team has demonstrated a highly sensitive electrochemical sensor chip designed for the selective detection of Lipopolysaccharide (LPS), which is compatible with a portable analyzer for on-site detection. The sensor is fabricated using functionalized CNT (fCNT) and copper(I) oxide nanoparticles (Cu2O).

The specific binding of endotoxin to LPS-binding Aptamers or polymyxin B was used to improve selectivity. All the sensors have exhibited high selectivity and detected endotoxin in the presence of other interfering compounds. The presence of endotoxin is also detected in pharmaceutical drug-Biphase

isophane insulin, fruit juices, and whole blood by the standard addition method. Endotoxin recovery was within 2 percent error in all the cases, as per the statement.

Two of these electrochemical platforms demonstrated versatility by enabling the sensitive detection of Gram-negative bacteria, specifically E. coli, in water samples.

The analysis demonstrates that the quantification of E. coli using these platforms is comparable to traditional biological methods, and also reduces analysis time. This highlights their potential for efficient water quality monitoring, said the statement.

After creating various electrochemical sensor surfaces, we the team shifted focus to building a point-of-care device. The team has designed, built, and tested a

portable and cost-effective electrochemical biosensor prototype specifically for endotoxin detection. This device detects endotoxin in blood serum using a standard addition method, providing results within 10 minutes.

This research, supported by the Nano Mission of the DST has resulted in seven publications in reputed international journals such as Biosensors and Bioelectronics, Langmuir, Analyst, and Analytica Chimica Acta and one granted patent for the prototype device, added the statement.

Efforts are now on to improve the sensitivity of the prototype device by refining the electronic design to enable a highly sensitive and selective point-of-care (POC) device suitable for rapid, bedside biomarker detection, it added. UNISKRN

Russia-Yemen intergovernmental commission to hold first Meeting in Sept

United News of India

MOSCOW, JULY 23: The first meeting of the Russian-Yemeni Intergovernmental Commission will take place in September in the Russian city of Makhachkala, the Russian Energy Ministry said today. "Russian Deputy Minister of Energy Roman Marshavin has held a business meeting with ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Yemen, Ahmed Salem Al-Wahishi. The main topic of the meeting was the preparation for the first meeting of the Russian-Yemeni Intergovernmental Commission, which will take place in September



2025 in Makhachkala," the ministry said in a statement. The officials also discussed a number of documents to be signed within the framework of the commission and outlined further steps for strengthening bilateral cooperation between Russia and Yemen, the ministry said. UNISKRN

JAPAN'S PM ISHIBA MAY RESIGN IN AUGUST

United News of India

MOSCOW, JULY 23: Japan's embattled Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba may announce his resignation by the end of August, Japanese newspaper The Mainichi reported today. The reports came shortly after US President Donald Trump announced that he had reached a "massive Deal" with Japan, and days after Ishiba's governing coalition lost its majority in the country's upper house. Meanwhile, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper reported that Ishiba plans to announce his resignation already by the end of July to take responsibility for the

ruling coalition's defeat in the recent upper house elections. On Sunday, the Japanese ruling coalition of the Liberal Democratic Party and the Komeito party failed to secure the 50 seats they needed for parliamentary majority in the upper house. The ruling coalition now has 122 of 248 seats, compared to 141 seats before the election. The opposition, on the other hand, has significantly increased its presence in the upper house, now holding 126 seats. After the election, the prime minister said he had no plans to resign, reshape the government or expand the coalition. UNISKRN

Div Com Jammu Reviews Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch, Buddal-Mahore-Gool Road Projects

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 23: Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar reviewed the progress of work on Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch and Buddal-Mahore-Gool roads at a meeting. He discussed the land acquisition issues and stressed on inter-departmental coordination to remove bottlenecks, if any.

The Jammu-Akhnoor-Poonch road project, a part of National Highway 144A, involves widening of the

existing road to a 2-lane highway with paved shoulders. Similarly, Buddal-Mahore-Gool widening project aims to improve connectivity between the districts of Rajouri, Budhal, Gool, Ramban, and Reasi by upgrading the existing road to double-lane highway. The project involves upgrading the existing road to National Highway specifications.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests Jammu, Deputy Commissioners of



Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri and Reasi, Chief Engineer Project Beacon/Sampark. The Divisional Commissioner



was apprised by respective District Administrations and senior officials of Border Roads Organization

about the current status of the twin projects and progress made in terms of disbursement of compensation and removal of structures to facilitate up-gradation/construction of the roads.

The Div Com directed for speedy resolution of hindrances, if any, for timely execution of road construction works by the concerned executing agencies. He asked the district administrations to provide all possible assistance to the executing agency to ensure speedy execution of works.

Sat Sharma chairs BJP organizational meet in Nagrota, emphasizes booth, grassroots strengthening

HT News Desk

NAGROTA, JULY 23: J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chaired an organizational meeting of Mandal Dansal and Mandal Nagrota in the Nagrota Assembly Constituency today at Nagrota.

The meeting was attended by the Shakti Kendra, Booth Presidents and party workers with an aim to strengthen the party's grassroots structure and to review the organizational working in the area.

J&K BJP General Secretary Baldev Singh Billawaria, Jammu North District President Nand Kishore Sharma, Seh-Prabhari Vinay Gupta, Vistarak Inderjeet Sharma also addressed the meeting.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma said that the BJP draws



its strength from the dedication of its grassroots workers. He said that every activist is a pillar of our mission to serve the people. Regular interaction with the public and effective implementation of public welfare schemes must be

the priority of every activist. He encouraged the party leaders to focus on booth management, resolve local issues, and act as a bridge between the administration and the people.

Sharma further asked the

party leaders to intensify their grassroots efforts and work in alignment with the party's mission to empower every citizen and build a strong, self-reliant Jammu & Kashmir.

Baldev Singh Billawaria said that the party organization is only as strong as its foundation. He stated that the party's Shakti Kendra and booth units are the first point of contact with the people, and we must ensure their active and disciplined functioning.

Nand Kishore Sharma assured the senior party leadership that the Jammu North district will play a leading role in carrying out the party activities at ground level.

Before the meeting, Sat Sharma offered prayers at the sacred shrine of Mata Vaishno Devi in Kol Kandoli Mandir, Nagrota, seeking

blessings for peace and prosperity in Jammu & Kashmir. He was accompanied by Baldev Singh Billawaria and Nand Kishore Sharma during the visit.

Later, as part of the BJP's environmental commitment and on-going afforestation drive, Sat Sharma, along with other senior leaders, planted a sapling in the premises, encouraging party workers and locals to participate actively in plantation initiatives for a greener future.

Mandal Presidents Vikas Gupta and Sanjay Kumar, District Vice-President Rajinder Singh, along with prominent Sarpanchs including Satish Kumar, Capt. Piare Lal, and Chuni Singh, Vikrant Dev Singh, Pankaj, and several other local prominent leaders and workers were also present.

DC Udhmapur reviews Child protection measures

HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, JULY 23: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired the meeting of District-Level Task Force on child Labour-Child Abuse-CISS herein the Mini Conference Hall of DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by District Child Protection Officer Kanika Gupta, Secretary DLSA, SDMs, DySP Headquarters, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer and other concerned officials.

DCPO Kanika Gupta informed the chair about the role and responsibilities of different stakeholders in the Task Force. She particularly emphasized the pivotal role of the educational machinery especially school teachers in identifying and reporting instances of child abuse and child marriage. She also highlighted several challenges faced during raid operations and underscored the urgent need for the constitution of Sub-Division Level Task Forces for timely and localized intervention.



The DC issued directions to all Sub-Divisional Magistrates to immediately revive Sub-Division level Task Forces to identify and act against instances of child labour and child marriage. She further emphasized the need for coordinated efforts and active communication between all Task Forces to ensure effective enforcement.

The DC also stressed the importance of sensitization and awareness, especially in schools and communities to curb these social evils. She directed the Chief Education Officer to maintain a vigilant check on student dropouts and prolonged absences, which often act as early indicators of potential child abuse or marriage.

Terming child marriage and child labour as a gross violation of the Fundamental Right to Life and Dignity, the DC appealed to all stakeholders, officials and members of the public to act as Ambassadors of Change by reporting such cases and contributing towards the vision of a safe and protected environment for every child.

BADC Raises Hostel Issue of Eklavya School of Mendhar with Union Minister

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 23: The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organisation working for the welfare of border residents and tribal population of J&K, has taken a strong step by raising the issue of hostel shortage at Eklavya Model Residential School (EMRS), Mendhar (Border District Poonch) with the Union Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Dr. Shazad Ahmad Malik, Chairman JK-BADC and former Vice Chancellor, has written a letter to Union Tribal Affairs Minister Shri Jual Oram, seeking urgent action for arranging hostel facilities for nearly 60 newly admitted Class VI students, both boys and girls, who have joined the school after clearing the entrance test.

In his 2 page letter dated 22/July/2025, Dr. Shazad highlighted the difficulties being faced by these children, most of whom

belong to the underprivileged Scheduled Tribe (ST) community with very limited financial means.

"These children have worked hard to earn their place in the school, but are now suffering due to lack of hostel accommodation. In a remote border area like Mendhar, hostel is not a luxury — it is a basic need," the letter reads.

The letter has also been copied to the Secretary, Ministry of Tribal Affairs, and to Hon'ble MoS Tribal Affairs Shri Durgadas Uikey, to ensure the issue gets attention at the central level.

Dr. Shazad added that this step was taken after several local residents and tribal families from Mendhar met JK-BADC and shared their concerns.

He expressed hope that the Union Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, will take timely steps to solve this problem in the interest of the children and the community.

DC Ramban Reviews Arrangements for Sampoonnata Abhiyan Celebration and 7-Day Aakansha Haat

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, JULY 23: Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a meeting to finalize arrangements for the upcoming Sampoonnata Abhiyan celebration in Aspirational Block Khari and the 7-Day Aakansha Haat (Mela) at Ramban.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, General Manager DIC Ravinder Anand, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Mohammad Ashfaq, Assistant Commissioner Development Shrinath Suman, Chief Medical Officer, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of PWD and JPDC, BDOs, Tehsildars, and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of showcasing achievements under the Sampoonnata Abhiyan, which targets the saturation of six key developmental indicators in Aspirational

Block Khari.

As per the guidelines of NITI Aayog, it was decided that a grand celebration will be held in the premises of the BDO Office Khari, where officers and officials with exceptional contributions to the campaign will be felicitated.

The Sampoonnata Abhiyan, under the Aspirational Block Programme, is a significant initiative aimed at achieving "saturation" in key indicators—ensuring that all eligible individuals and communities benefit from government schemes and services.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed preparations for the Aakansha Haat, a week-long event focused on the sale and exhibition of local products, in addition to creating awareness and delivering benefits under various government schemes and welfare programmes. All departments were instructed to install stalls, display and sell products; offer on-the-spot services, and actively engage the public throughout the event.

DC inaugurates Didi Ki Rasoi at Polytechnic College Reasi

Women SHG-Run Canteen Serves Affordable, Nutritious Meals

HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, JULY 23: In a significant move towards women empowerment and community development, the Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today inaugurated the "Didi Ki Rasoi" canteen at Government Polytechnic College Reasi.

The canteen is operated by Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs) formed under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana - National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) and aims to offer affordable, nutritious, home-cooked meals to students, faculty, visitors and the general public.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Project Officer DUDA Udhampur-Reasi, Jaffar Azad; Principal of the Institution Er. Arun Bangotra and other officials.

The initiative serves a dual purpose of providing Women SHG a sustainable source of income and ensuring access to healthy & hygienic food at reasonably price to the community.



It also serves as a platform for SHG members to showcase their culinary talent and entrepreneurial capabilities.

Addressing the gathering, the

DC appreciated the SHG members and the concerned departments for launching the initiative. She emphasized the importance of economic independence of wom-

en, noting that the venture "Didi Ki Rasoi" will enhance the confidence, skill and leadership abilities of the SHG members.

The Deputy Commissioner further reiterated that the district administration is committed to holistic and inclusive development, and similar initiatives will be promoted across Reasi to ensure community participation in local development.

To mark the occasion, Silver Oak and Sukh Chain trees were planted at the canteen site. The green initiative symbolizes harmony, prosperity, and environmental consciousness, aligning with the administration's focus on sustainable development and community well-being.

The launch of "Didi Ki Rasoi" reflects the core values of the DAY-NULM scheme, offering marginalized women opportunities for skill enhancement, entrepreneurship, and financial independence. The initiative stands as a model of empowerment and progress, reinforcing the vision of a self-reliant and healthy Reasi district.

DC Poonch reviews progress of Sanitation Projects

HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, JULY 23: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal chaired a meeting of the District Sanitation Committee today to review the implementation of projects under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen).

The review meeting focused on creation of sanitation assets including composite pits, community soakage pits, community sanitary complexes, DEWATs (Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems), WASPs (Waste to Wealth Plants), FSTPs (Fecal Sludge Treatment Plants), PWMUs (Panchayat Water Management Units), segregation sheds, and Gobardhan plants.

The DC assessed the status of ongoing works and laid out clear directions for expediting all phases—ranging from land identification and tendering to work allotment and execution. He stressed the urgency of timely completion to cater to the sanitation needs of rural areas.

The Assistant Commissioner Panchayat presented a comprehensive block-wise report outlining achievements as well as bottlenecks affecting progress.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Assistant Commissioner Revenue and all Tehsildars to immediately identify suitable land for the projects with-



in their respective jurisdictions. He also directed the concerned officers to fast-track the tendering process and remove procedural delays.

The meeting was attended by the Programme Officer Poshan, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Assistant Commissioner Development, Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and Irrigation & Flood Control, Chief Agriculture Officer, Chief Education Officer, Chief Medical Officer, all Tehsildars, District Information Officer, Block Development Officers (BDOs) and other concerned officials.

DC Bandipora visits Zurimanz Village, assures timely redressal of public grievances

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JULY 23: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Wednesday visited Zurimanz village to assess public concerns and developmental needs.

During the visit, residents raised several pressing demands, including the upgradation of the main access road, which frequently gets submerged due to the rise in Wular

Lake water levels.

Other key issues included the shifting of the New Type Primary Health Centre (NTPHC) to government accommodation, resumption of the halted construction work on the local hospital, availability of doctors and ambulance services at the NTPHC, surplus ration distribution, creation of a separate Pan-chayat Halqa, and the development of a designated parking area in the village.

DC gave a patient hearing to the

grievances and assured the public that all demands would be addressed in a time-bound manner. Regarding the road submergence issue, he informed that the proposal for upgradation has already been submitted to the government and is under consideration for approval.

Among others, the DC was accompanied by the Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Tehsildar Bandipora, and other concerned officers from the district administration.

Cultural Unit Kashmir of DIPR organizes awareness programme on 'Drug Menace' at BHSS Gulab Bagh

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 23: An awareness programme addressing the growing threat of drug abuse was today held at Boys Higher Secondary School (BHSS) Gulab Bagh under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, organized by the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information & Public Relations, Jammu and Kashmir (DIPR J&K).

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students and staff, aimed at spreading awareness about the harmful consequences of drug addiction.

A powerful and engaging skit was presented by the Yemberzal Youth Club, effectively highlighting the dangers of substance abuse. The play left a lasting impression on the audience and served as a strong reminder of the urgent need to stay away from drugs.



Principal of the institution, Oshia Jabeen Baba and Senior Lecturer Mumtaz Hussain Raja urged students to stay vigilant and act as agents of awareness in their communities. Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer Kashmir from the DIPR J&K, reiterated the department's commitment to conducting such programmes regularly in line with government directives. He stressed that raising awareness is key to fighting this social evil and encouraged youth to adopt a drug-free lifestyle.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by all participants to stand united against drug abuse and promote a healthier society.

The event concluded with a pledge taken by all participants to stand united against drug abuse and to spread awareness within their respective circles.

Nasha Mukht Abhiyan:

Cultural Unit Kashmir of DIPR organises awareness prog. at QMHSS Bamloora Ganderbal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, JULY 23: An awareness programme on the rising drug menace was today held at Qamaria Model Higher Secondary School (QMHSS) Bamloora, Ganderbal, under the Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan. The event was organized by the Cultural Unit Kashmir of Department of Information & Public Relations, Jammu and Kashmir (DIPR J&K), in collaboration with the district administration Ganderbal, through District Information Centre, Ganderbal.

The programme was coordinated by the Municipal Council Ganderbal, with active participation from departments viz. Education, Health, and Social Welfare, aiming to sensi-



tize the youth about the harmful effects of substance abuse. A moving and impactful folk song performance based on the theme of drug de-addiction was presented by a local artist group. The presentation left a strong impression on the audience and effectively conveyed the message of staying away from drugs. Officers and dignitaries present urged the students to stay aware, make informed choices, and take forward the message of a drug-free society within their families and communities.

DIPR remains committed to the cause and keen to organize such awareness programmes on a regular basis. These initiatives are aligned with the government's mission to eradicate drug abuse and foster a healthier, more responsible youth. The event concluded with all participants taking a pledge to stand united against drug addiction and to actively contribute to spreading awareness.

Public Notice

Correction in Name of parents
This is being made public that the name of my parents has been incorrectly recorded in JKBOSE as well as in my certificates as:

Fathers name : Dr Sheikh Neyaz
Mothers Name : Dr Afshan.
As per my Aadhar card and other documents my actual/real parentage is as under....

Fathers name: Sheikh Neyaz Ahmad
Mothers name: Afshan Majeed.
Now I want to correct the name of my parents as mentioned above.

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.

Ansab Nida Neyaz
D/O Sheikh Neyaz Ahmad
R/O 134, Umar Abad Sector A peer bagh Srinagar

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of OBC certificate applicant GH MOHD NAJAR S/O. MUKHTA AJAR R/O RESHIPORA Tehsil KREERI in favour of daughter's ZAHIDA AKHTER, AAMINA ALHTER, INSHA GUL & son BILAL AHMAD NAJAR R/O RESHIPORA for the issuance of OBC (Other Backward class) in his/her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of OBC in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of RESHIPORA of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the NAJAR community having annual income 120,000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. GH MOHD NAJAR Head 60 years Carpenter
2. MISRA BEGAM wife 55 years Housewife
3. BILAL AHMAD NAJAR Son 37 years carpenter
4. ZAHIDA AKHTER daughter 26 years W/O
5. AAMINA AKHTER //24 years student
6. INSHA GUL //17 years student
7. SURAYA JABEEN daughter 30 H/W

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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 of HUMAIRA JAN D/O LATE HANEFEA 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 HANEFEA 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

Public Notice

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 MAILK 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 Hammed Malik, F/o: Mohammad Atif Malik
R/o: Doulthpora, Tehsil: 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

Public Notice

My Name has been wrongly written in my Aadhar Card As Aadiya Ashiq D/O Tasleema Akther while my actual Name is Aydia Ashiq D/O Ashaq Hussain Tali .Now I want to correct it. If anyone have any objectionIn this regard He/She claim this with concerned authority within a period of 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertaine.

Name :Aydia Ashaq,
D/O Ashiq Hussain Tali, R/O:Ladhu Pampore,
Aadhar no. 8265-0533-0972

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

Health & Medical Education Department, Govt. of J&K

Government Medical College, Anantnag

College Campus, Dialgam Anantnag J&K-192210

Subject: Selection list for the tenure post of Senior Resident/Tutor in the Discipline of Microbiology & Radio-Diagnosis, Government Medical College Anantnag.

Notification No: 04 GMCA of 2025

Dated: 23-07-2025

Whereas, this office vide Advertisement Notice No. 03 GMCA (RA) of 2025 dated 10.05.2025 invited applications from the eligible candidates possessing requisite qualification for filling up tenure posts of Senior Resident/Tutor (in-service/not in-service doctors) in the various disciplines of Government Medical College, Anantnag as per Criteria/Policy Guidelines for eligibility/selection of the tenured positions of Senior Residents/Tutors issued vide Government Order No. 383-JK (HME) of 2024 dated 20.06.2024; and

Whereas, in response to the aforesaid Advertisement Notice, this office received various application forms in different departments/ disciplines; and

Whereas, as per of Government Order No. 383-JK(HME) of 2024 dated 20.06.2024 written test for a discipline may be dispensed if there is no vacancy or no vacancy is likely to accrue for the next six months or the numbr.cr of applications are less than or equal to the posts advertised; Whereas, on scrutiny of application forms, it was found that In the department/discipline of Microbiology & Radio-Diagnosis, the number of applications received were more than the number of available posts and the written test was therefore conducted on 09.07.2025 at Main Campos Dialgam as per Govt. Order No. 382-JK (HME) of 2024 dated 20.06.2024;

Whereas, the merit list of the candidates who appeared in the said written test was published vide this office notification dated 16.07.2025; and

Now, therefore, in light of the above, the selection list in the aforesaid disciplines as indicated in the Annexure 'A' to this Notification is hereby notified for information to the concerned.

The candidates figuring in the Annexure 'A' to this notification are hereby directed to report to the Office of the Principal, Government Medical College Anantnag along with the following documents within 07 days from the date of issuance of this notification, for submission of online form through Employee Verification System (EVS) for verification of character and antecedents to the concerned doctor(s);

1. Application form (in coloured)
2. Photocopies of all uploaded certificates.

However, if any candidate fails to report to the Office of Principal, Government Medical College Anantnag within the stipulated time, his/her selection in the concerned discipline shall forfeit without any further notice.

The PSC confirmed candidates are required to furnish the NOC from Director Health Services concerned before their engagement, failing which order will be issued in their favour.

S.No	Applicant Name	Qualification	Whether In-service	Discipline/ Department	Status
1	Dr. Amara Parvez Malik	MBBS, MD	No	Microbiology	Selected
2	Dr. Suhail Ahmad Khanday	MBBS, MD	No	Radio-Diagnosis	Selected
3	Dr. Arshad Hussain Bhat	MBBS, MD	Yes	Radio-Diagnosis	Selected

In case of tie in merit secured by two or more candidates in the written test, issued vide notification date 16-07-2025, the candidate with earlier date of birth (DOB) has been given preference.

No: GMCA/Estt/2025/4971-79 | Dated: 23-07-2025

Sd/- Principal/ Dean, Govt. Medical College, Anantnag

DIPK: 4092/25 | Dated: 23-07-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&B) Division Pattan

NOTICE INVITING E-TENDER | NIT No: 16 /R&B of 2025-26/ 1380-85 | Dated: 22.07.2025

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

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	MHA	Class	Project Authority
1	Construction of Biology lab. And Library Room at Boys Higher Secondary School Gosh Bugh Pattan Baramulla	39.38 lacs	1100/-	78760/	90 days	PAB	A,B	Education

Position Of AAA: Accorded

Position of T.S: Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	22-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	23-07-2025
3	Bid submission Start Date	23-07-2025
4	Bid Submission End Date	07-08-2025 4:00 PM
5	Date & time of opening of Bids (Online)	08-08-2025 11:00 AM Office of The Executive Engineer RnB Division Pattan

2. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of Treasury Challan (Dated between bid submission start date and bid submission end date) with NIT No. , Serial No. and name of work to be deposited in M.H. 0059 in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender inviting authority) Falling under thee Competence of under sign.

3. All the bidders must upload Earnest money /Bid security equal to 2% of advertised cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) (The Date of earnest money/Bid security should be between the Bid Submission start date and Bid submission End date, as per PWD norms).

4. The Successful bidder will have to provide performance security @ 5% of contract value in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority) as per rule-171 (1) of GFR 2017. The earnest money/ Bid security @2% shall be released to the successful bidder only on receipt of Performance Security @ 5% of Contract value which shall be released after successful completion of DLP /maintenance period for different nature of works i.e. for M&R works six months (6 months) Bituminous works Three Years (03 Years) and Building works Eighteen Months (18 months) etc as per Physical nature of work.

5. The date and time of opening of Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan (tender receiving authority).

6. The earnest money/ Bid security in favor of unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of original Treasury Challan.

7. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days s from the date of opening of Technical bids.

No: R&B / Divn./ 1380-85 | Dated: 22.07.2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer R&B Division Pattan

DIPK: 4136/25 | Dated: 23-07-2025

We're Only Asking What Was Promised: Aga Ruhulla

Mehdi hails Congress's clarity on J&K, urges other parties to support statehood demand

HT News Desk / KNS

NEW DEHLI, JULY 23: Jammu and Kashmir Member of Parliament Aga Ruhulla Mehdi on Wednesday said that the people of the region never chose to live voiceless or invisible, yet decades after joining the Indian Union, they are being made to feel exactly that.

According to KNS, speaking at the "Statehood Now" public meeting organised by the Forum for Human Rights in Jammu and Kashmir at the

Deputy Speaker's Hall, Constitution Club of India, Mehdi said, "We didn't sign up for immigration. We didn't sign up for slavery or helplessness. We joined India on the promise of dignity, equality, and mutual respect not to watch our future decided by others while we are forced to the sidelines."

He reflected on the year 1947, the moment when Jammu and Kashmir chose to stand with India, rejecting division and communal politics. That choice, he said, was built on

trust and constitutional guarantees like Article 370. According to KNS, Mehdi argued that today, that promise feels broken.

"Article 370 wasn't just a clause it was a safeguard. A way to honour our diversity, protect our identity, and shape our own destiny within the larger Indian family," he said.

Drawing comparisons with federal systems around the world from the United States to Germany Mehdi questioned why decentralised governance



is celebrated globally but viewed suspiciously when demanded by Kashmiris. "When a Bengali defends their identity, it's called culture. When a Maratha does it, it's pride. But when a Kashmiri speaks of the same, we're labelled anti-national. Why?" he asked.

According to KNS, Mehdi warned that ignoring regional voices and imposing top-down decisions, such as the 2019 abrogation of Article 370, damages not just Kashmir but the spirit

of India's democracy itself. "August 5 didn't just remove autonomy it removed trust," he said. "It raised a question: Who decides for us now? And what tools are left to defend our identity, our culture, our place in the Union?"

Urging the country to revisit the original spirit of unity, Mehdi said that Article 370 should not be seen as a threat, but as a model for inclusive, respectful federalism a roadmap for strengthening India's diverse democracy.

Javed Rana reviews water supply management, infra development in Jammu

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 23: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting to review the water supply management and infrastructure development in Jammu Province.

The meeting had threadbare discussion on status of water supply schemes and to strategize their augmentation to ensure adequate and sustainable water resources for the populace.

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Chief Engineer, PHE Jammu, Vikas Sharma, Superintending Engineers, Ajay Sharma and Sunil Gandotra.

The Minister stressed on the importance of early completion of ongoing Water Supply Schemes, prioritizing the early completion of ongoing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) schemes.

Emphasising on quick and efficient response mechanism to address any disruptions in the water supply system, Rana said that it is crucial to ensure the objectives of providing safe and potable water to every household are met in a timely manner.

The meeting also underscored the critical importance of regular cleaning and maintenance of water storage tanks to safeguard the quality of stored water and prevent contamination.

The Minister directed the concerned authorities to ensure the proper functioning of filtration plants,



which are instrumental in delivering clean and safe water to the community.

In addition, a key aspect of the discussion revolved around implementation of an effective water recharge strategy. This initiative is envisioned to bolster the sustainability of water resources, ensuring their replenishment and long-term availability.

The Minister also highlighted the urgent need for repair of defunct handpumps, which are a crucial source of water for many communities. He further reaffirmed the commitment of Government led by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to ensure effective implementation of these critical measures.

J&K Students Association Condemns Assault on Resident Doctor at SMHS; Demands Swift Action and FIR

Seeks Chief Minister's Intervention and Urgent Institutional Safety Measures

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 23: The Jammu & Kashmir Students Association (JKSA) on Wednesday expressed deep anguish and strongly condemned the recent brazen assault on a resident doctor at SMHS Hospital, Srinagar, by an attendant in full public view. This disturbing incident comes close on the heels of a similar attack on another doctor at Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu.

In a statement, the National Media Coordinator of the Association, Mir Zubair, said that such repeated acts of violence against healthcare professionals are not only deeply troubling but also reflect a dangerous and growing

trend that undermines the morale, safety, and dignity of the medical fraternity.

"Doctors are frontline defenders of public health. They often work under immense pressure, during long shifts, and in emotionally charged environments, especially in tertiary-care hospitals like SMHS and GMC. Any form of violence against them is unjustifiable and poses a grave threat to the integrity and functionality of our healthcare system," he said.

"This is a brazen attack on the very sanctity of healthcare. Srinagar Police must act swiftly and decisively to uphold the law and bring the perpetrator to justice. Such acts are utterly reprehensible and deserve unequivocal condemnation from every corner

of society, no caveats, no justifications," he emphasized.

He further said that, "The physical assault on a doctor by an attendant in full public view is both shameful and shocking. If the attendant had any grievance, it should have been reported to hospital authorities through the proper channels. Slapping a doctor who is there to save lives is not only unacceptable, it is inhumane. Hospitals are meant to be places of healing, not sites of violence."

While acknowledging the emotional stress that emergencies can cause for patients' families, Zubair added, "No amount of panic or distress can justify physically or verbally attacking doctors who work selflessly to

save lives. Violence against healthcare professionals must be condemned in the strongest possible terms."

The Association urged Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Health Minister Sakina Itoo to take immediate cognizance of these alarming developments. "We demand the direct intervention of the Chief Minister to ensure that such incidents are not repeated and that accountability is enforced through action, not words. We also call for the institution of strict safety protocols, deployment of adequate security personnel in hospitals, installation of CCTV surveillance systems, and the formation of hospital protection committees to safeguard doctors and other

medical staff," the Association added.

He asserted that, "A zero-tolerance policy towards any form of violence against healthcare workers must be strictly enforced. Swift, transparent, and exemplary legal action must be taken against the culprits so that justice is served and such incidents are not repeated."

Zubair added that, these assaults inflict severe emotional trauma on young resident doctors, lower morale across the healthcare workforce, and disrupt an already overstretched system. "If such incidents go unaddressed, they will dissuade future generations from joining the noble profession of medicine," he warned.

MLA Padder- Nagseni (LOP J&K Assembly) reviews arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra 2025

HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, JULY 23: Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Padder-Nagseni and Leader of Opposition (LOP) in J&K Assembly, Sunil Kumar Sharma, chaired a meeting to review arrangements for Shri Machail Mata Ji Yatra-2025, commencing from July 25, 2025.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma presented a detailed power point presentation on the arrangements made by the district administration.

The meeting was also attended by SSP Naresh Singh, ADDC Pawan Kotwal and officials of Machail Mata Yatra Cell. After threadbare discussion, the MLA directed EO MC Kishtwar for installation of sufficient mobile toilets at Shri Gori Shankar Mandir Sarkoot. The BDO Padder was directed to ensure cleanliness and sanitation, especially along Gulabgarh to Machail route.

EO MC was also directed to facilitate proper parking near ITI Kishtwar.

He also emphasized proper road maintenance from Kishtwar to Padder, particularly at Pathernaki landslide-prone area, while directing GREF Authorities and XEN PMGSY to keep standby men and machinery from Gulabgarh to Chishoti route.



Furthermore, the MLA directed for foolproof security, especially in shadow areas, and stationing of SDRF/ NDRF teams at vulnerable locations.

A technical team from JPDCL will be stationed at Yatri Bhawan Gulabgarh and Machail to address any electricity-related issues. - he directed.

SSP and ARTO were directed to explore possibilities for changing the

timing of heavy vehicles during the Yatra period to avoid inconvenience to devotees.

The CMO was directed to keep available adequate medicines and doctors at medical booths.

DC Kishtwar assured the MLA that the District administration is working tirelessly to put in place all necessary arrangements for the successful conduct of the yatra.

Doda: DLIC approves 157 cases under Mission YUVA

HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, JULY 23: Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA- a transformative initiative of Jammu and Kashmir Government to foster entrepreneurship at grassroots level.

During the deliberations, the Committee scrutinized and approved 157 new cases were, thereby catapulting the total number of approved cases to 398 - a significant milestone reflecting the district's proactive engagement in youth empowerment through sustainable self-employment.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner highlighted that Mission YUVA stands as a transformative initiative, designed not merely to foster entrepreneurship but also to channel the untapped potential of the District's youth into viable, productive avenues of livelihood.

He reiterated the District administration shall continue to extend unwavering support in the form of capacity building, mentorship, hand holding



assistance, and structured follow-ups to ensure seamless implementation and long-term viability of the approved projects.

Deputy Director Employment Rafiq Ahmad Jaral, while briefing the meeting, said that the youth of the district have responded with great enthusiasm to Mission YUVA, viewing it as a beacon of hope in an economy primarily dependent on agriculture and the service sector. He acknowledged that with the strategic implementation of Mission YUVA, a constellation of opportunities has emerged for the unemployed populace, significantly altering the employment dynamics of the District.

He further assured the chair that the officials of the Employment Department are endeavouring to prepare viable Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and provide continuous assistance to the aspiring entrepreneurs.

The meeting concluded on a resolute note, with all stakeholders collectively pledging to uphold the vision of Mission YUVA and to persist in their efforts to cultivate a self-reliant, industrious, and entrepreneurially vibrant youth demographic in District Doda.

Reasi admin discusses utilization plan for District Mineral Fund

DC emphasises zero tolerance policy against Illegal Mining; Asks for scaling up vigil

HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, JULY 23: Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik, chaired a crucial meeting of the District Mineral Foundation Trust (DMFT) to review the implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Khanij Kshetra Kalyan Yojana (PMKKKY) and ensure the optimal utilization of the District Mineral Fund for the welfare and development of mining-affected areas.

During the meeting, a comprehensive discussion was held on the proposed interventions and expenditures under the scheme, with a strong focus on sustainable, community-driven projects.

Taking a stern stance against

illegal mining, DC Reasi directed to install CCTV cameras in all subdivisions, particularly at locations near mining blocks vulnerable to unauthorized activities.

The DC stressed the need for modern surveillance systems with adequate recording backup to assist both the police and the mining department in taking swift and appropriate legal action against offenders.

The District Mineral Officer was instructed to conduct thorough scrutiny of such sensitive locations and coordinate with Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) to ensure full coverage in high-risk areas.

The Deputy Commissioner further directed the District Mineral Officer (DMO) to take strict



action against individuals involved in illegal mining activities

without paying royalty or obtaining proper permission. She

emphasized that there will be zero tolerance towards illegal mining and instructed the DMO to submit a detailed action-taken report.

In addition to anti-mining measures, the meeting also reviewed proposals related to key public sectors such as school education, Public Health Engineering (PHE), and Public Works Department (PWD). The DC emphasized that these proposals would be considered for funding after detailed project reports (DPRs) and feasibility assessments are submitted.

The meeting was attended by CPO Reasi Narinder Kumar, ACR Nitin Verma, DMO, DFO, CEO, ALC, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers.

71 SPMR College commerce students complete 10-day Summer Internship at JKEDI

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 23: A fresh batch of 71 students from the Government SPMR College of Commerce, Jammu successfully completed a 10-day Summer Internship Program at the Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), Bari Brahmana campus on Wednesday.

As per the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 guidelines, the internship program aimed at developing the entrepreneurial and research acumen among students, research aptitude and teamwork skills. During the program, the students were introduced to the role and functioning of the JKEDI. They gained exposure to the program verticals of the institute, all aimed at promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career choice in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

The internship program, designed to provide hands-on exposure to entrepreneurial development, startup culture, and enterprise creation, spanned 60 hours over 10 days. It featured interactive lectures, practical



assignments, exposure visits, and sessions by the JKEDI faculty and guest speakers from the startup ecosystem.

The program concluded with a valedictory ceremony held at the Bari Brahmana campus of the institute. Chand Kishore Sharma, Joint Director JKEDI, graced the valedictory session as the Chief Guest. He congratulated the interns on the successful comple-

tion of the program and lauded their enthusiasm and commitment. In his address, he emphasized the importance of cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset among the youth and highlighted the institute's pivotal role in shaping the startup landscape of the Union Territory.

"The future of economic development in J&K lies in innovation, self-employment, and entrepre-

neurship. I am pleased to see such motivated young minds taking keen interest in these areas," the Joint Director JKEDI remarked during his interaction with the interns.

The Joint Director also engaged with the students in a feedback session to understand their learning experience and gather suggestions for further improvement. The interns expressed appreciation for the immersive and practical nature of the internship, particularly the insights into government schemes, business model development, and startup financing.

The internship program was conducted by a team of expert faculty of the institute under the overall supervision of Director JKEDI.

JKEDI regularly hosts internship programs for students across the Union Territory as part of its mandate to promote entrepreneurship and create awareness about self-employment as a viable career option. These programs aim to bridge the gap between academic knowledge and practical application in the entrepreneurial domain.

Conduct of Lecture on "Importance of Education in Life" at Behramgala, Poonch

HT News Desk

POONCH, JULY 23: In line with the Indian Army's core objective of fostering cordial relations with local communities through AWAM, a lecture on the 'Importance of Education in Life' was organized on 23rd July 2025 at Behramgala, Poonch, to spread awareness among the children and locals. The aim of the event was to raise awareness among students about the significance of education and literacy, as well as to inform them about various government initiatives aimed at promoting education. During the event, a representative of the Indian Army delivered a motivational lecture, highlighting the importance of education for children and youth in Behramgala. The Army representative also emphasized the immense potential of talented and academically bright students in the region. However, due to lack of proper guidance, many students fail to fully harness their potential. In this context, the interaction aimed to tap into this untapped potential and encouraged students to consider joining the armed forces through Sainik Schools, other edu-



ational institutions and pre-commissioning training academies. Modalities for providing guidance, coaching and assistance to students, along with awareness about joining the armed forces, were also discussed during the interaction. A total of 33 locals attended the event. The event successfully conveyed the significance of education and its vital role in the growth of society. The Army representative urged the children to pursue their ambitions in their respective fields and contribute to the environment, society and the nation as responsible citizens. The representative further assured them of all possible guidance and assistance from

the Indian Army in their future endeavours. The children and locals expressed their appreciation for the initiatives taken by the Indian Army for the welfare of the local populace and students. This endeavour by the Indian Army to reach out to populations residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the JAWAN and AWAM. The event also served as a platform to strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and the people of the region, showcasing the Army's unwavering commitment to service to the nation.

JKPDP leader Karan Singh holds preparatory meetings for Foundation Day celebrations

HT News Desk

SUCHETGARH, JULY 23: In a bid to ensure the success of the People's Democratic Party's (PDP) upcoming foundation day celebrations, JKPDP leader Karan Singh today held a series of preparatory meetings in the Suchetgarh constituency on the directions of PDP Vice President Mohammad Sartaj Madni.

Karan Singh met with party workers and leaders to discuss the arrangements and preparations for the foundation day celebrations, scheduled for August 1st in Jammu. He urged the workers to ensure huge participation in the event, making it a grand success. Singh emphasized the importance of showcasing the party's strength and unity on this significant occasion. The PDP's foundation day celebrations will mark a significant milestone in the party's history. The event is expected to be attended by party leaders, workers, and well-wishers from across the region, said Singh.

Singh said that PDP's foundation day celebrations will serve as a platform to reaffirm the party's commitment to its core values and principles. The party will continue to work towards the welfare of the people and strive for a brighter future for the region. The People's Democratic Party (PDP) has indeed been a vocal advocate for the rights and interests of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. With a strong commitment to addressing the region's unique challenges and concerns, the party has consistently demonstrated its willingness to stand up for the rights of the people, said Singh.

By prioritizing the welfare and development of Jammu and Kashmir, the PDP aims to ensure that the voices of its people are heard and their needs are met. The party's dedication to the region's progress and prosperity is evident in its tireless efforts to promote peace, stability, and economic growth. Through its bold voice and unwavering commitment, the PDP continues to play a vital role in shaping the future of Jammu and Kashmir, working towards a brighter tomorrow for its people, added Karan Singh.

Punjab Kesari Group Distributes Quilts and T-Shirts to Underprivileged in Thanamandi and Surrounding Areas of Rajouri

HT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 23: In a continued effort to extend humanitarian aid and foster communal harmony in the Jammu and Kashmir region, the Punjab Kesari Group, under its longstanding social responsibility initiatives, organized a large-scale distribution drive. This initiative provided a significant number of warm quilts and comfortable T-shirts to under-

privileged individuals residing in remote and weather-affected areas of the Union Territory. The aim of this drive was to offer relief and comfort during the harsh weather conditions while also strengthening the bond between the armed forces and local civilians through this humanitarian outreach. The distribution drive took place at Thanamandi, Rajouri on 23 July 2025. The event was held at a centrally accessible venue to

ensure maximum participation in the distribution ceremony, which drew an encouraging response from individuals across Rajouri. The event was attended by prominent dignitaries, representatives of the Indian Army, social workers and local community members. During the event, tea and snacks were also provided to all invitees. Representatives of the Indian Army and civil dignitaries delivered enlightening lectures on public

service, lifestyle awareness and the ultimate goal of enhancing lives. The importance of accessible healthcare and social responsibility towards the local populace was emphasized. A total of 497 people attended the welfare event, including 265 men, 180 women, 40 children, six media personnel and six representatives from non-governmental organizations. This gesture and effort by the Indian Army was highly appreciated by the local

populace. The endeavour to reach out to populations residing in remote areas, where civil administration has limited accessibility, will go a long way in developing and strengthening trust between the JAWAN and AWAM. The event also served as a platform to reinforce the bond between the Indian Army and the people of this region, showcasing the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to serving the nation.

NSF celebrates 119th birth anniversary of Chander Shekhar Azad

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 23: National Secular Forum (NSF), University Unit today celebrated the Birth anniversary of Azad who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Azad Amar Raha" "inquilaab Zindabad" Bharat Mata ki Jai, the activists of NSF paid rich tributes to Azad, planted trees in his memory and garlanded the portrait of the son of soil.

On this occasion, Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and former Member BCCI, was the Chief Guest while Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Zonal Secretary JKNC presided over the function. Dr Rajesh Sharma and Dr M Ansari were the Guests of Honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF to organise a program to celebrate the birth anniversary of Azad. He also said that the planting of trees by the members of National Secular Forum was a true tribute to Azad and added that we all should remember the martyrs because of whom we got independence.

On the occasion, Dr. Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of Chander Shekhar Azad. He said that when arrested and produced before the magistrate, he gave his name as 'Azad', his father's name as 'Swatantra' and his residence as 'prison'. He was considered to be one of the most famous revolutionaries of the Independence movement.

While Speaking Dr. Rajesh Sharma stressed upon the youth to shun their self-centered outlook and contribute to the development of the nation. He also said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. Dr M Ansari, in his speech said that the sacrifices of such great people could not be ignored, which had secured freedom for the country and its people.

Vikshay Vashist, State Secretary NSF delivered the welcome address and Mr Abhishek uppal District President delivered the vote of thanks.

Among others who spoke were Pan-kaj Sharma, Zeeshaan Ali Rather, Ashfaq Ahmed Adil, Sajid Malik and others.

Daunting Rescue ops by Indian Army

HT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 23: A teenage boy was stuck on an island amidst heavily flooded Naushera Tawi river on 23 July 25 in Rajouri district in Jammu and Kashmir.

Indian Army was called for a rescue mission to evacuate the teenage boy.

The brave pilots of Army Aviation of White Knight Corps rose to the occasion and launched immediately under poor weather conditions.

The pilots reached the location of rescue negotiating severe weather conditions and carried out low hover in the middle of Naushera tawi where the teenage boy was fighting for his life.

The pilots of Indian Army once again exhibited exceptional skill at negotiating wire obstacles, river in spate, no clear landing spot and still rescued the teenage boy and evacuated him safely to the bank of river.

This act of courage is way beyond their call of duty. Once again Indian Army proved their worth in serving our country.



District & Sessions Judge chairs 7th District Coordination Meeting at Rajouri

HT News Desk

RAJOURI, JULY 23: The 7th District Coordination Committee meeting between the Judiciary and District Administration was today convened under the chairmanship of District & Sessions Judge, Rajinder Sapru, at Raj Kumar Thapa Conference Hall, Dak Bungalow, Rajouri.

At the outset, Chief Judicial Magistrate Javed Rana (Secretary Coordination Committee) welcomed the participants and briefed the chair on various issues requiring inter-departmental coordination and follow-up action.

A major focus of the meeting was on the review of land acqui-

sition and infrastructural development for judicial institutions. The District & Sessions Judge took stock of the status of land acquired for the construction of the boundary wall for the Court Complex at Muradpur, the removal of existing structures from the site, repair of the culvert (puli) on the approach road to the land, and the white-washing and minor renovations of the existing District Court Complex building. The meeting also reviewed the progress on the construction of the boundary wall at the Nowshera Court Complex and deliberated upon the pending issue of land acquisition for the same. Other infrastructure-related



issues pertaining to Munsiff Courts in Thanamandi, Darhal, Kotranka and Kalakote were also taken up, and timelines for necessary action were fixed by the chair. Key issues discussed included the arrangement of separate seating for lady advocates, enhancement of the surveillance system at court complexes, and the installation of CCTV cameras in police stations to ensure transparency and accountability in the administration of justice.

The chair also stressed the importance of integrating digital reforms in the judicial process, including the effective implementation of e-warrants. The meeting was attended

by Additional District & Sessions Judge, Sudesh Sharma, Chief Judicial Magistrate, Javed Rana and Secretary DLSA, Shama Sharma.

The coordination meeting concluded with a mutual commitment to ensure timely resolution of issues and strengthening of infrastructure for efficient dispensation of justice in the district. Senior officers from the district administration including SE PWD Tilak Raj Sharma, ACR Rajouri Mohd Jahangir Khan, Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, Executive Engineer PHE Sudesh Kumar Bhagat, Executive Engineers PWD and other sectoral officers also participated in the deliberations.

Khyber Cement Champions Youth & Talent in Kashmir as New JK United FC Clinches Epic 4-3 Victory in Super League Showdown

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 24: Continuing its mission to uplift youth and foster sports culture in the Valley, Khyber Cement, the market leader in cement manufacturing in Kashmir, took centre stage once again during the 14th match of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League. The high-octane encounter between New JK United FC and Greenend Heroes FC kept fans on the edge of their seats, ending in a nail-biting 4-3 win for New JK United FC.

The match kicked off with Greenend Heroes FC gaining an early advantage through a goal by Aqib Mushtaq, setting the pace for an intense contest. However, New JK United FC's Afreen Parray turned the tide with two quick, electrifying goals, shifting the momentum and energizing his side. Fast-paced play, technical finesse, and relentless determination from both teams made this match one of the most gripping showdowns of the season.

The side-line strategy led by Hilal Rasool Parray, Head Coach of



New JK United FC, played a pivotal role in the team's comeback. His composure and tactical insight once again proved why he is regarded

as one of the most respected football minds in the region. Award Winners of the Match: Khyber Cement Game Changer

Award - Furqan Nabi Khyber Cement Player of the Match - Afreen Parray Athwas Golden Moment Award

- Amir Hussain Events Emporio X Factor Excellence Award - Prem Kumar The evening concluded with a

grand felicitation ceremony, attended by distinguished dignitaries including Mr. Waheed Ur Rehman Parra (MLA Pulwama), Mr. Arjun Singh Raju (MLA Ramban), and Er. Khurshid Ahmad (MLA Gulabgarh). The guests congratulated the teams and praised the growing football talent emerging from Kashmir through such platforms.

With every passing match, Khyber Cement reaffirms the company's core philosophy of 'Dil Se Banao' - a belief that goes beyond cementing buildings to cementing lives, aspirations, and opportunities. By creating avenues for young athletes to shine, Khyber Cement is actively investing in the future of the region, nurturing local potential, and strengthening community pride.

As the undisputed market leader in the cement industry in Kashmir, Khyber Cement continues to blend performance with purpose - cementing not just structures, but also dreams and hope's.

This league stands as a vibrant example of that vision - uniting hearts, building futures.

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