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Ensure Timely, Transparent and Targeted Delivery of Benefits to Workers : CM Omar to Officials

CM Omar Chairs 22nd Meet of Workers Welfare Board

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today chaired the 22nd meeting of the Jammu & Kashmir Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOC-WWB) here at the Civil Secretariat. The aim of the meeting was to comprehensively review the implementation of various welfare measures and approve key initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for construction workers and their families across Jammu and Kashmir. Appreciating the strides made by the Board, the Chief Minister lauded its efforts in expanding welfare cov-



erage to over 2.85 lakh active construction workers. He underscored the importance of transparent, timely and targeted delivery of benefits and directed officials to widen the outreach mechanisms, streamline application procedures, and ensure that no elig-

CM Omar Seeks Probe Into Drug-Peddler's Killing

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 25: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Friday called for an investigation into the killing of an alleged drug-peddler in Jammu city and said that use of force by police has to be calibrated and not "indiscriminate". He said that Jammu and Kashmir has paid

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Operation Sindoor On, Military Readiness Crucial: CDS

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JUL 25: Asserting that Operation Sindoor "still continues", Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan on Friday said the country's military preparedness must remain at a "very high" level, round-the-clock and throughout the year. In his address at a defence seminar hosted at Subroto Park



in New Delhi, he also said the military in future will also need "information warriors, technology warriors and scholar warriors." And, in a merging landscape of warfare, a future

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Agniveer killed, 2 injured in Poonch landmine blast

LG Sinha pays tribute to Lalit Kumar

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JUL 25: An Agniveer died while two others were injured in a landmine blast in the Krishna Ghati sector of the Poonch district, officials said on Friday. An official said that the incident happened when a team of the Army was on a routine patrol near their forward post. He said that while patrolling, the soldiers accidentally stepped on a landmine, resulting in the death of a soldier and injuries to two others. Meanwhile, Army White Knight Corps paid tribute to the deceased soldier. "All ranks pay solemn tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, who made the supreme sacrifice,"

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Those Responsible for Denying Medical Care to Patients at SMHS Shall Face The Law: Sakina Itoo

New SOPs will be implemented, senior doctors need to remain present during nights

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 25: Taking a strong note of the ongoing doctors' strike at SMHS Hospital, Minister for Health and Medical Education, Sakina Itoo, on Friday said that doctors responsible for denying patients access to medical care

will face the harshest punishment under the law.

In an exclusive chat with the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) Itoo while referring to the incident that led to the hospital closure said, "The truth is that yes, what happened there—the incident—was wrong, and

everyone has condemned it. But to close the hospital, the emergency, the OPD, the OT, and to deny treatment to patients as a reaction—if, God forbid, someone had died in that situation, who would have been responsible for that tragedy? Who would have been accountable?"

The Minister announced that new Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) will be implemented immediately. "First of all, doctors will have to be on duty. At night, there are a lot of complaints that senior doctors are not present; only junior doctors are present. This will not be tolerated. I have

made this absolutely clear to them," she said.

She expressed deep concern for the patients affected by the closure. "You saw how many patients came—how many were wandering outside helplessly. Most of those who could

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AMARNATH YATRA: OVER 8,000 PERFORM DARSHAN, TALLY CROSSES 3.60 LAKH

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 25: Amid tight security and spiritual fervour, 8,181 pilgrims performed darshan at the revered Amarnath cave shrine in the south Kashmir Himalayas on Friday, taking the cumulative tally to 3,60,320 since the commencement of the yatra on July 3. An official informed the news agen-

cy—Kashmir News Observer (KNO) that among the devotees who visited the holy cave on the 23rd day of the annual pilgrimage were 6,326 men, 1,264 women, 84 children, 56 sadhus, 3 sadhvis, and 448 security personnel. The sacred ice Shivlingam inside the cave shrine, located at an altitude of 3,880 metres, continues to attract devotees from across India and abroad.

However, in recent days, there has been a noticeable dip in the number of daily pilgrims undertaking the trek. From the Jammu base camp, the 23rd batch of 2,896 pilgrims—comprising 2,505 men and 314 women—left early Friday morning under multi-layered security arrangements. The convoy included 117 vehicles escorted

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Ladakh has unique tourism potential: LG Gupta

HT News Desk / KNO

LADAKH, JUL 25: Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Kavinder Gupta on Thursday said that Ladakh is a "unique region in the world" with immense potential for tourism and development. During his visit to Shargol, Gupta said he had travelled through several areas and found the region to be rich in opportunities. "There is great scope

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CS, MSME Secretary Hold Talks to Boost Industry

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held an extensive meeting with Union Secretary, Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), S.C.L. Das, to deliberate on the prevailing industrial scenario in Jammu and Kashmir and explore long-term strategies for promotion and sustainability of the MSME sector across the Union Territory. The meeting was also attended by Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce, Vikramjit Singh, and Secretary, Labour & Employment, Kumar Rajeev Ranjan. During the interaction, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for a robust and inclusive

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CS reviews BISAG-N powered IT initiatives in J&K

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a high-level meeting to review the progress on ongoing Information Technology (IT) initiatives undertaken across J&K to enhance the governance and

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No Foreign country mediated Indo-Pak ceasefire: Govt in Parliament

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: The Government of India has dismissed claims of U.S. interference in the recent ceasefire between India and Pakistan, asserting that the decision to halt military operations was based on India's own strategic objectives, particularly targeting terrorist infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu & Kashmir (PoJK). In a written response to a question in the Lok Sabha, the Ministry of External Affairs said that the ceasefire on May 10, 2025, was the outcome of a direct contact between the Directors General of Military Operations (DGMOs) of India and Pakistan. Notably, this contact was initiated by Pakistan, days after India had already achieved its military objectives. The reply said that India had destroyed the designated terror camps linked to the April 22 terrorist attack in Pahalgam, Kashmir, by May 8, two days before the ceasefire

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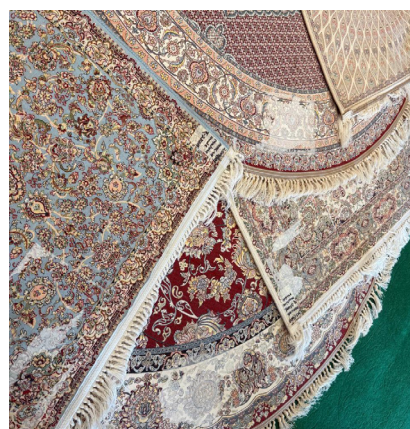
Kashmir Craft Dealers Get 7-Day Ultimatum on Fake Items

Unregistered Craft Dealers Told to Register Under Tourist Trade Act

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: In an unprecedented move, the Department of Handicrafts & Handloom, Kashmir today issued a Notice giving Kashmir handicraft dealers a seven-day ultimatum to remove all machine-made products, largely imports from Turkey & Iran, from their Showrooms, failing which, the department warned, they will be blacklisted & deregistered for unfair trade practice under the relevant sections of law. Addressing the dealers, the Notice, issued vide No. H&HD/DDQC/

TTA/95/2025, dated 25.07.2025, reads that, "you have been granted registration under the provisions of the Jammu & Kashmir Tourist Trade Act, 1978, for the sale of Kashmir handicraft products at your respective showrooms/outlets." As part of the registration process, the Notice reads that craft dealers have submitted a duly-sworn affidavit, wherein they undertook to exclusively display and sell genuine Kashmir handicraft products at your business establishment. The Notice further states that under 'Violation of Rules' section that during recent inspections conducted by this



office, it was found that several dealers have breached the extant rules by displaying and selling machine-made products, misrepresented as genuine Kashmir handicrafts. Such malpractices undermine the authenticity and reputation of Kashmir handicrafts, the Notice reads. An official spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, in a press release, stated that in response to these violations, this office has imposed penalties on defaulting dealers in accordance with the provisions of the J&K Registration of Tourist

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AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT
VMS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL (VMSSH)

FROM THIS: **TO THIS:**

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

Our vision is clear: Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society

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

JK HOPE AND HEALTH FOUNDATION
TMO16418915@jkb
0005010100009519

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

Advt - Comp...

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

CM Omar Chairs.....

He urged the Board to explore policy mechanisms that would maximize coverage and enhance financial security for workers, in alignment with national best practices and labour welfare standards. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, Additional Chief Secretary Jal Shakti Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister Dheeraj Gupta, Principal Secretary Finance, Principal Secretary PWD (R&B), Principal Secretary PDD, Commissioner Secretaries of Housing & Urban Development, Social Welfare, and Cooperatives, Secretary Labour & Employment, Secretary Law, Director General Budget, and representatives of Bhartiya Mazdoor Sangh and Bhartiya Dastkar Union.

Senior officers from the Planning Department and other concerned departments also participated in the meeting.

Secretary Labour & Employment Kumar Rajiv Ranjan gave a detailed presentation highlighting the Board's key achievements, policy reforms and financial progress.

He informed the members that the Board continues to operate in accordance with the legislative mandate of the BOCW (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996. Under this mandate, the Board has been providing a wide range of benefits including ex-gratia relief in cases of accidental deaths, financial support for both permanent and temporary disabilities, and educational assistance for the wards of registered workers. It also offers one-time meritorious scholarships of 50,000 to students securing 90% and above in Class 10 and 12, in addition to marriage and maternity assistance, aid for chronic illnesses, and funeral expense coverage.

To ensure transparency and efficiency, the Board has implemented significant digital reforms. These include 100% Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for all financial assistance, Aadhaar integration to eliminate bogus registrations, an online portal for registration and renewals, and OTP-based authentication along with SMS alerts to keep workers informed about key deadlines and updates.

The Board generates income through cess collections and accrued interest. At present, 1082.58 crore is currently held as corpus in fixed deposits and savings accounts across various banks.

The Board discussed and approved a comprehensive set of agenda items during the meeting. These included the approval of scheme-wise budget proposals for the financial years 2024-25 and 2025-26, and the transfer of 17.24 crore to the Union Territory of Ladakh, in accordance with SO 339 dated October 30, 2020. The audited accounts for FY 2022-23 and 2023-24 were approved and will be forwarded to the Accountant General for certification.

The meeting also approved the integration of the Board's initiatives with broader social security and financial inclusion schemes to maximize the impact of benefits.

In a significant move towards digital governance, the issuance of smart cards to all registered workers was approved, with a proposed budget of 10 crore.

To improve workplace safety, the Board sanctioned 60 crore for the provision of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits and tools to construction workers, especially in rural areas. Recognizing the need for skill development, the Board approved short-term training programs for 10,000 workers under NSDC norms, with a budget of 10 crore.

Given the overwhelming response to the meritorious scholarship scheme, it was resolved to revise the framework with slabs for top-performing students across all districts based on merit, while maintaining a minimum 90% cutoff. The Board also discussed the long-pending issue of staff regularization and directed the concerned committee to finalize recruitment rules in consultation with relevant departments within six months.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, in his concluding remarks, reaffirmed the government's commitment to ensuring that welfare benefits trickle down to every deserving worker.

He called for forward-looking reforms, robust monitoring and inclusive policy-making tailored to the needs of construction workers, particularly those in remote and underserved areas of Jammu and Kashmir.

CM Omar Seeks.....

a heavy price in the past due to such incidents.

In an X post, the Abdullah said, "The killing of Mohd Parvez of Niki Tawi in Jammu is highly unfortunate and deeply regrettable. Use of force by the police has to be calibrated and cannot be indiscriminate."

"This incident should be investigated in a transparent and time-bound manner. I send my condolences to the family of Mohd Parvez. May Allah grant him

Jannat," he said.

A suspected drug-peddler was killed and another detained during a cross-fire with police in Jammu city on Thursday. After the incident, the family members of the slain man had assembled at the Government Medical College in Jammu and held protests demanding a probe.

A spokesperson had maintained that the police team was chasing suspected drug-peddlers, when they opened fire on the officers. In the cross-fire that ensued, one alleged drug-peddler was killed and another was detained, he had said.

Operation.....

soldier will need to be a mix of all three "info, tech and scholar warriors," the CDS said.

The seminar on 'Aerospace Power: Preserving India's Sovereignty and Furthering National Interests' was held under the aegis of the 'No.4 Warfare and Aerospace Strategy Programme'.

The CDS said there are no runners-up in a war, and any military must be constantly alert and maintain a high degree of operational preparedness.

"An example is Operation Sindoor, which still continues. Our preparedness level has to be very high, 24x7, 365 days (a year)," Gen Chauhan said.

India launched Operation Sindoor early on May 7 and decimated multiple terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-Occupied Jammu and Kashmir (PoJK).

Pakistan also launched offensives against India, and all subsequent counter-offensives by India were also carried out under Operation Sindoor.

The military conflict between the two nuclear-armed neighbours halted after they reached an understanding on the evening of May 10.

The CDS also emphasised the importance of learning about both 'Shastra' (warfare) and 'Shastra' (knowledge system). (Agencies)

Doctors responsible.....

manage went to JVC, but those who were seriously ill were left suffering. What has been done is absolutely unjustified. The doctors are being blamed for their actions at this time; their profession does not allow this.

"If something wrong has happened anywhere, there is a proper legal process for that. There are rules; you [doctors] could have initiated proceedings under those rules or informed the department, which would have taken further action. But shutting down emergency, OT, and OPD, and making patients suffer, cannot be tolerated under any circumstances."

She questioned the root causes of such violent incidents in the hospitals. "Why do such situations arise? Why does such violence take place in hospitals? Who is responsible for creating these circumstances where attendants, patients, and doctors become ready for violence? These things are absolutely wrong and will not be tolerated," she added.

She stressed that accountability is universal. "Doctors are our brothers. But that doesn't mean doctors can do anything and nobody will question them. Accountability applies to everyone—whether it is a sweeper, a doctor, or a minister. If there is any compromise in patient care, it cannot be tolerated. Serious patients had to go back because the gates were closed. That is absolutely unjustified and will not be tolerated under any circumstances."

Itoo also announced a comprehensive inquiry into the incident. "All these things will be looked into; a full inquiry will take place, and the inquiry report will be submitted within 15 days. The report will look at everything: what actually happened and why violence occurred. The inquiry will start there and then go as far as to investigate why the hospital gates were closed, why patients were not attended to, and why the emergency and surgeries were closed. These things have to be examined because they are beyond tolerance."

"People believe that, after God, if anyone can save a patient, it is a doctor. This is a very noble profession—close to my heart. But if someone makes a mistake in this profession... People trust that if they bring their patient, after God, the doctor can save them. A doctor has to treat and treat properly."

She called for a change in behavior and attitude among healthcare professionals. "Doctors should behave in such a way that gives confidence to the patient and attendant. The most important thing is to correct behavior; it cannot go on like this," she added.

The Health Minister also announced a new policy for identification. "Today, I have issued a written directive to the department that from now on, every doctor must wear an apron and a name-plate. Their name must be written on the apron so that whichever patient comes, they know which kind of doctor it is. This

is very important. There are other SOPs as well that must be implemented."

"Accountability is mandatory, no matter who it is. Things cannot continue in this manner," she said, adding that whoever is found responsible in the ongoing inquiry will face appropriate action. "You have to start somewhere. In the past 10 years, every system has been ruined—there's no accountability, nobody is answerable, everyone is doing as they please. But the people have created this government; this is the people's government, we are their servants. Such things cannot be tolerated when it comes to patient care."

"Doctors must understand this, and I request the public also to understand. If there are problems, if any doctor behaves wrongly, let us know—file a complaint. You cannot take the law into your own hands, whether you are a doctor, a senior officer, or any ordinary person. The law is there, and it must be followed. That is necessary," she said—(KNO)

Agniveer killed.....

while on an area domination patrol in general area of Krishna Ghati brigade on 25 July 2025, following a mine blast. We stand with the bereaved family in this hour of grief," it said in a post on X.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha paid tribute to Agniveer Lalit Kumar of 7 JAT Regiment, who laid down his life in the line of duty.

"I pay my heartfelt tributes to Agniveer Lalit Kumar, who made the supreme sacrifice in service to the nation. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family. The nation stands firmly with them, in this hour of grief," the Lieutenant Governor said. (KNO)

Amarnath Yatra.....

by CRPF and police personnel. According to officials, the first group of 790 pilgrims in 42 vehicles proceeded via the Baltal route in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district. The second group, consisting of 2,106 yatis in 75 vehicles, opted for the traditional Pahalgam route in Anantnag district.

Despite smooth arrangements and favourable weather, both the footfall at the cave shrine and the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu have gradually declined.

Officials attribute the drop to several factors, including exhaustion after the peak rush in earlier weeks and the early completion of darshan by many registered pilgrims. Nonetheless, authorities are maintaining full arrangements to ensure the safety and comfort of the remaining yatis.

The pilgrimage, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 9—(KNO)

Ladakh has.....

and potential for tourism here," he said as per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), urging the youth of Ladakh to explore livelihood options that align with the region's strengths.

He also said that access to water, electricity, and roads is the right and responsibility of every citizen. "The people of Ladakh are good and patriotic," Gupta said while expressing confidence that the development goals can be achieved through collective efforts.

Speaking about local governance, the Lieutenant Governor noted that the administration has been engaging with the people of Ladakh for over a week and is studying their concerns.

He said ongoing discussions with representative bodies like the Apex Body (APEC) and Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA), which have been vocal about their demand for statehood.

"The demands of the people of Ladakh will be met," Gupta said, adding that the Government of India has been working on every issue raised by the region's residents. "We have met the demands of the people of Ladakh," he added—(KNO)

CS, MSME.....

roadmap to ensure the long-term sustainability of both existing and newly established industrial units across the UT. He underscored that the industrial landscape in J&K has historically been impacted by its unique geopolitical context, being a peripheral region of the country, thereby facing distinct logistical and connectivity challenges.

Highlighting the immense potential of the MSME sector as a vehicle for employment and economic empowerment, Dulloo urged the Ministry to extend necessary technical and financial support to foster a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the UT.

He observed that J&K is now poised to bridge the historic gaps in industrial development, and the youth of the region must be equipped with opportunities and tools to become self-reliant job creators.

He further sought the Ministry's intervention in initiating targeted programmes to nurture a culture of entrepreneurship

among the youth, who, he said, have remained deprived of such opportunities due to the past circumstances. He called for enhanced handholding support in skilling the local workforce in tune with emerging, technology-driven industries to enable them to secure gainful employment.

The Chief Secretary also emphasized the need for establishing comprehensive platforms that can facilitate better market access, credit linkage, and business mentorship for aspiring entrepreneurs. He suggested exploring avenues for expanding digital infrastructure and support systems to aid MSME growth in both rural and urban pockets of the UT.

Additionally, Dulloo sought the Ministry's assistance in designing effective revival strategies for stressed and sick industrial units in the region. He stressed the importance of tailored interventions to rejuvenate these units, which form the backbone of local economic activity and employment.

The Union Secretary appreciated the UT administration's renewed focus on industrial development and assured full support of the Ministry in strengthening the MSME ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir. He said the Ministry would work closely with the UT administration to develop need-based schemes, skill development modules, and infrastructural support to unleash the true potential of the region's industrial sector.

CS reviews.....

citizen-centric services. The meeting besides Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur was attended by Secretary, IT Department and concerned Administrative Secretaries; DG, Planning; SIO, NIC and other senior officers.

The Chief Secretary took detailed appraisal of the digital interventions being implemented to promote ease of living for the people.

Emphasizing the need to make IT platforms more impactful, he called for significant improvements in the design and functionality of dashboards related to various government schemes. He suggested that they be made more vibrant, informative and outcome-driven through integration with other relevant platforms.

Regarding the Kisan Khidmat Ghar Dashboard, the Chief Secretary directed that it should reflect real-time data on the functioning of Krishi Udhyaams and describe the support mechanisms to be made available to them for improved efficiency and productivity.

He also reviewed the upgradation roadmap of the YUVA App, calling for deeper insights into application usage patterns, application submission tracking, DPR generation and integration with the MSME Health Clinic and ONDC platforms for enhanced user experience and benefit.

Importantly, he stressed the linking the app with the UDISE and APAAR databases of the School Education Department to monitor student skill development and career outcomes, thus enabling a seamless track of their educational and vocational journeys.

In healthcare, Dulloo suggested comprehensive integration of the JK Sehat App with the ABDM and HMIS frameworks. He emphasized making the platform more user-friendly while enabling support for registered home-care providers to access diagnostic tools and improve treatment delivery.

The Chief Secretary also proposed creation of a unified search engine dedicated to indexing websites hosted by the J&K and Central Government, to help the citizens and employees easily access official data and resources.

Looking ahead, he advised the IT Department to explore the development of an AI-based Legal Counselling App to assist individuals in navigating legal issues with informed and automated guidance.

The meeting also discussed initiatives such as development of AI-based learning tools, introduction of educational TV channels and exposure of students to AI modules like AI-101 and AI-201 from an early stage to foster technological competence.

Further updates were taken on the status of the Centre of Excellence in Emerging Technologies, the 360° Tourism App, Land Records Digitization, HADP 360, JKCIIP, Agri Output Tracking Apps, Village Planning App and IT-based platforms under PDD and Jal Shakti Department.

Special DG, BISAG-N, Vinay Thakur, shared the progress on ongoing projects being developed in collaboration with the UT Government. He assured continued support from

BISAG-N in building robust, scalable and citizen-centric IT solutions. He also provided technical insights and affirmed BISAG-N's commitment to timely execution of tasks in consultation with the respective departments.

Earlier, Secretary IT, Dr. Piyush Singla, gave a comprehensive overview on key milestones achieved, current developments and future plans under the Digital J&K framework. He elaborated on the transformative potential of several digital initiatives underway and their anticipated impact on service delivery and governance across the length and breadth of the UT.

No Foreign.....

came into effect. This, the government said, was a "focused, measured and non-escalatory" response, carried out with clarity and restraint.

While the government acknowledged that diplomatic interactions took place with multiple countries, including the United States, it strongly denied that any external power influenced India's decision to stop the operations.

"The issue of trade discussions did not come up in any conversations related to the conflict," the government said in response to speculation that the U.S. linked trade concessions to the ceasefire.

On May 9, just a day before the ceasefire, India informed U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance that it would respond decisively if Pakistan escalated the situation.

The Ministry also reaffirmed India's consistent policy that there will be no third-party mediation on the Kashmir issue. "All outstanding issues with Pakistan will be discussed bilaterally," it stated, adding that even Prime Minister Modi had conveyed this directly to the U.S. President.

Kashmir Craft.....

Trade Act, 1978. "Director Handicrafts and Handloom, Director IICT and the Inspection Squad of Quality Control Division, visited various showrooms in City Centres in areas like Nishat, Nehru Park and Munawarabad, warning the Showrooms to immediately remove the machine-made products, failing which such showrooms shall be blacklisted and de-registered," he added.

Further, under G.I. labelling and misbranding concerns section, Notice reads that many Kashmir handicrafts are registered under the Geographical Indication of Goods Act (G.I.), Registry of India, Chennai, to protect their authenticity. To curb misbranding and promote genuine products, the department has introduced G.I.-based QR labelling for various crafts at PTQCC, IICT & Quality Control labs. "However, it has come to our notice that a dealer recently affixed a fake QR label on a machine-made carpet, misrepresenting it as a genuine handmade product. Consequently, the said dealer has been blacklisted and deregistered," the Notice further reads.

As per the notice, all registered dealers have been directed to ensure within 7 days from the issuance of this Notice, that their showrooms exclusively display and sell genuine Kashmir handicraft products and that no machine-made products are displayed or sold.

The spokesman further stated that the Notice directs concerned Kashmir Handicraft dealers to ensure all relevant documents, including G.I. labelling certifications, are prominently displayed at Craft Showrooms for inspection and sale purposes.

Quoting from the Notice, the spokesman said that the machine-made products are banned from being sold or displayed in Kashmir handicraft showrooms registered under handicraft or handloom categories, and any violation & misbranding including by way of pasting fake QR codes and pulling out the machine-made labels shall attract relevant clauses/provisions of the Quality Control Act, J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, GI Act as well as the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.

He further said that the Notice warned of consequences of non-compliance. It reads that failure to comply with this directive within the stipulated period shall result in appropriate action under the provisions of the J&K Tourist Trade Act, 1978, including penalties, deregistration, blacklisting or other legal measures as deemed necessary.

Furthermore, it advised all unregistered dealers/ hawkers dealing in the business of Kashmir Handicrafts to immediately approach the Quality Control Division of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department for registration of their establishments under the J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978.



Mission YUVA: DC Kulgam distributes loan sanction letters among 47 young entrepreneurs

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

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 25: As part of the ongoing efforts to promote youth empowerment and entrepreneurship, Mission YUVA (MY), a flagship initiative of the Jammu & Kashmir Government, held the 'Roz-e-YUVA' program at the Conferencehall of Mini-secretariat Kulgam.

The event organised by the District Employment Office, Kulgam in collaboration with J&K Bank was presided over by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan (IAS) and was attended by the ADDC Kulgam, Altaf Ahmad Khan, ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, ACD Bilal Ahmad Kamgar LDM Kulgam, Cluster Head JK Bank, Assistant Director Employment, other senior administration and Bank officers.

During the event, DDC, in the presence of the other officers,



distributed loan sanction letters under Mission YUVA among 47 young potential entrepreneurs identified from the Kulgam district

to help them establish new ventures. Speaking on the occasion, DDC highlighted the transformative impact of Mission YUVA,

stating that the government, through this flagship initiative, is proactively creating sustainable revenue-generating avenues for

the unemployed youth of the region through subsidized credit support and training.

DDC added that over 172 cases under Mission YUVA have been approved for further disbursement and urged unemployed youth to take advantage of schemes like HADP, and other financial inclusion initiatives to build sustainable livelihoods.

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

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

Tariff Protection on Apple Imports in India-UK FTA

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: In a move widely celebrated by farmers and industry stakeholders alike, the Government of India has decided to retain tariff protection on apple imports under the upcoming India-UK Free Trade Agreement (FTA). This crucial policy decision comes as a major relief to millions of apple growers across the Himalayan states, and is being credited largely to the Jammu & Kashmir Fruits and Vegetables Processing and Integrated Cold Chain Association (JKPICCA) for its strategic and persistent advocacy.

JKPICCA, under the dynamic leadership of Chairman Bashir Ahmad Naik, played a pivotal role in bringing the concerns of domestic apple growers to the national stage. The association made a compelling case during a high-level interaction with Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Shri Piyush Goyal, held recently in Srinagar, where it highlighted the challenges faced by Indian apple farmers — including shrinking land holdings, rising input costs, traditional farming limitations, and the threat posed by low-cost foreign imports.

Labelled by many in the horticulture community as a "historic victory", the decision is seen as more than a trade regulation — it is being hailed as a defense of the Indian farmer's dignity, rural economy, and traditional knowledge systems.

In a significant move, the FTA also recognizes "traditional farming knowledge" as a form of patent protection, a step JKPICCA lauded as visionary. This inclusion not only validates the indigenous agricultural practices of Indian growers but also paves the way for their preservation and respect on global platforms.

Farmers across Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand welcomed the announcement with enthusiasm. Many credited JKPICCA for acting as a powerful and pragmatic voice for growers, ensuring their interests were safeguarded at a crucial stage of international trade negotiations.

In a statement, JKPICCA reaffirmed its commitment to serve as a vital bridge between government, industry, and the farming community. The association vowed to continue its efforts to enhance the global competitiveness of Indian apples, drive innovation in cold-chain infrastructure, and promote sustainable growth in India's horticulture sector.

JKPICCA has also urged the Government of India to sustain this farmer-first approach in future FTAs, especially in sectors such as horticulture, which are integral to employment, food security, and rural livelihood.

"This is not just a trade safeguard. It's a recognition of the hard work, resilience, and heritage of the Indian apple grower," said Chairman Bashir Ahmad Naik.

2nd Batch of Teachers Trained Under 'Classes of Joy' in Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 25: The second batch of 300 elementary teachers of school education department attended a capacity building training program titled "Classes Of Joy" an initiative to bridge the learning gaps in foundational literacy and numeracy of kids in primary and middle schools here in the conferencehall of Mini-secretariat Kulgam.

The resource persons spoke at length regarding the techniques and tools to be used to reduce the learning gaps and make teaching learning process a enjoyable act.

DC Kulgam Athar Aamir Khan (IAS) while interacting with the teachers received their feedback and suggestions



about the ongoing week long capacity building training program.

He stressed upon the teaching fraternity to be more compassionate and resourceful for students during the delivery of classroom transition learning.

It is worth to mention that 458 primary and middle schools of Kulgam district are being covered in the ongoing week long capacity building training program in collaboration with Pratham Foundation for reducing the learning gaps at elementary level.

The others who attended the training program include ADC Viqar Ahmed Giri, CEO Mohd Shabir and Dy CEO Kulgam.

CRPF Troops Rescue Accident Victims in Anantnag, Uphold Spirit of Service

■ Farooq Rather

ANANTNAG, JULY 25: In a remarkable display of promptness and compassion, troops of the 90 Battalion CRPF came to the rescue of accident victims in the early hours of Thursday, reinforcing their commitment to public safety and humanitarian service.

At approximately 6:00 a.m., a Swift Dzire vehicle (JK-09D 5264) met with a severe accident and plunged into a Nala near the Arwani underpass in Bijbehara, District Anantnag. The incident occurred close to MS-248, where troops from B/90 Bn CRPF were deployed for Road Opening Party (ROP) duties in connection with SAN-



JY-2025.

Under the supervision of Commandant 90 Bn CRPF, the troops, assisted by the Unit Bomb Detection and Disposal Squad (BDDS) and the Quick Action Team (QAT) from A/171 Bn splinter company, immediately responded to the emergency.

Demonstrating exceptional professionalism and a deep sense of duty, the CRPF personnel quickly extricated the injured passengers from the mangled vehicle. The victims were taken to the Government Medical College (GMC) Anantnag for advanced medical care.

The timely action by the CRPF personnel not only saved precious lives but also reaffirmed the force's steadfast dedication to serving the public beyond their mandated security duties.

Such acts of courage and compassion continue to strengthen the bond between security forces and the local population, showcasing the CRPF's unwavering resolve to serve and protect.

Karambuland Folk Theatre's Kral Pather Celebrates Rich Cultural Heritage at Safapora, Gbl

■ Gulfam Barij

GANDERBAL, JULY 25: A remarkable cultural event unfolded today at Safapora, Ganderbal, as the "Karambuland Folk Theatre" showcased the folk play "Kral Pather", a significant part of the region's rich cultural heritage. The performance, sponsored by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, under the Cultural Function and Production Grant CFPG, was met with widespread acclaim from a captivated audience, who lauded both the exceptional performance of the artists and the government's support for reviving and preserving traditional folk art forms. The event was graced by the presence of Chief Guest Javid Ahmad Dar, Honorable Minister for Agricul-

tural Production, Rural Development, Panchayat Raj Production and Election. The Minister praised the unwavering performance by the artists of Karambuland Folk Theatre and expressed his support for initiatives that aim to preserve and promote traditional cultural expressions. Minister Dar emphasized the critical role of such performances in reviving regional heritage and instilling a sense of pride in local traditions.

In addition, Nisar Naseem Sahab, the esteemed writer and director of Kral Pather and Former Director of All India Radio, was present as the Guest of Honour. Sahab, a prolific theatre writer, expressed his admiration for the exceptional performances, noting that the production exceeded all



expectations. He highlighted the importance of such folk plays in keeping the cultural fabric of the region intact, calling on more platforms to support similar endeavors.

Both the Chief Guest and the Guest of Honour extended heart-

felt gratitude to the Ministry of Culture for their vital role in organizing and supporting this event through the CFPG. They commended the Ministry's commitment to nurturing the arts and its unflinching support in facilitating such performances, which

offer a rare and authentic glimpse into the cultural and artistic traditions of the region. The event concluded with a shared sense of optimism for the future, with both officials and the audience expressing their hope that more such performances will be organized in the future. The consistent backing of the Ministry of Culture is expected to create more opportunities for artists to showcase their talent and contribute to the continued revival of folk art in Kashmir.

The Karambuland Folk Theatre, with its dedication to preserving and nurturing folk theatre traditions, has set a precedent for future initiatives that bridge the gap between modern-day art forms and traditional cultural practices.

CEO Ganderbal Conducts Extensive Tour of Schools in Zone Tullamulla

■ HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 25: As a part of continuing its ongoing Academic Inspection to the Educational Institutions in District Ganderbal.

The Chief Education Officer (CEO) Ganderbal conducted an extensive tour of various schools in Zone Tullamulla with the primary objective of interacting with students and teachers and reviewing the overall academic environment. CEO Inspected the following Institutions:-

1. MS Kurhama
2. MS Zazna
3. MS Badampora

During the visit, the CEO held detailed interactions with students



to assess their academic progress and understand their learning needs. He also engaged with teaching staff to review classroom practices, teaching methodologies, and administrative functioning.

The CEO emphasized the importance of creating a conducive learning atmosphere and encouraged teachers to adopt student-centric approaches. He also inspected school infrastructure, attendance records, and other key aspects of school.

The visit reflects the department's continued efforts to ensure quality education and strengthen the connection between school leadership and teaching-learning processes at the grassroots level.

Order by NGT Ignored: Illegal Brick Kilns in Budgam Continue Operations Amid Administrative Apathy

■ Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, JULY 25: Despite clear directives from the National Green Tribunal (NGT) to close illegally operating brick kilns in Budgam, several such units continue to function openly, exposing glaring administrative apathy.

Details available with news, the NGT had earlier mandated the immediate shutdown of all unauthorized brick kilns lacking environmental clearance and failing to comply with pollution control norms. However, ground reports suggest little to no enforcement, with locals alleging that many of these kilns enjoy the backing of influential individuals. These



operations are contributing to alarming levels of air pollution, agricultural damage, and rising health concerns in the district.

"The continued operation of these kilns is not just contempt of court but also an environmental crime," said

an environmental activist, urging immediate accountability from the authorities.

Residents of Chadoora, Khansahib, Beerwah, and adjoining areas report worsening air quality, respiratory ailments among children and the elderly, and declining soil fertility. Despite repeated complaints and media coverage, the district administration has yet to issue a public statement or share any action plan for enforcing the NGT order.

This prolonged inaction raises serious questions about governance and accountability, while Budgam's ecology and public health continue to bear the brunt of unchecked environmental violations.

HT EDITORIAL

Differences crop up between National Conference & Congress over statehood issue

The issue of restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir has led to differences between National Conference and Congress. National Conference Vice President and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah some days back while commenting about the Congress party's march to union capital about restoration of statehood said that it is unfortunate that National Conference leadership was not made aware about the same. Omar said that his party would have loved to join such a protest.

The CM said that since restoration of statehood is an important issue for the party it would have been appropriate for the Congress leadership to inform the National Conference in this respect. Surprisingly the Congress party launched an agitation while seeking restoration of statehood for Jammu & Kashmir. Different leaders of the party carried out protests at different places with major protests being carried out at Srinagar and Jammu. Following this the party leaders moved to New Delhi and carried out a protest there in support of this demand.

The issue of restoration of statehood has turned out to be a major issue for the political parties both at the national and local levels. Political parties like National Conference, Congress, Peoples Democratic Party, Apni Party and others have been quite vocal in making demands for restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir. The leaders of these parties have been issuing statements in this regard and they have been urging for restoration of statehood at the earliest without any further delay.

It would be in place to mention here that the leaders of political parties other than the Bharatiya Janta Party (BJP) have been quoting the statements of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for restoration of statehood to Jammu & Kashmir. The BJP leaders have been saying that there is no need to worry about the issue and that statehood would be restored to Jammu & Kashmir at an appropriate time. These people have been asking the chief minister to devote his attention to governance.

Since the National Conference and Congress are in coalition in Jammu & Kashmir it was ethical on part of Congress to inform the National Conference about its plan to hold a protest in support of restoration of statehood. On its part the National Conference leadership should not drag the issue and try to bring the controversy to an end. Since restoration of statehood concerns the people of Jammu & Kashmir the political parties should bury their differences for the larger common good.

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When Compassion Becomes Critical:
Doctors, Grief, and the Human Weight of Care



■ Hidayat Bukhari

Hospitals are not just institutions of healing. They are theatres of human hope, fear, faith, and heartbreak. Inside those pale walls, stories unravel every hour—of life returned, of life lost, of prayers whispered under breath, and of silent tears staining tiled corridors. In places like Jammu & Kashmir, where government hospitals are often the first and only point of care for thousands, these stories are magnified by chaos, understaffing, and emotional exhaustion. But amid all this, one thing remains constant: people walk into these hospitals holding the hands of their loved ones, carrying with them unbearable hope and unspoken dread.

A few days ago, an incident at a prominent tertiary care hospital in Srinagar reminded us that beneath the statistics and protocols lies something profoundly human. A patient was brought in with a suspected cardiac arrest. The medical team acted. Protocols were followed. But life slipped away. And in the seconds that followed the doctor's words, an eruption of anguish took form. One of the grieving family members, unable to contain the storm inside him, raised his hand against the very doctor who tried to save his loved one.

The slap was wrong. No justification can erase that act. But neither can we dismiss the surge of desperation that preceded it. That slap was not just violence; it was grief unprocessed, heartbreak unmet, and silence misunderstood. In that moment, the hospital was not just a place of healing—it became a crucible of human fragility. It became a reflection of a healthcare system that, while striving to save lives, often forgets to

hold space for the living who carry the weight of loss.

To understand that act is not to excuse it, but to recognize a reality we often ignore: that in every emergency room, two kinds of traumas unfold—one in the patient, and another in the hearts of those who bring them there. While the first receives immediate attention, the second is often left unattended, untreated, and ignored. We expect families to be calm, collected, and composed while they watch life ebb away from someone they love. That expectation is not just unfair—it is inhuman. A father watching his child struggle for breath, a daughter begging to know if her mother will survive, a husband waiting in silence outside the ICU—these people are not bystanders. They are carriers of unbearable emotions, pushed to the edge in an environment that does not pause to console.

The tragedy is that this emotional collapse could be mitigated. Our hospitals, especially tertiary centers attached to GMCs in J&K, must begin to institutionalize care not just for the body, but for the breaking spirit. We need trained grief counselors—professionals who can sit beside the mother whose child has just slipped into coma, the son who watches his father gasp for breath, the brother who is told it's too late. These counselors are not luxuries. They are necessities. Just as we staff emergency units with doctors and trauma teams, we must staff them with those who can hold emotional space—who can listen, soothe, explain, and simply be present.

Imagine that mother who walks into the emergency ward at 2 a.m., clutching her child to her chest, sweat running down her face, fear wrapped around her heartbeat. She does not understand the medical terminology, she only understands that time is slipping. She stares at doctors speaking in hushed tones, she's asked to move aside, wait, sign. She cannot process it. And when, a few minutes later, she hears the words "We tried our best," her knees buckle, her world

collapses. At that moment, more than ever, someone must be there not to cure, but to care. To hold her as she grieves, to translate her anguish into something bearable, to make her feel human again in a place that often forgets humanity. In that precise moment, she doesn't need a solution—she needs a hand to hold, a voice to assure her that her pain is not invisible.

The World Health Organization reinforces this truth. Their framework for quality healthcare does not end at diagnosis and treatment. It speaks of "people-centered care," which means care that is not only clinically effective, but emotionally resonant. Care that recognizes patients and their families as humans first, not just recipients of a service. In places of loss, dignity must remain. And dignity cannot exist in silence, confusion, or bureaucratic indifference. It must be held up by words of comfort, by gestures of empathy, by a system that recognizes grief as something real and deserving of response. WHO emphasizes the experience of care as one of the pillars of health service quality. That includes compassion, communication, emotional support, and a feeling of safety—all of which often vanish in overcrowded, overstressed public hospitals.

Today, our hospitals are drowning in numbers—doctor-patient ratios that shame us, corridors lined with stretchers, and doctors working 18-hour shifts. The compassion fatigue is real. The burnout is measurable. And yet, even within that exhaustion, doctors must be reminded of the oath they took—an oath not just to preserve life, but to preserve humanity. It is not enough to say "We did our best." It is necessary to say it with eyes that look into another's, with hands that offer support, with a voice that does not hide behind clinical detachment. The Hippocratic Oath is not just a document. It is a sacred covenant with society, rooted in empathy, care, and the fundamental duty to treat patients as whole human beings—not just organs to fix.

We, too, must stop seeing doctors as machines or magicians. They are neither. They are human beings who carry extraordinary burdens. They lose patients they've tried to save. They hear wails and see tears and sometimes, they cry too. But for them to be able to offer true care, they need to be protected—physically, emotionally, and systemically. Violence against doctors is a failure of the system as much as it is a crime of the moment. But more deeply, it is a symptom of a wider disconnect—between the technical act of saving lives and the human need to be seen and supported in moments of helplessness.

The government has a moral obligation here. Not just to pass laws, but to fund counselors, create patient liaison roles, train medical staff in trauma communication, and to introduce emotional intelligence as part of the medical curriculum. In the silence of a hospital after a death, policy must take shape. In the space where a mother falls to her knees in grief, leadership must emerge. If we do not respond with reform, then we are complicit in every scream that echoes through those wards. We need to reimagine healthcare not as a series of interventions, but as a continuum of care—one that spans from the first panic-stricken call for help to the final moments of heartbreak and beyond.

Because healing is not just about ventilators and vials. It is about how we treat people when their world falls apart. It is about remembering that sometimes, even when a heartbeat cannot be revived, a spirit can be comforted. Sometimes, when a life cannot be saved, a soul can be held. And sometimes, long before any medicine begins its work, it is compassion that keeps us alive. It is in that glance, that embrace, that whispered, "I'm here"—that real healing begins.

Hidayat Bukhari is a scientist and social activist currently heading CyberX Info Systems Rangreth as Director Proposals and Business Strategy (US).

SMHS Hospital in Spotlight



■ Rayees Ahmad Kumar

A disturbing scene unfolded at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar when a resident doctor, Dr. Shah Nawaz, was assaulted by a patient's attendant, sparking widespread protests from the medical fraternity. The incident occurred on July 22, 2025, in the hospital's emergency ward, after a patient named Javid Ahmad died allegedly due to medical negligence. Resident doctors suspended medical services and locked the hospital gates, causing chaos and anguish among patients and their families. Hundreds of patients and attendants were stranded, with some desperately seeking urgent medical attention. The patient's family alleged that Dr. Shah Nawaz ignored Javid's worsening condition and asked for medicine to be brought from outside, contributing to his death. They demanded access to CCTV footage and an independent investigation into the incident. A CCTV video captured the moment when the doctor was slapped by the patient's attendant, sparking outrage across the medical community. The doctors demanded strict action against the accused and better protection for healthcare professionals. GMC Srinagar condemned the assault, and an FIR was also registered against the accused. The administration assured that hospitals are "public institutions serving humanity" and appealed for calm and respect during times of distress. The medical fraternity has appealed for strict security measures to prevent future incidents and ensure hospitals remain safe spaces for

both patients and healthcare providers. If we look back, it is not the single incident, which has happened in the public health institutions of Jammu Kashmir and earlier also such episodes have ignited public outcry. Doctor's profession is one of the noblest, in times of desperation and intolerable pain, patient's only hope is none other than a doctor. That is why, he is often given the sobriquet of next to God in view of their life saving services. Respecting doctors is must for a society, given their utmost role in the society. During wars, natural calamities and global pandemics, these health care professionals perform heroically to serve humanity at large. In past, during World Wars and Covid like situations, they have dedicated themselves to ignite a ray of hope among dying populations. Merely dedicating a day each year on first July to organize seminars, symposiums and debates and celebrating extravagantly can't do anything wonderful, unless we are morally upright to recognize the noble services of these front line workers who work day and night in hospitals, spending least time with their families and almost neglecting both their parents and children, giving priority to patient care. Becoming a doctor is everyone's dream at secondary and higher secondary level, however only those who work tirelessly, study passionately and burn midnight oil, qualify to prefix Dr before their good names. This Dr before their names is a testament to their dedication, fortitude and cognitive efficiency. Thus, they deserve utmost respect and honor in the society. Harassing a doctor in health institutions and compelling them to seek jobs outside the state, is evidently a cause of concern and in no way advantageous for general public especially downtrodden people seeking treatment in government hospitals. However, soon after the perturbing video was shared on all social media platforms, displaying a doctor being slapped by an attendant of a patient, medical fraternity expressed strong outcry and

anguish and these Godly figures protested outside the hospital demanding stern action against the person. They shut the doors of emergency ward and denied OPD services to poor and underprivileged people, thereby showing utter non-seriousness towards their legitimate duties, which in no way can be encouraging and demands mass condemnation from all sections of society. Doctors can't deny treatment to ill people merely for being misbehaved, such incidents happen occasionally and occur only when it seems that a doctor hasn't shouldered his responsibility well. However, it can't be denied that attendants and sometimes patients too unnecessarily engage in verbal brawls and assaults with doctors in hospitals, to contain and check such incidents, there are strict laws in Vogue which need to be implemented in letter and spirit. Three years ago, due to a sudden fall in the washroom of my hired room at Ganderbal, the Achilles tendon of my left leg got partially damaged, I was admitted to prestigious SKIMS hospital of Soura Srinagar for nine straight days. After a successful surgery by renowned plastic surgeon Prof Dr Umar Farooq Baba and remaining bedridden for about four months, by the grace of Almighty God, I was able to walk freely and enjoy the vibrant colours of life outside. They way Dr Umar treated me and paramedical staff cooperated, it was all heartwarming as well as commendable. Since then I heartily respect doctor's community and hold SKIMS in high regard and esteem as I had lost all hopes and my every well wisher was suggesting treatment outside the state, which I completely refused and had full faith both in Dr Umar Farooq Baba and SKIMS's work culture. It is crucial to recognize the societal services of doctors and in return, doctors also must do justice with their noble profession.

Writer is a columnist based in Qazigund Kashmir.

Falling Roofs, Falling Conscience: Jhalawar Accident And The Death Hidden In The Foundation Of Our System



■ Priyanka Saurabh

The roof of a government school collapsed in Jhalawar district of Rajasthan. And buried under it, some innocent children – those children who had dreams in their eyes, who had a future in their books – became silent forever. Someone said, "It was an accident". But for those whose lives were destroyed, it was not an accident. It was murder. And the murderers are all of us – whether it is the government system, the administration, the contractors, or the society.

When did our society become so insensitive that even on the news of a school roof collapse, we just write 'tribute' and 'sad' on social media and move on? Have we learned so quickly to accept the death of children as the 'new normal'?

Every brick testifies that it wasn't the roof of this school that was weak – corruption was embedded in its foundation. From the building's plans to the construction material, someone fled from honesty at every step. And when honesty runs away, conscience falls. And when conscience falls, roofs fall, and innocents are buried.

You are the contractor? You are the mason? You are the engineer? Then you are responsible. If you took bribes, if you used cheap materials, if you turned a blind eye, then you are the murderer. And I do not use these words lightly. The roof that has collapsed today was not made of just cement and iron rods—it was the roof of our trust, our responsibility and the spirit of our Constitution. When it collapsed, it was a sign that this country's promise of public welfare now exists only on paper. The question is who investigates these



accidents? The same department whose officials turned a blind eye during the construction? The same leaders on whose orders tenders were distributed? Have we ever seen a minister resigning for such an accident? Probably not. Because in our country the dignity of the post is left, not the responsibility.

This conscience has been shaken many times before the Jhalawar incident. In Madhya Pradesh, seven children died when a school wall collapsed. In Uttar Pradesh, a bridge collapsed three days after its inauguration. In Bihar, a part of the roof of a hospital collapsed and a patient died. These are not accidents, but a pattern. And the name of this pattern is – "Contractorship System".

This system is a triangle of politics, bureaucracy and business, in which the public is always oppressed. And when the public is oppressed in the form of children studying in school, then this triangle becomes a tragedy.

Our system is not just responsible, it has also become insensitive. Politicians express grief over every dead child, announce compensation, and then get

busy in the next election rally. But what is compensation for a mother? The child who was supposed to return after the afternoon break, now returns wrapped in a white sheet. Can any amount of money return the warmth of that pallu in which only emptiness is left now?

We also have to think why this happens? Are our school buildings so old? No. In many places, even the recently built schools are collapsing. The real reason is non-compliance with standard procedures. Use of cheap materials in building school buildings, local political interference, nepotism in the tender process, and lack of technical inspection during construction.

Governments make plans – "Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan", "Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan", "School Chalen Hum" – but is there any "School Bachay Rahein" campaign? Are there any plans to save children's lives? Or are they just for statistics?

Here is another aspect – in rural areas, many schools are built on panchayat land, which are neither inspected regularly nor repaired. In many places, the Pradhan himself is the contractor, and the word

'quality' in his construction is a joke. In some places, the walls of government schools are covered with posters and slogans – "India will progress only if India studies" – but inside the walls, bricks made of sand and corruption are breathing.

The problem is not just of the building, but of the entire mentality. As long as we keep looking at every government work with the mentality of 'chalta hai' (it's okay), the roofs will keep falling. And with every roof, some dreams, some smiling faces and the entire world of some parents will keep collapsing.

We have to initiate change now – responsibility must be fixed. There should be a 'live audit' of every government construction. The construction material should be checked by an independent agency. The quality report of school buildings should be made available to the public through RTI. The local community should be given the right to monitor the construction work.

Not only this, judicial intervention is also necessary now. The Supreme Court should take suo motu cognizance of such

cases. Negligence in construction should be considered 'criminal negligence' and cases should be registered against the culprits under non-bailable sections.

Now the time has come for the society to understand its role. In every locality, every village, people should ask – is our children's school safe or not? If not, then we should raise our voice. Keeping quiet is also a crime.

Journalists should also go to the spot and report, and go beyond headlines like "X children died" and ask questions like "Why did they die?" "Whose negligence?" and "What action now?" If journalism is limited to statistics, then it too cannot escape the responsibility of this system.

The souls of those innocent children of Jhalawar may no longer be in this world, but their memories will keep reminding us how dangerous our silence can be. Every child who went to study in that school had invested in the future of the country. But in return we buried them in rubble.

The next time you see a building being constructed, don't just look at how tall it will be, also think whether there is faith in its foundation or not. Because if there is greed, negligence and corruption in the foundation, then it is not a building, but a grave.

The debris scattered in Jhalawar today is not just the debris of one building, it is also the debris of our thoughts, our responsibility and our sensitivity.

Those children don't want tributes – they want justice. And justice will happen when the roofs of our system become strong again. When there is honesty in every brick. When the contractor will build with his conscience. When the officer will not be negligent in inspection. When the society will not remain silent.

Finally, a question – Every broken roof, every falling wall is asking us – is your conscience still alive?

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Why Smiling Faces But Silent Wounds



■ Mool Raj

In a world hyperconnected by technology, we are lonelier than ever. In a world obsessed with progress and perfection where every moment is lived under the weight of performance a silent pandemic has taken root in millions of minds it does not explode like wars nor terrify like physical disease yet it erodes peace joy and meaning quietly hidden behind smiling faces and carefully curated online lives depression and anxiety are the unseen wounds of the modern age even as technology advances and comforts increase the human spirit quietly bends under the heavy weight of stress loneliness and emotional fatigue as William Faulkner once said the past is never dead it's not even past and for those carrying unresolved trauma or emotional scars those words are not just poetic but painfully real.

Depression and anxiety are not flaws they are real health conditions with psychological and medical roots they touch people across every class age and background with more than 280 million people suffering from depression and over 300 million battling anxiety worldwide the numbers are enormous yet still do not capture the private suffering behind closed doors where individuals remain invisible unheard and untreated often

silenced by fear or societal shame unlike a broken bone mental pain often remains hidden until it breaks someone completely. This pain is spreading most rapidly among the youth in a world that demands perfection from students job seekers and social media users young minds are cracking under constant comparison unrealistic standards and relentless pressure instead of learning how to pause and simply exist they push themselves toward a breaking point usually unnoticed until it's too late while chasing applause likes and flawless appearances they forget how to breathe how to rest how to feel enough.

I would like to emphasize that a broken mind is as real as a broken bone he calls for open spaces where pain can be spoken without fear I would like to warn of rising mental illness among young people and believes mental health must be part of school education not something we wait to address after a breakdown happens. It explains how social media's constant comparison culture is stealing the confidence and direction of countless youth who quietly believe they are never good enough never beautiful enough never successful enough. Social media while connecting the world has also created deep emotional disconnection we are always online yet often painfully alone we scroll through illusions of perfection and lose our own peace in the process nights feel longer silence feels heavier and even with hundreds of virtual friends there's no one to truly talk to this modern loneliness eats away at the soul in silence.

The problem deepens in places marked by violence and political

unrest like Kashmir where mental health becomes not just personal suffering but community trauma generations grow up knowing how to survive not how to heal their emotional wounds run deep and complex and yet support is scarce mental illness in many societies is still dismissed as weakness or madness families ignore it friends laugh and neighbors gossip pushing sufferers into deeper silence a silence that often becomes deadly as we cannot expect healing in a society that mocks pain.

What can we do we must first accept that depression and anxiety are real urgent and treatable they require care therapy and compassion not denial education must be reformed to include mental health awareness and even spiritual leaders must create safe spaces where seeking help is seen as strength media must stop glorifying tragedy and start highlighting healing and resilience governments must invest in mental health services from schools to hospitals to remote villages.

And most importantly we as people must care asking someone how they truly feel and listening without judging can begin a powerful journey of healing sometimes being present is enough and if you are someone struggling know this your pain is valid but not permanent you are not weak you are human Rumi once wrote the wound is the place where the light enters you and that light still lives within you. Together with honesty compassion and courage we can change the story so that no one suffers in silence and every mind is valued.

The Author Is A Regular Columnist And Freelance Writer

Rural development as a career choice



■ Vijay Garg

In a country like India where the majority of its population lives in rural areas, rural life or development is crucial. It is not only in India but in most of the developing countries majority lives in rural areas. We need to know the importance of rural development and how it helps to bring sustainable changes for us. It is a comprehensive process focused on improving the economic and social well-being of people living in rural areas. It encompasses various initiatives aimed at enhancing livelihoods, infrastructure, and social transformation in villages and other sub urban areas.

Rural development in India focuses on improving the economic and social well-being of people living in rural India, which constitute a significant portion of the country's population. It encompasses various aspects like agricultural development, infrastructure building, social infrastructure development, and improving access to healthcare, education, and other essential services. Rural development is crucial for India's overall progress, as it addresses the needs of a large segment of the population and contributes significantly to the national income and employment. It is a must for Viksit Bharat.

In a gesture both symbolic and strategic, the United Nations General Assembly declared July 6 as World Rural Development Day, reaffirming its unwavering commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This declaration, steeped in the spirit of international solidarity, acknowledges the deep-rooted challenge of rural poverty and the necessity of addressing it as a precondition for achieving the broader goals of economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Drawing from a lineage of global declarations and resolutions – from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda – the resolution seeks to shine a sustained light on the lives and struggles of those who till the soil, harvest the seas, and nurture the land in rural corners of the world.

The observance of World Rural Development Day, as outlined, is not intended as a mere ceremonial gesture, but as a catalyst for meaningful action. Governments, civil society, international organizations, and academic institutions are invited to partake in the annual commemoration through concrete activities, policy dialogue, and grassroots initiatives. With a clear emphasis on voluntary contributions and locally driven strategies, the resolution entrusts this Day with the power to elevate rural voices, galvanize development efforts, and renew the world's collective promise: to leave no one behind, not even in the most remote and forgotten places of the earth.

Rural development could be a career option for those who dream to bring social changes around them. There are options and opportunities for aspirants who are committed and also qualified. There are many courses related to rural development. A Rural Development professional plays a key role in transforming villages by planning and monitoring developing plans and activities and enhancing different targets of the governments or other development agencies. This career is ideal for those who want to support the economic, environmental, and social transformations. One may get jobs in government and also in nongovernmental organisations or other developmental agencies.

Most of the universities and colleges offer courses related to rural development. National Institute of Panchayati Raj and Rural Development offers different courses like Post Graduate Diplomas. Tata Institute of Social Sciences also offers specialized courses related to rural development. There are different management courses related to rural development which are also offered by B Schools. Open and distance learning courses are also available including courses from IGNOU. Apart from academic qualifications one must possess employability skills to succeed through rural development.

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

Addressing The Issue Of Violence Against Doctors With Special Emphasis On Building Robust Public Healthcare System



■ Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo

India's healthcare system is in crisis, with violence against doctors being a major concern. Every week, multiple incidents of assault on doctors are reported, especially in government hospitals. A staggering 75% of doctors in India have faced some form of violence at work, according to a survey by the Indian Medical Association. The root causes of this violence are complex. Disturbed doctor-patient relationships and patient dissatisfaction are key factors. When patients' expectations aren't met, it can lead to discontent and even violence. Agitated friends and relatives accompanying patients are often the perpetrators, and emergency wards, ICUs, and general medicine wards are the most common settings for such incidents. Recent studies have identified two main factors contributing to the increasing violence: patients' increased awareness of their rights and poor quality of medical services. Other factors include high out-of-pocket healthcare expenses, lack of trust in doctors and hospitals, commercialization of healthcare, and inadequate government investment. Patients are no longer silent about medical malpractice or negligence and demand explanations and compensation, leading to disputes and violent acts. To address this issue, it's crucial to improve the quality of medical services and prevent avoidable disputes. Hospital directors play a vital role in managing hospitals and enhancing service quality. They should be empowered to appoint and audit staff based on performance and review staff performance to develop services and planning. An effective incentive and constraint mechanism can monitor hospital directors and strengthen quality management. Reforming the medical education system is also essential. Strict accreditations for medical schools can ensure high standards, and institutions that fail to meet these standards should be closed after being given a chance to improve. The number of enrolments in medical colleges should be based on the quality of teachers and facilities. More importantly, to address the issue of violence against doctors, we need to build robust public healthcare system. The current public expenditure on healthcare in India is just above 1.5 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and we need to raise it to at least 3.5 percent in the near term. We should remember that several developed countries already spend more than 10 percent of its GDP as public health expenditure. India should be able to strengthen the

three tier public healthcare system by adopting a strategy, with emphasis on pouring more resources into the primary healthcare centres. It is estimated that almost 90 percent of the medical treatment demand can be met at the primary healthcare level and very few patients need to be referred to higher centers of the healthcare ladder. Provided, proper health education and awareness, particularly regarding emerging common lifestyle diseases and infections is ensured at primary level of care. Having said that, the way out is to strengthen our primary healthcare set up and ensure a basic access of healthcare services to our entire population. The United Nations High Level Political Declaration on Universal Health Coverage calls for accessible and equitable healthcare services to every single person and advocates greater emphasis on primary healthcare. Primary healthcare must be improved - starting with sub-centres, the first health post for the community. By staffing them with well-trained non-physician health care providers, both facility-based and outreach services can be provided without being doctor dependent. Sub-district hospitals too should be strengthened to provide high quality secondary care, some elements of essential tertiary care and training to different categories of health care providers. This would also help in relieving unending crowds in tertiary care hospitals. The next priority should be to improve the size and quality of our health workforce. Without this, the promise of achieving Universal Health Coverage will remain an

empty entitlement. Since primary health care is our first priority, resources must be devoted to the production of competent and committed community health workers for the frontline, mid-level health workers or AYUSH doctors for the sub-centres, and general and specialist nurses as well as non-specialist doctors for primary health centres. More specialists are needed for higher levels of health care including the district hospitals. New nursing and medical colleges should be preferentially set up in districts which presently have very few, linking them to tertiary-care hospitals. It is indeed a matter of satisfaction that new medical colleges at district level are being set up by government. However more needs to be done to ensure adequate staff recruitment, strengthen all specialties, build infrastructure to ensure facilities, strengthen the emergency care and improve patient care and management in the newly set medical colleges. Public health competencies must be increased through inter-disciplinary education which is aligned to health system needs. Improved management of all of these human resources must involve better incentives for recruitment and retention, cadre review and creation of well defined career tracks. The another focus should be to provide essential medicines and diagnostics free of cost at all public facilities. At the same time, referral linkages and patient transport services should be improved to integrate primary, secondary and tertiary health care in the public system. Difficult

to reach areas and vulnerable population groups should receive special attention, even as the principle of universality must be applied while designing health services. Regulatory systems need strengthening - from hospital accreditation to health professional education and from drug licensing to mandatory adoption of standard management guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of different disease conditions at each level of health care. A district wise inter-operable Health Information Network is needed to improve governance, accountability, portability, storage of health records and management. Moreover, community participation must be supported to actively engage people in the design, delivery, monitoring and evaluation of health programmes. Finally, larger healthcare investments and budget allocation should also be made in health promoting programmes in other sectors such as water, sanitation, nutrition, environment, urban design and livelihood generation. In conclusion, doctors and patients must work together to demand greater commitment from the government to address the underlying social determinants of violence against doctors. By building trust and cooperation, we can create a safer and more effective healthcare system for all.

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Over 200 day care Cancer Centres approved across India for 2025-26

■ HT News Desk / KINS

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: In a significant push to expand cancer care infrastructure, the Central Government has approved the establishment of over 200 Day Care Cancer Centres (DCCCs) across India for the year 2025-26. This was announced by Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, in a written reply to a query in the Lok Sabha today. Uttar Pradesh will lead the nationwide rollout with 75 proposed centres across districts like Moradabad, Bareilly, Gautam Buddha Nagar, Saharanpur, Jhansi, and Bijoor. Telangana follows with 33 centres, while Maharashtra ranks third with 27 centres. Karnataka and Jharkhand will each have 16 centres. "These centres will be primarily set up in district hospitals, depending on the availability of space and required logistics. However, other government healthcare facilities may also host the centres based on feasibility and proposals submitted by the States," Jadhav said. He added that each DCCC will cost up to ₹1.49 crore to establish, with costs varying according to local infrastructure gaps and needs. The decision follows a national gap analysis



conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare using cancer registry data from the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR). Districts with higher cancer burden were prioritized, as per the guidelines laid out after the Union Budget 2025-26. Proposals from States and Union Territories were assessed and finalized by the National Programme Coordination Committee (NPCC), ensuring efficient use of resources and avoiding duplication of services. The move is expected to bring accessible, quality cancer care closer to patients, especially in underserved and rural regions of the country.

Car Emissions, Air Pollution Linked To Higher Dementia Risk: Study

■ United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: Regular exposure to air pollution, including that coming from car exhaust emissions, can increase your risk of dementia, according to an analysis of studies published on Friday. Dementias such as Alzheimer's disease are estimated to affect more than 57.4 million people worldwide, a number that is expected to almost triple to 152.8 million cases by 2050. The study, published in the journal The Lancet Planetary Health, showed that for every 10 micrograms per cubic metre of PM2.5, an individual's relative risk of dementia would increase by 17 per cent. For each 1 microgram per cubic metre of soot as found in PM2.5, the relative risk for the cognitive condition increased by 13 per cent. Soot comes from sources such as vehicle exhaust emissions and burning wood. "These findings underscore the need for an interdisciplinary approach to dementia prevention. Preventing dementia is not just the responsibility of health care: this study strengthens the case that urban planning, transport policy, and environmental regulation all have a significant role to play," said joint first author Dr. Christiaan Bredell from the University of Cambridge. Air pollution causes inflammation in the brain and oxidative stress (a chemical process in the body that can cause damage to cells, proteins, and DNA), leading to the onset and progression of dementia. "Tackling air pollution can deliver long-term health, social, climate, and economic benefits. It can reduce the immense burden on patients, families, and caregivers, while easing pressure on overstretched health care systems," said Dr. Haneen Khreis from the MRC Epidemiology Unit. For the study, the team carried out a systematic review and meta-analysis of existing scientific literature. They included 51 studies, including data from more than 29 million participants, mostly from high-income countries. Of these, 34 papers were included in the meta-analysis: 15 originated in North America, 10 in Europe, seven in Asia, and two in Australia.

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PM Modi, Maldivian President Muizzu hold restricted talks, followed by delegation level talks in Male

United News Of India

MALE/NEW DELHI, JULY 25: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Maldivian President Mohamed Muizzu held talks in restricted format followed by delegation level talks in Male today, which are expected to be followed by the signing of several MoUs and the inauguration of joint initiatives, aimed at advancing cooperation across critical sectors of mutual interest. The delegation level talks lasted nearly an hour.

PM Modi, who arrived in Male earlier in the day on a two-day state visit, was welcomed by President Muizzu at the Velana International Airport in a special gesture.

PM Modi was extended a guard of honour as part of the ceremonial welcome, in the presence of senior representatives from both governments.

Maldivian officials joined India's senior-most delegates, underscoring the diplomatic weight of the visit. The reception



also featured a cultural performance by students of Majeedhiyaa School.

The visit by PM Modi is his first official visit to the Maldives since assuming office for a third consecutive term and also the first since President Muizzu took office.

PM Modi's visit comes as the Maldives celebrates its 60th anniversary of independence and also as the two nations mark six decades of formal ties.

In a post on X, PM Modi wrote in Dhivehi, expressing his appreciation for being received at the airport by President Muizzu. He reiterated his belief that the bilateral partnership is poised to expand in the days ahead.

"I have arrived in Malé. I am very pleased that President Muizzu was present at the airport to welcome me. I am confident that the relationship between India and the Maldives will ascend to new heights in the coming days," Prime Minister Modi stated.

PM Modi also engaged with members of the Indian community residing in Malé, who had gathered at the airport to wel-

come him. "The citizens of India play a crucial role in advancing the friendship between India and the Maldives," he wrote.

"I am pleased to have had the opportunity to meet with Indian citizens residing in the Maldives during this visit. I express my gratitude for the warm welcome extended."

Earlier, Prime Minister Modi said it is an honour to participate in celebrations marking the 60th anniversary of the Maldives' independence.

"I am honoured to be taking part in the 60th Independence Day celebrations of the Maldives. This year we also mark 60 years of India-Maldives diplomatic relations. The talks with President Muizzu will certainly add momentum to bilateral ties across diverse sectors," he wrote.

President Muizzu had first travelled to New Delhi in June last year to attend Prime Minister Modi's swearing-in ceremony, followed by a state visit in October. UNI RN

SC sends 'Udaipur Files' movie release challenge to High Court, refuses to extend stay

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: The Supreme Court today relegated to the Delhi High Court the petitions challenging the Central Government's order allowing the release of the movie 'Udaipur Files' subject to six further cuts, while refusing to extend the stay on the film's release.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Jyotsna Banerjee said it would pass an order requesting the High Court to consider the challenge to the revisional authority's order on Monday itself.

The Court recorded that the producer's petition before it was withdrawn, while the accused's petition was closed with liberty to pursue the matter before the High Court.

Clarifying that it had not expressed any opinion on merits, the Bench told petitioners to approach the High Court. Justice Surya Kant remarked, "Please don't waste time here. Go to the High Court."

Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, representing the petitioners, urged the Court to restrain the film's release till the High Court considered their plea. However, Justice Kant refused to pass any interim order, stating, "Meanwhile, nothing."

Senior Advocate Gaurav Bhatia, for the producers, argued that petitioners before the High Court could not seek interim relief from the Supreme Court, particularly when the producers wanted to withdraw their petition.

Referring to a similar matter involving the movie 'The Kerala Story', he said, "I have lost twelve days already."

Justice Kant, on a lighter note, replied, "Don't think you were in losses in these 12 days," noting the publicity generated by the litigation.

A counsel for an intervenor submitted that the petitioners' concerns were imaginary, citing no adverse consequence from earlier films like 'The Kashmir Files' and the 'Kerala Story'.

He criticised the "hyper sensitivity syndrome" of petitioners seeking to act as a "super censor."

Bhatia added that any interim order now would cause further damage to the producers. Sibal, in response, argued that the present case was different as the petitioner had watched the film and was challenging its content, also citing the Supreme Court's hate speech judgment in Amish Devgan v. Union of India.

Justice Jyotsna Banerjee observed that the Wednesbury principle would apply when an expert body had taken a decision. (The Wednesbury principle establishes a standard for judicial review where courts can overturn decisions made by public bodies if those decisions are so unreasonable that no reasonable authority could have made them.)

Ultimately, the Bench directed that the High Court hear the matter on Monday, reiterating that it had not expressed any view on the merits.

Yesterday (July 24), the Court indicated it may remit the matter to the Delhi High Court for interim relief.

During the hearing, Justice Surya Kant remarked, "It is the right of the society to watch or not watch a movie," and stressed that judicial officers must decide cases based strictly on evidence. Commenting on public perception, he said, "The judiciary should remain unaffected by all this nonsense... Most of us don't read newspapers in the morning. We don't care about it."

MoD inks Rs 2,000 cr deal with BEL for Air Defence Fire Control Radars

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 25: Defence Ministry today signed a contract with Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for the procurement of Air Defence Fire Control Radars for the Indian Army, worth around Rs 2,000 crore.

The deal is under the Buy (Indian-Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured) category, a Defence Ministry statement said.

The contract was inked and exchanged by senior officials of MOD and BEL in presence of Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh here.

With minimum 70 per cent indigenous content, these Fire Control Radars will be able to detect all forms of air-borne threats, including fighter aircraft, attack helicopters and enemy drones.

This would mark a significant milestone in the modernisation of the Air Defence Regiments and enhance the Indian Army's operational readiness, while contributing to the economic growth of the nation.

The procurement marks a pivotal step towards empowering indigenous defence industries by encouraging Indian MSMEs through components' manufacturing and raw material supply. UNI RBE ARN

Congress to hold OBC leaders meet in Delhi, Telangana delegation to discuss BC reservations

United News Of India

NEW DELHI/HYDERABAD, JULY 25: The Congress party is set to hold a major meeting of its OBC (Other Backward Classes) leaders at the Talkatora Stadium in New Delhi on Friday, with a special focus on the social, educational, and economic upliftment of backward communities across the country.

The meeting will see participation from a wide array of Congress leaders, including PCC Chief Mahesh Kumar Goud, BC Ministers, MLAs, MPs, MLCs, Corporation Chairmen, former legislators, DCC Presidents, and heads of BC-affiliated groups. Leaders from the Youth Congress, NSUI, Library Society, Market Committees, BC intellectuals, and various caste group representatives will also be attending.

The event will be marked by addresses from key national leaders.



Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi will be the main speakers. Rahul Gandhi is expected to provide direction on launching a strong and united OBC movement aimed at empowering oppressed communities and ensuring greater inclusion.

A crucial part of the meeting will

be the deliberation on the role of BC leaders in building awareness and unity among OBC communities nationwide. Telangana's Congress BC leaders will also use this platform to engage in discussions with Rahul Gandhi regarding BC reservations and the future political roadmap for backward classes in the state, a party statement said. UNI VV AAB

Will act tough against language-based violence, says CM Fadnavis

United News Of India

MUMBAI, JULY 25: Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis has warned that violence in the name of language will not be tolerated.

"One can take pride in the Marathi language, but assaulting others for not knowing or speaking Marathi will not be accepted. Legal action will be taken against such offenders," he stated.

Fadnavis was speaking at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) in Delhi during the foundation stone laying ceremony of a new Centre for Strategic and Defence Studies named after Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj and the inauguration of the Kusumagraj Chair for Marathi language studies last evening.

Highlighting the significance of Marathi, Fadnavis said it is an ancient language. "It was due to our request that Prime Minister Narendra Modi granted it the status of a classical language. Pride in Marathi is natural and justified, but violence in its name will not be tolerated. Those indulging



in such actions will face strict legal consequences", he said.

He emphasized Marathi's contribution to the country, especially in the field of theatre. "If any language has kept Indian theatre alive across the nation, it is Marathi", he said. Fadnavis added that research and academic study of the language is vital and the Kusumagraj Chair at JNU

will work towards that objective.

Fadnavis also stressed the importance of respecting all Indian languages. "Every citizen must take pride in their mother tongue. However, respecting other Indian languages is also our responsibility. We easily accept English but often neglect our native languages, which is not right," he said. UNI SP PRS

IAEA chief Grossi rules out inspection of Iran's nuke programme

United News Of India

TEHRAN, JULY 25: Amid Iran's readiness to resume technical discussions with the UN's nuclear watchdog group - the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) - the body's chief Rafael Grossi said today that any planned visit to the country would not involve inspectors.

Speaking in Singapore, Grossi said the agency had proposed talks with Tehran on "the modalities as to how to restart or begin (inspections) again," beginning with procedural issues and potentially moving to high-level consultations later, reports Iran International.

Grossi further emphasised on the need for engagement, or rather re-engagement, stating that the IAEA lacks any updated information on Tehran's nuclear programme, particularly its arsenal of highly enriched uranium, data which is crucial before resuming any technical talks.

"This is why it is so important that we engage as soon as possible and



that we can start our inspection," he said. Following Iran's 12-day war with Israel, Tehran suspended all cooperation with the agency, accusing it of a pro-Jerusalem and pro-Western bias thus lacking any objectivity in its assessments. Grossi's refusal to condemn the US airstrikes on June

22, as well as supplying Jerusalem vital information about its nuclear program.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei said today that a senior IAEA official is expected to visit Tehran in the coming weeks for talks on a new cooperation framework, but made it clear that there are no plans for the delegation to inspect nuclear facilities damaged in the strikes.

He said the visit will focus on procedural coordination, and any further cooperation will depend on decisions by Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

The country's Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi had earlier confirmed that a technical IAEA delegation would travel to Tehran, reiterating that the visit was only restricted to technical talks and any site inspections were not on the agenda. He said Iran's engagement with the agency is being guided by legislation passed after the June attacks. UNI ANV SSP

US diplomat Tom Barrack announces breakthrough in reaching Israel-Syria settlement

United News Of India

PARIS, JULY 25: US Special Envoy for Syria Tom Barrack yesterday announced that a rare meeting between Syrian and Israeli officials, held in Paris, had succeeded in achieving initial de-escalation in the wake of a violent flare-up in southern Syria.

Barrack confirmed that he met Israeli Minister of Strategic Affairs Ron Dermer and Syrian Foreign Minister Asaad al-Shibani, reports Axios.

The talks focused on the deteriorating security situation in Syria's Suwayda province, where armed clashes between Bedouin tribes and Druze self-defence groups erupted last week, leading to massive casualties.

"I met this evening with the Syrians and Israelis in Paris. Our goal was dialogue and de-escalation, and we accomplished precisely that," Barrack posted on X. "All parties reiterated their commitment to continuing these efforts."

The meeting came in response to escalating violence in Suwayda, a predominantly Druze region in southern Syria.

According to the Syrian Defence Ministry, over 30 people were killed and more than 100 injured in the recent clashes.

However, the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights has reported a significantly higher toll, citing 940 deaths since the violence began, including 262 Druze civilians.

Following the unrest, the Syrian Army and interior ministry deployed troops to crack down on what they termed "illegal armed factions". While deployed to restore stability and disarm both militias, the Syrian forces reportedly actively joined the Bedouins, harassing the Druze community further.

In response, Israel launched military strikes on critical Syrian government targets, including its Defence headquarters, and a military instal-



lation located very near its Presidential Palace, as a warning to Damascus to withdraw its forces from Suwayda, citing protection of the Syrian Druze population - a sizeable minority in Israel, as well as its refusal to allow any armed Syrian presence south of Damascus.

The meeting between the Syrian and Israeli officials in Paris, though unofficial in nature, marks a rare channel of direct engagement between Israel and Syria - two coun-

tries that have no formal diplomatic relations and remain technically in a state of war.

While the details of the de-escalation measures remain unclear, Barrack's statement suggests a mutual understanding was reached to prevent further military escalation in the border regions.

It is also seen as part of broader US efforts to reduce regional tensions amid growing concerns of a spillover from localised conflicts into wider instability. UNI ANV SSP

DC Srinagar hands-over 201 sanction letters to Mission YUVA beneficiaries for setting up self-employment units

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: In a significant move towards youth empowerment and promoting self-reliance, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, today handed-over Sanction Letters to the beneficiaries of Mission YUVA initiative to support entrepreneurs in establishing self-employment generating units in the district.

In this regard, an event was organized at the Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex which was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Divisional Head J&K Bank, Shabir Ahmad

Bhat, Zonal Head J&K Bank, Raja Zaffar Khan, Deputy Director Employment, Dr Sheeba Inayat, DSWO, LDM (Banks), Heads of various J&K Bank Business Units and other concerned, alongside a large number of Mission YUVA beneficiaries from different parts of the Srinagar district.

On the occasion, DC handed over 201 sanction letters to aspiring entrepreneurs under Mission YUVA initiative whose proposals had been approved after thorough evaluation by the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) marking a significant moment in the district administration's efforts to empower youth through sustainable self-employment ventures and foster economic growth by en-



abling youth to earn their livelihood in a dignified manner.

Speaking on the occasion, DC underlined that the Administration is working hard to create a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in Srinagar district. He urged expeditious disposal of all Mission YUVA cases so that maximum benefits reach the aspiring entrepreneurs swiftly.

He emphasized that the scheme is designed for easy access, enabling beneficiaries to receive benefits in a hassle free mode directly without unnecessary visits to different Government offices.

DC also commended the inter-departmental cooperation involving DIC, Employment, JKEDI, NRLM, and Banks to facilitate quick processing of

cases & sanctioning and credit disbursement. He stated that the progress achieved in Srinagar is a promising sign for promoting self-employment and boosting the local economy by generating jobs.

Senior Officers of Jammu & Kashmir Bank while speaking on the occasion described the 'Mission YUVA' a unique flagship programme launched by the Government that has witnessed support of entire government machinery right from the conception to implementation to ensure that youth can avail maximum benefits without hassles.

They assured that the Bank will make every possible effort to make the Mission YUVA a success initiative to empower youth

through sustainable livelihood opportunities.

It is worth mentioning that the Jammu & Kashmir Bank today organized multiple Login Day events titled as 'Roz-e-YUVA' in Kashmir and 'Udyami YUVA Day' across Jammu & Kashmir. These events were aimed at handing over loan sanction letters to Mission YUVA beneficiaries to help them establish their own ventures. Such Login Day events will be conducted on a weekly basis throughout the Mission YUVA period.

Earlier, Deputy Director Employment noted the enthusiastic response from the district's youth to Mission YUVA, which aims to empower them through self-employment opportunities.

Satish Sharma meets Google India Leadership; discusses youth empowerment, job creation, digital innovation in J&K

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: In a significant move aimed at boosting the digital development and youth engagement in Jammu and Kashmir, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today met with Ashish Wattal, Country Director of Google India, and Sanjay Dewan, Head, North States, Public Sector, Google.

During the meeting, the Min-



ister emphasized the need to explore collaborative avenues with Google to promote the digital inclusion, entrepreneurship and employment generation for the

youth of Jammu and Kashmir. "J&K's youth have immense potential and it is our priority to channelize their energy into productive and innovative sectors.

Strategic partnerships with global technology leaders like Google will help us unlock new opportunities in skilling, digital education and job creation," said the Minister.

He called upon Google to support the government in launching tailored skill development programs, digital literacy campaigns and technology-driven entrepreneurship models, particularly in rural and remote areas.

Google team reiterated Google's commitment to digital transformation in India and expressed keen

interest in working with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir. They also extended support for designing the region-specific training programs, workshops and certification courses for the students, professionals and aspiring entrepreneurs.

The Minister directed the officers of the IT department to formulate a concrete action plan for initiating collaborative projects with Google, including potential pilots in IT education, cloud training, AI applications and youth innovation labs.

DC Srinagar chairs DLSCC meeting 30 cases recommended for compassionate appointment of terror victims under SRO-43

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Friday chaired a meeting of District Level Screening cum Coordination Committee (DLSCC) here at meeting hall of the DC office complex to review the cases/claims submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those killed in terror related incidents in Srinagar district.

At the outset, the Committee held a comprehensive deliberation on cases/claims submitted under SRO-43 by NoKs of those killed in terror related incidents in Srinagar district. After a detailed examination, the Committee recommended 30 cases to the government for consideration for compassionate appointment under the SRO-43 in the first go.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed the concerned officers to ensure speedy disposal of all such cases for timely clearance of the cases. He emphasized that in a streamlined & coordinated manner, the effort should be to bring down the pendency of such cases to nil.

DC also underlined the importance of a proactive and coordinated approach among all stakeholders to ensure speedy disposal of cases.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Adil Fareed; SP headquarter, Umer Shah; Additional SP CID, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Chief Medical Officer, District Social Welfare Officer, all Tehsildars, senior officers from BSF, Army, and other security agencies, besides officials from the concerned departments.

DC Bandipora distributes sanction letters of Rs.5.5 lakh relief to Road Accident victims

HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JULY 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Friday handed over sanction letters amounting to Rs 5.5 lakh to the next of kin (NoKs) of recent road accident victims during a brief ceremony held at the Mini Secretariat Bandipora.

The financial assistance had been sanctioned during a Road Safety Committee meeting held earlier this week, during which six cases were approved for compensation. On the occasion, DC urged citizens to strictly follow traffic rules to prevent road mishaps.

Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Bandipora, Mudasar Ahmad Wani, briefed the attendees besides the general public about the provisions of the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund, under which the financial assistance was provided.



He informed that under the scheme, Rs 1 lakh is provided in case of death to the dependents, legal heirs, or close family members of the deceased; Rs 75,000 is given in case of permanent disability; Rs 50,000 for grievous injuries; and Rs 10,000 for minor injuries.

DC Budgam chairs DLTFC meeting on Climate Change & Health 5-Year Vision Plan for Budgam Directed for Sustainable Development

HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, JULY 25: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, who is also chairman of the District level Multi-Sectoral Task Force Committee (DLTFC) under the National Programme on Climate Change and Human Health (NPC-CHH), today chaired a high-level review meeting to discuss the district's action plan for addressing health impacts arising from climate change.

The meeting, held at the DC office complex, featured a detailed presentation by Prof. (Dr.) Ashfaq Ahmad, Head, Dept. of Community Medicine, SKIMS Bemina, highlighting the vision of a climate-resilient health system and Budgam's vulnerability to air pollution, water contamination, heat waves, floods, and vector-borne diseases.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said, "Climate-related health risks originate outside the health sector but impact it directly. There is a need for an integrated, coordinated strategy across all departments to protect public health in the face of rising climate threats."

Dr Bilal emphasised the need for institutional coordination and synchronized response mechanisms, citing examples of how inadequate infrastructure or delayed communication during snowstorms or floods can lead to avoidable health crises.

He highlighted key issues including Air Quality Monitoring & Emission Regulation (Pollution Control Board, Transport Dept.),



Resilient Infrastructure for PHCs/ Schools (PWD, Health, DDMA), Water Quality & WASH Co-Initiatives (Jal Shakti, Health, Education), Waste Management and Vector Source Control (Municipality, PRI, Health), Heat-Health Awareness and Early Warning Systems (IMD, Education, Health), Joint Campaigns & Emergency Readiness via wall art, FM radio, IEC drives, and fogging operations.

DC directed that monthly progress reviews be conducted; supported by an integrated monitoring dashboard tracking solar installations, air quality, IEC coverage, and IHIP reports under NPC-CHH.

"We must act not only to treat illness but to prevent it. That means cleaner air, safer water, better infrastructure, and informed citizens. Climate resilience begins with coordinated action," DC remarked.

DC directed to make an eco-friendly five years futuristic plan for the district.

He further directed stakeholders for department-wise implementation of the Action plan both five year as well as District Action Plan, including preparedness drills, stockpiling of medicines and fuels in remote areas, and community-based awareness drives.

DC said, full administrative support will be ensured for strengthening the climate-

health resilience framework in Budgam, under the larger goal of sustainable and inclusive development.

Among others, the meeting was attended by CPO, CMO, Chief Education Officer, ACP, Principal ANMT School, District Health Officer, Dy. CMO (Nodal for Maternal Health), all Block Medical Officers, DFO Budgam, District Pollution Control Officer, State Veterinary Consultant (IDSP), District Disease Investigation Officer, District Nodal Officer, NPCCHH, EO of all MCs, DGMO Ayushman SEHAT, District Consultant NTCP, representatives from Jal Shakti & PDD, representatives from SKIMS Bemina and NGOs.

Hokersar Wetland Thriving, Wildlife Dept Refutes Claims

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: In the wake of a recent article published in the Daily Excelsior on 23rd July 2025 titled "World Famous Hokersar Water Body Facing Grave Encroachment Threat", the Department of Wildlife Protection, Jammu & Kashmir Government, has issued a detailed clarification, categorically denying the allegations of ongoing or unchecked encroachment in the Hokersar Wetland.

Designated as a Ramsar Site of international importance and notified under the Wildlife Protection Act, Hokersar Wetland remains one of the most ecologically vital freshwater marshes in the Kashmir Valley. The department has reaffirmed that no fresh encroachments have occurred in the wetland in recent years and that strict protection mechanisms are in place, including GIS-mapped boundary surveillance, regular field patrolling and active legal enforcement where necessary.

According to official sources, the wetland spans 13.54 square kilometres and has been fully delineated in the department's KML-based geospatial records.

While the department acknowledges the presence of some legacy cultivation practices in fringe areas, particularly seasonal paddy farming, these activities are being systematically curtailed through notices, legal proceedings and ecological interventions as per provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

In response to disputes raised at certain points with regard to the demarcation exercise conducted in 2019-20, a joint demarcation committee was constituted by the Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Budgam and an Electronic Total Station (ETS) survey was carried out to scientifically resolve the contested boundaries.

The final authenticated report from the Revenue Department is awaited and coordination is ongoing to ensure the full legal validation of the wetland's boundaries.

One of the most significant ecological breakthroughs has come through hydrological regulation. The construction of inlet and outlet regulatory gates by the Irrigation and Flood Control Department has led to a remarkable rise in water levels, reportedly the highest in the last two decades.

This natural flooding has resulted in inundation of fringe lands, automatically displacing historic cultivation and acting as a passive yet highly effective deterrent to any unauthorized use.

The increased water retention is also contributing to broader habitat restoration objectives outlined in the Integrated Management Action Plan (IMAP) 2022-27.

A senior official from the department emphasized that the media report in question fails to differentiate between the historical land-use patterns and actual encroachments, thereby misrepresenting the ground reality.

"The wetland is under enhanced legal, ecological, and administrative protection. Misleading reports not only demoralize field staff but also shift public attention away from tangible restoration efforts," the official noted.

The Department of Wildlife Protection strongly reiterated its commitment towards safeguarding the Hokersar Wetland and ensuring its rejuvenation in accordance with international conservation standards. However, it also made an earnest appeal for responsible journalism.

"We urge media outlets to verify facts with official sources before issuing sweeping claims that lack field validation.

Misinformation undermines years of conservation work and can erode public trust.

In the spirit of transparency and accountability, we expect media platforms to uphold ethical standards and refrain from publishing speculative or alarmist content," the department stated.

The department has expressed readiness to facilitate media field visits, to ensure that the public remains accurately informed.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of MOHAMMAD AKBAR RESHI S/O GH RASOOL RESHI R/O KAKOTHAL Tehsil KREERI for the issuance of RBA in his/her / their favor

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above the file in the office of the undersigned for the issuance of RBA in this connection a report of patwari halqa concerned has been sought which reveals that the applicant is currently residing in the village of KAKOTHAL of Tehsil KREERI and belongs to the RESHI community having annual income 580000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

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

If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate 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 HAMEED MALIK, F/O MOHAMMAD ATIF MALIK R/O DOULTHPORA, TEHSIL KREERI

Public Notice

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of ABDUL HAMID DAR S/O ABDUL REHMAN DAR R/O KHISIPORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 18 /10 /1968 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

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

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir
Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application for issuance of RBA certificate in favour of SHAYESTA RASHID S/O ABDUL RASHID GANAIE 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 GANAIE community having annual income 344000// the details of family of the applicant are as follows

1. ABDUL RASHID GANAIE father 50 years Labour
2. GULSHAN BEGAM Mother 40 years Housewife
3. ULFAT RASHID sister 21 years sister
4. SHAISTA RASHID self 18 years //
5. MOHSIN RASHID Brother 16 years //

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

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/ chokedar hassubmitted case file pertaining to Birth of MEHAK JAN S/O AB HAMEED MAGLOO R/O BANGDOORA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 05/03/2010 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order .In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

**OFFICE OF THE STATE DRUGS CONTROLLER,
DRUGS AND FOOD CONTROL ORGANISATION, J&K**
PRESS -RELEASE

The Retail Sale Drug Licenses of M/s Global Healthcare, Barneen, Udhampur have been cancelled with immediate effect for indulging in un-ethical trade practices and for serious contraventions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940 and Rules thereunder.

An official inspection revealed that the firm was selling different brands of Pregabalin namely Pregacrest- NTM, B, Pegabanyl-NTM, B. No., Lyragone cap, Pregacrest-NTM, etc — without maintaining mandatory sales records, in violation of regulatory norms. The failure of M/s Global Healthcare to maintain such records raises serious concerns about possible misuse and diversion of the drug.

The cancellation order was issued by Sh Sanjeev Gupta, Licensing Authority,(Retail) , Udhampur after following due process and in accordance with applicable legal provisions. This step is part of a broader effort to curb the misuse of controlled substances and ensure public health safety.

Ms Lotika Khajuria , State Drugs Controller, J&K has once again urged upon all retail chemists and druggists to strictly adhere to licensing conditions and record-keeping norms, especially when handling scheduled or psychotropic drugs. Non-compliance will attract strict regulatory action, including suspension or cancellation of licenses and legal proceedings as per the law.

No: DFO/D-279/2304-2318 | Dated: 25 07.25

**Sd- State Drugs Controller,
Drugs & Food Control Organization, J&K, Jammu**

DIPK: 4292/25 | Dated 25/07/205

Government of Jammu and Kashmir
Office Of The Divisional Forest Officer Special Forest Division Tangmarg

Email Id: dfortangmarg.for-jk@nic.in Ph/Fax.No.01954254489

TENDER NOTICE | e-NIT NO: 05 of 2025-26 DATED:21-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble Lt. Governor of J&K, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

S. No.	Name of Work	Adv. Cost	Bid Security (EMD)	T.D Cost	Time
1.	BUC plantation in compartments 45/Gul, 47c/Gul, 61/Gul,64d Gul in Gulmarg Range, and 65c/Gul in SPSP Beerwah Range, Forest Division Tangmarg (CA)	2.17	4336	200	120 Days
2.	BUC plantation in compartments 23a/b/a, 47a/Gul, 62b/Gul, 62bi/Gul, 63a/Gul, 64a/Gul, and 64b/Gul, in Gulmarg Range, and compartments s29, s32, s33, 65c/Gul in SPSP Beerwah Range, Forest Division Tangmarg (NPV)	3.58	7164	200	120 Days

Class of Contractor: D Civil Contractor/Forest Contractor

The position of Codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

- Position of Funds Budgeted
- Position of AA/TS Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website: -www.jktenders.gov.in.

Publishing Date:	23-07-2025
Download Start Date:	24-07-2025 from 1:00 PM
Bid submission Start Date:	24-07-2025 from 1:00 PM
Bid submission End Date:	06-08-2025 Up to 6:00 PM
Date of Opening of Technical Bid through online:	07-08-2025 at 2:30 PM in the office of the office of Conservator of Forests Srinagar Circle Srinagar.
Date of Opening of Financial Bid through online:	To be opened (Online) after technical evaluation is completed.

TERMS & CONDITIONS

1. The bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website: https://jktenders.gov.in.
2. Bids uploaded must accompany Govt. Treasury Receipt (cost of tender document) in the shape of Treasury Challan for the amount shown against the work above to be deposited in Govt. Treasury under Account Head 0406- Forest and Bid Security in the shape of EMD (CDR) for requisite amount and pledged to Divisional Forest Officer.
3. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 90 days from the date of opening of bids.
4. The bidders have to submit their Technical & Financial bids online in electronic format with digital signature. No Technical or financial bid will be accepted in physical/hard form. Bids will be opened online as per time schedule mentioned above.
5. Bidders must ensure to upload scanned copies of all necessary documents i.e., Bid security in shape of (EMD in form of CDR), Valid Registration Card issued by PWD/CPWD/ duly renewed for the current year 2025-26, PAN, Valid GST Registration, Govt. Treasury receipt (Cost of Tender Document), Affidavit cum undertaking.
6. As per rule 171 of GFR-2017, Performance Security shall have to be deposited by successful bidder to the order of 3% of the value of contract and if there are compelling circumstances, performance security in excess of three percent may also be demanded.

No: DFO/TNG/Acctts/2025-26/238-244 | Dated: 21-07-2025

**Sd/- Divisional Forest Officer,
Special Forest Division, Tangmarg**

DIPK: 4267/25 | Dated: 25/07/2025

**TRAFFIC POLICE HEADQUARTERS,
J&K, JAMMU/SRINAGAR**

1. From 24-07-2025, 1600 hrs. to 25-07-2025, 1600 hrs., there was slow movement observed on NH-44 due to single lane traffic at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather.
2. Commuters belonging to Reasi, Katra, Udhampur, Patnitop, Doda and Ramban town are requested to keep their photo ID card to prove their identification after cut off timing from Jammu/ Udhampur so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
3. Passengers/LMV's operators are advised to undertake journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW during day time due to apprehension of shooting stones between Ramban and Banihal.
4. Goods carrier (HMV/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable/live stock are advised to load their vehicle as per advisory issued by Traffic Police Headquarters time to time as there is single lane traffic and poor condition of road at Nashri-Dalwas and between Marog & Kishtwari Pather on Jammu Srinagar NHW.
5. Fruit growers/ Load carrier (HMV/LMV) Operators carrying fresh perishable from Valley towards Jammu are advised to load and park their vehicle timely (every morning before 9.00 am at designated place between NAVYUG Tunnel and Levdoora) so that their movement can be facilitated smoothly.
6. HMVs Operators/Owners are requested to desist from overloading and carry sufficient fuel during journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW. It is further requested that vehicle owners must double check the fitness of their vehicles and carry sufficient fuel before undertaking journey on Jammu-Srinagar NHW.
7. HMVs with only 06 and 10 tyres shall be allowed to ply through Dhar road.
8. Commuters are advised to avoid unnecessary haltagbe between Ramban and Banihal especially near landslide/shooting stone area.

TRAFFIC PLAN & ADVISORY FOR 26-07-2025:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions SANJY Convoy /LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Jammu-Srinagar NHW (NH-44) viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa. However, HMVs shall be allowed on alternate days. TCU Jammu/Srinagar shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing this traffic.

SHRI AMAR NATH JI YATRA 2025

Please refer to Yatra Advisory No. 01 dated 27-06-2025

CUT OFF TIMINGS FOR LMVs/PASSENGER/PRIVATE CARS:-

To be released from:-

- Nagrota (Jammu) towards Srinagar: from 0600 hrs. to 1200 hrs.
- Jakhni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar: from 0700 hrs to 1300 hrs &
- Qazigund towards Jammu: from 1130 hrs to 1400 hrs.

TCU Jammu and TCU Srinagar will inform all concerned about the traffic advisory and cut off timings. No vehicle shall be allowed to move before and after cut off timings.

HMVs/Load Carriers:-

Subject to fair weather and better road conditions, HMVs shall be allowed from Jakhni (Udhampur) towards Srinagar after assessing the road and traffic situation on NH-44 and no HMV shall be allowed after 1900 hrs. TCU Udhampur shall liaise with TCU Ramban before releasing the HMVs.

Moreover, in view of ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025, to provide hassle free movement of trucks carrying fresh/perishable goods on NH-44. UT administration has decided, all tankers of Petrol, Diesel, LPG bulk gas, all trucks carrying empty LPG cylinders; all empty vehicles of FC1; any other vehicle loaded/empty upto 10-tyres shall use only Mughal Road while returning to Jammu, as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025

Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag NH-244:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from NHIDCL, LMVs/HPSVs shall be allowed from both sides viz from Anantnag towards Kishtwar and vice-versa on Kishtwar-Sinthan-Anantnag road. These vehicles shall be allowed from PP Parana towards Anantnag from 0800 hrs to 1600 hrs and from PP Daksum towards Kishtwar from 0900 hrs. to 1500 hrs. No HMV other than designated HPSVs shall be allowed as per order issued by SDM Chhatroo vide No. SDM/C/2025-26/146-53 dated 16-05-2025 and SDM Kokernag vide No. SDM/ KMG/665-71 dated 16-05-2025.

SSG ROAD

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, (after getting green signal from the BRO) traffic movement shall be allowed on regulated manner on Srinagar-Sonamarg-Gumari road. LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Minamarg towards Srinagar at 0500 hrs. to 1000 hrs. Similarly, LMVs followed by HMVs shall be allowed from Sonamarg towards Kargil at 1130 hrs to 1730 hrs. No vehicle shall be allowed after cut off timing.

SFS Convoy, plying from Srinagar to Kargil and vice versa shall plan their movement in such a manner so that Yatra convays (both UP and DOWN) don't get disturbed.

Mughal Road:-

Subject to fair weather and good road condition, after getting green signal from Road maintenance agencies (GREF), LMVs Passenger/Private Cars shall be allowed from both sides on Mughal road viz from Jammu towards Srinagar and vice-versa via Poonch. However, HMVs (upto ten tyres only) shall be allowed from Shopian towards Poonch. These vehicles shall be allowed from Behramgala (Baffiaz) and Herpora (Shopian) at 0700 hrs. upto 1800 hrs. as per advisory issued by DIVCOM Kashmir vide No. Divcom/Dev/120/2025/7055-75 dated 01-07-2025.

ADVISORY :-

People are advised to undertake journey only after confirming status of the road from Traffic control units as under:-

- Jammu (0191-2459048, 0191- 2740550, 941914732, 103)
- Srinagar (0194-2450022, 2485396, 18001807091, 103)
- Ramban (9419993745, 1800-180-7043)
- Udhampur (8491928625)
- PCR Kishtwar (9906154100)
- PCR Kargil (9541902330, 9541902331)

DIPK: 4304/25 | Dated: 25-07-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory

**Office of the Executive Engineer, R&B Mechanical
Division North Kashmir Baramulla**

Email: xenrbmechnorthzone@gmail.com

Notice Inviting e-Tenders | e-NIT No: R&B/ MDNK/NIT/05 | Dated: 23-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor of J&K Union Territory, Executive Engineer R&B Mechanical Division North Kashmir Baramulla invites e-tenders in two (02) cover system, valid for 120 days, from Registered PWD contractors having experience in similar nature of Works for the below mentioned work:

Name of Work	Est. Cost (In Laacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs)	Time of completion (In Months)	Earnest Money Deposit (In Rs)	Technical Sanction No.	AAA
1	2	3	4	5	6	6
Supply, Installation, Testing and Commissioning of 02 No. 6,00,000 kcal/hr. each Hot Water Generators for 200 Bedded Hospital at GMC Baramulla	49.03325	1100.00	03	98067.00	SEMHK/ TS/14/29 Dt: 16-07-2025	265-GMCC of 2025 Dt: 11-07-2025

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

1.	Date of issue of Tender Notice	23/07/2025
2.	Period of downloading of the bidding document	From 23/07/2025 (1800 Hrs) to 14/08/2025 (1800 Hrs)
	Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	26/07/2025 (1300 Hrs)
3.	Bid Submission Start Date	28/07/2025 (1000 Hrs)
4.	Bid Submission End Date	14/08/2025 (1800 Hrs)
5.	Tender document fee	Rs.1100/- (Rupees One Thousand One Hundred only) by uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt in favor of Executive Engineer, PW(R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla to be deposited in Major Head 0059 or by uploading Bank Receipt by depositing Rs.1100/- in Jammu and Kashmir Bank Account in favour of Executive Engineer, R&B (Mech), Baramulla: A/c: 0213010570000125 Bank: Jammu and Kashmir Bank Branch: T P Bank Baramulla Jammu and Kashmir IFSC Code: JAKA0TEHSIL
6.	Earnest Money Deposit	Rs 98067.00 (Ninety-Eight Thousand and Sixty-Seven only) in the shape of CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer, (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla
7.	Date and time for opening of the Technical Bids online	16/08/2025 at 1300 Hrs in the office of Executive Engineer, (R&B) Mechanical Division, North Kashmir, Baramulla
8.	Date & Time of opening of the Financial Bids (online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

**Sd/- Executive Engineer
R&B Mechanical Division North Kashmir Baramulla**

DIPK: 4244/25 | Dated: 25/07/2025

Smart Public Distribution System to go live by mid August 2025: Satish Sharma

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA), Information Technology, Transport, and Youth Services & Sports, Satish Sharma, today said that the much-anticipated Smart Public Distribution System (Smart PDS) will be made functional across Jammu and Kashmir by mid August 2025.

The Minister was reviewing the progress on Smart PDS implementation in the Union Territory.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary FCS&CA, Saurabh Bhagat, along with other senior officers and technical teams involved in the migration process.

The Minister stated that Jammu and Kashmir is on track to become the first Union Territory in the country to fully migrate to the Smart PDS under the national RCMS (Ration Card



Management System) framework, as directed by the Union Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution.

"Smart PDS is a transformative reform in food distribution that ensures transparency, efficiency and portability of services. With this shift, over 25 lakh ration card holders and approximately 1.02 crore ration beneficiaries in J&K will experience a seamless and more accountable system," the Minister said.

The meeting was told that

under the Smart PDS system and under One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC) the beneficiaries from Jammu and Kashmir can now avail their entitled ration PAN India and vice-versa.

Similarly, it was also informed that all the feeding of the Smart PDS is under testing phase and optimization for unique needs of Jammu and Kashmir and would also include various categories like SAAY, NFSA and PMSES. The automatization shall democratize the entire PDS

system and beneficiaries can use applications like Mera Ration and Annapurna to get real time information about his ration quota.

It was also given out that all the ration distribution shall be based on Aadhar enabled POS machines of L1 configuration which are 4G enabled. This shall help the department in improving the storage efficiency, economize transportation and provide effective services to the consumer. It was also clarified that all the other allied services like ration distribution, Ayushman card will not be effected by this transition.

The Minister directed the concerned officers to expedite testing, ensure training of FPS (Fair Price Shop) dealers and launch public awareness campaigns ahead of the rollout. He emphasized that the success of Smart PDS depends on its accessibility to even the remotest parts of the Union Territory.

SDA launches Shehjar Heights Phase-II

112 residential apartments to be constructed within 2 yrs

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 25: Srinagar Development Authority (SDA) has announced the launch of Phase-II of the Shehjar Heights project at Bemina envisaging construction of 112 more residential apartments, including 56 each 2-BHK and 3-BHK flats.

Shehjar Apartments is a flagship Vertical Housing project of SDA in Srinagar involving construction of around 450 residential apartments comprising around 13 towers. The Phase-I of the project completed with the construction of 140 apartments, is fully sold-out.

Given the overwhelming demand for quality residential apartments in Srinagar, SDA has expedited the execution of the project and has started the process for construction of 112 more flats under Phase-II after the Phase-I was fully sold out, said Mohammad Rafi, Vice-Chairman SDA adding that the possession of flats in Phase-II is likely to be handed over to the prospective allottees within 2 years.

He said vertical housing has become a necessity to ensure economical use of land in the fast-expanding Srinagar city. "Given the scarce land resources and sky-rocketing land prices in Srinagar, time has come for SDA to promote the concept of flatted accommodation in the city in a big way," Mr Rafi said.

HUDCO, he said, are the projects consultants for the Shehjar Heights, who have formulated the overall layout plan and design of towers and individual residential units.

Mr Rafi said that Shehjar Heights are spread over around 100 kanals of land with 40 ft wide main road and 36 ft wide internal roads transecting various apartment blocks located adjacent to Srinagar-Baramulla highway in Bemina near Haji House.

The Vice-Chairman said that the project has been provided with adequate parking facility including surface parking for around 550 vehicles and covered parking for around 220 vehicles. Besides it will have parks, community



hall, children's play area, tennis court, amphitheater, health club, community market, gym, food court and a dedicated STP.

He said the best thing about Shehjar Project is that it is suitably located on National Highway in easily accessible and buzzing Bemina area of Srinagar, with remarkable proximity to urban amenities like hospitals, schools and markets with hassle-free to Srinagar International Airport and Nowgam Railway Station.

He said adequate and latest technological interventions have been ensured to make the structures earthquake resistant and HUDCO has got the structural design of the project approved by IIT Kanpur.

"For the first time Liquefaction Resistance technology is being used in the construction of Phase-II to make the towers earth-quake resistant," he said and added that HUDCO is also providing consultancy for drainage, water supply and sewerage design, energy management, communication system, fire detection, fire protection and security systems for the Shehjar Apartments.

The Vice-Chairman said that each 3-BHK flat is spread over a net surface area of 1250 sft with 3 bedrooms, Drawing Room, Living Room, Kitchen, 3 washrooms, utility and veranda while 2-BHK flat has a surface area of 1012 sft comprising 2 bedrooms, drawing room, living room, 2 washrooms, kitchen, utility and veranda.

Rafi said the tendering process of Phase-II has been initiated and SDA is going to soon announce the booking for Phase-II with flexible payment mode.

Mission YUVA: DC Poonch hands over 39 loan sanction letters to aspiring Entrepreneurs

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, JULY 25: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today handed over 39 loan sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA at a simple function held in the Conference Hall, DC Office.

Additional District Development Commissioner Pankaj Magotra; Deputy Director Employment Abdul Majid Tantray; Lead District Manager Ravi Kumar and other members of the SBDU were also present.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner encouraged the beneficiaries to make the best use of the financial support provided under the scheme and contribute positively to local economic growth.

The initiative, aimed at promoting youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, reflects the administration commitment to socio-economic upliftment and sustainable development in the district.

The officials present also reiterated their support in guiding and mentoring the beneficiaries throughout the implementation of their projects, ensuring successful execution and long-term impact of Mission YUVA in Poonch.

Budha Amarnath Yatra

DC Rajouri inspects arrangements at Yatri Ground, chairs review meeting



■ HT News Desk / DIPR

RAJOURI, JULY 25: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today conducted an extensive inspection of the arrangements being put in place here at Yatri Ground for the Budha Amarnath Yatra pilgrims. He also chaired a review meeting at the venue to ensure seamless coordination among departments and timely completion of all preparations.

The Deputy Commissioner took stock of key facilities including water supply, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation and the installation of bio-toilets. He directed for separate signages for male and female facilities to ensure convenience and orderliness for the yatris.

Special emphasis was laid on the fire safety audit of the venue. The concerned officers were instructed to ensure all precautionary measures are taken and necessary equipment is placed at strategic locations. The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed pruning of trees in and around the venue area to avoid any safety hazards. The availability of ambulances, deployment of medical teams, preparation of duty rosters, and deployment of AYUSH instructors were also reviewed to ensure robust health and wellness support to the pilgrims.

The BRO has been assigned the responsibility to maintain roads

and ensure the Nowshera tunnel remains operational during the daytime, which is vital for smooth transportation.

To maintain traffic flow, the Traffic Police will regulate vehicular movement and oversee parking arrangements. The SDRF teams will be deployed at designated locations to respond swiftly in case of any emergency situations.

Furthermore, the Department of Tourism was directed to install informative and welcome hoardings at prominent locations.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed upon all departments to work in close coordination and complete all assigned tasks well before the scheduled date of the Yatra to ensure a safe, comfortable and spiritually fulfilling experience for the pilgrims.

Among others present during the inspection and review meeting were ADC Chandher Prakash; ACR Mohammad Jahangir Khan; ACD Auqil Naveed; Executive Engineer PWD Aftab Anwar; Dy. SP Satish Sharma; Deputy SP Traffic Shiv Kumar; ARTO Rajesh Gupta; CMO Dr Manohar Lal Rana; AD FCS&CA Rohit Kumar and Executive Officer Municipality Yusaf ul Umar, along with other district and sectoral officers. Besides these, prominent citizens and representatives from civil society were also present at the venue.

DC Doda chairs BOCA Meeting; Approves 21 Building Permission cases

■ HT News Desk / DIPR



DODA, JULY 25: A meeting of the Building Operation Controlling Authority (BOCA) was held today at DC office Complex Doda. Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh, who is also the chairman of the Authority, presided over the meeting.

A total of 57 cases of building permissions, both residential and commercial, were discussed. After detailed deliberations and scrutiny, 21 cases were approved and the rest were rejected and deferred with directions to the concerned officers to make good the deficiencies and submit the requisite No Objection Certificate at the earliest.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Executive Officer Bhandarwah Development Authority, Chief Town Planner (attended virtually), Divisional Forest Officer Bhandarwah, Tehsildars Bhalla and Bhandarwah, Executive Engineers (XENs), and other concerned officers.

The Deputy Commissioner stressed the importance of regulated urban expansion, eco-sensitive construction and promotion of sustainable tourism infrastructure in line with the district's unique ecological and cultural character. He directed the officials to maintain transparency in BOCA functioning and ensure timely disposal of pending cases while adhering strictly to development norms.

Shrine Board Launches Green Initiative at GMS Panthal

■ HT News Desk

KATRA, JULY 25: Affirming its commitment to environmental sustainability, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) today launched a plantation drive at Government Middle School (GMS), Panthal, Katra. The event brought together officials from SMVDSB and its allied Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), PRI members, educators, students, and local residents, as part of the Board's

broader mission to promote eco-conscious practices in the revered Trikuta Hills region. The initiative included ceremonial planting of saplings in and around the GMS Panthal campus, which has been adopted by SMVDIME under its Family Adoption Programme. A variety of indigenous, environment-friendly medicinal and fruit-bearing plants were planted to enhance air quality and beautify the surroundings.

Addressing the participants, Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional Chief Executive Officer,

SMVDSB, reiterated the Board's dedication to environmental conservation under the guidance of Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Chairman, SMVDSB (Lt. Governor, JK-UT). He informed that as part of the Annual Green Plan 2025-26, the Shrine Board is undertaking plantation of over one lakh high-quality native forestry seedlings across the Shrine area on Trikuta Hills. These plants, raised in the Shrine Board's high-tech nursery, are also made available to the public at Katra and Jammu to

encourage broader community participation.

He further shared that Drone Technology is being employed for aerial seed dispersal, enabling afforestation in remote and inaccessible areas of the Trikuta Hills.

The Addl. CEO emphasized that the plantation drive not only supports the development of green zones but also strengthens eco-education among students and the local community. He appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students and faculty of

GMS Panthal, the SMVDIME team led by the Executive Director, ACF along with officials from the Forest Wing of SMVDSB and the local villagers. To promote creativity and environmental awareness, a painting competition on the theme "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" was also organized for students. The event concluded with distribution of various plant saplings to participants and provision of hygienic refreshments, reinforcing community involvement in sustainability initiatives.



DDC Reasi approves 143 Entrepreneurship cases under Mission YUVA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, JULY 25: The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA was convened today in Reasi. District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik chaired the meeting to review and approve cases verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDUs).

A total of 143 cases, verified by the SBDUs were presented before the Committee and subsequently approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA.

The Committee, headed by DDC carried out a detailed scrutiny of each application based on eligibility, business viability, and the socio-economic background of the applicants. She emphasized the critical need to promote self-employment opportunities for local youth, particularly those from underprivileged and marginalized communities.

The DDC also reviewed the district's overall performance under Mission YUVA and directed all relevant departments to ensure the prompt

release of financial assistance, regular monitoring and comprehensive mentoring to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the approved projects.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to fostering youth-driven entrepreneurship and promoting sustainable livelihoods through the coordinated and effective implementation of Mission YUVA across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Reasi, Sukhdev Singh Samyal; AD Employment Reasi (Member Secretary), Annie Vaid; representatives from J&K Bank, DDMNABARD, JKEDI and other concerned officers.

Joe Root's 38th Test century deflates India at Tea

United News of India

MANCHESTER, JULY 25: Joe Root produced a masterful century as England reached a commanding 433 for 4 in response to India's first-innings 358, tightening their grip on the match at Old Trafford here today. Root is batting on 121, with Ben Stokes giving him solid company on 36 at Tea.

Resuming Day 3 on 225 for 2, England steadily built their innings through the third wicket stand between Root and Ollie Pope. The duo frustrated the Indian bowlers, completing their 50-run partnership in 97 balls and then converting it into a century stand off 172 deliveries.

Root survived a nervy moment early in the day when a risky single nearly resulted in a run-out at 54 overs. Jadeja had the opportunity but missed the direct hit. A few overs later, India unsuccessfully reviewed an LBW decision against Root, only for replays to show it was sliding down leg, resulting in a lost review.



Root was at his vintage best throughout the day, blending grit and flair. He reached his Test half-century with a reverse sweep, raising his bat to a chorus of "Roooooo" from the spectators. He accelerated with elegance, piercing the off-side with late cuts, reverse sweeps, and classical drives.

Root reached his 38th Test century in style with a gentle glance off Anshul Kamboj to the fine leg fence. The celebration was understated yet emotional

- helmet off, bat raised, soaking in the applause as fans stood to salute England's modern-day great. It was a knock defined by patience, precision, and poise, weathering tricky passages, including a spell where odd deliveries kept low and one where he escaped a run-out.

Ollie Pope, too, was impressive. He brought up his 16th Test fifty and later reached 71 before falling to Washington Sundar, whose late introduction proved timely. Sundar then dismissed

Harry Brook with a drifting beauty, leaving India with a faint opening.

England's 300 came up in the 67th over, and the 350 was not far behind. The second new ball was taken at 90.3 overs but failed to make significant inroads. Stokes joined Root and took the attack to the bowlers, smashing a boundary down the ground and glancing another fine, raising the 50-run partnership for the fifth wicket.

England crossed the 400-run mark in the 93rd over and went into Tea at 433 for 4, with Root nearing 150 and Stokes looking comfortable. Root continued to score with ease, picking boundaries at will, including a wristy flick through midwicket (98.1) that summed up his complete dominance.

India's bowling efforts were spirited in patches but lacked consistency. With Root set and England ahead, post-Tea session promises a stiff challenge for the visitors. UNI BDN GNK

Volleyball Tournament 2025 Org By Chinar Corps Of Indian Army



HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 25: Indian Army's Chinar Corps successfully concluded the Volleyball Tournament 2025 today at BHS, Keegam. The grand finale was contested between WATERKHANI SPARTANS & SUPER STRIKERS NUTNUSSA. The final match saw a thrilling face-off between the two teams, both of whom had battled through several rounds to reach the final stage. In a closely contested match, SUPER STRIKERS NUTNUSSA emerged victorious, showcasing sheer resilience, skill and strategic play.

The aim was to focus on community engagement & winning the hearts and minds of the people in the region by encouraging youth participation in constructive and confidence-building activi-

ties. The Indian Army provided full logistical and organizational support, including sports kits, refreshments and medical facilities for the players. The winners and runners-up were awarded medals & cash prizes. The occasion was also graced by cultural performances by local children adding Kashmiri shades to the event.

The event drew an enthusiastic crowd from nearby villages and towns, with families and youth turning out in large numbers. Locals appreciated the initiative, highlighting how such events provide positive outlets for youth and help strengthen the bond between the Indian Army and local populace. The tournament not only celebrated sporting excellence but also served as a vibrant symbol of unity, peace and goodwill in Kashmir.

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Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra - 2025

Traffic Advisory

The yatris, travelling to seek blessings of Shri Amarnath Ji, in their own/rented cars/buses or any other mode, are requested to travel in the main Yatra convoy only, starting from Bhagwati Nagar Jammu daily; in the interest of smooth and secure conduct of Shri Amarnath ji Yatra 2025.

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