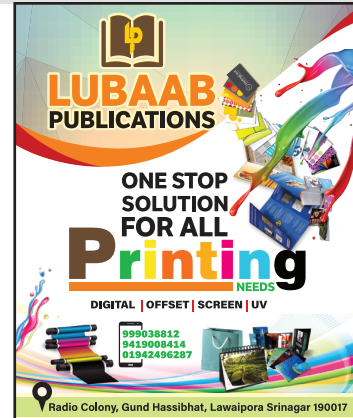


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15TH YEAR OF PUBLICATION HEADLINES TODAY Voice To The Voiceless



Despite Pahalgam Massacre, Record 4 lakh Pilgrims Visited Holy Cave In 28 Days: LG Sinha

"Such A Number of Visitors is Not Less Than A Miracle"

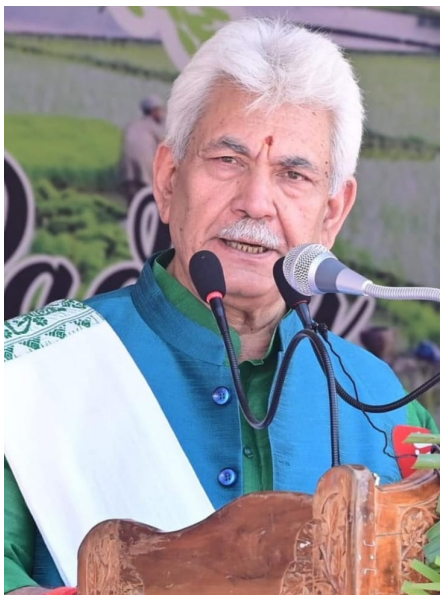
HT News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: With just nine days left for the conclusion of the 38-day-long Amarnath Yatra, the number of pilgrims who have paid obeisance at holy cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas, crossed the four lakh mark on Thursday— despite the shadow cast by the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam.

Officials said that a total of 8,276 pilgrims paid obeisance at the Amarnath cave shrine on Thursday, including 6,296 males, 1,082 females, 58 children, 55 sadhus, 3 sadhvis, 2 transgender individuals, and 780 security personnel.

They said the cumulative number of pilgrims who have completed the Yatra since its commencement on July 3 has reached 401,677.

Despite witnessing several cancellations



and withdrawals following the April 22 terror attack in Pahalgam, which claimed 26 lives, the Yatra has continued. In June, authorities said that this year's pilgrimage numbers were "directly affected" by the attack.

Prior to the incident, more than 2.36 lakh pilgrims had registered, as per Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha. "Before April 22, the registration figures were quite good. However, following the Pahalgam terror attack, there was a noticeable drop in registrations. The trend is now reversing, and we are actively reaching out to those who had registered earlier. The overall number is expected to go up," Sinha had said.

Last year, more than 5.1 lakh pilgrims paid obeisance at the cave shrine. With heightened security concerns this year, a multi-tier security arrangement was put

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J&K Has Huge Potential for Investment: CM Omar Abdullah

Leads Roadshow To Promote J&K Tourism At Ahmadabad



HT News Desk

AHMEDABAD, JULY 31: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah this evening inaugurated a high-profile Road Show and Business Meet in Ahmedabad, aimed at strengthening tourism and trade ties between Jammu & Kashmir and Gujarat.

The event brought together stakeholders from Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir to foster partnerships in tourism, trade, and business innovation.

The event was jointly organised by the Travel Agents Society of Kashmir (TASK).

TURN ON PAGE 2

CM Omar inaugurates Travel & Tourism Fair, Ahmedabad

HT News Desk

GANDHINAGAR (GUJARAT), JULY 31: Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today extended a warm invitation to travellers from across the country to explore the unparalleled beauty, rich culture and warm hospitality of Jammu & Kashmir.

He was speaking at the inaugural of the Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF) at the Mahatma Mandir Convention & Exhibition Centre at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

Highlighting Jammu & Kashmir's immense tourism potential, the Chief Minister said the region continues to offer diverse experiences for travellers throughout the year. He emphasized the growing tourism exchange between Gujarat and J&K and reiterated the Government's commitment to positioning

TURN ON PAGE 2

Congress Fabricated 'Hindu Terror' Narrative: Chugh

HT News Desk / UNI

JAMMU, JUL 31: BJP national general secretary in-charge of Jammu and Kashmir Tarun Chugh on Thursday blamed the Congress for orchestrating a "heinous conspiracy" of "false narrative" about "Hindu terrorism" and said that this has now been exposed.

Chugh accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi and J-K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah of promoting narratives of Pakistan's mouthpiece on social media.

"The Congress had orchestrated the heinous conspiracy of the false narrative about Hindu terrorism. This is now becoming clear," Chugh told reporters here.

Hitting out at the Congress, he said, "Deliberately, and keeping vote-bank politics in mind, the Congress party conspired to malign Hindus and tried to defame them. This conspiracy has now been exposed." Nearly 17 years after a blast in Malegaon town of north Maharashtra claimed six lives, a special court in Mumbai acquitted all seven accused, noting there was "no reliable and cogent evidence" against them.

The seven accused who were acquitted by the special court include former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit. The September 2008 blasts near a

TURN ON PAGE 2

Centre urged J&K, Ladakh to hold Panchayat polls: Parliamentary Panel

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 31: A report tabled in Parliament has revealed that the Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj has issued an advisory to Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh Union Territories in December 2024 to take steps for holding Panchayat elections.

In its report tabled in both Houses of Parliament on July 28, 2025, the department-related standing committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj revealed that the ministry had informed the committee it had issued an advisory to different States and Union Territories including J&K and Ladakh to take steps to hold Panchayat elections. "The Ministry has issued advisories to the

TURN ON PAGE 2

Quality probes crucial for convictions in NDPS cases: CS

Chairs 14th UT-Level NCORD meet to evaluate anti-narcotics efforts

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: The 14th UT-level meeting of the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) was today chaired by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, to assess the ongoing efforts to curb the menace of narcotics trade and substance abuse across the districts of J&K.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department; Director General of Police (DGP); Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), CID; Principal Secretary, Home Department; and other senior administrative heads and police officials while Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs) from across the UT participated virtu-



ally. Taking strong note of seriousness of the issue, the Chief Secretary underlined the critical role of comprehensive investigations in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) cases, stating

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CS Reviews J&K Varsities' Readiness for Yuva Connect

MK News Network

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today assessed the preparations made being for the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYCP), a flagship initiative under the guidance of the Prime Minister of India, set to be launched nationwide on August 12, 2025, coinciding with International Youth Day.

This program, spearheaded by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, aims to actively engage and empower the youth as integral contributors to India's development journey towards a Viksit Bharat by 2047.

The Chief Secretary enquired from all the 10 Vice-Chancellors of the Universities about their

TURN ON PAGE 2

Opposition Boycott Eases Govt's Lawmaking: Azad

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JUL 31: Former Parliamentary Affairs minister Ghulam Nabi Azad Thursday said the Parliament should be allowed to function smoothly as abstention from proceedings by the opposition only helps the government.

"I am against disrupting the func-

tioning of the House. If you do not allow the House to function, then why do you get elected? Entering the House means you will raise the national, international, and domestic issues, and the problems of the people in the Parliament before the government," he said.

Azad's remark comes amid uproar in Rajya Sabha by Opposition

parties, who protested against Prime Minister Narendra Modi not responding to a debate on Operation Sindoor in the House and also raised the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) issue.

"The government becomes happy when the opposition walks out because it can then pass laws easily."

TURN ON PAGE 2

Dr. Paul Offers Expert Advice for J&K Medical Overhaul

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: In a high-level meeting that could mark a pivotal shift in J&K's healthcare landscape, Dr. Vinod K. Paul, Member of NITI Aayog, today gave his expert advices in charting out a roadmap for comprehensive reforms in the Union Territory's healthcare sector.

During this session the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo discussed various reform agendas initiated by J&K recently and sought his assis-

tance in discerning the way forward in making best out of them.

The session witnessed active participation from key stakeholders including the Secretary of Health and Medical Education, Mission Director NHM, CEO of State Health Agency, Director SKIMS, Principals of Government Medical Colleges, Director Health Services (Jammu and Kashmir), and heads of various healthcare and regulatory bodies.

The discussions focused on a series of transformative strategies ranging from medical education

expansion to digitization of critical care delivery systems with the overarching aim of ensuring equitable, accessible, and quality healthcare for every citizen of the UT, especially those in far-flung and under-served regions.

Dr. Vinod K. Paul, an eminent pediatrician and former Professor at AIIMS, New Delhi, commended J&K's rapid adoption of digital health interventions like Tele-ICUs, Tele-medicine, and Tele-Consultation.

Dr Paul is in charge of the

TURN ON PAGE 2

'Op Sindoor' exposed Pak as epicentre of terror: MEA

HT News Desk / KNO

NEW DELHI, JUL 31: The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Thursday said that seven all party delegations that travelled to 33 countries after 'Operation Sindoor' informed the world about Pakistan's chequered history and it being the epicentre of terror.

In a written response to the query in Rajya Sabha about the recent All Party

TURN ON PAGE 2

'Zero power deficit during peak summers for 3rd consecutive year'

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, JUL 31: In a major achievement, the Union Ministry of Power Thursday said that J&K has maintained 100 percent electricity availability during the peak summer months—from April to June for the third consecutive year.

This marks a dramatic improvement from the acute power deficits recorded in previous years, particularly 2020.

According to a written reply to Unstarred Question in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik said that J&K has successfully met its entire electricity peak demand in the months of April to June for the past three years, reversing the worrying trend seen earlier in 2020 and 2021.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), during the summer months of April to June 2020, Jammu and Kashmir faced a significant

electricity shortage. The peak demand stood at 2,940 MW, but only 2,352 MW could be supplied, resulting in a deficit of 588 MW, which translated to a 20 percent shortfall in meeting the region's power needs.

In the following year, 2021, the situation improved moderately. The peak electricity demand increased slightly to 3,018 MW, of which 2,668 MW was met. This left a deficit of 350 MW, equivalent to a shortfall of 11.6%.

By 2022, Jammu and Kashmir achieved a remarkable turnaround. For the first time in the five-year period, the entire peak demand of 2,723 MW during the April to June period was fully met, resulting in zero power deficit.

This positive trend continued into 2023, when the region recorded a peak demand of 2,890 MW, all of which was successfully supplied without any shortage.

In 2024, the upward momentum was

TURN ON PAGE 2

AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

VMS SPECIALTY HOSPITAL (VMSSH)

FROM THIS: TO THIS:

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

Our vision is clear: Healthy Children Shape a Healthier Society

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

JK HOPE AND HEALTH FOUNDATION
TMO16418915@jkb
0005010100009519

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

Adv - Comp...

CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Despite Pahalgam.....

in place, and the presence of security personnel was increased for the Yatra. Besides that, the government declared all routes to the Amarnath cave shrine a "no-flying zone," banning all kinds of aviation platforms, including drones and balloons, for the duration of the Yatra.

The Amarnath Yatra, which began on July 3, will conclude on August 9, coinciding with Raksha Bandhan.

J&K Has Huge.....

Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), and South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SGCCI), bringing together key stakeholders from both regions.

The evening commenced with a press interaction, followed by a vibrant business networking session that laid the groundwork for deeper collaboration in sectors like tourism, handicrafts, hospitality, and infrastructure. In his keynote address, the Chief Minister highlighted the vast opportunities for investment in Jammu & Kashmir and reaffirmed his government's commitment to fostering a dynamic, investor-friendly ecosystem.

"Jammu & Kashmir is open for business," said the Chief Minister, "and we welcome our friends from Gujarat to explore, invest, and be part of our growth story."

Presentations by leading tourism stakeholders—Khyber Resorts, Ahad Hotels, and Mushtaq Group—showcased the richness and diversity of J&K's tourism offerings, from luxury hospitality to adventure travel.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries including Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLAs Farooq Ahmad Shah (Gulmarg) and Altaf Ahmad Wani (Pahalgam), Additional Chief Secretary to the CM Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary Tourism Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, President KCCI Javed Ahmad Tenga, President TASK Mohammad Ibrahim Siah, General Secretary TASK Waseem Ahmad Gosani, and President Hoteliers Club Mushtaq Chaya.

CM Omar.....

Jammu & Kashmir as a vibrant, all-season destination.

The Chief Minister was accompanied by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Pahalgam Altaf Ahmad Wani and MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmad Shah. The event was also graced by the presence of Mulubhai Bera, Minister of Tourism, Government of Gujarat, who attended as the Guest of Honour.

Senior officers from the J&K Government were also present at the event, including Dheeraj Gupta, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister and Dr. Ashish Chandra Verma, Additional Chief Secretary, Tourism Department, J&K. Officers of the Gujarat Government, Rajender Kumar, Secretary Tourism, Government of Gujarat, Prabhav Joshi, Commissioner of Tourism & MD, Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited were also present.

Chief Minister J&K engaged with exhibitors from across the travel and tourism industry. He visited Exhibition Halls to interact with delegates and businesses showcasing their offerings.

During his visit to Gujarat for the Travel & Tourism Fair (TTF), Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also called on Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel in Gandhinagar yesterday. The meeting focused on strengthening inter-state cooperation, promoting tourism, and exchanging best practices for inclusive development.

Travel and Tourism Fair (TTF) Ahmedabad, Gujarat's biggest travel trade show, shall see participation of over 900 exhibitors, more than 70 travel and tourism stakeholders from across J&K, and international representation from Sri Lanka. The event stands as a premier platform for B2B networking and tourism promotion.

The press release stated that Ahmedabad—one of India's key hubs for domestic and outbound travel—along with its twin city Gandhinagar, sets the stage for the upcoming festive and winter travel season. The event is expected to draw over 12,500 trade professionals during its three-day run from July 31 to August 2, 2025.

The participation of Jammu & Kashmir Tourism at TTF Ahmedabad this year is impactful, showcasing the Union Territory's immense tourism potential from adventure, pilgrimage, heritage, and off-beat destinations to film and golf tourism. The J&K pavilion is attracting widespread attention for its blend of tradition, scenic beauty, and new-age travel experiences, offering visitors a glimpse into the rich and diverse offerings of the region.

TTF Ahmedabad is hosting more than 25 Indian States and Union Territories. As Gujarat continues to position itself as a rising hub for business events and exhibitions, TTF Ahmedabad remains a key event for industry networking, partnership building, and business generation offering a unique platform for Jammu & Kashmir to engage with travel trade professionals and grow their tourism footprint across India and beyond.

Other senior officials who attended event included Sikha Surendran Director Kerala Tourism; Raja Yaqoob Director Tourism, Kashmir; Shreya Singhal MD JKTDC; Vikas Gupta Director Tourism Jammu; Kuldipsinh S. Jhala Joint Managing Director Tourism Corporation of Gujarat Limited along with several other dignitaries, travel industry leaders, and association heads.

Congress.....

mosque in the Maharashtra town killed six

people and injured 101.

Blaming the Congress and its partners for peddling the Pakistani narrative on Operation Sindoor, he said, "I want to make an appeal to my friends in the opposition — be it Rahul Gandhi or Omar Abdullah — not to become a part of Pakistan's social media and media team. Do not support the conspiracy aimed at undermining the bravery of our Army soldiers." He further said, "You don't trust the statements of Indian generals but you are promoting the narratives of Pakistan's mouthpiece media and social media here. You are spreading their propaganda." Referring to the recent Operation Sindoor, Chugh lauded the decisive action taken by India's security forces. He emphasised the Modi government's unwavering stance against terrorism.

"Whether it is terrorists or their sponsors, India under Prime Minister Narendra Modi will not spare anyone. Operation Sindoor is a clear demonstration of the nation's resolve, reach and readiness to act," he said.

Chugh reaffirmed that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country continues to prioritise national security and development with equal resolve.

On talks with Pakistan, he said PM Modi has made it amply clear that terror and talks cannot go hand in hand, nor can blood and water flow together.

On the law and order situation in J-K, he said law and order is fully under control. "The government and administration are doing their work effectively. Those who used to target and kill people here — those conspirators will not be allowed to succeed. They will be eliminated." Hitting out at the NC for the large-scale killings of civilians during their regimes, he said, "I want to ask Omar Abdullah and Farooq Abdullah, both of whom have been chief ministers, how many killings occurred during your rule? How many innocent people were killed then? Let that be compared with our period." (Agencies)

Centre urged.....

States/UTs, where election is due, to take all possible steps to hold the delayed Panchayat elections in conformity with the Constitutional provisions. Recently, Ministry has issued advisories to the States of Assam, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Manipur, Telangana, Uttarakhand and Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Lakshadweep and Puducherry on 18.12.2024 and to the States of Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu on 03.06.2025," the ministry submitted to the committee.

In its recommendations, the parliamentary panel had recommended to the ministry to take up the issue of holding Panchayat polls with the State governments.

".....the Committee strongly recommend that Ministry of MoPR should take up this matter at the highest level to ensure that purpose of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Bill may not be defeated by non-holding of Panchayat election by the State Government," reads the committee's recommendation.

As per the committee's report, the Panchayat polls could not be held in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh in 2023 due to various reasons. (KNO)

Quality probes.....

that the quality and timeliness of investigations directly influence the success of prosecutions and final outcomes in courts. He emphasized the need to strengthen the investigation process to ensure effective judicial disposal of cases.

The Chief Secretary also reviewed the long-pending NDPS cases and directed the concerned officers to identify the underlying causes of delay and initiate necessary corrective measures. He called upon the Police Department to submit monthly status reports on NDPS cases, clearly indicating the progress in investigation and prosecution, along with the age and stage of each pending case.

Further stressing the importance of accountability, the Chief Secretary directed that all bail and acquittal cases should be jointly analysed by the Law and Police Departments to identify the potential gaps or lapses in the investigation and prosecution processes.

Addressing the need for robust drug addiction infrastructure, the Chief Secretary reviewed the availability of treatment facilities across the districts. He instructed the Health Department to augment in-patient de-addiction services in Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals to reduce dependence on private facilities. He also called for enhancing the capacities of the medical and paramedical staff at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in order to expand the outreach of services across health institutions.

During the meeting, Director General of Police, Nalin Prabhat highlighted the importance of pooling all available human and material resources to comprehensively tackle the drug problem. He emphasized the need for fast-tracked, high-quality investigations and also flagged the misuse of courier services for trafficking Schedule-I drugs, suggesting some stricter surveillance and control measures.

Principal Secretary, Home Department, Chandrakar Bharti in his presentation, shared insights on the data available on the NCORD portal. He called upon the DCs and SSPs to convene regular district-level NCORD meetings. He asked for timely uploading of meeting agendas, minutes and action-taken reports. He also presented a detailed district-wise status of NDPS cases, including those under investigation,

challenged or pending in courts.

Inspector General, Crime, Sujit Kumar, shared operational data of the Police Department's anti-drug drive. He informed the meeting that 1,032 NDPS cases had been registered in the current calendar year, leading to the arrest of 1,416 individuals. Besides, the law enforcement agencies seized 1,388 kilograms of illicit drug substances and over 62,000 psychotropic tablets.

Additionally, 181 cases under the PIT-NDPS Act were registered, resulting in the apprehension of 58 key drug traffickers through thorough backward and forward link investigations.

Furthermore, 220 drug hotspots were identified including 20 newly identified areas of which 33 hotspots had been dismantled. A total of 413 arrests were made in these areas. Likewise, the property attachment actions were taken in 45 cases, involving 35 buildings and 13 vehicles linked to the drug trade. Assets worth Rs 39 crore were frozen or seized, with relevant entries recorded in land revenue documents, the meeting was informed.

Moreover, it was revealed that to enhance investigative capability, 247 dedicated training sessions have been conducted, training over 2,150 Investigation Officers in modern techniques of handling NDPS cases to ensure higher conviction rates.

The Chief Secretary was also apprised of the extensive awareness campaigns and IEC activities being undertaken by various departments in coordination with the Police. Notably, technological interventions such as Aadhaar-linked monitoring and dedicated portals for tracking drug prescriptions and patient intake has been decided to be developed with the assistance of BISAG-N to prevent diversion and misuse of prescription drugs for illegal purposes.

Reiterating the government's zero-tolerance policy against narcotics, the Chief Secretary urged all stakeholders to adopt a coordinated, proactive and multi-pronged approach to root out the drug menace from the length and breadth of the UT.

CS Reviews.....

preparations being made for both the pre-event activities and the main event to be held nationally on 12th of August.

He called upon them to devise a calendar of activities for all the pre-event activities to be implemented without any fail. He also encouraged them to motivate all the students for registration on My Bharat portal and make the activities engaging and informative as per the broad contours of this programme.

ACS, Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, while highlighting progression of this programme made out that the inaugural event is scheduled for August 12th to be conducted simultaneously in 1,339 universities across the nation, including central, state, deemed and private universities.

He revealed that on this day the Prime Minister will address the youth in all these institutions. But before that introduction to My Bharat portal had to be made in all these institutions. The PM's address had to be followed by display of Viksit Bharat presentation, holding of Yuva Samvad (Youth Parliament) in these universities besides Viksit Bharat Shapath (Pledge) and felicitation of winners.

The program also envisages conduct of activities to promote the spirit of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign). These activities included training and awareness generation with children, adolescents, youth and master volunteers, Sports and physical activities, seminars, webinars or workshops for awareness generation besides holding of nukkad natak, skits and plays, flash mobs, drives, painting competitions and rallies as a prelude to the main event before few days.

The Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme is a flagship initiative launched by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, aimed at connecting youth with the national vision of a developed India by 2047. It seeks to empower the next generation through active engagement and participation in India's development journey.

Opposition.....

So, the walkout by the opposition helps the government, it does not oppose them," Azad told reporters here.

Azad, who was the Parliamentary Affairs Minister from May 2004 to November 2005 in the Manmohan Singh government, said he is always in favour of the smooth functioning of the Parliament. Recalling his first term in the Parliament, Azad said then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi advised him not to disrupt the speech of opposition leaders in the Parliament. "Indira called me and told me 'you have come to the Parliament to speak and not create ruckus'. She told me that one cannot become a leader by not allowing an opposition leader to speak," he said.

On the April 22 Pahalgam attack, the former chief minister of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir said the Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has owned the responsibility for the security failure and the chapter closes there.

"I think that chapter has been closed. The LG has already said something about it and he has owned the responsibility and with that the matter should be closed," he added.

On the recent Operation Mahadev in which security forces killed three terrorists responsible for the Pahalgam attack, Azad said he supports every operation by the forces but there should be no human rights violations.

"I have always supported every operation by the forces even when I was the chief minister. Security forces had full freedom, but, I only had one condition that operations must go on, but there should be no human rights violations or fake encounters," he said.

On the future of his Democratic Progressive Azad Party (DPAP), the former Union minister said he will take a call on whether to continue it or not.

"There is a chronic disease that when someone becomes a minister, he wants to remain a minister till he is alive. So, he hops from one party to another, and he will continue to do that till he becomes minister," he said referring to senior leaders of his party leaving the outfit.

"But, those who were not (ministers) and were DDCs, BDCs, there has been a three-fold increase (in joining the party). I have to decide whether to continue running it (the party) or stop because the politics in Kashmir mostly runs on emotions.

"My politics is based on truth and non-violence. I speak the same thing in election and otherwise, whether in Jammu, Delhi or Srinagar. People may want me to speak different at different places, but I cannot do that," he added.

On the claims of the US President Donald Trump of having brokered the ceasefire between India and Pakistan after Operation Sindoor, Azad said he has no reason not to believe Prime Minister Modi.

"Unfortunately, Trump speaks so many things. So, it is very difficult. The PM has made it clear on the floor of the House that this was our own decision and no country interfered. He has also mentioned about his talks with the vice president of America, with that the chapter is closed.

"I think we have no reason not to believe our Prime Minister. He is the elected prime minister of the country," the DPAP chief said. (Agencies)

Dr. Paul Offers.....

Health and Nutrition vertical in NITI Aayog. He has contributed immensely towards formulating the POSHAN Abhiyaan and the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. He served as the Chairman of The Board of Governors of the National Medical Council of India from 2018-2020. During COVID-19 pandemic, Dr Paul chaired the National Task Force on COVID-19 and the Empowered Group on Medical Emergency Management Plan.

While taking cognizance of the steps initiated by J&K administration Dr Paul noted that such innovations hold the key to bridging the urban-rural healthcare divide and extending timely medical expertise to remote communities. He further emphasized the importance of quality assurance in these services and recommended a hybrid reporting model involving both public and private institutions for real-time monitoring, load management, and performance evaluation.

Significant deliberations were held on expanding postgraduate and super-specialty courses such as MD, MS, DM, MCH, and DNB across the UT. A roadmap for augmentation of tertiary care health services in the new medical colleges was sketched during this meeting with the help of inputs received from the NITI Aayog member.

While speaking in the meeting Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Secretary H&ME, highlighted that these enhancements would ensure a steady stream of highly skilled specialists, strengthening the health system in the long term.

The meeting also tackled procedural challenges in securing additional MBBS seats under NMC norms. To address constraints related to distance criteria in designating District Hospitals as associated units of Government Medical Colleges, participants suggested alternate justifications based on patient travel time and accessibility, an approach aimed at maximizing infrastructure utility and patient outcomes.

The Chief Secretary and Dr. Paul also reviewed strategies to fortify emergency care services. Proposals to create dedicated Emergency Medicine Departments in peripheral medical colleges were debated threadbare, alongside plans to bolster casualty services.

Another key focus area was geriatric care. A detailed blueprint was requisited to align with NITI Aayog's "Services Care" framework, with a specific thrust on elder-friendly infrastructure and services. A proposal to enable two AIIMS established here to adopt nearby District Hospitals and Community Health Centres was discussed, paving the way for enhanced refer-

ral systems, tele-diagnostics, and training support.

In a bid to increase dental healthcare access, the meeting endorsed the deployment of mobile dental units both government and private across remote areas of the UT for the sole purpose of accessibility to such services in these areas besides utilizing the services of trained dental surgeons of J&K.

The discussion concluded with a consensus on adopting a project-driven model to scale Tele-ICUs under a hybrid framework, leveraging central and state funds, and collaborating with NGOs and expert groups to study best practices from other states.

Chief Secretary expressed confidence in J&K's vision to emerge as a model healthcare destination through targeted interventions, capacity building, and inclusive health policy design. "Our priority remains universal access, quality assurance, and sustainability of healthcare systems," he remarked.

As this region stands on the cusp of a healthcare transformation, the collaborative synergy between the UT administration and NITI Aayog promises to script a new chapter in public health, one that places people at the heart of policy and innovation with focus on quality health services delivery nearer to the doorsteps of the citizens of this UT.

'Op Sindoor.....

Parliamentary delegations, which were sent to rally global support against terrorism, post the Pahalgam terror attack, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said.

"The delegations were able not only to raise awareness on Pakistan's complicity in terrorism on a global scale but also to address Pakistani propaganda on Jammu and Kashmir and Operation Sindoor. All their interlocutors unequivocally condemned the use of terrorism against India, with several of them recognising India's right to defend itself against terrorism."

"They briefed their interlocutors on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor and also the long history of Pakistan-sponsored terror attacks in India," the MoS said.

He said, "Seven all-party delegations travelled to a total of 33 countries to convey India's strong national consensus and resolute approach to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Each delegation comprised Members of Parliament and eminent personalities from different political parties across India, as well as veteran diplomats."

The delegations were warmly received and held substantive discussions with important and influential interlocutors in the executive and legislative branches, media, think-tanks and Indian community, he said. (KNO)

'Zero power.....

maintained. Jammu and Kashmir's peak summer demand rose slightly to 2,924 MW, yet the entire requirement was met, reaffirming the region's improved electricity management and supply capabilities.

As per the latest figures for 2025 (up to June), the Union Territory has sustained this performance, meeting its entire peak demand of 2,906 MW with no reported deficit, marking three consecutive years of 100% power availability during the summer peak period.

The sharp decline in the demand-supply gap is being seen as a reflection of infrastructure upgrades, better resource planning, and central support through power allocation from Central Generating Stations.

Officials attribute this achievement to continued support from the Union Government, which has implemented key reforms in grid management, enhanced hydroelectric generation schedules, and facilitated participation in the Real-Time Market (RTM) for electricity. These measures have collectively played a crucial role in maintaining uninterrupted power supply during peak summer demand.

In contrast, states such as Kerala and Jharkhand have continued to experience electricity shortfalls during the same period. Jammu and Kashmir's consistent zero-deficit record stands out as a noteworthy example of effective power sector planning, especially considering its difficult terrain and historically complex grid infrastructure.

The uninterrupted power availability is also seen as a catalyst for growth in key sectors like industry and tourism, both of which rely heavily on stable and reliable electricity to function efficiently—(KNO)

Public Notice

My name was wrongly mentioned in bank account under no.0006040100048517 as Shaista instead of Shaista Jan. Now I want to change. Anybody having objection please contact within 7 days at concern J&K Bank Authorities, no objection will be entertained after that.

**Shaista Jan, W/o: Shabir Ahmad Dar
R/o: Gassi Mohaolla Safa Kadal**



DC Srinagar Reviews District Capex Work Progress

Emphasizes swift completion of ongoing projects, timely submission of project estimates for all new works

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: In order to review the progress of the developmental works taken up under District Capex Budget 2025-26 in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a comprehensive meeting of all sectoral/district officers here at meeting hall of the DC office Complex. DC also assessed the progress made in the preparation of estimates of works for various components under the District Capex Budget for the ongoing fiscal year.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad; Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDC, SMC the meeting was attended by all district/sectoral officers, Engineers and other concerned.

At the outset, DC took a detailed review of ongoing works taken up during financial year 2024-25 and new works



proposed for the current financial year under regular, Aspirational Development programme and Area Development Programme.

On the occasion, DC directed the line departments to accelerate the pace of work on all ongoing projects to ensure their timely completion. He further underscored the importance of expediting estimation preparation for early execution of works keeping in view the limited working season.

He asked the concerned to ensure project estimates of all approved works for current fis-

cal are submitted this week in order to speed up the development process in the district.

During the meeting, DC was apprised that out of 388 works taken up during financial year 2024-25, as many as 366 works stands physically completed while 22 works are under execution.

DC further called upon all Engineering and Planning divisions to work in a mission-mode and in coordinated manner to meet public expectations by achieving 100% estimation and execution targets in a time-bound manner.

Dy CEO Ganderbal Inspects Schools in Cluster Nunner

HT News Desk

GANDERBAL, JULY 31: Continuing its ongoing inspection to Various Educational Institutions and on the instructions of Worthy Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal, The Deputy Chief Education Officer, Ganderbal (Dy. CEO), Mtr. Ruymasa Sangeen, accompanied by Principal GHSS Nunnar (Cluster Head) conducted a detailed inspection of various educational institutions falling under Cluster Nunner as a part of the ongoing academic monitoring and quality enhancement.

During the visit the officers inspected the following institutions:

1. MS Gullibagh
2. PS Hydermaidan
3. PS Wayil wudder bala

The Deputy CEO interacted with the heads of institutions, teachers, and students to assess the overall academic functioning, classroom activities, student attendance, and implementation of government educational initiatives.

The officer Checked the MDM records / utensils and the meals being served to the students and directed the concerned to keep proper hygiene in and around the schools.

The Dy. CEO Ganderbal gave on spot Instructions for rectifying shortcomings related to infrastructure maintenance, punctuality, timely syllabus comple-



tion, and active community involvement.

The Officers 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.

Food Safety Department Seizes and Destroys 1200 KG of Spoiled Meat in Srinagar

Mohammad Hanif Khan

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: In a major enforcement operation, a joint team from the Food Safety Department Srinagar.

Drug and Food Control Organization (DFCO) successfully raided a storage facility, preventing the distribution of 1200 kilograms of spoiled meat intended for human consumption.

Acting on specific intelligence regarding the storage of stale and foul-smelling meat, the enforcement team, led by Hilal Ahmad Mir, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety ICLC, and Yameen Ul Nabi, Assistant Commissioner Food Safety Srinagar, along with Food Safety Officers, conducted a thorough inspection of the premises.



The raid uncovered approximately 1200 kilograms of putrid meat that was reportedly ready for market distribution.

The seized meat was immediately destroyed under strict supervision to ensure it could not pose any health risks to the public. Legal proceedings will be

initiated against the concerned Food Business Operators (FBOs) under the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act.

This decisive action highlights the Food Safety Department's unwavering commitment to upholding food safety standards and protecting public health. The

department reiterates its directive to all FBOs, particularly those handling high-risk food items, to strictly adhere to recommended temperature control measures for perishable goods. Maintaining proper temperatures is critical in preventing spoilage and temperature abuse, which can severe-

ly compromise food safety.

The department issued a stern warning that any FBO found neglecting food safety and temperature control measures will face stringent action under the Food Safety and Standards Act.

The Food Safety Department encourages all stakeholders,

There strict instructions from Secretary Health and Medical Education Dr Syed Abid Rasid Sahab and Commissioner FDA Smt. smita Sethi to keep strict vigil over the market.

The consumers and FBOs are requested to report any suspected instances of food adulteration or unhygienic food practices. Concerns can be reported by contacting the department's helpline at 104.

SKUAST K conducts Boot Camp on 'Critical Thinking under JKCIP Programme' at KVK Kulgam

Farooq Rather

KULGAM, JULY 31: SKUAST K-JKCIP, Incubation and startup cell in collaboration with SKUAST K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship center Shalimar & KVK Kulgam kick started two-day Boot Camp/Ideation event aimed at identifying, mentoring, handholding, and supporting aspiring and early-stage Agri-entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture and allied sectors to resolve societal problems.

The event marks a critical step in building a robust rural innovation and Agri-entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. It seeks to unlock the potential of youth, local innovators, and Agri-preneurs to develop sustainable, tech-enabled, and scalable solutions for agricultural challenges in the region.

The Inaugural session was graced by Head KVK Kulgam, Prof. Manzoor A Ganai; CEO/Head SKIIE Centre, Dr. Naveed Hamid; Dr. Mohammad Mubashir, Manager Incubation JKCIP SKUAST-K, scientists of Kendra, members from different FPOs, SHGs, NGOs, aspiring entrepreneurs, Agri-tech enthusiasts, innovators and rural youth.



Prof. Ganai in his keynote address emphasized the critical role of innovation and entrepreneurship in addressing modern agricultural challenges and enhancing farmer's income. He emphasized the need to bridge the gap between traditional farming practices and modern Agri-technologies through localized entrepreneurship models.

He also highlighted the university's commitment to nurturing startups and encouraging idea-stage innovations to flourish in rural communities.

Dr. Mubashir highlighted the role of Innovation and Start-up ecosystem under SKUAST-K and JKCIP. He also briefed on the JKCIP start-up policy framework and strategies to handhold the young minds for self-sustainabil-

ity and encouraged participants to think out of the box in the realm of Start-ups and Innovations.

Addressing the participants, CEO/Head SKIIE centre, urged the aspiring entrepreneurs to think beyond conventional boundaries, embrace creativity, and actively engage in the evolving start-up ecosystem.

He emphasized that SKUAST-K's Incubation initiatives are not just institutional interventions, but part of a larger mission to build a self-reliant and resilient Jammu & Kashmir, aligned with the goals of Viksit Jammu and Kashmir.

This Boot Camp will span two days of intensive mentoring sessions, ideation events, pitch presentations, and expert-led panels. Participants will receive guidance on business model development, value chain integration, marketing strategies, funding opportunities, and government support schemes for Agri-entrepreneurs.

The session concluded with pitching of innovative ideas by young minds and 13 novel startup ideas were taken by JKCIP Incubation & Startup Cell for helping them to the next level through support of JKCIP Startup scheme.

DC Kupwara reviews arrangements for conduct of Tiranga Rally

HT News Desk

KUPWARA, JULY 31: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today convened a meeting of concerned officers to review the arrangements for conducting of Tiranga Rally in the district ahead of the celebration of Independence Day 2025.

SSP Kupwara, Gulam Jeelani; ADC Kupwara, Gulzar Ahmad; ACR, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, Tehsildar Kupwara, CDPO Kupwara, besides, officers and officials from Youth Services & Sports, RDD, CSC, Education, Traffic, MC Kupwara attended the meeting.

It was given out that Tiranga rally will be held on 12th August and will be flagged off from War Memorial Kupwara which shall go through different streets of Kupwara Town and will culminate at Galizoo Stadium.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner



impressed upon the concerned officers to work with added zeal and coordination to ensure smooth and festive conduct of the Tiranga Rally.

The Deputy Commissioner took a detailed review of the arrangements which include transport, water, Mobile Medical Unit, participation of employees and field functionaries, availability of National flags, refreshment among others. She directed the concerned officers to ensure active participation of their officials, field functionaries and other stakeholders in the Tiranga Rally to ensure smooth and vibrant conduct of the rally.

To ensure seamless arrangements in place, it was given out that a Control Room will be set up in the DC Office for timely coordination with the line departments.

Baramulla Police Hold HIV & Drug Awareness Program with J&K AIDS Control Society

HT News Desk

BARAMULLA, JULY 31: As part of its efforts to enhance awareness and sensitivity among its personnel on crucial health and legal matters, Baramulla Police in collaboration with J&K AIDS control society organized an awareness-cum-training programme on HIV/AIDS, the HIV and AIDS (prevention and control) act, 2017, and drug de-addiction at Dak Bungalaw, Baramulla. The programme witnessed the participation of 50 police personnel from different units across the district. The initiative aimed to equip officers with updated knowledge to bet-



ter handle health-related challenges and contribute to rehabilitation efforts within the

community. The event was graced by Shri Maqsood-ul-Zamaan-IPS, DIG

NKR Baramulla, as the special guest, alongside other dignitaries including Shri Gurinderpal Singh-IPS, SSP Baramulla, Shri Hariprasad KK-IPS, Addl. SP Baramulla, Shri Feroz Yahya-JKPS, SP Ops Baramulla and Mr. Mohd Ashraf, PDDC Baramulla. Expert resource persons from the J&K AIDS control society, Ms. Sabiha Iqbal assistant director, mainstreaming and Mr. Imtiyaz Khan assistant director, Lab services, delivered informative sessions on modes of HIV transmission, methods of prevention, legal rights of people living with HIV, and the responsibilities of law enforcement under the HIV Act 2017.

The speakers also discussed the role of police in promoting community awareness, reducing social stigma and collaborating with health and welfare departments for effective drug abuse prevention and rehabilitation. All dignitaries emphasized the importance of compassion, knowledge and inter-agency coordination in tackling such social and public health issues. The session was highly interactive and well-received by all participants, reflecting Baramulla police's ongoing commitment to responsible, informed and community-oriented policing.

HT EDITORIAL

Make the doctors accountable for their actions in hospitals

Not long ago the profession of medicine was considered to be the noblest profession in the world and a doctor was referred to as next to God. With the passage of time materialism intruded into the profession and as such doctors like the professionals in the other fields became materialists. The ethics took a back-stage and most of the doctors were not compassionate towards the patients.

A disturbing video surfaced on social media in which the procedure carried out in the labour room in the famous maternity hospital of Kashmir was circulated. The video went viral and the people followed the same like anything. The sensitive section of the society did not like the video and the doctor was castigated for this totally irresponsible and illogical act. The people as a whole opine that the doctor should not have made a video of the labour room since the same goes against the principles of morality, legality and ethics.

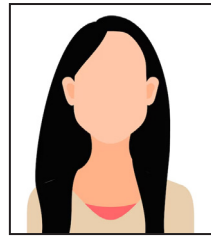
Given the fact that the doctor was posted in the labour room at the time of recording the video a probe needs to be carried out as to how come the video was recorded at the time of duty. If the doctor was not supposed to discharge duties in the labour room at the time of the recording of the video how was the medic allowed to enter the labour room? The things need to be made clear by the concerned department and also by the administration of the hospital.

Once responsibility is fixed on the doctor then one can expect strict possible action is taken against the medico. The procedures carried out in a labour room are highly sensitive and it is due to this fact that even the male attendants of a pregnant woman are allowed to enter the room. It is due to this reason that the circulation of video has come in for sharp criticism from the people in general and it is quite natural as well.

The health and medical education department needs to come out with clear cut directions about the usage of mobile phones by the doctors in the health institutions especially in areas that are supposed to be restricted ones. At the same time it has to be ensured that social media usage by the doctors is limited in the hospital premises and that no more disturbing videos get circulated. This would ensure that the medics don't take the law in their hands and the rules are not violated.

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Our Heritage our Identity



By Tamana Jeelani

Kashmiri copperware is not only a local product – it is the voice of cultural awareness of the Valley. They are masterpieces in the real meaning of the term, which are at present facing the danger of encroachment by mass producers. Conservation of heritage is something that is most needed today, and Kashmiri copperware pots must be put in the limelight once again.

Historical Significance

As early as Persian-influenced Mughal-era art, Kashmiri copperware art has endured through the centuries. With time, they got interwoven into day-to-day and ceremonial use. From the exquisitely worked trami to serve the celebrated Wazwan to the small samovar to make tea from ancient days, all of them have their roots in deep within Kashmiri culture. Copperware also served as dowries and heirlooms for families, which were passed from generation to generation. The symbolism of the copperware vessel extended beyond rituals, religious ceremonies, and social rituals, so that they became a part of the social life in Kashmir.

Craftsmanship: The Soul Of Copperware

The craft of making Kashmiri copperware is a painstakingly laborious process. Professional artisans, usually Khar community members, hand-set to engrave patterns in a method called naqashi. It is a traditional handicraft handed down from generation to generation, and a craftsman passes it on to the next generation, leaving behind an inscription on copper, and producing one genuine piece is as much as the cost of days. Not only is it skill-driven in concept, but it also calls for profound awareness of artistic heritage. These skills are passed on by the older generation to craftsmen, usually through job-related apprenticeship from childhood.

The Threat Of Mass Production

Today's markets are full of mass-produced knives and forks, mainly from cities such as Moradabad.

Although inexpensive, they are of poor quality as compared to the handmade variety. They are usually misstamped as Kashmiri pieces. Machine-stamped products can mimic antique designs but cannot mimic the finer details and human finishing of real Kashmiri copperware. Excess production of such products has also caused price inflation on real products, and most of the artisans have steered clear of adopting their traditional professions. Lower demand also lowers the number of trained artisans, and thus there is a likelihood of culture loss.

Distinguishing The Genuine From The Spurious

Both genuine and imitation copperware is available, so it is a challenge to the buyers to find out the two. Genuine work is typically heavy, with uneven but attractive inscriptions. The flaws are a sign of the craftsman's hand. Genuine Kashmiri work is reddish-gold in color as compared to machine work, which is light, glossy-colored. Buyers should purchase from known local sources and check for authenticity before purchasing. Labelling and consumer campaigns can help authenticate consumer choice and reduce the impact of fake copies.

Our Role In Preservation

The preservation of Kashmiri copperware is not entirely the responsibility of the artisans or the merchants. We, as civilized consumers and citizens, need to be champions of original work. Exhibitions, school visits to artisanal complexes, and workshop tourism can initiate awareness and rejuvenation. Colleges and schools can also group artisans to showcase their work, making students alert and even enthusiastic about traditional arts. Social media can also be a further instrument of storytelling, where artisans can sell their products to individuals around the world.

Health, Heritage, And Utility

Copper has always been worth it for its health-giving quality. These vessels, far from just being ornamental objects, are actually used to hold water, help cook, and even induce well-being. Copper vessels are strongly advised in Ayurveda texts in order to restore dosha balance and facilitate digestion. Copper vessels are still an integral part of every Kashmiri home – right from conducting ceremonies and weddings to being included in daily meals. Water consumed from copper vessels is believed to increase



immunity and purify the body – a custom which continues in most Kashmiri homes.

Promotion & Preservation Strategies

State patronage and NGO work also play a big role in keeping alive this very old craft. Financial grants, advertising support, and training courses for artisans all help to bring the public back into interest and infuse fresh energy into the craft. Government Arts Emporium at Kashmir Haat in Srinagar regularly showcases authentic Kashmiri handicrafts – an open forum that can showcase copperware on an equal footing with renowned carpets and Pashmina.

Initiatives such as certified artisan cooperatives, niche market stalls, and certificates of authenticity can grant both protection and recognition to this vulnerable art. Additionally, incorporating weaving copper artisans into tourism operations – including handicraft village walking tours, live demos, or heritage museums – can raise awareness and revenue for the artisans.

Export And Global Appeal

There is a growing global market for copperware-based handicraft, health-friendly, and eco-friendly products. Kashmiri copperware fulfills all three criteria. Export operations, participation in overseas exhibitions, and tie-ups with overseas décor companies would transform Kashmiri copperware into luxury

handicrafts. Proper marketing and explanation of the cultural importance of these pots would turn them into collectibles and heritage items rather than just kitchen appliances.

Learning From Other Crafts

It is possible to learn from the manner in which other Indian crafts have been reenergized. Marketing Banarasi silk or Pashmina by Geographical Indication (GI) tagging and narrative campaigns has succeeded. It will be the same for Kashmiri copper craftsmen as well. Craft melas, movies, and artist-in-residence schemes will also engage new generations and save traditional wisdom.

The Way Forward

By Mr. Aubaid Akhooon – A Prominent Educator and Coaching Consultant from Kashmir

"A legacy is bequeathed to us from our ancestors. It is a rich and profound legacy of culture, tradition, and values, which is our identity. It enables us, and even inspires us to live, to help us navigate through the blueprints of life in the ever evolving and modern world of today.

With the modern world interacting more and more globally, especially now, the need to keep in touch with the previous dense roots is a need. One such is the art of copper ware Kashmir – A tradition which is not merely a craft, copper ware Kashmir is a source of pride and identity of our culture and society. Copper ware Kashmir is celebrated for its great beauty and artistry, but of such artistry is the work of Mir Syed Ali Hamadani, who brought copper art to Kashmir, and it has since become a part of our culture. Our great ancestors and the generations of people that not the artisan's man but shape not only the bronze but the memories, and indeed the tradition. It is such a beautiful tradition that the survival is bound upon our choices. A profound overhaul is needed to embrace; imitative heritage is to give the support of the artisans. Educate for the younger thinkers and integrate heritage and artistry to redefine modernism.

It is a need of time to support awareness campaigns and avenues for sustainability that directly benefit our craftspeople. Through these efforts, we not only sustain a dying art form, but preserve the essence of our identity."

The author is a student and can be reached at tamanajeelani85@gmail.com.

What goes around comes around



Masroof Manzoor

In a galaxy that likely holds trillions of planets, ours is so far the only known place in the known universe to host life. Foregrounding the fact that our planet is definitely a prodigious & invaluable gift from Allah (SwT). It is what keeps us alive by providing everything we need like the food we eat, the water we drink, the diversity of life & so on, which we have neither earned nor paid for. It also provides less tangible, but just as important gifts in terms of beauty, art & spirituality with which people find solace and at the same time mollify themselves of different kinds of anxieties and off themselves from the busy chorus of life, as quoted by Anne Frank, "I firmly believe nature brings solace in all troubles".

Therefore it would not be wrong to say our planet is like our mother always nursing us & fulfilling all our needs. Accordingly, it is exigent & our moral obligation to save & protect it. But unfortunately prior to ways, we can save earth & therefore life, we are sadly jeopardizing her with arbitrary exploitation of its resources like deforestation, wrongful disposal of wastes on the roads & in the water bodies, the proliferation of manmade products like plastic, genetically modified organisms and synthetic chemicals etc thereby wrecking a havoc on the planet's ecological balance & stability.

Remember, it is not just about damaging our planet & risking the diversity of lives on it rather



our own life too has become outrageous, as what goes around comes around. The result is in front of us, in regions like our Kashmir which historically used to have gentle summers, even a minor ascent in temperature now is termed a heat wave posing significant challenges to the region's environment, agriculture, health & overall ecosystem. Glaciers-fed streams are drying up earlier than usual, both the intensity & duration of rainfall have declined. Recently a report suggested hundreds of acres of paddy fields in Anantnag & Kulgam were drying up due to the same intense dearth of irrigation water – leaving farmers on the brink of financial duress.

In addition, the ozone layer is depleting, ecosystems have lost, air & water has become increasingly filthy, weather systems have pushed to the extremas as mentioned above & so on. Experts link all these crises to the impact of climate change & global warming which in turn is there mainly due the human intervention.

In conclusion, it is our utmost responsibility to understand these impacts & show the same care & concern towards our planet as we show towards our own homes to have a better and a safe future.

The author is a Teacher by Profession, from Nagbal Shopian

After all how will they know the pain

Why don't children of politicians study in government schools?



■ Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

As long as the children of MLAs, ministers and officers continue to study in private schools, the condition of government schools will not improve. Experience makes policy, and the government lacks that experience. Death of innocent children due to roof collapse in schools, lack of books, incomplete toilets - why should the common people have to bear all this? It is the need of the hour that public representatives and officers should educate their children in government schools, so that they can see for themselves which education system they are claiming to improve.

Go to any corner of the country, you will find a similar scene - broken roofs of government schools, dilapidated walls, nameplates hanging on incomplete walls, acute shortage of teachers, and a faint light of dreams in the eyes of children. On the other hand, in the name of education, there are gleaming private schools, fees of lakhs, smart classes, and children of those in power are admitted in them. In such a situation, the question arises - "Those who make policies, do they themselves ever have to suffer in the fire of that policy?"

This division of power and education

This report published in Kota, Rajasthan, reveals a bitter truth. When journalists asked ministers, MLAs, officers if their children or grandchildren study in government schools, the most common reply was - "No, our children study in private schools" or "They are not yet eligible to go to school". Would this be the answer of any common citizen? If



the children of a minister or collector went to government schools, would the roofs of the schools have collapsed? Would innocent children die buried under the rubble? Do girls in rural areas still leave school just because there are no toilets?

The government doesn't want experience, it just wants statistics

Policy making has now become a jugglery of figures. Increase in the education budget, number of schools, schemes in the name of scholarships - everything is presented like a report card. But what is the ground reality? Teachers travel four districts to do their duty, there is no drinking water in schools, children do not get books on time. And the biggest irony - the responsibility of improving these conditions is in the hands of those whose own children

are untouched by these conditions.

What should be mandatory?

After all, this question comes up again and again: "Unless the children of ministers, MLAs and civil servants study in government schools, any attempt at reform will be superficial." Can it not be made mandatory by law that: A candidate to become an MLA/MP must take an oath that his or her child will study in a government school. A condition for posting of government officials (IAS/IPS/IRS) must include that they will not send their children to private schools. Teachers whose children are studying in private schools must first show confidence in their school. This is not a crazy demand, but the basis of equality and accountability in democracy. When the common citizen is advised to be satisfied with government services, why

is that satisfaction not mandatory for policy-makers too?

A fusion of hope and anger

We have to accept that the silence of the general public has become the biggest crime. When a child dies under the dilapidated roof of a government school, nothing changes by just expressing regret. Unless we say this-

"First your children should study in this school, then send us here,"

Until then education will remain only an election promise.

Seeking real examples

The Delhi government has taken the initiative to some extent that its ministers inspect government schools from time to time, but there is a huge difference between inspection and experience. The parents who send their children with water bottles every day

cannot understand the dry tanks of government schools. The children who go to school every day by private buses will never feel the lack of school vans.

Role of media

It is commendable that newspapers like Dainik Bhaskar are bringing this issue to the fore. When mainstream media goes beyond spectacle and sensationalism and strikes at the root of the system, awareness begins. To strengthen such efforts, it is important that we, you and every reader make it a part of public discussion.

Declaration of a common citizen

Every voter must decide this one question in the coming elections - "Does your child study in a government school or not?" If not, he or she has no right to plan for the future of our children.

Demand for democratization of education

Education is not just a service, it is the foundation pillar of democracy. And when this pillar becomes a 'private facility' for a particular class and a 'government compulsion' for the rest of the country, then inequality is at its peak.

Government schools will not improve until then, till beneath their roofs

"Son of a Minister" should not open the book.

Unless there is an 'officer's daughter' Do not eat mid day meal while standing in line.

Unless some 'MLA's grandson' Do not write ABCD on the blackboard.

The right to education should be in reality, not just in books. If we really want government schools to improve

So the first reform should start from there,

From where policy is made - from the corridors of power.

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

Akhilesh's Compulsion Behind Silence on Dimple's Insult



■ Sanjay Saxena

In the politics of Uttar Pradesh, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav is seen as a sharp and outspoken leader. Akhilesh is known for speaking his mind openly. The Samajwadi Party has consistently challenged the BJP in UP, but this is only one side of Akhilesh's politics - the other side is entirely different. Whenever it comes to minorities, Akhilesh seals his lips. While in power, Akhilesh did not hesitate to withdraw cases against accused terrorists of serial blasts under the politics of appeasement. Likewise, he remains silent on incidents of 'love jihad' and religious conversions, while never missing an opportunity to spew venom against Hindutva, RSS, Shri Ramlala temple, Kanwariyas, and Sanatan Dharma. The limit was crossed when, in the lure of the Muslim vote bank, the SP chief even stayed silent on a controversial remark made by a Maulana against his own wife, Dimple Yadav. Perhaps he thinks it is not important that Dimple was insulted, but what is important is that speaking up against the person who insulted Dimple could upset the SP's Muslim vote bank.

It is notable that because of this very reason, the derogatory comment made by Maulana Sajid Rashidi on Akhilesh Yadav's wife and Mainpuri MP Dimple Yadav has not only sparked a political controversy but has also posed a serious challenge for the SP. Akhilesh Yadav's silence on this incident has not only raised questions

about his leadership but has also endangered the SP's women vote bank. This issue could become a serious crisis for the SP's strategy and image ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections.

On 22 July 2025, during a meeting of SP MPs at the mosque located at Parliament Street, Maulana Sajid Rashidi made an objectionable remark about Dimple Yadav's attire. He called Dimple a 'political Hindu woman' and questioned her wearing of a sari inside the mosque, accusing her of insulting the mosque. A video of this remark spread rapidly on social media, after which SP leader Pravesh Yadav filed an FIR against the Maulana at the Vibhuthikhand police station in Lucknow. In his complaint, Pravesh Yadav said Maulana Sajid's indecent comment on Mainpuri MP Dimple Yadav has hurt the sentiments of society at large. This is not just an insult to the dignity of one woman, but every woman in society has been hurt by this comment. Yet, Akhilesh remained silent till the end.

Meanwhile, this controversy has given the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) an opportunity to attack the SP. BJP senior leader and Women Welfare Minister Baby Rani Maurya said at a press conference in Lucknow that the remark on Dimple Yadav is an attack on women's dignity. Akhilesh Yadav's silence raises questions. Has he accepted his wife's insult for the sake of power? She further added, "This is not just an attack on the dignity of a woman MP but an assault on Indian culture. Is the SP's silence a sign of agreement with this mindset that now Maulvis will decide the dignity of their women MPs?" In Prayagraj, former minister Siddharth Nath Singh also taunted the SP saying, "Akhilesh follows the policy of appeasement. Whether it is an insult to his family or wife, he remains silent. This sends a big message to women that their honour is not safe in the SP."

BJP has linked Akhilesh Yadav's silence

It is notable that because of this very reason, the derogatory comment made by Maulana Sajid Rashidi on Akhilesh Yadav's wife and Mainpuri MP Dimple Yadav has not only sparked a political controversy but has also posed a serious challenge for the SP. Akhilesh Yadav's silence on this incident has not only raised questions about his leadership but has also endangered the SP's women vote bank. This issue could become a serious crisis for the SP's strategy and image ahead of the 2027 Assembly elections

to vote-bank politics. In Lucknow, BJP MLC Subhash Yaduvansh put up a hoarding at Atal Chowk calling Akhilesh a 'silent chief'. The hoarding read, "One who stays silent on his wife's insult how will he ensure the safety of the state's sisters and daughters? Shame on you, Akhilesh ji." This hoarding went viral on social media, further compounding SP's troubles. Political analysts believe this matter could create an uncomfortable situation for the SP, especially at a time when all parties are trying to win over women voters.

It must be noted that women voters have played a decisive role in recent elections in Uttar Pradesh. In the Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh Assembly elections, BJP's victory had a significant contribution from women-centric schemes like 'Ladli Behna' and 'Ladli Laxmi'. The SP is also

aware of this fact and has been working on a strategy to connect with women voters under Dimple Yadav's leadership for the 2027 elections. In June 2025, during a meeting of the SP's women's wing in Lucknow, Akhilesh and Dimple planned to organise women workers at the booth level and to reach out door-to-door. But the Maulana's remark and Akhilesh's silence have dealt a blow to this strategy.

Political analysts believe Akhilesh's silence can be seen as a strategic move to avoid angering the Muslim vote bank. Akhilesh made a limited response on this issue saying, "Tell me, what should we wear in the Lok Sabha? Whatever we wear in the Lok Sabha will be our dress everywhere." This statement was in stark contrast to his usual aggressive stance on other issues. A senior SP leader, on the

condition of anonymity, said the party wants to avoid religious polarisation by not giving this issue more mileage, but this silence may alienate women voters from the party.

The risk of women voters becoming disillusioned with the SP is serious because women in Uttar Pradesh participate in voting in large numbers. In the 2022 Assembly elections, the female voting percentage was higher than that of men. In such a scenario, the indecent remark on Dimple Yadav and the SP's soft response could spread anger among women voters especially in rural areas, where Dimple's simplicity and sari-wearing style are admired by women. This controversy could damage the SP's image.

The BJP has raised this issue from Parliament to the streets in an attempt to corner the SP. On 28 July, NDA MPs staged a protest in the Parliament complex and raised the issue of women's respect. In Lucknow, the BJP's women's wing also expressed anger over Akhilesh's silence. This situation is more damaging for the SP because the party is already grappling with allegations of appeasement. Dimple Yadav has not made any official statement in this matter, but her supporters say her dignity and simplicity are her strength.

In this entire episode, the SP's strategy so far has been to maintain a balance, but this balance could come at the heavy cost of losing women voters. If the SP does not adopt a clear and aggressive stance on this issue, it may have to bear its consequences in the 2027 elections. On the other hand, the BJP is trying to exploit this issue further to attract women voters towards itself. Overall, this controversy has turned into a political crisis for the SP, the impact of which will become clear in the coming time.

The author is a Senior Journalist, sksiko28@gmail.com



Health Benefits of Curd



■ Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

In the ongoing scorching heat, our body requires plenty of fluids to avoid dehydration and to maintain a healthy glow on our skin. Adequate hydration not only keeps the body cool but also contributes to radiant skin. Among the various cooling and healthy foods, curd stands out as a natural remedy with multiple health benefits.

Curd is a popular food item in many households and is widely consumed across the world due to its taste and nutritional value. It is made by fermenting milk with a small amount of previously prepared curd and allowing it to sit in a warm place for 6 to 8 hours. The result is a slightly sour, creamy delight packed with goodness.

Key Health Benefits of Curd:

- 1. Boosts Immunity**
Curd contains probiotics (beneficial bacteria), essential vitamins, and minerals like Vitamin C, A, potassium, calcium, zinc, and more. These nutrients strengthen the immune system and help fight off infections.
- 2. Promotes Gut Health and Digestion**
Curd contains Lactobacillus and Bifidobacteria, which promote digestion and maintain gut health. It soothes the stomach, reduces acidity and bloating, and is effective in managing conditions like constipation, diarrhea, and indigestion.
- 3. Helps with Weight Management**
Curd is filling and rich in protein, which helps reduce hunger pangs. It aids in burning body fat and is ideal for people trying to lose weight.
- 4. Good for Heart Health**
Curd can help manage cholesterol levels and lower blood pressure, thereby reducing the risk of

strokes and heart-related diseases. It improves good cholesterol (HDL) and facilitates smooth blood flow in the arteries.

5. Hydrates and Refreshes the Body

Especially in summer, curd acts as a natural coolant. Consuming it with meals, bread, or parathas keeps you hydrated and refreshed.

Rising Concerns and Dietary Habits

Stress levels among all age groups are increasing with time. While India is developing in fields like science, technology, women's empowerment, and youth employment, we're also witnessing challenges like decreasing agricultural land. With over 140 crore people, the demand for food items—vegetables, fruits, cereals, and pulses—is rising rapidly. It's crucial for concerned authorities to explore sustainable alternatives and protect the agricultural ecosystem.

At the same time, unhealthy food habits, especially among the youth, are causing serious digestive issues. One major concern is IBS (Irritable Bowel Syndrome), which is becoming increasingly common due to:

- Consumption of junk food
 - Skipping meals
 - Drinking carbonated drinks on an empty stomach
 - Lack of nutritious intake
- Suggestions for Better Health: Never skip meals, especially the mid-day meal. If you're unable to have a full lunch, a few glasses of curd with Kashmiri bread and water can be a great alternative. Avoid junk food; it contributes to weight gain and chronic conditions. Focus on balanced, properly cooked, and hygienic meals. Stay hydrated—drink ample water and include seasonal fruits and vegetables in your diet.

Curd indeed delicious

Curd is not just a tasty side dish but a powerful food for your overall well-being. From improving digestion to enhancing heart health, it offers numerous benefits. In these hot summer days, make curd a part of your regular meals for a healthier, cooler, and happier you.

sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

Sakeena Itoo, Javid Dar visit GMC Handwara

Enquire about well being of road accident victims
Visit family of deceased Govt teacher, offer condolences



■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, JULY 31: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, along with Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Cooperative and Election, Javid Ahmad Dar, today visited the Government Medical College (GMC) Handwara to enquire about the well being of persons injured in yesterday's road accident at Behnipora Handwara.

During the visit, the Ministers met the injured persons and their attendants, assuring them all possible assistance from the government for

their swift recovery. They directed the hospital authorities to provide best possible medical facilities and quality care to the injured persons for their speedy recovery.

Later, the Ministers visited the family of Government teacher, Irshad Ahmed Lone, who lost his life in this tragic road accident.

The Ministers met the family members of deceased teacher and offered words of solace and comfort to the grieving family. They expressed profound grief over their loss and extended heartfelt prayers for the departed soul. They assured them all possible assistance from the government.

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PM Modi, UAE President Reaffirm Strategic Ties

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 31: Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken to UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, with both leaders reaffirming their commitment to further strengthen the bilateral comprehensive strategic partnership, an official statement said today.

During the conversation held yesterday, the two leaders reviewed the significant progress made across various sectors of bilateral cooperation and emphasized the importance of deepening collaboration for the shared benefit of the people of both countries.

President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed also extended his congratulations to Prime Minister Modi on becoming the second longest-serving Prime Minister in India's history, and wished him continued success in his service to the nation.



Trump Calls India, Russia 'Dead Economies', Announces Pak Trade Deal

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 31: Day after announcing 25 percent tariff with "penalty" against India for buying military equipment and energy from Russia, US President Donald Trump today said a trade deal with Pakistan had been concluded and both countries (India and Russia) could take their "dead economies" down together.

He said the US had just concluded a trade deal with Pakistan where Pakistan and US could work together on developing their massive oil reserves and may be they (Pakistan) will sell their oil to India.

"We have just concluded a deal with the country of Pakistan whereby Pakistan and the United States will work together on developing their massive oil reserves. We are in the process of choosing the oil company that will lead this partnership. Who knows may be they'll be selling oil to India some day."

He said he does not care what India does with Russia. "They can take their dead economies down together, for all I care," he said in a series of tweets on his social media platform.

President Trump had yesterday announced on Truth Social that 25 per cent tariff would be imposed on India along with "penalty" from August one for buying military equipment and energy from Russia.

"All things are not good! India will therefore be paying a tariff of 25 percent plus a penalty starting August one," he said. Describing India as "our friend," he said US had done relatively little business with India because their (India's) tariffs are too high.

Commenting on Trump's tariffs an official spokesman here said the Government attaches utmost importance to protecting and promoting the welfare of our farmers, entrepreneurs and MSMEs and will take all necessary steps to secure our national interest.

"The Government will take all steps necessary to secure our national interest, as has been the case with other trade agreements including the latest Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement with the UK," the spokesman said.

He said the Government had taken note of the statement by the US President on bilateral trade. The Government is studying its implications.

The spokesman said India and the US have been engaged in negotiations on concluding a fair, balanced and mutually beneficial bilateral trade agreement over the last few months and India remains committed to that objective.

Trump said he is "very busy" in the White House working on Trade Deals and he had spoken to the leaders of many countries all of whom wanted make the United States "Extremely Happy."

In another tweet he said the US has a "massive trade deficit with India," the US had done very little business with India, their tariffs are too high among the highest in the world.

"Russia and the US do almost no business together. Let's keep it that way," he said. UNI RB 1521

Malegaon blast case: Special NIA court acquits all seven accused

United News of India

MUMBAI, JULY 31: Seventeen years after a bomb blast rattled Malegaon, a Special Court of the National Investigation Agency (NIA) today acquitted all the seven accused including former BJP MP Paragya Singh Thakur and others who stood trial in the political sensitive terrorism case.

BJP leader and former MP Pragya Singh Thakur, Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit, Major Ramesh Upadhyay (retired), Ajay Rahirkar, Sameer Kulkarni, Sudhakar Chaturvedi and Sudhakar Dhar Dwivedi all stand acquitted.

Special Judge AK Lahoti, who presides over the NIA court, announced the acquittals.

"Terror has no religion because no religion can advocate violence," the special NIA court judge, AK Lahoti, said.

Advocate Ranjit Nair said, "I was representing accused number 11 Sudhakar Chaturvedi. Court has acquitted him. The Court has observed that prosecution cannot present any proof against accused."

Briefing the media, Advocate Prakash Salsingkar said, "The court has said that this incident is very bad. However, the loss of victims can't be fulfilled but the court has asked for compensation to all those people."

Significant security measures have been implemented around the Sessions Court in South Mumbai ahead of the ruling, with a heavy police presence deployed outside the courthouse complex.

The explosion on the night of September 29, 2008, near Bhikku Chowk in Malegaon, killed six people and injured over a hundred. A low-intensity bomb fitted to a motorcycle detonated near a busy intersection, triggering panic and chaos in the communally sensitive town.

Initially investigated by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS), the case was taken over by the National Investigation Agency (NIA) in 2011. The NIA re-registered the offence and conducted further investigations. Since then, multiple chargesheets and supplementary reports have been filed. The trial began in 2018 after charges were formally framed against seven accused. UNI AAA AAB

IMD predicts light to moderate rain in Delhi-NCR till August 5

United News of India

NEW DELHI, JULY 31: Light to moderate rain is likely to occur in Delhi and NCR during the next two hours, according to India Meteorological Department (IMD). The rain is likely in areas of Loni Dehat, Hindon IAF Station, Ghaziabad, Indirapuram, Chhapraula, Noida, Greater Noida, Gurugram, Faridabad and Ballabhgarh.

The maximum temperature is expected to be 33 degrees Celsius and the minimum around 26 degrees.

Delhiites experienced waterlogging and traffic disruptions following heavy rains. The areas which saw maximum waterlogging included ITO area, Yamuna Expressway, Delhi-Meerut Expressway, Dhaula Kuan, Nehru Place, Kailash Colony Road, Patel Nagar, Vijay Chowk, Jangpura, RK Puram, Lajpat Nagar and Mehrauli-Gurgaon road.

The IMD has forecast light rain till



August 5 for Delhi-NCR. There will be heavy to very heavy rain over the northeast region during the next seven days, as per IMD.

Meanwhile, July has recorded the

cleanest air in Delhi in over a decade with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) at 79, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). UNI PPP PRS

US Provokes in Arctic Under Guise of Navigation: Patrushev

United News of India

WASHINGTON, JULY 31:

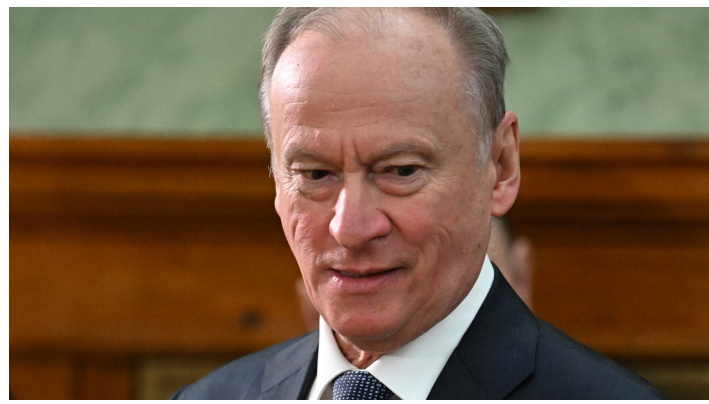
Under the pretext of Russia allegedly lacking special rights to the Northern Sea Route, the US navy regularly conducts provocative operations in the Arctic under the pretext of protecting the safety of navigation, Russian presidential aide and chairman of the Russian Maritime Board Nikolai Patrushev said on Thursday.

The main political motto of the collective West regarding the Northern Sea Route is that Russia has no special rights to this route,

Patrushev said, adding that the provisions in Russian legislation designating it as a national transport artery are also considered illegitimate from the perspective of international law.

"Based on this premise, the US navy regularly undertakes provocative operations in the region for the so-called protection of freedom of navigation," Patrushev said during a meeting of the Maritime Board's Council on the Strategic Development of the Navy.

The presidential aide further warned that the US and Japan may escalate tensions in the Ber-



ing Strait in the event of a worsening military-political situation.

"It is important to ensure security in the Pacific section of the

Transarctic Transport Corridor, where serious problems for Russian shipping could also arise. Although the Bering Strait is currently governed by a legal regime established through bilateral agreements, in the event of an escalation in the military-political situation, the US and Japan are quite capable of escalating tensions here," Patrushev said.

Tokyo currently is bypassing post-World War II restrictions by expanding its aircraft carrier fleet, submarine forces, and missile armaments, the presidential aide added. UNI SPUTNIK GNK

Australia failing to reduce disadvantages of indigenous community, increase noted in suicide rates

United News of India

CANBERRA, JULY 31: Australia is failing to reduce the disadvantages faced by its Indigenous population, with only four out of 19 targets to do so on track to be met, according to a government report.

The Productivity Commission (PC), the federal government's top review and advisory body on economic, social and environmental issues affecting the welfare of Australians, on Thursday released its annual report on the national strategy to reduce Indigenous disadvantage.

Established in 2008 and overhauled in 2020, the Closing the Gap framework aims to reduce the disparity between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians in 19 areas relating to health, education and economic outcomes.

The latest update shows that only four out of the 19 targets are on track



to be met by the 2031 deadline. Those that are on track relate to preschool enrolment rates, employment and Indigenous land and sea rights, the PC said.

It said that progress has gone backwards on another four targets relating to Indigenous imprisonment and suicide rates, childhood development and the number of Indigenous children in out-of-home care.

"It is very concerning that we are

still seeing outcomes worsening for incarceration rates, children in out-of-home care and suicide," Malarndirri McCarthy, the federal minister for Indigenous Australians, said in a statement.

The report found that the age-standardised suicide rate of Indigenous Australians increased from 23.6 per 100,000 people in 2018 to 30.8 per 100,000 people in 2023.

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), the suicide rate for the entire Australian population in 2023 was 11.8 per 100,000 people.

Today's report said that Indigenous outcomes have improved in six more areas, including life expectancy and healthy birthweights, but are not on track to meet the 2031 target.

Outcomes for one target relating to youth justice have not changed since the baseline year and the PC was unable to assess progress on the remaining four targets. UNI

Chinese researchers synthesise meteorite diamond in breakthrough research

United News of India

BEIJING, JULY 31: Chinese researchers have succeeded in synthesising the hundred-micron-scale hexagonal diamond, a material primarily found in meteorites, which is harder than the ordinary diamond found on Earth.

The study, published in the journal Nature yesterday, promises to redefine the limits of superhard materials, according to the researchers.

The Earth diamond owes its reputation as the king of hardness to its carbon atoms arranged in a tetrahedral lattice, making it extremely hard and wear-resistant.

However, this structure has a weakness - certain planes can easily slip and shift when force is applied, thereby limiting its strength.

As a consequence, scientists have turned their attention to another type

of super diamond with a more exquisite structure and superior properties, namely the hexagonal diamond.

Chinese researchers involved in the published study innovatively proposed a method for transforming graphite into a hexagonal diamond.

Under controllable high-temperature, high-pressure and quasi-hydrostatic conditions, they compressed and heated graphite single crystals to ultimately obtain a high-purity hexagonal diamond.

Previous attempts to synthesise a hexagonal diamond were largely unsuccessful due to extremely stringent requirements.

Under high-temperature and high-pressure conditions, the end result tends to be the formation of a cubic diamond and not a hexagonal diamond.

The successful synthesis of a high-

purity hexagonal diamond by the Chinese research team is attributed to their choice of high-purity natural graphite single crystals, as well as their use of high-pressure in-situ X-ray observation to monitor changes in samples, said Yang Liuxiang, one of the authors of the paper and a researcher at the Beijing-based Center for High-Pressure Science & Technology Advanced Research.

This study lays a methodological foundation for future research on diamond-like materials, according to Ho-kwang Mao, a scientist in high-pressure science and a foreign member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

This synthesised hexagonal diamond is expected to pave new pathways for the development of superhard materials and high-end electronic devices, Mao added. UNI/ XINHUA ANV PRS

Classes of Joy: Over 2100 elementary teachers trained under the initiative at Kulgam

DC Kulgam presides over the valedictory session, says most joyful place for a child should be the classroom

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, JULY 31: A week-long training programme for elementary teachers under the 'Classes of Joy' initiative concluded today in Kulgam. The training was organised by the District Administration in collaboration with Pratham Education Foundation and the School Education Department. It aimed to enhance the capacity of teachers in bridging foundational learning gaps among students in Classes 3 to 5. The initiative based on the Teaching at the Right Level

(TaRL) approach is being implemented across all 458 primary and middle schools of the district to improve foundational literacy and numeracy. Over 2,100 elementary teachers were trained in multiple batches, with each session accommodating 300 participants every day. Teachers also received teaching-learning material to support implementation. The valedictory session which was held here at Conference hall today, was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.



He appreciated the active participation and commitment of teachers, and emphasised the need to make classrooms joyful, engaging and focused on students' actual learning levels.

DC stated that the most joyful place for a child should be the classroom and teachers have a crucial role in shaping a child's future. He said gaps in learning do exist, but with the right approach, we can overcome them. He urged all teachers to implement the methods learnt during this training in their classrooms. The training focused on identifying learning gaps through simple assessments, grouping children according to their learning levels, and using activity-based methods to improve foundational skills. It also aimed to

build teachers' ability to provide level-specific instruction. On the occasion, teachers shared their feedback, describing the training as practical and relevant to the challenges they face. They appreciated the activity-based teaching approach and expressed the need for more such capacity-building programmes in the future. Also present in the session were Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Vigar Ahmad Giri; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; CEO, Mohammad Shabir and other officers and stakeholders from the education department.

J&K Students Urge Minister Oram to Boost Tribal Education

■ **HT News Desk**

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Students Association, through its Gujjar-Bakarwal Wing, has written to Union Minister for Tribal Affairs, Jugal Oram, seeking urgent intervention to improve the crumbling educational infrastructure in the tribal and remote areas of Jammu & Kashmir. In its letter to the Minister, the Association highlighted the dire circumstances faced by students, particularly from the Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities, in the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valley regions, covering the districts of Poonch, Rajouri, Reasi, Ramban, Doda, and Kishtwar. Rizwan Ahmed, President of the Association's Gujjar-Bakarwal Wing, highlighted the alarming condition of schools operating in unsafe, dilapidated structures, lacking basic amenities such as toilets, drinking water, electricity, and boundary walls. Many of these schools are situated in geologically vulnerable areas, along riverbanks or steep terrains, posing serious risks to students' safety, especially during the monsoon season. The Association urged the Ministry to conduct a special infrastructure audit in these regions and initiate the reconstruction and relocation of unsafe school buildings on an urgent basis.

The Association also raised concerns over the acute shortage of qualified teachers and the lack of functional academic facilities. In numerous schools, a single teacher is tasked with handling multiple classes across different subjects. In most higher secondary institutions, there is an absence of subject-specific faculty for English, Science, and Mathematics. The Association has recommended time-bound recruitment drives, incentives for teachers, provision of residential facilities, and investments in science and computer laboratories to improve the academic environment in tribal areas.

Rizwan drew attention to the dismal state of mobile and seasonal schools designed for the nomadic Gujjar-Bakarwal communities. These schools—critical for the education of migratory children, suffer from chronic underfunding, lack of infrastructure, and non-regularised staff. Teachers in these schools are paid meagre and irregular honorariums, lack essential resources such as tents, blackboards, books, and stationery, and have no job security, severely affecting their morale and the continuity of education. The Association called for institutionalising these mobile schools by ensuring regular salaries, professional training, and integrating them into national education policy frameworks.

Another key concern raised was the delayed and inconsistent disbursement of ST scholarships. Many tribal students, who rely entirely on pre- and post-matric scholarships to continue their education, face significant hardships due to administrative delays. The Association urged the Ministry to implement a fixed calendar for the timely release of scholarships and to strengthen monitoring mechanisms to prevent disruptions.

Emphasizing the need for a holistic approach, Rizwan advocated for community-level awareness campaigns and capacity-building initiatives to promote literacy, particularly among tribal girls, and to sensitise educators serving in tribal areas. He proposed collaboration with local youth groups for outreach and recommended teacher training programs tailored to inclusive pedagogy and a better understanding of tribal cultural contexts.

Rizwan urged Tribal Affairs Minister to initiate a comprehensive policy review and coordinated action in consultation with the Union Territory Government of Jammu & Kashmir to address these critical gaps. "These interventions are crucial to ensuring educational justice and bridging the systemic inequities faced by tribal youth in our region," he added.



Seminar Held to Honour Literary Legacy of Avtar Krishen Rehbar

JKAACL Hosts Day-Long Academic Event at Tagore Hall, Srinagar

■ **Jameel Ansari**

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: The Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages (JKAACL) organized a one-day seminar on July 31, 2025, at the Conference Hall of Tagore Hall, Srinagar, to commemorate the life, works, and enduring literary legacy of the eminent Kashmiri writer, researcher, and historian, Late Avtar Krishen Rehbar.

The seminar drew a distinguished gathering of scholars, poets, academicians, and literature enthusiasts who paid rich tributes to Rehbar's immense contributions to Kashmiri language, literature, and cultural historiography.

The inaugural session was presided over by noted poet and veteran broadcaster Mr. Rafiq Raaz, while distinguished historian Prof. Farooq Fayaz graced the occasion as Chief Guest. The keynote address was delivered by acclaimed critic and academic Prof. Shad Ramzan, who pro-

vided deep insights into Rehbar's multifaceted literary journey, his engagement with Kashmir's linguistic and cultural traditions, and his pivotal role in enriching Kashmiri literary thought.

Prof. Naseem Shafaie, Sahitya Akademi Awardee, attended as Guest of Honour. Jawaid Iqbal, Editor (Kashmiri), hosted the session and presented the vote of thanks, highlighting the Academy's ongoing literary initiatives and the significance of preserving the legacies of literary pioneers like Rehbar.

The proceedings were conducted with elegance and clarity by Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Rather, Assistant Editor (Kashmiri), who served as the anchor for the day.

The seminar featured research-oriented presentations by a distinguished panel of scholars and writers including Prof. M. Zaman Azurdah, Prof. Bashir Bashir, Prof. Aejaz Mohammad Sheikh, Prof. Shad Ramzan, Prof. Majrooh Rashid, Prof. Shafi Shouq, Prof. R. L. Talashi, Shamshad Kral-



wari, Shabnam Tilgami, Yousuf Jehangir, and Prof. Shafi Simbli. The papers explored various dimensions of Rehbar's literary oeuvre—his editorial vision, his pioneering contributions to literary broadcasting at Radio Kashmir, and his research on folk literature and cultural history.

The first academic session was chaired by Prof. M. Zaman Azurdah, with Prof. Shafi Shouq as Chief Guest and celebrated writ-

er G. R. Hasrat Gadda as Guest of Honour. The session focused on Rehbar's historical lens, narrative style, and his unique role in bridging traditional and modern literary sensibilities.

The second session was presided over by noted poet and critic Prof. Bashir Bashir, with Prof. Majrooh Rashid as Chief Guest, and Prof. Rattan Lal Talashi and Manshoor Banihali as Guests of Honour. This session

explored Rehbar's poetic worldview, his interpretative methods, and his lasting influence on Kashmiri literary criticism.

The event was also attended by Ghulam Hassan Ghamgeen, Justice Nazir Fida, Mohammad Yousof Shaheen, Imdad Saqi, Inayat Gul, Nisar Naseem, Mohammad Ayoub Mir Naem, Mushtaq Ali Ahmad Khan, Engineer Shafi Ahmad, Mushtaq Ahmad Mushtaq, Bashir Chiragh, Abdul Rehman Bhat, Dildar Ashraf Shah, Seth Rafi, Feroz Ahmad Mahjoor, Neelofar Naz Nahvi, Nasir Mirza, and Saleem Saalik.

The seminar concluded with an open-floor discussion, where participants emphasized the need for renewed scholarly engagement with Rehbar's legacy and reiterated the importance of documenting Kashmir's intellectual and literary heritage. The event was widely appreciated for its academic depth, seamless execution, and heartfelt homage to one of the most influential figures in modern Kashmiri literature.

RSBVP 2024-25 Ignites Scientific Spirit in Kashmiri Youth

SCERT Kashmir Hosts Key NCERT Event on Science & Innovation

■ **HT News Desk**

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Divisional Office Kashmir, successfully organized the Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2024-25 under the 52nd Rashtriya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani, sponsored by NCERT, New Delhi. Centered on the theme "Science and Technology for Sustainable Future", the programme featured two main components: a Model Exhibition and a Science Seminar, each drawing participation from across the valley. Shant Manu, Additional Chief Secretary Higher Education and Director SCERT, inaugurated the event and highlighted the transformative leadership of SCERT Kashmir.

"The swift rollout of the 'SCERT on Wheels' initiative by the Joint Director shows how effectively SCERT Kashmir is responding to the academic needs of our times. Syed Shabir Ahmad has brought energy and clarity to this institution," he stated.

Gulam Nabi Sheikh, Secretary JKBOSE and Guest of Honour, noted: "Under the thoughtful direction of Syed Shabir Ahmad, SCERT Kashmir is no longer confined to routine roles; it is becoming the academic nucleus for school education in this region."

Delivering the welcome address, Joint Director SCERT Kashmir, Syed Shabir Ahmad, remarked:

"This event is not about winning or losing. It is about enabling our students to explore, think, and express. SCERT is committed to nurturing such spaces where young minds engage directly with real-world scientific questions."

The seminar witnessed 71 student participants, while 31 projects were displayed in the model exhibition. The top seminar positions were



secured by Budgam (1st), and Kupwara (2nd and 3rd).

The seminar jury included Dr. Fozia Kounsar, Mr. Ali Abas, and Mr. Javid Sahab—all praised for their in-depth engagement, academic insight, and thoughtful interaction with participants.

Sheikh Muhammad Iqbal from the Department of Science delivered a focused presentation on practical approaches for introducing scientific ideas into school environments through student-led observation and inquiry.

The model exhibition was judged by:

- Prof. Mushtaq Rasool Mir (SKUAST-K)
- Prof. Manzoor Ahmad Mir (University of Kashmir)
- Dr. Liyaqat Nazir (IUST)
- Dr. Asif Assad (IUST)

Mr. Gulzar Ahmad Dar and Ms. Anjali Om Raina, the dais incharges, ensured seamless stage management and dignified presentation throughout the event. Their meticulous coordination added grace and order to every session.

Mr. Muzamil Ahmad Bhat and Dr. Sajad Hussain Mir, the programme coordinators, played a central role in the success of the event. Their dedicated planning and on-ground execution ensured that every segment ran smoothly and professionally.

Participant reflections were equally powerful:

"Today I felt seen and heard by real scientists," said Shaista Jan from Kupwara.

"This helped me realize that my ideas have value," added Mohammad Irfan from Budgam.

"Such programmes should happen more often," shared Aqsa Bano of Anantnag.

The event received strong support from Incharge and other HODs of SCERT. Mr. Sultan Ahmad Khan, Mr. Irshad Ahmad Shah, Mr. Shakeel Ahmad Bhat, Ms. Samiya Gilani, and Ms. Shabina Ruhi.

RSBVP 2024-25 reaffirmed SCERT Kashmir's growing stature as a center where science education is not only encouraged, but translated into meaningful student action.

DC, Mission Director JJM conduct comprehensive review of Jal Jeevan Mission Works in Ganderbal District

■ **HT News Desk / DIPR**

GANDERBAL, JULY 31: Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, along with Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), J&K UT, Khursheed Ahmad Shah, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of JJM works in the district.

The meeting held in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat Ganderbal, the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Division Ganderbal, briefed the chair on the current status and progress of JJM works across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner in his address, enjoined upon the officers to make concerted efforts for removing bottlenecks of all ongoing works within the stipulated time frame. He highlighted the efforts of the District Administration in resolving various issues arising during the execution of JJM works and impressed upon the officers that any pending land related or other administrative issues must be promptly brought to the attention of District Administration for quick resolution in coordination with the concerned departments.

The MD fixed timelines for execution of different works and directed the concerned officers to prioritize the commissioning of schemes which have achieved significant progress.

The meeting was informed that maximum house holds have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in the district. The DC enjoined upon officers to give a renewed push to enhance pace of providing remaining Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs) in the district.

The officers also reviewed the schemes being executed through District Capex, Nabard, National Rural Drinking Water Program (NRDWP), Jammu & Kashmir Infrastructure Development Finance Corporation (JKIDFC), uploading of project data on the Gati Shakti Portal, and updates on water quality testing and monitoring mechanisms.

The Meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic Circle Srinagar/ Ganderbal, Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Rural Water Supply Division, Ganderbal, officers of Line departments and other concerned officers.

Felicitation ceremony held to honour meritorious students at GMHSS Dooru Shahabad

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, JULY 31: In order to honour the outstanding achievements of meritorious students from class 9th to 12th, NEET qualifiers, young innovators, budding writers, and sportspersons, a grand felicitation ceremony was today organised at Government Model Higher Secondary School Dooru Shahabad.

The event showcased the academic, creative and athletic excellence of the student community. Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Dooru Shahabad, Ghulam Ahmad Mir was the chief guest on the occasion.

Speaking at the event, Mir lauded the achievements of the students and congratulated the school staff for their dedication and efforts. He said that Dooru Shahabad has consistently excelled in various spheres of life and continues to produce individuals of high calibre.

He expressed his pride in felicitating the students and emphasised the importance of aligning the educational system with modern tools and innovative practices. "We must empower our youth through quality education and embrace new-age learning solutions," he remarked.

Highlighting the rich legacy of Government Model HSS Dooru, MLA said, "This institution, being one of the oldest in the region, has produced eminent personalities including bureaucrats, academicians, sportspersons, and intellectuals, and continues to uphold its tradition of excellence despite challenges."

Ghulam Ahmad Mir also appreci-



ated the thought-provoking skit on drug menace performed by the students, calling it a powerful message against a growing societal evil. "Drug menace is nothing less than a form of terrorism that is ruining our younger generation. We must fight it collectively, students, teachers, parents, and civil society must stand united," he asserted.

He also urged authorities to enforce stricter measures to eliminate the scourge of drugs. The MLA assured the school administration of his support in

addressing infrastructural demands such as smart boards and transportation facilities. He also announced an educational-cum-interactive tour for the student team that performed the skit on the drug menace, as a token of appreciation.

Members from Civil Society and School also spoke on the occasion.

Earlier, cultural performances and felicitation programmes were also held. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, parents, teachers and local dignitaries.

Fund office Bandipora organizes financial literacy camp at Mini Secretariat

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, JULY 31: To promote financial awareness and transparency in public service, District Fund office Bandipora today organized a financial literacy camp at the Mini Secretariat, Bandipora.

Chief Accounts Officer, District Fund Office Bandipora was present at the event, which was also attended by DDOs of various offices, concerned officials and other stakeholders from across the district.

The objective of the camp was to educate and empower government employees and associated stakeholders regarding various initiatives introduced by the Finance department, focused on ensuring transparency, accountability, and a citizen-friendly approach to public financial management.

During the session, detailed discussions were held on General Provident Fund (GPF), Deposit Linked Insurance (DLI), State Life Insurance (SLI), National Pension System (NPS), Old Pension Scheme (OPS), Pension Suvidha Portal, Single Nodal Agency (SNA) - SPARSH, Financial Inclusion and other concerned aspects. Speaking on the occasion, CAO emphasized



the need for continuous financial literacy among public servants to ensure efficient service delivery and to keep pace with digital governance reforms. He also reiterated the commitment of the Finance Department towards a transparent and responsive financial ecosystem.

Highlighting the department's stance on ethical governance, CAO stressed the policy of zero tolerance against corruption, stating, "Corruption undermines public trust and development."

"It is our moral and official responsibility to maintain integrity at all levels," he added.

Accounts Officer, District Fund Office Bandipora also addressed the participants focusing specifically on the General Provident Fund (GPF). He provided a detailed overview of GPF rules and procedures.

The camp concluded with an interactive session, allowing participants to raise queries and share feedback. Among others, Accounts officer, DC Office Bandipora and other concerned officers and officials from District Fund office Bandipora were also present.

Capacity building for 'Entrepreneurship Mela' under Mission YUVA on August-02 at GPC Larkipora

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, JULY 31: To empower the youth with essential skills, entrepreneurial insights, and real-world exposure, District Employment and Counselling Centre Anantnag, in collaboration with the Skill Development department, is organizing a one-day capacity building for Entrepreneurship Mela under the Mission YUVA.



The event scheduled to be held on 2nd of August 2025 will start from 11:00 AM onwards at the Government Polytechnic College, Larkipora, Anantnag.

The mela aims to nurture a confident, skilled, and self-reliant generation by providing aspiring entrepreneurs, students, job seekers, and youth across district Anantnag with hands-on learning and professional guidance.

This event offers an excellent opportunity for youth to connect with industry experts, enhance practical skills, and explore self-employment pathways.

All interested participants are encouraged to join and make the most of this enriching platform.

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Congratulations!

It gives us great pleasure to congratulate Mr. Shabir Ahmad of Mehjoor Art Press on his election as President, and Mr. Shahid Ahmad Malik of Speedway Printers on becoming the new General Secretary of the Kashmir Printers Association.

This achievement is a proud milestone for the entire printing community. We are confident that their dedication and forward-thinking approach will inspire progress and foster unity within the Association.

May their leadership bring new opportunities, growth, and recognition to our industry. We wish them both every success as they work to advance and strengthen the printing sector with integrity and creativity.

Regards,
RISOINDIA PRIVATE LIMITED

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Office of the Naib Tehsildar, Achabal, District Anantnag

Public Notice

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that Tufail Bashir Dar, S/o Bashir Ahmad Dar, resident of Kuwarigam, Tehsil Achabal, District Anantnag, has submitted an application in this office for the issuance of an RBA (Reserved Backward Area) Certificate.

As per the applicant, the details of the family members are as follows:

- 1. Bashir Ahmad, S/o Rahman Dar – Occupation: Labour – Annual Income: ₹96,000/-**
- 2. Shaheena, W/o Bashir Ahmad – Housewife**
- 3. Tufail Bashir – Student**
- 4. Azmat Jan – Daughter**
- 5. Seerat Jan – Daughter**

According to the applicant, the total annual income of the family is ₹1,06,000/- and there are no other family members. If any person or institution has any objection regarding the issuance of the RBA Certificate to the applicant, they may submit their objection in writing in the office of the Naib Tehsildar Achabal within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objections shall be entertained after the stipulated time period.

**Naib Tehsildar
Achabal, District Anantnag**

Office of the Principal Government Medical College Baramulla

Principal@gmcbaramulla.com | www.gmcbaramulla.com | 01952-238140

Corrigendum

Corrigendum for the e-tender "Supply of Elisa kits for VRDL and Zoonosis at Associated Hospital, GMC Baramulla", issued vide this office Tender Reference No: 06 GMCB of 2025-26, Dated: 14-07-2025 Tender ID: 2025_HME_281310_1.

Date Extension

Due to less competition in this tender, it was decided to extend the bid closing date for better competition.

Particulars	Previous Bid Closing Date	Revised Bid Closing Date
Supply of Elisa kits for VRDL and Zoonosis GMC Baramulla	30/07/2025	11/08/2025 (04:30 PM) Bid opening date 13/08/2025 (12:30 PM)

Other terms and conditions shall remain same as already advertised.
No: GMCB/PO/2025-26/1788/1395-1402
Dated: 29-07-2025

**Sd/- Principal
Govt. Medical College Baramulla**

DIPK: 4576/25 | Dated: 31-07-2025

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION QAZIGUND

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NIT No: 16 OF R&B/QAZIGUND/2025-26 /E-TENDERING/1907-21 | Dated: 30-07-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of J&K e-tenders are invited on %age basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with J&K Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State/Central Governments for each of the following works: -

S. No	Name of Work	Est. Cost	Basic Cost (In Rs)	GST Amount (In Rs)	T.D Cost	E/M	Time	Class
1.	Construction of road from Agriculture Office Qazigund to Kulgam road.	3073932.36	2605027.43	468904.93	1100/=	61479/=	60 Days	AAY & BEE Class
2.	Upgradation of link road from Bondangi to Khan Mohallah Y.K Pora via Batbagh	799705.65	677716.66	121988.99	300/=	15994/=	20 Days	CEE & DEE Class

Head of Account: District Capex Budget (Sector R&B (UT) 2025-26
Position of AAA : Accorded vide order No.116-DDCA of 2025 Dated: 24-07-2025
Position of TS: Accorded

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

S. No.	Particulars	Dated
1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	30.07.2025
2	Period of Downloading of bidder documents	From 01.08.2025 (11:00 AM)
		To 12.08.2025 (04:00 PM)
3	Bid submission Start Date	From 01.08.2025 (11:00 AM)
4	Bid Submission End Date	To 12.08.2025 (04:00 PM)
5	Date and time of opening of bid(online)	13.08.2025 (11:00 AM)

In the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of tender document in shape of Treasury Challan / Receipt (Under MH- 0059 PWD) in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND [Tender Inviting Authority] (Name of Work to be mentioned on the Treasury Challan / Receipt) (Refer Govt. order No. O.M No. A/24 (2017)-651 Dt 07-06-2018 (The Date of Treasury Challan should be between the date of Start of Bid and Bid Submission End Date) and EMD (2% of advertised cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving Authority).
- All the bidders have to submit Earnest Money/Bid Security (EMD @ 2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG. Non submission of Earnest Money/Bid Security shall render the bidder as No-responsive.
- The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division QAZIGUND (Tender receiving authority) within 03 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work. Failure to produce Performance Security shall render the L1 as non-responsive and case for debarment of the Contractor for a period of 01 Year be forwarded to Higher Authorities.
- The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD @ 2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG of the successful Bidder shall be released after receiving Performance security @ 5% of the allotted cost in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG and same shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work.
- The bidders are requested to quote their rates excluding GST. GST @ 18% shall be added to the contract value by the allotting authority at the time of issuance of allotment.
- The date and time of opening of Bid shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through e-mail message on their e-mail address. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the office of Executive Engineer PWD(R&B) Division QAZIGUND.
- The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of Opening of Technical bids.
- The Earnest Money/Performance Security shall be forfeited if:
 - Any bidder/tenderer withdraws his bid/tender during the period of bid validity or makes any modification in the terms and conditions of the bid.
 - Failure of successful bidder to furnish the required performance security within specified time period before issue of letter of intent.
 - Successful Bidder fails to execute the agreement within 28 days after fixation of contract.
 - If at any stage of work, the Bidder back up from the contract, again the Performance Security/EMD as well as work done claim will be forfeited.
- The tender/ bid is liable to rejection if it does not fulfill the requirement as laid down in NIT
- Performance Security shall be released after DLP is over successfully.
- All other terms and conditions are assumed as laid in PWDForm 25.

No: 1907-21
Dated: 30-07-2025

**Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PWD (R&B) Division Qazigund**

DIPK: 4547/25

Shantmanu flags off 'SCERT on Wheels' in Srinagar

Inaugurates UT level Science & Technology exhibition, seminar at SCERT Bemina

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: Additional Chief Secretary and Financial Commissioner of Higher Education Department, Shantmanu, today flagged off the innovative outreach initiative 'SCERT on Wheels' from the Divisional Office of State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT), Bemina.

Shantmanu, who is Director SCERT, inaugurated a daylong model exhibition titled "Rajya Stariya Bal Vaigyanik Pradarshani (RSBVP) 2024-25". He also chaired a seminar on "Millets for Sustainable Future and Health" held at the SCERT auditorium.

Organised by the SCERT, J&K, under the aegis of the 52nd RBVP sponsored by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, the event marked a significant

step towards promoting the scientific temperament and innovation among the students.

The overarching theme of the programme was "Science and Technology for Sustainable Future", with sub-themes including: Food, Health and Hygiene Transport and Communication, Mathematical Modelling and Computational Thinking, Natural Farming, Disaster Management, Waste Management and Resource Management.

Celebrating five years of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, SCERT's Kashmir Division launched 'SCERT on Wheels' as a grassroots outreach programme aimed at strengthening awareness, enhancing community engagement and reinforcing SCERT's field-connected identity. The initiative brings SCERT's services, mission and messages directly to schools and commu-



nities, demystifying policies and showcasing practices.

Addressing the seminar, Shantmanu expressed heartfelt appreciation to the organisers for curating such impactful and community-driven initiatives.

He also interacted with the students and inspected a range of scientific models developed by the student participants from various districts.

"I am highly impressed with the remarkable creativity and

innovation displayed by the students. The models showcased today reflect a deep understanding of critical issues and a promising future led by young minds," he stated.

Shantmanu lauded RSBVP as

a platform brimming with talent and praised the teachers for guiding and mentoring the students with dedication and insight. "There is absolutely no doubt that RSBVP is a platform for innovation promotion and the educators here are playing a crucial role in shaping young thinkers," he added.

Highlighting the importance of intellectual and ethical growth, he noted, "Two things define a person, his thoughts and his conduct. Thoughts shape our perception and vision, while conduct determines how we translate those thoughts into action. Both are essential in building a character and purpose."

He further reflected on the concept of Navachar (innovation), calling it a "fresh way of thinking and reformed conduct that brings about positive change and offers a new direction to the

world." He urged the educators to continue nurturing innovative thinking and collaborative learning in schools. He emphasized that such creativity should be acknowledged and rewarded.

On the occasion, the Additional Chief Secretary also released a compendium titled "Innovative Brilliance", highlighting student-crafted designs and projects.

Secretary BOSE, Sheikh Ghulam Hassan, Joint Director JKSCERT, Syed Shabir, and other dignitaries also spoke at the event. Several professors and mentors were felicitated for their outstanding contributions in the field of education.

The organisers announced that the students qualifying at this level will represent Jammu & Kashmir at the National Level Science Exhibition and Seminar.

SKUAST-K Holds Critical Thinking Boot Camp Under JKICP at KVK Kulgam

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, JULY 31: SKUAST-K JKICP, Incubation and startup cell in collaboration with SKUAST K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship center Shalimar & KVK Kulgam kick started two-day Boot Camp/Ideation event aimed at identifying, mentoring, handholding, and supporting aspiring and early-stage Agri-entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture and allied sectors to resolve societal problems.

The event marks a critical step in building a robust rural innovation and Agri-entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. It seeks to unlock the potential of youth, local innovators, and Agri-preneurs to develop sustainable, tech-enabled, and scalable solutions for agricultural challenges in the region.

The Inaugural session was graced by Head KVK Kulgam, Prof. Manzoor A Ganai; CEO/Head SKIIE Centre, Dr. Naveed Hamid; Dr. Mohammad Mubashir, Manager Incubation JKICP SKUAST-K, scientists of Kendra, members from different FPOs, SHGs, NGOs, aspiring entrepreneurs, Agri-tech enthusiasts, innovators and rural youth.

Prof. Ganai in his keynote address emphasized the critical role of innovation and entrepreneurship in addressing modern agricultural challenges and enhancing farmer's income. He emphasized the need to bridge the gap between traditional farming practices and modern Agri-technologies through localized entrepreneurship models.

He also highlighted the university's commitment to nurturing startups and encouraging idea-stage innovations to flourish in rural communities.

Dr. Mubashir highlighted the role of Innovation and Start-up ecosystem under SKUAST-K and JKICP. He also briefed on the JKICP start-up policy framework and strategies to handhold the young minds for self-sustainability and encouraged participants to think out of the box in the realm of Start-ups and Innovations.

Addressing the participants, CEO/Head SKIIE centre, urged the aspiring entrepreneurs to think beyond conventional boundaries, embrace creativity, and actively engage in the evolving start-up ecosystem.

He emphasized that SKUAST-K's Incubation initiatives are not just institutional interventions, but part of a larger mission to build a self-reliant and resilient Jammu & Kashmir, aligned with the goals of Viksit Jammu and Kashmir.

This Boot Camp will span two days of intensive mentoring sessions, ideation events, pitch presentations, and expert-led panels. Participants will receive guidance on business model development, value chain integration, marketing strategies, funding opportunities, and government support schemes for Agri-entrepreneurs. The session concluded with pitching of innovative ideas by young minds and 13 novel startup ideas were taken by JKICP Incubation & Startup Cell for helping them to the next level through support of JKICP Startup scheme.

Transport Commissioner reviews functioning of MVD; asks for strict enforcement of rules, regulations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: Transport Commissioner, Vishesh Paul Mahajan, today convened a review meeting of the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), to assess the overall functioning of the department.

The Commissioner asked the concerned officers for enhancing the public service delivery, regulatory enforcement and operational efficiency.

The meeting was attended by the senior functionaries of the department, including Arun Kishore Kotwal, Additional Transport Commissioner; Vikas Anand, Joint Transport Commissioner while Jasmeet Singh, Regional Transport Officer Jammu; Qazi Irfan, Regional Transport Officer Kashmir; Surinder Paul Sharma, Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Kathua

and Assistant Regional Transport Officers of all districts of J&K participated online.

During the meeting, detailed deliberations were held on the functioning of the VAHAN and SARATHI platforms. Emphasis was laid on resolution of technical issues and removal of service bottlenecks to ensure uninterrupted and efficient digital service delivery to the general public.

The Transport Commissioner laid particular emphasis on timely and effective disposal of services covered under the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA). All the officers were directed to ensure strict compliance with the timelines prescribed under PSGA for services such as issuance of driving licences, registration of vehicles, grant/renewal of permits and fitness certification.

Various other important is-

ssues were discussed during the meeting with directions for immediate compliance like installation of Speed Limiting Devices (SLDs).

The Transport Commissioner directed all the concerned to ensure that all the commercial vehicles shall mandatorily be fitted with Speed Limiting Devices (SLDs) in accordance with the prescribed safety standards. He asked all RTOs and ARTOs to ensure completion of this task by or before August 31, 2025, without fail. He also asked for initiating immediate steps for expeditious disbursement of compensation to victims and dependents under the Accident Victim Fund. He also stressed for timely renewal of permits while ensuring no Sale of Vehicles without Letter of Authority (LA).

The Transport Commissioner

issued directives aimed at enhancing transparency and accountability in vehicle fitness inspections. To ensure real-time verification, geo-tagged fitness photographs captured during inspections are required to be uploaded on the same day. Furthermore, the installation of CCTV cameras in all trial grounds and fitness centers has been made mandatory to facilitate robust monitoring. The Commissioner has also emphasized that vehicle fitness inspections should strictly be conducted within officially designated and authorized testing stations. Additionally, automobile dealerships will be inspected to ensure compliance with applicable regulatory norms, thereby promoting adherence to standards and accountability across the board.

The Transport Commissioner

directed the Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) and Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) to conduct regular enforcement drives to crack down on commercial vehicles operating without valid documentation, including permits and driving licenses. He said that special checking points (NAKAs) will be set up at designated locations and vehicle checking drives will be carried out within respective districts. He instructed the RTOs and ARTOs to ensure strict compliance with these directives and submit regular progress reports.

He further reiterated the department's commitment towards delivering efficient, transparent and technology-driven public services, while ensuring strict enforcement of Motor Vehicle laws across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

DLIC meeting under Mission YUVA held at Shopian

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, JULY 31: A meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) under Mission YUVA was held today in Shopian under the chairmanship of District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta.

The meeting aimed to review and approve applications received under the Mission YUVA initiative, designed to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment.

A total of 260 applications verified by the SBDU were presented for consideration. Following a comprehensive evaluation based on eligibility, business viability and the applicant's socio-economic background, all applications were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under the Mission YUVA framework.

Addressing the committee, DDC emphasized the vital role of self-employment in empowering youth, instructing all departments to ensure timely fund disbursement, monitoring and mentoring to guarantee the sustainability of the supported



ventures.

During the meeting, Gupta underscored the importance of expanding outreach activities, organizing awareness camps and conducting mobile registration drives to ensure the benefits of Mission YUVA reach every eligible youth in the district.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Dr. Nasir Ahmad Lone; General Manager DIC, Shurjil Naikoo; DDM NABARD, AD Employment, District Officer JKEDI, Counselling officer DECC Shopian, Lead District Manager, Advance Manager Cluster office JKB and Advance Manager.

Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan: Short plays staged at GGHS Zadibal & GGHS Amira Kadal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, JULY 29: In continuation of the Nasha Mukta J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHS) Zadibal Srinagar, and Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHS) Amira Kadal Srinagar organized two separate impactful short plays within the school premises raising awareness on consequences of drug abuse.

At GGHS Amira Kadal, a compelling short play was performed aimed at raising awareness on the devastating impact of drug addiction.

The play, performed by a local artist group, effectively portrayed the emotional, psychological, and social fallout of substance abuse, drawing strong emotional responses from the audience. The students were deeply moved by the performance and expressed a desire to see more such initiatives in the future.

Principal of the institution underscored the role of schools in spreading awareness and guiding the youth toward a healthy lifestyle.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer DIPR, emphasized the role of cultural engagement in community sensitization and praised the students for their enthusiastic participation.

The programme concluded with a pledge by staff and students to combat drug abuse and foster a clean, drug-free society.

Similarly at GGHS Zadibal, a short play focusing on drug de-addiction and its social consequences was delivered by a local artist group. Their moving performance portrayed the emotional and psychological toll of substance abuse, striking a powerful chord with the students and faculty alike.

Principal of the institution stressed the urgent need to raise awareness about the growing drug menace, particularly among school-going youth.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, DIPR, highlighted how performing arts serve as an effective medium to shape public understanding and instill values of responsibility and health.

The programme concluded with a pledge by students and staff to work collectively towards building a drug-free society, reinforcing the message of awareness, prevention, and solidarity.

DC Kupwara holds interactive meeting with PWDs

Assures support for their transformation under self employment initiatives

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, JULY 31: District Administration Kupwara today organised an interactive meeting of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) with the officers from administration for exploring their field of interest for their coverage under different self employment schemes.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan at DC office Kupwara.

Speaking at the occasion, DC said that the aim of holding the interactive

meeting is to know the field of interest of the persons with disabilities so that they can be covered under different self employment schemes of the Government which will transform their lives.

She urged the PWDs to express their interest so that the administration can support them by skilling or financing them under different self employment schemes like Mission Yuva and PM Vishwakarma. She said the objective is to make them self-reliant and ensure they earn their living with hard work and dignity.



Superintendent ITI Kupwara while interacting with the participants provided them detailed awareness about

different trades and skill programmes available in ITIs for the specially-abled persons.

Later, a separate session was held for the participants wherein their details including name, address, qual-

ification, field of interest and other information were sought from them. During the session, the participants were guided about the courses and the schemes in which they had shown their interest.

Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad; Chief Planning Officer, Parvaiz Ahmad, Principal Government Polytechnic College Kupwara, Superintendent ITI Kupwara, Social Welfare Officer, concerned officials and a large number of Persons with Disabilities were present in the meeting.

Shrinath Suman (JKAS) Superannuates as ACD Ramban after 38 Years of Dedicated Service

HT News Desk

RAMBAN, JULY 31: After rendering 38 years of active service since his appointment in Revenue Department, Shrinath Suman (JKAS) superannuated today as Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD), Ramban.

He was accorded a warm send-off by Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alys Khan, along with senior officers of the district administration, staff members, and prominent citizens.

On the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner and other senior of-



ficers lauded Mr. Suman for his efficient, prompt, and sincere ser-

vices. They praised his strong work ethic and remarkable contributions in serving the public throughout his career.

In his emotional address, Mr. Shrinath Suman extended heartfelt gratitude to the officers and officials for their constant support and co-operation during his 38 years of government service.

Among others present on the occasion were Additional Deputy Commissioner, Varunjeet Singh Charak, CPO Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo, ACP Mohammad Ashfaq, and other senior officers.

Jammu Set to Shine on Global Stage: Balwant Thakur

HT News Desk

LONDON, JULY 31: In a powerful evening that celebrated the themes of race, identity, and inclusion, Tara Theatre renowned for championing South Asian voices on the British stage hosted India's acclaimed theatre personality and cultural ambassador Balwant Thakur as a special guest.

Thakur, whose theatre work has been at the forefront of India's cultural movement for over four decades, captivated the audience with a compelling address on the significance of identity in theatre and the enduring legacy of indigenous performance traditions. Deeply rooted in the cultural soil of Jammu, his productions have consistently highlighted the depth, diversity, and dynamism of Indian theatre, particularly from regions often overlooked on the national and global stage.

Speaking with passionate clarity, Mr. Thakur stressed the artistic richness of Indian theatre and lamented the lack of institutional support it receives. "While Indian theatre possesses all the essential creative elements, it suffers due to the absence of government patronage, societal prioritisation, and public engagement," he noted. "In contrast, theatre in the West, especially in countries like England, is generously supported by both state and civil society. If similar structures existed in India, theatre could very well become a transformative economic and cultural force."

The event also paid tribute to Jatinder Verma, founder of Tara Theatre and a pioneer in South Asian theatre in the UK. Verma's vision and body of work laid the foundation for British-South Asian theatre, opening avenues for generations of diasporic voices.

During his address, Mr. Thakur highlighted the need to elevate Dogri theatre and Jammu's cultural heritage to the global stage. "Delhi and Mumbai have long enjoyed international recognition as cultural powerhouses. But Jammu, too, is a vibrant cultural hub that deserves its own spotlight," he said. "Dogri theatre is not only evolving, it is thriving. It's time for the world to pay attention."



In a promising development, Mr. Thakur engaged in dialogue with Professor Jerri Daboo, a prominent academic researcher known for her documentation of South Asian theatre-makers in the UK. Expressing admiration for Thakur's artistic journey, Prof. Daboo showed particular interest in his efforts to safeguard and revitalise Jammu's cultural identity through performance. Their exchange signalled the beginning of potential academic and creative collaborations between India and the UK.

This landmark event opens new avenues for cross-cultural exchange and theatrical innovation, with a shared vision to elevate regional narratives and create platforms for underrepresented voices. Mr. Thakur also shared his long-term goal: to build enduring cultural bridges that position Jammu as a dynamic and vital contributor to global arts discourse.

The evening concluded with a preview discussion of a forthcoming theatre production that will chronicle the legacy of South Asian theatre pioneers, both in India and the diaspora. This new work will spotlight the contributions of groundbreaking artists whose efforts have reshaped theatre across continents.

DC Kishtwar reviews execution, progress of Agriculture and allied sectors project

HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, JULY 31: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of the Jammu & Kashmir Competitiveness Improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project (JKCIP) in the district.

The meeting focused on enhancing coordination among departments and ensuring effective and timely implementation of key government schemes aimed at supporting the farming community.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Agriculture Department to encourage the farmers to take benefit of different components of the JKCIIP, including saffron, medicinal and aromatic plants (MAP), water management, protective cultivation, mushroom cultivation, and honey production.

It was informed that a total of 9 applications have been received so far—seven from Kishtwar, one each from Mughalmidan and Palmar, while no applications have been received from Nagseni and Thakrie blocks.

FLOs of Block Nagseni and Thakrie were specifically instructed to motivate the local farmers to apply and avail the benefits of the Project.

The Chief Agriculture Officer (CAO) was directed to organize training sessions for FLOs to update them on the process of filing of application and preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs).

The FLOs were also asked to involve the Krishi Kalyan Groups (KKGs) of their respective blocks to mobilize more applications.

Similarly, the FLOs of the Horticulture Department were instructed to encourage fruit growers to seek support for apple, walnut and kiwi plantation. It was informed that 8 applications have been received under horticulture so far.

The District Sheep Husbandry Department was asked to expedite application collection and conduct the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting for approved cases. A total of 38 applications have been received in this sector.

In addition, the PFO Development Office was directed to initiate the formation of Youth Clubs under the Environment Protection Fund, as part of the component related to support for pastoralists.

The Lead Bank Manager was also directed to nominate a banking representative for the upcoming KSA Rural Credit Workshop.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to work in coordination and intensify their efforts to reach out to eligible beneficiaries to ensure the successful implementation of the JKCIIP in Kishtwar.

The meeting was attended by CAO Kishtwar Kushal Chandel, CHO Kishtwar Sajid Mustafa, DSHO Kishtwar, LDM Kishtwar besides other senior officers and concerned staff.

J&K KVIB hosts Awareness Camp at Beli Charana

Secretary Highlights Khadi Board Jobs Schemes

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 31: The Secretary J&K Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB) Dr. Jagdish Chander today presided over an awareness Camp Organised by the Board here at Beli Charana.

Dy. CEO KVIB Jammu Division, Executive Officer (Schemes), District Officer J&K KVIB Jammu and District Officer J&K KVIB Samba were also present.

Addressing a huge gathering of aspiring entrepreneurs and educated unemployed youth of the area, especially females, the Secretary stated that promoting entrepreneurship and skill development among women and marginal sections of the society is a key focus of the KVIB schemes. He underscored the need for conducting more awareness/sensitization campaigns to disseminate the information about the self-employment schemes and programmes among the local communities.

Earlier, the Dy CEO gave detailed pre-



sentations about the modalities involved in implementation of JKREGP and PMEGP. "The aspiring entrepreneurs can apply online for availing the financial assistance under these schemes" he added.

The Secretary/ CEO also inaugurated a six month course in cutting and tailoring sponsored and financed by the J&K KVIB. A batch of 25 female candidates will be trained in cutting and Tailoring trade in the next six months.

Tarun Chugh, Sat Sharma releases Dogri pocket book 'Ramayan Mala 108 Manka' at BJP headquarters

HT News Desk

JAMMU, JULY 31: BJP National General Secretary and J&K BJP Prabhari Tarun Chugh, along with senior party leaders, released a unique literary work titled 'Ramayan Mala 108 Manka' — a pocket-sized rendition of the Ramayan in the Dogri language, authored by Naseeb Singh Manhas. The release ceremony was held at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The event was graced by J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, Vice Presidents Priya Sethi and Rekha Mahajan, General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra, Baldev Singh Billawaria, and Gopal Mahajan, along with MLAs Yudhvir Sethi and Ch. Vikram Randhawa, among other dignitaries.

Tarun Chugh congratulated the author and the people of Jammu



& Kashmir on this significant cultural milestone. Expressing his joy, Chugh said, "This is the first time that the epic Ramayan has been presented in Dogri in such a simplified, accessible format. The Valmiki Ramayan is not just a spiritual text but a scientific

document its references to Nakshatras (celestial constellations) allow precise calculation of the dates of key events."

He added that such a spiritual and literary contribution could only be possible with the divine blessings of Bhagwan Ram. "This

composition connects the spiritual ethos of the Indian subcontinent, from one corner to another. It conveys the eternal values of life, dignity, devotion, sacrifice, and our duties towards society, nation, and family," Chugh remarked.

Sat Sharma, while unveiling the book, praised the author's initiative. He appreciated the author's contribution to Dogri literature and Indian spiritual heritage.

"Writing the Ramayan in Dogri in such a simple and lucid style is truly commendable. This effort will surely inspire more regional literature and connect younger generations to our roots," Sat Sharma said.

Author Naseeb Singh Manhas expressed gratitude to the BJP leadership and said his aim was to make the essence of the Ramayan available in the local language for everyday reading. "Dogri is our identity. Through 'Ramayan Mala 108 Manka,' I've tried to simplify the teachings of Ramayan into 108 short verses that resonate with common people," he said.

District Development Council Jammu approves District CAPEX Budget for Financial Year 2025-26

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, JULY 31: In a significant move to advance inclusive growth and strengthen decentralized governance, the District Development Council (DDC), Jammu, convened a high-level meeting the other day at the Meeting Hall, Panchayat Bhawan, Rail Head Complex, to deliberate upon and approve the District Capex Budget for the financial year 2025-26.

The meeting was presided over by the Chairman DDC Jammu Bharat Bhushan and witnessed the presence of the Vice-Chairman Suraj Singh, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) from various constituencies of Jammu district and elected DDC members.

Also in attendance were key administrative officials, including the Chief Planning Officer, Ajaypal Singh, senior sectoral officers associated with Capex Budget planning and implementation, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khour (Nodal Officer - ABDP) and Block Development Officers (BDOs) from all blocks of the district.

The proceedings were conducted

in a very cordial and collaborative atmosphere, reflecting the collective commitment of all stakeholders to foster development through constructive dialogue and mutual respect.

The session commenced with a detailed presentation by Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Jammu, Sher Singh, who also serves as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the District Development Council. In his address, the ADDC provided a comprehensive overview of the proposed Capex Budget for 2025-26, which focuses on holistic, participatory, and need-driven development.

The proposed budget incorporates a wide spectrum of initiatives targeting the upliftment of rural and urban areas alike, with emphasis on Area Development Grants allocated to DDCs, BDCs and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to support local governance and grassroots development; Aspirationation, Sub-Divisional Magistrate Khour (Nodal Officer - ABDP) and Block Development Programme (ADPP) aimed at transforming underdeveloped blocks and panchayats through targeted in-



terventions; Infrastructure and service delivery enhancements across critical sectors, including Public Works Department (PWD), Education (Elementary and Secondary), Health, Youth Services & Sports, Samridh Seema Yojana (SSY) and Public Health Engineering (PHE).

Following the presentation, a robust and constructive discussion took place. The DDC members shared insightful feedback and highlighted specific local needs. Several members submitted requests for the inclusion of additional works and projects to better reflect the developmental

aspirations of their respective constituencies.

Acknowledging the importance of timely planning, the Chair directed that all supplementary proposals must be formally submitted by 12:00 noon on July 31, 2025, for consideration in the revised Capex Budget. In the ab-

sence of new submissions by the deadline, the initially proposed budget will be deemed final and approved.

At the conclusion of the session, the Council unanimously passed a resolution authorizing the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to officially sign and endorse the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 on behalf of the entire House. Subsequently, on 31st July, 2025, the final CAPEX Budget was formally approved by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, in accordance with the resolution passed during the meeting.

The approved Capex Budget represents a strategic roadmap to accelerate socio-economic progress across Jammu district. It aims to foster inclusive development, improve core infrastructure, and enhance public service delivery through transparent, accountable, and community-centric planning.

The District Development Council reiterated its commitment to ensuring that the developmental needs of every block, panchayat, and citizen are addressed with urgency, equity, and diligence.

Kashmir Super League Will be a Significant Milestone in J&K Football History: LG Manoj Sinha

LG interacts with players & officials, congratulates J&K Sports Council & sponsors of Kashmir Super League



■ **HT Sports Desk**

SRINAGAR, JULY 31: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the Qualifier 2 match of Kashmir Super League-2025 at TRC ground, Srinagar. The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the players, officials and felicitated the owners of all the six teams participating in the landmark football tournament. The Lieutenant Governor con-

gratulated J&K Sports Council and sponsors of the Kashmir Super League.

“The enthusiasm and passion witnessed over the past few days have been truly remarkable. A big thank you to all the enthusiastic fans and spectators who are cheering on the players.

Football holds a special place in the hearts of Kashmir's youth; it's more than just a sport, it's a passion. It truly unites people and connects

hearts. It is a symbol of brotherhood and unity. In Jammu and Kashmir, Sports have emerged as a powerful force for establishing peace, fostering unity, and nurturing brotherhood among youth,” the Lieutenant Governor said. The Lieutenant Governor also congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the players.

“Kashmir Super League will be considered as a significant milestone in J&K's Football history. I hope that

the success of Kashmir Super League will serve as a launching pad for football players from Kashmir to compete on national and international levels,” he said. Today's Qualifier 2 match of Kashmir Super League was played between Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC and Arco United FC.

Kashmir Super League 2025 is envisioned to inspire youth, build local capacity, and create long-term sports career pathways and provide

a professional platform for local football talent to showcase their skills and ensure a competitive platform for budding and professional footballers.

The league is witnessing enthusiastic participation from teams representing various clubs and corporate football teams, and serves as a platform for identifying and nurturing young talent in the sports. The league also involved commu-

nity outreach programs, such as school visits, football clinics, and fan engagement activities.

Shri Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary Social Welfare; Shri Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner Srinagar; Ms Nuzhat Gul, Secretary, J&K Sports Council; senior officials of Civil and Police Administration, prominent sports personalities, youth and football lovers in large number were present.

Rinchen Youdol Wins Gold at 2025 Asian Taekwondo Championships



tinued support in nurturing local talent and providing timely assistance to athletes.

Special acknowledgement was given to coaches Zaheer Abbas Khan, Mohd Ali, Parveen Kumar, and Master Atul Pangotra, whose tireless efforts and mentorship played a pivotal role in Rinchen's historic win.

In his message, Munshi added, “This gold medal is not just Rinchen's achievement, but a proud moment for all of Ladakh. It has opened a new chapter in the sporting history of our region.”

He also extended thanks to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh, MP Ladakh, Chairman/CEC

LAHDC Kargil and Leh, and the Deputy Commissioner Kargil for their support towards the development of sports in the region.

This monumental achievement by Rinchen Youdol is expected to inspire a new generation of athletes from Ladakh to dream big and strive for excellence on the global stage.

■ **HT News Desk**

KARGIL, JULY 31: In a historic moment for Ladakh and Indian sports, Rinchen Youdol has brought laurels to the nation by winning the Gold Medal in the PARA Poomsae Individual Female Senior P34 Category at the prestigious 2025 Junior, Cadet & Para Asian Taekwondo Championships, held in Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia.

The championship featured participation from 12 countries, and Rinchen's victory marks the first-ever Asian Championship gold medal in any sport from Ladakh — a milestone achievement that has filled the region with pride and joy.

The Ladakh Taekwondo Association extended its heartfelt congratulations to Rinchen Youdol for her outstanding achievement. President of the Association, Gulzar Hussain Munshi, expressed his sincere gratitude to India Taekwondo for providing consistent support to athletes from remote areas such as Both Kharbo, Kargil.

He remarked, “India Taekwondo has uplifted the level of the game by offering international exposure and has brought in a culture of accountability and performance.”

President Munshi also thanked Joint Director Youth Services and Sports, UT Ladakh, Mr. Tahir Hussain Zubdavi, for his con-

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