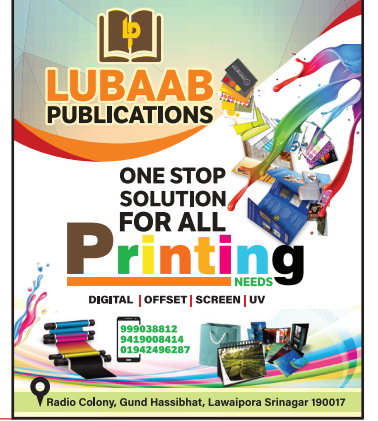


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HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless



Armed Forces Committed to Eradicate Terror Ecosystem From J&K : LG Sinha

Asks Officers to "Eliminate Every Terrorist, Their Outfits"

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Friday called on the Army officers to take a pledge to eliminate every terrorist and terrorist organization which are a threat to peace.

Interacting with the officers attending Higher Command Course - 54 at Army War College Mhow at Raj Bhawan here, LG Sinha, said, "I congratulate and thank the outstanding officers of

the three services for keeping all citizens safe and safeguarding the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. We must vow to eliminate every terrorist and terrorist organization that threatens our safety, security and prosperity."

LG Sinha discussed contemporary geo-political and geo-strategic issues, besides Counter-Terrorism strategy and whole-of-government

TURN ON PAGE 2



No Dialogue Until Pak Completely Stops Cross-Border Terrorism : GoI

Indo-Pak Relations Strained After Pahalgam Attack, Op Sindoor

HT News Desk

NEW DELHI, AUG 01: The Government of India has informed the Lok Sabha that following the April-May 2025 military clashes with Pakistan, relations between the two countries remain strained.

In response to the 22 April 2025 Pahalgam terror attack, carried out by Pakistani terrorists, India launched "Operation Sindoor," targeting terror infrastructure in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

The information was provided in a written reply by Minister of State for External Affairs, Kirti Vardhan Singh, to a question raised in the

Lok Sabha. The response detailed a series of diplomatic and military measures taken by India following the attack that resulted in multiple civilian casualties in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the ministry, India undertook decisive diplomatic initiatives following the incident and launched a targeted military operation named Operation Sindoor. The operation focused on dismantling terror launchpads and related infrastructure across the Line of Control.

On 10 May 2025, the Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) of Pakistan contacted his Indian counterpart requesting an end to firing and cross-border military action. The

TURN ON PAGE 2

DGP holds operational review in Kulgam

Farooq Rather

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat, accompanied by IGP Kashmir Zone, VK Birdi, visited Kulgam, to assess the security situation and held an operational review with GOC Victor Force and other officers of J&K Police and Army.

At the onset of the meeting, SSP Kulgam made a detailed presentation, on operational preparedness and ongoing operations, a

TURN ON PAGE 2

3.8 lakh cases pending in J&K, Ladakh courts: Govt

HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh together have over 3.8 lakh pending cases across various courts, according to the latest government data presented in the Parliament.

As per the Ministry of Law and Justice written reply to Lok Sabha on August 1, 2025,

TURN ON PAGE 2

PAHALGAM TERROR ATTACK:

To Help Revival of Businesses, Banks Mulling Special Packages

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: In a major step towards economic recovery, the Union Territory Level Bankers Committee (UTLBC) is mulling a package for revival of businesses affected by Pahalgam terror attack and Indo-Pak conflict during April and May this

year. The ULBC- the apex level forum of bankers/financial institutions operating in J&K- passed resolutions during its 16th meeting held on June 21 for revival/rehabilitation of the affected businesses.

According to record note of the UTLBC meeting, the commit-

tee passed a resolution that J&K government shall declare the incidents of Pahalgam terror attack and Indo-Pak conflict as disturbances across UT of Jammu & Kashmir and issue a notification in this regard.

It also passed a resolution that rehabilitation plan for revival of businesses affected due to the

terror incident and conflict thereon, to be invoked under chapter VII (RIOTS AND DISTURBANCES) of RBI Master Direction F I D D . C O . F S D . B C No.9/05.10.001/2018-19 dated October 17, 2018.

The UTLBC further resolved to form a committee, comprising members from three major

banks, for finalizing the parameters of the proposed rehabilitation/ revival plan.

As per minutes of the meeting, the committee was informed about the financial stress caused to borrowers in tourism sector and in border areas due to Pahalgam attack.

TURN ON PAGE 2

2nd Chinar book fest to start at SKICC Today

Organisers highlight focus on multilingual, culture and youth engagement

HT News Network / KNO

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: The second edition of the Chinar Book Festival is all set to commence from tomorrow at SKICC Srinagar. The event will bring together publishers, writers, students and cultural performers from across the country.

"This festival is much more than a literary gathering. It reflects the spirit of learning and cultural pride in Kashmir," said Dr. Amit Wanchoo, Chief Convener of the festival as per the details collected by the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).



He said that the book festival will unite all writers, readers and thinkers.

Director Information, Nitish Rajora during the Press Conference with regard to the Chinar Book Festival at SKICC will be held from August-2 to 10 and is open to all with free entry.

"I invite students and book lovers from across Jammu and Kashmir to join us, read and participate in sessions dedicated to our rich culture and history," he said.

He added that the festival will feature a variety of sessions, including book discussions and literary talks.

TURN ON PAGE 2

Amarnath Yatra Suspended Till Aug 3 Due To 'Urgent Repair Works'

United News of India

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, AUG 1: The annual Amarnath Yatra was Friday suspended till August 3 in the interest of safety of pilgrims as "urgent repair and maintenance works" are being undertaken on the twin routes of the pilgrimage following heavy rains, officials said.

On Friday morning, while the pilgrimage remained suspended from the Pahalgam route and no fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to proceed to the cave shrine, the yatra was allowed from the Baltal route, they said.

However, owing to heavy rains, the yatra was

TURN ON PAGE 2

Govt Funds Carding Machine To Revive Namdha Craft

Refurbished Machine to Cut Labour, Boost Local Output

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 1: In a significant step toward revival and promotion of the traditional craft of Kashmiri Namdha, the Government has approved funds for refurbishing and installation of a high-capacity Carding Machine at its UNDP wing.

This initiative falls under the larger objective of strengthening the infrastructure and sustainability of traditional handicrafts and handloom sectors in the Valley.

Namdha, a Centuries-old craft involving felting and embroidery of woollen fabric, has been witnessing a steady decline due to various constraints, notably the lack of wool processing facilities, high input costs, and time-consuming

TURN ON PAGE 2



No Footbridge Puts Patients at Risk Near Bemina Hospital

HT News Desk / KINS

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: The absence of an overhead footbridge outside Bemina Children Hospital is causing serious trouble for patients, attendants, and medical staff, who are forced to cross a busy and dangerous highway to reach the facility.

Located along the bustling Srinagar Bypass, the hospital sees hundreds of patients daily, including infants, children, and elderly patients. However, the lack of a pedestrian overhead bridge or even a zebra crossing has made access not only difficult but life-threatening.

"Carrying my sick 5-year-old son in my arms and trying to cross the highway felt like a nightmare," said a worried father. "The traffic never stops, and there's no safe way to get across."

Other attendants echoed the same concern, saying they're often burdened with medical files, medicines, and essentials while navigating high-speed traffic. "It's physically draining and mentally stressful," said one woman who regularly

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.



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

Advt - Comp...

CS Reviews Grievance Redressal, PSGA Implementation

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo, today chaired a meeting to assess the functioning and efficacy of the Department of Public Grievances (DoPG) in addressing the citizens' issues through the 'JK Samadhan' and CPGRAMS portals.

The meeting was attended by all the Administrative Secretaries and senior functionaries of the Department while Deputy Commissioners from across the

Union Territory participated virtually.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary closely examined the upgrades underway on the JK Samadhan portal aimed at making it more user-friendly and efficient in grievance resolution. A detailed district-wise and department-wise performance audit was undertaken to assess the grievance disposal timelines and effectiveness.

Emphasizing the importance of outreach, the Chief Secretary called for enhancing public par-

ticipation in the system, noting that with around 21 lakh households in J&K, there exists a scope to take citizen registrations close to 20 lakh.

He directed the DoPG to make the portal's dashboard more insightful and analytical, capable of reflecting real-time grievance flow, response time at each administrative level and citizen feedback on grievance closure.

Administrative Secretaries and Deputy Commissioners were invited to offer suggestions

TURN ON PAGE 2

CS Reviews Readiness for 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: In a high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to review the preparedness for the nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2025', scheduled

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

Armed Forces.....

approach to dismantle terror ecosystem. He also shared a range of key reforms and initiatives taken by the J&K UT administration and security apparatus in the past few years to ensure inclusive development, peace and prosperity. Lt Gen Harjeet Singh Sahi, Commandant, Army War College, faculty members and senior officers of the Security Forces were present on the occasion.

No Dialogue.....

request was accepted the same day, resulting in a temporary cessation of direct military engagement along the border.

Despite the pause in active hostilities, India has maintained its policy position that terrorism and diplomacy cannot function simultaneously. The government reiterated that any future engagement with Pakistan depends on measurable and verifiable steps to curb terrorism.

Responding to a query on whether there has been a fundamental change in the relationship between the two countries post-conflict, the government stated that its long-term strategy is rooted in a firm approach against the sources of terrorism. "India has rejected any form of coercion or blackmail and has emphasized safeguarding national security."

"As of now, Operation Sindoor continues. There has been no official confirmation of the possibility of resuming diplomatic dialogue with Pakistan in the near future. The government's position remains that meaningful diplomatic engagement can only take place in an environment free from the threat of cross-border terrorism," the reply reads.

The reply also clarified that all necessary steps would continue to be taken to protect Indian citizens and territory from external threats, with no compromise on the country's security interests.

To Help Revival.....

"The House was apprised about the impact of the Pahalgam terror attack that took place on April 22, 2025 and Indo-Pak conflict thereon, on the economic pursuits and businesses across J&K UT that resulted in financial stress to all the sectors, especially the borrowers related to tourism sector and living in border area," reads record note of the meeting.

The UTLCB was also informed that delegations of various trade associations/bodies approached government authorities and J&K Bank management seeking rehabilitation and revival package for affected businesses.

DGP holds.....

police spokesman said. During the review, the DGP directed the officers to analyze and reassess the existing strategies and recalibrate the op offensive to neutralise Pakistani terrorists.

The DGP, thereafter, toured the general area of DH Pora, Devsar and Kund.

3.8 lakh cases.....

there are 3,35,513 cases pending in the district and subordinate courts of Jammu and Kashmir, while 1,417 cases are pending in the courts of Ladakh.

In Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court, a total of 45,296 cases remain pending as of July 28, 2025.

In its response, the Government said it is cognizant of the issue of case pendency at various levels of the judiciary. While the disposal of cases lies within the purview of the judiciary, the Government said it remains committed to strengthening the justice delivery system by providing necessary resources, infrastructural support and policy interventions.

To address delays and facilitate faster disposal of cases, the Government cited several initiatives under Article 21 of the Constitution. These include the establishment of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in August 2011, which focuses on reducing delays and enhancing accountability in judicial administration.

The Mission promotes structural changes, computerization, increased judge strength and re-engineering of court procedures.

Additionally, under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme for Development of Judicial Infrastructure, funds are being provided to States and UTs for the construction of court halls, residential quarters for judges, lawyers' halls, toilet complexes and digital rooms.

As of June 30, 2025, a total of Rs 12,101.89 crore has been released under this scheme since its inception in 1993-94. The number of court halls has increased from 15,818 in 2014 to 22,372. (KNO)

2nd Chinar.....

"This year, we are highlighting the diverse languages of Jammu and Kashmir, such as Dogri, Kashmiri, Urdu, and others with a strong focus on books written in and about these languages," Rajora said.

"Cultural activities, along with participation from renowned writers, poets and scholars, will also be an integral part of the event," he said.

He further mentioned that dedicated sessions for children will be organised to enhance their reading and writing skills in a fun and engaging way.

Notably, the nine-day festival is being organised by the National Book Trust (NBT), India in collaboration with the National Council for Promotion of Urdu Language (NCPUL) and the District Administration Srinagar.

As per details, over 130 publishers and booksellers from across India are participating in the fair. "From ancient scripts to modern publishing, we are creating spaces where heritage and innovation can go hand in hand," said Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman of NBT.

Yuvraj Malik, Director of the National Book Trust, said the festival aims to reach more readers, especially the youth. "After the success of the first edition, we have expanded the scope. With more participation and new ideas, we hope to deepen the reading culture in J&K."

Alongside book stalls, the festival features a national seminar on multilingual and Kashmiri literary traditions, including folk forms like songs, proverbs and Rajanama.

"Chinar Book Festival is a historic initiative that will give a new dimension to the promotion of book culture in J&K," said Dr. Shams Iqbal, Director, NCPUL. "It fosters harmony among India's many languages."

Moreover, evenings at the festival are filled with cultural events including Kashmiri Chakri, Bhand Pather, Mushaira and theatre performances.

Students from institutions such as SKIMS Medical College, NIT Srinagar, Government Dental College and NIFT are also participating. Also, prominent speakers are expected during the festival include Prof. Shakeel Romshoo, Prof. Neelofar Khan, Dr. Suresh Dutt, Mr. Waheed Jeelani and several others from the literary and academic community—(KNO)

Amarath Yatra.....

later suspended from the Baltal route as well, they said.

The movement of the pilgrims remained suspended from the Bagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu for the second consecutive day.

"Due to the recent heavy rains, repair and maintenance works are required to be undertaken on the Baltal Axis of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra route. In the interest of safety of the yatris, no Yatra will be allowed on 3rd August from the Baltal route also," Kashmir Divisional Commissioner Vijay Kumar Bidhuri said.

He said further updates will be issued in the due course of time. Bhiduri said there have been recent heavy rains in yatra area on both Pahalgam and Baltal axis, and so, maintenance works of urgent nature are required to be carried out on the Baltal Axis following this heavy rainfall.

Torrential rains in Kashmir had rendered the roads unsafe, following which the pilgrimage was suspended on both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes on Wednesday.

The requisite repair and maintenance works are already being carried out on Pahalgam route of the Yatra, the divisional commissioner added.

On July 17, the yatra was suspended due to heavy rains at the twin base camps in Kashmir.

So far this year, more than 4.05 lakh yatris have paid obeisance at the Holy Cave shrine, he said.

A total of 1,44,124 pilgrims have departed from the Jammu base camp for the Valley since July 2, when Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha flagged off the first batch.

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

Govt Funds.....

manual methods. The refurbishment of the Carding Machine under the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) budgeting is expected to address these bottlenecks directly.

In a press statement issued here today, Mirza Shahid Ali, Deputy Director, UNDP, stated that the availability of modernized carding facilities shall reduce manual labour and processing time significantly, making the craft economically viable for artisans and increase production capacity, enabling them to meet the growing domestic and international demand. This step is also expected to attract younger artisans to the trade by improving working conditions and productivity.

"This move aligns with the Government's broader vision to revive languishing crafts, with Namdha recognized as a flagship craft. We will ensure timely refurbishment, installation and operationalization of the machine while providing necessary training to the artisans to maximize utility," he added.

This development is expected to breathe new life into the Namdha sector, preserve its rich legacy and improve the livelihoods of hundreds of artisans dependent on this culturally significant art form, which has a huge demand, both locally as well in outside markets.

No Footbridge.....

visits the hospital. The issue isn't just about inconvenience—it's about safety. In March this year, two people died after being hit by an ambulance near the hospital. Local residents say the area is a death trap waiting for another tragedy.

"How many more lives must be lost before the government acts?" asked a local resident.

Doctors at the hospital also agree that the current situation is dangerous. "Timely access to healthcare is critical, especially for children. The absence of an overhead footbridge is affecting that access," said one doctor on condition of anonymity.

The hospital, which was shifted from Sonwar to Bemina, was expected to offer better services. But attendants say it has added a new set of problems.

"There is no zebra crossing, no pedestrian signal, nothing," said a regular visitor. "People are forced to run across the road, guessing when it's safe."

Ambulances too face challenges. Due to the highway divider, they have to drive nearly one kilometers ahead just to take a U-turn and return to the hospital—wasting precious minutes in emergencies.

Residents and visitors are urging the government to install a foot-over bridge, like the ones outside JVC hospital or Government College for Women on MA Road.

"This is a hospital, not a shopping mall. We need urgent intervention here," said an attendant. "A footbridge is not a luxury—it's a necessity."

Officials told KINS that the issue has been brought to the notice of higher authorities, but so far, there's no timeline for when action will be taken.

Until then, each trip to the hospital remains a risky journey for those already burdened with health worries.

CS Reviews.....

for making the system more impactful and easier to navigate.

The Chief Secretary directed the DoPG to incorporate all such inputs into the next version of the portal before the subsequent review.

Secretary, DoPG, Niraj Kumar, informed the meeting that 13,73,252 citizens had registered on JK Samadhan, submitting 77,810 grievances, of which 62,370 had been resolved.

On the CPGRAMS platform, he informed that out of the 9,022 grievances registered on this portal 5,628 stands resolved and 3,394 currently under process.

Later, chairing a separate meeting to review implementation of the J&K Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA), the Chief Secretary called for creation of a dedicated portal to monitor time-series data of service requests submitted under the Act. He underlined that the portal should offer detailed insights into application processing times by the officers, enabling the administration to identify habitual delays and ensure greater accountability.

The Chief Secretary directed the General Administration Department (GAD) to establish a dedicated cell for the planning, development, and monitoring of this portal. He also emphasized that the new PSGA portal should be seamlessly integrated with the existing Single Window System (SWS) within a strict timeline of two months.

Commissioner Secretary, GAD, M. Raju, apprised the meeting of the current status of PSGA-covered services and proposed measures to strengthen its implementation. He stressed the need for making service delivery outcome-driven and citizen-centric, in line with the objectives of the Act.

CS Reviews Readiness.....

from 2nd to 15th August as part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

The meeting was attended by Principal Secretary, Culture; Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Administrative Secretaries; Senior Police functionaries and several Heads of Departments.

The Chief Secretary emphasized the need to make this campaign a mass movement, urging departments to ensure widespread participation across urban and rural regions. He called for involving school children, youth, and citizens from all walks of life to strengthen the message of national pride, unity, and patriotic consciousness.

Following the remarkable success of the campaign over the last three years, this year's edition aims to deepen its impact through community-led, culturally enriched activities that will be held across panchayats, urban wards, educational institutions, and key public spaces throughout J&K.

During this meeting the Principal Secretary, Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma revealed that the 'Har Ghar Tiranga 2025' campaign will be carried out in three distinct phases between 2nd and 15th August, ensuring broad-based public participation across the UT.

The initial phase scheduled from 2nd-8th of August aims at creating awareness through creative initiatives. It was revealed that as part of this phase educational institutions and public spaces will be adorned with Tiranga-themed wall paint-

ings, murals, and rangoli art. Exhibitions curated by the Ministry of Culture will be displayed in schools and government offices.

The second phase to be held between 9th-12th August will centre on mass mobilisation and celebration. Grand cultural festivals (Tiranga Mahotsavs) and melas will be organised, highlighting local arts, crafts, and products, especially those by Self-Help Groups (SHGs) in Tricolour themes.

This phase will also witness bike and cycle rallies, youth parades, and community Tiranga Yatras aimed at enhancing public involvement. Markets and public areas will be decorated, and the distribution of National Flags will be facilitated primarily through SHGs.

The final phase to be celebrated between 13th-15th August will witness flag hoisting ceremonies, and illumina-

tions of key government buildings, institutions, and public landmarks. Major flag hoisting events are scheduled in Srinagar and Jammu. Citizens will also be encouraged to participate in the popular 'Selfie with Tiranga' campaign, uploading their photos with the National Flag on the designated online portal.

About the salient features of this campaign, it was revealed that over 15 lakh National Flags are set to be distributed across the UT besides a dedicated digital portal will facilitate real-time monitoring and event reporting.

This year, the campaign highlights creative grassroots participation through art, music, traditional crafts, and cultural expression reinforcing the spirit of "Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat." In its true spirit.

Night patrolling to curb illegal Mining in Shopian

Strict crackdown undertaken, 04 vehicles seized for illegal mining activities



HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, AUG 01: Acting on specific inputs regarding illegal mining on the intervening night of July, 31 and August, 01, night patrolling was conducted at multiple locations across Shopian district in order to deter the illegal miners from looting public resources of minor minerals.

The drive was led by Deputy Commissioner, Shishir Gupta, who personally visited several vulnerable spots during the night.

Patrolling was carried out by Executive Magistrates along with Police, and nakas were established in all tehsils by the concerned Tehsildars and Naib Tehsildars at locations where illegal mining had been reported.

Today, continuing the endeavour of stopping illegal mining and also enforcing compliance to traffic rules, enforcement drives were undertaken by MVD and Traffic police.

During the nakas, 04 vehicles were seized for extraction and transportation of minor minerals illegally among others. 02 School buses were also seized for violations of non availability of vehicle documents.

Besides, daily enforcement teams of the mining department are in place to enforce the seizure of vehicles involved in illegal mining activities including JCBs, tippers, and tractors. The illegal miners are being penalized as per the rules in vogue and are being counselled to desist from extracting minor minerals.

DC Kupwara review progress under PMAY-Urban 2.0 in Kupwara

HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, AUGUST 01:

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, today chaired the District Level Committee meeting to review progress on Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) in the Mini Meeting Hall of DC office Kupwara. The meeting focused on scrutinizing applications received through the Unified Web Portal and assessing implementation status. The meeting was attended by ADDC Faeed-ud-Din, ACR Peerzada Mumtaz Ahmad, Tehsildars Kupwara, Hundwara, Langate, CEOs M.C Kupwara, Hundwara,



Langate along with other concerned officers.

During the review, DC Kupwara examined the status of 538 applications received under the scheme, out of which 68 cases have been approved so far. She directed concerned officers to reach out to every pending beneficiary within the next two days, compiling detailed Excel reports documenting case-specific hurdles including reasons

for non-responsive applicants within a week's time.

Further, she instructed officers to conduct rigorous field verification of pending cases while ensuring genuine beneficiaries aren't excluded due to procedural delays. She stressed inter-departmental coordination for swift case disposal, warning against any lapses in accountability during scrutiny of the remaining applications.

D&FCO CRACKS-DOWN ON STREET FOOD VENDORS; RS. 56K FINE IMPOSED

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: Food Safety Wing of the Drugs and Food Control Organization (D&FCO) imposed a fine of Rs. 56,000 on the street food vendors violating hygienic and sanitary norms under the Food Safety and Standards Act (FSSAI) during an intensive drive. As part of this enforcement campaign, various locations across district Srinagar, including Panthachowk, Karan Nagar, Batamalo, and Hazratbal, were inspected. During the inspections, 44 street food vendors were found non-compliant with the prescribed standards and a total fine of Rs. 56,000 was imposed on

them. The inspection teams examined the raw materials, ingredients, and finished food products offered by these vendors. Food items deemed unfit for human consumption were destroyed on the spot. Vendors were directed to strictly follow Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and were instructed not to use newspapers or non-food grade utensils for the preparation or sale of food. The department has reiterated that strict action will be taken against defaulters in accordance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act. Consumers are encouraged to report any food safety concerns or complaints by calling the toll-free helpline 104.



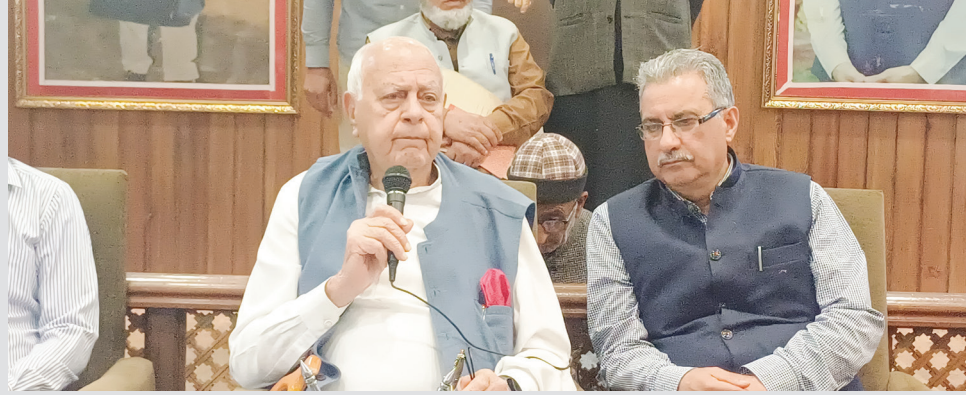
DR. FAROOQ ABDULLAH INTERACTS WITH SHOPKEEPERS, TRADERS AT DALGATE

Urges promotion of authentic Kashmiri Handicrafts to tourists, global markets

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: The Jammu and Kashmir National Conference President Dr. Farooq Abdullah Friday visited the Dalgate area in Srinagar where he interacted with local traders and artisans. During the interaction, Dr. Farooq emphasized the importance of promoting and preserving the authenticity of Kashmiri handi-

crafts, urging traders to showcase genuine, locally-made products to tourists. Highlighting the rich cultural heritage of Kashmir's traditional arts and crafts, Dr. Farooq called on traders to refrain from selling imitations and instead focus on products that reflect the true craftsmanship of the Valley. "Kashmiri handicrafts are not just commodities; they are a representation of our



identity and heritage," he said adding, "We must ensure that tourists take home authentic pieces that tell the story of our land." He further appealed to the government to take concrete measures to support the local handicrafts sector. "There is an urgent need for initiatives that ensure real Kashmiri handicrafts reach both domestic and international markets," he noted. "From certification

systems to better marketing channels, the government must step in to protect artisans and promote the genuine craft of Kashmir." The interaction was welcomed by the local trading community, who appreciated Omar Abdullah led govt's continued support for Kashmir's traditional industries and push for measures to protect the interests of local artisans.

Residents of Beerwah Decry Water Shortage, Say JJM Commitments Unfulfilled

■ Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, AUG 1: A serious drinking water crisis has gripped the Beerwah subdivision of Budgam district, with residents from several villages accusing authorities of failing to deliver on the promises made under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). Locals from Charkhan, Waterpora, Arwah, Mirepora, Machhama, Dargar, Narwarh, and Adina told news that they are forced to consume contaminated water, posing serious health risks. "The government had promised tap water in every household, but we have neither taps nor water," said a resident of Waterpora. Expressing concern over the deteriorating situation, the residents appealed to the administration for urgent intervention to ensure access to safe drinking water and prevent the crisis from escalating into a public health emergency.

Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of Beerwah acknowledged the issue while speaking to Media "There is indeed a shortage of drinking water in some areas. However, due to the ongoing strike by contractors over the past several months, project work has been delayed, forcing people to face difficulties. We are making efforts, and in the coming days, clean drinking water will be provided to all affected areas," he said.

Rehbar-e-Taleem Teachers Forum Kupwara Holds Condolence Meet at Rajwar

■ HT News Desk

KUPWARA, AUG 01: A condolence meeting (Tazyati-e-Ijlas) was held today at Bakihaker, Rajwar, in loving memory of Late Mr. Irshad Ahmad Lone, a devoted teacher who tragically lost his life in a road accident while proceeding to his school duties. The ijlas was organized by the Zonal Unit Rajwar of Rehbar-e-Taleem Teachers Forum, under the leadership of Mr. Tamjeed ul Islam, Zonal President Rajwar. The solemn occasion witnessed the presence of hundreds of teachers, members of civil society, and prominent leaders including Vice Chairman ZED, Jenab Dee Baig Sahib, and UT Secretary, Mr. G. M. Dar Sahib.

Also in attendance were Zonal Presidents and Executive Members from Zones Handwara, Kupwara, Dragmulla, Villagam, Mawer, and Langate, alongside the District Executive Members of the Forum, who paid glowing tributes to the departed teacher.

Late Mr. Irshad Ahmad Lone was remembered as a committed educator, respected Forum Leader, and a humble personality who tirelessly worked for the betterment of students and the teaching community. His contribution to the Rehbar-e-Taleem movement and his noble character left a lasting impression on all. Speaking on the occasion, District President Sheikh Pervaz Sheikh said:

"We have lost not just a colleague, but a brother, a guiding light in our educational movement. His sincerity, leadership, and compassion have left an irreplaceable void."

Prayers were held for the maghfirah of the departed soul. The Forum collectively prayed that Allah (SWT) grants him the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and blesses his family with Sabr-e-Jameel during this difficult time.

The ijlas concluded with a pledge to carry forward the mission of selfless service in education that Late Irshad Ahmad Lone embodied.

J&K FAA collaboration with K B F T paid tribute to Bashir Ahmad Bhat alias Bashir Kotur

■ Gulfam Barji

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 1: A condolence meeting was held at the Tagore Hall in Srinagar in memory of renowned comedian of the valley late Bashir Ahmad Bhat alias Bashir Kotur, in which a tribute was paid to the late Bashir Kotur in brilliant words. Speakers termed the late Bashir Ahmad Bhat alias Bashir Kotur as a star of traditional art and culture. The condolences meeting was organized by the J&K Folk Artists Association in collaboration with the Karam Buland Folk Theatre. Speakers at the event said Bashir Kotur With his comedy acting people have been laughing for the past



several decades but today they have left their fans, family and us. In the meeting chairman of the J&K Folk Artist Association Gulzar Ahmad Bhat said that Bashir Kotur's death has been impossible to fill in the art and culture. Ali Mohamad Bhat, Nazir Ahmad Bhat, Shabbir Hakak, Altaf Hussain, Jozia Mir, Dancer Abdul Rashid Sheikh, Bashir Ahmad Bhagat, Mohammad Siddique Bhagat, president of Nishat Foundation and Cultural Group Abdul Rashid Rather, Hassan Javed, Reshi Rashid, Gulfam Barji, Gulzar Ahmad Ganai, Nisar Naseem, Dr Ayash Arif and Mush-taque Ali Ahmad Khan also paid tribute to Bashir Ahmad Bhat alias Bashir Kotur.

Srinagar Court convicts 4 in long-pending cases of negligent homicide, fraud, forgery

City Judge Bari delivers four convictions in single day, closing cases spanning decades

■ SYED TAJAMUL BUKHARI

SRINAGAR, AUG 1: In a significant day of judicial proceedings, City Judge Abdul Bari on Thursday delivered convictions in four long-pending criminal cases involving charges of negligent homicide, forgery, cheating, and cheque dishonour. In the first case, Jaseem Hussain Kawoosa, a resident of Nowhatta, was convicted under Sections 304A, 279, and 427 of the Ranbir Penal Code (RPC) along with provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act for causing the death of Aatif Mudabbir Dar in a road accident in December 2010. The court observed that Kawoosa was driving an uninsured car in a "reckless and dangerous manner" near Par-raypora and fled the scene after crashing into the victim's vehicle. The charge sheet was filed in 2011, and the judgment was delivered after the deposition of 19 prosecution witnesses.

In another case dating back to 2002, the court convicted seven individuals—including then Board of School Education superintendent Mushtaq Ahmad Zargar and Bilal Ahmad Bhat—for forging and using fake matriculation certificates to secure admissions in Boys Higher Secondary School, Baramulla. The accused were found guilty under Sections 420, 468, 471, and 120B of the RPC. The court concluded that the fake documents were prepared and circulated as part of a criminal conspiracy, with assistance from education board insiders.

In a third case, the court convicted two brothers from Dalgate—Mukhtar Ahmad Guroo and Nazir Ahmad Guroo—for cheating a UK national of over Rs 34 lakh under the pretext of purchasing property in Srinagar.

According to the prosecution, Mukhtar, under the guise of a personal relationship, induced the com-

plainant to transfer funds which were later used to buy property in his own name. Nazir facilitated the crime by allowing the funds to be parked in his bank account. The court found Mukhtar guilty under Section 420 RPC and Nazir under Sections 420 and 109.

In the fourth conviction, Bilal Ahmad Sheikh of Kadlabal, Pampore, was sentenced to six months' simple imprisonment and fined Rs 11.48 lakh under Section 138 of the Negotiable Instruments Act.

The case pertained to two cheques amounting to Rs 10.25 lakh issued to Umar Bashir Thoker of Lasjan, which were dishonoured due to insufficient funds. The cheques were part of a settlement for a dumper vehicle that was later found to be under a bank lien.

The court rejected the accused's defense and ordered payment within a month of the appeal period, failing which Sheikh will face an additional three months in jail.

Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan: Musical prog. & short play on drug abuse held at Benihama Ganderbal

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

GANDERBAL, AUG 01: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the district administration Ganderbal through the District Information Office Ganderbal, organized a musical awareness programme and a short play on drug abuse at Panchayat Ghar Benihama. The musical performance and a thought-



provoking short play vividly portrayed the harmful effects of substance abuse and the

importance of a drug-free society. The programme received an overwhelm-

ing response from the local community, particularly the youth, who were visibly moved by the performances and pledged to stay away from drugs.

Officers from various departments of the district administration Ganderbal attended the event and lauded the initiative for using creative mediums like music and theatre to spread awareness.

They emphasized the significance of sustained efforts at the grassroots level to effectively combat the drug menace.

DLIC Approves 264 Youth-Led Enterprises Under Mission YUVA in Kulgam

■ Farooq Rather

KULGAM, AUGUST 1: In a move to promote youth entrepreneurship, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting held today under the chairmanship of the Deputy Commissioner Athar Aamir Khan (IAS), and approved 264 youth-led business ventures under the J&K Government's Mission YUVA initiative.

Out of the total approvals, 250 fall under the Nano



Enterprises category, 13 under the New MSME Scheme, and one under the Existing Enterprises Scheme.

All cases were thoroughly vetted by the Small Business Development Unit (SBDU) for transparency and feasibility.

The meeting was attended by officials from DIC, DE&CC, Employment, JKEDI, NABARD, and other departments.

HT EDITORIAL

Take full throttled action against people selling fake Kashmiri handicrafts

For the past one week or so the Department of Handicrafts has taken action against some people found selling fake handicraft items in the name of real Kashmiri handicraft items. The action is more than welcome since it is aimed at preserving the real Kashmiri products. All sections of society, especially those involved with Kashmir art have hailed the government action and stressed upon the need to take the campaign to its logical conclusion.

For the campaign to be successful it is imperative that action is not half-hearted but a full throttled one. In the Lal Chowk area there are people who are deceiving the tourists by claiming that some of the outlets in the city centre are selling genuine Kashmiri handicraft items and that too at nominal rates. These touts are seen roaming in the city centre and trying their level best to lure the tourists to visit the designated outlets selling fake Kashmiri products.

All this is going under the nose of law enforcing agencies and surprisingly the police personnel have never acted against these touts. With no action being taken against these touts such people have been emboldened and they continue to take the people for a ride. It is important that the enforcement wing of the Department of Handicrafts steps in so that action is taken against the violators of law. Once action is taken against the people selling fake handicraft products in the name of Kashmir then one can easily say that the people at helm are really serious in saving Kashmiri arts and crafts.

It has been observed that cheating of tourists also takes place at some of the tourist places in the Srinagar city and other places of Kashmir. On the Boulevard road one can witness many cyclists selling different products to the tourists and these include fake handicrafts in the name of real Kashmiri products. Similarly at tourist places like Pahalgam, Gulmarg and Sonamarg one can witness misbranding of Kashmiri products going on like anything. Ironically very little action has been taken in cases at these places.

A lot of damage has already been done to the reputation of Kashmiri arts and crafts and further damage needs to be arrested. The same is possible only when the concerned department acts against the people involved in the misbranding of Kashmiri products. For reasons best known to the people at helm minimal action has been taken against the violators of law and this needs to be speeded up.

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Rest Has No Place in Today's Era



Sahil Manzoor Bhatti

In today's fast-paced and competitive world, rest has little room. To achieve our goals, we must stay active and continuously engage ourselves in meaningful pursuits.

Across the globe, every country is prioritizing the development of its education sector. A strong educational foundation paves the way for advancements in all other fields. Sensible and committed individuals always put in 100% effort toward the tasks entrusted to them. True success doesn't come overnight—it demands educated minds, proper training, and unwavering dedication.

We often feel overwhelmed in a world increasingly dominated by machines. These machines—whether made of iron, plastic, or complex circuits—are designed and operated by well-educated, brilliant minds. From smartphones to vehicles to photocopiers, these innovations are the fruits of human intelligence. The Almighty has blessed us with extraordinary brains, yet only a few fully tap into this divine gift. Studies show that even scientists use only about 30% of their brain capacity. Imagine the potential that lies within each of us.

"The rest is rust."
Some individuals aspire to become great teachers. It's our responsibility to support the interests of learners, rather than forcing them into fields that don't align with their passions. Everyone has unique potential. Whether it's medicine, engineering, or any other field, people should be encouraged to pursue what they love.



Governments today are providing numerous schemes and opportunities to help individuals realize their dreams.

The world is brimming with opportunities. Believe in yourself—you can be the change and influence others. Every person possesses different skills, talents, and abilities, each with its own scope and value. With social media and digital platforms, we are more connected than ever before. But remember: rest rusts your abilities. Stay engaged and keep discovering yourself. Once you identify your true potential, that moment will mark the beginning of your success.

Today, unlike in the past, we have unlimited resources at our fingertips. While earlier generations had limited ways to learn, we now have vast

digital libraries, tutorials, and tools that can help us master a wide range of knowledge and skills. However, to succeed, we need patience, perseverance, consistency, and hard work.

- How to Get Good Marks in Exams**
Getting good marks requires consistent effort and smart preparation. Here are some practical tips:
- **Handwriting Matters**
Maintain clear and neat handwriting. Avoid overwriting, cutting, or making your answers messy.
 - **Solve Difficult Problems Early**
Tackle the questions you find most challenging first during your preparation.
 - **Start Early**
Don't delay. Start preparing from

the very beginning of the academic session. Procrastination only makes things harder.

- **Be Precise**
Write to the point. Avoid adding irrelevant or unnecessary details in your answers.
- **Use Proper Tools**
Use a good-quality pen, pencil, ruler, and other stationery. Leave adequate space between answers to keep your sheet neat.
- **Double-Check Details**
After completing the paper, verify your roll number and other details carefully.
- **Stay motivated. Stay focused.**
Believe in yourself—and you will achieve greatness.

sahilmanzoor0401@gmail.com

Once an MLA, enjoy life forever!

5 years in the chair vs 60 years in the job: Pension bias



Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

An employee craves for pension even after working for 60 years, while a leader gets pension for life after being in power for 5 years. This is a mockery of the values of democratic equality. A voice has been raised against this injustice in a petition filed in the Supreme Court. Now is the time for common citizens, employees and youth to share this demand - either everyone should get equal pension, or this facility of leaders should end.

"A man works for 60 years but still has to wander around for pension, and a leader enjoys his entire life after holding the chair for 5 years!" Is this the same democracy that we believed was 'of the people, for the people and by the people'? Did the Constitution promise this equality?

Petitions of citizens like Sardar Singh Johal reach the Supreme Court because now the limits of patience have been crossed. For the employee who has been carrying files all his life, sweating in the fields, caring for children in school, saving lives in the hospital - pension is still not a facility but a struggle for him. On the other hand, a public representative, who has been elected by the people for 5 years, even if he has not gone to the House even for a single day, gets a lifelong pension - and that too only on the basis of becoming an MLA or MP once!

No work, just a chair is enough!
There are many politicians in India who once became MLAs or MPs, and then never contested any election. But money from the government treasury will keep going into their pockets for the rest of their lives - because 'they were once MLAs!' Imagine, if a clerk starts getting pension after working for just one year, the Finance Ministry will shudder! But when it comes to politicians, logic, morality and equality all go to the side.

The hollowness of the 2018 Reform Act
A reform act was introduced in 2018, in which an attempt was made to rationalize the pension system of public representatives. But neither its rules were implemented at the ground level, nor was any accountability of the leaders fixed. The pension of leaders is neither based on job nor on contribution. There is no review, no evaluation. Just take an oath once, happiness for life.
The question is not why they get it, the question

“
Petitions of citizens like Sardar Singh Johal reach the Supreme Court because now the limits of patience have been crossed. For the employee who has been carrying files all his life, sweating in the fields, caring for children in school, saving lives in the hospital - pension is still not a facility but a struggle for him. On the other hand, a public representative, who has been elected by the people for 5 years, even if he has not gone to the House even for a single day, gets a lifelong pension - and that too only on the basis of becoming an MLA or MP once!

is why don't we?
The question is not why leaders get pension. The question is why ordinary citizens who serve their entire lives do not get it? Thousands of contractual employees, guest teachers, Anganwadi workers, doctors and nurses working on contract, sanitation workers - is their hard work any less than that of a leader?
Even today, lakhs of government employees are waiting to get pension after retirement by paying EMI of their own money under NPS (New Pension

Scheme). And on the other hand, netas, who already have all the allowances, cars, bungalows and security, are also enjoying pension.

Pension system makes a mockery of democracy
If there is any system in this country that is most unequal and dictatorial, then it is the pension of leaders. These people, who call themselves public servants, enjoy power more than service. And even when the service ends, the benefits of power continue - in the form of pension.

Many leaders who remain silent on issues related to the public remain in politics only on the basis of this pension. Whatever the ideology - everyone gets the same pension. There is no reservation, no deduction, no grade pay here. Everyone is equal - because they are leaders! Is this the secret of equality?

Eliminate politicians' pensions - or give workers equality too!

If a politician can be entitled to pension after 5 years of service, why shouldn't a teacher be given the same facility after 5 years of service? Why shouldn't a farmer, who grows food every year, get a minimum pension for life?

Or a strict and fair decision should be taken - that until the common employee is guaranteed a permanent job and pension, no leader will get this facility.

Supreme Court's intervention: A ray of hope
In Sardar Singh Johal's petition, it has been demanded that the pension of leaders should be abolished or at least the same rules should be applied in it as in the case of employees. The Supreme Court should give a quick and historic decision on this.

This is not a political issue, it is a question of social justice. It is an insult to the spirit of equality written in the Constitution of India that a particular class is given benefits only in the name of position, and the rest of the people have to struggle throughout their lives.

Role of the public: Do not remain silent now
If we remain silent, this inequality will never end. We have to take this message, this feeling and this voice to every street, locality, panchayat and university. The person who is an employee today, will be a voter tomorrow - and until the power of the vote brings about change, facilities like pension will remain only in the pockets of the leaders.

Every employee organisation, every youth forum, every teachers' union, every doctors' organisation must now raise this demand loudly - "Either pension for everyone, or no one!"

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The Silent Journey of Determination – The Inspiring Story of Sadiya Nisar



■ **Mohammad Arfat Wani**

Throughout the pages of history, the world has cherished those rare individuals who, with unwavering determination, patience, humility, and relentless hard work, built towering monuments of success that shine as guiding lights for generations to come. These are the people who never seek the noise of fame, yet their achievements astonish the world. They work quietly, far from applause, but one day their names rise and glow like the morning sun across the vast sky of triumph. Among such shining names now gleams one from the serene town of Tral in the breathtaking valley of Kashmir, a daughter whose journey of silent struggle and remarkable success has not only carved a path for herself but also written a proud chapter in the history of her land. This daughter is Sadiya Nisar.

Kashmir, celebrated worldwide for its mesmerizing beauty, is equally renowned as a land of resilience, intellect, and talent. Its snow-covered mountains stand as witnesses to countless stories of courage, and its fragrant air carries the whispers of perseverance. Over time, this valley has given birth to sons and daughters who, through sheer dedication, earned their places among the great. On this very soil, another

inspiring tale unfolded, the story of a humble, soft-spoken girl who walked silently toward success and emerged as a beacon of hope for many. Hers is not just a tale of achievement; it is a testament to belief, sacrifice, and the extraordinary power of dreams pursued with unshakable determination.

From her earliest days, Sadiya stood apart. She was not loud, nor did she seek attention; instead, her silence reflected depth, and her eyes shone with the brilliance of curiosity. There was a calm strength in her that separated her from the crowd. Her journey of learning began at the renowned AKMAL Institute in Tral, where she built the foundation of her dreams. Always seated in the front row with her books neatly arranged, she immersed herself in acquiring knowledge. While many overlooked her quiet presence, her teachers soon discovered that she was no ordinary student; she was like a lamp destined to illuminate her surroundings.

After excelling in her early education, Sadiya moved to Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Tral, where she chose the medical stream, a path demanding both intellectual rigor and commitment. This was where she gave new dimensions to her love for science, diving deep into biology, chemistry, physics, and mathematics. While her peers spent breaks chatting and laughing, she would often be found in the library, surrounded by books, extracting wisdom from every page. Her meticulous notes, sharp understanding of subjects, and passion for learning became the hallmarks of her character. She studied not just for grades, but for the love of knowledge itself.



In 2022, her journey took a new turn as she enrolled at Government Degree College, Tral, choosing Biochemistry as her major and Chemistry as her minor. This choice reflected her research-oriented mind and intellectual depth. She wanted to explore life at its most intricate molecular level. From the very beginning, she stood apart—not by making noise, but through brilliance. Her

professors were deeply impressed by her sharp intellect and dedication, while her classmates admired her quietly. Semester after semester, she topped her class, becoming a source of pride for her college and her community.

Yet behind this success lay an ocean of struggles. Sadiya's journey was far from easy; it demanded sacrifice, discipline, and countless hours of effort. She understood that there are no shortcuts to greatness—only the long road of persistence. With remarkable self-control, she faced every challenge with courage and determination. She worked tirelessly, never giving up, never losing hope. Finally, in 2025, the year arrived when her dreams blossomed into reality. After three years of relentless effort, she graduated with an outstanding 95%. This was not just an academic success; it was a historic moment that crowned Government Degree College, Tral with glory. She was not merely the college topper; she became a shining symbol of academic excellence for the entire region.

Sadiya's success is not confined to her alone; it is a victory for the entire town of Tral, a triumph for every parent who dreams for their child, and an inspiration for every girl who dares to dream despite adversities. Her journey proves that success does not require loud proclamations or privileged circumstances. Sometimes, the most powerful force lies in silent determination, consistent effort, and a love for learning that never fades. Today, she stands as a ray of hope for countless young girls who aspire to achieve greatness against all odds.

For the students of AKMAL Institute, Government Girls Higher Secondary

School, and Government Degree College, Tral, Sadiya is no longer just a name; she is a legacy. She is like a lamp that continues to illuminate paths of knowledge and courage for generations to come. Her story sends a powerful message: when one embraces humility, focus, and continuous learning, success inevitably walks beside them. Her journey touches every heart, inspires every reader, and assures every dreamer that dreams do come true—but only when they are believed in, nurtured, and pursued with devotion.

Indeed, it is only fair to say that Sadiya Nisar's name will forever echo through the valleys of Kashmir as a symbol of determination, intellect, and inspiration. Her success is not just the triumph of one girl; it is the triumph of every daughter of Tral, the voice of every dreamer, and the pride of an entire community. This is not merely an article; it is a call of inspiration that will continue to motivate generations to rise, to believe, and to achieve.

Finally, as a witness to this remarkable journey, I, Wani Arfat, extend my heartfelt congratulations to Sadiya Nisar on this magnificent and historic success. I also offer my sincere felicitations to her brother Bhat Arhan and her entire family, whose prayers, love, and unwavering support were the invisible pillars behind this victory. May her name continue to shine like a star in the sky of knowledge, and may her story inspire countless hearts to believe that with determination and faith, even the quietest journeys can lead to the brightest destinations.

The author is a passionate writer, social activist, and medical student, hails from Kuchmulla, Tral. Email: wania6817@gmail.com

RISKING LIVES FOR EDUCATION

Students Cross Seva River by Rope Due to Lack of Bridge



■ **By M S Nazki**

If you want your children to be smart and wise, then teach them to think and not to memorize. The ways are always strewn by obstacles, natural or man created are two different things! As elders we recognize the fact that as barriers exist in our way but we forget that it's a child's instinct in his/her formative years which states that, 'Come what may we have to reach the school!'

The Education authorities in District Kathua of which Bani is a major part should have looked into with deeper interest!

By the way education officials today's generation is more informed. So think through before you lie to them. And they know that where knowledge is high ignorance is low!

The educational hierarchy should know that like and dislike takes all the fun out of making mistakes and learning from them!

When schools sugarcoat mediocrity, they graduate managers who maintain the system, not leaders who change it. Now watch the picture and see how children in Bani are trying to get to their schools? But where are the teachers? Of course in hibernation!

A few words for the men/women heading the Educational system in J&K: Don't just learn, experience. Don't just read, absorb. Don't just change, transform. Don't just relate, advocate. Don't just promise, prove. Don't just criticize, encourage. Don't just think, ponder. Don't just take, give. Don't just see, feel. Don't just dream, do. Don't just hear, listen. Don't just talk, act. Don't just tell, show. Don't just exist, live!

What is needed here is a bridge and it is only one organization that can do it!

Risking lives for education: Bani students in Jammu and Kashmir brave perilous rope bridge daily! This indeed has to be looked into deeper aspects!

Education is critically important for both individuals and society as a whole. It empowers individuals with knowledge, skills, and critical thinking abilities, fostering personal growth and opening doors to better opportunities. For society, education drives econom-

ic growth, promotes equality, and contributes to a more informed and engaged citizenry.

Here's a more detailed look at the importance of education:

Personal Growth: Education fosters personal development by enhancing skills like communication, problem-solving, and critical thinking.

Career Opportunities: It opens up access to a wider range of jobs, higher wages, and increased job satisfaction.

Economic Independence: Education empowers individuals to achieve financial security and independence.

Informed Decision-Making: It equips individuals with the knowledge and critical thinking skills needed to make better life choices.

Personal Fulfillment: Education can lead to a more meaningful and fulfilling life by fostering self-confidence and enabling individuals to pursue their passions.

Economic Growth: Education drives innovation and productivity, leading to economic prosperity.

Social Equality: It helps reduce poverty and inequality by providing opportunities for all individuals.

Stronger Democracy: Educated citizens are more likely to participate in civic life, promoting a more democratic society.

Social Progress: Education fosters innovation, cultural awareness, and overall societal development.

Healthier and Safer Communities: Educated populations tend to be healthier and safer, with lower crime rates.

Global Progress: Education is essential for addressing global challenges like poverty, climate change, and disease.

Education in hazardous terrain, whether it refers to physically dangerous environments or challenging social contexts, requires specialized knowledge, skills, and strategies to ensure safety and promote effective learning. This can involve understanding and mitigating risks associated with natural hazards, hazardous materials, or navigating complex social landscapes.

Natural Hazards: Education in areas prone to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, or wildfires must focus on risk assessment, emergency preparedness, and evacuation procedures.

Hazardous Materials: Training in industries dealing with hazardous materials (e.g., chemicals, waste) should cover safe handling, personal protective equipment (PPE), and emergency response protocols.

Avalanche Terrain: Education for activities like skiing or snowboarding in avalanche-prone areas emphasizes terrain awareness, snowpack analysis, and transceiver usage.

Feminist Education: Some sources note the need for feminist perspectives in education to address power dynamics, social inequalities, and gender issues



in learning environments.

Socioeconomic Disparities: Education in areas with socioeconomic challenges may require addressing systemic barriers, promoting equity, and providing resources to support vulnerable students.

General Principles for Education in Hazardous Terrain: Risk Assessment: Identifying potential hazards and their severity is the first step in developing appropriate educational strategies.

Skill-Based Training: Practical skills like using safety equipment, practicing emergency procedures, or navigating complex social situations are crucial.

Curriculum Integration: Incorporating safety and risk management into existing curricula makes it relevant and applicable to real-world situations.

Community Engagement: Involving local communities in developing and implementing educational programs can enhance their effectiveness and relevance.

Continuous Learning: Safety protocols and risk assessments evolve, so ongoing training and updates are essential.

Psychological Support: Recognizing the emotional impact of hazardous environments, providing psychological support, and fostering resilience are important.

By addressing these aspects, educators can create safer and more effective learning environments, regardless of the challenges posed by the terrain. But in Bani it's not the case?

But someone has to take the responsibility!
In the Bani subdivision of Kathua district, school children face a challenging commute due to the lack of a concrete bridge across the Seva river, forcing them to use a rope swing. This situation, particularly evident in Ghat village, has caused concern among parents

and students alike. Locals have repeatedly requested the construction of a bridge, but their pleas have been ignored, leaving students to risk their lives daily to reach school.

Lack of Bridge: The absence of a bridge over the Seva river in Ghat village necessitates the use of a pulley system (rope swing) for students to cross.

Dangerous Commute: Students, including young children, are forced to use this risky method daily, causing fear and anxiety among them and their families.

Community Request: Residents have persistently requested the construction of a bridge from authorities, but their requests have been unmet.

This situation in Bani, Kathua, highlights a critical issue of inadequate infrastructure affecting the education and safety of children.

In some regions, particularly those vulnerable to frequent flooding, children face the challenging reality of wading through floodwaters to reach their schools. This can involve removing shoes and socks, carrying them in bags, or wearing rubber sandals. UNICEF has reported on this issue in places like the Maldives and Bangladesh, where rising sea levels and heavy rainfall cause flooding that disrupts education.

Disrupted Education: Floodwaters can make it impossible for children to reach their schools, forcing them to miss classes or seek alternative, sometimes inadequate, learning spaces.

Safety Concerns: Wading through floodwaters, especially when deep or fast-flowing, poses safety risks, including drowning and injuries from submerged debris.

Impact on Learning: Being wet, cold, and potentially scared can negatively affect a child's ability to focus on their studies.

Adaptation Measures: In some cases, schools and communities have adapted by using makeshift classrooms in safer locations, providing extra clothing, or even employing floating classrooms.

Long-term Effects: Studies have shown that early exposure to floods can negatively impact educational attainment, potentially leading to lower levels of schooling and a higher likelihood of entering the workforce early.

Long-term solutions require addressing climate change and building more resilient infrastructure. Investing in flood preparedness, early warning systems, and safe evacuation plans is crucial. Developing strategies to ensure continued education during floods, such as providing learning materials and alternative spaces, is essential. This the directorate of education J&K should have at the back of their minds!

The Kidney That Spoke Again



■ Dr. Basharat Khan

The day began like most August days in Kupwara; sun-scorched, slow, and heavy. The air outside the Sub District Hospital Kupwara shimmered in the morning heat, while inside, the usual hush of waiting and whispered urgency unfolded room by room.

She came in quietly, wrapped in a faded shawl, even though the day didn't ask for one. It was not warmth she sought; it was habit—perhaps even dignity. Her gait was weak but composed, her silence not of serenity but of exhaustion. A woman in her sixties, but with the gait and eyes of someone much older. There was a stillness in her that spoke volumes.

Her charts revealed what her body had tried to hide for too long: a kidney drowning in infection, the left side filled with pus and fluid. Pyonephrosis, caused by an upper ureteric stone. The kidney was swollen, tender, and angry. Fever had burned quietly through her days. The infection had festered in silence. By the time she reached the hospital, her case was no longer one of caution—it was one of urgency.

A referral was the standard route. The

tertiary centres in Srinagar had the resources, the specialists, the infrastructure. But the road from Kupwara to Srinagar is not measured only in kilometres. It is measured in rupees, in sleepless nights, in the fear of being turned away at the gate of a hospital too full or too slow. The woman's family hesitated—not because they didn't understand the gravity, but because they did. The cost of that journey—lodging, meals, medicine, and time—was more than they could bear. They had come hoping, quietly, that something could be done here.

Dr. Gulzar Ahmad Bhat, Consultant Surgeon—a man who carries his calm like a second skin—studied her reports with the deep familiarity of someone who has seen enough of both suffering and systems. He understood immediately that time was the enemy. The infection was advancing. Delaying treatment could mean losing the kidney—or worse.

He turned to Dr. Wasif, the Consultant Radiologist whose work had already begun to reshape what was thought possible within these walls. The two men spoke briefly, practically, but with an urgency that didn't need volume. What if they didn't refer her? What if they treated her here?

A plan began to take shape—not dictated by protocol, but by possibility.

A percutaneous nephrostomy was proposed: a minimally invasive procedure done under CT guidance, where a catheter would be inserted to drain the infected kidney. A rare undertaking for a district hospital, almost unheard of in this part of Kashmir. But here it was—not just an idea, but a decision.

The patient and her family were called in. The condition was explained gently but clearly—every risk, every step. They listened, nodded, and when the question



of consent came, they signed not just a form, but a fragile thread of trust.

In the dim room where the CT scanner stood, everything was prepared.

The tray was laid, instruments sterile, movements measured. The kidney appeared on the screen—bloated and burdened. The needle was guided with

slow precision, breath held, prayers tucked into each movement. The catheter slipped in.

And then, as if the body itself exhaled relief, urine flowed.

Clear. Golden.

In the hours that followed, the drain bag began to fill—four hundred millilitres by the twelfth hour. The patient's temperature dropped. Her blood pressure steadied. Her voice grew stronger. On the second week's follow-up, the kidney was not just draining—it was recovering.

It would be easy to describe this as a successful intervention. To write in clinical terms that the procedure was completed without complication. That local expertise met international standards. All of that would be true. But it would also be incomplete.

Because what happened that day was more than a procedure. It was a quiet act of defiance against the assumption that care must always travel to the city. It was a moment when the Sub District Hospital did not refer away responsibility but embraced it.

The woman returned home without fuss. No headlines marked her story. No official notice was circulated. But those who saw her walk out—lighter, calmer, alive—carried something with them: the quiet certainty that this hospital had grown taller that day.

And somewhere inside her, in the part of the body that once lay swollen and still, a kidney had begun to whisper again.

It had not only spoken.

It had been heard.

Dr. Basharat Khan is a writer, columnist, and critic, and the author of the book *Literary Beats*. He can be reached at chogalwriter76@gmail.com / devnalwhispers.in

HT - HEALTH TIPS

Managing Your Weight

Key points supporting residents with healthy, gradual weight loss

What is an ideal BMI?

BMI (body mass index) guidelines are different for older adults.

Although being overweight or obese is defined in adults as having a BMI of above 25 kg/m², the National Institutes of Health suggest that an ideal BMI for those above aged 65, is between 23 and 28kg/m².

Obesity can increase risk of..

- Cancer (specifically breast and colon)
- Joint and mobility problems
- Pressure wounds and skin issues
- Stroke
- Coronary Heart Disease
- Fatty Liver Disease
- Asthma
- Osteoarthritis and back pain
- Type 2 Diabetes
- Sleep Apnoea
- Depression and Anxiety
- Cognitive Impairment and Brain Aging

Additional considerations

- Respect residents informed choices, consider what is important to them
- No resident should have their diet restricted against their wishes
- Consider goals of weight loss and what the benefit would be to the resident
- Remember! Residents with obesity can still be at risk of malnutrition

Tips for Weight Loss:

- Ensure there is access to healthier foods.
- Reduce portion sizes of fats and starchy carbohydrates (aim for higher fibre) – you could reduce plate size
- Aim for 3 regular, balanced meals a day. If appropriate, discourage snacks.
- Fill half the plate with veg or salad and include a hand size portion of protein
- Reduce intake of foods high in sugar and saturated fat
- Offer gentle reminders somebody has eaten if they have forgotten
- Offer distractions e.g. an activity or television to take their mind off eating

Physical Activity

It may be difficult to meet the physical activity recommendations for care home residents, some tips include:

- Do as much as they can
- Get outside if possible
- Regularly stand up during the day – maintain leg strength
- Encourage residents to help with daily tasks if possible

Practical tips:

- Set a realistic goal (e.g. between 5-10% over 3-6 months/ 0.5-1kg/week)
- Consider on 'non-scale victories' (e.g. sleeping better, improved mobility)
- Choose 2-3 small changes to begin with
- Discuss goals with the resident/ family
- Avoid faddy or overly restrictive diets
- Aim for daily physical activity and strength activities twice a week
- Reduce time spent sitting or lying down
- Break up long periods of not moving with some activity



QR code for more information on menu planning.

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3 DAY 'MEGHALAYA PINEAPPLE FESTIVAL' COMMENCES IN DELHI HAAT

United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 1: After two successful editions of one of the sweetest festivals of the country, the third edition of the Meghalaya Pineapple Festival was inaugurated today at the iconic Dilli Haat, New Delhi, positioning Meghalaya's agricultural success story at the heart of India's capital.

Union Agriculture and Rural Development Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan inaugurated the festival in the presence of Chief Minister Conrad Sangma, senior officials from the central government and Meghalaya government, thereby drawing attention not just for its fruit but for the future it signals for India's farmers.

Marking a significant step towards structured agri-market linkages, the Meghalaya government signed three major Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) - with Reliance Fresh, Amazon Karigar, and Blue Tokai Coffee Roasters - to scale procurement, visibility, and nation-

al distribution of Meghalaya's products.

"The products of Meghalaya are almost fully organic. By marketing them well and adding value, you have shown, for the third year, that Meghalaya's products are truly special. Jackfruit, fruits, coffee, pineapple, mushrooms - everything is amazing," Chouhan said, praising Meghalaya's value chain approach.

"Today, the air in Delhi feels filled with the fragrance of Meghalaya. The breeze, the atmosphere - everything is touched by the flavour of Meghalaya's pineapples," the Union Minister said.

"I already knew that Meghalaya produces very good pineapples. But after tasting them today, I couldn't stop eating! I have never tasted pineapples so juicy and sweet before. This sweetness in taste belongs to the soil of Meghalaya," Chauhan added.

Praising the efforts of the Meghalaya government he congratulated all the farmers and

especially, Chief Minister for his relentless efforts, the Union Minister said, "On behalf of the Government of India, I assure you, Chief Minister ji, whenever Meghalaya calls, the Government of India and the Agriculture Ministry will always stand with you."

He also urged the people of Delhi to visit the Festival and experience the spirit of Meghalaya and feel the taste of one of the juiciest and sweetest pineapples.

The event also witnessed the unveiling of Meghalaya's Achievement in Agriculture Sector, which aligns with the state's broader Vision@2032 of transforming Meghalaya into a \$16 billion economy.

The strategy includes a five-year plan to strengthen farm infrastructure, promote crop diversification, improve processing and logistics, and increase farmers' incomes through market-based models.

Meghalaya Chief Minister Conrad Sangma who also visited the festival in Delhi said



"This is the third edition of Meghalaya Pineapple Festival, and we are very happy that every year this is becoming bigger and better; More importantly, our farmers are getting the necessary exposure and the network they require and they truly deserve."

While the briefing Union Minister, Sangma said, Meghalaya produces around 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of pineapples

every year, and a large share of this is consumed within the Northeast itself.

"Over the past few years, we have set up various fruit processing units to enable value addition - not just for pineapples, but also for turmeric, black pepper, and other produce, with the goal of meeting international packaging and quality standards. Our aim is to establish one such unit in each of the

55 blocks of the state, catering to the prominent value chains in the block," the Chief Minister said.

He said the MoUs have signed today would provide crucial logistics support and help distribute our products across the country.

"This initiative is not limited to Meghalaya alone - we want to connect fresh produce from across the Northeast to national and international markets," he said.

Over the last three years, Meghalaya has invested in more than 27 cold storages, eight processing hubs, and logistics support, including mobile units and refrigerated trucks. In 2024 alone, over 682 MT of processed pineapples were exported to the EU, Gulf, and Southeast Asia.

A growing domestic market has also emerged, with over 150 MT sold across Indian metros through institutional partnerships.

This year's Pineapple Festival features curated stalls from various cooperatives of Megha-

laya with products like live tastings, value-added products, B2B interactions and cultural performances from Meghalaya's musicians from Garo, Khasi and Jaintia Hills, under the flagship Chief Minister's Meghalaya Grassroots Music Project (CM-MGMP). Notably, Musicians from CM-MGMP are all set to perform in both Dilli Haat, INA, and the India Gate, on all the three days of the festival beginning on Friday.

A short film on 'Meghalaya Agriculture & Horticulture' was also screened during the event.

Organised by the Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Government of Meghalaya, the Pineapple Festival has evolved into a flagship platform for celebrating natural farming, empowering farmers and positioning the Northeast as a key player in India's agri-economy.

The Meghalaya Pineapple Festival 2025 is open to the public at Dilli Haat, INA, from 11 am to 8:45 pm daily until August 3. UNI RRR RKM

CBI Court Mohali convicts five Rtrd Police Officers in a fake encounter case

United News of India

NEW DELHI/MOHALI, AUG 1: A Special CBI Court in Mohali (Punjab) today convicted five Police Officers including a retired SSP and DSP in connection with a fake encounter case.

The court convicted Bhopinderjit Singh, DSP (Retired as SSP), Devinder Singh, ASI (Retired as DSP), Gulberg Singh, ASI (Retired as Inspector), Suba Singh, Inspector (Retired as Inspector) and Raghuraj Singh, ASI (Retired as SI) in a stage managed encounter case.

According to the information, this case was registered in 1999 by the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) following an order by the apex court.

The case was registered against Gurdev Singh, Insp/SHO PS Sirhali, Gulberg Singh, ASI PS Sirhali, Devinder Singh, ASI PS Sirhali and others on the allegation of abduction and killing of Shinder Singh by accused police officers.

On completion of investigation, it was established that Shinder Singh, Sukhdev Singh and Desa Singh (all SPOs of Punjab Police) were abducted by police party led by Inspector Gurdev Singh, SHO P.S. Sirhali on 27.06.1993. Similarly, Balkar Singh alias Kala was also abducted on the said date. Apart from this, Sarabjit Singh alias Saba and Harwinder Singh were abducted by Suba Singh, SHO P.S. Verowal in July, 1993. Thereafter, on July 12, 1993, Shinder Singh, Desa Singh, Balkar Singh along with one Mangal Singh were killed in a fake encounter by police team led by DSP Bhopinderjit Singh and officials of P.S. Sirhali.

Consequently, on July 28, 1993, Sukhdev Singh, Sarabjit Singh alias Saba and Harwinder Singh were killed in a fake encounter by police team led by DSP Bhopinderjit Singh and officials of P.S. Verowal.

On May 5, 2022, the CBI filed the chargesheet in the case against the ten police officers, DSP Bhopinderjit Singh, ASI Devinder Singh, ASI Gulberg Singh, Inspector Suba Singh, ASI Raghuraj Singh, Inspector Gurdev Singh (Passed away during the trial), SI Gian Chand (Passed away during the trial), ASI Jagir Singh (Passed away during the trial), HC Mohinder Singh (Passed away during the trial), HC Aroor Singh (Passed away during the trial)

The CBI Court will pronounce the verdict in the quantum of sentence in the matter on August 8. UNI ATK RKM

BJP accuses Congress of 'targeting saints, soldiers, Sanatan Dharma' for vote bank politics

United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 1: Continuing its tirade against the Congress over the Malegaon Blast case issue following the verdict acquitting all seven accused, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today slammed the Opposition party for what it termed as "targeting saints, soldiers, Sanatan Dharma, and the Constitution" over the past 17 years as part of a "deliberate strategy to malign Hindus for electoral gains".

Speaking at a press conference here, party spokesperson Sambit Patra said, "Saints, soldiers, Sanatan, and the Constitution - Congress attacked all four for 17 years.

It was a calculated strategy to malign Hindus for vote bank politics. But in the end, truth has triumphed."

Patra's remarks came in response to the National Investigation Agency (NIA) court's acquittal of all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case. He alleged that the Congress party, particularly the Gandhi family, had sought to create a false narrative of 'safron terror', deliberately linking Hindu identity with terrorism.

"The judgment by the NIA court has shattered the false propaganda that Congress tried to spread for years," he added. Referring to a major revelation,



Patra cited former Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) officer Mehboob Mujawar, who claimed he was pressured by senior officers and

government officials to arrest Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) chief Mohan Bhagwat, despite Bhagwat's name not featuring in any charge sheet or investigation report. Mujawar resisted, citing constitutional limits, and faced false allegations and career setbacks. He was later acquitted by the court, Patra said.

"This is a clear example of Congress' vindictive politics under the Gandhi family's leadership," he asserted, a day after his colleague and senior party leader Ravi Shankar Prasad had sought Congress apology for making remarks that the blast was a case of 'Hindu terror'.

Patra also recalled Prime Min-

ister Narendra Modi's earlier statement alleging that a senior Congress leader had met American intelligence officials and labelled "Hindu terror" a bigger threat than the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI). "Everyone knows who that leader is," he remarked, indirectly referring to the Gandhi family.

He further criticised Congress leader Prithviraj Chavan for his comments that "terrorism has no religion" while simultaneously referring to "Sanatani or Hindu terrorism." Patra also cited former Union Home Minister Sushil Kumar Shinde's admission that his "safron terror" remarks were made under party directives. UNI AJ RN

Trump says all perpetrators of 'Russia hoax' must 'pay big price'

United News of India

WASHINGTON, AUG 1: All people who promoted the false claims of Russia's meddling during the 2016 US presidential campaign must "pay a big price," US President Donald Trump said on Friday.

On Wednesday, Trump said that he wants all information regarding Russia's alleged interference in the 2016 election to be "shown" as long as it is credible. Earlier that day, Fox News reported that FBI Director Kash Patel has discovered a cache of classified materials related to the beginning of the Trump-Russia investigation, stashed in multiple "burn bags" inside a concealed room at the agency.

"The Russia, Russia, Russia HOAX is now TOTALLY UNDISPUTED! THE FACTS ARE ALL THERE, IN BLACK AND WHITE. It is the biggest scandal in American History. The perpetrators of this CRIME must pay a big price. This can never be allowed to happen in our Country again!" Trump wrote on Truth Social.

Earlier in the week, on Thursday, the CIA and the US Justice Department declassified the Appendix of the Durham Report, which indicated that during the 2016 presidential campaign, Hillary Clinton endorsed a strategy aimed at discrediting her opponent, Donald Trump, by amplifying the scandal involving her email account, which she claimed was hacked by Russia to aid the Republi-

can candidate.

The Durham report is the latest document declassified by the Trump administration in its efforts to expose the details of the so-called Russia hoax that the Democratic Party has been promoting since Clinton's defeat to Trump in 2016.

Earlier in July, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence published an unclassified report from the House Intelligence Committee, originally from 2020, regarding Russia's purported interference in the 2016 US presidential election. The report indicates that the CIA relied on "biased" and "implausible" information to back claims suggesting that Moscow favored Trump over Clinton. UNI SPUTNIK GNK

ED charges ex-CPWD Engineer, spouse in money laundering case

United News of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 1: Directorate of Enforcement (ED), Hyderabad Zonal Office on Friday said that they have filed a Prosecution Complaint (Chargesheet) against P Sai Komareswar and his wife P Padmavathi under the provisions of Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002 before a Special PMLA Court.

The ED said that the court took the cognisance of the chargesheet on July 30.

The ED initiated PMLA investigation based on a Chargesheet filed by the CBI against Komareswar and his wife for being in possession of disproportionate assets to the tune of Rs 1.26 Crore (approx.).

Komareswar, while working as an Executive Engineer (Electrical), C.P.W.D., Hyderabad was allegedly involved in a trap case on the allegations of demand and acceptance of bribe from a contractor to clear his bills.

The CBI conducted searches at his residence and several incriminating documents, cash of Rs. 30.50 Lakh and a locker key were seized.

Later on, the CBI filed a Chargesheet against the couple for offences punishable under sections 12 & 13 of PC Act, and 109 of the IPC.

The ED investigation revealed that the couple acquired four immovable properties in quick succession and part payments for two properties were made in cash and from unsecured loans claimed to be availed from various individuals.

Moreover, the so-called loans were not repaid by them for more than 5-6 years despite having liquid assets in the form of investment in share market to the tune of Rs 1.39 Crore approx.

During investigation, the couple could not provide any justification in respect of the cash seized from their premises or details of the individuals from whom the so-called loans were obtained. Investigation revealed that the illicit money was channelled back into the banking system by projecting them as untainted funds and used for acquisition of properties.

The ED had earlier attached three immovable properties to the extent of Rs. 1.26 Crore (approx.) i.e. equivalent to the Proceeds of Crime derived by the accused in the case. UNI ATK GNK

Putin reiterates Moscow's stance on settlement with Ukraine, says demands remain unchanged

United News of India

MOSCOW, AUG 1: Reiterating Moscow's core demands for reaching a peace settlement with Ukraine, Russian President Vladimir Putin confirmed that the Kremlin's demands remain unchanged.

Speaking after a meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Putin emphasised the continued relevance and necessity of negotiations, but also underscored that resolving the conflict ultimately depends on addressing its root causes, reports RIA Novosti. "The talks are important and

always in demand," he said, noting that Russia's conditions regarding settlement are still what they were, when first laid out in the summer of 2024.

These include Ukraine not being part of any military alliance, commit to maintaining its non-nuclear status, and the state recognition of its four captured regions - Donetsk, Lugansk, Kherson, and Zaporozhye - as part of Russia, and lastly, the lifting of all sanctions imposed on Moscow. Putin stressed that any agreement should pave the way for long-term peace without time constraints, and said Russia is open to

waiting if Kyiv is unwilling to engage on these terms. He added that broader European security must be taken into account when discussing a Ukrainian settlement.

Confirming Moscow's recent battlefield advances, he said that Russian troops had indeed taken control of the town of Chasov Yar and continue to push forward along the front. He further claimed that thousands of Ukrainian soldiers' remains had been handed back, while Russia received dozens of its own fallen troops.

Lukashenko echoing Putin's stance, faulted the failure of nego-

tiations on Kyiv, attributing them to Ukraine's 'impossible demands.' He went on to state that if the US genuinely seeks peace, the White House must play a more constructive role in the process, and voiced total readiness by Minsk to join future talks if need be and voiced full support for Russia's negotiating position.

The third round of peace talks in Istanbul, held behind closed doors on July 23 at the historic Ciragan Palace, lasted about an hour.

They followed a private meeting between Russian presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky and Ukraine's

National Security Council Secretary Rustem Umerov, both of whom have led previous rounds of dialogue.

According to Medinsky, discussions included humanitarian concerns, such as the return of civilians displaced by military activity in Russia's Kursk Region.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov later told reporters that while high-level engagement is expected to finalise any eventual settlement, the current positions of Moscow and Kyiv remain "diametrically opposed," and compromise is unlikely in the immediate future. UNI ANV RN

1 lakh cr RDI scheme to drive India's tech sovereignty: Jitendra

HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: Reaffirming the Centre's commitment to technological self-reliance, Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh announced that the government's ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development, and Innovation (RDI) scheme will catalyze private sector-led growth in strategic and emerging technologies.

Speaking at the ASSOCHAM Conference on "Sovereign Tech For India's Digital Transformation" under the theme 'Bharat@100', Dr. Singh emphasized that the initiative, anchored by the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), is designed to accelerate India's journey towards sovereign tech leadership.

The RDI scheme will offer long-term, low-interest loans and risk capital to fuel deep-tech innovation, especially in sunrise sectors. A dedicated Deep-Tech Fund of Funds will further encourage private investment, with implementation by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Highlighting the government's shift toward greater private sector collaboration, Dr. Singh recalled landmark reforms in the Space and Nuclear sectors, which propelled India's space economy to \$8 billion, with projections of reaching \$40 billion.

He urged the industry to seize the moment, stating, "India's technological footprint is expanding, and the world is watching."

Citing India's rise as the



world's fourth-largest economy, Dr. Singh credited a decade of policy reforms and industrial resilience—evident during the pandemic, when India developed and shared indigenous vaccines

globally under the 'Vaccine Maitri' initiative.

He also spotlighted India's increasing global stature in advanced sectors, such as space, referencing astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla's role in an international mission as a symbol of India's credibility on the world stage.

Touching on the need for indigenous data ecosystems, Dr. Singh lauded the Department of Biotechnology's success in establishing the Indian Biological Data Centre (IBDC), which now houses over 10,000 genome sequences under the Genome India Project.

Underscoring inclusive innovation, he revealed that nearly half of Indian startups now originate from Tier-2 cities, with growing participation from

women and tribal entrepreneurs—supported by targeted government schemes.

On Artificial Intelligence, he advocated a balanced, hybrid model combining AI and human intelligence, cautioning against unchecked automation.

Finally, echoing Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of a "Viksit Bharat" by 2047, the Minister highlighted untapped potential in sectors like Space, Biotechnology, and the Blue Economy as key pillars for India's future growth.

The event was attended by industry leaders including Dr. Wolfgang Dreikar (SAP), Sunil Gupta (Yotta Data Services), and Ranjeet Goswami (TCS), reflecting the strong public-private synergy driving India's tech transformation. (KINS)

BJP committed to inclusive development, says Ashok Koul in BJP Akhnoor District meet

HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 1: Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) General Secretary (Organization), J&K, Ashok Koul chaired an organizational meeting of BJP District Akhnoor, led by District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma.

MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, DDC Vice-Chairman Suraj Singh, former MLA Rajeev Sharma, senior leaders Bushan Bral, Shardha Bhai, Sushma Sharma, Nisha Bhagat, Shakti Bhagat, Depash Singh, Jugal Dogra, Inderjeet, Gourav Singh, Neeraj Shastri, Shamsher Dass, Bodh Raj, Ashok Kumar, and Geeta Rajput, besides District team, Mandal Presidents, General Secretaries, and dedicated activists from across the district were present in the meeting.

Ashok Koul conducted a focused review of the programmes executed under the party's nationwide campaign 'Viksit Bharat Ka Amritkaal - Sewa, Sushasan, Gareeb Kalyan Ke 11 Saal'. He highlighted the importance of grassroots initiatives such as Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabhas, Choupals, Professional Meets, Ayushman Bharat Card Camps, exhibitions, and the tree plantation campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam'. He emphasized that these activities are not just symbolic but reflect BJP's deep commitment to inclusive governance and sustainable development.

He urged party workers to ensure that outreach efforts reflect the concerns and aspirations of all sections of society, especially the marginalized. "Our strength lies in our capacity to engage with the people, understand their local issues, and offer solutions rooted in service and accountability," Koul stated and stressed on observing key occasions with public participation and urged all units to make environmental conservation, wellness campaigns, and historical commemorations a regular part of their agenda.

Mohan Lal Bhagat spoke about the collaborative work between public representatives and the organization, noting that this partnership is critical in ensuring the successful implementation of public welfare schemes.

Suraj Singh appreciated the energy and devotion of BJP's grassroots workers. He called for sharper booth-level strategies and greater local participation to fortify the party's foundation in every ward and village.

Rajeev Sharma said that BJP's growing public trust is a result of its consistent and issue-based approach. "We don't just promise change, we work for it. The party's credibility comes from its worker-first ethos and people-oriented planning," he said.

In his presidential address, District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma expressed gratitude to the party leadership and reaffirmed the unit's readiness to take forward all organizational programmes with renewed vigour. He said that the Akhnoor district team is fully committed to strengthening the party's presence and connection at the booth level, guided by the principles of service, transparency, and teamwork.

MLA Marh visits Village Manyal Brahmana, listens to people's concerns

HT News Desk

MARH, AUGUST 1: MLA Marh, Surinder Kumar, today visited village Manyal Brahmana in Rajpura Panchayat, where he interacted with the locals and listened to their grievances. The MLA's visit aimed to understand the concerns of the villagers and provide them with necessary support and guidance.

Surinder Kumar engaged in a detailed discussion with the villagers, understanding their problems and concerns. The MLA assured the villagers that he would take up their issues with the concerned departments and work towards finding a solution. Surinder Kumar's visit reflects his commitment to serving the people of his constituency and addressing their needs.

As an MLA, Surinder Kumar has been working tirelessly to improve the lives of his constituents. Some of his notable initiatives include. He has been working to improve irrigation infrastructure in the region, ensuring that farmers receive adequate water supply for their crops. The MLA has also focused on improving power supply in the area to improve power scenario in Marh constituency.

Surinder Kumar's visit to village Manyal Brahmana demonstrates his dedication to public service and his commitment to addressing the concerns of his constituents. The MLA's efforts are expected to bring about positive change in the region, improving the lives of the people. MLA Marh Surinder Kumar has emphasized that all-round development of the Marh constituency is his top priority. He has been actively engaging with his constituents, listening to their



concerns, and working towards resolving issues related to infrastructure, public services, and

amenities.

MLA Surinder Kumar's development initiatives include enhancing the quality of roads to facilitate smooth transportation and connectivity. Ensuring a stable power supply to support agricultural activities, businesses, and households. Providing clean water facilities to improve the health and well-being of residents. Developing public amenities to enhance the quality of life for constituents.

Through his efforts, MLA Surinder Kumar aims to bring about positive change and development in the Marh constituency, ultimately improving the lives of its residents. His commitment to public service and community development is reflected in his proactive approach to addressing the needs of his constituents.

VC SKUAST-Jammu Leads Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme with Plantation Drive and Youth Centric Initiatives

HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 1: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-Jammu) has taken a proactive step toward realizing the national vision of Viksit Bharat @2047 by launching the Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme (VBYCP) with a major plantation drive. The drive was kick-started by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi on August 1, 2025, with the aim of planting 3,000 saplings in a week. The initiative featured native and fruit-bearing tree species such as mango, bael, aonla and jamun, promoting ecological restoration and nutritional security. All statutory officers of the university actively participated in the campaign, reflecting a strong institutional commitment to sustainable development.

The VBYCP at SKUAST-Jammu is being coordinated by Dr. Sanjay Khar, Director Education, while the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA) is led by Dr. Sudhakar Dwivedi, Dean Student Welfare. The plantation activity was effectively executed through a collaborative effort involving Dr. M.K. Pandey and Dr. R.K. Pandey, with coordination by Hostel Wardens Dr. A.K. Singh and Dr. Kapil Tiwari.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.N. Tripathi emphasized that Viksit Bharat



@2047, as envisioned by Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi, goes beyond a developmental slogan and represents a national movement aimed at transforming India into a developed nation by its centenary of independence. He underlined the vital role that academic institutions must play in this mission by driving innovation, nurturing entrepreneurship, and building a skilled and empowered youth force. He called for a fundamental shift in academic priorities moving away from rote learning and towards experiential, problem-solving education that inspires students to become job creators rather than job seekers.

Prof. Tripathi further stated that the youth must be empowered through a structured ecosystem grounded in the principles of "idea, incubation, innovation and startup." He stressed the importance of integrating skill development, cre-

ativity and curiosity into academic programs, thereby laying the foundation for a resilient, self-reliant India. He also highlighted the growing role of agricultural universities in contributing to climate-resilient farming, sustainable rural livelihoods, and national food security; all of which align with the broader objectives of Viksit Bharat.

Acknowledging the progressive leadership of Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, Prof. Tripathi noted that Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed substantial strides in both infrastructure and education. He expressed gratitude for the continuous support extended by the UT administration and the Chief Minister's Office, which has enabled SKUAST-Jammu to overcome systemic hurdles and implement national flagship programs effectively at the grassroots level.

PM's Matru Vandana Yojana is milestone in strengthening maternal healthcare: Rekha Mahajan

HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 1: Rekha Mahajan, Vice President of BJP Jammu and Kashmir UT, has described the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PM-MVY) as a transformative step toward ensuring better maternal and child healthcare in the Union Territory.

She stated that the scheme aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of "Healthy Mother, Healthy Nation," and plays a critical role in empowering women through financial and nutritional support during pregnancy.

Speaking at a programme, Mahajan highlighted the scheme's significant role in empowering pregnant and lactating women by providing financial assistance to ensure better health and nutrition.



Mahajan emphasized that the PM Matru Vandana Yojana directly addresses critical challenges faced by expecting and new mothers by offering a cash incentive of Rs 5,000 in three installments. This financial support encourages timely antenatal care, institutional deliveries, and breastfeeding, which are essential for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.

Mahajan stated that the Yojana aligns perfectly with the government's vision of a healthier India and complements other welfare initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for women and children.

Rekha Mahajan called upon all eligible women in Jammu and Kashmir to take full advantage of the benefits offered under PM-MVY. She assured that the BJP-led administration is committed to ensuring smooth implementation and outreach of the scheme across both urban and rural areas.

Mahajan reiterated that the Prime Minister's Matru Vandana Yojana is a milestone in strengthening maternal healthcare and empowering women, which will have long-term positive impacts on society's overall health and development in Jammu and Kashmir.

IIM Jammu, HPCL Ink MoU for Academic-Industry Ties

HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUGUST 1: The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, under the visionary leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu, and Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited (HPCL), one of India's premier public sector enterprises, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 01st Aug 2025 to establish a robust framework for academic-industry collaboration.

The MoU aims to foster mutual learning, leadership development, capacity building, and collaborative knowledge creation between the two institutions to establish a long-term strategic partnership focused on capacity building, consultancy, research, case development, and academic collaboration. The MoU was signed

during a Virtual Connect (VC) meeting held on 1st August 2025 and marks a significant milestone in building strong institutional linkages. The IIM Jammu delegation was led by Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu. The ceremony was attended by senior representatives from both organizations. From HPCL, the attendees included Ms. Sapana Shrikanth, Chief General Manager - Capability Building, HPCL and Mr. Prabhat Kumar, Senior Manager - HR, Capability Building, HPCL. Present on the occasion were Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, Prof. Rajesh Sikka, Co-Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu and Cmdr Kesavan Baskaran (R), CAO, IIM Jammu.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu,

emphasized that the MoU stands as a testament to the Institute's unwavering commitment to building a dynamic interface between academia and industry. He noted that the partnership with HPCL would pave the way for co-developing future-ready professionals equipped with industry-relevant skills, strategic thinking, and a problem-solving mindset. He further highlighted that the collaboration would also enable HPCL to leverage cutting-edge academic knowledge, research, and executive education to strengthen its leadership pipeline. He reiterated that such initiatives are in alignment with IIM Jammu's broader vision of contributing meaningfully to the national goal of Viksit Bharat 2047.

Ms. Sapana Shrikanth, Chief General Manager - Capability Building at HPCL, shared that the partner-

ship with IIM Jammu is a positive step in HPCL's ongoing focus on employee learning and development. She mentioned that the collaboration will offer employees opportunities to benefit from academic resources and structured programs designed to support their professional growth. She added that HPCL hopes to work closely with IIM Jammu to create relevant learning modules, contribute to research efforts, and support capacity-building activities in a structured and consistent manner. Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu, stated that the MoU reflects IIM Jammu's strong commitment to empowering Public Sector Enterprises and supporting Government of India initiatives through high-impact executive education and training programs.

He emphasized that this collaboration underscores the importance of linking academia with industry to address emerging challenges and foster innovation-driven growth.

As part of this collaboration, HPCL will offer summer internship opportunities to IIM Jammu students at its locations across India, participate in course curriculum design to align academic offerings with industry needs, and facilitate lectures by subject matter experts. IIM Jammu will conduct customized Management Development Programs (MDPs), short-term workshops, and long-duration certificate programs tailored to HPCL's training requirements. The Institute will also offer opportunities for HPCL employees to pursue its Executive MBA and Ph.D. programs, fostering advanced learning and research among working professionals.

MLA Nizamuddin Bhat's Efforts Lead to Approval of Separate JK Bank Cluster in Bandipora

HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, AUG 1: In a significant administrative breakthrough for the district, Bandipora has secured approval for a separate Jammu and Kashmir Bank cluster, thanks to the persistent efforts of local MLA Nizamuddin Bhat.

Welcoming the development, Bhat expressed sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the Chief Secretary and the Chairman of J&K Bank for their swift response to the long-pending demand.

"This decision will go a long way in easing the financial hardships of our people", Bhat said. "I am deeply thankful to the Hon'ble CM, the Chief



Secretary and the JK Bank Chairman for understanding the urgency and acting in the interest of Bandipora's residents."

The creation of a dedicated banking cluster is expected to significantly improve access to financial services in the region. Residents will no longer have to travel long distances for routine banking needs and the new zone is anticipated to boost economic prospects for local youth and entrepreneurs by facilitating smoother financial transactions and support.

This development marks a step forward in decentralizing financial infrastructure and promoting inclusive growth across the district.

Public Notice

I have lost Death Certificate of My Son Mohd Ashraf Wani S/O GH Mohd Wani issued on 03-02-2003. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

GH MOHD WANI F/O LATE MOHD ASHRAF WANI R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

Public Notice

My Name and My Parentage wrongly mentioned in my Bank Account and Pass Book as Mohd Assadullah Trumboo S/O Gul Mohd Trumboo instead of my Name as Assadullah Wani and my Parentage as Gulle Joo Wani. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Manager J&K Bank Branch Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

ASSADULLAH WANI S/O GULLE JOO WANI R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

Public Notice

My Name and My Parentage wrongly mentioned in my Bank Account and Pass Book as Mohd Assadullah Trumboo S/O Gul Mohd Trumboo instead of my Name as Assadullah Wani and my Parentage as Gulle Joo Wani. Now I am applying for its correction if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact Manager J&K Bank Branch Kreeri within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

ASSADULLAH WANI S/O GULLE JOO WANI R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my daughter's dob has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, 470380044811 as DOB 07/04/2011 while his correct DOB is 11/07/2010, Namely, Neelofar jaan as per school record now I have applied for the correction. If anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection concerned authority /UIDAI office within a period of 07 days after that no objection will be accepted.

Name: Neelofar Jaan, DOB: 11/07/2010 D/o: Ghulam Mohammad Wani R/o: Krumhoora, Tehsil: Zachaldara, Dist: Kupwaa

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Awareness programme on drug abuse conducted at GGHSS Chanapora

HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 01: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Chanapora, held a stirring short play-based awareness programme focused



on the menace of drug abuse.

The powerful performance by a local theatre group vividly portrayed the real-life consequences of substance addiction and left a deep emotional impact on students and staff alike.

Students appreciated the meaningful content and conveyed their interest in witnessing more such thought-provoking events.

Sameena Wani, Principal of the institution, applauded the initiative and emphasized the importance of early intervention and awareness.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, DIPR, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the role of art in social reform.

The programme ended with a unified pledge against drug abuse, with a collective resolve to promote a healthy and addiction-free society.

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of ZAIBA BEGUM GM/O SAKEENA BEGUM R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 15/01/2015 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Wagoora

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of RAFEEQA BEGUM W/O MOHD YOUSUF R/O WATERGAM Tehsil WAGOORA Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Death as 23/08/2016 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Wagoora

Public Notice

My son's mother's name has been wrongly written as AFROZA BEGUM in school record while his correct mother's name is ROZI BEGUM as per aadhar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of ZEO WAGOORA / GOVT HIGH SCHOOL WATERGAM within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name: Rozi Begum, M/o: Haris Shabir Zone: Wagoora

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Death of MOHAMMAD AKBAR LONE S/O ABDUL RAHMAN LONE R/O KHISIPORA Tehsil KREERI Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of death as 11/10/2002 and event has been shown to be occurred at HOME for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Public Notice

I have lost Death Certificate of My Son Mohd Ashraf Wani S/O GH Mohd Wani issued on 03-02-2003. Now I am applying for its duplicate if anybody have any objection in this regard He/She may contact concerned Authorities within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

GH MOHD WANI F/O LATE MOHD ASHRAF WANI R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

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

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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora) chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of RAJA BEGUM D/O GHULAM MOHAMMAD YATOO R/O DULETPORA Tehsil kreeri Dist. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 21/07/1950 and event has been shown to be occurred at home for issuance of delay order. In this connection.

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

Sd/- Executive Magistrate 1st Class Kreeri

Office Of The Deputy Drugs Controller, Drug And Food Control Orgn. Kashmir Division, Bemina, Srinagar

TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders affixed with revenue Stamp of Rs.2/- are invited from Registered Furniture repairing agencies for repairs of below mentioned Furniture items.

The concerned agency holders may visit the office of the undersigned during office hours to examine the repair work which is to be conducted enabling them to submit their tenders accordingly. The tenders should reach this office within Seven days from the date of publication of the newspaper.

S.No	Name of the item to be repaired	Quantity
01	Wooden Chairs	31 No's
02	Bench	02 No's
03	Sofa Chairs	12 No's
04	Wooden Bench	01 No

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any quotation without assigning any reason thereof.

No: DFO/K/ACCT/475 | Dated: 30-07-2025

Sd/- Deputy Drugs Controller, Drug and Food Control Orgn. Kashmir

DIPK: 4656/25 | Dated: 01-08-2025

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir

Department of Agriculture Production & Farmer's Welfare

Laimandi Srinagar Kashmir

AUCTION NOTICE

Sealed Auction Notice is hereby called for auction of Grass/Weed cutting at Lavender Farm Sirhama as per the details mentioned below. Interested parties are informed to quote the rates in respect of material to be auctioned on following terms and conditions. The rates should reach to the office of S.M.Farm Sirhama on 06.08.2025 (Wednesday) till 12.30 pm through sealed envelop in prescribed format.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS.

- That the offered rates must be accompanied with a CDR of 2% of the minimum reserve price pledged to Accounts Officer Directorate of Agriculture Kashmir or can deposit cash deposit of Rs.3000.00 (Rupees Three Thousand Only) at the time of auction before the Auction Committee.
- That the interested party can inspect the material at S.M.Farm Sirhama on any working day during the Office hour's upto 06.08.2025.
- That no tenderer is allowed to submit the tender below the minimum reserved rates, otherwise his cash deposit/CDR will be forfeited.
- That the offered rates shall be opened on same date at 1:00 pm in the office chambers' of S.M.Farm Sirhama in presence of bidders who wish to be present.
- That if the quoted rate is found below Minimum Reserve Bid his/her earnest money deposit will be forfeited.
- That the Auction Committee shall be at liberty to accept or reject the bids without assigning any reasons thereof.
- That the Successful bidders shall have to deposit 100% bid amount immediately after he/she is declared successful bidder.
- In case the successful bidder fails to make the payment in full within stipulated time, his/her earnest money shall be forfeited & award of bid will be given to second highest bidder on the rates offered by 1st highest bidder.
- That in case any dispute arises between the parties, the matter will be referred to Director Agriculture, Kashmir and his decision shall be binding on both the parties.
- The CDR's in respect of unsuccessful bidders will be released after three days duly applied by the bidder to Member Secretary Auction Committee (Accounts Officer).
- That the interested party can inspect the material at respective Areas as mentioned above on any working day during the office hours upto 06.08.2025.
- The successful bidder shall have to use the area without causing damage to other plantation/infrastructure of the farm area.

The detail of the material to be auctioned is given as under:-

S.No	Name of the Farm	Particular	Approximate Quantity (Ha)	Minimum Reserve Price (Rs.)
01	Sirhama Bijbehara Anantnag Farm	Grass/Weed cutting at Lavender farm Sirhama	5	7500/Ha

Sd/- Accounts Officer, (Member Secretary (A.C.) Directorate of Agriculture, Kashmir

DIPK: 4658/25 | Dated: 01-08-2025

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Law Department unveils first of its kind "Citizen Centric Services" initiative to boost legal access in J&K

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01: In a significant move to enhance the citizen services, the Department of Law, Justice & Parliamentary Affairs today presented to the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo a new initiative on 'Citizen Centric Services'.

The presentation, led by Secretary Law, Achal Sethi, in presence of Secretary, IT, Dr Piyush Singla; SIO, NIC, JS Modi and others detailed a comprehensive plan to leverage a mobile application and helpline to provide a wide range of legal and administrative services to the public.

The initiative is structured into ten distinct modules, each designed to simplify public access to key services including Legal Aid/Advice Module. This module would help the citizens to seek legal aid and advice via a mobile app or helpline. The module will connect them with Legal Aid Counsels and Pro Bono Counsels and provide contact details for the State and District Legal Services Authorities



(SLSA/DLSA).

The mobile application will provide easy access to both Central and UT Acts, Rules & Notifications, with links to the Law Department's website and

the India Code website.

It will have unique feature of providing enrolment process, welfare schemes, notary and oath commissioner services and a list of gov-

ernment advocates besides standing counsels and career guidance for Advocates. App will provide unique features for guiding the citizens for registration of documents and reg-

istration of marriages under different Laws.

This module will offer a list of MLAs with their contact details, information on legislative business, committee reports, and Q&As in the Legislative Assembly. It will also provide a link to live proceedings and a platform for public opinion on draft legislation.

The module further envisages guiding citizens on law-related education, providing a list of National Law Universities (NLUs) and local universities offering law courses. It will also offer advice from legal experts on how and when to apply.

The citizens can also find details on the registration process, including office locations, model templates, a

checklist of required documents and a list of stamp vendors.

An AI-powered chatbot will be available to assist with various legal issues for the assistance of all. The final module allows for submission of grievances, complaints, and feedback, with a system for generating acknowledgements and replies.

The implementation of these services is aimed at increasing the transparency, improving access to justice and enhancing the overall efficiency of the legal and parliamentary affairs department for the citizens of Jammu and Kashmir.

Calling the initiative a milestone in public service delivery, the Chief Secretary underscored its potential to serve as a national model. He urged the departments to work in close coordination to ensure its timely and effective rollout. "This platform reflects our commitment to legal empowerment and inclusive governance. It will transform legal aid into a truly accessible right for every citizen," he added.

B'la hosts felicitation ceremony under Sampoonnata Abhiyan to celebrate grassroots achievements

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 01: District administration Baramulla organized the Sampoonnata Abhiyan Samaan Samaroh at Dak Bungalow Baramulla to honor the outstanding achievements during the Sampoonnata Abhiyan, a landmark initiative held from July to September 2024.

The Sampoonnata Abhiyan focused on achieving 100% saturation of six key performance indicators in both Aspirational Districts and Aspirational Blocks. Baramulla district successfully achieved this goal, earning a Gold Medal for its performance in both the Aspirational District Programme (ADP) and the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP).

The event was attended by MLA Pattan, Riyaz Ahmad Bedar; Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa; Chief Planning Officer Baramulla, district and sectoral officers, field staff, frontline workers, who were felicitated for their contributions toward achieving 100% saturation of key indicators under the Sampoonnata Abhiyan.

During the function, a video message from the CEO of NITI Aayog was played, in which he appreciated the efforts of the district administration Baramulla for their exem-

plary commitment and results under the Sampoonnata Abhiyan. He stated that Baramulla has emerged as a leading district in the implementation of development programmes and serves as a model for other aspirational regions.

MLA Pattan, in his remarks, appreciated the work done by the administration and supporting staff. He said, "Programmes like Sampoonnata Abhiyan reflect the government's commitment to equitable development. Baramulla's performance is an encouraging example of what focused teamwork and mission-driven governance can achieve."

Addressing the occasion, Deputy Commissioner acknowledged the efforts of the field staff, frontline workers, and officials for their coordinated work, which has led to tangible progress across various sectors. He added that the district administration remains committed to delivering inclusive development and effective public service delivery.

The event provided an opportunity for departments to take stock of their performance under the Abhiyan and to continue efforts toward strengthening service delivery and improving developmental indicators across the district.

DC Pulwama reviews preparedness for Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025

DC Urges Festive Vibe, Mass Participation

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

PULWAMA, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom today chaired a comprehensive meeting at Circuit House Pulwama to review the action plan and arrangements for the upcoming Har Ghar Tiranga campaign 2025 and related activities.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pulwama presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the scheduled activities under the campaign. The chair was apprised that the plan spans from 2nd to 15th August divided into three phases and includes a wide range of initiatives such as wall paintings, flag hoisting ceremonies, cultural pro-

grammes, Tiranga rallies, Tiranga Melas, and community engagement drives.

DC instructed all departments to actively coordinate for the smooth execution of planned activities and ensure wide public involvement. He stressed the need to create a festive and patriotic atmosphere across the district through community mobilisation, inclusive participation, and fervent celebrations while adhering to flag code and other protocols.

Dr. Qayoom also directed the concerned departments to integrate activities such as Swachh Sujal Gaon pledges, community clean-up drives, cleanliness of WaSH assets, awareness programmes on sanitation and water conservation, culminating in flag hoist-



ing ceremonies at key WaSH infrastructure sites including Amrit Sarovars and prominent public places.

Additionally, he directed that an adequate number of national flags be made available across the district by involving Self Help Groups (SHGs) in their production and distribution.

The meeting was attended by all district and sectoral officers, officers of Police and Paramilitary Forces and other stakeholders.

DC Kupwara reviews preparations for 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign 2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, AUGUST 1: The Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan today chaired a comprehensive meeting of officers to review the preparations for the upcoming 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2025 as part of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2025 is aimed to scale up public participation across all panchayats, urban wards, educational institutions and prominent locations. The celebrations shall commence from 2nd to 15th August in three phases.

In the first phase which shall be held from 2nd to 8th August, the activities will involve decorating of school walls, display of exhibitions; organizing Tiranga Rangoli competitions across schools, colleges, public places and other activities. During the 2nd phase which will be held from 9th to 12th August, a big event- Tiranga Mahotsav will be held with focus on local products, products of SHGs, sale of Tiranga color theme items, besides selfie-booths to be prominently displayed and facilitated with proper branding for encouraging selfie uploads on the harghartiranga website. Tiranga bike rally to be organized also during the 2nd phase.

During the 3rd and last phase from 13th to 15th August, flag hoisting ceremonies and lighting of government buildings, educational institutions, hotels, offices, bridges etc will be done.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of widespread participation in the campaign. She directed all departments to ensure effective coordination for the distribution of flags, awareness generation, and mobilization at grassroots level. She directed the officers to involve school children, youth clubs, self-help groups, and civil society in awareness drives and flag-hoisting events across the district.

The DC also reviewed logistics for procurement and distribution of national flags to households and public institutions, stressing transparency and efficiency in the process.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kupwara Gulzar Ahmad, ACR Kupwara, SDM Lolab, ACD, CEO, Tehsildar, BDOs and other concerned.

SAATHI scheme: DLSA Shopian organises Aadhar registration camp for marginalised children at Shadab Karewa

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 01: In a significant step towards ensuring legal identity and inclusive access to welfare schemes, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian commenced a three-day Aadhaar registration camp under the SAATHI campaign (Survey for Aadhaar and Access to Tracking & Holistic Inclusion).

The camp focuses on Aadhaar enrolment of vulnerable and marginalized children, particularly those who are orphaned, in street situations or otherwise deprived of basic documentation.

The inaugural session of the campaign was held at Govt. High School Shadab Karewa, and was inaugurated by Mehmood Ahmad Chowdhary, Chairman, DLSA Shopian in the presence of SAATHI committee members and frontline legal services functionaries.

The initiative aligns with the broader vision of the Legal Services Authority J&K & National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) to ensure that no child is left behind due to lack of Aadhaar identification, particularly those belonging to marginalized, destitute, and at-risk groups.

During the first day of the camp, 16 children were registered for Aadhaar, earlier identified through prior field surveys conducted by the SAATHI committee in coordination with various stakeholders including educational institutions, child welfare officers, and local outreach workers.

The registration process was facilitated by Aadhaar operators deputed in coordination with the district administration, with assistance from PLVs of DLSA Shopian, who ensured smooth documentation, verification, and support for the children and their guardians throughout the process.

The event was attended by members of the SAATHI committee, DLSA staff, PLVs, and other field functionaries associated with the campaign.

DC Budgam chairs preparatory meeting for Har Ghar Tiranga campaign-2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUGUST 01: In view of the upcoming Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, 2025 under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, a preparatory meeting was convened today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, here in the conference hall of DC office, Budgam.

The meeting was aimed at reviewing preparedness, mobilizing inter-departmental coordination, and issuing detailed instructions for the smooth and impactful execution of the campaign across the district.

As per the National Implementation Committee (NIC) directives issued on July 24, 2025, the campaign will run from 2nd to 15th August 2025 in three structured phases, focusing on grassroots participation, cultural unity, and national pride.

Under Phase I (2nd-8th August), Tiranga-themed decorations shall be prepared in schools besides Art and Rangoli competitions, Rakhi-making workshops etc. Also Tiranga Weaves and Threads shall be prepared showcasing traditional crafts.

Similarly, under Phase II which will commence from 9th and culmi-

nates on 12th August, Tiranga Mahotsav comprising Mela and Concert shall be held, besides display and sale of local Tiranga-themed products, organization of Tiranga Rallies, Cycle/Bike Yatraas, and lighting/decor of markets, Selfie booths to encourage mass participation via the national portal website, ie, www.harghartiranga.com

Also, Phase III from 13th-15th August will focus on Flag hoisting ceremonies at all government, institutional, and public places, mass upload of 'Selfies with Tiranga' by citizens etc.

On the occasion, DC emphasised that Har Ghar Tiranga is not merely a symbolic gesture, but a national movement that fosters unity, respect for the Tricolour, and a deep sense of patriotism among the citizens.

He directed all concerned departments and field functionaries to ensure active janbhagidari through inclusive programs at every level.

Dr Bilal stressed for strict adherence to flag code and sensitise the public about its respectful use. He directed officers for facilitation of dedicated selfie booths and digital uploads to the national portal.

He nominated ADC Budgam as

overall nodal officer of the events in the district and also directed SDMs, ACD, and EOs of municipalities to look after the events in their respective jurisdictions.

DC further stated, "This is an opportunity for every household to become a proud participant in the nation-building narrative. We must make this campaign a mass movement in its true spirit."

Dr Bilal said that the district administration will ensure close monitoring of the campaign through designated nodal officers, while on-ground implementation will be regularly inspected in real time to ensure effective execution. Daily progress will be reviewed to ensure 100% coverage of activities and visibility in both urban and rural areas of the district, he stated.

On the occasion, SSP Budgam also apprised of the campaign framework and assured adequate security arrangements during Tiranga rallies, mega events, and public gatherings throughout the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar; ADC, GM DIC, ACR, ACD, Principals of all Government Degree Colleges of Budgam, Dy. CEO, DEPO, Principals of all Higher Secondary Schools.

Rana applauds Mankote's grassroots transformation, national recognition under NITI AYOOG's ABP

HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, AUGUST 01: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today lauded the district administration Poonch and the local community including PRIs for their collective efforts in driving remarkable development in Block Mankote, which has earned national recognition under NITI Aayog's flagship Aspirational Block Programme (ABP).

Addressing a felicitation ceremony organized by the district administration at Dak Bungalow, Poonch, Rana celebrated the transformational achievements of Mankote Block, which, he said, has emerged as a leading example of successful

grassroots governance and community-driven development.

The Minister underscored that Mankote's rise, from a remote, underserved block to one of the top-performing blocks in the country, epitomizes the power of focused implementation, responsive administration and local participation.

"Mankote's journey is not only a story of impressive rankings, it is a story of determination, of resilience and of belief. It reflects the commitment of our frontline workers, the synergy between the departments and the faith of the people that development must be inclusive, equitable and far-reaching," the Minister said.

He highlighted that the transformation was significantly ac-



celerated during the 90 days focused saturation campaign that aimed to achieve key development milestones across

priority sectors such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture and financial inclusion.

The campaign was marked by high-level interdepartmental coordination and robust community engagement, resulting in measurable improvements on the ground.

Rana proudly noted that Mankote Block had secured the 9th rank among 500 Aspirational Blocks across the country and the top position in the Jammu Division, a feat that can be described as a "milestone in Poonch's development trajectory."

However, the Minister cautioned against complacency, emphasizing that the recognition should serve as a springboard for deeper and more sustained development.

"This is not the end, it's the beginning of a renewed mission. Let this achievement inspire us to push further, reach higher and ensure that every household, especially in border and far-flung areas, feels the impact of governance. We must carry forward this momentum with greater integrity, inclusiveness and innovation," he said.

Reiterating the Omar Abdullah-led Government's unwavering commitment to rural transformation, Rana called for strengthening the institutional support for Self-Help Groups (SHGs), fostering convergence among line departments and investing in long-term sustainable livelihood models.

He affirmed that his ministries would provide full support

in scaling up such transformative efforts to other underdeveloped blocks in the district.

The felicitation event was not only a celebration of Mankote's accomplishments but also a moment of reflection and commitment, a call to uphold the spirit of participatory governance and citizen-centric development.

The Minister personally acknowledged the contributions of frontline workers, PRIs, departmental officials and civil society leaders who played a pivotal role in the block's rise.

District Development Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, appreciated all the stakeholders and assured to continue building upon the momentum generated through the Aspirational Block Programme

Rana launches Akaanksha Haat in Poonch

HT News Desk / DIPR

POONCH, AUGUST 01: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today inaugurated the Akaanksha Haat, a landmark initiative aimed at fostering rural enterprises and empowering grassroots communities across the region.

The launching event saw enthusiastic participation from Self-Help Groups (SHGs), local artisans, government officials and members of the public, marking a significant stride towards inclusive and sustainable rural development.

Established under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), the Akaanksha Haat has been conceptualised as a dedicated platform for SHGs and rural artisans to display, promote and sell their products.

The initiative is rooted in the core objectives of promoting rural entrepreneurship, advancing women's empowerment and enhancing livelihood opportunities in border and tribal areas.

During the inaugural ceremony, the Minister visited a diverse range of stalls showcasing handmade textiles, eco-friendly crafts, organic produce and processed local foods.

Rana appreciated the creativity, craftsmanship and cultural richness reflected in the exhibits and commended the artisans for their dedication towards preserving regional traditions.

Reaffirming the Omar led government's commitment to grassroots economic development, the Minister emphasized the importance of creating sustainable market linkages for rural producers, particularly women-led SHGs. He observed that such efforts are vital for achieving long-term economic self-reliance among rural households.

He said Akaanksha Haat is envisioned not merely as a physical marketplace but as a dynamic and sustainable ecosystem that directly connects the rural producers with consumers and institutional buyers.

By offering a permanent marketing platform, the government aims to reduce dependency on intermediaries, broaden income streams and foster financial inclusion at the grassroots level.

Reasi braces for 7-Day Aakansha Haat, Sampoonnata Samman Samaroh

HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting to finalize arrangements for two major upcoming events—the Sampoonnata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh and the launch of the 7-day Aakansha Haat at the Spiritual Growth Center, Katra scheduled for 2nd August at 10:00 AM.

The Deputy Commissioner

reviewed preparations for Aakansha Haat, a week-long event aimed at promoting local crafts, SHG products and farmers' produce. The event will feature exhibitions and sales, while also serving as a platform for public awareness and on-the-spot delivery of government welfare schemes.

DC Nidhi Malik directed all departments to set up stalls offering services, products, and

direct engagement with the public. Banks will also extend on-spot support for loan-related services. She further added that outstanding stalls, artisans with unique products and highest sales will receive special recognition and felicitation.

In the same meeting, the DC Reasi also reviewed preparations for the Sampoonnata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh, which will honor the achievements under the Sam-

poornata Abhiyan held from July to September 2024. The campaign focused on achieving saturation of six critical indicators in Aspirational Districts and Blocks. Thakrakote Block has shown exceptional progress, with other areas nearing completion of key targets. The Samaroh will recognize the contributions of officials, frontline workers and stakeholders who played a key role in this milestone.

Emphasising the importance of coordination and proactive participation, the Deputy Commissioner directed all departments to ensure smooth execution and meaningful community engagement during both events.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, PO ICDS, LDM, CMO and other concerned officers from line departments.

Udhampur: 80 loan assistance cases approved under Mission YUVA scheme



HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of the District Level Implementation Committee for the Mission YUVA scheme to evaluate, screen and approve loan assistance applications for Nano and MSME and other enterprises.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; General Manager District Industry Centre Kishore Singh Katoch; Deputy Director Employment Mohinder Sharma; Assistant Director Employment Priyanka Gupta, other concerned officers and representatives from

the banking sector.

After a comprehensive scrutiny of the applications, the Committee approved 80 loan cases out of the total 84 applications put before the Panel.

While speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the need to expedite the implementation process through effective coordination among all line departments. She directed the concerned officers to ensure 100 percent approval of eligible cases under the scheme.

DC emphasized the crucial role of Yuva Doots in information gathering of eligible beneficiaries and directed the stakeholder departments to enhance awareness by organizing special awareness camps

DPO reviews PMMVY special registration drive at Poshan Project Assar

HT News Desk / DIPR

DODA, AUGUST 01: District Programme Officer (DPO) Poshan Projects, Akhter Husain Qazi today visited Poshan Project Assar to assess the implementation of Special Registration Drive under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), launched across Doda District on July 15, 2025.

The event was attended by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM), Block Medical Officer (BMO), Deputy Superintendent of Police (Dy.SP), CDPO and civil society members of the area.

During the visit, the DPO Doda interacted with field functionaries, including Anganwadi Workers, Supervisors and beneficiaries. He appreciated the efforts of the CDPO Assar and her team for effective community mobilization and on-ground execution of the drive.

Addressing the gathering, the DPO advised the field staff to work with utmost dedication to achieve 100% targets under all components of the Poshan Abhiyaan, including PMMVY, Supplementary Nutrition, Growth Monitoring, Health Check-ups and IEC activities. He exhorted the staff to maintain transparency and accountability in working and ensure coverage of every



eligible beneficiary.

The programme included on-the-spot registrations, beneficiary interactions and awareness sessions.

Later, the DPO reviewed records and the services delivery mechanism at the Anganwadi Centre.

The Special Registration Drive under PMMVY will continue across all Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Assar, with a focused approach towards saturation of scheme benefits.

Kathua admin rolls out Har Ghar Tiranga campaign plan

HT News Desk / DIPR

KATHUA, AUGUST 01: The District Administration Kathua today rolled out a comprehensive plan for the upcoming Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, scheduled to be observed across the district from August 2 to August 15, 2025 as part of the nationwide initiative. In this regard, a preparatory review meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishvajet Singh. He elaborated on the phase-wise implementation of activities and underscored the collective role of all stakeholders in ensuring the campaign is celebrated in a befitting manner.

The campaign will be conducted in three phases. The first phase will run from 2nd to 7th August, the second phase from 8th to 12th August, and the final phase from 13th to 15th August. Each phase will witness thematic and coordinated activities across urban and rural areas.

As part of the campaign, a range of patriotic activities have been planned including decoration of houses, buildings, and offices; organisation of quiz competitions; raksi-making and raksi-tying events on 6th and 7th August; bike rallies; 'Selfie with Tiranga' initiative and ceremonial flag hoisting at



various locations. The campaign will also feature illumination of government buildings and iconic landmarks in tricolour lighting.

The meeting deliberated on the campaign guidelines, which outline the responsibilities of various departments along with the active involvement of the general public. The ADC emphasized adherence to the Flag Code of India, urging all departments and educational institutions to uphold the dignity of the National Flag and observe proper protocols throughout the campaign duration.

Citizens have been encouraged to actively participate by hoisting the National Flag at their homes, offices and establishments. The administration also appealed to the public to purchase the Tricolour from local markets to support and promote the

local economy.

Highlighting the spirit behind the initiative, the ADC said that Har Ghar Tiranga aims to instill a sense of patriotism among citizens and promote awareness about the National Flag.

The School Education Department and Degree Colleges were directed to conduct activities aligning with the campaign schedule. The ACD and ACP Kathua were also asked to organise similar programmes across the rural areas of the district.

The ADC stressed the importance of synergy and cooperation among departments, institutions and the public to make the campaign a grand success.

Among others, ACR Kathua Vishav Partap Singh, ACD Akhil Sadotra and other concerned officers were also present.

MLA Chenani convenes public outreach-cum-grievances redressal camp at Barmeen

Emphasis on Timely Grievance Redressal, Awareness of Govt Schemes

HT News Desk / DIPR

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 01: To strengthen grassroots governance, address public grievances and promote awareness about centrally sponsored schemes, MLA Chenani, Balwant Singh Mankotia today conducted a public outreach-cum-grievances redressal camp at Baisakhi Dabbar Barmeen.

The camp witnessed participation from DDC Member Narsoo Subash Chander, district and sectoral officers, former PRI members and general public of adjoining panchayats.

Former PRI members and general public projected several issues and demand, seeking upgradation of the Health Dispensary, Opening of a J&K Bank Branch in Barmeen, addressing staff shortage at Government High School Dhandal, construction of roads from Seri to Sarsu, Barmeen to Satyalta and Dhandal to Prowa Jagir, construction of a shed at Narsingh Temple, Barmeen, provision of electric poles, Tehsil status for Ghordi and development of a playground at Larh.

Responding to the projected demands, Mankotia issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers



seeking speedy redressal of genuine grievances. He stressed that all issues raised during the camp should be addressed either immediately or within a defined timeframe.

Highlighting the importance of such public grievances redressal camps, the MLA said these platforms serve as vital instruments for bridging the gap between the administration and the people. He directed officers to adopt a proactive approach, ensure field visits, and facilitate timely delivery of essential services.

Scores of public issues were resolved at the camp through direct intervention and coordination with departmental officers. Mankotia also emphasized working with a sense of mission and dedication to avoid any inconvenience to public due to poor services.

Besides, he encouraged officers to create awareness among the public regarding the income-generating and beneficiary-oriented schemes launched by the Government of India, ensuring that all eligible citizens avail themselves of these benefits.

Mohammed Shami In East Zone Squad For Duleep Trophy



■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI: India and Bengal fast bowler Mohammed Shami has been named in the East Zone squad for the 2025-26 Duleep Trophy.

Ishan Kishan, who scored two half-centuries in two innings for Nottinghamshire in the ongoing County Championship Division One, was named captain of the 15-member squad, which also included Akash Deep, Mukesh Kumar and Riyan Parag. Abhimanyu Easwaran, part of India's Test squad in England, was named vice-captain.

Fourteen-year-old Vaibhav Suryavanshi, who struck the fastest century in Youth ODIs on India Under-19's tour of England last month, was among the six standbys.

Shami, 34, was last in action in IPL 2025, where he picked up six wickets in nine matches for his new team Sunrisers Hyderabad. His last first-class game was for Bengal in the Ranji Trophy in November 2024. That was his only red-ball outing since his last Test match for India - the World Test Championship final in June 2023.

There was no place in the East Zone squad for Sudip Chatterjee, Bengal's leading run-getter in last season's Ranji Trophy, while Sudip Kumar Gharami, their second highest run-getter, was part of the standbys.

Virat Singh and Sharandeep Singh, Jharkhand's top two run-scorers in the previous Ranji Trophy, were part of the squad, as well as left-arm spinner Manishi, who took 22 wickets in seven matches.

The six-team Duleep Trophy will be played in the zonal format with zonal selectors - and not national selectors

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- picking the squads. The East Zone squad was selected by Bengal's Alokendu Lahiri, Odisha's Abakash Khatua, Bihar's Sunil Kumar Singh, Jharkhand's Manish Wardhan, Assam's Sumit Ranjan Das and Tripura's Upananda Debbarma, with Jharkhand State Cricket Association secretary Saurabh Tiwary convening the meeting.

The Duleep Trophy was last played in the zonal format in 2023-24, when South Zone won the tournament. East Zone will play the domestic season's opening game against North Zone from August 28 at the Centre of Excellence in Bengaluru.

Suspected shoulder dislocation rules Woakes out of the Oval Test

■ **United News of India**

OVAL: Chris Woakes has been ruled out of "any further participation" in England's ongoing fifth Test against India at The Oval after suffering a suspected shoulder dislocation while fielding on Thursday's opening day.

Woakes chased a ball from mid-off towards the boundary near the end of the day, and his left hand appeared to slip on the damp outfield as he attempted to steady himself. He landed awkwardly on his left shoulder and stayed down clutching it. He received medical attention from Ben Davies, the England physio, before using his jumper as a makeshift sling on his way to the dressing room.

He went for scans overnight after receiving treatment in the dressing room on Thursday evening. On Friday morning, an ECB statement con-



firmed that he wouldn't be taking part in the Test at all - even as a batter - and "will continue to be monitored" by the medical staff during the game and "a further assessment will be conducted

at the conclusion of the series". ESPNcricinfo understands that Woakes' injury is severe enough that he is considered a doubt for this winter's Ashes series, which starts on November 21 in

Perth. At 36, he is England's most experienced seamer and while his bowling average in Australia is above 50, he was expected to be part of their touring squad. He is considered highly un-

likely to play again this summer.

"It's a big shame, last game of the series, and when anyone gets injured, it's a shame," Gus Atkinson said after the first day's play. "I'm hoping it's not too bad, and whatever it is, he'll get full support from everyone."

Woakes bowled 14 overs on the first day, taking 1 for 46, and his injury will leave England a bowler short for the rest of the match. He has taken 11 wickets at 52.18 in the series, bowling 181 overs, and is one of only two seamers - along with India's Mohammed Siraj - to have featured in all five Tests.

Atkinson, who is playing his first Test of the series after recovering from a hamstring strain, said that he was ready to "push the limits" in Woakes' absence. "Definitely, I feel fresh, I feel good," he said. "I know I've only got this one game to play so I can push the limits a bit."

DC Kulgam Felicitates Champions of Divisional Level Kabaddi Competition

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, AUGUST 01: Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Aamir Shafi Khan (IAS) today felicitated the champion team of the Divisional Level Kabaddi Competition held recently at Pulwama.

The tournament witnessed participation from 10 districts across the Kashmir Division.

Team Kulgam emerged victorious, lifting the championship title. Upon their return, the Deputy Commissioner congratulated and felicitated all the players of the winning team, appreciating their remarkable performance and dedication.

He also appreciated the team Coach Sameer Sheikh, and Team Manager, Bashir Ahmad Palla, for their leadership and guidance.

In addition to the champions, the another champion in U/17 Girls base ball Team of Kulgam and their Coach Asif Ah was also felicitated for their outstanding achievement in the same divisional-level competition which was held days back at Gandarbal.

While concluding the felicitation ceremony, the Deputy Commissioner commended the efforts of the District Youth Services and Sports Department, Kulgam, for



nurturing young sporting talent and promoting physical fitness

among the youth of the district. Present on the occasion were

ADC Kulgam Viqar Ahmed Giri (JKAS) and other officers.

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