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I Had Pledged to Avenge SINDOOR of Our Daughters : PM Modi

Says Pain of Pahalgam Terror Attack Victim Families Weighed Heavily His Heart

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Stating that pain of the families of Pahalgam terror attack victims, especially the daughters and children, weighed heavily on his heart, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said that whosoever attacks Indian citizens will not be spared, even if he hides beneath the earth.

PM Modi, while addressing a public gathering in Varanasi, referred to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, which left 26



those families. I had taken a pledge to avenge the Sindoore of our daughters," PM Modi said, dedicating the success of 'Operation Sindoore' to Lord Mahadev.

Notably, though the event primarily marked the inauguration of development projects worth Rs: 2,200 crore and the release of Rs: 20,500 crore as the 20th installment of PM-KISAN, the Prime Minister's sharp remarks on Kashmir and the opposition's reaction created a buzz.

The PM accused the opposition of **TURN ON PAGE 2**

Books Open The Window to The World and Offer New Ideas, Fresh Perspectives: LG Sinha

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today attended the 'Chinar Book Festival' organised by National Book Trust of India at Srinagar.

The inaugural event was also graced by Union Education Minister, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan.

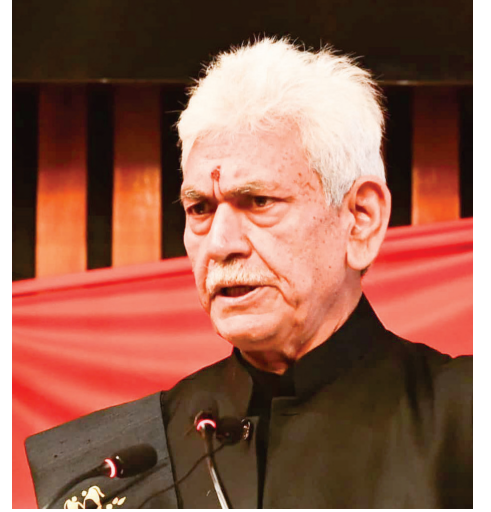
In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated the Union Ministry of Education and the National Book Trust for providing an opportunity to the readers to keep track of new ideas and perspectives and interact with eminent writers and scholars from across the country.

"The books open the window to the world. Books offer new ideas and fresh perspectives that change the way we perceive things and promote critical thinking. Chinar Book Festival will connect the new generation to our precious literary heritage and inspire them to preserve and promote our traditional wisdom left behind by our ancestors," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the writers to think about rewriting the history to correct the facts, which were distorted in the past.

"New generation must be made aware that our civilization was economically prosperous and it was also the global centre of literature, science and spirituality.

Ancient India was the engine of world civilization and culture. We gave the gift of



science, mathematics, medicines to the world and we should be proud of our cultural, literary, scientific and spiritual heritage.

The roots of our knowledge and science have always been immense. We need to liberate ourselves from the colonial mindset and the new generation must be told that our heritage has been leading in the world and the gift of science that we have given to the entire humanity is incomparable," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India is

TURN ON PAGE 2

'Operation Akhal': 2 terrorists killed in Kulgam encounter

■ HT News Desk / KNO

KULGAM, AUG 02: Two terrorists were killed in an encounter with security forces in the Akhal forest belt of Devsara area in South Kashmir's Kulgam district on Saturday. The operation was temporarily halted due to low visibility and will resume with the first light on Sunday, officials told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

A senior police officer told KNO that on a tip-off about the presence of terrorists in the forest area, a joint team of the Army, CRPF, and Jammu and Kashmir Police launched a cordon and search operation on Friday evening. "The terrorists present in the area opened fire which was retaliated to, triggering an encounter," he said. "In the gunfight two terrorists have been neutralised and the operation is on."

Sources said that both slain terrorists are reportedly locals who had joined terrorist ranks two years ago. They were categorized as 'C' category terrorists.

Sources said that two more terrorists are believed to be trapped in the area. **TURN ON PAGE 2**

NBT to Boost Library Movement in J&K: Edu Minister

■ HT News Desk / KNO

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan Saturday said that National Book Trust (NBT) will soon implement the schemes of the central government in order to enhance the library movement in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to the reporters here at SKICC, the Union Minister as per news agency—Kashmir News Agency (KNO) said, "In order to enhance the library

movement in Jammu and Kashmir, NBT will implement the schemes of the government."

He said, "This is the second edition of Chinar Book Festival in Kashmir. There is a festive atmosphere among the students and other participants of the event."

Pradhan further said, "Jammu and Kashmir has an important history for being a hub of many original ideas."

"Some new developments are **TURN ON PAGE 2**

Srinagar Flyover Projects Still in Limbo Despite Promises

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Despite recent government announcements of a massive infrastructure push — including new flyovers and construction projects worth nearly Rs 10,000 crore — most of the promised developments in Srinagar remain limited to papers, fuelling public frustration amid worsening traffic congestion.

One of the center piece projects is the **TURN ON PAGE 2**

Amarnath Yatra Concludes Ahead of Time Due to Inclement Weather

Over 4.14 Lakh Perform Darshan, As Pilgrimage Was Cut Short From 38 to 28 Days Due to Track Damage

■ HT News Network

PAHALGAM, AUG 02: The authorities have prematurely concluded the Shri Amarnath Yatra 2025, cutting short its duration by a week, due to severe weather conditions and damage to the pilgrimage tracks caused by heavy rains along the Jammu and Kashmir hilly terrain.

Despite the adverse weather, as many as

6,497 pilgrims performed Darshan at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas on August 2, officials said.

They said the yatis included 4,586 males, 1,299 females, 62 children, 51 sadhus, and 5 sadhvis, along with 494 personnel from security forces who also availed the Darshan. With this, the total number of pilgrims who have performed Darshan during the Yatra has now crossed 4,14,311.

Originally scheduled to run from July 3 to August 9, the pilgrimage was set to coincide with Raksha Bandhan. However, this year, the Yatra lasted only 28 days instead of the usual 38.

Officials said that heavy rainfall has severely affected both the Baltal and Pahalgam routes used by pilgrims.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir **TURN ON PAGE 2**



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Reasi Landslide: JK mourns tragic loss of SDM Ramnagar, his son

LG, CM, other grieved; Dy CM, BJP leaders, officials participate in last rites

■ HT News Desk / KNO

JAMMU, AUG 02: The Jammu and Kashmir administration, along with the locals, is in deep mourning following the tragic loss of Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ramnagar, Rajinder Singh Rana, and his 10-year-old son, Arav, in a devastating landslide incident at Dharmari area of Reasi district on August 01 evening.

As per the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO), the incident occurred when a massive boulder struck their vehicle in the Salukh Ikhter Nallah area while they were travelling from Dharmari

to their native village, Pattian.

The cremation of the deceased was today performed at their native village, Pattian, Reasi amidst heartfelt tributes from the community and administration, where many political and social members of society expressed their grief.

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary, former BJP President Ravinder Raina, BJP MLA Reasi-Kuldeep Dubey among many prominent leaders of political parties and social life were present during the cremation.

Many officers and citizens for Ramnagar, where the officer was presently serving also participated

in his last rites.

The landslide, triggered by recent heavy rains, claimed the lives of Rajinder Singh Rana, a 2011-batch Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) officer, and his young son on the spot.

Three others, including Rana's wife, daughter and a relative, sustained injuries and are receiving medical treatment at Government Medical College and Hospital. The administration has assured the best possible care for the injured and full support to the bereaved family.

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha expressed profound grief. **TURN ON PAGE 2**

New India Can Crush Pahalgam Culprits: CM Yogi

■ HT News Desk / UNI

VARANASI/LUCKNOW, AUG 2: Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath said that through Operation Sindoore, the world has witnessed India's strength and power. New India has the strength to 'bury' Pahalgam's criminals and eliminate enemies even inside their own territory, he added.

The CM was addressing the inauguration/foundation stone laying ceremony held at Gram Sabha-Banauli (Kalika Dham), Sevapuri, in the presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He welcomed and extended greetings to the Prime Minister in Kashmir—his parliamentary constituency—during the auspicious month of Shravan, shortly after the successful completion of Operation Sindoore, at the sacred abode of Lord Shiva.

TURN ON PAGE 2

CS reviews water transport, lake conservation measures for Srinagar

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 2: In a significant push towards sustainable urban transport and ecological conservation, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo today chaired a meeting to review the progress on launching of Inland Water Transport (IWT) in Srinagar besides assessing ongoing lake conservation efforts.

The meeting was attended by Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD; Secretary, Transport; Commissioner, SMC; Vice Chairman, LCMA; representatives from the Inland Waterways Authority of India (Iwai) and other stakeholders.



The meeting began with an in-depth review of steps taken to operationalize the water transport on the iconic River Jhelum of the valley. The officials from Iwai and concerned departments highlighted that significant progress has been made, with crucial modalities already finalized.

Commissioner Secretary, H&UDD, Mandeep Kaur, informed that an MoU was signed between Iwai and the J&K Government on March 6, 2025, paving the way for systematic development of water transport facilities. She revealed that the Iwai's Srinagar office **TURN ON PAGE 2**

CS reviews development projects, flagship gov schemes at Shopian

■ HT News Desk

SHOPIAN, AUG 02: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a review meeting of officers of district administration Shopian during his visit to the district.

He had a comprehensive review of the ongoing development projects and flagship government schemes being implemented in the district. **TURN ON PAGE 2**

AN APPEAL TO MAKE A COLLECTIVE EFFORT

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CONTINUE FROM FRONT PAGE.....

I Had Pledged.....

sympathizing with terrorists, saying some leaders even questioned why terrorists involved in the Pahalgam attack were eliminated swiftly.

"Should the country wait before responding to terror? The same people once gave clean chits to bomb blast accused and withdrew cases during their tenure," he added.

On Operation Sindoor, he said, "India exhibited to the world the capability of our home-grown defense technology, including air defense systems and BrahMos missiles."

He also said that BrahMos production would soon begin in Uttar Pradesh, further strengthening India's self-reliance in defense.

Books Open.....

witnessing economic, cultural and scientific renaissance, simultaneously. He said, in order to strengthen the nation's spiritual, social, and emotional unity, the unique contributions of writers and thinkers are essential.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, emphasised on reviving India's ancient knowledge system and make it a part of mainstream education.

He called upon the National Book Trust to publish and translate the Nilamat Purana, Rajatarangini, and Kathasaritsagara into various Indian languages.

These editions in regional language should also be prominently featured at international book festivals to introduce the world to J&K's unique literary heritage, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor further asked the National Book Trust to actively promote famous literature from Kashmiri, Pahari, Gojri, Dogri, Urdu, and Punjabi at book festivals and ensure their translation into various languages to reach a wider audience.

The event also witnessed the inauguration of 'Saradaksarani' - First National Exhibition of Sharada Alphabets, and Kashmiri Translation of book titled 'Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh-through the ages'. The winners of Rashtriya e-Pustakalaya Amrit Kaal Story Writing Competition were also announced.

Prof. Milind Sudhakar Marathe, Chairman, National Book Trust; Shri Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Prof. Raghuvendra Tanwar, Chairman Indian Council of Historical Research (ICHR); Dr Amit Wanchoo, Chief Convener, Chinar Book Festival; Shri Yuvaraj Malik, Director, National Book Trust; Vice heads of various educational institutions, senior officials, eminent literary personalities, book lovers, youth and children in large number were present.

NBT to Boost.....

being made by the National Book Trust (NBT) and NCP. As we inaugurated the second edition of Chinar Book Festival, in the near future we work on giving it a permanent form," he said.

Addressing the gathering during the inauguration of the second edition of the Chinar Book Festival at SKICC, Srinagar, the Union Minister for Education, Dharmendra Pradhan further said that Jammu and Kashmir has always been a significant hub of knowledge and original ideas.

Pradhan further said students are participating in the festival with great enthusiasm.

"Jammu and Kashmir is a very significant ancient laboratory of our country where many original ideas have emerged," he said.

He highlighted the importance of books in preserving and promoting culture and civilisation. "Books are a great medium to advance an entire culture and civilization. The National Book Trust and our department will together undertake many new experiments," he added.

The Union Minister also stated that efforts will be made to give the festival a permanent form in the coming days.

Notably, the event at SKICC features a variety of book stalls, interactive sessions and literary talks to encourage reading among youth and celebrate the region's literary legacy—(KNO)

'Operation.....

clearer picture regarding their identity and status of the operation will emerge by Sunday," the sources said.

A soldier sustained injuries during the exchange of fire and has been shifted to a medical facility where his condition is said to be stable.

Army's Chinar Corps posted on X: "Intermittent and intense firefight continued through the day. Alert troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the noose while maintaining contact. Two terrorists have been neutralised so far. Operation Akhal continues."

Officials said that the thick forest cover and rugged terrain have posed challenges, but the area remains under tight security surveillance. Additional reinforcements have been deployed to seal all possible escape routes.

Drone surveillance, night vision equipment, and thermal imaging devices are being used to track movements in the dense foliage.

The operation has been paused for the

night due to poor visibility, in line with security protocols, and will resume at dawn.

J&K Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat visited the encounter site and reviewed the ongoing counter-terror operation.

Pertinently, 'Operation Akhal' is the third major anti-terror operation in Jammu and Kashmir within the past week. On Wednesday, two terrorists were killed during "Operation Shivshakti" in Poonch district near the Line of Control following an infiltration attempt. Earlier, on July 28, three Pakistani terrorists were eliminated during "Operation Mahadev" in the Lidwas forest near Harwan on the outskirts of Srinagar. Those terrorists were linked to the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack—(KNO)

Srinagar Flyover.....

proposed flyover from Jehangir Chowk to Pantha Chowk, projected as a game changer for the city's notorious traffic jams. "The Jehangir Chowk-Pantha Chowk flyover is part of our broader initiative to decongest Srinagar and modernize urban mobility," a senior official from the Jammu and Kashmir Public Works Department told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said that the department has secured significant funding and is committed to seeing these projects through.

However, Srinagar residents say they have been hearing similar promises for years. "It's not the first time we've heard about new flyovers or intersection expansions. We welcome the announcements, but unless work actually starts, these remain empty promises," said Farooq Ahmad, a local shopkeeper near Qamarwari.

According to official sources, the government's plans also include major flyovers from Dalgate to Jehangir Chowk and at other bottlenecks. "Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) and other necessary documentation have already been prepared for several of these projects," said a senior PWD engineer.

"But, due to a variety of administrative and logistical challenges, physical work has not yet commenced on many sites," he added.

The persistent delays are particularly troubling for commuters and business owners in traffic prone localities including Jehangir Chowk, Batmaloo, Qamarwari, Rambagh, Baghat, Natipora, and Umarabad. "Every day, we get stuck in traffic for up to an hour just to travel a few kilometers. It's affecting our livelihoods," said Mushtaq Lone, a businessman from Natipora.

Official statistics highlight the scale of the problem: approximately four lakh vehicles ply on Srinagar roads each day. With traffic volumes continuing to rise and no significant new infrastructure yet in place, congestion is now a daily ordeal for the city's residents. "We understand the public's concerns and are working to expedite project clearances. The government remains committed to improving urban infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir," said a senior PWD Official—(KNO)

Amarath Yatra.....

Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Reporters here said that due to recent heavy rains and the ongoing track maintenance required along both routes, the yatra has been suspended.

"With the deployment of machinery and personnel on the tracks from tomorrow, resumption is not feasible. The Yatra remains suspended from August 3 onwards on both routes," the Div Com said.

This year, over 410,000 pilgrims visited the sacred shrine, compared to more than 510,000 last year.

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

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha hailed the number of Amarnath pilgrims crossing the 4 lakh mark as a "miracle".

He said the record participation of devotees from across the country and the world in the annual Amarnath Yatra stands as a testament to India's unity and its unwavering resolve to overcome challenges.

The LG thanked the devotees for showing "immense faith" and "strengthening our priceless spiritual heritage".

The cave shrine situated at 3,888 metres above sea level in the Kashmir Himalayas houses an ice stalagmite structure that waxes and waxes with the phases of the moon.

Devotees believe that the ice stalagmite structure symbolises the mythical powers of Lord Shiva.

While the Shri Amarnath Yatra concludes, devotees continue to arrive for the Baba Budha Amarnath Yatra in Poonch.

Swami Budha Amarnath Mandir is situated at the confluence of two flowing streams - Nallah Gagri and Pulsta Nadi - located between the main belt of the Pir Panchal Range at Rajpura Mandi, approximately 25 km northeast of Poonch city. The temple features four doors and houses a

natural Shivlinga inside.

Every year, thousands of devotees from across the country visit Baba Budha Amarnath Mandir during the annual yatra, which takes place before Raksha Bandhan. A grand festival known as the Budha Amarnath Mela is also held at the temple, attracting large crowds and religious fervor.

Reasi Landslide.....

"Extremely saddened by the landslide incident in Dharmari, Reasi, in which we have lost an outstanding officer, Sh Rajinder Singh, JKAS 2011, SDM Ramnagar, and his son. The tragedy is heart-wrenching. My deepest condolences to the bereaved family, and I pray that the injured recover quickly."

He further directed senior officials to ensure the best medical care for the injured and to provide all necessary assistance to the family.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah conveyed his sorrow. In a post on X, the Office of the Chief Minister wrote, "Chief Minister has expressed profound grief over the tragic death of SDM Ramnagar, Rajinder Singh Rana, and his son in a landslide at Thuroo, Reasi. Terming it an irreparable loss, the Chief Minister offered his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and prayed for peace for the departed souls. He also assured the best medical treatment to the injured and full support to the bereaved family."

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo mourned the untimely demise, describing Rajinder Singh as a sincere and dedicated officer.

In his condolence message, he said, "Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, expressed his profound grief and sorrow over the untimely demise of Shri Rajinder Singh, JKAS, Sub-Divisional Magistrate (SDM) Ramnagar, who lost his life in a tragic road accident in Reasi earlier this evening when he was travelling with his family.

Rajinder Singh was a sincere and dedicated officer whose unwavering commitment to public service and integrity in duty earned him respect of his colleagues and the community alike.

Adding to the sorrow, the Chief Secretary also expressed deep anguish over the loss of Singh's young son, who also lost his life in the unfortunate accident.

He made out that his heartfelt condolences go out to the bereaved family in this hour of immense grief. The whole administration stands in solidarity with them and prays for strength and courage to endure this unimaginable loss.

Former Chief Minister Mehbooba Mufti also expressed her shock and conveyed solidarity to the survivors.

Congress Party also expressed condolences to the grieving family and urged the government to provide best treatment to the injured family members of the deceased officer.

The officers of the 2011 JKAS batch also paid tribute to their colleague, saying, "We, the officers of the 2011 KAS batch, are deeply shocked and saddened by the untimely and tragic demise of our esteemed colleague, Rajinder Singh, SDM Ramnagar. His passing has left an irreplaceable void in our fraternity and the administrative family of Jammu and Kashmir. Rajinder Singh was a dedicated, compassionate, and diligent officer whose commitment to public service was exemplary."

Meanwhile, the administration has initiated an investigation into the circumstances of the landslide, noting that the area is prone to such incidents during the monsoon season—(KNO)

New India Can.....

The CM said, "PM Modi is the most popular leader in the world. In the past 11 years, over 50 countries have honoured him with their highest civilian awards. The world respects his vision for public welfare and global good. In July, countries like Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Namibia, and Brazil bestowed on PM Modi their top civilian honours, making all 140 crore Indians proud."

CM Yogi said it's a matter of great pride that the Prime Minister represents the eternal city of Kashi in Parliament. He noted that PM Modi sees Kashi as the living embodiment of Sanatan values, radiating warmth across the world. In the past 11 years, Kashi has evolved into a unique fusion of tradition and modernity, drawing global attention. Remarkably, this is the first time a Prime Minister has visited his constituency 51 times.

The CM shared that projects worth 51,000 crore have been approved for Varanasi over the years. Of these, projects worth 34,000 crore have already been inaugurated by the Prime Minister, giving Kashi a new identity through a holistic development approach. Projects worth over 16,000 crore are currently in various stages of progress. This time too, the Prime Minister is gifting his Kashi development projects worth 2,200 crore, focused on connectivity, water supply, education, healthcare, sports infrastructure, and cultural revival.

CM Yogi said that Divyangjans are also playing a major role in building a strong and capable India. He noted that the word

Divyang was given by Prime Minister Modi, and this thoughtful term has brought new hope and encouragement into their lives, giving them opportunities to grow in every field. On this occasion, thousands of Divyang citizens are also being given assistive devices through a special distribution program led by the Prime Minister.

Reflecting on the past, CM Yogi said that 11 years ago, many farmers were abandoning agriculture, some even driven to suicide, amid deep disillusionment. "But in the last 11 years, initiatives like the Soil Health Card, PM Crop Insurance, PM Irrigation Scheme, and enhanced seed-to-market support have built a robust ecosystem. Today, millions of farmers in Uttar Pradesh are actively contributing to the vision of a self-reliant, developed India," he said.

To mark this milestone, the Prime Minister chose Kashi to extend the benefits of these schemes to nearly 10 crore farmers nationwide. In Uttar Pradesh, 2.3 crore farmers are receiving the 20th installment of PM-KISAN, including over 2.21 lakh families in Kashi alone, the CM stated.

The event was attended by Deputy Chief Ministers Keshav Prasad Maurya and Brajesh Pathak, BJP State President Chaudhary Bhupendra Singh, and state ministers Suryapratap Shahi, Suresh Khanna, Anil Rajbhar, Ravindra Jaiswal, and Dayashankar Mishra 'Dayalu'.

CS reviews.....

is now fully functional and working closely with the local authorities to fast-track its implementation.

She further stated that work has been awarded for seven floating concrete jetties on the Jhelum River, with an expected completion timeline of five months from the award date of July 15, 2025. Fairway maintenance is already underway with one dredger each deployed upstream and downstream of Wular Lake, she added.

Moreover, it was divulged that a study on urban water transportation on River Jhelum is being conducted by Kochi Water Metro Limited. The stretch from Sangam to Shadipora Bridge has also been completed.

The Department of Transport has shared a Standard Request for Proposals (RFP) to engage an operator for hybrid electric cruise/boat services and is expected to be completed by December 2025.

With respect to the Dal and Nigeen Lake Conservation, the Lake Conservation and Management Authority (LCMA) presented a detailed overview of the measures taken for conservation, management and development of Dal and Nigeen Lakes.

VC, LCMA, Shahid Saleem, detailed out that demarcation of the lake boundary has been completed for the first time through a survey conducted by the Survey of India. He said that the drone surveys, repeated in February 2023, have helped in controlling the illegal constructions and encroachments. A Bathymetric/Hydrographic Survey was also carried out to enable scientific de-weeding and dredging without damaging the lake's ecosystem, he added.

As far as sewerage treatment is concerned, the meeting was apprised that five Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) are currently functional around the lakes. All existing STPs are being upgraded under AMRUT 2 to improve the quality of treated outflow. A new 30 MLD capacity STP is being constructed at Gupt Ganga to cater to the leftover areas on the north-eastern periphery of the lake. Additionally, 100 land-based bio-digesters have been installed in the Teibal area for restricted the untreated waste water to go into the lake.

On account of other measures, it was given out that de-weeding, lily extraction, and general cleaning are being performed both mechanically and manually. In the last two years, 1/3rd of the lake has been rejuvenated, and the open water expanse has increased to more than 20.3 sq. km. A bio-methanation and weed disposal plant with a capacity to process 70,000 MT of weed annually is now operational producing a manure named 'APNA KHAD'.

While delineating the future initiatives it was revealed that an "Integrated Management Plan for Conservation of Dal-Nigeen Lake Ecosystem," with an estimated cost of Rs. 212.38 crore, has been recommended for funding under the Prime Minister's Development Package (PMDP). This project includes various activities such as catchment area management, dredging, sewerage works for hamlets inside the lake, and

other lake conservation and beautification works to be carried out in a time-bound manner.

Expanding the conservation lens, the meeting took note of initiatives underway for Khushalsar and Gilsar Lakes. Plans for their revival and beautification were discussed, with an emphasis on enhancing tourism potential while preserving their ecological sanctity.

Chief Secretary Dulloo lauded the coordinated efforts of various departments and called for timely execution of all planned initiatives. He underscored the need for sustainable solutions that combine eco-restoration, heritage preservation and modern urban mobility.

CS reviews.....

Deputy Commissioner, Shopian, Shishir Gupta, presented the overall profile of the district development parameters while the district officers presented their individual sectoral progress and achievements.

The Chief Secretary reviewed various important development projects under execution in the district under funding through UT Capex, district Capex and CSSs. He also assessed progress in respect of physical and financial achievements recorded in FY 2024-25 and current year 2025-26.

The meeting took stock of latest status and completion details of prominent development projects under execution in the district. These included Industrial Estate Trenz, Critical Care Block & District Integrated Public Health Lab at DH Shopian, Trenz- Shiekhpura bridge, GDC Zainapora, Polytechnic College, Indoor stadium, Transit accommodation, PRI accommodation, District Court Complex besides others.

Instructions were issued to the executing agencies to expedite the works under construction, ensuring their completion within stipulated timelines.

Similarly, instructions were issued to the officers to enhance performance under centrally sponsored schemes and UT sector schemes while conducting department wise and scheme wise analysis and appraisal. Major schemes including HADP, JJM, RDSS, SMAS, RKVY, Mission Yuva, Tribal Plan and other farmer welfare, employment and livelihood based, social welfare, skill, education, sports, child & women and health sector among others came up for detailed review.

The Chief Secretary stressed on putting SHGs on the next level, leveraging the full potential of entrepreneurship development schemes for socio-economic prosperity of the population. He asked for laying special focus on alleviation of unemployment among the youth by connecting SHGs, FPOs and cooperatives with enhanced credit linkages.

Highlighting the potential of government schemes in employment and entrepreneurship, the Chief Secretary urged officers to harness these opportunities while ensuring public accountability, transparency, and efficiency in their implementation.

While reviewing the health sector, Atal Dulloo asked for posting of at least one doctor in each PHC. He said no PHC should remain without a doctor and no H&WC and Sub centre should be without a mid level health provider. He emphasised supply of essential medicines and their availability along with diagnostic equipment in hospitals.

The Chief Secretary also asked for improving the academic outcomes in schools under HADP, PMAY, JJM, RDSS, smart metering, PMGSY, NABARD and audit of rural development assets.

The meeting was attended by the district, sectoral, subdivision and other tehsil and block level officers.

The CS met the local applicants and delegations and listened to their demands and grievances. He asked the concerned to take appropriate action for speedy redress of the same.

Earlier, Atal Dulloo inspected the departmental stalls and interacted with the staff and beneficiaries of different government schemes.

On the occasion, he also distributed sanction letters among the progressive entrepreneurs sponsored under Mission Yuva by JK Bank for establishment of enterprises.

Later, the Chief Secretary visited Tirath Raj Kapal Mochan Temple at Nagbal where he interacted with the locals and Temple management committee. He enquired about the arrangements for the upcoming Annual Hawan Shrawan Bah Festival.

The locals appreciated the district administration for extending necessary support in management of Festival arrangements.



Sakeena Itoo Leads Sampoonata Event in Manzgam

Week-Long Akanksha Haat Inaugurated to Boost Local Crafts

HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, AUG 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today presided over the Sampoonata Abhiyan Samaroh at Manzgam block here. The Sampoonata Abhiyan is being held in the backdrop of Aspirational Blocks Programme launched by Prime Minister, Narendra Modi in 2023 covering 500 Blocks across the country. Kulgam district has been awarded Gold Medal for achieving 100% saturation in 6 indicators of this programme.

The programme was organised by District Administration Kulgam under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Block Programme at Sports Stadium, Manzgam, marking a major milestone in the development journey of Aspirational Block Manzgam.

As part of Sampoonata Abhiyan, Minister Sakeena also inaugurated Akanksha Haat, a dedicated exhibition space promoting local crafts, SHG products/brands and farmers produce initiatives as part of the week-long celebration.



Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Minister emphasized that such programmes are vital in ensuring that the benefits of government

schemes reach the intended beneficiaries effectively.

Highlighting the availability of multiple employment-generation schemes especially for women and youth, the Minister urged for generating maximum awareness among the public so that maximum people take benefits of these

schemes. She also stressed on the importance of sustained awareness campaigns so that communities can fully access the support available to them.

Speaking on the occasion, the Deputy Commissioner commended the relentless efforts that transformed Manzgam into a top-performing block under NITI Aayog's performance indicators.

Earlier, the Minister along with Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Athar Amir UI Shafi Khan inspected departmental stalls set up to showcase various developmental schemes and welfare initiatives. In recognition of exemplary contributions, frontline workers, block and district-level officials and other stakeholders were felicitated by the Minister under the Sampoonata Abhiyan initiative. DDC Chairman Kulgam, DDC members, senior officers of district administration and large number of locals were also present on the occasion.

Sakeena Itoo Lays Foundation for 10 MVA Station in Manzgam

HT News Desk / DIPR

KULGAM, AUG 02: Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo laid the foundation stone of 10 MVA Receiving Station at Manzgam here today with an aim to strengthen the local power infrastructure.

Addressing a large gathering on the occasion, the Minister said that the project fulfils a long-pending demand of the people of the area and is expected to significantly augment the power supply scenario, ensuring improved electricity availability and reliability for the residents. She added that it is a milestone in the ongoing efforts of

the government to improve electricity distribution and meet the growing power demands of the region.

She also expressed her gratitude to Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah for sanctioning the project, terming it a major milestone in the area's development journey.

The Minister further highlighted on the Government's focused approach towards inclusive development, especially in rural and underserved areas. She stated that this new receiving station would benefit thousands of households, ensuring stable and reliable electricity supply, boosting local industry as well as supporting educational and health-care institutions of the area.

The Minister reaffirmed the Government's commitment towards ensuring that the benefits of every scheme reach the grassroots and deserved. "Our goal is not merely to announce projects, but to ensure they translate into tangible outcomes. This receiving station is a symbol of our Government's resolve to deliver," she stated.

Drug Peddler Arrested in Handwara, Brown Sugar Seized

HT News Desk

HANDWARA, AUG 2: As part of its ongoing crackdown against drug trafficking and substance abuse, Handwara Police foiled a drug smuggling attempt and arrested one individual along with narcotics. During routine naka checking, a specially deployed party from Police Station Handwara intercepted a Eco vehicle bearing registration number JK09-8927 near Bypass Road, close to Bus Stand Crossing Handwara. The vehicle had tried to change direction abruptly upon noticing the police presence, thereby attracting the attention of police party. The alert police party acted swiftly and successfully stopped the vehicle. Upon questioning the driver identified himself as Feroz Ahmad War Father's Name Ab. Majeed War R/o Kultoor, Langate.



A thorough personal search led to the recovery of Brown Sugar-like narcotic substance weighing approximately 9.64 grams from his possession. In this connection, a case FIR No. 174/2025 under relevant provisions of the NDPS Act (Sections 8/21) has been registered at Police Station Handwara. The accused has been taken into custody and further investigation is being carried out to identify the source of the contraband and the possible involvement of other individuals in the drug network. This successful operation underscores the commitment of Handwara Police towards eliminating the menace of drugs from the society. The public is once again requested to extend cooperation in this fight by sharing any credible information related to drug peddling or suspicious activities. The identity of informants shall be kept strictly confidential. Handwara Police remains committed to ensuring a drug-free and safe environment for all.

Higher Secondary School Bhalra Organises Har Ghar Tiranga Rally

Amir Iqbal Khan

BHADERWAH, AUG 2: As part of the nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, an awareness rally was organised on Friday at PM Shri Government Higher Secondary School Bhalra, Bhaderwah under the aegis of the Directorate of School Education Jammu (DSEJ) and 10 J&K Battalion NCC Bhaderwah.

The rally, which witnessed enthusiastic participation from NCC cadets, students and staff was aimed at fostering a sense of patriotism and national pride among the youth. Participants marched around the school premises carrying the national flag and



raising slogans celebrating unity and the spirit of independence. Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Koul, Asso-

ciate NCC Officer and Zonal Cultural & Counselling Incharge addressed the gathering and briefed them on the significance of the Har Ghar Tiranga and Ghar Ghar Tiranga initiatives. He underscored the importance of the national flag as a symbol of unity, sovereignty and collective identity.

The programme was meticulously coordinated by Dr. Koul under the guidance of Irshad Ahmed and the overall supervision of the Principal, Satish Kumar.

The event concluded with a pledge to uphold the values enshrined in the Constitution and to promote a culture of respect towards the national flag.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP MELA HELD AT KARIHAMA POLYTECHNIC

HT News Desk / DIPR

KUPWARA, AUG 2: Under the directives of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ms. Ayushi Sudan, the District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kupwara, in collaboration with the District Administration, successfully organized a Capacity-Building Entrepreneurship Workshop/Mela at Polytechnic College, Karihama. The event aimed to promote entrepreneurship, skill development, and self-employment opportunities among the district's youth.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Hundwara, Javaid Naseem Masoodi inaugurated the workshop in presence of SDM Lolab Dr. Mudassar; Principal Polytechnic College Kupwara; LDM; the DE&CC Cluster Head.

The program began with a welcome address by Employment Officer Ishfaq Ahmad. Ms. Nadiya Nazir, Career Counselling Officer, then delivered a presentation on Mission YUVA, detailing its objectives and benefits. The Principal



of Polytechnic College Kupwara followed with a comprehensive overview of collaborations between industries, skill-training institutions, and employment initiatives.

The Chief Guest inspected stalls set up by the Skill Development Department, highlighting their achievements in training and capacity-building. A dedicated Mission YUVA registration stall was also setup to provide on-the-spot assistance to aspiring entrepreneurs. In a key initiative, the Chief Guest

distributed 16 sanction letters under Mission YUVA, totaling ₹1.25 crore, to beneficiaries—marking a significant step toward supporting local entrepreneurs and boosting the district's economy.

The workshop saw enthusiastic participation from over 200 attendees, including students, aspiring entrepreneurs, and community members. The event concluded with an interactive session encouraging proactive steps toward self-reliance and business development.

Neglected Parnewa Mandi Turns Drug Hub, Locals Blame Authorities

Ubaid Mehdi

BUDGAM, AUG 2: Residents of Parnewa in Budgam district have expressed serious concern over the neglect of newly constructed structures at the local fruit mandi, alleging that the lack of oversight has turned the premises into a hub for illegal activities.

The buildings, equipped with electronic and hardware facilities, were constructed months ago by the Department of Horticulture. However, locals told news that no caretakers were appointed to maintain or secure the property after the completion of construction.

"Public property belongs to everyone, but who is responsible for its care? Is it the public or the



government?" asked one resident, highlighting the absence of accountability.

Another local said, "After the completion of these buildings, the department abandoned them. Drug addicts and smokers now use these premises for illegal activities. This is unfortunate and unacceptable."

The residents urged the Horticulture Department to immediately appoint caretakers and take necessary measures to safeguard the premises. "The department should have kept a caretaker here to protect these structures. We, too, failed to protect them, which is an unfortunate part of the story," another resident lamented.

Locals have appealed to authorities to take swift action before the situation worsens.

Kupwara Marks PM KISAN Diwas, 20th Instalment Released

HT News Des / DIPRK

KUPWARA, AUG 02: In a significant development Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi released the 20th instalment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) from Varanasi- Uttar Pradesh.

To mark the occasion, a district-level event was organized at the Meeting Hall of the D.C. Office, Kupwara. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Kupwara Gulazar Ahmad (KAS) presided over the function, which

witnessed enthusiastic participation from District Agriculture Officers, field staff, and a large gathering of farmers.

To ensure maximum participation of the farmers in the program through virtual mode, District Administration Kupwara today facilitated live streaming of the program at the Meeting Hall of D.C. office Kupwara. The attendees were charged with enthusiasm as they watched the Prime Minister's address. In addition, live streaming sessions were held at the Sub-Divisional and



Zonal levels across the district. These sessions involved active participation from Common Service Centres (CSCs), Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS), Agricultural Mandis, PM-Kisan

Samridhi Kendras (PMKSKs), Krishi Kalyan Groups (KKGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Panchayati Raj Institution (PRI) members, and a large number of farmer groups.

These events witnessed an overwhelming response from the community, with a large number of PM-KISAN beneficiaries keenly observing the proceedings. As a direct outcome of today's initiative, 75247 PM-KISAN beneficiaries in District kupwara get PM-KISAN benefit in 20th instalment.

This support is expected to significantly bolster their agricultural activities and enhance their livelihoods, showcasing the government's unwavering commitment to the welfare of the farming community.

HT EDITORIAL

Can Srinagar dream of systematic water transport at last

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Saturday chaired a meeting to review the progress on launching of Inland Water Transport (IWT) in Srinagar besides assessing ongoing lake conservation efforts. In the meeting an in-depth review of steps was taken to operationalize the water transport on the iconic river Jhelum of the valley. During the meeting the officials claimed that significant progress has been made with crucial modalities already finalized for the operation of water transport in Srinagar.

There is no harm in making claims about any initiative taken to provide relief to the common masses. More than one decade has passed ever since the Jammu & Kashmir government decided to start the water transport in Srinagar and other parts of Kashmir. In the initial phase it was decided in principle to start the water transport in Srinagar and this would be followed by extending the service to the other parts of Kashmir valley. Such was the enthusiasm that boarding and disembarking spots were designated along Jhelum banks in Srinagar district.

At that time a trial run was carried out from Polo View to Chattabal and some of the media persons were taken for a ride. During the ride the scribes were witness to the rich cultural heritage possessed by the areas falling along the banks of Jhelum and many of them were wonderstruck by the beauty and magnificence of the downtown areas of Srinagar city. The water transport was supposed to be a hit among the people and in fact rates were also fixed for the same.

The plan to start the water transport in Srinagar and other places of Kashmir hit a road-block and the same was grounded before taking off. Since the plan to start the water transport was envisaged before the 2014 devastating flood the devastation caused by the flood virtually put the plan on the back-burner. With the passage of time the successive governments did not pay attention to this issue and the plan to start the water transport could not materialize in the subsequent years.

In the latest case MoU was signed between Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and the union territory government on March 6, 2025. The same would pave the way for systematic development of water transport facilities. The IWAI's Srinagar office is now fully functional and working closely with the local authorities to fast-track its implementation. At the same time work has been awarded for seven floating concrete jetties on Jhelum.

15TH ANNIVERSARY HEADLINES TODAY Voice To The Voiceless

Chief Patron Of Lubaab Publications Group: Syed Sad Ud Din Bukhari (Saidi), Printer Publisher, Owner And Editor: Syed Jahangir Bukhari, Printed At: Lubaab Publications, Radio Colony Gund Hassibhat Lawaipora Srinagar -190017, Gen. Manager: Sheikh Mushtaq Ahmad Cell No - 9697071471, Editorial Section: 7006846797, Multimedia Section: 9419008414, Advertisement Section: 9697071471 RNI No: Jkeng/2011/39231

Nurturing Creativity and Culture: Urdu's Role in J&K's Education

"Takhleeqi salahiyat kabhi khatam nahi hoti, Jitna ap use karenge, utni hi zyada barhegi."

(Creative potential never ends; the more you use it, the more it grows.)



Dr. Mohiudin Zore Kashmiri

Education's primary goal is to cultivate students into well-rounded individuals and responsible citizens not just through academic excellence, but by equally emphasizing moral, ethical, cultural, and physical development. To in still these values, schools and colleges should organize quiz programs, seminars, debates, discussions, excursions, cultural events, as well as publish institutional magazines. These activities provide essential platforms for growth beyond academics.

Reading newspapers and journals boosts strong reading habits and extends student's intellectual horizons. In this spirit, I personally write on various topics aimed especially at students, publishing in newspapers, magazines, and books to support their healthy development.

Institutional magazines play a vital role in education—not merely as compiling student-or teacher-submitted articles, but as creative outlets where students explore and express their talents. In a world experiencing rapid cultural shifts, population growth, and an explosion of knowledge due to scientific and technological progress, nurturing creativity in education has become more essential than ever.

Educational pioneers like J. P. Guilford (1959), Carl Rogers (1959), E. Paul Torrance (1962), and Suzi Baron (1968) have shown that creativity supports mental health, educational achievement, vocational success, and is instru-



mental in literature, journalism, art, and scholarship. Encouraging creativity therefore plays a central role in personal development. Institutional magazines can help unleash students' creative impulses, with teachers providing supportive environments essential for nurturing such creativity. Contributions from students and teachers should be original and insightful of their own perspectives. Historically, during the late Dogra era in undivided Jammu & Kashmir, educational reformers such as Khaja Ghulam Sydeen educated in London and the grandson of Urdu writer Maulana Altaf Husain Hali introduced magazines at educational institutions like Sri Pratap College

and Amar Singh College. Their memorable Urdu publications helped shift the region's educational language landscape. With Sanskrit and Persian declining, Urdu became the lingua franca, the medium of instruction, and the primary cultural and intellectual reference through media, literature, and communication well into the late 20th century.

While local languages remain vital at home, Urdu has become the chosen medium for expressing new ideas and knowledge. Some argue for mother-tongue instruction, but the evolving linguistic reality in Jammu & Kashmir shows that Urdu serves as the most effective medium for

creative and intellectual expression. Famous writers—such as Ghalib, Iqbal, Fayaz, and Manto—composed in Urdu (and sometimes Persian)—demonstrating its power and range.

Students should therefore not shy away from Urdu due to linguistic politics; rather, they should use it freely in print, electronic, and online platforms to advance literature and knowledge across the region.

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Seeking Success; Making Hereafter As Our Goal



Dr. Tasaduk Hussain Itoo

To begin with the name of Almighty Allah (SWT), we must always be thankful enough and owe due credit of our success to HIM only. The more we owe credit of our success to our Lord, the more we get closer to HIM and seek HIS pleasure. To realise a dream in our life – we must always give right direction to it. Ensuring right direction to a dream will bring success as well as make us able to fulfil the true purpose of our life – (seeking the pleasure of Almighty Allah). That right direction to a dream is possible only by imbibing and seeking true guidance, good character and values – by following the Word of Almighty Allah through Holy Qur'an and noble teachings of His beloved messenger – Prophet Muhammad (SAW).

Doing charity in this world for the sake of pleasure of Almighty Allah – is a much rewarding exercise. As Almighty Allah (SWT) says in Holy Qur'an -- the example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed [of grain] which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies [His reward] for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing.

We have to discover Allah's blessings through realising our inner being and get to know the real purpose of our life. Our journey in this world is just a test to do good deeds in order to achieve the final dream - that is beyond our sight (the world hereafter and its magnanimous reward, Jannat Ul Firdous). We are from Allah to this world - here we

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Doing charity in this world for the sake of pleasure of Almighty Allah – is a much rewarding exercise. As Almighty Allah (SWT) says in Holy Qur'an -- the example of those who spend their wealth in the way of Allah is like a seed (of grain) which grows seven spikes; in each spike is a hundred grains. And Allah multiplies (His reward) for whom He wills. And Allah is all-Encompassing and Knowing

have to work to please HIM (that is the real purpose of this life) and to HIM we shall return - and when we return to HIM, we should have pleased our Lord to such an extent so that HE should happily receive us and bless with that magnanimous reward of Jannat Ul Firdous (the final dream). May Almighty Allah bless us all...Aameen

Har Ek Maqam Se Aage Maqam Hai Tera; Hayat Zouq-e- Safar Kay Sewa Kuch Aur Nahi (Allama Iqbal).

Almighty Allah (SWT) says in Qur'an in Surah Baqarah:

"Be fearful of a day when you shall return to Allah and you will receive your reward fully for what you have done and you won't be wronged (2:281)"

Almighty Allah (SWT) through His bountiful blessings and mercy is always encouraging us to

prepare for Akhirah through practicing religious obligations i.e. Salah, sadaqa, siyam, recitation of Qur'an, and through doing good deeds and by helping those in desperate need or who are struggling in their lives.

Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) said, "Whomsoever is fearful, he will start his journey early, and whoever started his journey early, he will reach his destination safely. Verily the merchandise of Allah is expensive, verily the product of Allah is Paradise. (Tirmidhi)"

Prophet Muhammad (SAW) in another hadith said, "Everyone is taking a journey, on a daily basis. He is either one of two things – he is taking a journey to free himself of the shackles of the Duniya, the whims and desires and he will please Allah Almighty and then he will be safe, or he might lead his soul to its ruin. (Muslim)"

Anas bin Malik narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said: "Whoever makes the Hereafter his goal, Allah makes his heart rich, and organizes his affairs, and the world inevitably comes to him. And whoever makes this world his goal, Allah puts his poverty right before his eyes, and disorganizes his affairs, and the world does not come to him, except what has been decreed for him"

Abu Huraira narrated that the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) said, "When the human being dies, his deeds come to an end except for three: ongoing charity, beneficial knowledge, or a righteous child who prays for him."

Therefore, depending on the seeds we plant in this world and the effort we put in, we could see the fruits in the Akhirah. If we never planted the seeds we can't expect the fruits. Let us seek for and make "Akhirah" as our goal by doing good deeds, giving charity, doing works of enlightening people with beneficial knowledge and raising righteous children -- because it is these things which will benefit us once we leave this world and enter "Akhirah".

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The Power of Repetition and the Potential of the Human Mind

Repetition of any practice leads to successive goals



■ Sahil Manzoor

The human mind is truly incredible, endowed with immense potential to learn, grow, and earn recognition. It has the power to bring about revolutionary change in a positive way. Yet, it is also true that the mind forgets, becomes exhausted, and cannot maintain focus for long periods. A truly smart and intelligent person is one who learns continuously while keeping their mind calm and composed.

This universe is filled with mysteries, sorrows, entertainment, and brilliant minds. Perhaps that is why, despite all our achievements, we still feel as though we've only scratched the surface—because the universe has no end point, no final destination where our search or curiosity can rest. Nature has gifted human beings with great intelligence. We are the most advanced creation on



Earth. Behind every discovery, invention, or innovation stands a human mind. From giant spaceships to aeroplanes and stunning bridges that span vast water bodies, to groundbreaking medical advancements—from complex surgeries to the treatment of life-threatening

diseases—humans have reached remarkable milestones.

Still, it is unfortunate that we continue to struggle with deadly diseases like AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome), caused by unsafe sexual contact, and cancer—so feared that many

people now refer to it simply as "CA". This disease remains one of the most lethal and dreaded health challenges, with the full potential to take lives. Despite tremendous progress, medical science is still striving to completely conquer such diseases. But with contin-

ued effort, we may eventually gain full control over them.

According to scientific studies, Earth was formed around 4.54 billion years ago. That means crores of years have passed. Can we even imagine what the world looked like 3000 years ago? How did people live? What was their lifestyle? How did they treat illnesses or meet their daily needs? While historians offer clues, we cannot be completely sure. Fortunately, every day brings new innovations and discoveries—both big and small. It is rightly said: "Necessity is the mother of invention." We continue to seek solutions from institutions, experts, and agencies.

I am writing this article to share a reflection I had today while having lunch at home at 3 p.m. on November 30, 2023. I realized something important: by practicing again and again, we can learn anything more effectively. Professionals—whether teachers, doctors, engineers, scientists, or journalists—play vital roles in our daily lives. We are all creations of the Almighty. We are full of potential and capable of overcoming whatever challenges come our way.

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Maharaja Editor: When The Chaupal Closes And The Court Begins

Editors don't listen to the public, then who are newspapers for?



■ Dr. Satyawan Saurabh

When the watchdog of democracy—the editor—stops communicating with the people and becomes a courtier of the power, then journalism starts dying. Today, big editors are cut off from the common man, the voices of villages and towns are missing in newspapers. Propaganda has taken the place of dialogue. Agendas of power and capital are being run. Now is the time to bring editors back to the Chaupal—where every citizen's question is heard and accountability is decided. Otherwise, democracy will remain just a decorative spectacle.

India is a democratic republic. The very first words of the Constitution say, "We the people of India...". This means that every position, every institution, every law in this country has its roots in the people. But when the most important pillar of democracy—the media—and the most influential section in it—the editor—turns its back on the people, then it becomes necessary to raise questions.

Nowadays, many editors of big newspapers do not even talk to the common man. Forget about receiving calls, their style is as if talking to the public is against their dignity. Those whose job was to take the voice of the public to the corridors of power, have themselves become courtiers of the silence of power. In such a situation, it is important to ask what is the role of these 'Maharaja Editors' in our democracy? Journalism was once called the fourth pillar of democracy. But now this pillar seems to be standing on the roof of the corporate sector. The village farmer, the small shopkeeper, the daily wage labourer, the unemployed youth—their news now neither appears in prime time on TV nor in the columns of newspapers. Because they neither bring TRPs nor advertisements. Today's editor is not looking at the pulse of the public, but at the pulse of power and capital—for fear that the advertising might stop breathing.

Editors no longer communicate, they give orders. They themselves decide which news will be published, which issue will be shown and which will be suppressed. From Haryana to Bengal, from Madhya Pradesh to Maharashtra, thousands of protests take place on the streets, but not a single line of them is published in the big newspapers. Editors no longer think about what the public wants to know, they think about what to show to the government and industrialists.

What an irony it is that in a country where any citizen

can write a letter to the President, the Prime Minister communicates directly with the public through 'Mann Ki Baat', the editor of a newspaper considers even the email of a common man a waste of time? When the medium of communication itself starts doing 'selective hearing', then democracy starts becoming deaf.

When editors do not listen to the public, then for whom do they write? The answer is clear—for the government and capital. Now newspapers are no longer a medium of information, they have become tools of image management. Every day it is decided in advance which leaders' image is to be glorified, which industrialist is to be made a hero, and which public movements are to be ignored.

Now it is not journalism, it is propaganda. Some editors no longer seem to be journalists, but spokespersons of the ruling parties. Their language, their headlines, their analysis—everything reflects a particular 'inclination'. And this inclination is not of ideology, but of advertising and reach. There was a saying—"Don't scare someone so much that he stops speaking the truth." But today editors themselves are afraid of the government and shy away from the public. Half of the country's population still lives in villages. But the problems of villages—electricity, water, roads, health, education, atrocities on Dalits, agricultural crisis—are as if non-existent for big newspapers. Unless an accident becomes a suicide or gang rape, it does not become news. Has the media decided that only the sentiments of the metropolises are 'news'?

One thing is very clear in this entire scenario—if journalism has to be kept alive, then editors will have to stop being 'Maharajas'. They will have to become servants of the public again. They will have to decorate Chaupals, not durbars. If editors do not listen to the common man, then who will? If the media itself becomes dumb, then democracy itself becomes deaf.

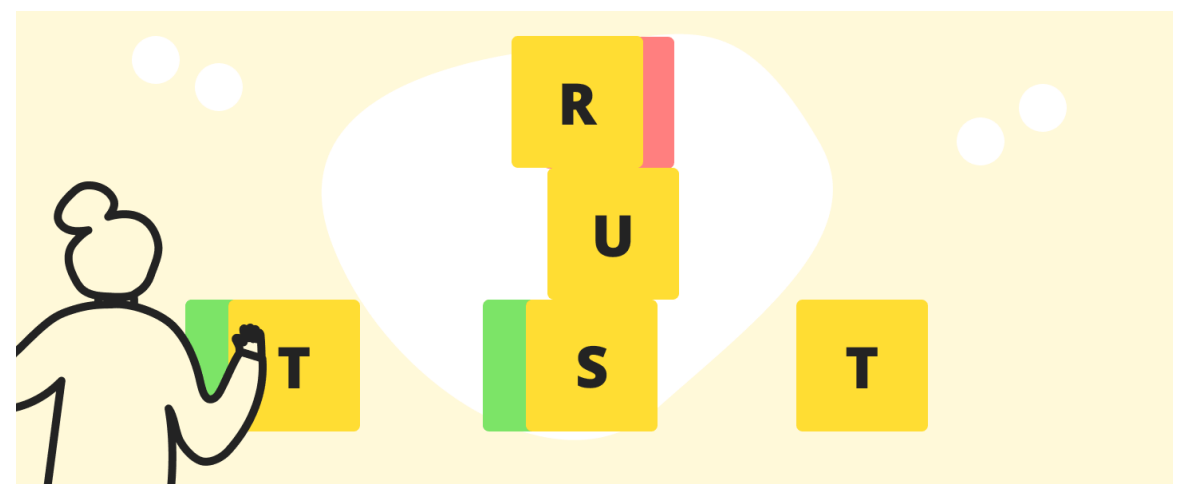
Now it is necessary to raise some basic questions—Should big media houses be brought under the ambit of RTI?

Should editors be held accountable?
Should editors also be forced to attend public hearings?
Should independent journalists and small newspapers be given priority in advertising?

Unless these questions are answered, the position of "editor" will remain a mini dictator within a democracy.

Who is an editor? A representative of the public. His pen draws ink from the tears of the public. If that pen is now kept in the pocket of the power, then understand that words have been sold, ideas have been mortgaged, and the public is no longer just a reader, but has become exploited.

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The Importance of Professional Ethics in Building Trust



■ Suresh Kumar

Professional ethics are a set of principles that guide the behavior of individuals in the workplace, ensuring integrity, responsibility, fairness, and respect. These ethics are fundamental in establishing and maintaining trust between professionals and their clients, colleagues, and the wider public. Here's why they are so important:

Establishing Credibility

When professionals consistently act ethically—being honest, transparent, and fair—they earn a reputation for reliability. This credibility assures clients and stakeholders that they can depend on the professional's judgment and actions.

Fostering Long-Term Relationships

Trust is the foundation of long-term professional relationships. Ethical behavior—such as honoring commitments, protecting confidentiality, and avoiding conflicts of interest—helps build and maintain this trust over time.

Promoting Accountability

Ethical professionals take responsibility for

their actions. This sense of accountability reassures others that mistakes will be acknowledged and corrected, not hidden or ignored.

Creating a Positive Work Environment

Ethical behavior encourages respect and fairness within teams. This fosters mutual trust among coworkers, improves collaboration, and leads to higher morale and productivity.

Enhancing Reputation and Public Confidence

Organizations and individuals known for strong ethical standards attract loyal customers, top talent, and public support. Trust built on ethical behavior translates into a stronger reputation and competitive advantage.

Reducing Risk and Legal Issues

Acting ethically helps professionals avoid unethical practices that could lead to legal action, financial loss, or damage to reputation. Trust is quickly lost when unethical behavior leads to scandals or violations.

In Summary:

Professional ethics are not just abstract ideals—they are practical tools that build trust, the currency of all successful professional relationships. By upholding ethical standards, professionals earn the confidence of others, strengthen their reputation, and contribute to a more just and reliable society.

The author is a Computer Faculty, Government Girls Senior Secondary School, MHR Malout

Alarming Rise in Dog Bite Cases in Srinagar Raises Public Health Concerns

■ **Mohammad Hanif Khan**

Srinagar is witnessing a disturbing rise in stray dog-related incidents, with the number of dog bite cases reaching a record high in the past year. According to the Anti-Rabies Clinic (ARC) at SMHS Hospital, 6,258 dog bite cases were reported between June 2024 and May 2025, translating to an average of over 17 cases per day.

This marks the highest annual figure ever recorded in the region, surpassing the previous year's tally of 8,800 cases. Public health experts and citizens alike have expressed growing concern over the apparent failure to control the stray dog population and mitigate associated risks.

Growing Stray Dog Population

The Srinagar Municipal Corporation (SMC) estimates that there are between 60,000 and 70,000 stray dogs roaming the streets of Srinagar. Independent sources, however, place the figure closer to 91,000, underscoring a severe overpopulation issue.

Despite efforts under the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, including the sterilisation of over 6,700 dogs in 2024, the numbers remain overwhelmingly high. The SMC has been criticized for delays in the expansion of sterilisation facilities and poor waste management, which provides a steady food source for strays.

High-Risk Groups: Children and Elderly

Medical professionals warn that children and elderly people are most at risk, with many victims requiring urgent post-exposure anti-rabies treatment. According to the ARC, the majority of the bites come from stray dogs, often in residential areas, near garbage dumps, or close to poultry waste sites.

Statewide Crisis

The dog menace is not confined to Srinagar alone. Across Jammu and Kashmir, a staggering 51,027 dog bites were reported in 2024, a sharp increase from 34,664 in 2023, indicating a 60% rise within just two years.

Experts and public representatives are now calling it a full-blown public health emergency, urging the administration to take urgent and coordinated action.

action.

Key Issues Behind the Surge

- **Ineffective Sterilisation Drive:** Despite the launch of new sterilisation centres, the pace of operations is too slow to control the growing dog population.
- **Open Waste and Garbage:** Poor waste disposal practices continue to attract large groups of stray dogs to public and residential areas.

- **Lack of Public Awareness:** Many residents are unaware of how to respond to dog attacks or how to seek timely anti-rabies treatment.

What Needs to Be Done?

1. **Accelerated Sterilisation and Vaccination:** More efficient, large-scale sterilisation drives need to be carried out to reduce the stray dog population.
2. **Better Waste Management:** The city must close illegal garbage dumps and enforce stricter waste disposal norms.
3. **Public Education Campaigns:**

Citizens, especially in high-risk areas, need to be educated about dog bite prevention and rabies awareness.

4. **Collaboration with NGOs and Veterinary Experts:** To implement humane and effective population control measures.

As Srinagar battles an escalating crisis of stray dog bites, it is evident that immediate intervention is required at all levels. Without urgent and coordinated action, both the safety and well-being of the public—especially vulnerable groups.



HT - HEALTH TIPS

AVOID EAT in Diabetes

Your food choices matter a great deal when you have diabetes. Processed sugar is not the only thing you should avoid. Some foods are much better than others. Nothing is completely off limits. The key to keeping your diabetes under control is moderation. You can even have mithai - very rarely and a very tiny portion.

Sugary foods like mithai, cake, candy, soft drinks	Sweet treats like apples, strawberries, pears, oranges
Refined starches like naan, white rice & bread, pizza	Complex carbs like brown rice, multi-grain roti & bread
Packaged snacks often contain trans-fats	Unsalted nuts like almonds, walnuts and cashews
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Fssai releases list of ayurvedic food formulations under 'Ayurveda Aahara'

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 2: The Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), in consultation with the Union Ayush Ministry has released a definitive list of ayurvedic food preparations under the category of "Ayurveda Aahara."

These regulations recognise foods based on recipes, ingredients, and processes from authoritative ayurvedic texts, and the new list brings unprecedented clarity and confidence to consumers and businesses alike, said an official statement issued today here.

The list draws directly from

classical ayurvedic texts listed in Schedule A, ensuring the authenticity and traditional basis of these food formulations. This initiative aims to assist Food Business Operators (FBOs) by providing a clear and credible reference for the manufacture of 'Ayurveda Aahara' products.

To facilitate future additions, FSSAI has established a process for FBOs to request inclusion of additional Category A products not yet listed. Such requests need supporting references from authoritative texts in Schedule A. All future updates or changes will be duly notified by the Food Authority.

Notably, 'Ayurveda Aahara' embodies the richness of India's timeless food culture, rooted in Ayurveda, one of the world's oldest and most holistic systems of health. These food products are crafted in harmony with nature, blending nutrition, balance, and tradition to promote overall well-being, added the statement.

Prataprao Jadhav, Minister of State in Ministry of Ayush urged citizens to incorporate Ayurveda Aahara into their daily lives to experience its long-term health benefits.

He emphasised that these time-tested dietary practices, rooted in India's traditional wis-

dom, not only nourish the body but also strengthen immunity, support digestion, and promote overall well-being. "In today's fast-paced lifestyle, adopting Ayurveda Aahara is a meaningful step toward preventive health-care and a balanced, sustainable way of living," added the Union Minister.

Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush, stated that the release of the definitive list of Ayurveda Aahara products marks a pivotal step in aligning India's traditional knowledge systems with modern regulatory frameworks. "This initiative not only empowers Food Business

Operators with much-needed clarity but also strengthens consumer trust in Ayurveda-based nutrition," noted the Secretary.

Prof. Sanjeev Sharma, Vice-Chancellor of National Institute of Ayurveda said that the development of the Ayush Aahara Compendium is a significant step in mainstreaming classical Ayurvedic food formulations under a regulated framework.

This effort, he added, will serve as a guiding document for food manufacturers and help the public access safe, authentic, and time-tested dietary solutions rooted in the principles of Ayurveda, as per the statement. UNI/AJRN

BJP-RSS Undermining Constitution, Institutions: Kharage

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 2: Congress president Mallikarjun Kharage today slammed the BJP and RSS, accusing them of endangering the Constitution by advancing an ideology that contradicts its core principles.

Speaking at the Congress Legal Department's Annual National Conclave at Vigyan Bhawan, Kharage accused the ruling party and the RSS of attempting to erode the autonomy of key democratic institutions such as the Election Commission and the Vice President's office.

"Institutions like the Election Commission and the Vice President's office are being stripped of their autonomy, thereby undermining our parliamentary traditions," Kharage said.

Calling the Constitution the "soul of our democracy," the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha said it guarantees justice, liberty,



equality, and fraternity to every Indian, but is now facing unprecedented challenges. "Those in power are talking about changing its fundamental character," he warned.

Kharage pointed to the intention expressed by several senior BJP and RSS leaders to remove the words "socialist" and "secular" from the Preamble. "Ironically, these very words exist in the BJP's own constitution. This hypocrisy exposes the true character and agenda of both the BJP and the RSS," he said.

He further claimed that had the BJP secured 400 seats in the 2024 Lok Sabha elections, it would have amended the Constitution. "Thanks to Rahul Gandhi's 'Save the Constitution' campaign and the collective efforts of the Congress party, the BJP could not even secure a simple majority," Kharage said.

Highlighting growing concerns over institutional independence, the Congress president accused the government of attempting to weaken the judiciary, manipulate the media through corporate control, and sideline the Chief Justice in the process of appointing the Chief Election Commissioner. "This is not democracy, it is dictatorship," he asserted.

Kharage also alleged widespread discrimination against minorities and Dalits in BJP-ruled states.

Referring to the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, he said there is an orchestrated attempt to remove large sections of the underprivileged from the voter list.

"In Bihar alone, nearly 65 lakh names—largely of the poor, Dalits, tribals, and minorities—have been deleted. And similar plans are underway across the country," he said.

The Congress, he added, is committed to defending the Constitution and will intensify its campaign to safeguard democracy and restore institutional integrity. UNI/RBE/RB/1828

NIA raids 18 locations in Karnataka in Suhas Shetty murder case

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 2: The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Saturday conducted extensive searches at 18 locations in various districts of Karnataka in the Suhas Shetty targeted killing case.

Bajrang Dal member Suhas Shetty was publicly assaulted and brutally murdered by accused Abdul Safwan and others using lethal weapons in Bajpe area of Mangaluru City in May this year. The killing was intended to spread terror in the society.

NIA, which took over the case from the local police in June, today searched the residences of the 12 arrested individuals and various suspects in the case.

The searches, carried out in the districts of Mangaluru, Chikkamagaluru and Hassan, led to the seizure of various digital devices, including 11 mobile phones, 13 SIM cards and 8 memory cards, along with other incriminating documents.

Investigation into the conspiracy behind the killing is continuing. UNI/ATK/GNK

Delhi Cong to stage 'Jan Aakrosh' rally against unfulfilled promises

■ **United News of India**

NEW DELHI, AUG 2: The Delhi Pradesh Congress will organise a 'Jan Aakrosh' (Public Anger) protest on August 4 against Rekha Gupta Government.

Delhi Congress said that the demonstration will focus on five key issues that have allegedly been neglected since the BJP came to power six months ago.

Protesters will first gather at Chandgiram Akhara near the Trauma Center at 11 AM before marching towards the Delhi Assembly.

It said that the rally aims to draw attention to:

The ongoing demolition of slum clusters that has displaced 15,000 residents without proper rehabili-

tation, Rising crime rates and deteriorating law and order situation, Unchecked drug trade in the capital, Failure to deliver the promised Rs 2,500 monthly assistance for women, Chronic waterlogging problems during monsoon

Delhi Congress president Devender Yadav accused Rekha Gupta government of making empty promises.

"From slum rehabilitation to women's welfare, not a single pre-poll guarantee has been fulfilled," Yadav said. He criticized the unkept assurances about providing flats to slum dwellers and financial support for women.

The protest comes days after Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited affected slum areas and

raised these issues in Parliament. While demolitions have been temporarily halted following public pressure, Yadav emphasized that displaced families continue to live in precarious conditions without any concrete rehabilitation plan.

With monsoon rains exposing the city's poor drainage system, the Congress party claims the government has failed on both welfare and infrastructure fronts. The rally is expected to see participation from affected slum residents, women's groups, and Congress workers.

Police authorities have been alerted about the planned demonstration, with traffic diversions expected around the Assembly area during the protest hours. UNI/ATK/GNK

Russian Defense Minister says 99 paratroopers named heroes of Russia since 2022

■ **United News of India**

MOSCOW, AUG 2: Russian Defense Minister Andrei Belousov on Saturday congratulated serving and veteran paratroopers on Russian Airborne Troops Day, praising the 99 paratroopers who had been named Heroes of Russia since the special military operation began in 2022.

"The heroism of the winged infantry was tempered in the battles of the Great Patriotic War, in Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, the North Caucasus, Syria and many

other hot spots. In the times of the special military operation, the personnel of the Airborne Forces are acting skillfully and decisively in key areas and directions. For their courage and heroism, 99 people have been awarded the high title of the Hero of Russia," Belousov said in a statement.

Paratroopers' professionalism, amplified by the effective use of modern means of combat and their extensive experience, allows them to effectively solve the most difficult tasks and makes them a reliable reserve for Russia's



supreme commander-in-chief, President Vladimir Putin, Belousov said.

"In the face of new challenges

and threats, efforts to bolster the combat potential of the airborne forces as an effective tool for protecting Russia's interests and

ensuring its security remains one of the priorities for the development of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation," Belousov said.

Belousov thanked all generations of paratroopers for their impeccable, selfless service and readiness to defend the country.

August 2 marks the 95th anniversary of the first jump by Russian paratroopers during drills in the Moscow Military District in 1930 when their detachment trained landing in the enemy's rear. UNI

UK Foreign Secretary admits to feeling guilty about quarrel between Trump, Zelenskyy

■ **United News of India**



LONDON, AUG 2: UK Foreign Secretary David Lammy said on Saturday that he felt guilty for having failed to prep Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy for the talks with US President Donald Trump in February, ultimately contributing to their Oval Office quarrel.

"If I'm being honest, I felt, arrghhh! Why hadn't I done more to support our Ukrainian colleagues in preparation for their meeting? I was being a bit hard on myself. But I still felt guilty," Lammy said in an interview to The Guardian.

After the on-camera fallout, UK Prime

Minister Keir Starmer called Zelenskyy to invite him to London, the paper reported.

On February 28, Zelenskyy was expected to sign a critical minerals deal with Trump in the Oval Office. Instead, Trump's senior officials asked the Ukrainian delegation to leave the White House and canceled a joint press conference. Following his quarrel with Zelenskyy, Trump wrote on Truth Social that Zelenskyy was not ready for peace because "he feels our involvement gives him a big advantage in negotiations." Trump added that Zelenskyy could come back when he was ready for peace. UNI

Turkish intelligence warns of risks of recruitment by Israel: Reports

■ **United News of India**

ANKARA, AUG 2: Turkey's National Intelligence Organization (MIT) has warned that Israel could try to recruit agents in Turkey using tactics it honed during the war with Iran, Turkish news website Oda reported on Saturday, citing an MIT report.

The report, which analyzed Israel's strategy in Iran, accused Israel of trying to exacerbate political and economic instability in Iran by assassinating Iranian leaders as part of psychological warfare. This creates an opportunity for recruiting agents, a method that can also be used in other countries, including Turkey, MIT said.

In order to avoid the same scenario, MIT urged the government to strengthen the sense of unity and brotherhood in Turkey, continue social and economic reforms and raise strategic awareness about online manipulations.

In late July, the Iranian Intelligence Ministry said it had thwarted a plot by Israel-backed "monarchist opposition" activists to organize riots in Tehran after Israel's strike on Evin Prison in June. More than 120 suspects were detained in 23 regions of the country.

In June, Iranian media reported that Israel had carried out attacks on parts of Tehran, including in the northern part of the capital. The Tasnim news agency reported that a part of the prison's administrative building was destroyed and a number of prison employees, prisoners and visitors were injured. Iranian



judicial spokesman Asghar Jahangir said that 71 people were killed in the Israeli attack on the prison.

On June 13, Israel launched a military operation against Iran, targeting nuclear facilities, military commanders, prominent nuclear physicists and air bases after accusing the country of running a secret military nuclear program. Iran rejected the accusations. For

12 days, they exchanged strikes, which were joined by the United States, which struck Iranian nuclear facilities on June 22. Tehran retaliated by attacking the US air base Al Udeid in Qatar and then announced it had no intention of further escalating the conflict. US President Donald Trump said on June 23 that Israel and Iran had agreed to a ceasefire to end "the 12-day war." UNI/SPUTNIK/GNK

Capacity Building Entrepreneurship Mela under Mission YUVA Empowers Youth in Kulgam

■ **Farooq Rather**

KULGAM, AUG 02: District Employment & Counselling Centre (DE&CC) Kulgam today organized a Capacity Building Entrepreneurship Mela under the flagship Mission YUVA initiative at Government Polytechnic College, Kulgam.

The event was aimed at enhancing entrepreneurial aptitude among students and aspiring entrepreneurs while familiarizing them with the diverse opportunities and support mechanisms offered by various gov-

ernment institutions.

The programme saw enthusiastic participation from institutional heads and domain experts, including the Principal of Government Polytechnic College Kulgam, Superintendent ITI Kulgam, Career Counselling Officer DE&CC Kulgam, District Nodal Officer JKEDI Kulgam, and Industrial Promotion Officer DIC Kulgam.

These resource persons delivered insightful sessions on key themes such as entrepreneurial mindset, startup ecosystem, access to finance, government schemes, and the role



of innovation in enterprise development.

A major highlight of the event was the student-led entrepreneurial exhibition, where students showcased creative stalls featuring business ideas, prototypes, and innovative solutions. This hands-on platform enabled participants to apply their learning, demonstrate their creativity, and receive valuable feedback from experts.

To encourage innovation and presentation excellence, the top-performing stalls were felicitated

with mementos and certificates of appreciation—boosting morale and underlining the importance of youth-driven innovation in economic and regional development.

The mela served as a dynamic platform for capacity building, institutional exposure, peer learning, and entrepreneurial networking—laying the foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth. DE&CC Kulgam reaffirmed its commitment to nurturing young talent and supporting youth-centric initiatives under Mission YUVA.

All JK Shia Association Organises Day-Long Majlis, Marsiya and Juloos-e-Aza at Nussu, Beerwah

■ **Ubaid Mehdi**

BUDGAM, AUG 02: The All Jammu & Kashmir Shia Association (AJKSA) on Friday organised a full-day Majlis, Marsiya Khwani, and Juloos-e-Aza at Nussu village in Beerwah, District Budgam. The day was marked with continuous Marsiya recitations by various Zakireen, culminating in a deeply moving Majlis-e-Aza delivered by AJKSA President, Molvi Imran Reza Ansari, followed by the ceremonial Alam Sharief procession.

In his address, Molvi Imran Ansari emphasised the importance of unity among Muslims, especially in today's testing times. "We must not forget our history, and we must stand by it with belief and pride," he said. "When we sit on the Mimbar, we must uphold its sanctity and speak with loyalty to the truth it demands."



Highlighting the legacy of Bibi Zainab (SA) and Bibi Sakina (SA), Molvi Ansari said their strength, patience, and unwavering faith serve as timeless examples for women today. "They were not just witnesses to Karbala but were pillars of resistance and dignity. Women in our times must draw strength from their courage."

The Marsiya were managed on the ground by Zakir Majid Khawaja, who ensured the smooth conduct of the Marsiyas from morning till conclusion.

Molvi Imran Ansari extended heartfelt thanks to the volunteers who stood tirelessly throughout the day to facilitate the Majlis. "May Allah accept their service and reward them abundantly," he prayed.

He also thanked the administration and civil departments for their support, specifically acknowledging the cooperation of IG Kashmir, DIG CR Kashmir, SSP Budgam, and especially SDPO Magam, who remained present with his team throughout the day. Appreciation was also extended to DC Budgam, SDM Beerwah, Jal Shakti, Fire & Emergency Services, and Medical Department for their seamless coordination in ensuring a peaceful and organised event.

Nasir, Satish meet public delegations at Nawa-e-Subha

Reiterates Govt's commitment to Grassroots engagement, responsive governance

■ **Mohammad Hanif Khan**

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Senior National Conference leader and Advisor to the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani Saturday reaffirmed the government's unwavering commitment to grassroots engagement and governance.

As part of a broader public outreach initiative, Wani met with a number of public and individual delegations at the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subha, Srinagar.

Later he was joined by Hon'ble Minister Satish Sharma.

Speaking on the occasion, Wani said, "Under the clear directions of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, the cabinet ministers along with myself are actively engaging with the public to address their issues on the ground and ensure timely redressal. We are also in regular touch with party functionaries to gather feedback and strengthen the connect between the government and the people."

The delegations represented various sections of society, including civil society members and party workers, and raised a range of pressing local issues such as infrastructure development, employment opportunities, and public service delivery.

Wani assured the visiting delegations that their concerns would be taken up with the concerned departments for swift and effective resolution. He also personally reached out to relevant officials to expedite

the redressal process.

Party leaders and functionaries including Provincial President Kashmir Showkat Mir, MLA's Salman Ali Sagar, Shameema Firdous, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Provincial Secretary Syed Tawqeer, District President Peer Afaq Ahmad, State Spokesperson Imran Nabi Dar, Provincial President Women's Wing Er. Sabiya Qadri, SM Incharge Ifrajan, YNC Provincial President Mir Mush-taq, Minority Wing Convenor Sardar J.S. Azad were also present.

DC Budgam reviews progress under Social Security schemes & Financial Inclusion campaign

■ **HT News Desk / DIPR**

BUDGAM, AUG 02: A detailed review meeting was today convened under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat at the DC Office Complex, Budgam.

The meeting aimed to evaluate the implementation of schemes such as PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), and Atal Pension Yojana (APY) for the financial year 2024-25, along with a focused review of the Financial Inclusion Campaign held from July 1-22, 2025.

During the meeting, it was informed that Budgam district has achieved over 75% of its annual target under PMSBY, enrolling more than 21,000 individuals, while PMJJBY has crossed the 8,100 mark, achieving close to 58% of the target. Under PMJDY, 8,536 new accounts have been opened, reflecting nearly 57% target completion. Atal Pension Yojana (APY) witnessed 1,388 enrollments out of the 4,770 target in the district.

Cumulatively, since the national rollout of these schemes, Budgam has enrolled over 1.14 lakh individuals under PMJDY, 59,000 under PMSBY, 22,000 under PMJJBY, and 5,000 APY. Also, focused Financial Inclusion

campaign was conducted in the district from 01 July to 22 July 2025, aiming to extend coverage under the four flagship schemes in mission mode.

As per the data, 21 beneficiaries were enrolled under APY against a target of 1,357. Under PMSBY, 833 enrollments were recorded out of 6,991, while PMJJBY and PMJDY achieved around 7% and 11% respectively.

Addressing the participants, DC highlighted the importance of financial protection schemes in ensuring safety nets for the most vulnerable sections of society. He expressed concern over limited outreach, especially in rural belts and uncovered populations.

DC directed stakeholders to intensify awareness campaigns, and adopt a targeted and block-level mobilisation strategy, especially for APY and PMJJBY schemes in the district.

He also directed the concerned to organise village-level camps and enrolment drives involving BDOs, AWWs, CSCs, and SHGs. He further directed for improved door-to-door IEC efforts to mobilise beneficiaries in unbanked and underbanked areas.

He called for weekly monitoring of scheme-wise progress through the LDM office, with performance updates shared with the DC office.



DC directed for building inter-departmental convergence between banks, Social Welfare, Labour, ICDS, and Rural Development for coordinated action.

Emphasised that no eligible beneficiary should remain outside the financial safety net, he directed that the achievement of targets be treated as a priority governance deliverable.

He stressed on renewed momentum through collaborative execution, reiterating that the District Administration remains committed towards ensuring full saturation under all centrally sponsored financial protection schemes in the district.

The meeting was attended by CPO, LDM Budgam, DSWO, ALC Budgam, representatives from ICDS, and branch managers from all public and private sector banks operating in the district.

Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan: Awareness programme on drug abuse held at GBHSS Khanyar & GGHSS Nowpora

■ **HT News Desk / DIPR**

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht J&K Abhiyan, Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Department of Information & Public Relations (DIPR), in collaboration with the Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Khanyar, and Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS) Nowpora, organized two separate compelling awareness programmes centered on drug de-addiction.

At Govt. Boys Higher Secondary School Khanyar, a compelling awareness programme centered on drug de-addiction was held. On the occasion, a thought-provoking short play by a local theatre group portrayed the harrowing consequences of substance abuse, leaving a profound impact on the young audience.

The students actively engaged with the theme and expressed keen interest in more such informative and cultural sessions.

Masarat Perveen, Principal of the institution, ap-



preciated the initiative and called for strengthened community efforts to tackle drug-related challenges.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, also addressed the gathering, highlighting the transformative role of art in raising awareness and shaping positive social attitudes.

The programme concluded with a collective pledge by all attendees to stand firm against drug abuse. Similarly, at Govt. Girls Higher Secondary School Nowpora, a powerful awareness programme focused on drug de-addiction was held.

A thought-provoking short play presented by the local artists on the occasion portrayed the emotional, social, and psychological consequences of drug abuse. The performance effectively engaged the students and conveyed a strong anti-drug message, encouraging a collective stand against the menace.

Waheeda Sheikh, Principal of the institution, appreciated the initiative and underlined the role of educational institutions in guiding youth towards a healthy lifestyle.

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer, also spoke on the occasion, emphasizing the influential role of theatre in raising awareness. The programme concluded with a united pledge by students and staff to remain vigilant and proactive in promoting a drug-free society.

Mission YUVA: One-day capacity building entrepreneurship mela held at Shopian

■ **HT News Desk / DIPR**

SHOPIAN, AUG 02: A one-day Capacity Building Entrepreneurship Mela was organized today at Government Polytechnic College Shopian under the ambitious Mission YUVA initiative.

The event aimed to sensitize and engage potential entrepreneurs from across the district, particularly the youth and women, in an effort to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and facilitate self-reliance.

Hundreds of aspiring entrepreneurs participated in the mega event and were offered hands-on experience, live demonstrations, besides expert guidance on starting their entrepreneurial journey.

The event featured screening of promotional videos, interactive training sessions, and a live demonstration of the Mission YUVA app—designed to streamline the registration and tracking of entrepreneurial ventures.

Resource persons provided detailed insights into the Mission YUVA programme, its eligibility criteria, benefits, and government support schemes.

Addressing the gathering, Prin-



icipal of Government Polytechnic College Shopian emphasized, "The primary aim of this mela is to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit,

build skills, provide information on government schemes, and foster self-reliance among the youth through engaging and informative

sessions."

He added that Mission YUVA focuses on youth empowerment across multiple domains including

entrepreneurship, skill development, and career support. Based on the YUVA survey, the government has launched a Nano-Enterprise scheme under this mission to help aspiring entrepreneurs start their ventures at grassroots level.

Highlighting the gender-inclusive nature of the initiative, he encouraged young women to leverage the Mission YUVA platform, which offers a 30% subsidy for women entrepreneurs—higher than the 25% for men. He also informed the audience that YUVA Doots have been deployed in every Panchayat to assist youth with onboarding and accessing the scheme's benefits.

The mela featured multiple sessions and departmental stalls, offering live demonstrations of various skills and services. These activities aimed to encourage participants to consider entrepreneurship as a viable career path, stressing the importance of becoming job creators rather than job seekers.

The event was attended by senior officers from Government Polytechnic College Shopian, Government Degree College Shopian, ITI Shopian, and Employment Office Shopian.

DC Pulwama reviews progress of various social security schemes

HT News Desk / DIR

PULWAMA, AUG 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pulwama, Dr. Basharat Qayoom chaired a comprehensive review meeting here today on financial inclusion cum social security schemes.

The review focused on evaluating the implementation and bank-wise progress of key social security schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY), Atal Pension Yojana (APY) and Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY).

At the outset, Lead District Manager (LDM), Pulwama presented a detailed PowerPoint highlighting the progress of branches of various banks across these schemes against the allocated targets.

During the meeting, DC held a comprehensive branch-wise review of all banks across these schemes. He sought a detailed action plan from the Zonal Heads and Branch Heads to achieve saturation and complete all pending targets within stipulated timelines.

Dr. Qayoom further emphasized the importance of timely saturation of all eligible beneficiaries under the said schemes and called for enhanced coordination between banks, line departments, and field-level functionaries.

DC directed the concerned officers to ensure awareness, enrolment, and coverage of all left-out eligible individuals.

"Ensure proactive outreach, accurate beneficiary identification, and regular follow-ups to achieve time-bound saturation under these

schemes. Mobilise field functionaries and maintain close inter-departmental coordination to deliver results on the ground," DC directed.

He particularly emphasised the Branch Heads to facilitate the registration of FMGNREGA job card holders, labour card holders, and Self-Help Group (SHG) members under these schemes, in coordination with line departments such as the Rural Development Department, Labour and Employment Department, and the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM).

Among others, the meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Development Pulwama, Assistant Labour Commissioner Pulwama, District Coordinator NRLM Pulwama, Lead District Manager Pulwama, and Zonal and Branch Heads of various banks operating in the district.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign kick-starts at Anantnag

HT News Desk / DIPR

ANANTNAG, AUG 02: In run up to the Independence Day-2025, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. SF Hamid kick-started the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign amid great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor, today at GMHSS Brakpora, here. Elaborating about the campaign, DC said it has to be implemented in three phases; presenting a great chance to know about the freedom movement besides paying tributes to the freedom fighters who made supreme sacrifices for the nation.

The campaign shall serve as an active platform to honour the legacy of the national heroes, and their struggle and commitment provide great inspiration for the younger generation, he remarked. Urging students, youth and the general masses to participate in the campaign, DC said that the district has a glorious tradition of engaging in events of patriotism and national pride which has been witnessed time and again. Interacting with the students, Dr. Hamid encouraged them to work hard in their respective fields and actively contribute to nation building.

The students of the institution made colorful wall paintings and drawings depicting the courage and valor of the freedom fighters. Mosaic cultural items and songs on the theme of patriotism were also presented on the occasion.

Earlier, as a symbol of respect and reverence to the martyrs and the motherland, DC laid wreath on the Shilphalakam (Memorial Plaque) at GHS Brakpora and paid rich tributes to the fallen heroes.

ACR, ACD, Principal of GMHSS Brakpora, other officers of district administration, school authorities and officials and a large number of students attended the event.

Similar activities were held in various educational institutions and organisations across the district with active involvement of students, youth, officials and other stakeholders.

Government Of Jammu & Kashmir Office Of The Tehsildar Kreeri

Subject: Application of AYAZ AHMAD DAR S/O MOHD AKBAR DAR R/O HAIL JAGIR for the issuance of LEGAL HEIR certificate

PUBLIC NOTICE

Regarding the subject cited above in this context a report sought from patwari halqa concerned and the Death certificate issued by the competent authority reveals that JAVID AHMAD DAR S/O MOHD AKBAR DAR R/O KREERI has passed away on 22/02/1997. The report of the patwari further depicts that the deceased has left behind following dependent as tabulated below

1. MOHD MAQBOOL DAR 58 years brother labour married
2. AYAZ AHMAD DAR //50 years //
3. FAYAZ AHMAD DAR //40 years //
4. AB HAMID DAR //37 years //
5. SHABIR AHMAD DAR // 33 years //

The applicant has applied for Issuance of Legal heir certificate in favour of Self. If anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of said certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Naib Tehsild Kreeri

Public Notice

I have Changed my name From old name Mohd Maqbool S/O Ramzan Dar M/O Khatēja Begum Dar to New Name Mohd Maqbool Dar S/O Mohd Ramzan Dar M/O Khatēja Begum if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact passport office Srinagar within 7days After 7days no objection will be accepted

Mohd Maqbool Dar S/O Mohd Ramzan Dar M/O Khatēja Begum R/o Khanpora Tehsil Handwara district Kupwara passport no Z2316108.

Public Notice

I, Suhail Ahmad Kumar S/o Gh. Nabi Kumar, Mother's Name: Shakeela Begum, R/o Nutnussa, Handwara, wish to state that I have lost my original 10th Class Date of Birth Certificate / Marks Card bearing Roll No. 466460. I had appeared and passed the 10th Class Bi-Annual Examination 2012-13 from Govt. Boys High School Nutnussa under JKBOSE. My Date of Birth as per records is 01/03/1996. I am applying for a duplicate certificate. If anyone has any objection in this regard, they may contact the undersigned or Board office Langate within 07 days from the publication of this notice. After that, no objection shall be entertained.

Suhail Ahmad Kumar
S/o Gh. Nabi Kumar
R/o Nutnussa, Handwara

Public Notice

I, Mohammad Afzal Malik, S/o Rahi Malik, R/o Bhatta Koot, hereby declare that I have disowned my son Rahi Malik effective from 1st August 2025, due to his continued misconduct and disobedient behavior.

He has not only mistreated me but has also forcefully evicted his wife and son from the house. Therefore, from this day onward, I will not be held responsible for any of his actions, deeds, or liabilities.

This announcement is being made to inform the general public and concerned authorities, so that no legal or personal responsibility is attributed to me in the future regarding him.

Declarant:
Mohammad Afzal Malik
S/o: Rahi Malik
R/o: Bhatta Koot

Public Notice

It is hereby notified that my Name has been incorrectly mentioned on his Adhar card, as name NAJMA AKTHER D/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR MIR while his correct name IS NAZIMA AKTHER D/O MOHAMMAD AKBAR MIR R/O MUGALPORA 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: Nazima Akther,
D/o: Mohammad Akbar Mir
R/o: Mugalpora, Tehsil: Kupwara
District: Kupwara

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
District: Kupwara

Government of Jammu & Kashmir

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER REW DIVISION PULWAMA

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS | e- NIT No. 46/2025-26 | Dated: 31-07-2025

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

Call 1st

S.No	Name of the work	Block	EMD (In %)	Class	Time	MH
1	Construction of Boundary Wall on Front Side and Earth Filling of Burail Ground at Ratnipora A and B	Kakapora	2%	DEE/CEE	30 Days	MPLADS

Estimated / Adv. Cost (In Lacs): 5.038

Cost of Tender Documents (In Rupees): 300/-

Position of A/A: Accorded

Position of T/S: Accorded

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

1.	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	31-07-2025
2.	Online Bid submission Start Date	31-07-2025 from 06:55 PM
3.	Online Bid Submission End Date	11-08-2025 up to 06:55 PM
4.	Date & time of opening of Online Bids	12-08-2025 at 10:00 AM or any convenient day In the office of the Executive Engineer REW Pulwama
5.	Note: Fee Receipt and EMD shall be deposited after the financial bids opened. In case The original Tender Document Fee Receipt and EMD is not Deposited within 5 days after the Financial Bids Opened for all responsive bidders Who have participated online, the Department shall take action as per Rules.	

Special Condition 01:

Only the eligible contractors of respective Panchayat Halqa shall take part in the tendering process for works under District Capex with Advertised Cost 3.0 Lacs or below for District Capex works only. Bidders must upload any document viz residential certificate/ Adhar Card/ Ration Card/Electricity Bill showing panchayat name, as residence proof that he/she is residing the respective Panchayat Halqa (Applicable for DEE Class contractors in call 1st only).

SC02: Contractors Strictly not eligible.

The Bidders who had participated in 2023-24 and has not completed the works within stipulated time frame/who had left the work midway/ who had not started/taken up the works are strictly not eligible. Any such participation may lead to cancellation of their bid and No claim shall be entertained in this regard.

Conditions for Bidders:

Every Participating supplier/contractor to mandatorily disclose the Bank Account No. which is linked with their GSTIN at the time of bid submission. No Payment shall be released by Govt. Deptt./Agency to any other Bank Account except the one linked with GST Registered number of the Successful bidder. As per Circular No. 01 (Adm) FD of 2025 Dated 08/07/2025 issued by Govt. of J&K Finance Department Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar.

1. Contractors who failed to execute the allotted work/works during the previous financial year (2024-25) are not eligible for tendering for the current financial year (2025-26).

2. Any Bidder who will go down more than 15% of Advertised Cost shall upload the Additional Security online in shape of CDR/ FDR during tendering process as per Unbalance Bid Table mentioned in NIT at S.No09a. (Non uploading of Additional Security will let to the rejection of the tender).

3. The bids of Responsive bidders shall be opened online on same Web Site in the Office of Executive Engineer REW Division Pulwama (Tender receiving authority).

4. In Addition to Earnest Money Deposit (Bid Security), the 1st lowest Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of allotted cost as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR within 07 days before fixation of contract. The EMD (Bid Security/Earnest money) of 2% of advertised cost of successful bidder shall be released after receipt of 5% Performance Security, which will be released after successful completion of the DLP/Maintenance Period.

5. The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) shall submit all the hard copies of uploaded documents within 05 Days before fixation of Contract. Failure to produce the documents shall render the L1 as non-responsive and he shall be debarred to participate in any tendering process up to 12 months after forfeiting the CDR and case for debarment of the Contractor is forwarded to Higher Authorities for a period of 01 Year.

6. The Earnest Money Deposit (EMD@2% of Advertised Cost) in the shape of CDR/FDR of the unsuccessful Bidder shall be released after opening the Tender on production of Treasury Challan.

7. The Tender Opening Authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders or any part of any tender without assigning reason thereof.

8. The bids for the work shall remain valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of technical bids.

9. Unbalanced Bid: The bidders have to produce additional security in shape of CDR/FDR of recognize scheduled/commercial Bank, pledged to Executive Engineer REW Division Pulwama. The CDR/FDR shall be valid for maximum six months or more after the last date of receipt to bids along with the bid document as per following break up:

10. Additional Security online in shape of CDR/FDR

Xen/REW/Pul/1739-45 | Dated: 31/07/2025

Sd/- Executive Engineer
REW Division Pulwama

DIPK: 4695/25 | Dated: 02-08-2025

Government of Jammu and Kashmir

SCHOOL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Office of The Chief Education Officer Srinagar

NOTIFICATION

Tentative Seniority list of 308 Teachers (appointed / regularized upto 2007) available on the official website of this office (www.ceosrinagar.com) has been prepared for inviting the objections. The objections if any shall be submitted through proper channel duly authenticated by concerned DDO to this office alongwith the documentary proof within 03 days from the date of publication of this Notification. Objections received beyond the cutoff date shall not be entertained.

No: CEO/Sgr/ESH/7923-28

Dated: 01-08-2025

Sd/- Chief Education Officer Srinagar

DIPK: 4715/25 | Dated: 02-08-2025



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MP Jugal Kishore Sharma inaugurates 7-day 'Aakanksha Haat' at Katra

Also felicitates officers, frontline workers at 'Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh'

HT News Desk / DIPR

REASI, AUG 02: Member of Parliament Lok Sabha Jugal Kishore Sharma today inaugurated the week-long 'Aakanksha Haat' at the Spiritual Growth Centre - Katra.

The event, organized by the District Administration Reasi under the aegis of NITI Aayog's national 'Vocal for Local' campaign, aims to promote indigenous products and uplift local artisans and producers.

The inauguration ceremony was also graced by Member Legislative Assembly Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma,

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik, ADDC Sukhdev Singh, senior officials and stakeholders.

'Aakanksha Haat' is part of a nationwide initiative launched under the 'Aakanksha' brand by NITI Aayog, focused on empowering Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and local artisans from Aspirational Blocks across India. The Katra edition features a vibrant showcase of traditional handicrafts, handloom items, organic produce, herbal products, and regional delicacies.

The MP accompanied by MLA and DC inspected the stalls showcasing the rich array of products



from SHGs, FPOs and local producers. He lauded the creativity

and craftsmanship on display, noting that the event not only celebrates India's cultural heritage but also acts as a catalyst for economic empowerment—especially for women and rural communities. He emphasized that 'Aakanksha Haat' envisions a sustainable ecosystem connecting grassroots producers directly with consumers and institutional buyers.

The MP congratulated Deputy Commissioner and commended the efforts of the entire district administration for the remarkable performance of Thakrakote Block, which climbed an impressive 407 positions in

NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Ranking—from Rank 420 in December 2024 to Rank 13 by March 2025. This surge reflects focused progress in key sectors such as Health & Nutrition, Education, Agriculture & Allied Activities, Basic Infrastructure and Social Development.

MP Jugal Kishore also felicitated officers and frontline workers for their proactive roles in implementing transformational development initiatives under the Sampoornata Abhiyan in Aspirational Block Thakrakote. Their efforts led to the 100% saturation of six key development indicators during the Sampoornata

Abhiyan (July–September 2024), a significant milestone highlighted during the 'Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh' held alongside the main event.

In his address, Jugal Kishore stated that this dual celebration marks a significant stride towards inclusive development, grassroots empowerment, and the recognition of local talent. He also underlined the importance of providing a physical marketplace for local producers to showcase and sell their products, aligning with the Prime Minister's vision of promoting Vocal for Local and women empowerment.

DECC Ramban Organizes Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Mela at GPC Chanderkote

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, AUG 2: The District Employment and Counselling Centre (DECC), Ramban, in collaboration with Government Polytechnic College, Chanderkote, organized a One-Day Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Mela today at the Polytechnic College campus.

The event was graced by the Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, as the Chief Guest, along with other dignitaries, including the Additional Deputy Commissioner Ramban Varunjeet Singh Charak, Principal Government Polytechnic Chanderkote Vivek Mahajan, Assistant Director Employment, Superintendent ITI Ramban, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, General Manager DIC Ramban, faculty members of local colleges and ITIs, and officials of DECC Ramban.

The primary objective of the Mela was to equip the youth with essential skills, entrepreneurial insights, and real-world exposure, fostering a skilled, confident, and self-reliant generation. The event featured hands-on sessions, live demonstrations, app-based learning, and displays of handmade tools, including a live demonstration of the Mission YUVA portal.

Resource persons from various line departments conducted sessions on topics such as Canva, MS Excel, PowerPoint, professional behaviour, communication enhancement, and IT sector counseling.

During the Mela, the Deputy Commissioner distributed sanction letters to beneficiaries under Mission YUVA and presented awards to the best stalls displayed by students of Polytechnic and ITI institutions. Skill demonstration stalls were set up by Government Polytechnic Chanderkote, ITI Banihal, and ITI Ramban, showcasing innovative student projects and departmental exhibits.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of establishing self-employment ventures and enlightened participants about the benefits and opportunities offered under Mission YUVA, encouraging the youth to actively pursue entrepreneurial pathways.

Ramban District Administration Celebrates "Samman Samaroh" at Khari Inaugurates 7-Day Aakanksha Haat at Ramban

HT News Desk / DIPR

RAMBAN, AUG 2: The District Administration Ramban, spearheaded by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, today organized a grand celebration, "Samman Samaroh," under the Sampoornata Abhiyan at Aspirational Block Khari of District Ramban. Following the event, a vibrant 7-Day Aakanksha Haat (Mela) was also inaugurated at the Community Hall, T Chowk Ramban.

The functions were graced by Chairperson District Development Council (DDC) Ramban Dr. Sham-

shad Shan, MLA Banihal Sajjad Shaheen, and DDC Councillors. Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat Mohammad Ashfaq, Tehsildar, BDOs, along with all district, sectoral officers and frontline workers also attended the programme.

As part of the celebrations, the District Administration felicitated officers and officials for their outstanding contributions towards the saturation of key indicators under the Aspirational Block Programme. The

awards were given in recognition of their efforts in the thematic areas of Health, Nutrition, Agriculture, and Social Development during the Sampoornata Abhiyan held between July and September 2024.

Speaking on the occasion, the DDC Chairperson congratulated the District Administration for achieving the Silver Medal at the national level under the Sampoornata Abhiyan as declared by the NITI Aayog. She also highlighted the significant role played by field workers in this achievement.

The MLA Banihal lauded the

efforts of the District Administration and the staff of all line departments for saturating all indicators fixed by NITI Aayog. He further thanked the administration for selecting Block Khari under the Aspirational Block Programme, which has positively impacted the local population.

The Deputy Commissioner informed the gathering that District Ramban had achieved the Silver Medal for Aspirational Block Khari and motivated departments and stakeholders to work on mission mode to achieve even greater excellence in the future.

The celebration at Khari fea-

tured various attractions including selfie points and departmental stalls showcasing government schemes and services.

During the Aakanksha Haat (Mela), multiple departments including Horticulture, Agriculture, Health, Cooperatives, Fisheries, DIC, NRLM, Handloom, Handicraft, Social Forestry, Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and agro-producers set up stalls for the sale and indigenous promotion of their products. The Mela also featured a variety of cultural and awareness activities, adding vibrancy to the week-long event.

Minister, MP advocate blending religious, scientific education in madrassas

HT News Desk / DIPR

MENDHAR, AUG 02: In a deeply engaging and intellectually stimulating inaugural ceremony at Macca Education Public School, Mendhar, Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana and Member of Parliament (Rajouri-Anantnag), Mian Altaf Ahmed, today engaged with a diverse gathering of educators, students, parents and community leaders.

The event highlighted the institution's emergence as a model for integrated learning where traditional religious teachings are meaningfully combined with modern scientific education to produce morally ground-



ed and future-ready citizens.

Javed Ahmed Rana emphasized that education must go beyond rote knowledge to become a transformative force for individuals and society alike. He asserted that religious and scientific education are not contradictory but complementary, each playing a vital role in shaping holistic individu-

als. Minister Rana also strongly advocated for gender equity in education, stressing the transformative impact of educating girls.

Both dignitaries commended Macca Education Public School for its visionary approach to curriculum and community engagement.

PUCA Announced Scholarship for North East Students

HT News Desk

JAMMU, AUG 2: The Punjab Unaided Colleges Association (PUCA) announced scholarship for students from North East at Arista by Ambition, Anand Nagar, Guwahati Assam. Dr. Anshu Kataria, President PUCA, Chairman, Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh was Chief Guest, Renowned Educationist Sh Dudul Chaudhary was special guest.

Dr. Anshu Kataria, President, PUCA, Chairman Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura Near Chandigarh mentioned that the summit in association with Society for promotion of education in Assam region (SPEAR) brought together over 15 colleges from Punjab and approximately 50 education counselors from Assam, with the goal of discussing innovative strategies for education upliftment and strengthening collaboration between educational institutions across the two regions.

Dr. Jyotirmoy Hazarika, President SPEAR thanked and welcomed PUCA to this Guwahati Education Summit and specially thanked Dr. Anshu Kataria. We all members of SPEAR Association want that such programs should be organized in future too, so that students of North East get good opportunities outside the state as well. He expressed his gratitude to all the member colleges of PUCA.

In this education summit of Guwahati, famous educationists of Punjab Dr. Anshu Kataria, Amit Sharma, Raminder Mittal, Dr. Akashdeep Singh, S. Gurkirat Singh, Ankit Jain, Dr. Kapil Katyal, Ashok Garg, Dr. Gursimranjit Singh, Er. S.K. Punj, Er. Purushotam Sharma, Dr. Rajesh Bhardwaj, Dr. Gurpreet Singh, Dr. D.J. Singh will participated.

It is worth mentioning that Aryans Group of Colleges, Rajpura; Amritsar Group of Colleges, Amritsar; Ashoka Group of Institutions, Patiala; Golden Group of Institutions, Gulzar Group of Colleges, Khana; Jain Group of Colleges, Abohor; Longowal Group of Colleges, Mohali; SVIET Group, Banur; Sukhjinder Group of Institutes, Gurdaspur; Sri Sai Group of Inst, Pathankot; SBS Group of Educational Institutions, Patti; Shiva Group of Institutions, Bilaspur; Universal Group of Institutions, Lalru, Vidya Jyoti Eduversity, Derabassi from Punjab participated.

'Mission YUVA Capacity Building for Entrepreneurship Mela' organised at ITI Kishtwar

HT News Desk / DIPR

KISHTWAR, AUG 02: The District Employment & Counselling Centre (DECC) Kishtwar, in collaboration with the Skill Development Department, today organised 'Mission YUVA Capacity Building for Entrepreneurship Mela' here at ITI.

The event aimed to promote skill development, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance among the youth. Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Pawan Kotwal inaugurated the programme.

The event saw enthusiastic participation from students of Polytechnic College, ITI, and GDC Kishtwar, along with job seekers, SHG members, and aspiring entrepreneurs



In his keynote address, the ADC underscored the importance of skilled hands for economic and employment growth. "Skilled

people are in high demand across industries. Rather than seeking employment, our youth should strive to become job providers,"

he said. He encouraged full utilization of the opportunities offered under Mission YUVA for personal and community growth.

Earlier, the programme commenced with a welcome address by Assistant Director Employment Shafqat Ali Keen, who greeted the Chief Guest, Other dignitaries, participants, and trainers. He outlined the objectives of Mission YUVA and emphasised its role in enabling youth to become self-employed and generate job opportunities for others.

Later, the ADC, accompanied by Assistant Director Employment, Principal ITI Anoop Sharma and Principal Polytechnic College Mehmood Ahmad inspected the stalls set up by ITI trainees and Self Help Groups (SHGs).

The exhibits showcased carpentry works, motor mechanic projects, mobile repairing services and other skill-based products, reflecting the talent and innovation of local youth.

Technical sessions featured expert presentations by resource persons from ITI Kishtwar and Polytechnic College. Dr. Imtiaz from ITI conducted a session on Microsoft Excel, Canva, and other digital tools essential for modern business management, followed by hands-on training to boost digital proficiency. Arun Kamar from Polytechnic College spoke on the value of skill development in the globaleconomy, urging youth to embrace continuous learning and innovation.

Live streaming of 20th Installment of PM-KISAN Samman Nidhi Yojana held at Kissan Kendra Jammu

HT News Desk / DIPR

JAMMU, AUG 02: Department of Agriculture Production and Farmers Welfare Jammu today organized a live streaming event at Baba Jitto, Kisan Kendra Talab Tillo to mark the release of the 20th installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Yojana by Prime Minister Narendra Modi from Varanasi.

The event witnessed the presence of Chairman DDC Jammu Bharat Bhushan; Member Legislative Assembly Jammu West Arvind Gupta; Secretary Agriculture Production Department Neetu Gupta and Director Agriculture Jammu

Anil Gupta and several other officers. During the main national event, Prime Minister Narendra Modi released the 20th installment of Rs 20,500 crore under PM-KISAN, benefitting over 9.7 crore farmers across the country. This financial assistance aims to support farmers in meeting agricultural inputs and allied expenses, enhancing their overall welfare.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman DDC Jammu, Bharat Bhushan emphasized that the PM-KISAN scheme is a mark of respect to the nation's 'Annadata' and serves as a crucial support to farming families. He encouraged farmers to adopt modern and scientific agricultural tech-

niques to boost productivity and profitability and appealed to educated youth to consider agriculture as a viable and rewarding profession.

Member Legislative Assembly Jammu West Arvind Gupta and Secretary APD Neetu Gupta also addressed the farmers, reaffirming the government's support for agricultural development and farmer welfare.

Addressing the gathering, Director Agriculture Jammu Anil Gupta, informed that 4.20 lakh farmers of Jammu division have benefitted from this installment with the disbursement of Rs 84 crore directly in their accounts. He further shared that till date, a total of Rs 1,735



crore has been disbursed to farmers in the Jammu region under the PM-KISAN scheme. Highlighting the importance of the scheme, he stated that PM-KISAN, one of the world's largest Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) programmes, is a testament to the Government of India's continued commitment to a robust and inclusive agricultural economy.

Similar live streaming programmes and awareness events were conducted across all districts, sub-divisions, blocks and panchayats in the Jammu region, making the release of the 20th installment a truly participatory and inclusive celebration of farmer empowerment.

Justice Sanjeev Kumar visits DCC & ADR Centre Budgam, reviews Court infrastructure

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 02: Justice Sanjeev Kumar (Administrative Judge District Budgam & Executive Chairman J&K LSA) conducted an extensive inspection of the District Court Complex & ADR Centre Budgam.

He was accompanied by Shazia Tabasum (Member Secretary J&K Legal Services Authority), Khurshid Ul Islam (Registrar Judicial), Central Project Coordinator e-Courts, High Court of J&K and Ladakh and Under Secretary, J&K Legal Services Authority.

The visit was aimed at reviewing the infrastructure, functioning, accessibility and overall service delivery to the public at District Courts/Legal Services institutions of the district.

During the inspection, he

interacted in detail with the judicial officers, advocates, officials of District Court Budgam, and functionaries of DLSA Budgam.

He also held a separate interaction with the panel of Legal Aid Defence Counsels (LADCs), discussing their roles, challenges, and the effectiveness of legal aid being rendered to the marginalized sections of society.

Emphasis was laid on strengthening the legal aid system and ensuring timely justice delivery to the needy.

A key highlight of the inspection was the detailed review of court infrastructure, where Justice Kumar took stock of available facilities, space constraints, and the need for infrastructural augmentation. He issued clear directions to the district administration for



the early identification of land to address space-related issues and facilitate establishment of new court complex. The need for modern amenities and citizen-centric infrastructure within the premises was also emphasized.

The inspection served as a crucial step in assessing the on-ground realities of the justice delivery mechanism in Budgam. Justice Kumar applauded the judicial officers of district Budgam for their services despite infra-

structure constraints.

The Executive Chairman also reiterated the commitment of the J&K Legal Services Authority to ensure access to justice for all through effective legal aid services, robust infrastructure, and continuous engagement with judicial officers and legal practitioners at the grassroots level.

Justice had separate session with bar members in which bar members flagged-off their grievances. He assured them that their grievances will be addressed at an earliest.

This significant visit marks a major step forward in the advancement of judicial infrastructure in Budgam and reinforces the commitment of the stakeholders to ensure accessible, effective, and timely justice for the common people.

DC Bandipora reviews arrangements for I-Day 2025

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BANDIPORA, AUG 02: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Saturday reviewed the final arrangements being put in place for the smooth and successful conduct of Independence Day 2025 celebrations across the district.

Meeting was briefed by the heads of various departments regarding the status of arrangements at the main venue in Bandipora, as well as at the sub-divisional, block, and institutional levels.

He emphasized that all departments must ensure their assigned tasks are completed well ahead of time to facilitate the smooth conduct of the celebrations. DC directed the concerned officers to ensure flawless arrangements in areas such as seating, stage setup, power supply, drinking water, sanitation, medical aid, traffic regulation, and overall security.

Chief Medical Officer was instructed to ensure the presence of emergency medical teams at all venues, while the PHE Department was directed to ensure availability of safe drinking water. Executive Engineer PDD Bandipora/Sumbal was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply and illumination of government buildings, bridges, and prominent locations in the district.

Chief Education Officer was tasked with organizing cultural and patriotic programmes in educational institutions to encourage public and youth participation.

DC also laid stress on fostering a festive and patriotic atmosphere across Bandipora. He further directed all sectoral and district officers to make proper flag hoisting arrangements at their respective offices and ensure the illumination of buildings as part of the I-Day celebrations.

On the occasion, DC also took stock of the ongoing fortnight-long 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign, which commenced on Saturday, August 2, 2025. He informed that the campaign will be conducted in a phased manner, with a series of activities to be undertaken by different departments and citizens in the run-up to Independence Day.

DC also announced that a mega Tiranga Rally will be held on August 12, starting from the Mini Secretariat Bandipora and culminating at SK Stadium Bandipora. He appealed to the public, especially the youth, to actively participate and contribute to the success of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, calling it a celebration of unity, patriotism, and collective pride.

The meeting was attended by ADC, Zafar Husson Shawal; DPO, ACR, SDM Sumbal, SDM Gurez, ACD, DySP DAR, AD FCS&CA, ARTO, officers from the Army, CRPF and other concerned officials.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign begins with patriotic fervour across Budgam

DC Launches District-Wide Celebrations

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 02: The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign commenced today with immense enthusiasm and patriotic spirit across district Budgam.

The campaign, being held under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, is aimed to instill a sense of national pride and collective identity among citizens by encouraging the display of the national flag in every household and institution.

The inaugural day witnessed massive participation from schools, colleges, and institutions across all subdivisions of the district.

Special events including flag hoisting ceremonies, Tiranga rallies, awareness programs, cultural performances, and patriotic song competitions were held at educational institutions to mark the beginning of the campaign.

In addition to educational institutions, departments such as Handicrafts and Handloom, Rural Development, Social Welfare, ICDS, and Health actively joined the campaign. Officers and staff of these departments not only hoisted flags at their offices but also conducted outreach activities to spread awareness among the public.

The day also saw active participation of sub-divisional officers, BDOs, and field functionaries, who led the campaign in their respective jurisdictions. Flags were prominently displayed on government buildings, public spaces, and residential



houses, reflecting the spirit of unity and patriotism.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stated that the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign is not just a symbolic gesture, but a reaffirmation of our commitment to the nation. It is heartening to witness the active involvement of every stakeholder in district Budgam from school children to government officers in celebrating our national pride. "Budgam is united in its message of patriotism, and I urge all citizens to participate wholeheartedly in the days to come," he remarked.

He further said that the campaign will continue in the coming days with intensified activities including community outreach programs, Tiranga walks, cycle rallies, Tiranga concerts, flag distribution drives, and exhibitions.

He said that the district administration has made elaborate arrangements to ensure wide-scale participation and awareness under the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav framework.

NIFT Srinagar organizes 3-day orientation program to welcome new batch of students

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SRINAGAR, AUG 2: The National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Srinagar held a three-day orientation programme to welcome its new batch of undergraduate design students, offering them a comprehensive introduction to campus life, academic resources, and the vibrant world of fashion and design.

Prof. (Dr.) Monika Gupta, Director of NIFT Srinagar, said, "We are delighted to welcome a fresh batch of bright minds to NIFT Srinagar. The orientation program is our first step in building their creative journey and ensuring they feel at home in this inspiring environment."

Our aim is to shape future professionals who can challenge perspectives and drive meaningful change through design and to ensure holistic development and emotional well-being of our students further added Prof. (Dr.) Monika.

The programme aimed to familiarize



students with NIFT's academic environment, institutional values, support systems, and student-driven initiatives.

Over the course of the orientation, students were introduced to various aspects of academic and campus life — including studio-based learning, craft cluster initiatives, student clubs, industry engagement opportunities, and interaction with different departments and support staff.

The sessions also included overviews of workshops, group projects, fieldwork, and industry visits.

The orientation program culminated with a City tour helping students experience the rich cultural and natural beauty of Kashmir.

DLSA Shopian organises Special Lok Adalat for MACT & Matrimonial cases

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

SHOPIAN, AUG 02: District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Shopian, under the aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority, today organized a Special Lok Adalat for the amicable settlement of Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) and Matrimonial cases.

The Lok Adalat was held under the chairmanship of Mehmood



Ahmad Chowdhary, Chairman, DLSA Shopian (Principal District & Ses-

sions Judge) at the District Court Complex, Shopian.

For the smooth conduct of proceedings, one Bench was constituted by the DLSA. A total of 25 cases, including MACT and Matrimonial matters, were listed for consideration. Out of these, 18 cases were successfully settled through mutual agreement, resulting in a total settlement amount of Rs.55,88,965.

BANDIPORA SCHOOLS LACK LEADERSHIP: JKSA RAISES ALARM

JKSA Seeks CM's Help to Fix Bandipora Education Crisis

■ HT News Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: The education system in Bandipora district is in a state of alarming disarray, plagued by severe administrative failures and chronic staffing shortages. An RTI filed by the National Convenor of the Jammu and Kashmir Students Association, Nasir Khuehami, has unearthed shocking deficiencies in the district's school administration. Numerous institutions are struggling due to unfilled leadership positions and an acute lack of teaching faculty, resulting in a deteriorating academic environment for thousands of students.

Nasir Khuehami said that the education sector in Bandipora is on crutches, crippled by headless schools, staff shortages, and administrative negligence. Once known for its intellectual legacy and academic promise, Bandipora is now witnessing the steady decline of its education infrastructure. He stated that the RTI filed with the Jammu and Kashmir School Education Department has exposed a

deeply unsettling reality, schools operating without heads, an absent and disengaged administration, and a system gasping for reform.

From primary schools to higher secondary institutions, the district's educational backbone is buckling under the weight of chronic mismanagement. The findings highlight a grim picture of institutional abandonment and policy paralysis. One of the most alarming revelations is the widespread absence of full-time Headmasters and Principals. This leadership vacuum has resulted in a dysfunctional, ad-hoc governance model where existing staff are forced to take on additional administrative duties without the requisite authority or institutional backing. Such an arrangement is severely undermining academic governance, rendering institutions rudderless and ineffective.

The crisis is particularly severe in higher secondary schools. The absence of subject-specific lecturers and full-time Principals is depriving students of quality education. As per the RTI

reply, 18 high schools in Bandipora are operating without Headmasters, while 18 out of 21 higher secondary schools do not have full-time Principals. Of the 21, only three have in-charge Principals, and the remaining 17 are being managed by 'look-after' Principals, assigned the role as an additional responsibility. Alarmingly, only four of these schools possess Drawing and Disbursing Officer (DDO) powers, leaving the rest administratively handicapped and unable to function effectively.

The situation is exacerbated by a severe shortage of subject-specific lecturers. Bandipora district is currently grappling with 163 lecturer vacancies, including 27 in Political Science, 19 in Urdu, 15 in Education, 16 in Mathematics, 12 each in Physics and Economics, 10 in History, and many more across other subjects. This acute faculty shortage is having a devastating impact on the academic performance and future prospects of students. With these vacancies remaining unfilled, thousands of students are

being denied quality education, their aspirations stifled and potential unrealized.

Without immediate and decisive government intervention to fill these posts and restore administrative order, students in Bandipora will continue to suffer under a broken system. He said that, Urgent and sustained action is essential beginning with the prompt appointment of qualified teachers, restoration of robust administrative structures, and empowerment of institutions with appropriate leadership and autonomy.

Khuehami urged Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take immediate action by filling the vacant posts of Headmasters and Principals to re-establish effective school administration. He emphasized the urgent need to recruit lecturers across all academic subjects to ensure delivery of quality education. He also called for an end to the practice of assigning multiple administrative roles to a single individual, citing that it leads to inefficiencies and severely compromises institutional performance.

DC Budgam chairs capacity building entrepreneurship mela at Government Polytechnic College Nagam

Focus on Youth Empowerment Through Skills, Mission YUVA

■ HT News Desk / DIPR

BUDGAM, AUG 02: District administration Budgam in collaboration with District Employment & Counseling Centre (DE&CC) Budgam and Government Polytechnic College Nagam Chadoora, today organized a one-day capacity building entrepreneurship mela at the college campus.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat presided over the event as chief guest. The mela witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, faculty, and officials from various departments and institutions across the district.

Besides SDM Chadoora, Principal, Government Polytechnic College Nagam Budgam, Deputy Director Employment Budgam, faculty members from ITIs, students of Polytechnic Colleges, and officials of DE&CC Budgam were present in the mela.

The mela aimed to equip the youth with essential entrepreneurial skills, real-world exposure, and practical insights, paving the way towards a skilled, confident, and self-reliant generation in line with the vision of Mission YUVA and Viksit Bharat.

Hands-on sessions, live demonstrations, app-based learning to provide practical exposure were held on the occasion. Also skill stalls were installed by students of ITI Budgam, ITI Chrar-e-Sharif, and Govt Polytechnic College Nagam, showcasing innovative proj-



ects and hand-made tools.

On the occasion, a live demonstration of the Mission YUVA Portal was held to familiarize participants with its features and benefits.

At the event, resource persons from multiple departments delivered sessions on Canva, MS Excel, PowerPoint tools, professional behaviour and workplace ethics, communication skills, career counseling in the IT Sector.

In his address, DC emphasised that the key to addressing the aspirations of today's youth lies in bridging the gap between academic learning and industry-relevant skills.

He reiterated that entrepreneurship is not just a career option but a mindset, and the district administration is

committed to nurturing this spirit among the youth.

DC stressed on the importance of Mission YUVA as a transformative platform that connects youth with opportunities in self-employment, innovation, and skilling.

He urged the youth to dream big, build ideas fearlessly, and make the best use of government schemes, while also calling upon educational institutions to foster a culture of innovation, problem-solving, and hands-on learning.

He said the future belongs to those who are skilled, innovative, and resilient. He further said that our goal is to ensure that every youth in Budgam is empowered to build a future of dignity and economic independence.



Iyer, Sarfaraz In West Zone Squad For Duleep Trophy; Thakur To Lead

Yashasvi Jaiswal and Ruturaj Gaikwad are also in the West Zone squad

United News of India

CANTERBURY: India and Mumbai allrounder Shardul Thakur has been named the West Zone captain for the 2025-26 Duleep Trophy starting on August 28. The 15-member squad includes India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal, and middle-order batters Sarfaraz Khan and Shreyas Iyer. A total of seven Mumbai players have been named in the team.

Ruturaj Gaikwad is among the 15, while Saurashtra's Harvik Desai and Maharashtra's Saurabh Nawale are the wicketkeepers.

There was no place for Cheteshwar Pujara or Ajinkya Rahane in the West Zone squad. The 15 were picked by the selection committee chaired

by Mumbai's Sanjay Patil, Baroda's Prayan Dave, Maharashtra's Akshay Darekar, Sandip Maniyar from the Saurashtra Cricket Association, and Kirat Damani from the Gujarat Cricket Association. Mumbai Cricket Association secretary Abhay Hadap was the convener of the meeting.

Earlier in the week, South Zone had also named their squad with Tilak Verma as captain. The six-team Duleep Trophy is returning to the zonal format, with squads picked by the zonal selectors, and the tournament will start the 2025-26 domestic season. Last season, the tournament had four teams - India A, B, C and D - that were picked by the national selectors.

South Zone were the winners when the Duleep Trophy was held in the zonal format in 2023-24.

Final Showdown of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025 Set for Today

HT Sports Desk

SRINAGAR, AUG 2: The grand finale of the Khyber Cement Kashmir Super League 2025, powered by Athwas Hyundai, is all set to

MATCH DETAILS:

Date: Sunday, August 3rd, 2025
Time: 7:00 PM
Venue: Synthetic Turf TRC Ground, Srinagar
Final Match: United Elegant FC vs Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC



pioneering franchise-based football league.

The championship match will be held on Sunday, August 3rd, at 7:00 PM at the Synthetic Turf TRC Ground, with thousands of fans expected to fill the stands and millions watching the action unfold across digital platforms.

After weeks of intense competition, these two formidable teams have emerged as the finalists—

United Elegant FC, known for their consistency and tactical discipline, will face the relentless offensive firepower of Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC, who have dazzled spectators with their dynamic style and attacking flair.

The Khyber cement Kashmir Super League, now firmly established as a landmark sporting initiative in Jammu & Kashmir, has brought together over 132+ local talents,

professional setups, and six corporate-backed teams in a festival of football that has redefined the sporting landscape of the region.

With the stage set for a historic night, all eyes will be on who lifts the coveted trophy and etches their name in Kashmir football history.

Come witness the spirit, the rivalry, and the passion — this is more than just a game. This is Kashmir's Game-Changer.

electrify the valley as United Elegant FC takes on Aqua Kashmir Avengers FC in what promises to be a thrilling culmination to this

HT OBITUARY:

Sadder Treasury Srinagar condoles demise of Ex-auditor- Bilal Ah. Bhat

SRINAGAR, AUG 02: Sadder Treasury officer, Javid Maqbool Khanday and other officials of Sadder Treasury Srinagar on Saturday condoled the demise of ex-auditor, Bilal Ahmad Bhat, currently posted in DSEK.

In this regard, a condolence meeting was convened under the chairmanship of the Sadder Treasury officer (STO). The meeting prayed for eternal peace to the departed soul and courage to the bereaved family to ensure this unimaginable loss.

During the meeting, Sadder Treasury officer described Bilal as a sincere and dedicated officer whose unwavering commitment to public service and integrity in duty earned him respect from his colleagues and the community alike.

Later, STO along with staff members visited the residence of the deceased to express solidarity with the grieving family.

Sharing his thoughts with the grieving there, he said Bilal will be remem-



bered among the finance community as an upright, honest & dedicated officer. His void will be profoundly felt in the echelons of the finance community.

Matt Henry takes nine in the match as NZ rout Zimbabwe in first Test

Firdose Moonda

BULAWAYO: New Zealand knocked off a target of eight runs in 14 balls to complete a comprehensive win over a Zimbabwe side whose home form continues to suffer. Their only Test win this year was against Bangladesh in Chattogram in April, and they have now lost their last five Tests.

The architects of New Zealand's victory were their bowlers, headlined by Matt Henry's second Test nine-for, which included three second-innings wickets. Although New Zealand were without Nathan Smith for the third day - he could not take the field to determine the severity of an abdominal strain - Will O'Rourke's 3 for 28 and stand-in captain Mitchell Santner's 4 for 27 meant Zimbabwe were bowled out for under 170 in both innings to leave major batting concerns.

Despite a good mix of youthful talent and experience in their line-up, Zimbabwe are struggling to post big scores. Only Sean Williams' 49 was noteworthy in this match, though wicketkeeper Tafadzwa Tsiga made a career-best 30 in the first innings and 27 in the second. His contribution forced New Zealand to bat again, and kept an innings defeat at bay.

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