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HEADLINES TODAY
Voice To The Voiceless

P:12 BWF keeps India Open schedule flexible amid concerns over Delhi pollution

Woman Died as Scorpio Collides With Tata Mobile in Kangan

HT NEWS NETWORK

GANDERBAL, AUG 20: A 45-year-old woman was killed after a Scorpio collided with a Tata Mobile on the link road at Akhal in Kangan area of Ganderbal district on Thursday.

The woman, identified as Naseema Begum, wife of Nazir Ahmad Ahanger of Akhal, Kangan, was travelling as a passenger in the Tata Mobile when the two vehicles collided.

She sustained critical injuries in the crash and was immediately

SEE ON P-2

Police, CRPF Deploy Sniffer Dogs During Checks in Srinagar City Centre

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUG 20:Security checks were intensified in and around Lal Chowk in Srinagar on Thursday, with police and CRPF personnel carrying out searches of parked vehicles and other areas as part of a security exercise.

Srinagar Police, along with personnel of 132 Battalion CRPF, conducted checking in Lal Chowk and adjoining areas.The security teams also searched the parking lots, checking vehicles parked in several areas.

SEE ON P-2

Sopore Police Arrest Second Accused in Police Impersonation, Extortion Case

HT NEWS NETWORK

SOPORE, AUG 20:Sopore Police have arrested the second accused in a case involving alleged impersonation of police officials and extortion, completing the arrests in FIR No. 194/2026.

Police had on August 7 arrested one accused for allegedly impersonating a police official and extorting money

SEE ON P-2

Two Drug Peddlers Arrested With Heroin in Udhampur

HT NEWS NETWORK

UDHAMPUR, AUG 20: Two alleged drug peddlers were arrested after police recovered 5.22 grams of heroin from their possession during checking at Phalata Naka in Udhampur district.

The arrested persons have been identified as Akash Kumar and Ajay Singh.

Police said the duo was intercepted at Phalata Naka and the suspected heroin was recovered from their possession.

Following the recovery, FIR No. 206/2026 under Sections 8, 21 and 22 of the NDPS Act was registered at Police Station Rehambal.

Further investigation has been initiated to ascertain the source of the contraband and establish any other links associated with the case. [KNT]

Border Villages Are India's First Villages : LG Manoj Sinha Pledges Accelerated Development

Vibrant Villages Programme to focus on self-reliance, youth empowerment, healthcare and security infrastructure

HT NEWS NETWORK

JAMMU: Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday visited Karol Krishna border village in Kathua and said border settlements should be seen not as the country's last villages but as its "first villages" and the frontline of India's identity. Addressing residents of six villages covered under the Vibrant Villages Programme Phase-II, Sinha highlighted improved road connectivity, electrification, telecommunications, livelihoods and security infrastructure, while handing over government scheme benefits and appointment letters to beneficiaries and youth.

The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha today visited Karol Krishna, a border village in Kathua district. The village along with Rathua, Gujjar Chak, Gajnal, Bobiya, Kadiyala comes under the Vibrant Village Programme-Phase-2 (VVP-2). The Lieutenant Governor handed over benefits under several government schemes to local families and appointment letters to youth.

Addressing the residents from 6 strategic villages under VVP-2, the Lieutenant Governor emphasized that border villages are not India's last villages, but its first villages, the frontline of the nation's identity and development.

He noted that for decades, the word "border" carried a sense of distance and these villages were far from the priorities of governance. However, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, border villages have been brought into the mainstream of development. "When the story of India's development is written, its first chapter should begin in villages like Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gajnal, Bobiya,

SEE ON P-2

Cabinet Clears High Court Bench for Ladakh to Improve Access to Justice

Amit Shah says move will reduce travel burden for litigants in the Union Territory

HT NEWS DESK /AGENCIES

NEW DELHI: The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the establishment of a bench of the

Jammu and Kashmir High Court in Ladakh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, describing the move as a step towards improving access to justice in the strategically important Union Territory. The proposed bench is expected to reduce the time, cost and logistical difficulties faced by litigants who currently have to travel to the High Court's principal seats in Srinagar and Jammu.The Union Cabinet on Thursday approved the setting up of a bench of the Jammu and Kashmir High

SEE ON P-2

Srinagar to Get ₹25.87-Crore Modern Mechanised Abattoir

Allochi Bagh facility to process up to 5,000 sheep and goats daily with focus on hygiene and waste management

HT NEWS DESK /AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Thursday laid the foundation stone for a 25.87-crore

state-of-the-art mechanised sheep and goat abattoir at Allochi Bagh, aimed at transforming meat-processing infrastructure in Srinagar. The facility will have a capacity to process around 5,000 animals daily and incorporate modern slaughtering, chilling, cold storage, sanitation, veterinary quality control and scientific waste-management systems, including bio-digestion and an Effluent Treatment Plant.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today laid the foundation stone for the 25.87 crore state-of-the-art mechanized Abattoir here at Allochi Bagh, marking a significant step towards establishing a regulated, hygienic and scientifically managed meat-processing facility for Srinagar city.

SEE ON P-2

DGP Reviews Security Grid Ahead of Kounsarnag Yatra

Forces directed to strengthen route security, coordination and preparedness for smooth pilgrimage

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat on

SEE ON P-2

Civil Servants Must Uphold Integrity, Citizen-Centric Governance : VP Radhakrishnan

Urges young IAS officers to embrace technology to ensure last-mile delivery

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

MUSSOORIE: Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Thursday called upon newly trained IAS officers to make integrity, public service and citizen-centric governance the foundation of their careers, while urging them to harness technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and blockchain to improve efficiency and transparency. Addressing the valedictory programme of Phase-II training of the 2024 IAS batch at LBSNAA, he stressed that civil servants have a crucial role in translating the vision of Viksit Bharat @

SEE ON P-2

Police Register Case Over Alleged Fake OPD Ticket Scam at Kulgam Hospital

HT NEWS NETWORK

KULGAM, AUG 20:Police have registered a case over an alleged racket involving printing and sale of OPD tickets to patients in Kulgam, with computers and laptops seized as part of the investigation.

The alleged irregularities reportedly involve an outside hospital pharmacy and clinical laboratory, with police investigating the circumstances under which the tickets were printed and sold.

Medical Superintendent District Hospital Kulgam, Dr Masood, told KNT that some persons allegedly printed OPD tickets at their private clinics and sold them to poor patients.

"Some miscreants with nefarious designs printed the tickets at their clinics and used to sell those to poor patients," Dr Masood said, adding that the matter had been brought to the hospital authorities' notice earlier as well.He said the persons involved had previously been warned of stern action against such practices.

SEE ON P-2

HT BOTTOM NEWS

J&K Moves to Fast-Track Promotions Through Online DPC Portal

Chief Secretary reviews administrative reforms, recruitment rules, BOPEE and Government Press functioning

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR: Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo on Thursday reviewed key administrative reform initiatives and directed departments to

expedite recruitment rules, cadre restructuring and service-related matters while ensuring the smooth adoption of the newly developed online Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) Portal. The portal, designed to digitise and streamline promotion cases through a Maker-Checker-Approver workflow, has been handed over to the General Administration Department for immediate rollout across government departments.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today reviewed the functioning and performance of the Administrative Reforms, Inspections (ARI) & Trainings Department, with a focus on key governance and administrative reform initiatives, including finalization of Recruitment Rules, cadre restructuring, resolution of Multi-Tasking Staff (MTS) issues, and operational efficiency of the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE) and Government Press.

The meeting, attended by Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings Department; Chairperson, J&K BOPEE; General Manager, Government Press; and other senior officers.

Issuing directions for expediting the ongoing reforms, the Chief Secretary called for smooth and time-bound operationalisation of the online DPC Portal, besides ensuring swift completion of Recruitment Rules for all departments and their respective services. He stressed that the digital mechanisms should translate into tangible improvements in administrative efficiency and timely disposal of service-related matters.

The Chief Secretary further directed that a comprehensive mechanism

SEE ON P-2

US Envoy's J&K Remarks Setback to Pakistan's Narrative : Sunil Sharma

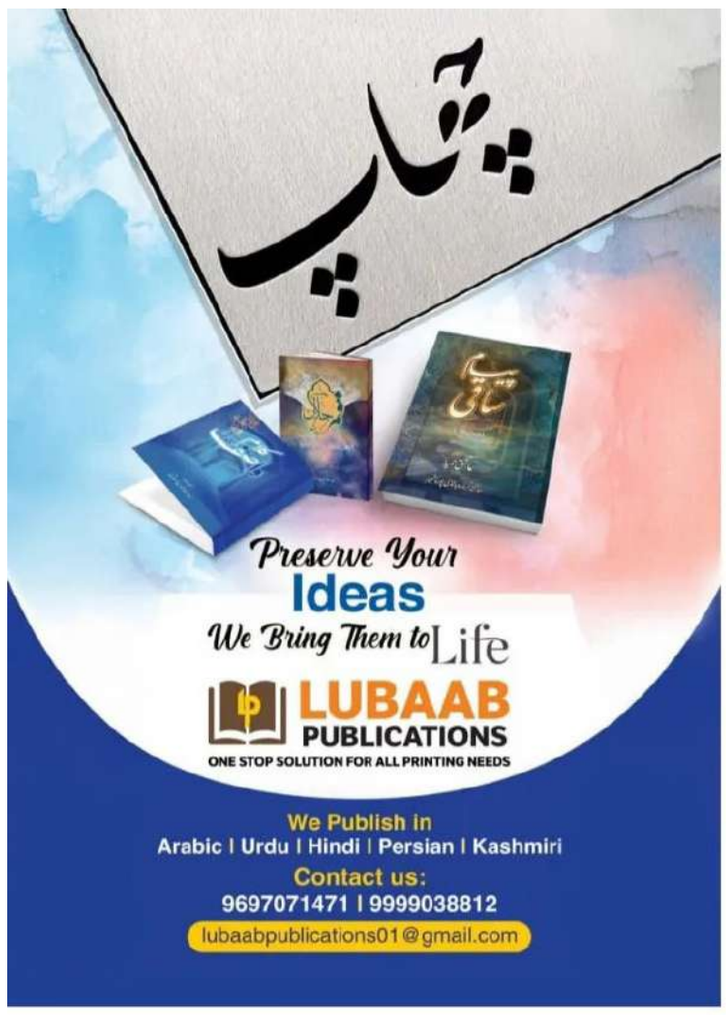
LoP hails ambassador's statement as a diplomatic success for India

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

JAMMU: Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Thursday termed US Ambassador Sergio Gor's remarks describing Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India a "major diplomatic

success" for New Delhi and a setback to Pakistan's efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue. Sharma said the envoy's statement reinforced India's position and demonstrated growing international recognition of its stand on Jammu and Kashmir.

SEE ON P-2



Continue from Front Page.....

Woman Died

shifted to Sub-District Hospital Kangan. However, doctors declared her brought dead on arrival.

Police have seized both the vehicles and registered a formal case. [KNT]

Police, CRPF

Sniffer dogs were deployed during the checking operation to assist security personnel in examining vehicles and the surrounding area.

The exercise was part of heightened security checks in the city centre, with personnel inspecting vehicles and carrying out searches at identified locations. [KNT]

Sopore Police

from a complainant, while efforts were underway to trace another person allegedly involved in the case.

In the latest development, police said the second accused has also been arrested.

With the latest arrest, both accused involved in the case have been taken into custody.

Further investigation into the case is underway. [KNT]

Border Villages

Kadiyala and Gujjar Chak, where India's border breathes and the tricolour flutters," he said.

Highlighting progress since 2019, the Lieutenant Governor stated that all 216 border villages of Kathua district are now connected by road, with full electrification achieved. Telecommunication and television access, once limited, now reach every household.

"These figures are not just numbers and reports but they represent real change in your lives," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor shared data highlighting that poverty levels have declined sharply, migration to cities has halved, and rural incomes have risen by 30%. Employment opportunities have expanded, with unemployment reduced to nearly half of earlier levels. More than 2,000 individual and community bunkers have been constructed for the safety of border families.

"Our goal should be that the entire population moves above the poverty line," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the role of Nari Shakti in transforming border economies. Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, over 1,300 self-help groups have been formed, benefiting more than 12,000 families. Women are engaged in tailoring, embroidery, crafts, and small enterprises, strengthening both household and village economies. The Lieutenant Governor also urged the young generation of border villages to dream as big as those in metro cities. He noted that government schools now have improved facilities, digital classrooms, vocational training and full academic sessions.

"This is not a minor change but it is a generational transformation," he said.

The Lieutenant Governor outlined four key resolves for the development of border villages- Self-reliance by Connecting villages not just to roads but to markets, promoting horticulture and dairy cooperatives. Youth empowerment by creating opportunities in agriculture, tourism, defence-support services, and crafts. Improved health facilities by strengthening healthcare and tele-medicine connectivity, and the fourth resolve is robust security infrastructure by enhancing coordination between civil administration and armed forces.

"Development and security are not separate goals but they are two pillars of the same goal. Only a secure village can become a prosperous village, and only prosperous villages can build a self-reliant and developed India," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the youth and families of Karol Krishna and neighbouring villages to take responsibility for shaping their future.

"I want to tell the youth of Karol Krishna, Rathua, Gajnal, Bobiya, Kadiyala and Gujjar Chak that your ancestors held this soil through difficulties for many decades after Independence. Now it is your responsibility to take it forward. Today, resources are in your hands, and if there is any shortfall anywhere, I promise it will be addressed immediately. Today the big question is - taking this opportunity, how far will you take your village? Will Karol Krishna be known only as a border village, or as a border village that produces the country's finest youth? That decision is now the youth's responsibility.

I also want to assure all families in border villages that we will ensure that the light of development reaches every home. The Vibrant Villages Programme is a national resolve, and from now on we will not let border villages remain behind. You are India's "first name". You are not the periphery of the country but you are the front line. You are the place from where India becomes visible. And as long as our soldier stands on the border, and behind him the border villages stand firm, India is firm. India is invincible. India is immortal," the Lieutenant Governor said.

Addressing the demands, the Lieutenant Governor assured Kathua residents that prompt action will be taken to resolve their issues.

During his visit to the Karol Krishna Border Out Post (BOP), the Lieutenant Governor interacted with the Jawans and commended their steadfast commitment to securing the nation's borders and their exceptional service during Operation Sindoor. He emphasized the need for continuous vigilance to disrupt and neutralize any hostile attempts by the enemy.

Advocate Vijay Kumar, Member of Legislative Assembly from Hiranagar; Shri Shaleen Kabra, Additional Chief Secretary, Jal Shakti Department; Shri Ashwani Kumar, Additional Chief Secretary, Power Development Department; Shri Bhim Sen Tuti; IGP Jammu; Shri Asif Jalal, IG BSF; Shri M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Shri Vikramjit Singh, Commissioner Secretary Industries & Commerce; Shri Sarmad Hafeez, Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department; Ms R. Alice Vaz, Commissioner Secretary to Government, Planning and Information; Shri Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; Shri Mohammad Aijaz , Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj; Shri Amitava Chatterjee, MD & CEO, J&K Bank; Shri Rajesh Sharma, Deputy Commissioner Kathua; senior officials and people from different walks of life were present.

Cabinet Clears

Court in Ladakh, Union Home Minister Amit Shah said, a move aimed at easing access to justice for residents of the strategically important Union Territory.

In a post on X, Amit Shah said the decision was taken under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

"The Union Cabinet, under the leadership of the PM Shri @narendramodi Ji, has decided to set up a bench of the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir in Ladakh. This will significantly enhance access to justice for citizens living in remote areas of Ladakh by reducing the time required to avail themselves of the legal services they are entitled to," Shah wrote.

The home minister said the government remained fully committed to the all-round development of Ladakh and to ensuring constitutional safeguards for the region.

Officials said the new bench would save litigants from Ladakh the time and expense of travelling to the High Court's principal seats in Srinagar and Jammu. The Union Territory was carved out of the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir following its reorganisation in August 2019.

The cabinet decision comes amid the government's broader push to strengthen judicial infrastructure in border regions and address long-standing demands from local bodies and bar associations in Ladakh. (KNS)

Civil Servants

2047 into inclusive development reaching the last mile.

: Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan on Thursday called upon IAS officers to uphold integrity, prioritise citizen-centric governance and use emerging technologies to make public service more efficient and responsive.

Addressing the valedictory programme of Phase-II training of IAS Officer Trainees of the 2024 batch at the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), Mussoorie, Radhakrishnan said civil servants were a vital link between policy formulation and its implementation at the grassroots level.

Referring to the goal of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, he urged the officers to ensure that development remained inclusive and reached the last mile. He asked them to make "Sevabhav" and "Kartavyabodh" their guiding principles in public service.

The Vice-President stressed the importance of teamwork, urging the young officers to focus on building cohesive teams rather than pursuing individual excellence. He also called upon them to motivate colleagues and carry forward effective practices established by their predecessors.

Radhakrishnan highlighted the growing representation of women in the civil services, noting that around 41 per cent of the 2024 batch comprised women. He described the trend as reflecting the growing participation of women in public administration.

Emphasising the changing nature of governance, he urged the officers to embrace technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning and blockchain to improve efficiency, transparency and delivery of public services.

He also underlined the need for continuous learning and adaptability, saying that civil servants would have to remain prepared for emerging challenges and technological changes.

On leadership and public service ethics, the Vice-President stressed that character and integrity should remain the foundation of administrative work. He said leadership should be judged by ethical conduct, particularly when officers face difficult situations, rather than by power or position.

He urged the newly trained officers to make their careers meaningful by addressing grievances, empowering citizens and ensuring that public services reach people in remote parts of the country.

Uttarakhand Governor Lieutenant General (Retd.) Gurmit Singh, State Agriculture and Farmers Welfare and Soldier Welfare Minister Ganesh Joshi and LBSNAA Director B. Rajender were among those present at the programme. (PIB)

DGP Reviews

Thursday chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to assess preparations for the upcoming Kounsarnag Yatra. The DGP directed senior officers and participating security agencies to maintain heightened preparedness, strengthen security arrangements along the pilgrimage routes and ensure seamless coordination and communication, stressing that the safety of pilgrims remains the top priority.

Director General of Police, J&K, Nalin Prabhat-IPS, chaired a security review meeting at Police Control Room Kashmir to review the security arrangements for the annual Kaunsarnag Yatra.

The meeting was attended by Spl. DG Coordination J&K S.J.M Gillani, IGsP of (Kashmir Zone, Jammu Zone), range DIsG of SKR & UR, SSP Kulgam, SSP Reasi, SSP PCR Kashmir, CO 33RR, CO 58RR, CDR 14 Sector RR and other senior officers.

The meeting focused on reviewing the existing security arrangements and strengthening the security framework in view of the upcoming Kounsarnag Yatra.

At the onset of the meeting, officers briefed the DGP on the security arrangements and preparedness for the forthcoming Yatra.

Nalin Prabhat reviewed various security-related aspects and stressed the need for enhanced coordination among all concerned agencies to ensure comprehensive security and effective management of the pilgrimage.

The DGP directed the officers to maintain a high level of preparedness, strengthen security arrangements along the Yatra routes, and ensure close coordination and seamless communication among all stakeholders.

The DGP underscored that the safety and security of pilgrims remains a top priority and called for all necessary security measures to facilitate the peaceful and smooth conduct of the Kounsarnag Yatra.

The meeting concluded with directions to all concerned officers to ensure meticulous planning, close coordination, and effective implementation of the security arrangements.(KNS)

Srinagar to

The construction of modern mechanized Sheep & Goat Abattoir in Srinagar City, includes Testing & Commissioning on EPC Mode under CAPEX/SASCI.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah said the modern abattoir would mark an important step towards bringing Srinagar's meat-processing infrastructure in line with contemporary standards.

Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) Gurwinder Singh Oberoi, MLA, Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmed, Commissioner Srinagar Municipal Corporation Fazl ul Haseeb and other concerned officers were present on the occasion.

The proposed abattoir will have a processing capacity of approximately 5,000 sheep and goats per day, making it one of the largest dedicated mechanized sheep and goat abattoirs in the country. The facility will incorporate modern mechanized systems covering slaughtering, carcass handling, processing, chilling, cold storage, sanitation, by-product management and other allied operations.

Commissioner SMC briefed the Chief Minister that the project is aimed at substantially improving meat hygiene and food safety, ensuring safer working conditions, strengthening veterinary and quality-control mechanisms and establishing a regulated, efficient and scientifically managed slaughtering system for Srinagar city.

A key feature of the project is its emphasis on environmental safeguards and scientific waste management. The facility will incorporate a bio-digestion system and an Effluent Treatment Plant (ETP) to scientifically treat organic waste and wastewater generated during operations. These systems will help reduce the organic pollution load, control foul odour, facilitate resource recovery and enable reuse of treated water for suitable non-potable purposes.

The project, once completed, is envisaged as a state-of-the-art mechanized abattoir and a significant urban infrastructure initiative for Srinagar, bringing modern standards of hygiene, food safety, animal handling, waste management and environmental protection to the city's meat-processing sector.

Police Register

Police have now registered an FIR and seized laptops and computers believed to be relevant to the investigation.

SHO Kulgam confirmed the registration of the case and said the investigation was underway. He said arrests could follow after the investigation establishes the role of those allegedly involved.

The investigation is being conducted to ascertain the exact nature and extent of the alleged irregularities and establish how the OPD tickets were being printed and distributed. [KNT]

US Envoy s J&K

Leader of Opposition in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly Sunil Sharma on Thursday welcomed US Ambassador Sergio Gor's statement on Jammu and Kashmir, calling it a "major diplomatic success" for India and a "setback" to Pakistan's persistent efforts to internationalise the Kashmir issue.

"There is no doubt, there is no question that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India. Today, if the US Ambassador has said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India, then it is a good thing and, somewhere, it is a major success of India's diplomacy," Sharma told reporters here as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS).

The BJP leader said Pakistan had been making "a lot of efforts to create confusion abroad" regarding Jammu and Kashmir, but the US envoy's assertion had put an end to such narratives. "The world is now clearly acknowledging India's unwavering position on the matter," he added.

Gor, in his remarks on Wednesday, had categorically described Jammu and Kashmir as an integral part of India, reinforcing New Delhi's consistent stand that the Union Territory is a sovereign part of the country and any cross-border interference is unacceptable. (KNS)

J&K Moves

be devised to ensure filling up of all available seats/vacancies in professional courses through BOPEE, with the objective of achieving optimum utilization of the infrastructure, faculty and other resources available in institutions of higher learning across the Union Territory.

The Chief Secretary thereafter took a detailed live demonstration of the DPC Portal's end-to-end workflow. Developed through BISAG-N under the supervision of the ARI & Trainings Department, the portal is designed to fully digitize and streamline the process of holding DPCs across the Union Territory, thereby reducing procedural delays and ensuring greater transparency and efficiency in processing promotion cases.

During the demonstration, the Chief Secretary reviewed the portal's multi-tiered workflow, under which cases move seamlessly through designated administrative levels of Maker, Checker and Approver.

He emphasized that the digital platform should help eliminate administrative bottlenecks and facilitate the time-bound conduct of DPCs. The portal has now been formally handed over to the General Administration Department (GAD), which will function as the Super Admin and issue necessary circular instructions for its immediate adoption and onboarding of all Government departments.

The meeting was also apprised of the Online Portal for Processing Recruitment Rules, developed in collaboration with BISAG-N. The portal has successfully cleared its security audit through the Information Technology Department, incorporates active SMS alerts, is hosted at the State Data Centre and is being integrated with the e-Office system.

Commissioner Secretary, ARI & Trainings, Shabnam Kamili, apprised the meeting of the ongoing modernization of service guidelines. She informed that the Standing Committee has held 61 meetings since January 2024 and has cleared Recruitment Rules for 36 services, while another 13 services have been cleared through Executive Orders. Preliminary meetings have also been concluded for 88 additional services.

On human resource optimization, the Commissioner Secretary stated that a structured calendar is being devised for reviewing individual departments with a view to undertaking budget-neutral cadre restructuring and resolving MTS-related issues in consultation with the concerned line departments.

The meeting was further informed that the Union Territory's progress under the national iGOT Karmayogi platform has received appreciation from the Capacity Building Commission, Government of India. The ARI & Trainings Department has successfully onboarded participants and trained 222 officers and officials through five intensive one-day Karmayogi Kartavya Karyakram batches conducted by certified State Master Trainers.

Reviewing the functioning of the J&K Board of Professional Entrance Examinations (BOPEE), the meeting was informed that the Board has transitioned completely to digital operations, with all counselling rounds for the 2026-27 session being conducted through the online e-Counselling platform. An advance examination calendar has also been issued, while examination centres are being expanded beyond Jammu and Srinagar to facilitate students from rural and remote areas.

The meeting also reviewed intake trends across various professional courses and noted high seat occupancy in streams including M.Sc. Nursing, Post Basic B.Sc. Nursing and CET Engineering. It was observed that the Higher Education Department may engage with AICTE for suitable modifications in course streams in line with emerging market requirements, enabling BOPEE to conduct additional counselling rounds wherever necessary.

Taking stock of the functioning of the Government Presses, the meeting was informed that 751 out of 1,146 printing jobs received—65.53 per cent—have already been executed by the Srinagar and Jammu presses. The two presses have generated combined revenue of Rs 500.78 lakh against a target of Rs 1,300 lakh for the financial year 2026-27.

The meeting also deliberated upon several pending administrative matters, including the proposed constitution of the J&K Administrative Reforms Commission, delegation of powers to the Director, Press; recovery of Rs 12.50 crore in outstanding printing charges from various departments; and the possibility of outsourcing heavy printing workloads to ensure uninterrupted operations of the Government Press.

Breast cancer can become life-threatening if not detected early: Doctors

SRINAGAR: Breast cancer can become life-threatening if it is not detected and treated at an early stage, as the disease may spread to other organs, including the bones, liver and lungs, doctors said, stressing the importance of awareness, regular screening and timely medical intervention.Doctors said advanced breast cancer can lead to serious complications, significantly affect a patient's quality of life and, in severe cases, prove fatal. Beyond the physical burden, the disease often places considerable emotional and financial pressure on patients and their families, particularly when treatment continues for a prolonged period.

"Once cancer spreads to other parts of the body, the complications become much more serious. Patients may experience considerable pain, disability and deterioration in their overall quality of life. The disease also takes an emotional and financial toll on families," oncologist Dr Aijaz Shah told the news agency—Kashmir News Observer (KNO).

He said that while certain risk factors, including genetic predisposition, cannot be modified, several preventive measures and lifestyle changes can help reduce the risk of breast cancer.

According to Dr Shah, women should remain alert about changes in their breasts and undergo appropriate screening as recommended.

"Self-breast examination, clinical breast examination and mammography after the age of 40 can play an important role in detecting breast cancer at an early stage," he said, adding that early diagnosis substantially improves treatment outcomes.

He further advised women to maintain a healthy body weight, remain physically active, avoid smoking and limit alcohol consumption, as these measures can contribute towards lowering the risk.

An oncologist, Dr Zahoor Ahmad Mor, said breastfeeding has also been associated with a reduced risk of breast cancer, while a balanced diet can support overall health.

"A diet containing adequate fruits, vegetables and whole grains, while limiting highly processed foods, is beneficial for maintaining overall health," he said.

Doctors urged women to seek medical advice if they notice any unusual changes in their breasts. Warning signs, they said, may include a new breast lump, unusual nipple discharge, changes in the size or shape of the breast, alterations in the skin, nipple changes or other persistent abnormalities.

Any unusual or persistent change should not be ignored, doctors said, adding that seeking medical advice at the earliest can make a significant difference because breast cancer is treatable, particularly when it is detected before it spreads.

Doctors said awareness should not be limited to Breast Cancer Awareness Month or particular campaigns, but should become part of routine healthcare practices among women.

They added that regular check-ups, timely screening, awareness of symptoms and adoption of a healthy lifestyle remain among the most effective measures for reducing the burden of breast cancer.

Director CSIR-IMTECH Visits CIED IUST Foundation.

Showkat Dar

AWANTIPORA: Dr. Alka Rao, Director, CSIR–Institute of Microbial Technology (CSIR-IMTECH), visited the Centre for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development (CIED–IUST Foundation) at IUST Innovation Campus.

Dr. Alka Rao was warmly welcomed by Prof. Parvez A. Mir, CEO, CIED–IUST Foundation. During the interaction, Prof. Mir provided an overview of the Foundation's various initiatives, achievements and activities aimed at nurturing innovation and entrepreneurship among students, researchers and young professionals. A detailed presentation highlighting the operational framework, key interventions and impact of CIED–IUST Foundation was also shared.

As part of the visit, Dr. Rao toured several innovation and technology laboratories established under the Foundation, including the iFactory Lab, D&D Lab, AICTE IDEA Lab, Fab Lab and UltraTech Cement Lab, besides other state-of-the-art facilities. She was briefed on the various services available and their role in providing an enabling ecosystem for innovation, prototyping, research and entrepreneurship.

Dr. Rao also visited the Department of Food Technology and the Watson-Crick Centre for Molecular Medicine (WCCMM) at IUST,

where she interacted with faculty and researchers and was apprised of the ongoing research activities, facilities and areas of scientific interest.

The visit provided an opportunity for meaningful interaction and exchange of ideas on strengthening institutional collaboration and creating greater opportunities for students and young innovators. The visit concluded with a shared emphasis on exploring avenues for future collaboration and leveraging institutional expertise and resources to promote a stronger culture of innovation, scientific research and technology-led entrepreneurship.

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Sakeena Itoo tours hailstorm affected villages of Kulgam

Inaugurates healthcare facilities at PHC Nehama, distributes Dignity Kits among adolescent girls

■ HT News Network

KULGAM, AUGUST 20: Minister for Social Welfare, Education, Health and Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, today conducted an extensive tour of villages of Kulgam to assess the damage caused to orchards due to adverse weather conditions during the current season.

The Minister visited several affected villages including Harvaith, Nihama, Samnoo, Gopalpora, Lakhdipora, Tengam, Bathipora and Chogalpora.

She was accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Shahzad Alam, SDM Noorabad Bashir ul Hassan, Tehsildar D.H. Pora Zahid Ahmad, Chief Horticulture Officer Kulgam Mohd. Ramzan War and other officers of the Horticulture Department besides other officers and officials of the district administration.

During the visit, Sakeena Itoo interacted with the fruit growers, inspected the orchards and had detailed feedback regarding the losses suffered by the farming community. The growers apprised her of the severity of damage to fruit crops, defoliation and damage to fruit-bearing trees following repeated spells of hailstorm and high-velocity winds.The Deputy Commissioner briefed the Minister about the damage reported from different areas of the district and the measures undertaken by the district administration for damage assessment and relief.The Chief Horticulture Officer informed the Minister that the preliminary assessment of the damage has already been submitted to the concerned authorities. Besides, village-wise and asam-e -wise details of the losses are being compiled to facilitate further action as per the applicable norms under SDRF/UT norms, he added.The Minister expressed solidarity with the affected growers and said that horticulture is the backbone of Kashmir's economy and the government fully understands the distress of the farming community. She assured the affected farmers that all possible assistance and relief would be extended to the eligible beneficiaries under the applicable rules and provisions. She informed that the matter has been taken up at the appropriate level for redress.

On long-term preventive measures, the Chief Horticulture Officer apprised the Minister of the importance of anti-hail nets in protecting the orchards from recurring weather-related damage. He urged the farmers to adopt anti-hail nets, for which the government is providing substantial subsidy under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and other applicable schemes.Emphasising the importance of horticulture to the region's economy, Sakeena Itoo said that the government remains committed to strengthen the horticulture sector, protect the livelihoods of fruit growers and extend all possible institutional support to the affected farming community.Later, the Minister inaugurated the key healthcare and infrastructure facilities at Primary Health Centre (PHC) Nehama, Kulgam, aimed at further strengthening healthcare delivery in the remote area. These included 30 KVA Genset, installed at a cost of Rs. 10 lakh, a 20-bedded inpatient ward and a CBC Analyzer at the health centre. The facilities are expected to significantly enhance the power backup, inpatient capacity and diagnostic services, thereby benefiting the local population.

Ajeet Kumar Sahu reviews PM SHRI Schools, Health Centre

■ HT News Network

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 20: Ajeet Kumar Sahu, Joint Secretary, Department of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India, and Central Prabhari Officer for Baramulla District under the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block Programmes, PM SHRI Schools and PMDDKY, today undertook a comprehensive field visit to Tangmarg and Pattan to assess the progress of key development initiatives.

Sahu, accompanied by Pranjal J. Hazarika, Additional District Development Commissioner, Baramulla; Nissar Ahmad, Chief Planning Officer; SDM Gulmarg; State Coordinator PM SHRI Fayaz Ahmad Fayaz and other concerned officers, reviewed the implementation of various flagship programmes at the grassroots level.

During the visit, he inspected PM SHRI Schools at Dobhiwan, Tangmarg, and Gund Khwaja Qasim in Pattan. He took stock of the infrastructure, educational facilities and initiatives being implemented under the PM SHRI Scheme. He also interacted with students to understand their learning experiences, assess the availability of facilities and hear their aspirations.The visit also focused on evaluating the implementation and impact of the Aspirational District and Aspirational Block Programmes and PMDDKY, while identifying areas that require further attention and strengthening.

Later, Sahu visited Singhpora, Pattan, and inspected the newly established Health and Wellness Centre (Delivery Point). The facility has been constructed with award funds received under NITI Aayog's Aspirational Blocks Programme, aimed at strengthening local healthcare infrastructure and ensuring improved access to essential health services.

During the field visit, Sahu stressed the need for effective implementation, judicious utilization of resources and continuous monitoring of development programmes.

PAC reviews functioning, Audit Paras of PWD (R&B) department

Chairman Slathia stresses on financial discipline, transparency in execution of public works

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20: The Committee on Public Accounts (PAC) of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Assembly today conducted a detailed review of various Audit Paras pertaining to the Public Works (R&B) Department.

The meeting was chaired by Chairman PAC, Surjeet Singh Slathia and attended by members of the Committee including Mubarik Gul, Shamim Firdous, Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Altaf Ahmad Wani (Kaloo), Ranbir Singh Pathania, Ch. Mohammad Akram, Vikram Randhawa and Tanvir Sadiq.

The meeting was also attended by DGAT, Engineer in Chief, Chief Engineers, Superintending Engineers, Executive Engineers, Director Finance PWD and other senior officers of PWD, besides Secretary JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandit and other officers of Assembly Secretariat.

During the meeting, the Committee examined the Action Taken Reports (ATRs) furnished by the Department on various observations contained in the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India and reviewed the status of pending Audit Paras.

While examining one of the Audit Paras, the Committee took serious note of the issues involved and directed the Department to institute a departmental inquiry to fix responsibility.

The Chairman directed the department to submit the Action Taken Report within two months for consideration and appraisal of the Committee.

Emphasizing the importance of financial discipline and transparency in the execution of public works, the Chairman observed that public money must be utilized with utmost responsibility and accountability. He stressed that all developmental works should be executed strictly in accordance with prescribed rules, procedures and codal formalities.

Chief Secy reviews Renewable Energy initiatives of Science & Tech Deptt

J&K to scale-up Floating Solar, Small Hydro, Wind Energy and Compressed Bio-Gas Projects

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20: Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today held a review meeting of the Science and Technology Department to assess the progress and implementation framework of various renewable energy initiatives and emerging green-energy policies in the Union Territory.

The meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, Science & Technology was attended by Director, CSIR-IIIM Jammu; DG Budget; MD, PDCL; CEO, JAKEDA; CEO, CITaG and other concerned officers.

Reviewing the action plans, Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo directed all concerned departments, including Power Development Department, Revenue, Finance and Agriculture, to ensure close institutional coordination and timely execution of the identified initiatives.

The Chief Secretary directed that the district-wise biomass survey be completed within the stipulated timeline and called for immediate identification and screening of suitable government land for creation of a centralized Green Land Bank especially by exploring the digital land bank of J&K created by the Forest Department.

Emphasizing the need to translate policy initiatives into tangible outcomes, the Chief Secretary called for milestone-based, time-bound implementation, with clear responsibilities assigned to the concerned departments and agencies.

He observed that J&K possesses tremendous potential in solar, water, wind and biomass resources therefore our focus must now be on converting this potential into viable projects through coordinated and time-bound action.

He maintained that these initiatives can contribute significantly towards energy security, create local employment, support industry and agriculture, and help build a cleaner and greener Jammu and Kashmir.On this occasion the Commissioner/Secretary, Science and Technology Department, Babila Rakwal, presented an overview of the ongoing initiatives, while the Centre for Innovation and Technology Transformation (CITaG) presented strategic roadmaps for the proposed Integrated Renewable Energy (IRE) Policy and Compressed Bio-Gas (CBG) Policy.

The meeting reviewed a broad range of initiatives encompassing floating solar projects, small hydro power, solarization of government buildings, wind-energy assessment, smart metering, battery energy storage systems and conversion of organic waste into compressed bio-gas.

It was highlighted that under the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY), the department is promoting Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) projects in J&K. It was revealed that following the successful implementation of a 100 kW floating solar pilot project at Dal Lake, Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir

ADC Anantnag Inspects SWM Treatment Plant at Uranhall

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 20: Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Vikas Ahlawat, today inspected the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Treatment Plant of the Municipal Council Anantnag at Uranhall to assess its functioning and review arrangements for the scientific management and disposal of municipal solid waste.

During the inspection, the ADC reviewed the existing facilities and directed the concerned authorities to further strengthen the waste management system. He emphasised the need for proper and scientific disposal of municipal waste in accordance with prescribed norms and stressed that all necessary measures be taken to maintain cleanliness and ensure safe handling of waste.

Ahlawat directed the concerned authorities to undertake immediate macadamization of the approach road leading to the SWM Treatment Plant. He said improved road connectivity would facilitate the smooth and uninterrupted movement of waste-carrying vehicles and enhance accessibility to the facility.

The ADC also directed the officers to explore the provision of essential utility

connections and other basic infrastructure at the plant to support its efficient functioning and ensure uninterrupted operations. The Municipal Council authorities were asked to take timely action on all identified requirements.

The inspection underscored the administration's commitment to strengthening scientific solid waste management, improving civic infrastructure and creating a cleaner and healthier environment for the people of Anantnag.

Chief Executive Officer, Municipal Council Anantnag, Secretary, Municipal Council Anantnag, and other concerned officials accompanied the ADC during the visit.

Javid Dar flags off 250 farmers for training at CITH; advocates adoption of modern, scientific agri-practices

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20: Minister for Agriculture Production, Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Cooperatives and Election Department, Javid Ahmad Dar, today flagged off a group of 250 farmers for a one-day training programme at the Central Institute of Temperate Horticulture (CITH), Rangreth, Srinagar.

The initiative was aimed at strengthening the farmers' technical capacity and familiarising them with the modern, scientific and sustainable agricultural practices.

MLA Lal Chowk, Sheikh Ahsan Ahmad Pardesi besides others was present during the flag-off ceremony.

During the training programme, organised by the Kisan Advisory Board, J&K, the farmers will interact with the agricultural and horticultural experts and scientists. They will find solutions to various issues, challenges and field-level concerns being faced by them in crop cultivation in their respective areas.

Addressing the participating farmers, Javid Ahmad Dar emphasised the importance of continuous capacity building, knowledge

enhancement and exposure to the emerging technologies in agriculture and allied sectors. He said that such programmes are aimed at providing the farmers with practical and scientific knowledge of modern farming techniques, including improved crop management practices, balanced and judicious use of fertilisers and pesticides, adoption of advanced technologies and promotion of sustainable agricultural methods.He stressed the need to encourage environmentally sustainable and natural farming practices while simultaneously ensuring higher productivity, improved quality of produce and enhanced profitability for farming families.

Javid Dar said that it is being ensured that such training programmes, exposure visits and farmer-oriented capacity-building initiatives are organised on a regular basis so that the farming community remains abreast of the latest innovations, technologies and best practices. He maintained that strengthening the knowledge, skills and technical capabilities of farmers is vital for transforming the agricultural sector, enhancing farm incomes and making farming more productive, resilient and sustainable.

The Minister urged ipon the participating farmers to interact freely with the experts and scientists, seek technical guidance and share their field-level experiences and concerns. He said that such direct interactions would help in developing practical and locally relevant solutions to the challenges confronting the farming community. He underscored the importance of strengthening the linkage between research institutions, extension agencies and farmers so that scientific innovations and technologies reach the field effectively and translate into tangible benefits for the farming community.

The Minister appreciated the Kisan Advisory Board and the concerned departments for organising the training programme. He called for sustained efforts towards empowering the farmers through knowledge, technology and institutional support.

Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) Arrangements Finalised in Anantnag

DC directs departments to ensure seamless facilities for devotees

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting to review and finalise arrangements for the smooth observance of Eid-Milad-un-Nabi (SAW) across the district.

The meeting was attended by ADCs Vikas Ahlawat and Dr. Muzamil Maqbool Beigh, SDMs, ACR, Tehsildars, CEO MCA, EOs of Municipal Councils, and representatives from Health, PDD, Jal Shakti, MVD, Animal Husbandry, Food Safety, FCS&CA, Legal Metrology and Fire & Emergency Services, besides representatives of the Waqf Board and other concerned departments.

The DC directed all departments to ensure the availability of requisite facilities, with augmentation wherever necessary, for devotees visiting Khiram Dargah Shareef, Kabamarg, Reshmool, Aishmuqam, Seer Hamdan and other shrines and mosques during the Milad days.

He stressed the need for adequate water supply, availability of essential commodities and uninterrupted power supply. He also directed the concerned agencies to ensure efficient traffic and transport management at critical locations and along important routes, besides providing adequate healthcare, sanitation, security and fire and emergency services around shrines and mosques.

The departments were further asked to ensure the presence of deputed staff at designated venues so that essential services remain available to devotees throughout the observance.

Emphasising close coordination among all line departments, the DC directed the designated teams to conduct special market-checking drives and inspections of food business operator (FBO) establishments during the holy days to ensure compliance with prescribed standards.

Concluding the meeting, the DC directed the SDMs to closely monitor preparations in their respective jurisdictions and undertake advance reviews to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place and devotees are facilitated for the smooth and peaceful observance of the auspicious occasion. Emphasising close coordination among all line departments, the DC directed the designated teams to conduct special market-checking drives and inspections of food business operator (FBO) establishments during the holy days to ensure compliance with prescribed standards.Concluding the meeting, the DC directed the SDMs to closely monitor preparations in their respective jurisdictions and undertake advance reviews to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place and devotees are facilitated for the smooth and peaceful observance of the auspicious occasion.

DDC Shopian Reviews District Capex Works, Directs Timely Completion

■ HT News Network

SHOPIAN, AUGUST 20: District Development Commissioner (DDC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, today chaired a meeting to review the progress of developmental works being executed under the District Capex Budget, with particular emphasis on timely tendering and completion of projects.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Dr. Nasir Ahmed Lone, ACD, CEO, CMO, XEN PDD, BDOs and other concerned officers from various executing agencies.

During the meeting, the DDC took a comprehensive review of the status of works, tendering processes, physical and financial progress, and implementation of projects on the ground.

He directed all concerned departments to expedite the tendering and execution of works, address bottlenecks promptly and ensure effective coordination among all stakeholders. He stressed that projects must be completed within the prescribed timelines while maintaining the required standards of quality.

The DDC also called upon executing agencies to closely monitor ongoing works and ensure optimal utilization of allocated funds. He underscored that timely completion of developmental projects is vital to providing tangible benefits to the public and strengthening infrastructure across the district.

The concerned officers were further directed to submit regular progress updates and maintain strict accountability, transparency and quality throughout the execution of all works.

DC Kupwara Visits Tekipora Lolab, Reviews Development and Public Issues

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Shrikant Suse, today visited Tekipora village in Lolab and interacted with local residents to take stock of various issues and developmental concerns.

During the visit, the Deputy Commissioner met members of the Shiv Mandir Committee and reviewed the pending issues concerning the temple. He discussed the matter with the concerned officers and committee members and directed coordinated efforts to ensure that the pending works are expedited and completed within a fixed timeframe.

The villagers also put forth several demands, including the establishment of a library and installation of solar lights at the local Ziarat. The Deputy Commissioner assured the residents that their concerns would be examined and appropriate action taken on priority.

The Deputy Commissioner also inspected the NTPHC Tekipora and reviewed the functioning and availability of healthcare services at the facility.

SDM Lolab, CPO and other concerned officers accompanied the Deputy Commissioner during the visit.

DC Budgam reviews arrangements for Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.)

■ HT News Network

BUDGAM, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today chaired a meeting to review and finalize arrangements for the smooth and peaceful observance of Eid-ul-Milad-un-Nabi (S.A.W.) across the district.

During the meeting, detailed arrangements at major shrines, mosques and other religious places were reviewed, particularly at venues expected to witness large congregations. Discussions focused on security, traffic regulation, road connectivity, healthcare, drinking water, power supply, sanitation and other essential services.

The Deputy Commissioner directed all concerned departments to put adequate arrangements in place well in advance to ensure that devotees and the general public do not face any inconvenience during the celebrations.

The Health Department was directed to deploy medical teams and ambulances at identified locations and ensure the availability of essential medicines. The Power Development Department was asked to maintain uninterrupted power supply and keep backup arrangements ready to meet any emergency requirement.

The Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department was directed to ensure that roads leading to shrines and congregation points remain in good condition and undertake necessary repairs wherever required. The Jal Shakti Department was similarly instructed to ensure adequate and uninterrupted drinking water supply at all designated venues.

Javed Rana reviews pending verification of PMGSY works in Mendhar

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 20: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today chaired a meeting at the Civil Secretariat here to review the status of pending joint verification of works being executed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Sub-Division Mendhar.

The meeting was attended by Chief Conservator of Forests, Jammu, Conservator of Forests, West, Divisional Forest Officer, Poonch and Range Officer, Mendhar.

During the meeting, the Minister reviewed the issues pertaining to joint verification of PMGSY works, particularly those requiring coordination between the concerned forest authorities and executing agencies. He took detailed stock of the pending cases and sought a status report on the works requiring forest-related clearances and verification.

Javed Rana emphasised the need for close inter-departmental coordination and time-bound disposal of the pending cases so that procedural issues do not hamper the execution of important road connectivity projects in Mendhar. He directed the concerned officers to undertake the pending joint verification exercises on priority and ensure that all requisite formalities are completed expeditiously in accordance with the prescribed rules and procedures.

The Minister said that strengthening the rural road connectivity is essential for improving access to education, healthcare, markets and other essential services, particularly in remote and hilly areas. He stressed that all bottlenecks affecting the timely execution of PMGSY works should be identified and resolved through coordinated efforts. He called for regular monitoring of the progress of pending cases and directed the officers to maintain close coordination at the field level to facilitate timely completion of the required verification process.

Satish Sharma meets delegations, MLAs at Civil Secretariat Srinagar

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20: Minister for FS&CA, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today held a series of meetings with various delegations and Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) at the Civil Secretariat, Srinagar. He took stock of issues concerning public services, development and welfare in different parts of Jammu and Kashmir. The Minister met legislators of Budhal, Sonawari, Rajouri, Poonch and Uri besides interacting with various public delegations. During the meetings, the legislators and delegations apprised the Minister of issues and developmental concerns pertaining to their respective constituencies and areas.

The matters projected included infrastructure development, road connectivity, public transport, sports facilities, employment-related concerns, civic amenities, public services and other issues of public importance. The representatives also highlighted the need for timely intervention and coordinated efforts by the concerned departments for addressing issues affecting the people at the grassroots level.

Satish Sharma gave a patient hearing to the concerns and demands projected by the MLAs and delegations and assured them that the genuine issues would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate action. The Minister directed the concerned officers to examine the issues brought to his notice and take necessary action within the ambit of rules,.

DC Anantnag reviews AgriStack Progress, Directs Time-Bound completion

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat, IAS, today chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the progress of AgriStack implementation and other digital agriculture initiatives across the district. The meeting was attended by both Additional Deputy Commissioners, ACR, SDMs, Tehsildars and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the progress achieved in digitisation, AgriStack implementation and Farmer ID generation. He stressed the need for close coordination among revenue officials, field functionaries and agriculture officers to address bottlenecks and ensure the timely completion of pending work.

The DC directed the concerned officers to expedite the process and set time-bound targets for achieving 100 per cent saturation of farmer profiles. He also called for intensified Farmer ID registration through village-level camps, along with daily monitoring to maintain the quality and accuracy of the data.

The meeting was informed that the implementation of AgriStack has been taken up in mission mode, with the district administration and field functionaries working in a coordinated manner to meet the assigned targets within the stipulated timelines. Out of a total of 5,02,985 entries pertaining to the district, 3,04,720 entries have been completed so far, representing approximately 60.5 per cent progress. The completed entries are being processed through the prescribed three-tier mechanism of submission, verification and approval. The Deputy Commissioner placed particular emphasis on quality control, directing officials to ensure thorough verification and accuracy of records before their incorporation into the system. He stressed that reliable and accurate data is essential for the effective delivery of digital agriculture services.

Meanwhile, more than 84 Farmer ID registration camps are currently operational across the district, through which 2,830 registrations have been completed so far. Field teams are continuing.

DC Bandipora Chairs DCC/DLRC Meeting; Calls for Accelerated Priority Sector Lending and 100% KCC Saturation

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today chaired the District Consultative Committee (DCC) and District Level Review Committee (DLRC) meeting to review the performance of banks during the first quarter of FY 2026–27, ending June 30, 2026.

The meeting was attended by Anup Sharma, Lead District Officer, Reserve Bank of India; Dr. Rouf, DDM, NABARD; Lead District Manager Liyakat Maqbool; District Sheep Husbandry Officer; Chief Horticulture Officer Bandipora; heads of various government departments; representatives of banks; and other stakeholders.

At the outset, the Lead District Manager presented an overview of the performance of banks across various sectors during the quarter. The banks were advised to enhance credit flow, particularly to the Agriculture, MSME, Education and Housing sectors, to strengthen overall Priority Sector Lending.

Reviewing the progress, the Deputy Commissioner directed all banks to substantially improve their performance under Priority Sector Lending and work towards bringing the district in line with the benchmarks achieved at the Union Territory level.

The meeting placed special emphasis on achieving 100 percent saturation under the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme. The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned departments and financial institutions to cover the remaining more than 10,000 Farm Operating Families (FOFs) within the next two quarters through targeted awareness and saturation campaigns.

The performance of Mission YUVA and various Social Security Schemes (SSS) was also reviewed. J&K Bank was directed to expedite disbursements under Mission YUVA and intensify efforts to increase fresh enrolments under social security schemes.

The Deputy Commissioner further instructed Line Departments to improve the quality of cases

sponsored under Government-sponsored schemes and ensure that all eligible cases are promptly forwarded to banks for timely sanction and disbursement.

A notable achievement during the meeting was the successful settlement of an insurance claim under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Highlighting the role of financial inclusion and social security initiatives in providing support to beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner handed over a cheque of 2 lakh to the beneficiary.

Concluding the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner called upon banks and government departments to maintain close coordination and adopt a result-oriented approach towards achieving the targets set under the Annual Credit Plan and Government-sponsored schemes. She also stressed the need for sustained efforts to expand financial inclusion and ensure that the benefits of various credit and social security initiatives reach eligible beneficiaries across the district. A notable achievement during the meeting was the successful settlement of an insurance claim under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY). Highlighting the role of financial inclusion and social security initiatives in providing support to beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner handed over a cheque of 2 lakh to the beneficiary.

Director NIT Srinagar visits key sections, reviews Mega Hostel work

Reviews NBA Accreditation, NIRF Rankings and Digital Infrastructure; Plants Sapling on Campus

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, August 20: Director, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Srinagar, Prof. Anurag Misra, on Thursday visited various administrative and academic sections of the Institute and interacted with faculty and staff members.

During his interactions, he took feedback from the staff regarding the functioning of their respective sections and emphasised the importance of coordination, efficiency and timely disposal of work.

The Director also visited the Counselling Cell, where the ongoing undergraduate (UG) admission process is being conducted. He reviewed the arrangements made for students and their parents and interacted with the officials involved in the admission process.

Prof. Misra appreciated the arrangements put in place by Dean Academic Affairs Prof. Bashir Ahmad Mir and his team for ensuring a smooth and systematic admission process.

He also appreciated the efforts of the officials and staff engaged in admission-related duties and stressed the importance of providing all possible assistance to students and parents visiting the institute.

The Director also reviewed the ongoing work on the Mega Hostel project. He took an update on the progress of the construction and related works and directed the concerned officials to ensure timely completion of the remaining work.

Prof. Misra stressed that the hostel facility is important for strengthening student infrastructure at the Institute and called for close monitoring of the work to ensure that the project is completed at the earliest.

He also directed the concerned officers to maintain coordination among different agencies and sections involved in the project and ensure that any pending issues are addressed promptly.

Registrar NIT Srinagar Prof. Atikur Rehman and Deputy Registrar (Administration) accompanied the Director during the visit.

Later, Prof. Misra was also briefed about the Institute's NBA accreditation, NIRF ranking, digital infrastructure and other key institutional initiatives and achievements. He took feedback on the ongoing efforts towards strengthening the institute's academic, administrative and technological infrastructure.

Earlier Director also planted a sapling on the Institute campus, underlining the importance of environmental sustainability and green initiatives.

SKUAST-K, Mission YUVA, IIM Jammu sign tripartite MoU to accelerate youth-led Neo-Innovative Startups in J&K

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, Aug 19: Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K) on Wednesday signed a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Jammu & Kashmir government's Mission YUVA and the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, formalising a joint framework to mentor, incubate, and scale youth-led neo-innovative enterprises.

The agreement was signed in the presence of SKUAST-K Vice Chancellor Prof Nazir Ahmad Ganai, the Registrar of SKUAST-K, Joint Director of Mission YUVA Waseem Raja, Chief Executive Officer of SKUAST-K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship (SKIIE) Centre Naveed Hamid, alongside representatives from IIM Jammu's Mission YUVA vertical.

Marking an immediate translation of the pact into action, the SKIIE Centre signed two separate incubation agreements with M/s Noorsa Innovations Pvt. Ltd. and M/s FarmHealth Innovations Private Limited. The two ventures, selected under the Mission YUVA Neo-Innovative Enterprises Scheme, will receive dedicated incubation space, advanced laboratory access, and comprehensive infrastructure support at SKUAST-K.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai said the partnership strengthens SKUAST-K's role as a launchpad for youth innovation in Jammu & Kashmir and will pave the way to connect dynamic young minds with the university's vast incubation ecosystem. He assured the Mission YUVA team of continued institutional backing, noting that SKUAST-K has actively supported the initiative since its inception in identifying and mobilizing high-potential ideas.

Joint Director of Mission YUVA, Sh. Waseem Raja, highlighted that the collaboration with SKUAST-K will make world-class technical infrastructure, specialized lab facilities, and domain-specific mentorship directly accessible to grassroots innovators, ensuring that young entrepreneurs receive the critical handholding required to convert disruptive ideas into sustainable, job-creating commercial enterprises.

Naveed Hamid, Chief Executive Officer of SKIIE, noted that the tripartite MoU strategically aligns Mission YUVA's grant support, IIM Jammu's rigorous selection mechanism, and SKIIE's technical incubation infrastructure to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with a complete, end-to-end runway from idea to enterprise.

National seminar on GST Reforms 2.0 concludes at CUKashmir

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Aug 20: The two-day national seminar on "GST Reforms 2.0: Sectoral Growth Prospects and Challenges," organized by the Department of Commerce, School of Business Studies, Central University of Kashmir (CUKashmir) in collaboration with the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, concluded at Tulmulla Campus here on Thursday.

Addressing the valedictory function, Dean, School of Social Sciences, Prof. D. K. Madaan, highlighted the economic and political dimensions of GST and its implications for welfare and resource allocation. He noted that the unified tax structure has improved efficiency by enabling businesses to source inputs more productively, reducing supply-chain costs and encouraging wider participation in the tax network. He also called for further reforms promoting sustainability, including tax incentives for environmentally responsible production. In his speech, former Vice-Chancellor of CCS University, Meerut, Prof. Narendra Kumar Taneja, remarked that the unified market dismantles the "tax-inspired, tax-distorted vertical integration" of the pre-GST era, where businesses were forced to produce all inputs in-house to avoid cumbersome inter-state taxes. This fragmentation, he explained, hurt specialization.

CUKashmir holds hackathon awareness camp

■ HT News Network

Ganderbal, Aug 20: Under the Udyam Jagriti 5.0 Campaign of Mission YUVA, and to sensitize and motivate students to pursue innovation, entrepreneurship, Department of Information Technology (DIT), Central University of Kashmir (CUK), organised a Hackathon Awareness Camp in which 100 students participated.

The camp provided an opportunity to the students to understand the objectives of the Mission YUVA Hackathon and explore how innovative ideas can be transformed into practical, sustainable and employment-generating ventures. The programme was attended by Ms. Beenish Wani, AD Employment; Ms. Saima, CCO; Mr. Salim Rashid, SDBU Lead; Mr. Gowhar, BHD Lead; and Mr. Farzan Amin, SBDU Coordinator, whose interaction with the students provided valuable insights into the opportunities available through Mission YUVA and the Hackathon initiative. Dr. Javed Ahmad and Dr. Zahoor Ahmad were also present. An important highlight of the camp was the interactive idea-generation and brainstorming session, where students were encouraged to observe challenges in their surroundings, identify potential areas of intervention, and develop innovative solutions based on local needs and resources. The students came forward with several promising ideas.

IUST Invites Researchers and Academicians to Participate in J&K Science Congress 2026

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, August 20: The Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), in collaboration with the Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Government of Jammu & Kashmir, will host the Jammu & Kashmir Science Congress 2026 from September 29 to October 1, 2026, at the University campus.

The Congress, titled "Science, Innovation and Emerging Technologies for Sustainable and Viksit J&K," will bring together researchers, innovators, policymakers, industry representatives, and students from across the country to explore emerging scientific and technological solutions for sustainable development. More than 500 scientists and researchers are expected to participate in the Congress.

The Congress invites researchers, academicians and scientific professionals to actively participate and contribute their research and perspectives to the deliberations. The event will feature plenary lectures by eminent scientists, technical sessions, panel discussions, exhibitions, start-up showcases, innovation displays and policy dialogues, providing opportunities for meaningful academic and professional engagement.

IIT Jammu Engages with Jammu Region Industries to Strengthen Industry Institute Collaboration

HT News Network

Jammu, August 20, 2026: The Central Workshop, IIT Jammu, had an interaction with industry representatives from the Jammu region to explore opportunities for industry–academia collaboration and industrial problem solving. The interaction was facilitated by LEAD - LJK Economic Growth and Development Dialogue, supporting engagement with the regional industrial ecosystem.

The session was led by Dr. Akash Subhash Awale, PIC, Central Workshop, along with Mr. Arun Kumar, Workshop Officer, and Mr. Vivek R. Sharma, Assistant Workshop Officer. Industry representatives Mr. Praveen Pargal, Mr. Rajesh Jain, Mr. Alankrit Mahajan, Mr. Deepak Gupta, Mr. Anshal Gulati, Mr. Rishab Gupta, Mr. Yogesh Verma, Mr. Sandeep Gupta, and Mr. Ankit Gupta participated and shared their views on industrial needs and collaboration opportunities.

Discussions focused on key technical challenges faced by industries and how IIT Jammu's expertise and facilities can help in providing practical solutions. IIT Jammu also shared its vision of developing a Centre for Industrial Problem Solving, with the Central Workshop playing a key role in design, prototyping, manufacturing, testing, and technology development. The interaction also highlighted possible collaboration in R&D, consultancy, skill development and innovation activities, especially benefiting MSMEs in the region.

The initiative is a step towards building a strong Industry–Institute Innovation Ecosystem that converts industrial challenges into opportunities for joint development and innovation. The interaction also highlighted possible collaboration in R&D, consultancy, skill development and innovation activities, especially benefiting MSMEs in the region.

The initiative is a step towards building a strong Industry–Institute Innovation Ecosystem that converts.

Two-Day Theatre Seminar on "Modern Theatre and Youth of Kashmir" Concludes in Srinagar

HT News Network

Srinagar/August:20 A two-day theatre seminar on "Modern Theatre and Youth of Kashmir" concluded at Kashmir Government Polytechnic College, Gogji Bagh, Srinagar, bringing together prominent theatre experts, artists, writers, scholars, critics and young theatre enthusiasts. The seminar aimed to provide a meaningful platform for discussion on the present state, challenges and prospects of modern theatre in Kashmir, besides exploring the role of youth in carrying forward the region's rich theatrical tradition. The two-day programme comprised an inaugural session, paper-reading session and lecture session, providing theatre practitioners, scholars and artists an opportunity to share their experiences, research and perspectives on contemporary theatre. During the paper-reading session Majeed Majazi, Shakir Shafi, Sheikh Fatima, Hakeem Javed, Shahzad Shabir, Mantasha Shuja, Shahid Malik and Shabeer Hakak presented papers covering various aspects of the development of modern theatre, its challenges, contemporary relevance and significance for the younger generation. The lecture sessions featured eminent theatre personalities and experts including Bashir Bhawani, M Amin Bhat, Nisar Naseem, Syed Hamayun Qaisar, Shafiq Qureshi, Dr. Nishtar, Shakeel-ul- Rehman, Shabir Mujahid, Bashir Qadri and Dr. Sohan Lal Koul. The speakers deliberated on acting, direction, playwriting, theatre criticism, experimental theatre, contemporary theatrical practices and the changing relationship between theatre and society. The speakers emphasised that theatre is not merely a form of entertainment but also an important medium of social communication, cultural expression.

Counting Today, Shaping Tomorrow: Bhaderwah Campus, Census Directorate Join Hands To Drive Awareness On Census 2027

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhadarwah, Aug 20: Emphasising the critical role of robust demographic data in nation building, the Directorate of Census Operations J&K and Ladakh in collaboration with Bhaderwah Campus of the University of Jammu on Wednesday organised a seminar titled "Census 2027, Counting Today, Shaping Tomorrow".

The awareness programme aimed to sensitise academic stakeholders, students and local administrators about the necessity of accurate, inclusive and comprehensive data collection for evidence based policy formulation and equitable governance.

Addressing the gathering as the chief guest, Director of Census Operations (J&K and Ladakh) Amit Sharma urged students to act as ambassadors of census awareness to ensure grassroots participation.

"Accurate data is the bedrock of transparent administration and future planning. Every citizen has a shared responsibility to ensure that the upcoming census exercise is comprehensive and leaves no one behind," Sharma said calling upon youth to spread the message of active civic engagement.

In a message, Rector of Bhaderwah Campus Prof Rahul Gupta noted that census figures serve as the ultimate benchmark for demographic, social and economic indicators.

"Accurate census data forms the foundation for effective governance, equitable resource allocation and long term development planning. Collaborative programmes like these are essential to prepare the academic community for ground level involvement," Gupta said.

Officiating Rector and Head of the English Department Prof Rakesh Sharma along with Academic Coordinator Dr Kuljit Singh underscored the value of demographic mapping in tracking societal shifts and tailoring regional development policies.

Technical sessions were followed by Deputy Director Manmeet Singh and Assistant Director Balbir Singh's delivering detailed presentations outlining the methodology, operational framework and technological interventions planned for Census 2027.

As part of the outreach initiative, an inter departmental student debate competition was held on demographic trends and data integrity. Winning participants were felicitated with merit awards alongside certificates distributed to all contestants.

The event witnessed the participation of key civil administration officials including Additional Deputy Commissioner Sunil Kumar Butyal, Tehsildar Kamal Preet Singh, Assistant Director Vijay Kumar, faculty members and a large number of students.

Ministry of Culture
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NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA

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THEATRE IN EDUCATION CENTRE, SRINAGAR
In collaboration with
J&K ACADEMY OF ART, CULTURE & LANGUAGES
ORGANISES

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FROM 3RD Sep.2026

The National School of Drama, Theatre in Education Centre, Srinagar in collaboration with J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages is going to organize 15-day writing workshop in Srinagar. The workshop aims to develop the core writing skills, writing process, craft of creative writing and enhance the play writing techniques under the guidance of NSD experts.

Interested aspirants may collect the application forms from NSD, TIE Centre, Cultural Academy Campus, Lal Mandi, Srinagar from 18th August to 31st August 2026 between 11:00am to 4:00pm.

Register your name before the workshop begins
➢ Admissions is free on the first cum first serve basis.
➢ After the completion of workshop certificates will be awarded to all the participants.

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED:
1. Copy of Aadhar Card,
2. Passport size photograph.
3. Credentials in support of writing experiences.

For further information contact 9419059895

Director
National School of Drama

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HT EDITORIAL

Clean Governance Begins Where Corruption Finds No Room

Corruption is often discussed in terms of scandals, investigations and punitive action. But the real challenge lies deeper. A society does not become corruption-free merely because wrongdoing is exposed from time to time; it becomes stronger when its institutions are designed in a manner that leaves little space for corruption to take root.

Governance is ultimately about trust. Citizens approach public institutions with the expectation that rules will be applied fairly, services will be delivered without favour and public resources will be used for public purposes. Whenever that expectation is violated, the damage extends beyond an individual transaction. It weakens confidence in the institution itself.

This is why the fight against corruption must move beyond occasional crackdowns. Enforcement remains essential, but prevention is even more important. Administrative systems must be examined continuously to identify unnecessary procedures, excessive discretion and avoidable delays that can create opportunities for manipulation. The simpler and more transparent a process is, the less vulnerable it becomes to abuse.Technology has already changed the relationship between citizens and government. Online applications, digital payments, electronic records and transparent tracking mechanisms can reduce unnecessary human intervention and make decisions easier to monitor. Yet technology is only a tool. Without proper oversight, accountability and regular review, even a digital system can reproduce the weaknesses of the old system.

The responsibility also rests heavily on public institutions and the people who operate them. Public office is a position of responsibility, not privilege. Officials are expected to act impartially, professionally and within the framework of established rules. A strong administrative culture should therefore discourage misconduct while equally recognising those who demonstrate honesty and efficiency.

Accountability must also be consistent. Selective action can create the impression that rules apply differently to different people. Complaints must be examined objectively, investigations should be professional and disciplinary processes must be completed within a reasonable timeframe. Neither harassment in the name of accountability nor inaction in the face of genuine wrongdoing can strengthen public institutions.

Citizens, meanwhile, should have accessible and credible avenues to report grievances. A person seeking a legitimate government service should not feel compelled to rely on influence, intermediaries or personal connections. Efficient grievance-redress mechanisms can help restore confidence by demonstrating that institutions are willing to listen and respond.

There is also a broader economic dimension to the issue. Corruption increases the cost of development, distorts priorities and diverts resources from those who need them most. Money lost through dishonest practices is ultimately money unavailable for better infrastructure, education, healthcare, employment and public services. The fight against corruption is therefore inseparable from the fight for equitable development.What is needed is a sustained institutional approach in which transparency becomes routine, procedures are regularly reviewed and responsibility for decisions is clearly established. The objective should not simply be to catch those who misuse authority, but to create an environment in which misuse of authority becomes difficult in the first place.

A mature system of governance should not have to repeatedly announce its commitment to integrity. Its functioning should demonstrate that commitment every day.

The strongest form of zero tolerance is not a crackdown after corruption occurs; it is a system so transparent, accountable and efficient that corruption struggles to find a place within it.

The Red Atlas Bicycle

By Syed Majid Gilani

Some memories of childhood remain with us for life. Years pass, places change and people move on, but a small incident can suddenly take us back to those days.

For me, one such memory is of my first big bicycle—a red Atlas. I was in the 6th standard. Before that, I had enjoyed the small tricycles and bicycles my father had bought for me. I had spent many happy hours riding them. But as I grew older, I started wanting a proper bicycle.

The funny part was that I had never even ridden a big bicycle. I did not know how to balance it or how to start riding one. But that did not stop me. I wanted one badly and kept telling my family about my wish.

Those were simple days. Like many children, I had a small clay piggy pot. Whenever I received a few coins or some small amount of money, I put it into the pot. Slowly, my savings grew.

One morning, I took the clay pot to my grandfather, whom we lovingly called Abaji. I told him that I wanted to break the pot and use the money to buy my bicycle.

Abaji told me not to break it. He said he would buy the bicycle for me from his own pocket. But I did not agree. I insisted that I wanted to use my own savings. Finally, Abaji gave in.

He took a small hammer and broke the clay pot. The coins and notes scattered around. I sat down and started collecting them. I separated the 10, 20, 25 and 50-paisa coins and the one-rupee coins into different piles. Abaji counted the notes.

We found that I had saved about Rs 250. I was very happy. Those coins were special to me because I had collected them slowly, little by little. I felt proud that I had something of my own to contribute towards the bicycle.

Abaji then took me in a local bus towards a cycle shop. I still remember Neelam Cinema, its cinema hoardings and the surroundings of those days. Opposite the cinema was a big bicycle shop. Perhaps it was Haji Amir Joo & Sons, though I do not exactly remember the name now.

I looked at many bicycles. Finally, Abaji bought me a medium-sized red Atlas bicycle. I remember its price being around Rs 850. I had saved Rs 250, and Abaji paid the remaining Rs 600 from his own pocket.

After buying the bicycle, Abaji took me to a tea shop near his old office, Shaali Store, now the Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs department. We had samosas and tea there. I do not remember the exact amount we paid, but that small meal has remained in my memory.

I also got a lock for the bicycle. The new bicycle was very precious to me, and whenever I left it somewhere, I made sure it was locked.

There was only one problem. I had a bicycle, but I did not know how to ride it. Abaji helped me sit on the bicycle and hold the handle. He walked beside me, guiding me as we slowly made our way through the Eidgah side towards our cherished home in Lalbazar.

On the way, he bought me a pista ice cream bar from an ice-cream rehri wala. The pista bar cost Rs 2, which was a rare luxury in those days.

At last, we reached home. I was extremely happy. To me, it was not just a bicycle. I felt as if I had bought a helicopter.

Papa had returned from his office. I immediately told him, "Papa, you always carry me on your Lambretta scooter. Now I will go everywhere on my own bicycle." He laughed and hugged me.

Within two or three days, my younger sister Yasmeen and I had learnt to ride the bicycle properly. Soon, riding became part of our everyday life. Of course, learning to ride was not always easy. I fell from the bicycle many times. Sometimes I got cuts and bruises, and at times there was blood from a wound. But after some time, we would get up, wipe ourselves and start riding again. That was childhood. We fell, got hurt and continued. The bicycle also taught us to take care of our belongings. A puncture, a loose chain, broken brakes or any other damaged part was noticed immediately. If a bicycle was damaged because of careless riding, the parents would pay for the repair, but the child would also receive a good scolding.

Syed Majid Gilani is a Storyteller, Opinion Writer and a Government Officer. He writes on family, faith, nostalgia, betrayal, resilience, and moral values. He can be contacted at syedmajid6676@gmail.

World Senior Citizens Day – August 21, 2026

Give the Elderly the Light of Dignity, Not the Darkness of Neglect

Lalit Gargg

World Senior Citizens Day serves as a wake-up call to society's collective conscience, compelling us to reflect on the painful realities faced by the elderly. The very hands that laid the foundation of families, the shoulders that carried the burden of securing their children's future, and the experience that guided successive generations through life's difficult journeys—why should those very elderly parents have to endure loneliness, neglect, insecurity and humiliation in the twilight of their lives? Clearly, somewhere along the way, our social sensitivity has weakened. In a society where respecting elders should have been an instinctive cultural value, the very need to dedicate a separate day to their rights, dignity and security should make us pause for serious collective introspection.

India is moving rapidly towards an ageing population. According to the United Nations Population Fund's India Ageing Report 2023, the share of people aged 60 and above could reach nearly 20 percent of India's population by 2050—meaning that roughly one in every five Indians could be a senior citizen. This is not merely a demographic transition; it represents a major challenge for the social fabric and support systems of the country. Living longer is undoubtedly an achievement of human civilisation, but when longevity is accompanied by loneliness, illness, financial insecurity and emotional neglect, a long life can begin to feel like a burden rather than a blessing.

In India's traditional culture, elderly people were regarded as heads of families, guides and repositories of wisdom. In the joint-family system, their role was not confined to decision-making; they were the living centres of family memory, traditions and values. But rapid changes in lifestyle, urbanisation, migration for employment, the rise of nuclear families, consumerism and growing individualism have transformed this arrangement. Today, many elderly people are emotionally lonely even while living under the same roof as their families. They have a home, but no one with whom to share a meaningful conversation; they have a family, but little time from them; they have children, but increasingly less emotional closeness. The greatest irony is that the person who spent an entire lifetime placing the family at the centre of his or her existence is often pushed to the margins of that very family after retirement. The advice of a person may be considered invaluable while he is employed, but the moment he retires, his usefulness is sometimes treated as though it has come to an end.

The growing number of old-age homes is a reflection of this changing social structure. Not every old-age home represents a story of abandonment; for some elderly people living alone or without adequate support, such institutions provide essential security, care and companionship. But when an old-age home becomes the final destination for parents whom capable children send away simply because they have come to be regarded as an "inconvenience" amid modern lifestyles and comforts, the issue is no longer merely a family matter—it becomes a question about the values and moral foundations of society itself. Acquiring parents' property and then distancing oneself from them, treating their illness as a burden, or using them merely for household responsibilities are tendencies that demand serious social introspection.

At the same time, the challenges of old age cannot be attributed entirely to the insensitivity of younger generations. Senior citizens, too, must adapt to changing times. They need to understand the younger generation's desire for independence, personal choices and evolving lifestyles. Instead of unnecessary interference, they should offer their experience as guidance rather than as commands. Growing older is inevitable, but growing old in spirit is not. If senior citizens remain engaged in social activities, learning, community service, spirituality and creative pursuits, their later years can become more active, meaningful and fulfilling.

In this context, the Supreme Court's recent judgment comes as a legal lifeline for senior citizens. The Court has made it clear that when children fail to fulfil their responsibility of caring for and maintaining their parents, the law can provide a way to protect the dignity and property of senior citizens, including enabling the restoration of property transferred to children where the statutory conditions are met. Such judicial intervention is significant because it reinforces an important principle: parents cannot be treated as disposable once their economic usefulness to the family comes to an end. The law can provide protection, but it cannot manufacture affection; that responsibility ultimately belongs to the family and society.

The government also has a crucial role to play. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Union Government has undertaken several important initiatives relating to the health and social security of senior citizens. In particular, extending Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of income, with health coverage of up to 5 lakh, represents an important step towards providing greater healthcare security in old age. According to the government, the expansion launched in October 2024 is aimed at benefiting around six crore senior citizens. Similarly, the Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana seeks not merely to provide shelter to the elderly but to address broader dimensions of ageing, including healthcare, nutrition, safety, housing, active and productive ageing, skills, transportation and stronger intergenerational relationships. Its approach also encompasses support services, old-age homes, assistive devices, opportunities for active ageing and avenues for employment based on the experience and capabilities of senior citizens. These initiatives are significant, but the ultimate success of any government programme depends on whether its benefits actually reach the last person in need. There remains a need to make pensions, healthcare, digital services and legal protection simpler, more accessible and more effective at the local level. Senior citizens should not have to struggle through complicated procedures to claim benefits that are rightfully meant for them.

For senior citizens, emotional security is as important as financial security—and, in many ways, even more so. Money can buy medicines, but it cannot cure loneliness. A hospital can treat the body, but only affection and emotional support from the family can heal a heart wounded by neglect. Therefore, the welfare of the elderly cannot be viewed merely through the prism of government schemes, pensions or healthcare. Families must understand that elderly parents need much more than food and medicine.

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Mother Tongue: The First Step Towards Education

Dr Vijay Garg

Education begins with understanding. Before a child learns to solve a mathematical problem, interpret a scientific idea or analyse a story, the child must first understand the language in which knowledge is presented. For millions of children, that language is their mother tongue. It is the language of home, emotions, relationships and everyday experiences. Therefore, mother tongue can be the first and most natural step towards meaningful education.

Learning Begins with Familiarity

A young child does not learn language by memorising grammar rules. Language develops naturally through listening, speaking, observing and interacting with family and the surrounding community. The mother tongue is therefore deeply connected with the child's experiences.

When early education uses a language that children already understand, they can participate more actively in the classroom. They can ask questions without hesitation, express their ideas more clearly and relate classroom concepts to situations they encounter in daily life.

A familiar language can turn learning from a difficult task into a process of discovery.

Understanding Before Memorising

One of the major challenges in education is the tendency to confuse memorisation with learning. A child may remember a definition or reproduce an answer without truly understanding its meaning. Language plays an important role in this problem.

When students struggle to understand the language of instruction, they may spend more effort decoding words than understanding concepts. This can lead to mechanical learning, dependence on memorised answers and hesitation in asking questions.

Teaching important concepts through a familiar language can help shift the focus from "What should I remember?" to "What does this mean?"

That change is fundamental to genuine learning.

Mother Tongue and Confidence

Language is also closely connected with confidence. Children who can communicate comfortably are more likely to participate in discussions, answer questions and share their opinions.

In contrast, a child who understands a concept but cannot express it confidently in the classroom may appear less capable than they actually are. The problem may not be intelligence; it may simply be the language barrier.

A supportive learning environment should therefore give children opportunities to think and communicate in a language they understand well, particularly during the foundational years of education.

Connecting School with Home

Education becomes stronger when there is a connection between what children learn at school and what they experience at home.

When parents can understand the language used for learning, they may find it easier to participate in their children's education. They can discuss lessons, encourage reading, explain everyday examples and support homework.

This is especially important in communities where parents may have limited familiarity with the language used in formal education. A language gap between school and home can unintentionally reduce parental participation.

The mother tongue can act as a bridge between the classroom and the family.

Local Knowledge Matters

Every language carries more than words. It carries stories, traditions, expressions, history and knowledge accumulated over generations.

Local languages often contain valuable knowledge about agriculture, environment, traditional practices, crafts, local geography and community life. When education respects these languages, it also creates opportunities to connect formal knowledge with local experience.

A child studying environmental science, for example, may understand concepts more deeply when they are connected with familiar rivers, forests, crops, weather patterns or local environmental problems.

Education becomes more relevant when knowledge speaks to the learner's own world.

Mother Tongue Does Not Mean Isolation

Supporting mother-tongue education does not mean rejecting English or other languages. In today's interconnected world, multilingualism is an important advantage.

English provides access to international research, higher education, technology and global communication. Other Indian and foreign languages can open additional cultural and professional opportunities.

The real question is not mother tongue versus English. The better question is: How can children build a strong foundation in a familiar language while gradually acquiring additional languages?

A child should not have to choose between cultural roots and global opportunities.

Multilingualism as a Strength

India is one of the world's most linguistically diverse countries. Its many languages are not obstacles to education; they can be educational resources.

A well-designed multilingual approach can allow children to develop strong conceptual understanding in a familiar language while progressively learning other languages. This can support both cognitive development and communication skills.

The objective should be additive rather than substitutive: learning a new language should add to a child's abilities without making the child feel that the home language is inferior.

The Role of Teachers

Teachers have a particularly important role in making language a bridge rather than a barrier.

A teacher can explain difficult ideas in simple language, use familiar examples, encourage students to ask questions and allow appropriate use of the child's home language when necessary. Classroom discussions can include local experiences and vocabulary while gradually introducing academic terminology in additional languages.

Good teaching is not simply about delivering content. It is about ensuring that students can access that content.

Technology Can Strengthen Regional Languages

Digital technology offers new possibilities for mother-tongue education. Educational videos, digital libraries, translation tools, audio resources and artificial intelligence can help make quality learning material available in more languages.

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GPS The Invisible bodyguard of the Digital World

SURINDERPAL SINGH

We are living in digital age where technology has become an inseparable part of everyday life. From communication and education to transportation, banking and business, digital technology has changed the way we live and work. Among the many technologies that silently support our modern lifestyle, GPS (Global Positioning System) has become one of the most useful and powerful. What once appeared to be a technology meant mainly for maps and navigation is now an essential part of the digital world.

GPS is a satellite-based positioning system that helps determine the location of a person, vehicle or device on Earth. It works through signals received from satellites orbiting the planet. Today, GPS is present in smartphones, cars, watches, delivery systems, aircraft, ships, emergency services and countless digital applications.

In the past, travelling to an unfamiliar place often required asking people for directions, carrying paper maps or depending on local knowledge. Today, a smartphone can guide us almost instantly. Applications such as digital maps can show our current location, suggest routes, estimate travelling time and provide information about traffic conditions.

GPS has therefore made travelling easier, faster and more confident. Whether a person is driving through a busy city, travelling to a village or exploring an unfamiliar country, digital navigation can provide continuous guidance.

Modern transportation systems depend heavily on location technology. Cars, taxis, buses, trains, ships and aircraft use positioning systems for navigation, monitoring and route management. Ride-sharing and taxi applications use GPS to connect passengers with nearby drivers.

Delivery companies also depend on GPS to track vehicles and plan efficient routes. A customer can often see where a delivery vehicle is and estimate when a parcel will arrive. This has made transportation and delivery services more transparent and efficient.

One of the most important uses of GPS is in emergencies. When a person is lost, injured or unable to explain their location, location technology can help emergency responders identify where assistance is needed.

During natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, landslides and forest fires, accurate location information can help authorities coordinate rescue operations. GPS can also assist in locating missing persons and monitoring emergency vehicles. Thus, GPS is not merely a convenience. In many situations, it can become a life-saving technology.

The digital revolution has also transformed agriculture. GPS-enabled equipment can help farmers understand field locations, plan routes for agricultural machinery and improve the efficient use of seeds, fertilizers and water. Modern precision farming uses location information to study fields and reduce unnecessary use of resources. This can improve productivity while supporting more sustainable farming practices.

For a country where agriculture remains important, GPS can contribute significantly to the development of smart and technology-based farming.

Even education can benefit from GPS technology. Students can use digital maps to understand geography, study locations, explore historical places and learn about the physical features of the Earth. Teachers can use interactive maps to make lessons more practical and interesting. Instead of merely reading about mountains, rivers, countries or cities in textbooks, students can explore their actual locations digitally. This demonstrates how GPS can turn learning from a purely theoretical activity into a more interactive experience.

Businesses increasingly depend on accurate location information. Companies can monitor vehicles, manage field workers, plan delivery routes and understand customer locations.

For logistics companies, GPS can reduce unnecessary travel and fuel consumption. For businesses with large fleets, it can improve

supervision and efficiency. In the digital economy, where speed and accuracy are extremely important, GPS has become an important business tool.

The average smartphone user may not even realize how frequently GPS is being used. Weather applications may use location to provide local forecasts. Food-delivery applications use it to locate customers and delivery workers. Fitness applications can record walking, running or cycling routes. Location services can also help people find nearby hospitals, schools, shops, petrol stations, restaurants and public facilities. In this way, GPS has quietly become part of our daily digital routine.

The modern world is increasingly connected. Smartphones communicate with networks, vehicles communicate with digital systems, businesses depend on real-time information and people expect services to be delivered quickly.

GPS provides an important layer of location intelligence to this connected environment.

Knowing where something is can be just as important as knowing what it is. A digital system becomes much more useful when it can combine information with location. This is why GPS supports many technologies that appear unrelated at first glance.

The usefulness of GPS should not make us ignore its limitations and risks. Location information can be sensitive. If handled carelessly, it may affect personal privacy and security.

People should understand which applications are requesting their location and why. Unnecessary location permissions should be avoided, and privacy settings should be reviewed regularly.

GPS can also sometimes be inaccurate because of buildings, mountains, atmospheric conditions, satellite visibility or technical limitations. Therefore, GPS should be treated as a powerful assistance system rather than something that is always perfectly accurate.

Another important concern is excessive dependence on technology. People sometimes follow digital navigation blindly without observing road signs, surroundings or changing conditions.

Technology should assist human intelligence, not replace it. A responsible digital citizen should know how to use GPS while also maintaining basic awareness of the environment. A map can tell us where we are going, but human judgement tells us whether the route is safe and appropriate.

The importance of location technology is likely to increase further. Autonomous vehicles, smart cities, precision agriculture, drone technology, disaster management and advanced logistics will require increasingly accurate positioning.

Future digital systems may combine GPS with other technologies such as artificial intelligence, sensors, satellite communication and high-speed networks. This could make navigation and location-based services faster and more precise. However, technological progress must always be accompanied by responsible use, privacy protection and public awareness.

GPS is much more than a digital compass. It is an invisible infrastructure supporting transportation, agriculture, emergency services, education, business, communication and everyday convenience. It has transformed the way people understand distance, movement and location.

In the digital world, location has become information, and information has become power. GPS gives us the ability to use that power efficiently. The real necessity, therefore, is not simply to use GPS but to use it wisely, responsibly and intelligently. Technology becomes truly valuable when it makes human life safer, easier, more efficient and better connected—without taking away our responsibility to think, observe and make sound decisions.

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Young Hearts at Risk: Understanding the Rising Burden of Heart Attacks Among Youth

Dr. Uzma Naqash

Introduction

Heart attacks have traditionally been associated with older adults, but cardiovascular disease is increasingly becoming a concern among younger people. Heart attacks in young adults can have devastating physical, emotional, and social consequences, particularly because they often occur unexpectedly in individuals who consider themselves healthy.

The growing occurrence of heart attacks among younger people highlights the importance of recognizing cardiovascular risk factors early and promoting preventive health practices from a young age.

Why Are Young Hearts at Risk?

Several factors may contribute to cardiovascular risk among young adults. Modern lifestyles often involve prolonged sitting, physical inactivity, unhealthy dietary patterns, inadequate sleep, chronic stress, and tobacco or substance use.

Other important risk factors include obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, abnormal cholesterol levels, and a family history of premature cardiovascular disease. In some individuals, inherited or less common medical conditions may also increase the risk.

It is important to understand that being young does not automatically protect a person from heart disease.

The Role of Stress and Mental Well-Being

Young adults today may experience considerable academic, professional, financial, and social pressures. Persistent stress can contribute to unhealthy coping behaviours such as smoking, poor eating habits, physical inactivity, and inadequate sleep.

Mental well-being should therefore be considered an important part of overall heart health. Developing healthy coping strategies, maintaining supportive relationships, exercising regularly, and seeking professional help when needed can contribute to healthier lifestyles.

Lifestyle: A Major Area for Prevention

Many cardiovascular risk factors can be modified through healthier lifestyle choices. Young people can protect their heart health by:

- Maintaining regular physical activity.
- Eating a balanced diet rich in vegetables, fruits, and whole grains.
- Limiting highly processed foods, excessive salt, and unhealthy fats.
- Avoiding tobacco and nicotine products.
- Maintaining a healthy body weight.
- Getting adequate and consistent sleep.
- Managing stress through healthy coping mechanisms.
- Having blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol checked when appropriate.

Recognizing Warning Signs

A heart attack may present with pressure, heaviness, tightness, or pain in the chest. Discomfort may sometimes

spread to the arm, shoulder, back, neck, jaw, or upper abdomen. Other symptoms can include shortness of breath, sweating, nausea, dizziness, or unusual weakness.

Young people should not dismiss concerning symptoms simply because of their age. If symptoms suggestive of a heart attack occur, urgent medical attention is essential.

The Importance of Early Screening

Young adults with risk factors such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, smoking, or a strong family history of premature heart disease may benefit from earlier assessment and medical guidance.

Regular health check-ups can help identify silent risk factors before they become serious problems.

Building a Heart-Healthy Generation

Addressing heart disease among young people requires more than individual responsibility. Families, educational institutions, workplaces, healthcare professionals, and communities all have an important role.

Health education should encourage young people to understand the importance of physical activity, healthy nutrition, adequate sleep, mental well-being, and avoidance of tobacco.

Conclusion

Heart attacks among young adults are a serious reminder that cardiovascular health should not be considered an issue only for later life. Although not every heart attack can be prevented, many cardiovascular risk factors can be identified and managed early.

A heart-healthy lifestyle, awareness of warning signs, appropriate medical screening, and timely treatment can help protect young lives.

Young hearts deserve attention before they become vulnerable—not after a crisis occurs.

Key Message: Age is not a guarantee of heart health. Prevention, awareness, and early action can help keep young hearts strong.

Charm of village

Sahil Manzoor

The student agitation over government recruitment examinations in Jharkhand, which has continued for the past twenty-five days, has now entered a new and more complex phase. Amid mounting pressure from protesting students, allegations of irregularities in recruitment examinations, and serious questions over the credibility of the examination system, the Hemant Soren government has announced the cancellation of the JSSC-CGL, the 14th JPSC examination, and several other recruitment examinations, including those associat

Before ten years, we could clearly differentiate between a city and a village. In the past, electricity was so weak that bulbs only gave dim light on the walls. It was very difficult to get clear visibility on the floor surface. Electric poles were very rare; most households used temporary and risky wiring for electricity and felt immense pleasure even when they got a dim light occasionally.

The roads were just sources of dust, and even a heavy bus would move on these roads with uneven jerks. Drivers kept the third and fourth gears at rest due to the dilapidated condition of the roads. The roads were risky and caused frequent accidents, especially when a driver made a wrong turn.

In the upper reaches, ten or more households would share a single water point. Womenfolk had to do labour work that was not exercise for them. During winters, when taps got frozen, our womenfolk rushed to nearby springs to bring drinking water and used it very carefully. That activity was so hectic that most households ended up in unhygienic conditions and severe health issues.

Alhamdulillah! Today every household in remote areas has sufficient water facilities. I salute those who sponsored schemes like the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) and provided clean tap water to every home. This act definitely blessed the higher-ups. It is a great comfort to the underprivileged class, and people appreciate the scheme. But due to some selfish contractors and negligence of officials, this scheme faces issues in some areas where the public complains that the work was not done properly. Some contractors even engage household members for pipe digging without paying them labour charges.

Schemes like the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY) and other projects for better connectivity, protection bunds, and drainage systems have provided great relief to the population living in villages. Today, almost every village is connected to each other, roads are macadamized, and people feel great comfort and appreciate the government for these steps.

Today, around 90 percent of villages are electrified, and only a few areas still lack electricity. But one unfortunate thing is the hike in electricity charges. It is very difficult for the underprivileged class to pay electricity bills promptly; they should be given relaxation by the central government.

What came to my mind encouraged me to write this article for a renowned newspaper of the Kashmir Valley.

When I was in 7th class, I started bodybuilding. It was my passion to stay healthy and fit so that I would not feel exhausted and lethargic in school. My school witnessed how much I contributed to a number of activities like scouting, cricket, bodybuilding, etc.

In Srinagar at that time, we had very few gym centres, and they were not equipped with advanced machines. Most players were passionate and did their best, always staying away from drugs and keeping their health a priority. Now, after every two kilometres in Srinagar, we have a gym centre. Unfortunately, today we are facing a severe drug menace. Even the government is very concerned and is applying stringent acts against drug peddlers. Drug peddlers deserve capital punishment, and every corner should be checked so that this curse is eliminated. Youth need proper counselling, education, and sports activities.

Today's youth demand a free zone, which means we should counsel them properly. Tell them, "Give your best, you are still in." Never discourage them when they fail to achieve their goals. Always encourage them and provide opportunities so that they get enough time to know themselves and overcome all odds in life.

I am residing in Bhatti Mohalla Raiyar-Ich, Khansahib, District Budgam, a beautiful and mesmerizing village in the Kashmir Valley. My village is known for noon chai and makki roti. Due to the famous tourist destination Doodhpathri, my village has gained identity as an emerging tourist village in Khansahib.

Sahil Manzoor Bhatti
Raiyar-Ich
sahilmanzoor411990@gmail.com

The views and opinions expressed in this article are solely those of the author and do not reflect the editorial policy of Headlines Today at all and in any manner.
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Amit Sharma reviews Census-2027 preparedness in Doda; emphasis accuracy, 100% coverage

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 20: Chief Principal Census Officer (CPCO) and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, Amit Sharma, today visited Doda and chaired a review meeting on Census-2027 at Doda, to assess the preparedness and progress of Population Enumeration in the district.

The meeting was attended by Principal Census Officer (Deputy Commissioner) Doda. Krishan Lal, Additional Deputy Commissioner (District Census Officer) Anil Kumar Thakur, Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah. Sunil Kumar Bhutyal, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Additional District Census Officer Vijay Kumar, Charge Officers, field trainers, supervisors, enumerators and other officials associated with the Census-2027 exercise.

During the meeting, CPCO Amit Sharma reviewed the overall progress of census preparations. He emphasized the importance of maintaining the highest standards of accuracy, completeness and reliability during data collection. He directed the enumerators and supervisors to ensure that every entry is correctly recorded, cross-checked and verified, stressing that accurate census data is vital for effective policy formulation, planning and delivery of public services.

The CPCO called for intensified awareness and publicity campaigns through newspapers, pamphlets, social media, local influencers, social activities and other available communication platforms. He directed the District Census authorities to ensure that residents of snow-bound and difficult-to-reach areas are adequately informed about the Population Enumeration phase scheduled from September 1 to 30, 2026, so that complete coverage is achieved.

Amit Sharma also directed the Charge Officers and supervisors to undertake regular field visits, inspections and random quality checks. He stressed strict adherence to census guidelines and called for special attention towards migratory populations, tribal communities, forest areas and other special categories, ensuring that no eligible household or individual is left out of the enumeration process.The meeting also took up the technical challenges being faced by field functionaries. It was informed that mobile devices used for Population Enumeration are required to meet prescribed technical specifications, including minimum 8GB RAM and Android version above 13. The issue of enumerators and supervisors having devices below the required configuration was discussed for appropriate resolution.

Principal Census Officer Doda Krishan Lal assured full administrative support for the smooth conduct of Census-2027. He directed all concerned officers to closely monitor field activities and ensure timely completion of all census-related work in accordance with the prescribed timelines, guidelines and instructions issued by the Directorate of Census Operations.

Additional District Census Officer Vijay Kumar briefed the meeting on the district-wise preparations and progress. He apprised the CPCO of the Census-2027 schedule for J&K, including Phase-I and Phase-II, review.

ADDC Reasi inaugurates PMEGP-backed venture at Talwara

■ HT News Network

REASI, AUGUST 20: Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Reasi, Krishan Lal, today inaugurated a newly established restaurant at Zero Morh, Talwara, set up by beneficiary Bharat Bhushan under the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme (PMEGP) through the Khadi and Village Industries Board (KVIB), Reasi.

The restaurant has been established with financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh under the PMEGP scheme, aimed at promoting self-employment and entrepreneurship among local youth.

The ADDC highlighted the importance of government schemes in creating sustainable livelihood opportunities and encouraging entrepreneurship. He urged eligible youth and aspiring entrepreneurs to come forward and avail themselves of the benefits of PMEGP and other self-employment schemes being implemented by the government.

The ADDC appreciated the efforts of the concerned departments in facilitating the establishment of the unit and called for wider awareness so that more people can benefit from such schemes and become self-reliant.

DC Rajouri reviews progress of PMGSY Roads in Darhal, subdivision Thanamandi

■ HT News Network

RAJOURI, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the status and progress of PMGSY road projects in Darhal, subdivision Thanamandi.The meeting was attended by ADDC Malikzada Sheraz Ul Haq, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, SDM Abid Hussain Shah, DFO Mohd Naveed, Executive Engineer PMGSY Shahid Mustafa, AEE PMGSY Ahtjaz Shafeeq Choudhary and other concerned officers. During the meeting, the status of eight PMGSY roads in Darhal, subdivision Thanamandi was reviewed in detail.It was informed that work on six roads is presently in progress, while two roads are awaiting requisite forest clearance.The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to ensure close coordination and timely resolution of issues affecting the execution of the projects. He directed the DFO concerned to fast-track the forest clearance process for the two pending roads to facilitate commencement of work at the earliest.The DC also directed the executing agencies to expedite the pace of work on all ongoing projects and ensure their timely completion while maintaining the prescribed quality standards. He emphasized that all concerned departments.

ADM Jammu reviews Eid Milad-un-Nabi preparedness

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 20: The Additional District Magistrate, Jammu, Ansuya Jamwal, today chaired a meeting to review the district administration's preparedness for the celebration of Eid Milad-un-Nabi. Imams and representatives of various religious bodies attended the meeting, along with senior officers from the line departments concerned.

The meeting was informed that five major religious processions are planned to be taken out across Jammu district on August 26. The routes and timings of these processions have already been finalized to ensure their smooth and peaceful conduct.

The Additional District Magistrate emphasized the need for foolproof security and effective traffic management along the procession routes and at important congregation points. She directed the Jammu Municipal Corporation to carry out special sanitation and fogging drives across the city ahead of the festival, particularly along procession routes, Eidgahs and other prayer venues.

Traffic and security deployment plans were reviewed in detail. The Additional District Magistrate issued directions to the officers concerned to ensure adequate deployment of personnel for the maintenance of law and order and smooth vehicular movement.

She directed the Power Development Department to ensure regular and uninterrupted power supply during the celebrations and to keep adequate contingency arrangements in place to address any technical exigency promptly. The deployment of health teams along the procession routes and at major congregation points was also reviewed to ensure timely medical assistance to devotees, if required.

The Additional District Magistrate also sought feedback and inputs from the religious representatives present, which were noted and discussed in detail for incorporation into the final arrangements.

Among those present were the Assistant Commissioner (General), Sania Haq Khan; District Health Officer, Dr Sophia Jan; Additional Superintendent of Police (Traffic), City Jammu.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch chairs meeting of Advisory Committee on Safe Food and Healthy Diet

■ HT News Network

POONCH, AUGUST 20: Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Ashok Kumar Sharma, today chaired a meeting of the District Level Advisory Committee on Safe Food and Healthy Diet at the Conference Hall of the Deputy Commissioner's Office Complex, Poonch, to review measures for ensuring food safety, quality and hygiene across the district.

Among those present were the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Poonch, Tahir Mustafa Malik; General Manager, District Industries Centre, Naheem Un Nissa Bhatti; Chief Education Officer; Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Khalil Ahmed Banday; Deputy Superintendent of Police (Headquarters), Neeraj Sharma; District Youth Services and Sports Officer, Mohd Qasim; Assistant Commissioner, Food Safety, Tariq Mehmood; and other officers concerned.

The meeting held detailed discussions on food safety, hygiene standards, quality control and the availability of safe, healthy food in hotels, restaurants, eateries and other food establishments across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized that ensuring the availability of safe, hygienic and quality food is a collective responsibility, and directed all departments concerned to maintain strict vigilance over food-related establishments. He stressed the need for regular inspections and effective enforcement of prescribed food safety standards to safeguard public health.

The DC directed the officers concerned to ensure that unsafe, stale, sub-standard or improperly stored frozen food is not supplied or served in hotels, restaurants and other eating establishments. He instructed the Food Safety Department and other agencies concerned to conduct regular inspections, particularly of hotels, restaurants, dhabas, bakeries, food outlets and other establishments dealing in food items.

He further directed the officers to check the quality, storage conditions, expiry dates, labelling and hygiene standards of food products and to take action against violations as per the prescribed rules. He also asked the officers to ensure that food items are stored under proper conditions and that cold-chain requirements are followed strictly wherever applicable.

Six MAITRIs provided AI Kits, essential equipment under Rashtriya Gokul Mission

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 20: Six trained MAITRIs (Multi-Purpose Artificial Insemination Technicians) under the Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) were provided with Artificial Insemination (AI) kits and other essential equipment at the Office of the Chief Animal Husbandry Officer (CAHO), Doda.

The programme was graced by Deputy Director, Central Animal Husbandry Department Jammu Dr. Adris Ahmed Malik as the Chief Guest in the presence of Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Doda Dr. Irfan Ali Wani.

During the programme, all six trained MAITRIs were provided with AI kits, cryocans, diplomas, marks cards, identity cards and other essential materials required for providing Artificial Insemination services in the field. The MAITRIs completed their specialized training at Bathinda, Punjab and are now equipped to deliver AI services in their respective areas.

The deployment of trained MAITRIs at the grassroots level is expected to significantly strengthen doorstep livestock breeding services, particularly in far-flung and remote areas where livestock farmers often face difficulties in accessing timely Artificial Insemination facilities. Their availability within local communities will facilitate prompt and accessible breeding services for livestock owners and contribute towards improving the productivity and quality of the local livestock sector.The initiative will also create opportunities for self-employment and livelihood generation for the trained MAITRIs, enabling them to utilize their technical expertise while contributing to livestock development in their respective communities. By bringing scientific breeding services.

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur inaugurates two-day photo exhibition on Nasha Mukt Bharat and Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita at GHSS Tikri

■ HTHT NEWS DESK

UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 20: The Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Minga Sherpa, inaugurated a two-day photo exhibition on Nasha Mukt Bharat and the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita at the Government Higher Secondary School, Tikri. The exhibition aims to take government flagship schemes to the people. The event was organized by the Field Office, Udhampur, of the Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India. It aims to educate citizens and make them aware of the menace of drug addiction and the importance of the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita.

During his visit, the Deputy Commissioner inspected the photo exhibition. To mark the commitment to a green India, the organizers from the Central Bureau of Communication presented saplings to the Deputy Commissioner and to the Principal of the Government Higher Secondary School, Tikri, Monika Karlupia.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner said the exhibition focuses on Nasha Mukt Bharat and the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita. He lauded the Central Bureau of Communication for taking this information directly to the people. He said drug addiction damages not only the individual but also affects families socially, emotionally and economically.

District Price Fixation Committee reviews rates of essential commodities in Kishtwar

■ HT News Network

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 20: On the directions of the Deputy Commissioner of Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, a meeting of the District Price Fixation Committee was held under the chairmanship of the Additional District Development Commissioner of Kishtwar, Vinod Kumar Behnal, to deliberate on the regulation of prices, quality and availability of essential commodities, particularly mutton, chicken, milk, vegetables, fruits and other food articles. The meeting also addressed the maintenance of hygiene, prevention of adulteration, use of prohibited polythene and protection of consumer interests in the district.

The ADDC emphasized that the rate lists approved during the meeting shall be given wide publicity and strictly adhered to. He directed the associations concerned to ensure that the decisions are conveyed to every member and shopkeeper under their respective associations. The approved rate list must be displayed prominently at a conspicuous and readily visible place in shops and establishments.

He directed the President of the Butcher Association and the President of the Chicken Dealers Association to ensure personally that all their members are apprised of the approved rates and other directions issued during the meeting. They were further directed to impress upon their members that no deviation from the approved rates, hygiene requirements or prescribed food safety standards shall be entertained.

He directed the District Food Safety Officer, Kishtwar, to ensure daily checking of butcher and chicken shops and to undertake sampling and inspection of other food establishments, including milk vendors, bakeries and sweet shops. The District Food Safety Officer was further directed to initiate action against offenders without delay.

He directed the Assistant Controller, Legal Metrology, Kishtwar, to intensify checking of electronic weighing machines and to curb short weighment and manipulation of measurements effectively. He further directed that the use of electronic weighing machines shall be mandatory for all vendors concerned dealing in commodities sold by weight. He also directed that every vendor shall provide the consumer with a bill slip for every purchase. Any vendor failing to issue a bill slip shall be liable for action under the law.

The Assistant Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, Kishtwar, and the field officers concerned were directed to keep a close watch on the availability, stocking and rates of essential commodities and to take action against hoarding, black-marketing and artificial scarcity. He directed the Executive Officer, Municipal Council, Kishtwar, to ensure sanitation and cleanliness in and around commercial establishments. The enforcement teams concerned were directed to conduct regular and surprise inspections and take action against violators under the applicable provisions.

He directed the Municipal Council, the Food Safety Department and the Revenue Department to inspect fruit and vegetable markets regularly to ensure that fresh, quality produce is made available to consumers and that rotten, decomposed or otherwise.

Don't Run Away from the Questions; Order a Probe into Recruitment Scandal: BJP Tells Omar Abdullah

■ HT NEWS DESK

Jammu, 20 August 2026:

Launching a sharp attack on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, BJP JK spokesperson and former MLC Girdhari Lal Raina said the Chief Minister's attempt to dismiss serious allegations of corruption in recruitment as "baseless" was nothing but an effort to divert public attention from the growing anger among the youth of Jammu and Kashmir.

"Omar Abdullah cannot wish away serious allegations by simply calling them baseless. If there is nothing to hide, why is the Chief Minister afraid of an investigation? The simplest way to establish the truth is to order an impartial probe and place the findings before the people," Raina said.

He said the BJP's protests are not political theatre but a response to genuine public anger over allegations of corruption in recruitment, outsourcing of jobs, questionable selection procedures and the apparent conflict of interest in recent recruitment under the sports category.

"The youth of Jammu Kashmir are asking a straightforward question: Was merit followed or was the system manipulated? Instead of answering that question, the Chief Minister is attacking those who are raising it. This is not accountability; it is evasion," Raina said.

Raina reminded Omar Abdullah that while he may not directly control the police and investigative agencies, he certainly has the constitutional responsibility to respond to allegations concerning the functioning of his government.

"You claim to have received the mandate of the people. Then respect that mandate. Recommend an appropriate investigation. If the allegations are false, the investigation will establish that. If there has been wrongdoing, those responsible must face the law. What the Chief Minister cannot demand is that people simply trust his word and stop asking questions," he said.

Referring to the 2012 Jammu Kashmir Common Entrance Test (CET) admission scandal, Raina said Omar Abdullah should be particularly cautious about lecturing others on how allegations of corruption should be raised. "That scandal involved the leakage and sale of medical entrance examination papers and illegal admissions to MBBS courses during Omar Abdullah's tenure as Chief Minister. The case subsequently resulted in convictions. There have also been other serious corruption-related cases, including the JKCA matter, which have remained under investigation .

VDGs raise key issues with Sat Sharma at BJP headquarters

■ HT NEWS DESK

Jammu, 20 August 2026:

A deputation of Village Defense Guards (VDGs) from various parts of Jammu, led by Basant Raj Thakur, Convenor of the BJP VDG Cell, called upon J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, and apprised him of several long-pending issues concerning the welfare and security of VDG members.

The deputation highlighted that a large number of VDG members continue to serve their villages without being brought under the paid category despite the policy framed by the Union Government in 2022. They urged the BJP leadership to ensure that all unpaid VDG members are covered under the paid category so that they receive due financial support for the vital services they render in safeguarding remote border and hilly villages.

The VDG representatives also demanded that members be brought under a comprehensive risk cover policy, considering the dangerous nature of their duties while protecting civilians from terrorist threats and infiltration attempts. They further sought a substantial enhancement in the monthly honorarium of VDG members, stating that the existing remuneration does not adequately reflect the risks, responsibilities, and sacrifices associated with their service.

The delegation emphasized that VDGs have consistently stood shoulder-to-shoulder with the security forces in defending vulnerable villages and have played a crucial role in maintaining peace, particularly in terrorism-affected regions of Jammu.

Listening patiently to the deputation, Sat Sharma assured the VDG representatives that the BJP fully recognizes their invaluable contribution towards ensuring the safety and security of the people living in vulnerable areas. He said that all their genuine issues would be taken up at the appropriate level for earnest consideration.

Sat Sharma stated that Village Defense Guards have emerged as the first line of defense in protecting villages from terrorists and infiltration attempts. Their courage, dedication, and unwavering commitment have significantly strengthened the security grid in remote and sensitive areas of Jammu & Kashmir. He stressed that the role of VDGs has become even more important in the prevailing security scenario, where local vigilance remains a crucial factor in defeating the designs of anti-national elements. He stressed that the BJP-led government has consistently prioritized the security and welfare of those serving the nation and society.

BJP Mahila Morcha Strengthens Grassroots Outreach Across Kathua District

Kathua, 20 August 2026: Jammu & Kashmir BJP Mahila Morcha State President Neha Mahajan undertook an extensive organizational outreach programme across Kathua district, accompanied by State General Secretary Geeta Bhagat, with a focus on strengthening the organisation at the grassroots level and enhancing the Mahila Morcha's connect with women across the district.

During the visit, Adv Neha Mahajan, interacted with women associated with UMEED at Chhan Arorian, Mandal Jasrota, and also visited Village Garinari, where they interacted with local women, heard their views and encouraged greater participation in social, developmental and organisational activities.

The programme also included monthly organisational meetings with the Mandals, where the functioning of the organisation, grassroots outreach, upcoming programmes and ways to further strengthen the Mahila Morcha were discussed.

BJP to expose NC govt's betrayal of public mandate: Sat Sharma

■ HT News Network

Jammu, 20 August 2026:

J&K BJP President and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Sharma chaired an organizational meeting at the party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, to review the party's ongoing programmes and strategize future organizational and public outreach initiatives. J&K BJP General Secretaries Sanjita Dogra and Baldev Singh Billawaria were also present.

The meeting reviewed the progress of the party's ongoing programmes across Jammu & Kashmir and finalized the strategy for upcoming campaigns with a clear focus on taking the BJP's message to every household, strengthening the organizational structure, and launching an intensified public movement to expose the failures of the Omar Abdullah-led National Conference government.

Sat Sharma, addressing the meeting, said that the people of Jammu & Kashmir have been subjected to betrayal, broken promises, and administrative paralysis under the present NC government. He asserted that the government has failed on every major front, from governance and public welfare to development and accountability, and has completely ignored the aspirations of the people while remaining busy in political rhetoric and blame games.

"The NC government has miserably failed to fulfil the commitments it made before the people. Instead of delivering good governance, it has disappointed every section of society. The growing public resentment is a direct consequence of its anti-people policies, lack of vision, and complete administrative failure. BJP will expose these failures in every village, every ward, and every public platform until the truth reaches every citizen," Sat Sharma.

Condolences Over Demise of Khwaja Muhammad Samadullah Wani

Kreeri: Imam and Khatib of Khanqah-e-Muradiya, the historic Central Jamia Masjid Kreeri, Syed Waqas-ul-Haq Waqas Bukhari Al-Azhari, has expressed deep grief over the demise of Khwaja Muhammad Samadullah Wani of Kreeri. In a condolence message, the Imam and Khatib said that the deceased was a noble, honest and virtuous person whose passing has left his family and the Wani community in deep sorrow.

The funeral prayers of the deceased will be offered after Isha prayers.Syed Waqas-ul-Haq Waqas Bukhari Al-Azhari conveyed his heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and the entire Wani community, praying to Almighty Allah to grant the departed soul complete forgiveness, elevate his ranks in Jannat, illuminate his grave with divine light and grant patience and strength to all the bereaved family members. "Indeed, we belong to Allah, and indeed to Him we shall return."

FATEHA KHAWANI

It is with profound sorrow that we inform you that our beloved Mother passed away on 19 August (Wednesday). May Allah Almighty grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous.The Fateha Khawani will be held on 22 August (Saturday) at 10:00 AM at the ancestral graveyard in Chanda Pora, Habba Kadal Srinagar.

Umar Shamim Shah
Ghulam Jeelani Shah

PUBLIC NOTICE

I Nissar Ahmad Bukhari father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari resident of Kreeri District Baramulla want to inform the general public through this notice that my name and my wards name has been mistakenly mentioned in the school records Syed Ayaan Nissar son of Syed Nissar Ahmad Bukhsri instead of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari son of Nissar Ahmad Bukhari, Now I want to correct it, In this regard if anybody has any objection they may contact the Principal SRM Welkin Educational Trust Sopore with in seven days after that no objection will be entertained

Nissar Ahmad Bukhari
Father of Syed Ayaan Nissar Bukhari
R/O:- Kreeri District Baramulla

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Ahmad sheikh S/o Jum Sheikh do hereby notify the general public that I am the registered consumer of electricity connection bearing Consumer No. 0206050002644 .I have decided to transfer the said electricity connection in the name of Gh Mohi ud din Ganie S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie .If any person has any objection regarding this transfer, he/she may file the same in writing before the Concerned AEE/Executive Engineer, PDD Sub-Division within 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. After the expiry of the stipulated period, no objection shall be entertained and the transfer shall be processed as per rules.

Gh Mohi ud din Ganie
S/O Gh Ahmad Ganie

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that my daughter's name a has been wrongly mentioned in school record Maysah Suhail D/O Suhail Ahmad Rather R/O Guzarbal Chattabal. While my daughters actual Name is Myisha Suhail D/O Suhail Majid Rather. According my adhaar card and D.O.B .Now I have applying for it's correction of the same if any person have any objection in this regard may file the same principal Valley commonwealth public Shool Chattabal within the period of seven days from the date of publication of this notice After that no objection shall be entertained.

Myisha Suhail
D/O Suhail Majid Rather
Mother Name:-Ruksana
R/O Guzarbal Chattabal

PUBLIC NOTICE

In the Bank records bearing Account No. 0101040100004024, my name and address have been mentioned as Syed Sarwar Hussain S/O Syed Baker Razvi, R/O 19 Sundar Plaza, M.G. Road, Pune 411, whereas my correct name and address are Syed Sarwar Razvi S/O Syed Baqar Shah, R/O Sheeshgari Mohalla, Khanyar, Srinagar.
Now, I want to apply for correction of the same in the bank records. If any person has any objection in this regard, he/she may contact the B/M, J&K Bank, Khanyar Branch, within seven days from the date of publication of this notice. After seven days, no objection shall be entertained.

Syed Sarwar Razvi
S/O Syed Baqar Shah
R/O Sheeshgari Mohalla, Khanyar, Srinagar
Cell No.: 8899022099

Correct Name: Syed Sarwar Razvi
Correct Father's Name: Syed Baqar Shah

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is here by notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Bank Account as SHAOIB AHMAD BHAT bearing Account no 0139040100011913 while my correct name is SHOIB MOHMAD BHAT S/O GH MOHAMMAD BHAT which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of J&K BANK KREERI authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name..SHOIB MOHMAD BHAT
S/O ... GH MOHAMMAD BHAT
R/O ...TETRAN TANGMARG
Account No...0139040100011913
Dist....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Name wrongly mentioned in my Passport bearing passport no T 2381992 as Umar Gulzar Tali instead of Umar Gulzar per Adhaar record which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he /she may file his/ her objection in the passport office srinagar within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained

Name...UMAR GULZAR
S/O .GULZAR AHMED TALI ..
R/O KREERI BARAMULLA

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of MOHD RAFEEQ PARRAY S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O NOORBAGH
C E O MUNCIPAL COUNCIL SOPORE /BDO SANGRAMA /BDO SOPORE
Non applicant
NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

whereas the above case titled case is under process in this court there in to the non applicant u/s 13 (3) of the registration of Birth & Death Act 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant/ applicants SON namely MOHD HAIDER S/O MOHD RAFEEQ PARRAY as 29/06/2021 (dd/ mm/ yy) at GURO Hospital Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large informed that in case anyone has any objection for the issuance of direction with respect to the registration aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person on through counsel within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation if the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken on the next working day .

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

IN THE COURT OF EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

In the case of FEROZ AHMAD PARRAY S/O MUSHTAQ AHMAD PARRAY R/O NOORBAGH applicant
C E O MUNCIPAL COUNCIL SOPORE /BDO SANGRAMA /BDO SOPORE
Non applicant
NOTICE TO PUBLIC AT LARGE

whereas the above titled case is under process in this court there in to the non applicant u/s 13 (3) of the registration of Birth & Death Act 1969 for registration of Birth event of the applicant/ applicants DAUGHTER namely BUSHRA FEROZ D/O FEROZ AHMAD PARRAY as 21/06/2017 (dd/ mm/ yy) at M C H SOPORE Whereas through the medium of this proclamation the public at large informed that in case anyone has any objection for the issuance of direction with respect to the registration aforementioned Birth event he/she shall file the same before this court in person on through counsel within seven days from the date of publication of this proclamation if the date fixed is declared holiday the matter will be taken on the next working day

EXECUTIVE MAGISTRATE 1st CLASS SOPORE

Office of The Executive Magistrate ist Class Narbal District Budgam
Notice For the General public

is notified that the applicant namely Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohammad Ramzan bhat R/o yarigund Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the Date of Birth of his Own namely Nazir Ahmad Bhat S/o Mohammed Ramzan Bhat. The applicant intends to register the Date of Birth of his Own as per school records / medical Board is 06/ 11/ 1966
If any one has objection in this regard, Convince Office of the Executive Magistrate ist Class Narbal District Budgam within the period of seven days. After completion of said period no objection will be entertained.

20/08/2026

Office of The Executive Magistrate ist Class Narbal District Budgam
Notice For the General public

is notified that the applicant namely Abdul Rahim Sheikh S/o Late Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh R/o Kawoosa Khalisa Tehsil Narbal District Budgam applied for the issuance of Death certificate of his father Ghulam Ahmad Sheikh S/o Habibullah Sheikh
The applicant intends to register the Date of his of his father per Masjid Committee 30/03/1990
If any one has objection in this regard, Convince Office of the Executive Magistrate ist Class Narbal District Budgam within the period of seven days. After completion of said period no objection will be entertained.

20/08/2026

Government of Jammu & Kashmir UT
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PW(R&B) DIVISION CHADOORA
Near: Tehsil OfficeChadoora
E-mail:- xenrnbchd@gmail.com
NOTICE INVITING FRESH E-TENDER
Two cover system
E-NIT No:38/EE/R&B/CHD/3163-72of 2026-27/Dated:19/08/2026

Executive Engineer PW (R&B) Division Chadoora on behalf of Lt. Governor of J&K UT invites **percentage rate bids** in electronic tendering system for the following works from the eligible and approved contractors registered with J&K UT Govt. CPWD, Railways and other State Governments.

S.No	Name of Work	Adv. Cost (incl. cost of Bitumen and GST (Rs. In Lacs)	Cost of T/Doc. (In Rs.)	Earnest money CDR/ FDR/BG (Rs)	Time of Completion (days)	Major Head	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1	**Macadamization of TainganKadalbal Road.**	**54.97**	**1600**	**109940**	**25 working days**	***UT Capex Budget***	**AAY**

Project Authority: ***PW (R&B) Department Kashmir***
Position of AAA: ***Accorded***
Position of TS: ***Sanctioned***
Position of funds: ***Committed /Available***

The bidding documents, which would include qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications/drawings, a bill of quantities (B.O.Q), a set of contract terms and conditions, and other details, can be viewed/downloaded from the departmental website **www.jktenders.gov.in** on the dates listed below:-

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	**19/08/2026**
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	**19/08/2026**
3	Bid submission **Start Date**	**19/08/2026**
4	Bid Submission **End Date**	**25/08/2026 upto 4.00 PM.**
5	Date & time of opening of Bids **(Online)**	**25/08/20264.05 PMin the office of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora**

Bids must be accompanied by a Treasury Challan (dated between the bid start date and the Bid Submission End date) deposited in M.H. 0059 in the name of Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora(Tender Inviting Authority) as the cost of the tender document.
At the time of tendering, all the bidders must upload earnest money/bid security equal to 2% of the Advertised Cost in the form of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to the tender receiving authority i.e. Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (The date of Earnest money should be between Date of Start of bid and bid submission End date). The successful bidder will have to provide Performance security @5% of allotted cost in shape of CDR/FDR at the time of contract award. The earnest money/bid security of 2% will be released to the successful bidder only after the submission of performance security of 5% of the total allotted cost which will be released after successful completion of the DLP.
The 1st lowest responsive (Successful) Bidder has to produce an amount equal to 5% of contract as Performance Security in the shape of CDR/FDR/BG in favour of Executive Engineer R&B Division Chadoora (Tender receiving authority) within 15 Days before fixation of Contract and shall be released after successful completion of Defect Liability Period (DLP) of the work, The CDR/ FDR/Bank Guarantee should be valid till DLP period. The Date of Performance Security should be after the date of issuance of Letter of acceptance. Failure to produce Performance Security on stipulated period, the case may beforwarded to Higher Authoritiesfor debarring of the participating in tendering process for a period of 01 Year.
Abnormally Low Bid Price:
As per the Circular instructions of Finance Deptt. Vide No. FD-Code/441/2021-02-158 Dated: 08.08.2025, which is reproduced as :-
Where the bid price is below 10% but not below 20% of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee/security percentage shall be Incremented by 0.1% for every percentage of bid price below 10% of the project cost put to bid starting at 11% with the additional bid performance guarantee being 0.1% and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
Where the bid price is 20% or more below of the project cost put to bid, the additional performance guarantee percentage shall be Incremented by 0.2% for every percentage of bid price below 20% of the project cost put to bid in addition to 1% of the bid price and this additional performance guarantee percentage shall be applied on the bid price.
The additional performance security shall be treated as part of the performance security. Additional performance Security shall be taken only after approval of next Higher authority. The date and time of bid opening shall be notified on the Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and automatically communicated to bidders via an e-mail message sent to their e-mail address. Responsive bidders' bids will be opened online on the same Web Site in the Office of the Executive Engineer PW(R&B) Division Chadoora(Tender Receiving Authority).

DIPK-4795/26
Send Dated:20/08/2026

ExecutiveEngineer
(R&B)Division Chadoora

Yasha Mudgal emphasizes strengthening of Cooperative Credit Institutions, PACS Computerization, Rural Credit

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20: Commissioner Secretary, Cooperative Department, Yasha Mudgal, today chaired a meeting of the High-Level Committee (HLC) to review the performance, functioning and developmental initiatives of Cooperative Credit Institutions across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by Vikas Mittal, General Manager/Officer-in-Charge, NABARD; Ram Swaroop, Deputy General Manager, Reserve Bank of India (RBI); Managing Director, J&K State Cooperative Bank (JKStCB); Managing Directors and Chief Executive Officers of District Central Cooperative Banks (DCCBs), J&K besides other senior officers of the Department.

During the meeting, Vikas Mittal made a detailed PowerPoint Presentation covering the financial and developmental performance of cooperative banks in Jammu and Kashmir.

Ram Swaroop, emphasized the importance of robust corporate governance, regulatory compliance and effective supervisory mechanisms. He called for expediting the constitution of the Boards of Directors of the J&K Central Cooperative Bank (JCCB) and the J&K State Cooperative Bank (JKStCB).

Yasha Mudgal emphasized that cooperative credit institutions have a critical role in promoting inclusive economic growth and strengthening rural livelihoods in Jammu and Kashmir. She stressed that cooperative banks should focus on expanding financial inclusion, improving customer service, ensuring institutional sustainability and making timely and affordable credit available to farmers, rural households, entrepreneurs and other eligible beneficiaries. Taking a detailed review of the PACS Computerization Project, the Commissioner Secretary directed all concerned to strictly adhere to the prescribed implementation timelines and ensure compliance with T-7 and T-1 requirements related to end-of-day processes and financial reconciliation. She directed that districts showing slower progress be accorded priority attention and instructed the system integrators to expedite reconciliation, provide effective handholding and training to PACS personnel and maintain continuous coordination with NABARD for resolving technical and implementation-related issues. The Commissioner Secretary also reviewed the operational issues related to Sahakar Sarthi Private Limited. She directed the concerned cooperative banks and the Office of the Registrar, Cooperative Societies, J&K, to coordinate closely and resolve all pending issues in a time-bound manner. She made it clear that operational bottlenecks should not affect the delivery of services to members and beneficiaries. Reviewing the progress of newly established Multipurpose PACS, Yasha Mudgal directed the concerned institutions to make these entities fully functional and economically viable at the earliest. She emphasized the need to augment rural credit flow, increase agricultural term lending and diversify into suitable non-agricultural loan portfolios to ensure the long-term sustainability of M-PACS and enable them to serve as effective multipurpose institutions for rural communities.

JKEDI Organises Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme for RRIUM Faculty and Research Scholars

HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 20: The Jammu & Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) organised a one-day Entrepreneurship Orientation Programme (EOP) for faculty members and 25 postgraduate research scholars of the Regional Research Institute of Unani Medicine (RRIUM), Srinagar.

The programme aimed to familiarise participants with entrepreneurial thinking, innovation and the evolving startup ecosystem, while encouraging a shift from conventional approaches towards problem-solving, opportunity identification and value creation.

The programme commenced with an interactive session on "Why Entrepreneurship?", highlighting the role of entrepreneurial thinking in addressing contemporary economic and social challenges. Subsequent sessions focused on traditional entrepreneurship, the changing startup ecosystem and opportunities for transforming academic knowledge and research into viable entrepreneurial ventures. The programme concluded with an interactive session on Business Plan Formulation, which familiarised participants with the essential components of developing a structured and sustainable business proposition.

Addressing the participants, Sh. Chand Kishore Sharma (JKAS), Joint Director, JKEDI, encouraged faculty members and research scholars to embrace innovation and explore avenues for translating research and knowledge into meaningful entrepreneurial ventures. Sh. Barun Verma (JKAS), Accounts Officer, JKEDI, also participated in the programme.

The sessions were conducted by Sh. Irtif Mehraj, Incubation Manager; Sh. Shabir Majeed, Faculty; Dr. Sameer Jan Bhat, Teaching Associate; and Dr. Mohammad Furqan Khan, Assistant Faculty, JKEDI, who served as resource persons.

The programme reaffirmed JKEDI's commitment to fostering entrepreneurship, innovation and knowledge-driven enterprise creation among academic and research communities across Jammu & Kashmir.

Trade Body Langate Delegation Meets DC Kupwara, Raises Market Issues

■ DR.AB QAYOOM

LangateAug,20: A delegation of the Trade Body Langate, led by its President Lateef Ahmad Ganie, on Thursday met Deputy Commissioner Kupwara and held a constructive discussion on various issues concerning the Langate market and the local trading community. During the meeting, the delegation highlighted several concerns faced by traders and the general public, with particular focus on issues related to Dand Kadal. The Trade Body urged the district administration to look into the matter and take appropriate measures in the larger interest of traders and residents.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara gave a patient hearing to the delegation and assured that the issues raised would be duly considered. President Lateef Ahmad Ganie appreciated the Deputy Commissioner's attentive and responsive approach, saying that regular interaction between the administration and local stakeholders is important for resolving public issues effectively. The Trade Body Langate expressed gratitude to the Deputy Commissioner for providing a patient hearing and maintaining an open and people-centric approach towards the genuine concerns of the business community. Ganie said that constructive engagement between traders and the administration would help address longstanding issues and contribute towards creating a better and more conducive business environment in Langate. The Trade Body Langate reiterated its commitment to working in close coordination with the district administration for the development, welfare and prosperity of the Langate market and the people associated with it.

J&K Census Operations organises awareness seminar on Census 2027

■ HT News Network

BHADERWAH, AUGUST 20: The Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, in collaboration with Bhaderwah Campus, University of Jammu, today organised an awareness seminar on "Census 2027 – Counting Today, Shaping Tomorrow" at Bhaderwah Campus. The seminar was aimed to sensitise the students, faculty members and other stakeholders about the significance of Census 2027, the importance of accurate and inclusive data and its vital role in informed policy-making, development planning and nation-building. Amit Sharma, Chief Principal Census Officer and Director, Directorate of Census Operations, J&K and Ladakh, was the chief guest on the occasion. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the significance of Census 2027 and stressed the need for active public participation and accurate information for creating a reliable demographic database. He urged the students to become ambassadors of census awareness and help disseminate the message of responsible participation among the wider community. He emphasised that every citizen has an important role in ensuring that the census exercise is accurate, comprehensive and inclusive. He also appreciated Bhaderwah Campus for collaborating with the Directorate in organising the awareness seminar. Professor Rahul Gupta, Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, highlighted the importance of the Census as a vital source of demographic, social and economic information. He stated that accurate census data provides the foundation for effective governance, equitable resource allocation and evidence-based development planning. Dr. Rakesh Sharma, Head, Department of English and Officiating Rector, Bhaderwah Campus, underlined the importance of Census data in understanding the societal changes and formulating development-oriented policies.

A detailed presentation on Census 2027 was delivered by Balbir Singh, Assistant Director, Census Operations, who explained the census process, its objectives and the importance of accurate and comprehensive data collection.

A debate competition was also organised as part of the programme, in which students from different departments participated enthusiastically. The first three winners were felicitated, while certificates were presented to all participating students in recognition.

Awareness Campaign Programme on "Fake Pesticides vs. Genuine Pesticides"

■ HT News Network

PULWAMA, AUGUST 20: The Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with officials of the State Agriculture Department from Block Kakapora, organized an awareness campaign on "Fake Pesticides vs. Genuine Pesticides" for farmers at Sether Gund village, Block Kakapora, District Pulwama, on August 20, 2026. The programme aimed to educate farmers about the identification and verification of genuine pesticides and the risks associated with the purchase and use of counterfeit products. Dr. Vageesh Pandey, DD (E), sensitized the farmers about various methods of identifying and verifying genuine pesticides before purchase and use. Dr. Haroon Rashid Hakla, APPO (PP), highlighted the serious problems and harmful effects of counterfeit pesticides on crops, human health.

Jammu Development Authority seals Blinkit store at Surya Towers

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 20: The Jammu Development Authority (JDA) today sealed a Blinkit store operating from the basement of Surya Towers at Bahu Plaza, Jammu, for functioning in violation of the sanctioned building permission and applicable building norms.

The premises form part of a building that also houses the Aakash Coaching Centre, where a large number of students attend classes. The operation of a commercial delivery and store facility from the basement, contrary to the sanctioned use and building permission, was found to have serious implications for public safety, fire safety and the safety of students, occupants and visitors.

The JDA has taken cognizance of the potential risk to the life and property of students, occupants and members of the public in and around the building, particularly in view of the recent fire incident involving another Blinkit store at Janipur, Jammu. Such incidents underline the importance of strict compliance with sanctioned building plans, permissible land and building use, fire-safety requirements and other applicable statutory norms.

The JDA has accordingly undertaken the sealing as a preventive and regulatory measure in the larger public interest, with the objective of safeguarding life and property and ensuring that buildings and premises are used strictly in accordance with the permissions granted by the competent authority.

The JDA has reiterated that any commercial activity carried out in violation of sanctioned building permissions or applicable building bye-laws will be dealt with strictly in accordance with the law. The Authority will continue to undertake inspections.

KU's EMMRC begins two-day orientation programme on MOOCs

■ HT News Network

Srinagar Aug 20: The Educational Multimedia Research Centre (EMMRC), University of Kashmir (KU), commenced a two-day orientation programme on Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) at the Main Campus, aimed at familiarising academics with digital learning platforms and encouraging greater integration, visibility and enrollment of MOOCs in higher education.

Titled "Promoting MOOCs in Higher Education: Integration, Visibility and Enrollment," the programme brought together faculty members from universities and colleges across Kashmir. It seeks to strengthen the capacity of teachers to develop and engage with digital learning resources and platforms, while promoting wider access to quality education beyond conventional classroom spaces.

In her message Vice Chancellor, KU, Prof. Nilofer Khan, emphasised the importance of embracing digital transformation in higher education and highlighted the role of MOOCs in expanding access to quality learning and strengthening the academic ecosystem.

"MOOCs have emerged as an important instrument for widening access to quality education and connecting learners with knowledge beyond geographical and institutional boundaries. As higher education continues to evolve with technology and AI, it is important that our teachers and institutions remain prepared to embrace these changes and make meaningful use of digital platforms," she said.

Javed Rana launches 14.38 cr water supply projects for Upper Thathar, Sidhra under SASCI

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 20: Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today laid the foundation for augmentation of Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) at Upper Thathar and Sidhra Gujjar Basti, marking a significant step towards strengthening the drinking water infrastructure in the areas.

The two projects are being taken up under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) scheme and are aimed at ensuring reliable, adequate and safe drinking water supply to local residents.

Legislator Jammu North, Sham Lal Sharma, legislator Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi and senior officers of the Jal Shakti department were present on the occasion.

The augmentation of WSS Upper Thathar in Bantalab area is being executed at an estimated cost of Rs 5.88 crore targeting 650 Functional Household Tap Connections, benefiting around 15,000 people. The project is scheduled for completion by December 2026.

Similarly, the augmentation of WSS Sidhra, Raghura Gujjar Basti is being taken up at an estimated cost of Rs 8.50 crore and will target more than 500 Functional Household Tap Connections, benefiting nearly 20,000 citizens. This project is also targeted for completion by December 2026.

While laying the foundation stones for the schemes, Minister Javed Ahmed Rana said that the two Water Supply Schemes would significantly improve the quality of life of local residents by ensuring reliable and safe drinking water.

"These projects are not merely about augmenting water supply but they are about ensuring a healthier, safer and more dignified life for every resident of Jammu city," Rana said.

The projects envisage creation of new sub-stations, laying and strengthening of distribution networks, augmentation of existing storage capacity and development of other allied infrastructure to enhance the efficiency, reliability and coverage of the water supply system. These interventions will help strengthen the overall drinking water infrastructure and ensure adequate, regular and sustainable water supply to the targeted households and localities.

The Minister said that under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, our government is committed to build a resilient and sustainable public infrastructure. These projects reflect our resolve to ensure that the fruits of development reach every household, leaving no one behind, he added.

Javed Rana stated that the Jal Shakti Department has been directed to expedite similar augmentation works across the district on a priority basis, so that the benefits of piped water supply reach the maximum number of households at the earliest.

CMYK

Why certain meds can make heatwaves harder to handle

Some of the most prescribed medications, including those used to treat depression, ADHD and high blood pressure, can increase the risk of dehydration and other heat-related conditions.

This year, at the height of Europe's June heatwave, Ileana Okumus couldn't understand why she was struggling so much more than other people.

"As soon as I left my apartment, my face started to sweat," she says. Living in a top-floor Brussels apartment without air conditioning, the 28-year-old sought relief wherever she could find it – the office, local cafes. But it wasn't enough.

"I had to wait half an hour, an hour, before I cooled down," she says. "There was one particular day when the temperature inside the apartment reached 34C [93F]. I think I slept around 18 hours." She found it difficult to wake up, and worried that her blood pressure might have dropped.

The intensity of the heatwave was nothing new for Okumus, who has lived through 40C [104F] summers elsewhere in the world. Yet it was the first time the heat had hit her this hard. Only after seeing social media posts from people with similar symptoms did she make the connection between the heat and the medicines she'd started taking two years ago for depression and anxiety.

As heatwaves become more frequent and severe as a result of climate change, doctors and health organisations are warning that some of the most commonly taken drugs – including psychiatric, blood pressure and heart medications – can interfere with the body's ability to regulate its temperature, and are putting people at risk

of heat-related illness.

Mental health drugs in the heat

Many types of drugs used to treat mental health conditions, including depression, anxiety, and bipolar disorder, are known to increase heat vulnerability due to how they interact with the hypothalamus, the brain's thermoregulation centre.

"This area of the brain gets us to reduce our activity, to sweat more, to reduce our metabolism – all beneficial adaptations to heat," says Robert Feder, a retired psychiatrist based in New Hampshire and member of the steering committee for the Medical Society Consortium on Climate and Health.

That includes the most widely prescribed antidepressants, SSRIs (selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors) and SNRIs (serotonin and norepinephrine reuptake inhibitors). Drugs in these classes include sertraline, fluoxetine, escitalopram and venlafaxine. They function by blocking the brain's reuptake of serotonin, a naturally occurring chemical that regulates mood and other bodily functions.

Too much serotonin in the hypothalamus can disrupt thermoregulation and cause excessive sweating. This affects around one in five people taking antidepressants and can lead to dehydration and electrolyte loss.

"That becomes a compounded problem when you're already dehydrated because of high temperatures," says Feder.

Tricyclic antidepressants, an older type of antidepressant, can also trigger sweating – or suppress it instead, also a problem since it reduces heat elimination and raises body temperature. These antidepressants have an "anticholinergic" effect, meaning they block activity of a neurotransmitter called acetylcholine, which is involved in many different bodily functions including sweat production.

Diuretics, ACE (angiotensin-converting enzyme) inhibitors and ARBs (angiotensin II receptor blockers), commonly used to treat high blood pressure, can increase the risk of electrolyte imbalances. The latter two can also interfere with the hormone that normally triggers thirst.

"With that combined impact, you can get really severely dehydrated to the point where it increases your risk of renal failure, a heart attack, or one of many other severe organ impacts," says Logan Harper, a family physician and assistant fellowship director of the University of Colorado Anschutz's climate and health programme.

Beta blockers, meanwhile, a common cardiac medicine, can limit blood flow to the skin, meaning the body can't release heat as effectively. And besides tricyclic antidepressants, the other types of anticholinergic drugs – used to treat a wide range of conditions like Parkinson's disease, overactive bladder, respiratory disorders and allergies – can all affect the body's sweating and cooling mechanisms.

"A lot of times people are on multiple medications that can both interrupt their ability to cool down and increase their susceptibility to organ damage," says Harper. This is especially the case for older adults, who are also more prone to heat illness in general, he adds.

> "Other types of psychiatric medicines can also have an impact. Antipsychotics, used to treat schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, block dopamine in the hypothalamus, which prevents normal responses that would cool the body. Studies of previous heatwaves have linked antipsychotic use to a higher chance of mortality. Stimulants used to treat ADHD, like Ritalin, increase heat production and cause constriction of the blood vessels, which disrupts the body's natural cooling process. They can also mask exertion, meaning people may not realise they are overheating, says Feder.

Even milder heat could be being made more of an issue by some medicines: a study of older patients in the US taking medications, including diuretics, antipsychotics, beta blockers, stimulants and anti-hypertensives, concluded that older patients may be at heightened risk for heat-related hospitalisation in the summer even in the absence of heatwaves. People over the age of 65 are also more likely to be taking multiple medications.

"It's a given that combinations of those medicines have increased risk beyond just taking one at a time," says Harper. However, it's not yet well understood which drug combinations pose the greatest danger, he adds.

More like this:

• What science says about staying cool in a heatwave

• The world is getting hotter - this is what it's doing to our brains

• The unexpected tricks for cooling pets in the heat

Socioeconomic factors also affect risk. "Someone might have a manual labour job that exposes them to a lot of heat, or they might even live outside," says Harper. "Or maybe you live in an urban heat island, and you can't afford air conditioning." (Urban heat islands are densely populated areas with few trees and large areas of dark concrete that absorb heat.)

Cecilia Ahanonu, an emergency medicine physician assistant and assistant professor at Touro University in southern Nevada, recently witnessed this firsthand. During a community health outreach event in Las Vegas, when temperatures were around 43C [109C], she met a man in his 60s who was sleeping in a park. "He looked pale, was sweating profusely, and had a high heart rate," she says.

The man, who was taking a diuretic and an SSRI, didn't realise how overheated he was. "He did what

most any of us would do and attributed his symptoms to the extreme heat," says Ahanonu. But as she asked more questions, another possible cause emerged: his medication.

Ahanonu advised him on basic heat safety – drinking more water, avoiding the Sun during peak hours – and gave him a list of nearby cooling centres. She also warned him about more serious symptoms to watch out for which could indicate heat stroke – a potential medical emergency.

"Any altered mental state or confusion, or if someone's not acting like themselves, you would want to take the person immediately to the nearest emergency room," she says.

A better awareness

Doctors caution against stopping medicines without first seeking medical advice. Harper says he would like to see better training and awareness of the heat and medicines' connection among doctors themselves.

"I think every time a physician prescribes a new medication, they should take a minute to list some of the highest risk side effects," he says. "There are certain medications, especially in high-risk populations, where heat-related illness should be included in that."

For Okumus, her experience this summer has made her rethink whether she even wants to be on medication at all. "I started thinking more seriously about going to my doctor and dropping it completely because I can't work or live my life like this during summer," she says.

Fraissinet, though, hasn't considered coming off her medicine. "The medication works really well for me," she says. Just knowing that this is a side effect of her medicines, rather than something else physically wrong, has put her at ease, she says.

"It signals to me, OK, this is a real thing – rather than just a random occurrence," she says. "That in and of itself has helped a lot."

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(BBC News)

BWF keeps India Open schedule flexible amid concerns over Delhi pollution

United News Of India

NEW DELHI, AUG 20: The India Open's timing has come under scrutiny in recent years because of concerns over air pollution in the national capital.

Keeping those concerns in mind, the Badminton World Federation (BWF), while announcing its 2027-28 calendar earlier this year, moved the tournament by a few weeks to February 2-7 in 2027.

However, the change applies only to the 2027 edition for now, and there is no guarantee that the shift will be extended or that it will lead to a significant improvement in air quality.

BWF secretary general Thomas Lund said the governing body would assess the available data over the coming months before deciding on the tournament's future scheduling.

"There's obviously a lot of logistical things when you do these things and we have obviously been in close dialogue around it, the whole calendar and so coming into 2027, it's quite a short space. And for now, it hasn't been possible to totally move out of the first quarter. It is documented that pollution will go down a little bit further into January, February," Lund told reporters on the sidelines of the ongoing BWF World Championships on Thursday.

The issue has been a concern for several international players. Danish shuttlers Anders Antonsen and Mia Blichfeldt have been among those who have openly spoken about the conditions in New Delhi. Antonsen has skipped the last three editions despite being willing to pay the associated fine, and even after the move to February for 2027, he has remained uncertain about returning.

Lund said the BWF remained open to considering other options if the data suggests that a change is required.

BWF secy impressed by World Championships venue transformation

The former Danish international, meanwhile, praised the transformation of the Indira Gandhi Sports Complex for the ongoing World Championships, saying he was impressed by the work carried out since the India Open earlier this year.The venue had attracted criticism during the India Open over the condition of the playing and practice courts and concerns over cleanliness. A monkey was also seen in the stands, while a men's singles match between HS Prannoy and Loh Kean Yew was interrupted twice after bird droppings fell onto the court.

With the World Championships returning to India after 17 years, the

IBL eyes second spot in India's sports economy after IPL: Ex-RR official McCrum

United News Of India

BENGALURU, AUG 20 :The India Basketball League's (IBL) biggest statement of intent may not be a player signing or a franchise announcement, but a high-performance centre that its CEO Jake Lush McCrum says has attracted investment exceeding that of many Indian Premier League (IPL) teams in their own high-performance facilities.

""I truly believe we can build something that is the second-most valuable property in the country," McCrum said during a media interaction here.Underlining the scale of the IBL's ambition, he said, "The investment in this high-performance centre is more than most IPL teams will invest in their high-performance centre."The claim offers a glimpse into the scale of the IBL's long-term ambition as it prepares for its inaugural season in early 2027.For McCrum, the philosophy is simple: build the talent first, and the league will follow."Sustainability starts with the talent and Indian talent," he said, arguing that a professional league cannot survive without a strong domestic talent pool.

Manav Suthar on factors that contributed to India's Galle success

United News Of India

GALLE, AUG 20 : Coming off a 2-0 home loss to South Africa in their last ICC World Test Championship 2025-27 assignment, India needed to address concerns relating to their ability to perform on sub-continental wickets.

And Sri Lanka provided a formidable challenge with its turning tracks and wily spinners.

But it was India that managed to stand tall in the first encounter between the two teams in Galle. Spinner Manav Suthar, who picked a maiden 10-wicket haul in just his second Test, credited his team's early arrival in Sri Lanka as an important factor that contributed to their success.The team arrived in Sri Lanka on August 4, and also featured in a three-day warm-up fixture before their first Test at Galle."It was very important to arrive 10 days early. It gives you time to adapt to the environment and get used to playing on these pitches and with the Kookaburra ball. That preparation time definitely helped a lot. It helped us 100 percent," Suthar told BCCI.

While India use the SG ball in their domestic cricket and home Tests, Sri Lanka use the Kookaburra ball. Suthar stated how after his stellar Test debut against Afghanistan in June 2026 (where he finished with seven wickets in a Player of the Match performance), he practiced with the Kookaburra ball."After the Afghanistan game, my main goal was to adapt as quickly as possible. For example, the match was with the Kookaburra ball, so I practiced a lot with the Kookaburra ball. I practiced a lot with it at the nets in my home. I wanted to get tuned into the game as much as possible," Suthar added.

War-hit Iran women's kabaddi team gets crucial Asian Games preparation in Sonepat

United News Of India

NEW DELHI: After a difficult few months in which the Iran-US conflict disrupted their training plans and cost them nearly three months of preparation, the Iran women's kabaddi team used a six-day training camp at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centre in Sonepat to prepare for the upcoming Asian Games in Aichi-Nagoya.

The team, which arrived in Sonepat on August 13, played a series of practice matches against the Indian women's team and other local sides. The sessions were aimed at helping Iran regain match sharpness ahead of the September 19-October 4 Asian Games, while also giving India's younger players an opportunity to compete against an experienced international side.Iran have a strong recent record at the Asian Games. Both their men's and women's teams won gold at the 2018 edition, while the women settled for bronze in 2023 and the men took silver. The women's team will now look to return to the podium in Aichi-Nagoya.For head coach Gholamreza Mazandarani, the camp was particularly important because of the changes within his squad. More than 80 per cent of the team has changed since the previous Asian Games.

District Tenni koit Championship Baramulla 2026_27 Concludes with Great Enthusiasm at Baramulla

Over 105 participants from across district Baramulla showcase skill and sportsmanship spirit

Aashiq Hussain

BARAMULLLA, 20 AUG (HT) The District Tenni koit Championship Baramulla 2026, organized by District Tenni koit Association Baramulla under the aegis of TENNI KOIT ASSOCIATION OF JAMMU and kashmir UNDER THE AEGIS OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR TENNI KOIT ASSOCIATION collaboration with the J&K Sports Council, concluded with great enthusiasm & energy at INDOOR SPORTS STADIUM BARAMULLA

The closing ceremony was graced by OMAR AZHAR KAKROO former President municipal council Baramulla /President District Sports Association Baramulla as the Chief Guest, . Other dignitaries present included SHAUKAT Hussain Shah manager sports council Baramulla

Mr Ishaq Ahmad Tantry CEO J&K TENNI KOIT ASSOCIATION

MR Tahir Ramzan Bhat phy.director sports degree college Baramulla

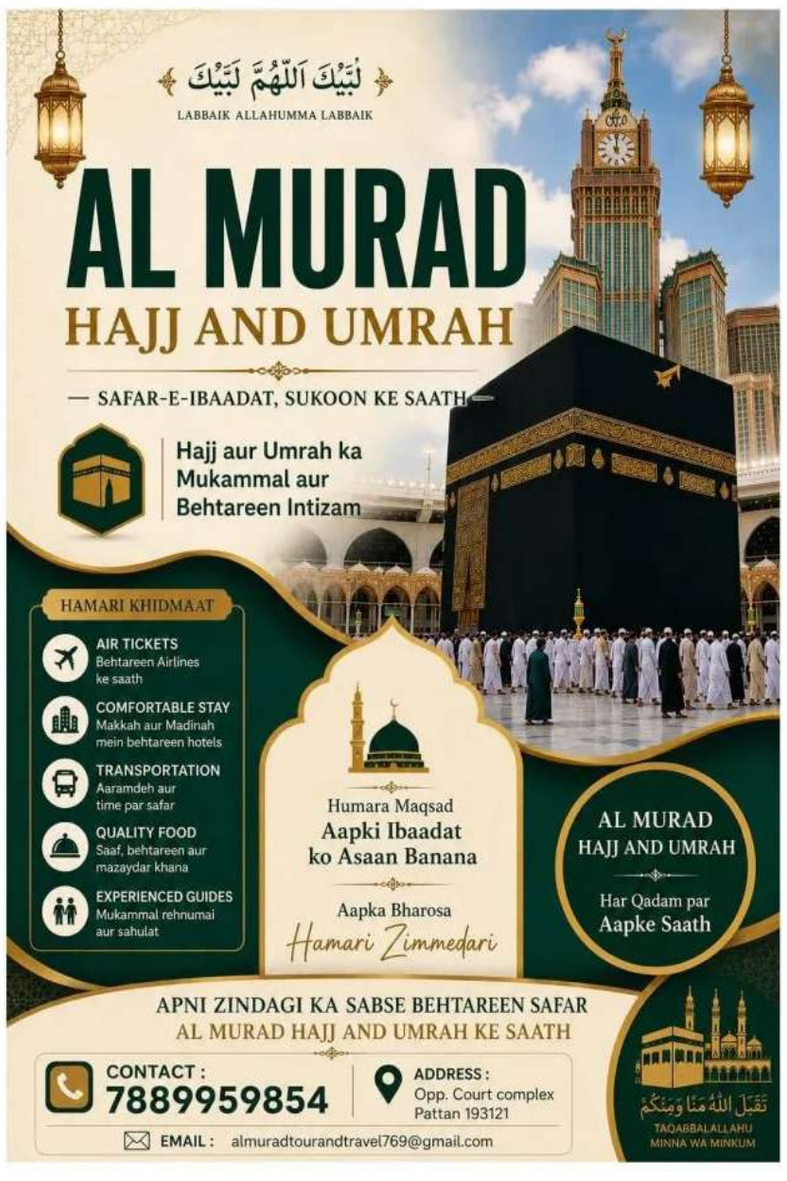
Peer Irshad Ahmad

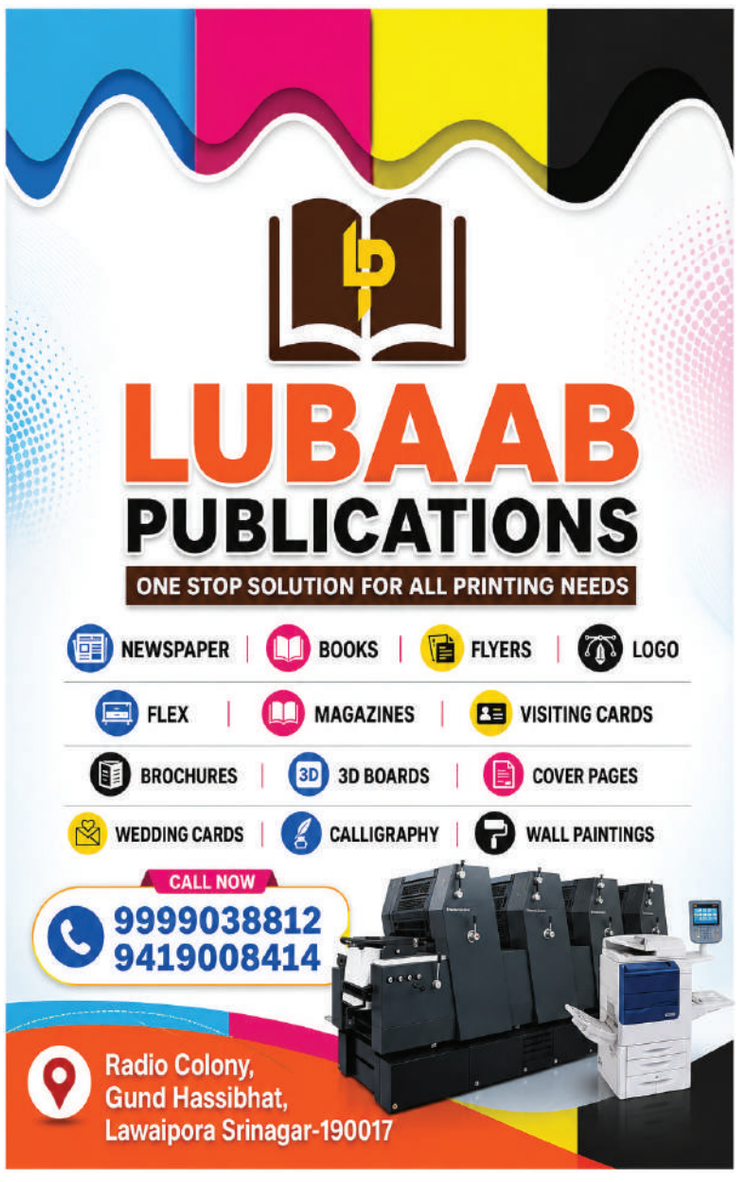
Incharge Khushal stadium SOPORE

Parents were happy to see their children participate such kind of competitions and thankful to organisers

The chief guest encourage the participants with their kind words with regards

General Secretary District Tenni koit Association Baramulla





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