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HEADLINES TODAY

Voice To The Voiceless



P:12

**Inter Milan forward Joaquin
Correa returns to Estudiantes
from Botafogo**

CM Omar Abdullah Honours 580 J&K Sportspersons with ₹2.71 Crore Awards

Calls for world-class sports infrastructure and greater support to athletes; launches anti-drugs, anti-doping campaign

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday honoured 580 outstanding sportspersons and international athletes from Jammu and Kashmir with cash awards totalling 2.71 crore for their achievements during 2023-24 and 2024-25, while calling for stronger sports infrastructure, better training facilities and sustained support to athletes. He also launched an anti-drugs and anti-doping campaign aimed at engaging young people through sports. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah today presented cash awards amounting to 2.71 crore to 580 outstanding sportspersons and international athletes from Jammu and Kashmir at a Special



Cash Award Ceremony held at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC) here, recognising their achievements in the field of sports. The cash awards pertain to the years 2023-24 and 2024-25. The Chief Minister personally handed over awards to 22 sportspersons, while the awards

to the remaining beneficiaries were disbursed through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) directly into their bank accounts. Addressing the gathering, the Chief Minister congratulated the awardees and said the cash awards marked the beginning of the Government's

SEE ON P-2

J&K on High Alert Ahead of August 15

Multi-layered security grid activated across Valley, Jammu ; IGP Birdi orders intensified checks, patrolling and surveillance

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Jammu and Kashmir has been placed under heightened security ahead of Independence Day, with security forces intensifying frisking, vehicle checks, patrolling and surveillance across major cities, highways, sensitive locations and border areas. Security personnel have stepped up deployment at strategic points in Srinagar and other parts of the Valley, particularly along busy roads, commercial centres and important entry and exit routes. Vehicles and occupants are being checked as part of preventive security measures ahead of August 15 celebrations. Similar arrangements have been strengthened across Baramulla, Kupwara, Kulgam and Anantnag, while increased vigilance has been maintained at vulnerable points and key routes.

In the Jammu region, heightened security measures have been introduced in Jammu city, Samba, Rajouri and Poonch. Forces have

close surveillance of vehicular movement at important points. In North Kashmir, heightened vigilance has been maintained in



enhanced checking and deployment at strategically important locations, including areas close to the International Border. Security has also been tightened along the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway, with personnel maintaining

frontier areas including Uri, Keran, Tangdar and Gurez. Security forces have also intensified surveillance in border villages and along routes leading towards sensitive frontier areas.

SEE ON P-2

Nadda Accuses Rahul Gandhi of Disrupting Parliament, 'Shifting Goalposts'

Union Minister says Government is ready for discussion and answers on all issues

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

NEW DELHI, AUGUST 10: Union Minister J.P. Nadda on Monday accused Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi of repeatedly changing his demands with the alleged intention of preventing Parliament from functioning. Nadda claimed that the Government had agreed to discussions on issues raised by the Opposition and was prepared to provide answers, while rejecting allegations concerning police firing during student protests.



Raining fire on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, union Minister J.P. Nadda on Monday accused the Congress leader of running away from discussions and shifting goalposts. "No bullets were fired during police action on the student protests. Gandhi's objective is not to engage in dialogue but to spread chaos. Does he not hear the voices of students in Jharkhand," Nadda also said. "Initially, at the start of the parliamentary session, he demanded a discussion on NEET. When we agreed to that, he shifted the issue to the Ram Mandir Trust. Subsequently, he insisted that the Home Minister make a statement regarding the incident at Jantar Mantar." Essentially, his intention is to prevent the House from functioning. He does not want the House to function. That is why he has been disrupting proceedings for the past 15 days while simultaneously demanding

SEE ON P-2

ACB Chargesheets 10 in ₹7.12-Lakh Kupwara Bridge Case

Two former Executive Engineers among accused; court grants bail to all charge-sheeted persons

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES



SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: The Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a charge-sheet against 10 persons, including two former Executive Engineers, other public servants and a private contractor, in an alleged misappropriation and forgery case linked to the Lastiyal-Kalaroose steel bridge project in Kupwara. The ACB has alleged a loss of 7.12 lakh to the government exchequer through unaccounted material, fraudulent release of deposits and other irregularities.

Raining fire on Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, union Minister J.P. Nadda on

Monday accused the Congress leader of running away from discussions and shifting goalposts.

"No bullets were fired during police action on the student protests. Gandhi's objective is not to engage in dialogue but to spread chaos. Does he not hear the voices of students in Jharkhand," Nadda also said.

"Initially, at the start of the parliamentary session, he demanded a discussion on NEET. When we agreed to that, he shifted the issue to the Ram Mandir Trust. Subsequently, he insisted

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Heavy to Very Heavy Rain Forecast Across J&K on August 11

Authorities alerted as Met Centre warns of flash floods, landslides and waterlogging

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to experience widespread rainfall and thundershowers on August 11, with heavy to very heavy rain forecast at some places in the Jammu division and intense showers possible in parts of Kashmir. The Meteorological Centre Srinagar has warned that torrential rainfall could trigger flash floods, landslides and waterlogging at vulnerable locations.

Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness widespread rainfall and thundershowers over the next few days, with heavy to very heavy rain forecast in some districts of the Jammu division and intense showers in parts of Kashmir, the



Meteorological Centre Srinagar said. According to the latest weather forecast, few spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at most places across Jammu and Kashmir from August 9 to 11, with the peak activity likely on August 11.

Heavy to very heavy rainfall is likely at a few places in the Jammu division, while brief spells of intense heavy showers are expected at a few districts of the Kashmir division, the weather office said.

SEE ON P-2

J&K Cabinet Expansion Likely After August 15 : Omar Abdullah

CM says much-awaited exercise will be taken up after Independence Day

HT NEWS NETWORK

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday indicated that the expansion of the Jammu and Kashmir Council of Ministers is likely to take place after August 15, bringing an end to months of speculation over the proposed exercise. Omar, however, did not disclose the likely date or names of prospective ministers, saying only that the expansion would not take place before Independence Day.

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Monday indicated that the expansion of his council of ministers is likely to take place after August 15, ending months of speculation over the much-awaited exercise. Speaking to media in summer capital



city Srinagar CM Omar as per news agency Kashmir News Service (KNS) said the government would go ahead with it but not before the Independence Day celebrations.

SEE ON P-2

HT BOTTOM NEWS

J&K READY FOR ITS GRAND CINEMATIC DEBUT ON THE WORLD STAGE

First International Film Festival to bring global filmmakers to the Valley, revive local film culture and create opportunities for emerging talent

FRAME BY FRAME: THE STORYTELLERS' MEET

A PRECURSOR TO IFFJK-2026

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: Jammu and Kashmir is set to open a new chapter in its cinematic journey with the first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK)-2026, as the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) on Monday organised Frame by Frame: The Storytellers' Meet at the DIPR Media Complex, Jammu, bringing together filmmakers, actors, producers, artists, writers and other members of the creative fraternity ahead of the four-day festival.

The festival, scheduled from September 7 to 10 in Srinagar, Jammu and Gulmarg, will feature film screenings, masterclasses, technical sessions and gala opening and closing ceremonies with participation from acclaimed members of the film fraternity from India and abroad.

The maiden edition of IFFJK has already attracted entries from more than 80 countries, reflecting the growing international interest in Jammu and Kashmir as a cultural and cinematic destination.

DIPR has also announced the IFFJK Emerging Filmmakers Competition 2026 exclusively for aspiring filmmakers from J&K.

FESTIVAL DATES: September 7-10, 2026

VENUES: Srinagar, Jammu, Gulmarg

REGISTRATION STARTED: August 6, 2026

ENTRIES FROM: 80+ Countries

EMERGING FILMMAKERS COMPETITION 2026
For aspiring filmmakers from J&K
REGISTRATION STARTED: August 6, 2026
LAST DATE FOR SUBMISSION: August 26, 2026

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Light, Camera, Kashmir.

Dal Lake Turns Green Amid Weed Growth, Shikarawalas Raise Contamination Concerns

Boatmen seek independent probe into water quality, fish deaths and de-weeding operations



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: Fresh concerns have emerged over the ecological health of Dal Lake, with extensive weed growth, green patches in the water and reports of fish being found dead or in an unconscious state. Shikarawalas have alleged possible diesel contamination from mechanical de-weeding operations and demanded an independent scientific assessment of the

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CM Omar

efforts to provide greater support and encouragement to sporting talent in Jammu and Kashmir.

"I would like to congratulate all the awardees from the bottom of my heart. This is the result of your hard work," he said, stressing that athletes can deliver better results when provided with the right facilities, coaching, equipment and training opportunities.

Acknowledging the contribution of parents and families in supporting young athletes, the Chief Minister said efforts would be made to ensure that sportspersons do not face undue financial pressure for coaching, training, equipment and travel.

"We should also increase this gradually, so that our athletes do not have to worry about investing in coaching, training, equipment, travel, etc. We should not put too much pressure on your families and parents," he said.

Emphasising the need to address gaps in sports infrastructure, Omar Abdullah said Jammu and Kashmir must significantly improve facilities at the grassroots level. He pointed to the shortage of synthetic tracks, quality playing surfaces, indoor facilities and other training infrastructure, particularly in mountainous and winter zones where adverse weather limits outdoor training for several months.

The Chief Minister said Jammu and Kashmir's altitude was an inherent advantage that could be leveraged to establish high-quality training centres for athletes.

"We have to capitalise on this. We have to use this by establishing high-quality training centres. And we have to pay attention to different sports," he said.

Calling for greater attention to both established and emerging sporting disciplines, the Chief Minister referred to the recent achievements of J&K sportspersons in cricket and Mixed Martial Arts (MMA), stressing the need to maintain a balance in promoting different sports.

He also called for greater support for disciplines beyond cricket and welcomed growing corporate participation in sports, particularly in coaching and athlete development.

Linking sports with the wider effort to keep young people away from drugs, the Chief Minister said sustained investment in sports infrastructure and engagement with youth was essential to making the anti-drug campaign effective.

"Staying away from drugs is not just a slogan for one day a year. Twelve months of that year, seven days a week, and that will only happen when we can give infrastructure to sports and get the attention of the kids," he said.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister felicitated J&K MMA fighter Owais Yaqoob for his remarkable victory at BRAVE CF 107 in Bulgaria, where he defeated an unbeaten two-time IMMAF World Champion in a display of skill, determination and grit.

He also launched an anti-drugs and anti-doping campaign by handing over a campaign torch to a sports icon from Jammu and Kashmir. The torch will travel through different schools and areas of Srinagar as part of the awareness campaign.

The Chief Minister said sports icons would play an important role in spreading awareness against drug abuse and doping, while promoting clean and fair competition.

Minister for Sports Satish Sharma, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Hazratbal Salman Ali Sagar, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Commissioner Secretary, Youth Services & Sports, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Secretary Sports Council, sports icons, sportspersons, athletes, coaches, awardees and their parents were present on the occasion.

J&K on High

In the Jammu region, greater vigilance has been maintained in the Krishna Ghati sector and Poonch, besides sensitive stretches adjoining the International Border.

The intensified arrangements are aimed at ensuring peaceful and smooth Independence Day celebrations while preventing any attempt to disrupt public order and security.

Authorities have urged commuters and motorists to cooperate with checking teams, stating that the additional security measures are preventive in nature and form part of the arrangements made ahead of the national event.

IGP REVIEWS SECURITY PREPARATIONS

Meanwhile, Inspector General of Police, Kashmir Zone, V K Birdi reviewed the security arrangements for Independence Day celebrations and other scheduled events at a high-level meeting held at Police Control Room Kashmir.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the J&K Police, Army, CRPF, BSF, SSB, ITBP, RPF, CID, Traffic Police and other security agencies.

District SSPs briefed the meeting about preparations in their respective jurisdictions, while senior officers apprised the IGP of the security arrangements being put in place across the Valley.

Birdi directed officers to complete all preparations well in advance and ensure clear assignment of responsibilities for various events, including rallies.

He also reviewed security arrangements for the main Independence Day function at Bakshi Stadium in Srinagar and directed officers concerned to further strengthen security at the venue and surrounding areas.

The IGP called for stronger checkpoints, particularly during night hours, at vulnerable locations and along the entry and exit routes of Srinagar city.

He further directed security agencies to intensify area domination and patrolling in sensitive and vulnerable areas to maintain a visible security presence and ensure effective surveillance.

Birdi stressed the need for strict vigilance against elements inimical to peace and security and called for enhanced alertness across all jurisdictions.

Senior officers from the Army and various Central Armed Police Forces, along with officials from the Security Wing, CID, Armed Police, SDRF, Railway Police and Traffic Police, participated in the meeting.

The security agencies resolved to maintain heightened vigilance and close inter-agency coordination in the run-up to August 15 to ensure peaceful and orderly Independence Day celebrations across Jammu and Kashmir.

ACB Chargesheets

that the Home Minister make a statement regarding the incident at Jantar Mantar.

"Essentially, his intention is to prevent the House from functioning. He does not want the House to function. That is why he has been disrupting proceedings for the past 15 days while simultaneously demanding a discussion on the Jantar Mantar issue," Nadda said.

He added that today, even after it was decided that the Jantar Mantar matter would be discussed, "he is misleading the public and the country by claiming that shots were fired at Jantar

Mantar when, in fact, no such incident occurred.

"The Home Minister is ready to answer every question. Our consistent stance has been and remains that let the House function. If the House functions, we are prepared to provide answers on every issue, as we always have."

Nadda Accuses

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Heavy to

The Meteorological Centre has also warned of the possibility of heavy rain and brief intense heavy showers in a few districts during the period, with heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at one or two places on the night of August 11.

It said torrential rain and brief intense heavy showers may trigger flash floods and landslides at vulnerable locations besides causing waterlogging in low-lying areas.

From August 12 to 16, light rain and thundershowers are likely at many places, with brief intense showers possible at a few locations, the forecast said.

Fresh spells of light to moderate rain and thundershowers are expected at many places from August 17 to 19, accompanied by brief intense heavy showers at a few places.

Authorities have been advised to remain alert in view of the possibility of flash floods, landslides and waterlogging during periods of intense rainfall. (KNS)

Dal Lake Turns

lake's water quality, aquatic life and conservation measures.

Srinagar's Dal Lake is facing fresh concerns over its deteriorating condition, with large stretches of water appearing green, thick weed growth visible across the lake and hundreds of fish reportedly found either dead or in an unconscious state.

During interactions with several shikarawalas, they alleged that the water quality has sharply deteriorated and claimed that diesel leakage from the machines being used for mechanical de-weeding is contributing to the contamination of the lake.

The machinery deployed by the Lakes Conservation and Management Authority includes a high-capacity de-weeding machine, procured for mechanical removal of weeds from Dal Lake. The machine is designed to extract and remove large quantities of aquatic weeds.

However, several shikarawalas alleged that the machinery is leaking diesel into the water during operations, claiming that the contamination is visible in the deteriorating condition of the lake.

"This water has become worse than drainage water. You can see the colour of the lake yourself. There are weeds everywhere and fish are dying. If the machines are being used to clean the lake but are themselves leaking diesel into it, what kind of cleaning is this?" some shikarawalas told the news agency Kashmir News Trust.

The boatmen claimed that hundreds of fish have recently been seen floating in the lake, with some appearing unconscious and others already dead. They said the condition of the aquatic ecosystem should be independently examined rather than dismissed as a routine seasonal problem.

Locals also expressed concern over the rapid spread of weeds and the changing appearance of the lake, saying the natural water body that once represented the beauty of Srinagar was now showing visible signs of ecological distress.

"The Dal Lake is not just a tourist attraction. It is a natural ecosystem. If the fish are dying and the water is turning green, somebody has to answer what is happening inside this lake," a local resident said.

Another shikarawala said the authorities had spent enormous amounts of public money on the conservation and cleaning of Dal Lake over the years, yet the basic problems appeared to persist.

"Crores and crores have been spent in the name of saving Dal Lake. If so much money has been spent, why has the condition not improved? Where has the money gone, and who benefited from it? Everything needs to be investigated," he said.

Official records and previous reports show that substantial expenditure has been incurred on mechanical cleaning, de-weeding and related equipment for Dal Lake over the years. A 2015 report, for instance, recorded expenditure of Rs 25.15 crore on cleaning machines since 1997, including weed harvesters and other lake-cleaning equipment.

The latest allegations, however, require an independent scientific assessment of the lake water to establish whether diesel or any other contaminant is present and whether it is contributing to the reported impact on aquatic life.

Several shikarawalas demanded that the Government constitute an independent committee comprising people of integrity and technical experts to examine the condition of Dal Lake, the effectiveness of de-weeding operations, the quality of water, the health of aquatic life and the expenditure incurred on its conservation over the years.

"The Government should constitute a committee of honest people and let them investigate everything, how much money was sanctioned, where it was spent, what work was actually done and why the lake continues to deteriorate," they said.

The shikarawalas said the issue should not be reduced to another seasonal cleaning exercise, warning that the ecological condition of the lake requires a comprehensive and transparent investigation.

Dal Lake remains central to Srinagar's tourism economy. For residents and boatmen dependent

on the lake, the question is no longer merely about its appearance but about whether one of Kashmir's most important natural water bodies is being adequately protected, and whether years of expenditure on its conservation have produced the results promised. [KNT]

J&K Cabinet

"Will do it, but not before August 15," the chief minister said.

His remarks are expected to bring some clarity to the speculation surrounding the induction of new ministers into the National Conference-led government.

The proposed expansion has been under discussion amid demands for wider political representation and a possible redistribution of portfolios within the council.

CM Omar, however, did not indicate the likely date of the expansion or disclose the names of those who could be inducted into the ministry.

The chief minister is expected to hold further consultations with leaders of the ruling alliance before finalising the names and portfolios.

The expansion is also being closely watched in political circles as the government seeks to strengthen its administrative set-up and ensure representation from different regions of the Union Territory.

The Omar Abdullah-led government was formed after the 2024 Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, with the National Conference emerging as the single-largest party. (KNS).

People's Mandate

Must Be Respected, Promises

Fulfilled : Hakeem Yaseen

PDF chief urges Government t

o focus on development, employment

and basic public services

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: People's Democratic Front president and former minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen has urged the Jammu and Kashmir Government to honour the commitments made to voters during the Assembly elections, saying people expect tangible results rather than political blame games. He called for focused action on unemployment, development, drinking water, power, roads, healthcare and other basic issues confronting the public.

: President People's Democratic Front (PDF) and former Cabinet Minister Hakeem Mohammad Yaseen on Monday said the massive mandate given to the National Conference in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections was based on a series of commitments, including development, tackling unemployment and fighting for the restoration of the constitutional position of Jammu and Kashmir. In a statement issued, Hakeem said the people had voted for the National Conference with certain expectations, but

here was growing disappointment that the mandate appeared to have been diluted.

"The people gave a massive mandate to the National Conference after they were promised development, employment opportunities and a fight for the restoration of Article 370 and Article 35A. But unfortunately, it appears that the people's mandate is being

diluted, much like what happened after the 1975 Accord," Hakeem said.

He said there was no denying that the Government of India had historically lacked a clear and consistent policy towards Jammu and Kashmir, and that ambiguity continued in different forms. However, he said, the elected government within Jammu and Kashmir also had a responsibility to put up a strong political fight for the interests and aspirations of the people.

"Before the elections, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah had himself stated that he would not contest elections because the Union Territory setup had limited powers. After the elections, he knew the powers available to the elected government and the limitations under which it had to function. Therefore, whatever commitments were made to the people must now be honoured," he said.

Hakeem urged the Chief Minister to focus on fulfilling his commitments instead of engaging in a blame game.

"The people are not interested in who is responsible for what. They want results. They want development, employment, better water supply, improved infrastructure and relief from the day-to-day problems they are facing. The government must work within its available powers and deliver on the promises made to the electorate," he said.

Referring to the political developments of 1984, Hakeem said the then elected government was controversially toppled after a group of legislators from the National Conference withdrew their support from Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah. The political developments subsequently led to the installation of Ghulam Mohammad Shah as Chief Minister.

"There was a change of guard in 1984 and it created a major political controversy. But people also remember the period that followed for certain developmental initiatives and recruitment drives," Hakeem said.

He particularly referred to the recruitment of thousands of daily-wage workers, saying that many people still remember that period for the employment opportunities created at the grassroots level.

"Approximately 36,000 daily-wagers got permanent jobs during that period and there was a sense among the people that their livelihoods were being addressed. Even today, a large number of these workers and their families continue to wait for regularisation. Successive governments have failed to find a permanent solution to the issue of daily-wagers," he said.

Hakeem said attempts to portray the political developments of that period solely through allegations of harassment of legislators were misplaced.

"Some people have alleged that MLAs or MLCs were harassed during that period. Such claims are totally fabricated and should not be used to distort history. The real issue was the manner in which the people's mandate was treated and the political turmoil that followed," he said.

He said changes in government and political arrangements should ultimately be judged by their impact on the people.

"Politics cannot be reduced to the question of who occupies the chair. The real test of any government is whether it serves the people, protects their interests and fulfils the commitments made to them," Hakeem said.

The PDF president said the present government must take concrete steps to address issues concerning development, unemployment, drinking water, infrastructure and other basic necessities. "It is mandatory for any elected government to take care of the people and fulfil the promises made to them. The mandate belongs to the people, and no political party has the right to take it for granted," he said.

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CMYK

ACB Chargesheets 10, Including Two Former Executive Engineers, in Rs 7.12 Lakh Kupwara Bridge Scam Case

■ HT News Network

Srinagar, Aug 10, : The Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) Jammu and Kashmir has filed a charge-sheet against 10 persons, including nine former and serving public servants and a private contractor, in a case involving alleged misappropriation of government store material, fraudulent release of security deposit, forgery and abuse of official position in connection with the construction of the Lastiyal-Kalaroose steel bridge in Kupwara.

The charge-sheet was presented before the Court of Special Judge, Anti-Corruption, Baramulla, on Monday in a case involving an alleged loss of Rs 7.12 lakh to the State exchequer.

According to the ACB, the case originated from an open verification conducted by the erstwhile Vigilance Organization Kashmir into allegations that the contractor, in alleged connivance with officials of the PWD (R&B) Division, Kupwara, caused financial loss to the government.

The bridge work was allotted to contractor Ghulam Mohi-ud-din Lone in September 2010, with a stipulated completion period of three months. The investigation found that the contractor commenced the work after a considerable delay, completed only part of the work and subsequently abandoned the project.

The ACB said departmental store material, including cement and steel, remained unaccounted for or unrecovered. The value of the material was assessed at approximately Rs 5.63 lakh.

DC Srinagar reviews status of works under District Capex Budget 2026-27

Directs executing agencies to expedite work on ground with quality execution

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10:- Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, Monday convened a comprehensive meeting of all executing agencies and line departments here at Meeting Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the progress of works taken up under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Rifat Aftab Qureshi, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Chief Education Officer, Ghulam Mohi-Ud Din, Assistant Commissioner Panchayats, Bashir Ahmad, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDC, SMC, UEED, Block Development Officers and all other District and Sectoral Officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner undertook an executing-agency-wise detailed review



of the progress made in the submission of estimates, floating of tenders and allotment of works, approved under the District Capex Budget 2026-27.

On the occasion, the DC was apprised that estimates

the pending tendering and allotment process for approved works and ensure that physical execution of all projects commences without further delay. He underscored the importance of fully utilising the ongoing working season to expedite development works, adhere strictly to prescribed technical standards and stipulated timelines to ensure timely delivery of tangible benefits to the public.

Underscoring the need for coordinated and result-oriented efforts, the Deputy Commissioner directed all line departments and executing agencies to strengthen inter-departmental coordination, adopt proactive planning and ensure optimum utilisation of available resources to expedite the implementation of developmental projects and maximise their intended benefits for the people across the district.

The DC directed all executing agencies to fast track

DIG NKR reviews Independence Day preparations and security arrangements in Sopore

■ HT News Network

Sopore, August 10: DIG North Kashmir Range, Baramulla, Shri Vinod Kumar-IPS, visited Police District Sopore and chaired a security review meeting with officers of Sopore Police, CAPFs and sister agencies in connection with the forthcoming Independence Day-2026 celebrations.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on security arrangements, deployment plans, area domination, access control, traffic management and coordination among various security agencies to ensure peaceful and smooth conduct of the celebrations. SSP Sopore gave a detailed presentation on the security and precautionary measures taken so far in the run-up to 15th August, as well as the measures planned for the coming days. He also briefed the DIG NKR on intensified checking and frisking, patrolling, area domination and operational preparedness across the Police District.

A detailed review of the overall security scenario was also conducted. The DIG NKR directed all officers to remain vigilant, strengthen security measures at vulnerable locations, intensify patrolling and checking and ensure effective coordination and timely sharing of intelligence among all agencies. Emphasis was laid on maintaining a high level of alertness and preparedness while ensuring minimum inconvenience to the general public.

J&K Police and all participating agencies reiterated their commitment to ensuring safe, peaceful and incident-free Independence Day celebrations across Police District Sopore.

Arrangements for Independence Day-2026 celebrations finalised at Anantnag

DC stresses meticulous execution of tasks for smooth, successful culmination of event

■ HT News Network

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 10: The arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day-2026 celebrations in district Anantnag were finalised today during a meeting of the concerned officers chaired by Deputy Commissioner (DC), Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at Dak Bunglaw, Khanabal.

At the outset, the participating departments informed the chair about the progress and status of execution of their assigned tasks for district, subdivision, Tehsil, block and Panchayat level events. It was given out that the preparations are going on smoothly for successful conduct of both Full Dress Rehearsal and the main event on 15th of August, across the district.

Emphasising the historical importance of Independence Day, the DC described it as a momentous occasion that be celebrated with enthusiasm and patriotic fervour. He reviewed the Action Taken and Compliance Reports of the concerned departments on the directions issued during the previous meeting.

During the proceedings, key aspects and arrangements including the rehearsals, preparation, consolidation and barricading of venue at SHMM, GDC Anantnag, stage/dice preparation and management, security, sanitation



and cleanliness, seating, medical care, transportation and traffic management plan, preparation and presentation of march past contingents, cultural items and Jhankis, uninterrupted power and water supply, venue illumination and decoration, deployment of fire tenders, printing and distribution of invitation cards, installation of the public address system, award ceremony and prize distribution were reviewed in detail. Dr. Bilal issued directions to all concerned officers to discharge their assigned tasks diligently and put in place the necessary arrangements well in time so that smooth celebrations befitting the national event are held. He underscored the need for seamless coordination among the concerned departments.

Three new Common Service Centres established in Border Villages of Keran

■ HT News Network

KUPWARA, AUGUST 10: In order to strengthen last mile service delivery in remote areas, District Administration Kupwara today established three new Common Service Centres (CSCs) in Block Keran. Deputy Commissioner Kupwara virtually inaugurated these 3 CSCs and interacted with concerned Village Level Entrepreneurs. CSCs have been made operational in Gram Panchayats Mundiyan-A, Mundiyan and Pathroo, enabling residents to access Government schemes, digital services and welfare programmes at their doorstep. The initiative followed a ground-level assessment by a dedicated team to identify existing service gaps, after which the centres were established with the support of CSC e-Governance Services India Limited. These Common Service Centres will provide residents with last-mile access to a wide range of e-governance services, including essential government and public utility services, social welfare schemes, financial inclusion services, health care and agriculture services, apart from a host of B2C services, besides helping bridge the digital literacy gap in these far-flung areas. In line with the vision of holistic development of border villages, the step aims to end the long travel earlier required for basic services, bringing governance closer to residents of these far-flung areas.

Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign gains momentum across Ganderbal

■ HT News Network

GANDERBAL, AUGUST 10: The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign continued across District Ganderbal today with enthusiastic participation of students, youth, government employees and the general public, as a series of patriotic activities were organised at various locations across the district. As part of the day's activities, citizens and participants took the Har Ghar Tiranga pledge, reaffirming their commitment to the nation and the values represented by the Tricolour. The pledge witnessed enthusiastic participation from people across different sections of society.

A mass singing of the National Anthem was also organised at various locations, with students, officials and members of the public joining together in a collective



expression of patriotism and national pride.

Tiranga rallies were conducted across the district, with students, youth and citizens participating enthusiastically while carrying the National Flag and raising patriotic slogans. The rallies highlighted the spirit of national unity and encouraged wider public participation in the ongoing campaign. Educational institutions and field-level establishments also organised patriotic activities as part of the campaign, with students

and youth taking an active role in the celebrations. The activities provided an opportunity to strengthen awareness about the significance of the National Flag and encourage citizens to actively participate in the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative.

The campaign, being observed across the district from August 09 to 17, will continue with a series of activities including door-to-door Tiranga campaigns, cleanliness drives, cyclothons, patriotic competitions, Tiranga exhibitions and other public outreach programmes.

The District Administration has requested citizens, youth clubs, Self Help Groups, market associations, civil society organisations and other stakeholders to participate enthusiastically in the campaign and make it a mass movement of patriotism, unity and national pride.

Committee on Government Assurances reviews functioning of PWD, HUDD

■ HT News Network

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: The Committee on Government Assurances of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex here to review the functioning of the Public Works Department (PWD) and Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD).

The meeting was chaired by Chairman of the Committee, Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members including MLA Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Mir, MLA Iftkar Ahmad, MLA Waheed ur Rehman Para and MLA Shabir Ahmad Kullay.



Commissioner Secretary, HUDD, Mandeep Kaur; Commissioner SMC, Fazlul Haseeb; Commissioner JMC, Devansh Yadav; VCLCMA, VCs of JDA and SDA besides Secretary, JKLA, Manoj Kumar Pandita and officers of the Assembly Secretariat were also present in the meeting. During the meeting, the Committee held detailed deliberations on the constituency-wise allocation of funds under the Roads Sector for 2026-27. The Committee

also reviewed the status of UT Capex Budget, NABARD works and PMGSY projects across J&K.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman Ali Mohammad Sagar emphasized that development must reach every corner of J&K without any bias and directed the departments to ensure equitable distribution of resources.

Taking serious note of water logging in Srinagar, he observed that citizens face immense difficulties during rains. He

directed the HUDD to furnish detailed ATRs and submit a time-bound action plan to resolve drainage issues before the onset of the next season.

Ali Sagar, while addressing the officers, said that the Committee values the experience and institutional knowledge of officers. He said that J&K has some of the most seasoned engineers and administrators who understand the local terrain, weather challenges and public needs better than anyone else. He stressed that this vast experience must be utilized to ensure quality, durability and transparency in execution of all developmental projects.

Kokernag Draws 6.12 Lakh Tourists Since March, Tourism Surge Boosts Local Economy

■ HT News Network

Kokernag, Aug 10, : Kokernag in south Kashmir's Anantnag district has recorded a tourist footfall of around 6.12 lakh since March, with visitors arriving from different parts of the country and abroad, giving a significant boost to local businesses and livelihoods.

The sharp increase in tourist arrivals has brought greater activity to the popular destination, benefiting hotels, restaurants, transport operators, shopkeepers, guides and other people whose livelihoods are linked directly or indirectly to tourism.

Local business owners said the sustained flow of visitors



has created a positive economic impact and provided opportunities for people who depend on the tourism sector for their income.

"The increase in visitors has definitely helped local businesses. More tourists means more customers for shopkeepers, restaurants and transport operators, and this benefits many families," locals said.

Another resident said the growing popularity of Kokernag could create long-term employment opportunities if the tourism infrastructure is developed in a planned manner.

"We want Kokernag to attract tourists throughout the year. If the administration improves facilities and connectivity while protecting the natural beauty of the area,

tourism can become a major source of employment for local youth," the resident said.

The tourism surge has also strengthened Kokernag's profile as an emerging destination in south Kashmir, attracting visitors beyond the traditional tourist circuits. Locals, however, said the growing footfall should be accompanied by better civic amenities, cleanliness, parking facilities and preservation of the area's natural environment.

They said sustainable development would be crucial to ensuring that the increasing popularity of Kokernag translates into lasting economic benefits without putting excessive pressure on its natural surroundings.

DC Srinagar takes Tehsil wise stock of Revenue services delivery, progress of AgriStack Farmer ID generation Program

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: In order to assess Tehsil-wise progress on key revenue matters, delivery of revenue-related services and the implementation of AgriStack and Farmer IDs under Digital Crop Survey across

the district, a meeting of senior Revenue Officers was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo, at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mir Imtiyaz Ul Aziz, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Aadil Fareed, Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, SDM West, Irfan Bahadur, SDM

East, Zubair Ahmad, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar, all Tehsildars, Chief Agriculture Officer, District Manager, CSC, and other concerned. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a

detailed Tehsil wise and village-wise review of the implementation of the AgriStack project and generation of Farmer IDs, besides taking a Tehsil-wise assessment of various revenue-related initiatives, with particular

focus on the status of digitisation of revenue records. The DC took detailed feedback from the concerned Officers regarding the status of targets achieved and the areas requiring further intervention.



Speaker tours Wanpora, Qazipora, Takiya Hayatpora Sarie; reviews developmental works

Launches macadamisation of Wanpora link roads, inspects bridge construction sites

■ **HT News Network**

CHRAR-I-SHARIEF, AUGUST 10: Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today undertook an extensive tour of Wanpora, Qazipora Takiya Hayatpora and Sarie areas of the Chrar-i-Sharief constituency to take stock of ongoing developmental works.

He interacted with the people to understand their development needs and concerns.

During the visit, the Speaker visited different locations across the areas and reviewed the progress of developmental activities being undertaken there. He emphasised on improving road connectivity, strengthening infrastructure and addressing the long-pending demands of the people.

A major highlight of the visit was the launching of macadamisation work on the Wanpora link roads. The project is expected to significantly improve the condition of the existing road network, provide smoother and safer connectivity to the residents and facilitate better access to adjoining areas.

Abdul Rahim Rather stressed that proper quality should be maintained during the execution of the macadamisation work so that the roads



provide durable and long-term benefits to the people.

The Speaker also visited various spots where bridges have been proposed for construction and took an on-the-spot assessment of the requirements. He examined the locations and discussed the proposed works with the concerned engineers and local representatives. The importance of bridge infrastructure is essential for improving connectivity

particularly for residents who face difficulties during adverse weather conditions. He announced that bridge on Takiya Nagam – Hayatpora- Dalwan road and bridge on Wanpora- Sarie road will be taken up at a cost of Rs 2 crore and Rs 80 lakh respectively.

Abdul Rahim Rather interacted with the local residents at Qazipora and listened to their concerns and demands. The people apprised him of various issues

related to roads, connectivity and other basic infrastructure requirements.

The Speaker assured them that their genuine demands would be taken up with the concerned departments for appropriate and timely action. He said Mukhadam Mohalla and Dooninar link roads in Qazipora will be macadamised soon. He called upon the concerned authorities to maintain close coordination and ensure that approved works are completed within the stipulated timelines without compromising on quality.

The Speaker said that better road connectivity and robust infrastructure are essential for socio-economic development of rural areas, as improved connectivity not only facilitates the movement of people but also provides better access to educational institutions, healthcare facilities, markets and other essential services.

During the tour, the Speaker maintained that every effort would be made to ensure equitable development and address infrastructure-related issues on priority. Abdul Rahim Rather interacted with the local residents at Qazipora and listened to their concerns and demands. The people apprised him of various issues related to roads, connectivity and other basic infrastructure requirements.

DC Baramulla chairs meeting of My Bharat District Advisory Committee

■ **HT News Network**

BARAMULLA, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Baramulla, Dr. S.F Hamid today chaired a meeting of the My Bharat District Advisory Committee (MYB-DAC) to review and deliberate upon the implementation of Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) initiatives in the district.

The meeting focused on strengthening inter-departmental convergence, youth participation and effective implementation of youth-oriented programmes under the MY Bharat framework.

The DC stressed the need for coordinated efforts by all concerned departments and stakeholders to ensure meaningful engagement of youth in developmental, social, cultural, sports and nation-building activities.

The meeting was attended by the Additional District Development Commissioner Baramulla, Pranjal J. Hazarika, District Youth Officer, MY Bharat, Baramulla, and representatives from various departments and institutions, including Industries, Health, Education, Panchayati Raj, Social Welfare, Information, Employment, Skill Development, NSS, NCC, Bharat Scouts & Guides,



Youth Services & Sports and other stakeholder organisations.

The DC emphasised that the MY Bharat platform should be effectively utilised to connect young people with opportunities for volunteering, leadership, skill development and community participation. He called for regular coordination and monitoring so that youth-centric initiatives reach beneficiaries at the grassroots level.

The meeting also deliberated on the role of the My Bharat District Samavay Committee (MYB-DSC) as the executive mechanism for translating the strategic directions of the District Advisory Committee into actionable plans and ensuring timely field-level implementation.

DC Budgam reviews progress of ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign

■ **HT News Network**

BUDGAM, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, today reviewed the progress of the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign, asserting smooth conduct of ongoing rallies and events being organised across the district.

Chairing a meeting at the Conference Hall, the Deputy Commissioner finalised arrangements for the ensuing cycle and bike rallies scheduled for August 11 from Sports Stadium Budgam to New Bus Stand Budgam, and the mega Har Ghar Tiranga Rally scheduled for August 12 from



Sports Stadium Budgam to Bihisht Zehra Park, Budgam.

He also reviewed preparations for the 'Horrors of Partition' event scheduled to be held at the District Headquarters on August 14.

The DC directed all concerned departments to

ensure all events go on in full swing and close coordination for the smooth conduct of the programme is maintained by all concerned.

Describing Har Ghar Tiranga as an important national-level initiative, the Deputy Commissioner said the campaign provides an opportunity to strengthen the spirit of patriotism and foster greater public participation in national celebrations. He directed the concerned officers to ensure seamless conduct of all rallies and events, with particular focus on coordination, safety, traffic management and public convenience.

ADC Handwara holds meeting to finalize arrangements for Tiranga Rally

■ **HT News Network**



HANDWARA, AUGUST 10: Additional Deputy Commissioner, (ADC), Handwara, Javed Naseem Masoodi, on Monday chaired a meeting with concerned officers and stakeholders in his office chamber to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Tiranga Rally in Handwara Town under the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

During the meeting, detailed discussions were held on various aspects, including security arrangements, traffic management, the proposed rally route, participation of students and the general public, sanitation, civic amenities and other logistical arrangements required for the smooth, peaceful and successful conduct of the rally in Handwara Town.

The ADC directed all concerned officers and stakeholders to ensure close coordination and timely completion of their assigned responsibilities. He stressed the importance of making all necessary arrangements well in advance to ensure the successful conduct of the rally.

The ADC further emphasized that the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign is an important initiative aimed at promoting patriotism, national unity and a sense of pride in the nation, and called upon all stakeholders to ensure active public participation in the campaign.

The meeting was attended by Additional Superintendent of Police (ASP), Handwara, SDPO Handwara, Tehsildar Handwara, Dy CEO Kupwara HQ Handwara, ZEO Handwara, officials from the Education and Physical Education Departments, representatives of Municipal Council Handwara, Auqaf Committee, Traders Federation and Transport Association, besides other concerned officers and officials.

DC Budgam chairs Capacity Building Session on SWM Rules 2026

Stresses clean Budgam as shared responsibility; urges citizens' cooperation, BWGs, stakeholders to ensure segregation, proper waste disposal

■ **HT News Network**

BUDGAM, AUGUST 10: District Administration Budgam, in collaboration with Swachh Bharat Mission Urban 2.0 (J&K), MoHUA and Swaha Resource Management, today organized a Capacity Building Session on the Solid Waste Management (SWM) Rules, 2026 at the New Conference Hall, DC Office, Budgam.

The training session aimed to sensitize stakeholders about identification, regulation and management of Bulk Waste Generators (BWGs), besides strengthening compliance with the SWM Rules, 2026.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who presided over the programme, said keeping Budgam clean is a shared responsibility requiring active participation of government departments, Urban Local Bodies, institutions, BWGs, commercial establishments and citizens.

“Every stakeholder, particularly Bulk Waste Generators and institutions, must take ownership of waste management, ensure segregation at source and adopt proper and scientific methods of waste disposal,” the Deputy Commissioner said.

The session focused on statutory provisions, compliance requirements, digital



monitoring, technological interventions and enforcement mechanisms under the Rules.

Participants were sensitized about four-stream segregation at source—wet, dry, sanitary and special-care/domestic hazardous waste—and the responsibilities of BWGs.

The Deputy Commissioner said the new rules mark an important shift towards a scientific, accountable and technology-driven waste management system. “Our priority must be source segregation, traceability, decentralized processing and effective compliance at every level,” he said.

He stressed upon departments, Urban Local Bodies, institutions, commercial establishments and households to strengthen segregation, awareness and enforcement mechanisms, while calling for strict action against persistent violations.

The session also highlighted

decentralized processing of organic waste through household composting, Aerobin systems and Electrical Organic Waste Composters, besides proper waste management arrangements during large gatherings.

“A clean Budgam requires collective ownership. Every department, institution, market, commercial establishment and household has a role in making scientific waste management a daily civic practice. Citizens must cooperate in source segregation and ensure proper disposal of waste,” the Deputy Commissioner said.

Among others, the programme was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Vivek Agarwal, SDMs, ACD, ACP, BDOs, CEO Education, ZEOs, Medical Superintendent District Hospital, EOs of Municipal Committees, MY Bharat, representatives of security agencies, market associations,

DC Anantnag chairs MY Bharat District Advisory Committee meeting

■ **HT News Network**

ANANTNAG, AUGUST 10: A meeting of the District Advisory Committee of MY Bharat, Anantnag was held today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. Bilal Mohiuddin Bhat at the DC Office. The meeting was attended ADC, GM DIC, ACR, CMO, DIO, DYSSO, DD MY Bharat, representatives from colleges, other members of the committee besides concerned officials of various departments. At the outset, Deputy Director MY Bharat Anantnag, Khushal Gupta, briefed the committee about the mandate, functioning and various initiatives of MY Bharat, Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India. He highlighted the importance of the MY Bharat portal as a platform for providing youth with diverse opportunities for volunteering, experiential learning, engagement and participation in nation-building activities. He also briefed about the Annual Action Plan of MY Bharat for the year 2026-27, outlining the proposed activities and areas



of convergence with various departments. Addressing the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need for concerted efforts to implement the program in letter and spirit in the district. He called for integrating the program with Nasha Mukht Abhiyan, Sports, Youth Club activities, Disaster Management and other government engagements to tap the true potential of youth of the district. He stressed the importance of creating greater awareness.

DC Bandipora inaugurates CBC's Two-Day Outreach Programme on NMBA at Sumbal

■ **HT News Network**

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Indu Kanwal Chib, today inaugurated a two-day Integrated Communication and Outreach Programme (ICOP) on Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan (NMBA), organised by the Central Bureau of Communication (CBC), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, in collaboration with District Administration Bandipora at Government Higher Secondary School, Gadakhud, Sumbal.

The programme aims to spread awareness about the harmful effects of substance abuse and promote prevention, counselling, rehabilitation and community participation in the fight against drug abuse.

In her address, the Deputy Commissioner urged young people

to channelise their energy into education, sports, creativity and other constructive pursuits. Emphasising the importance of individual determination, she said that strong willpower, supported by family and community, can help individuals resist addiction and overcome even difficult challenges. She stressed that the fight against drugs requires not only effective enforcement but also awareness, prevention, counselling, rehabilitation and collective social responsibility. She called upon parents, teachers, community leaders and youth to work together towards creating a safe and healthy environment for the younger generation.

The inaugural session witnessed enthusiastic participation of students, teachers, parents, officials and members of the local community.

Resource persons from the Health, Social Welfare, School Education, Police and District Administration sensitised participants about the causes and consequences of substance abuse, prevention, treatment, counselling and rehabilitation.

The session also covered the role of law enforcement in curbing drug trafficking, including the modus operandi and emerging trends in the illegal drug trade, along with relevant provisions of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Participants were sensitised about the health consequences of substance abuse, the importance of timely intervention, professional counselling and rehabilitation, as well as the Government of India's Tele-MANAS initiative and its toll-free helpline 14416. The support



mechanisms and social welfare interventions available for individuals and families affected by substance

abuse were also highlighted, with speakers stressing the importance of collective efforts to keep young

people away from drugs.

Chief Education Officer, Bandipora, Mohammad Rafiq Mir, highlighted the importance of education, guidance and a supportive environment in shaping the future of young people.

Earlier, welcoming the participants, Field Publicity Officer, CBC Srinagar, highlighted the mandate of CBC in taking information on flagship initiatives and welfare programmes of the Government of India to the grassroots.

Field Publicity Officer, CBC Anantnag said the campaign seeks to educate, inspire and empower people, particularly the youth, to become ambassadors of a drug-free society. As part of CBC's integrated communication strategy, the programme featured a photo exhibition on Nasha Mukht Bharat

Abhiyan aimed at creating visual awareness about the dangers of substance abuse and the importance of prevention and rehabilitation. Live cultural performances by empanelled cultural troupes further conveyed the message of de-addiction and healthy living through folk media.

Students participated enthusiastically in speech and painting competitions, expressing their views and creativity on the theme of a drug-free society. An open quiz competition was also organised to enhance awareness and encourage interactive learning among participants.

In conclusion, the participants administered a pledge to stay away from drugs, discourage drug trafficking and contribute actively towards building a Drug-Free Jammu & Kashmir and a Drug-Free India.





JU organises workshop on Pre-Monsoon Preparedness, Disaster Risk Reduction

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: The Department of Environmental Sciences and Green Campus Task Force (GCTF-JU), University of Jammu in collaboration with the J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science and Technology, J&K UT organized a one-day workshop on "Pre-Monsoon Preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction in Jammu" on the University Campus. The workshop aimed to generate awareness about monsoon-related hazards, disaster preparedness, risk reduction, early warning and the importance of scientific and community-based approaches for building a disaster-resilient Jammu.

Dean, Faculty of Life Sciences Prof. Yash Pal Sharma was the Chief Guest. In his address, the Dean emphasized the importance of proactive preparedness and scientific understanding of environmental and disaster risks. "Disaster management must move beyond post-disaster response and focus on anticipatory planning, preparedness, resilience building and active



community participation," he maintained. He stressed that strengthening institutional capacity, promoting scientific awareness and involving local communities are essential for reducing disaster risks and building resilient societies.

Commandant, SDRF, 2nd Battalion, Jammu Mohammad Aslam was the Guest of Honour. Sharing his practical experience in disaster response and management, he emphasized the importance of timely response, preparedness, institutional coordination and community awareness

in minimizing disaster impacts.

Deputy Director JKSTIC Shruti Khanna and Special Guest on the occasion appreciated the efforts of the Department for bringing together experts, academicians, students and stakeholders on a common platform to deliberate on issues related to disaster preparedness and risk reduction.

The workshop commenced with a welcome address by Prof. Deepika Slathia, Head of the Department. While introducing the theme of the workshop, she emphasized that Jammu is increasingly vulnerable to

intense rainfall, flash floods, urban flooding, landslides and other climate-related hazards. She underscored the importance of pre-monsoon preparedness, proactive risk reduction and timely planning to minimize the impacts of such hazards and strengthen the resilience of communities.

The distinguished resource persons included Dr. Riyaz Ahmad Mir, Scientist In-Charge, Western Himalayan Regional Centre, NIH, Jammu; Dr. Yudhbir Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Geology, University of Jammu; and Dr. Suresh Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu. Their sessions provided participants with valuable insights into hydrological hazards, geological vulnerabilities, environmental risks, monsoon-related challenges and scientific approaches to disaster risk reduction. In the first technical session, Dharam Pal Atri, Principal, Civil Defence Training Institute, Jammu and his team including Paramjit Kumar, Chief Warden Civil Defence and R Vijay Magotra demonstrated the Disaster Relief and Rescue Material to the participants.

150 Years of 'Vande Mataram': GDC Bhaderwah Celebrates National Song with Patriotic Zeal and Fervor

■ Amir Iqbal Khan

Bhaderwah, August, 10: Government Degree (PG) College Bhaderwah reverberated with patriotic fervor on Monday as students and faculty came together to celebrate the 150th anniversary of India's National Song, Vande Mataram.

The event was held under the dynamic guidance and supervision of College Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal drawing enthusiastic participation from all academic officials, staff members and students.

Proceedings of the special



programme were coordinated by Prof. Mohammad Aarif Shaikh, Head of the Department for Geography. Addressing the gathering as the keynote speaker, Principal Prof. Basharat Iqbal paid rich tributes to the freedom fighters and national heroes who laid down their lives for the country's liberation.

"There is no way we can

ever forget the supreme sacrifices made by our liberators," Prof. Iqbal told the audience. "Today, our country possesses an international recognition as a sovereign nation and the entire credit goes to them. As conscious citizens of India, we shall forever remain indebted to their struggle and vision."

The event highlighted the historical and cultural significance of Vande Mataram, inspiring the younger generation to stay rooted in national values and integrity.

AIIMS Jammu Conducts Its First Outdoor Voluntary Blood Donation Camp at Sant Nirankari Mission, Samba

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: AIIMS Jammu is proud to inform that the first outdoor voluntary blood donation camp of the Department of Transfusion Medicine (Blood Centre) was successfully organized at Sant Nirankari Mission, Samba, on August 9, 2026.

The camp witnessed enthusiastic participation from volunteers of the Sant Nirankari Mission, reflecting their commitment towards the noble cause of voluntary blood donation and community service. Strict quality protocols were followed during donor registration, medical screening and blood donation. The camp was organized

under the able guidance and leadership of the Executive Director & CEO, Prof. (Dr.) D. N. Sharma, whose continued guidance and support contributed significantly to the successful conduct of the camp.

The camp also received necessary administrative and logistical support from the Medical Superintendent, Prof. (Dr.) Vijay Kumar Kundal, ensuring its smooth and efficient conduct. The camp was successfully conducted under the expert supervision of Dr. Urveshi Kotwal, Associate Professor & Head, Dr. Sushant Kumar Meinia, Associate Professor and their dedicated team from the Department of Transfusion Medicine & Blood Centre.

IUST organises awareness programme on the eve of World Breastfeeding Week 2026

■ HT News Network

Awantipora, August 10: Under the global theme "Breastfeeding for a Sustainable Start in Life: Strengthen What Works", Syed Mantaqui Memorial College of Nursing and Medical Technology (SMMCN&MT), Islamic University of Science and Technology (IUST), conducted an awareness programme at JVC (SKIMS Medical College, Bemina). The focus was on promoting proven breastfeeding practices through coordinated efforts of healthcare professionals, families and communities. As part of the observance, nursing trainees conducted the awareness activities in the Postnatal Wards, Antenatal OPD, Paediatric Wards and Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). The students sensitised the mothers, caregivers and attendants using educational materials about breastfeeding techniques, its benefits, early initiation, correct positioning, complementary feeding among other things. The initiative exposed students to clinical settings while strengthening their communication and health-promotion skills. The campaign received an encouraging response from patients and attendants. The programme was organised by Ms. Onaisa Aalia Mushtaq, Tutor, SMMCN&MT, IUST, and coordinated by Ms. Mubashir Bashir, Senior Tutor/In-charge, SMMCN&MT.

IIM Jammu Inaugurates Second Batch of Operational Management Programme under Directorate General Resettlement, (DGR), Ministry of Defence

■ HT News Network

JAMMU August 10 2026: The Indian Institute of Management Jammu inaugurated the second batch of the Operational Management Programme under the Directorate General Resettlement (DGR), Ministry of Defence, at its Jagti Campus. The ten-week programme, being conducted from 10 August to 30 October 2026, is designed to equip Armed Forces personnel with contemporary management skills and industry-oriented knowledge to support their transition into meaningful second careers. The training programme had 45 participants. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Lt. Gen. (Dr.) Sunil Kant (Retd.), Program Director, Lt. Col. Angad Behl, SM, Joint Director, Resettlement Directorate North, Prof. Prashant Mishra, Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy,



IIM Jammu, Dr. Rashmi Ranjan Parida, Program Director, IIM Jammu, and Dr. Yashoda Devi, Program Director, IIM Jammu, along with the participants of the programme. The inaugural ceremony commenced with the lighting of the inaugural lamp, felicitations of the dignitaries, and brief introductions by the participating Armed Forces personnel. The programme is being coordinated by the Executive Education & Consultancy (EE&C), IIM Jammu, and aims to bridge the gap between the valuable experience gained during military service and the skills required in

civilian organisations. The programme provides an opportunity for participants to understand contemporary management practices, business environments and professional expectations while drawing upon their own leadership and operational experience. The initiative reflects the shared commitment of IIM Jammu and the Directorate General Resettlement towards supporting Armed Forces personnel as they prepare for the next phase of their professional lives. The discipline, leadership, teamwork, decision-making and operational experience developed during military service provide a strong foundation, which can be further strengthened through management education and industry-oriented learning. The inaugural ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Yashoda Devi, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Frame by Frame: The Story tellers Meet held at Jammu ahead of 1st IFFJK-2026

DIPR invites Film fraternity to participate in large numbers

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) today organised Frame by Frame: The Storytellers' Meet at DIPR Media Complex, Jammu, as a precursor to the upcoming 1st International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir (IFFJK)-2026.

Commissioner Secretary, Information, R Alice Vaz graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and interacted with filmmakers, actors, producers, artists and other stakeholders from the film and media fraternity.

Director Information, Shreya Singhal; Special Secretary, Information, Pawan Singh Rathore; Director Floriculture, Nagendra Jamwal; Director Tourism,



Jammu, Vikas Gupta; Additional Secretary, J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, Sonali Arun Gupta; Joint Director Information, Jammu, Deepak Dubey; and prominent members of the film fraternity, including Padma Shri awardee and artist Mohan Singh Slathia, actor Ajay Pal Andotra, director/producer Tariq Khan, line producer Atul Duggal,

artist Kusum Tickoo, Rajesh Khajuria of Cine Association of J&K, members from media fraternity, artists, writers and other distinguished were also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Commissioner Secretary Information, R Alice Vaz, described the first International Film Festival of Jammu &

Kashmir as a landmark initiative aimed at opening a new chapter in the cultural and creative journey of the Union Territory.

"Jammu and Kashmir has a rich and enduring association with cinema. The first International Film Festival of Jammu & Kashmir is an important step towards building on this legacy and creating new opportunities for the film fraternity," she said. She said that the department has taken note of the valuable suggestions and expectations put forth by members of the film fraternity during the interaction and assured that these inputs would be duly considered while framing policies and initiatives to facilitate the growth of the film sector in Jammu & Kashmir.

DC Poonch reviews implementation of RDSS, Smart Metering and PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana

■ HT News Network

POONCH, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner Poonch Ashok Kumar Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the implementation and progress of key power-sector initiatives, including the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), Smart Metering and PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana in District Poonch. The meeting was convened with the objective of taking a comprehensive review of the ongoing works and ensuring effective coordination among all concerned departments and agencies for timely implementation of the



schemes. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of works being executed under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS), particularly those aimed at strengthening and modernising the electricity distribution infrastructure in the district. The discussions also focused on smart metering, its implementation, coordination with field

functionaries and the need to ensure smooth execution of the programme. The DC stressed the importance of strengthening the distribution network and improving service delivery to consumers through modern technology and efficient monitoring mechanisms. The meeting also discussed the progress of PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, a major initiatives.



HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 10: As part of the ongoing Independence Day Celebrations-2026, the Cultural Unit Srinagar of the Information Department organised a series of cultural and educational activities at Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Sonwar, and Government High School (GHS), Malik Sahib, Safa Kadal.

The programmes featured Patriotic Singing Competitions, Symposia, Painting, Speech and Quiz Competitions, providing students with a vibrant platform to showcase their creative abilities, knowledge and patriotic spirit.

The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, who displayed remarkable talent and wholehearted involvement. Through patriotic songs, thought-provoking speeches, paintings and quiz activities, the students reflected upon the significance of Independence, the sacrifices of freedom fighters and the values of unity, freedom, peace and national integrity.

The initiative was aimed at

fostering patriotic consciousness among the younger generation and encouraging students to understand and appreciate the ideals and responsibilities associated with the nation's freedom. The activities also provided an engaging avenue for students to express their ideas and creativity in the spirit of Independence Day.

Abdul Raqib Bhat, Cultural Officer, Kashmir, and Syed Shakeel Shan, AEEO, graced the programmes and appreciated the enthusiastic participation of the students. They commended the students for their talent, discipline and patriotic fervour and acknowledged the cooperation extended by the school authorities and teaching staff in ensuring the successful conduct of the programmes.

Kisan Goshti on Sheep Husbandry Held at Bandipora Under ATMA

HT NEWS DESK / AGENCIES

Bandipora, August 10: The District

being undertaken for the welfare and economic empowerment of sheep farmers.



Sheep Husbandry Organization, Bandipora, today organized a Kisan Goshti under the Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA) at the Municipal Hall, Bandipora, with the participation of more than 100 sheep farmers from different areas of the district. The programme was aimed at creating awareness among sheep farmers regarding various departmental schemes, livelihood opportunities, scientific sheep farming practices and animal health management. District Sheep Husbandry Officer Bandipora, Dr. Peer Irshad, was the Chief Guest on the occasion. SDO Sheep Husbandry Bandipora Dr. Hayat-ur-Rafiq, Dr. Arfat Aalum, VAS Mantrigam, Dr. Maroof Ahmad, VAS Aloosa, Dr. Saim Qureshi, VAS Animal Husbandry, besides officers and experts from allied line departments, including Horticulture Development Officer Bandipora Mr. Mohammad Abbas, were also present. The programme commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Hayat-ur-Rafiq, who gave a detailed overview of the functioning of the Sheep Husbandry Department in Bandipora and highlighted various initiatives

Dr. Peer Irshad, DSHO Bandipora, while addressing the gathering, elaborated on various government schemes and opportunities available to farmers in the livestock sector. He also provided detailed information about the Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME) scheme, for which he is the Nodal Officer, and encouraged farmers to explore value addition and entrepreneurship opportunities in the sheep sector. Dr. Arfat Aalum, VAS Mantrigam, who served as the Organizing Secretary of the programme, coordinated the proceedings and facilitated interaction between farmers and departmental experts. Dr. Maroof Ahmad, VAS Aloosa, delivered an informative session on health-care management of small ruminants, covering important aspects of disease prevention, timely treatment, vaccination, deworming and scientific flock management. Experts from the allied departments also briefed the participants about various schemes, services and opportunities available to farmers, encouraging an integrated approach towards improving farm incomes. The programme also provided an interactive platform for farmers





HT EDITORIAL

Save Our Children, Save The Future...

Substance abuse is quietly emerging as one of the most dangerous challenges facing society today. What may begin as curiosity, experimentation or an attempt to escape stress can gradually turn into dependence, affecting not only the individual but the entire family and community.

The growing vulnerability of young people should concern every responsible citizen. Peer pressure, loneliness, family problems, academic stress, unemployment and emotional insecurity can push youngsters towards harmful substances. In an age of constant digital exposure and rapidly changing social values, children need stronger guidance, meaningful engagement and, above all, someone willing to listen to them.

The first line of defence is the family. Parents cannot protect their children merely by imposing restrictions. They must build trust and maintain open communication. A child who can discuss fear, failure, disappointment and confusion at home is less likely to search for escape elsewhere. Schools, too, must go beyond routine awareness programmes and create an environment where students can seek counselling without embarrassment or fear.

At the same time, society must stop viewing addiction simply through the lens of morality and punishment. Those who deliberately manufacture, transport and sell harmful substances for profit must face firm action. But those who have fallen into dependence need medical care, counselling, rehabilitation and continued support. Treating them only with anger and humiliation can push them deeper into isolation.

The stigma surrounding addiction is itself a major obstacle. Families sometimes hide the problem for fear of social criticism, allowing the situation to worsen. There is nothing shameful about seeking professional help. Recognising a problem early and asking for assistance should be seen as an act of courage and responsibility.

Prevention must also become a sustained social movement rather than an occasional campaign. Young people need opportunities to participate in sports, education, cultural activities, skill development and community programmes. Purpose and belonging can provide a powerful alternative to destructive influences.

The media, too, has an important responsibility. Reporting on substance abuse should inform rather than sensationalise. Public discussion must focus on awareness, prevention, treatment and the human cost, while avoiding language that humiliates those seeking recovery.

No government, institution or family can tackle this challenge alone. Law enforcement, healthcare professionals, educational institutions, parents, community leaders and civil society must work together. The supply of harmful substances must be checked, while support systems for prevention and recovery must be strengthened.

Most importantly, society must understand that behind every case is a human story. Some lives may have already gone off course, but that does not mean they are beyond recovery.

Our response today will determine the kind of society we leave for the next generation. We must act before experimentation becomes dependence, before dependence becomes tragedy, and before another young life is lost.

Self-medication: a step towards the destruction



Sahil Manzoor

In modern days, demands are high, and day-to-day agricultural land is decreasing due to the increase in the population worldwide. Our health is one of the main concerns these days. There are certain changes in our lifestyle. We need an adequate and balanced diet to combat lethal diseases, but at the same time, we are not taking sufficient amounts of vegetables and fruits and not drinking plenty of liquid. These are common reasons behind the growth of abnormality among individuals. Junk food is trending today, and delicious and tasty food is available in the market. That's too, on very reasonable rates and fast serving to their customers, but one thing is clear: for good health, we need pure organic forms of food to avoid stomach related issues and so on. Adulterated food is one of the reasons behind abnormal body function, and there, contaminated water is being supplied to consumers by the concerned department and should be redressed on a priority basis. Keeping in view the health of the public.

Medicines or drugs are substances specifically used

to promote healing when consumed or ingested in different ways, like by ingestion through the mouth, nostrils, eyes, or ears, or even by ingestion through different medicinal equipment into the patient's body when there is a need.



Nowadays, millions of medicines are being prepared for the better treatment of patients with different ailments. Medicine is indeed a vast term, and there are a number of agencies to promote the quality of the medicines.

Self-medication is okay for many of us. It is just a Calpol or some "safe" antibiotic we believe we are ingesting, as going to the doctor can be time-consuming and expensive. But there are side effects to this, and very harmful ones at that. The idea of self-medication, even for small health issues, can lead to complications. People tend to pop pills. Medicines such as pain relief drugs, cough syrups, laxatives, antibiotics, allergy medicines, vitamins, and even antacids. But what we do not realise is that opting for self-medication

makes us prone to allergies, drug dependence, and even addiction.

Unfortunately, there is very little or almost no awareness about the disadvantages of self-medication. Sadly, we still go ahead and take doses randomly, don't even check the composition of the medicine, and are clueless about the side effects of these on our body. Eating pills may get us instant relief, but what we don't realise is that they are not free of side effects. At times, a patient may be underprescribed medication for different health issues, and self-medicating may lead to adverse reactions. This is because one drug may react differently when consumed with another drug. This can even lead to death. Hence, consulting a doctor is a must. A massive problem with self-medication is that we do not know its dosage. This means we often underestimate its strength, and the less said about its composition, the better. We have a clue as to how the drug should be taken, its side effects, and even reactions. Ignorance is not bliss in this case. People take self-medication because it is instant and, of course, there is no expense of going to the doctor. But when eventually they suffer from severe health issues, their medical expenses increase twofold. Self-medication as a habit can damage one's health irrevocably, causing disabilities and even premature death. Government agencies must take stringent steps to control the sale of medicines without a doctor's prescription. There are medical stores without proper registration selling the medicines like food items among the patients.

Reclaiming Nature's Right-of-Way: Why J&K Must Enforce Statutory Buffer Zones Along Its Waterways

The making of a developed nation is not defined by technology alone. It is shaped by the ability to transform enduring strengths into engines of future growth. As India advances towards Viksit Bharat 2047, we are investing in frontier technologies, strengthening manufacturing and building globally competitive industries. Yet one of our greatest strengths has been with us all along – our handloom tradition. On 7 August, as India marks the 12th National Handloom Day, it is time to view handloom as a strategic sector for a world that values sustainability, authenticity and resilient supply chains. Science Fiction & Fantasy Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat 2047 is built on prosperity, self-reliance, inclusivity and cultural confidence. Handloom embodies this vision by bringing together heritage and innovation, while driving women-led development, rural entrepreneurship, livelihoods and global competitiveness.

As the Ramcharitmanas reminds us, "Lord Rama teaches that lasting victory is built not on power, but on values. Those very values have sustained India's handloom tradition for centuries. Every handwoven fabric reflects the courage to preserve tradition, the patience to perfect every thread, the integrity of honest craftsmanship and the wisdom passed down through generations. That is why handloom is not merely a craft, but one of India's greatest civilisational strengths. History

from the Indus Valley Civilisation, where cotton was first cultivated and woven, to the eighteenth century when Indian textiles dominated global trade, India set global benchmarks in textile excellence. Bengal's legendary muslin, so fine that a 25 metre length could pass through a ring, along with Banarasi silk, Kanchipuram weaves, Pochampally Ikat and countless regional traditions, earned India worldwide admiration. Today, as the world turns towards authentic, sustainable and handcrafted products, we have a historic opportunity to reclaim that leadership. Our next handloom revolution must export not just textiles, but craftsmanship, heritage, innovation and trust, making

every handwoven product an ambassador of Brand India. Handloom is India's largest cottage industry, supporting the livelihoods of more than 35 lakh weavers and allied

Building on this legacy, the Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology, established with the Indian Institutes of Technology, is developing lighter, stronger and easier to use looms that reduce physical effort and improve productivity, including for persons with disabilities.

workers, nearly 72 per cent of whom are women. Over the past decade, the Government has strengthened the sector through the Raw Material Supply Scheme, 797 handloom clusters, over 1.24 lakh improved looms, skill upgradation for nearly 97,000 artisans, and initiatives such as Producer Companies, GI tagged products, the Handloom Mark, India Handmade certification, Urban Haats and Design Resource Centres.

Today, 29 Weavers' Service Centres provide end to end support through training, upskilling, design development, raw material assistance and market linkages, while the 11 Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology are being strengthened to expand advanced training and develop niche, high value handloom products. These initiatives mark a shift from supporting handloom as a welfare activity to building it as a globally competitive creative industry. The forthcoming National Handloom and Handicraft Programme will strengthen 1,800 clusters across 500 districts, benefit 65 lakh weavers and artisans, and establish

Handmade in India as a globally recognised brand.

The forthcoming National Handloom and Handicraft Programme will accelerate this transformation by strengthening 1,800 clusters across more than 500 districts, benefiting 65 lakh weavers and artisans and establishing Handmade in India as a globally recognised brand.

Innovation has always been part of India's handloom journey. Mahatma Gandhi's Ambar Charkha made spinning easier, faster and more efficient, advancing the vision of self-reliance. More recently, Assam's Maina Loom and the Chitraranjan Handloom developed in Sivasagar have shown how better loom design can make weaving easier and more productive.

Building on this legacy, the Centre of Excellence for Handloom Technology, established with the Indian Institutes of Technology, is developing lighter, stronger and easier to use looms that reduce physical effort and improve productivity, including for persons with disabilities. Under the Centre, the Handloom 4.0 initiative uses digital tools and Artificial Intelligence to monitor productivity, quality and maintenance, and is being piloted on 100 looms before expanding across the States.

Technology should empower the artisan, not replace the artisan. Platforms such as VisionXT can help forecast demand, identify design trends, authenticate genuine handloom products and connect weavers directly with global markets. At the same time, product diversification into premium silk, natural fibres, sustainable fibres and innovative blends can create high value products and unlock new markets. Combined with better branding, value addition and direct market access, these innovations can significantly enhance weavers' incomes. Our vision is to enable every weaver to earn a dignified and aspirational income, with the ambition of 50,000 per month in the years ahead. The future of handloom depends as much on mindset as on markets. Our weavers are not merely a workforce.

The author is the Union Minister of Textiles.

When Life Came to a Halt

My Memories of the Covid Days



By Syed Majid Gilani

Some years we remember by their dates. Some we remember by what they made us feel. The days of Covid-19 are among those memories for me.

Since my teenage years, I had seen strict curfews, civil strikes and hartals. I had seen busy roads suddenly becoming empty and normal life coming to a standstill. But I had never imagined that one day a disease could bring the whole world to a kind of curfew, what we came to call a lockdown.

I had seen and heard how a small bullet could take a human life, leaving behind blood and wounds. But I had never imagined that a microscopic virus could take countless lives without visible wounds or blood, often without anyone knowing how close the danger was. That was Covid. It came quietly, but it changed almost everything around us.

In the beginning, we watched the news about what was happening in other countries. We discussed it among ourselves, but somehow we did not imagine what was waiting for us. Then came the lockdown.

Srinagar suddenly looked different. Roads that were normally busy became empty. Shops were closed. Offices became deserted. Schools and colleges shut down. Public transport stopped and people stayed inside their homes. It was strange to see Srinagar so quiet. A city that was always full of movement had suddenly become still.

The masjids, which were normally full of people, had no people. The sight of empty masjids was something I had never seen before. Markets, which were usually crowded and full of activity, also became deserted. Family gatherings disappeared. There were no normal visits, no usual Eid gatherings and no sitting together with relatives as we had always done.

Nobody knew who could be carrying the virus. We were told to keep a distance of six feet. Even shaking hands, which had always been a normal way of greeting someone, became something to avoid. Instead, people started bumping their fists.

A simple cough or cold could make people suspicious. If somebody sniffed, coughed or had fever, people immediately became alert. It could have been an ordinary cold, but during those days the first thought was Covid. Even a guest coming to the house was quietly watched for any sign of illness. Nobody wanted to be rude, but the fear was there. Covid had entered our minds even before it entered many homes.

One thing became clear during those days: the virus made no distinction. It did not matter whether a person was rich or poor. Everyone was vulnerable.

Entry into and exit from Jammu and Kashmir were restricted. Those arriving in Kashmir had to undergo Covid tests at designated testing centres, including the airport and the Tourist Reception Centre. Those who tested positive were shifted to quarantine or Covid care facilities. Hotels and lodges that had once welcomed tourists were now being used as quarantine centres. It was a strange sight.

People followed the number of cases and deaths every day. At the same time, rumours were everywhere. Someone would talk about ginger. Someone else would recommend cinnamon, herbs or some desi medicine. Different foods and

drinks were suggested. Messages kept coming on mobile phones, with someone forwarding something and saying, "I have heard this is very effective."

At that time, it was difficult to know what was true and what was not. There was so much fear and confusion that people were ready to believe almost anything that gave them a little hope.

There were also many theories about Covid itself. Some called it a game or a drama, while others talked about China and described it as a kind of war. Everyone seemed to have his own explanation.

With the passage of time, many of those claims and rumours turned out to be false or baseless. Covid, however, was very much a reality. We had seen it with our own eyes, in the empty streets, silent markets, hospitals, quarantine centres, the deaths, the fear and, for many families, in the illness of their own loved ones.

Mobile phones became our main means of communication. People spoke to relatives through calls and video calls because meeting in person was no longer easy. Even a haircut and beard trimming became a matter of concern. A barber sits very close to you. His hands, his trimmer and his instruments come near your face and head. Before Covid, none of us had thought about these things. Now we did.

At home antiseptic and disinfectant liquids became almost essential. We used them for cleaning many things. Anything coming from outside was looked at with suspicion. There were even people who would bathe with antiseptic liquids. We knew that these were not treatments for Covid, but those were unusual days. Somehow, using them gave people a feeling that they were doing something to protect themselves.

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

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Every mission starts with belief in yourself and the team around you



By M S Nazki

The National Security Guard (NSG) is India's premier federal contingency force, serving as the nodal counter-terrorism unit under the administrative control of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Popularly known as the "Black Cats" due to their distinctive black uniforms and gear, the force is structured for high-risk operations requiring extreme speed and precision!

In life, motivation often comes from stories of courage, discipline and unwavering commitment. Few sources are as powerful as the words of soldiers and defence personnel who dedicate their lives to service. Their quotes capture the essence of resilience, sacrifice, leadership and duty. Whether in uniform or civilian life, these words remind us to face challenges bravely, stay disciplined, and commit ourselves to causes larger than ourselves.

-Commitment to duty is greater than any personal desire or comfort.

-Every mission starts with belief in yourself and the team around you.

-Sacrifice is not a burden, it is a privilege when it serves a greater purpose.

-Resilience is built by facing adversity, not avoiding it.

-Honour is earned not by words but by actions that stand the test of time.

-Bravery is rising when everyone else doubts you can.

-Preparation in peace saves lives in crisis.

-Courage and commitment often mean standing alone for what is right.

-In service, giving your best is not optional; it is mandatory...

-Duties of NSG:

-Core Mandates & Functions Counter-Terrorism: Neutralizing severe domestic and transnational terror threats.

-Hostage Rescue: Handling complex urban intervention and hostage extraction

-Counter-Hijacking: Resolving land, sea, and air-based hijacking crises.

-Bomb Disposal: Executing advanced detection, neutralization, and post-blast investigation.

-Key Organizational Facts Founding: Raised on October 16, 1984, following Operation Blue Star and formalised via the National Security Guard Act, 1986. Motto: "Sarvatra Sarvottam Suraksha" (Omnipresent Omnipotent Security).

-Headquarters: Base operational center in New Delhi, with regional hubs in Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai, Hyderabad, and Gandhinagar to minimize response time.

-Operational Philosophy: Swift, highly lethal strikes coupled with an immediate withdrawal from the theater of action.

-Leadership: Headed by a Director General (DG) drawn from the Indian Police Service (IPS). Dual Composition Structure!

The NSG has no direct recruitment; instead, it is an elite force consisting entirely of personnel on deputation from other military and police branches:

-The story at hand:

-Brighu Srinivasan, Director General, NSG, met the Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal, Suvendu Adhikari, in a courtesy call today at Kolkata. In keeping with the Ministry of Home Affairs "Duty to Share" initiative and its endeavour to strengthen counter-terrorism preparedness, the DG, NSG, discussed long-pending issues concerning the State and explored measures to further enhance the capabilities of West Bengal Police Commandos through specialised training, capacity building and strengthened inter-agency cooperation.

-Brighu Srinivasan is a 1992-batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Bihar cadre who serves as the Director General of the National Security Guard (NSG) since August 28, 2024. His tenure is scheduled to run until his superannuation on August 31, 2027.

-Career Background: Served as Director

at the West Bengal Police in 2014, before his NSG appointment. Spent three decades of his early police career serving in Kashmir. Took over the leadership of India's federal counter-terrorism contingency force (the Black Cats) succeeding Nalin Prabhat!

-Director General Bhriugu Srinivasan, accompanied by senior NSG officials Major General Vikas Chowdhury and Colonel PV. Shukla, met West Bengal Chief Minister Suvendu Adhikari at the Nabanna State Secretariat in Kolkata during an official



visit to the state.

-The meeting, held in a cordial atmosphere, provided an opportunity for the senior security leadership and the state government to exchange views on various matters of mutual interest. While the specific agenda of the discussions was not disclosed, the interaction reflected the continued engagement between the country's premier counter-terrorism force and the state administration on issues concerning security and institutional cooperation.

-The meeting, which underscored the importance of maintaining close coordination between central security agencies and state authorities in addressing evolving security challenges. -The National Security Guard plays a critical role in India's counter-terrorism architecture, specialising in hostage rescue, counter-hijack operations, bomb disposal, special intervention missions and the protection of vital national assets. Regular interactions between the NSG and state governments help strengthen operational

coordination, preparedness and information sharing in matters related to internal security.

-Why is west bengal important for NSG?

-West Bengal is important to the National Security Guard (NSG) because it hosts a vital regional hub in Kolkata (New Town) that acts as the primary rapid-response base for eastern and northeastern India.

-Strategic Regional Coverage

-Eastern and Northeast Reach: The Kolkata hub houses specialized commandos tasked with handling terror strikes, hostage situations, or hijack threats across West Bengal and neighboring eastern and northeastern states.

-Proximity to Infrastructure: Its location near the Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose International Airport allows Black Cat commandos to deploy quickly via air transport when emergencies arise in the region.

-Critical Assets and Coastline: The base provides rapid intervention capabilities for strategic industrial zones, high-value maritime assets, and coastal access points like Haldia.

-Operational Support

-Specialized Bomb Disposal: The NSG is occasionally called upon by central and state investigative agencies in West Bengal to neutralize large caches of recovered explosives and unearth hidden terror material, as seen during operations in areas like Sandeshkhali.

-Why is North East important for NSG?

-The North East of India is strategically important for the National Security Guard (NSG) because it falls under the operational jurisdiction and rapid-response responsibility of the NSG Regional Hub in Kolkata, which covers eastern and northeastern states to address severe security threats, high-risk terror incidents, and specialized post-blast investigations.

-Strategic & Security Factors: Porous International Borders: The region shares extensive international boundaries with neighboring countries like Myanmar, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and China, making it vulnerable to cross-border movement of militant outfits and arms trafficking.

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The Importance Of Colours In Life



Surinderpal Singh

Life without colours would be difficult to imagine. The green leaves of trees, the blue sky, the golden rays of the sun, the colourful flowers, the changing shades of the seasons and the colours of our clothes all add beauty and meaning to our existence. Colours are not merely visual attractions; they influence our emotions, thoughts, behaviour, memories and even the way we experience the world. They make life lively, expressive and meaningful.

From the moment a child opens its eyes, colours become an important part of its surroundings. Bright colours attract attention and create curiosity. Children are naturally fascinated by colourful toys, pictures, books and objects. Colours therefore play an important role in early learning and development. Teachers often use colourful charts, drawings, diagrams and educational materials because colours make information easier to notice, understand and remember. Colours also have a strong connection with our emotions. Different colours can create different psychological impressions. Blue is often associated with peace, calmness and stability. Green reminds us of nature, freshness and growth. Yellow is commonly connected with happiness, energy and optimism. Red can represent strength, passion, courage and urgency. White is often associated with peace, cleanliness and simplicity, while black may represent seriousness, elegance or mystery. These associations may vary across cultures, but they demonstrate how deeply colours are connected with human feelings.

Nature itself is perhaps the greatest artist of colours. A sunrise paints the sky with changing shades of orange, pink and gold. A forest displays countless shades of green. Flowers add red, yellow, purple and countless other colours to the landscape. Butterflies, birds and sunsets provide spectacular examples of nature's creativity. Spending time in colourful natural surroundings can make us feel refreshed and connected with the world around us. This is one reason why gardens, parks

and natural landscapes often have a positive influence on our mood.

Colours also have an important place in human culture and tradition. Festivals around the world are celebrated through colours, decorations, clothing and artistic expressions. In India, colours are particularly significant. Festivals such as Holi demonstrate the joyful and unifying power of colours. Traditional clothes, rangoli, paintings, handicrafts and religious decorations use colours to express cultural identity and celebration. Colours therefore become a bridge between generations, helping cultural traditions survive and remain meaningful.

In communication, colours often speak without words. Traffic lights provide one of the simplest examples. Red tells us to stop, yellow indicates caution and green signals movement. Hospitals, schools, offices and public places use colour codes to guide people and communicate information quickly. Warning signs frequently use bright colours because they can attract immediate attention. In this way, colours have become an important part of modern communication. Colours are also extremely important in art and creativity. A painter can express happiness, sadness, loneliness, hope or anger through colours even without using words. Artists carefully select shades to create particular moods and impressions. Photography, cinema, fashion, interior design and advertising all depend heavily on colour. A single change in colour can completely transform the atmosphere of a picture, room or advertisement. The world of business and branding also understands the power of colours. Companies carefully select colours for their logos, packaging and advertisements because colours can influence how people perceive a product or organization. A professional colour combination can communicate trust, energy, luxury, freshness or reliability. Thus, colours are not merely decorative; they can become an important part of identity and communication.

Colours can also influence our surroundings. The colours of our homes, classrooms and workplaces can affect the atmosphere of these spaces.

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SMHS Srinagar, Its Emergency & Me



Wani Arfat

On the very first day, our Clinical Incharge, Sakia Maam came and asked us questions. It was not easy. She was checking both knowledge and confidence. She said one thing that stuck later, that observation is half learning. At that time I didn't really get it properly. We were told to maintain a clinical diary. Slowly I started writing it, but in the beginning, my time in the ward felt very limited. Most of the work was just medication rounds, and there were too many students, so chances to do things were less. I started feeling like I am just coming, watching, spending money, and going back without much learning. Sometimes I even felt maybe this is not useful for me.

On the third day, an incident changed everything. While breaking an ampoule, it slipped and a sharp piece pierced my thumb, causing heavy bleeding. I had done it before, but this time it went wrong. I was taken to the emergency department, where I was advised stitches, but I chose dressing. What stayed with me was not the pain, but the care. Tabasum Maam was concerned about me, administered an injection herself, and insisted that I take two days of rest because of the loss of blood. Her kindness showed me that healthcare is not only about treatment, but about humanity. After taking permission, I stayed home for two days, recovering and reflecting. I realized that if I truly wanted to learn, I needed to take initiative.

When I returned, I decided to move to the emergency department. With the help of my friend Junaid Shafi from GMC Srinagar, I shifted there. He personally brought me and stayed with me for hours on my first day. The environment there was active, demanding, and full of learning. It was here that I met Navi Maam and Rafiya Maam. At first, I thought they were senior students because of their friendly and simple nature, but later I realized they were staff members. I even told Navi Maam that she still felt like one of us. When she noticed my hands still marked with blood, she said with concern, "Zan chuth kath moormut," which showed her attentiveness and care.

Apart from being exceptionally skilled, Navi Maam and Rafiya Maam were exceptional due to their humanness. These two taught me with a lot of patience, ensured I understood every aspect of what they taught, and ensured that I did not get intimidated in any way. My confidence levels grew thanks to them. Both of them exhibited great humanness in the way they treated patients and the students. I remember how Rafia Maam once introduced me to another staff member by saying, "This is my cousin," a small gesture that made me feel valued. In their presence, I never feared mistakes, because I knew I

would be guided with kindness.

In emergency, everything started feeling real. I started spending more and more time there. Sometimes I stayed till evening, sometimes I came back again early morning around 7. In around ten days, I learned more than I had learned before. I started understanding patient care in a real way. I saw how medicines are given oral, IV, IM. I learned how to set IV lines, manage drips, insert cannulas, and give glucose. I also learned blood sampling in a better way. Slowly my confidence increased.



I was present in the emergency ward throughout from 10 o'clock till 2 o'clock at night. In this process, I learned great experience and learning opportunities. But during this duration, an accident happened due to the negligence of the patient's attendant, resulting in a prick on me, making Navi Maam and Rafiya Maam quite worried about me. They sent the blood sample of the patient to be tested and got the test kit from my pocket. Luckily, the result was negative, but still it was a very stressful situation for me. I am extremely grateful to them for all the trouble they took for me and even consulted the doctor themselves.

I also understood how important hygiene and infection control is. And communication that was another big thing. Talking to patients and their families in a respectful way matters a lot.

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They tried their best to make arrangements for me to stay in a room but did not have to bother as I have some friends

in this area who helped me stay in their rooms. They provided me with a doctor's room, and I slept there till 6 AM and then continued my duty.

In the early hours of the morning at around ten o'clock, four students visited in the emergency ward. They inquired about my presence there because it was not included in my shift roster. Consequently, Maam became aware of this and messaged in the group saying that Arfat will be absent for seven days. It broke my heart as I intended nothing but to



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learn something.

During this time, I also started feeling responsibility. Many patients and attendants started calling me "Sir." It felt good, but at the same time it also made me serious. I started thinking more carefully about my behavior and actions because people were trusting me.

The following day, while visiting my ward, a father of Member of Parliament Engineer Rashid was admitted to the hospital. His brother MLA sahab and other family members were also there. Thus, I had the chance to draw blood sample from him. I felt satisfied and happy as it enabled me to put into practice what I had learned.

One strong thing I felt during this journey was emotional connection with patients. Many times I saw them and somehow felt like they are my own elders, like my grandparents. That feeling changed me. I stopped seeing them as just cases. I started caring naturally. Every patient has a story, pain, and

struggle. I realized dignity and respect matter as much as treatment. That made me more sure that I am in the right field. I don't just want skills, I want to be useful for people.

During my clinical posting, I also had the opportunity to interact with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Sir, the Medical Superintendent Maam, and KAS officer Mr. Ashraf Hakak. Meeting them gave me a broader understanding of hospital administration and the dedication required to manage a busy healthcare institution. They were kind, approachable, and supportive whenever I sought guidance, and they helped me in several ways during my posting. I also had the privilege of sharing a cup of tea with the CMO Sir, which turned into a memorable conversation about healthcare, discipline, and the importance of continuous learning. Their encouragement and generosity left a lasting impression on me and reminded me that true leadership is reflected not only in administrative responsibility but also in humility, accessibility, and genuine concern for students and patients alike.

The encouragement of senior students like Rahil Sir and Shakir Sir contributed to my growth as well. The senior students guided me in terms of processes and knowledge sharing, making me understand that health education is something to be undertaken as a community. But retrospectively, I find that my frustrations in Ward 5 were actually very beneficial to me. They made me take things into my own hands and make the most appropriate decisions for myself.

In addition, I extended an apology to the clinical in-charge, Saika Maam. Even though there were other college students present, they did not receive the same treatment as mine, and this affected me greatly. It made me reflect on the type of environment that I belong to, and at times, I feel that my college is overly strict, and it mustn't be like that.

Despite everything, I acknowledge the fact that the lessons I gained from the emergency ward will probably never come by in the other wards that I was assigned to. In this regard, the situation taught me several things that contributed to strengthening my patience, courage, and love for learning.

I did not come into nursing with big dreams. It was simple for me, just to help people in some way. But now that simple thought has turned into something stronger. I really want to serve people with honesty.

To every nursing student, I would just say one thing don't rush. First observe, then understand. Confidence will come slowly. Every patient teaches something. If your intention is real, you will grow automatically. This journey is just starting, but I already feel that real success in healthcare is not only about skill, it is about staying human, kind, and present for people when they need you.

(Mohammad Arfat Wani is a writer, social activist, and nursing student from Kuchmulla, Tral. He writes on social issues, culture, and public concerns with the aim of raising awareness and inspiring positive change. Email: wania6817@gmail.com)



Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of key departments across Jammu division

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today called for more resilient construction practices and cost-effective approach to infrastructure development across Jammu and Kashmir in view of increasing frequency of floods.

The Minister stated this while chairing a high-level review meeting at Civil Secretariat here to assess the functioning of various departments and take stock of ongoing development and restoration works across Jammu division in view of recent cloudbursts. The meeting was attended by Managing Director, J&K Medical Supply Corporation;



Mission Director, Poshan/ICDS J&K; Director, FCS&CA Jammu; Director School Education Jammu; Director Social Welfare Jammu; Director Colleges J&K; Director Health Services Jammu; Director Ayush J&K; Director Family Welfare J&K; all concerned Chief Engineers of R&B, PDD, I&FC and PHE Jammu, besides Principals

of GMC Jammu, Udhampur, Kathua, Doda and Rajouri, either in person or through video conferencing

During the meeting, the Minister undertook a comprehensive review of the functioning of the various departments, with particular focus on delivery of essential public services, infrastructure restoration, healthcare

preparedness, supply of essential commodities and implementation of welfare and education-related schemes.

Taking detailed feedback on the damage caused to public infrastructure in Rajouri and other areas due to recent floods, Sakeena Itoo sought status report on restoration of roads, macadamization, drinking water supply and other essential services in the affected areas.

Calling for a pragmatic and cost-effective approach to infrastructure development, the Minister said that the increasing frequency of floods requires to move towards more resilient construction practices.

"We have to learn from the recurring floods and build

infrastructure that is capable of withstanding such challenges. Lightweight and cost-effective construction technologies should be explored wherever feasible so that public money is utilized judiciously while ensuring durability and resilience", she observed.

She directed the concerned departments to maintain close coordination during restoration works and ensure that people in affected areas do not face prolonged disruption of essential services.

The Minister also reviewed the healthcare scenario in Jammu and took detailed feedback from the health authorities regarding the preparedness of healthcare institutions on water borne diseases due to monsoon rains.

SDM Gool reviews preparations for "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign

■ HT News Network

RAMBAN, AUGUST 10: Sub-Divisional Magistrate Gool Imtiaz today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the "Har Ghar Tiranga" campaign in the Sub-Division.

Events planned at Sub Division level include Mega Tiranga Rally at Sub Division Headquarter on August 12, Tiranga Bike Rally at Sangaldan on August 13 and Auto Tiranga Rally on August 14, 2026.

The SDM directed all concerned departments to ensure wide public participation and make the campaign a grand success with patriotic fervor. He stressed that the objective of the campaign is to instill a sense of national pride and unity among citizens by encouraging every household to hoist the National Flag.

The SDM instructed the Rural Development Department (RDD) and Panchayat Secretaries to mobilize people in rural areas and ensure distribution of National Flags to every household. He directed the Education Department to organize Tiranga Rallies, painting competitions, quiz competitions and special assemblies in all schools to spread awareness about the significance of the Tricolor among students.

National Deworming Day: 1.85 lakh children targeted for deworming in Kathua District

■ HT News Network

KATHUA, AUGUST 10: The District Administration Kathua on Monday launched the National Deworming Day campaign here from Government Girls Higher Secondary School.

Additional Deputy Commissioner Mahima Madan launched the campaign as deworming tablets were administered to the school children. The ADC underscored that the campaign aims to promote awareness about the importance of regular deworming, personal hygiene and preventive healthcare among children and adolescents.

Highlighting the health benefits of deworming, the ADC said that intestinal worm infections can adversely affect the nutritional status of children, leading to anaemia and impaired physical and cognitive development. She appealed to all parents and guardians to ensure that their wards receive the deworming tablets during the campaign period. The ADC further informed that dedicated teams have been constituted to ensure maximum coverage, with field functionaries visiting schools and Anganwadi Centres to administer the tablets in a systematic manner.

A mass recitation of Vande Mataram was also held at the school with enthusiastic participation of students and staff. The programme highlighted the importance of civic values, national unity and responsible citizenship among the younger generation.

DC Samba reviews PMAY-U 2.0 implementation

Stresses transparent beneficiary verification

■ HT News Network

SAMBA, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner Samba today chaired a series of district-level review meetings to assess the rollout of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban (PMAY-U) 2.0, with focus on survey progress, beneficiary verification and timely identification of eligible urban households. The Deputy Commissioner reviewed the status of applications received from Municipal Council Samba and urban local committees, including Vijaypur, Bari Brahmana and Ramgarh. Detailed discussions were held on the verification process to ensure that only genuine and eligible beneficiaries are covered under the scheme.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers to closely monitor the PMAY-U 2.0 housing surveys being conducted on the ground and ensure comprehensive coverage of eligible families under the Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC) component. Emphasizing transparency and accountability in the implementation of the scheme, the Deputy Commissioner called for strict adherence to prescribed guidelines and timelines. Officers were directed to identify and remove bottlenecks, expedite pending verifications and submit regular progress reports for effective monitoring.

The meeting also reviewed the performance of municipal bodies, awareness activities and



beneficiary outreach initiatives aimed at making eligible households aware of the provisions and benefits available under PMAY-U 2.0.

The Deputy Commissioner further took stock of the progress of housing projects sanctioned under earlier phases of the scheme and stressed the need for timely completion of pending works.

The concerned officers were directed to maintain close inter-departmental coordination and ensure that the benefits of PMAY-U 2.0 reach deserving urban poor families in a transparent, efficient and time-bound manner. The concerned officers were directed to maintain close inter-departmental coordination and ensure that the benefits of PMAY-U 2.0 reach deserving urban poor families in a transparent, efficient and time-bound manner.

DDC Reasi reviews Capex, Tribal Plan Works; Calls for Speedy Implementation

■ HT News Network

REASI, AUGUST 10: District Development Commissioner Reasi, Kumar Abhishek today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of development works being executed under the District Capex Budget, Tribal Plan and Revenue Buildings in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC Reasi reviewed the physical and financial progress under the District Capex Budget and took stock of the status of works being executed across various sectors including Jal Shakti, PWD (R&B), Education, Health and Urban Development. He also reviewed the agency-wise status of new works including sanctioning, tendering, allotment, commencement and completion.

The meeting further reviewed the implementation of the Tribal Plan and DA-JGUA. He took a detailed assessment of the status of ongoing and new works, preparation of DPRs, technical sanctions and execution by various implementing agencies. He stressed the need for timely completion of all sanctioned works and effective utilisation of available resources.

He also reviewed ongoing and proposed works under DA-JGUA, particularly those related to educational infrastructure and



basic amenities in tribal areas. The status of Revenue Buildings including Niabat offices, SDM offices and residential accommodation for Revenue officials, was also reviewed.

The DDC directed the concerned officers to verify the availability of land before commencement of any work and ensure that all necessary formalities are completed well in advance. He directed the officers to expedite the tendering process and submit updated status reports on the progress of works and tendering. He also asked the concerned agencies to prepare and submit pending DPRs at the earliest. Further, he directed the officers to take necessary action for foreclosure of works where there has been no progress.

ADDC Krishan Lal, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Mukesh Sharma, XENs, BDOs and other senior officers were present in the meeting.

Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 gains momentum in Doda

Mega Rally taken out in Doda amid display of 1600 metre long Tricolour

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 10: The district administration Doda organised a Mega Tiranga Rally as part of Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2026 and the commemoration of 150 glorious years of the National Song "Vande Mataram" (Phase-III).

The Mega Tricolour Rally was flagged off by the Deputy Commissioner Krishan Lal here from the Government Degree College.

A large number of school and college students, civil and police officials, besides civil society members participated enthusiastically in the rally, reflecting the active involvement of the diverse section of society



in the national campaign.

The students were carrying the National Flag, patriotic banners, posters and placards, conveying messages of patriotism, national unity, peace, harmony and responsible citizenship. Their energetic participation added vibrancy and youthful enthusiasm to the

event. The main attraction of the rally was a huge 1600 metres-long Tricolour, carried by a large group of enthusiastic students, creating a spectacular display of national pride and unity. The rally passed through the main market areas and culminated at Sports Stadium, with participants raising

patriotic slogans and displaying the National Flag with pride and enthusiasm.

The sight of students marching together with the giant National Flag, accompanied by hundreds of smaller Tricolours, banners and patriotic placards, created an inspiring atmosphere.

The participants raised slogans including "Bharat Mata Ki Jai" and "Vande Mataram," adding patriotic fervour to the event. The colourful display of the Tricolour, banners and posters, along with the participation of students from different educational institutions, reflected the spirit of "Unity in Diversity" and "Nation First."

Sakeena Itoo visits GMC Jammu, enquires about the well being of injured girl students

Directs doctors to ensure round-the-clock monitoring, best possible care

■ HT News Network

JAMMU, AUGUST 10: Minister for Health & Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo today visited Government Medical College (GMC), Jammu and took detailed stock of the health condition and treatment being provided to girls injured in road accident yesterday evening.

During her visit, the Minister went around the hospital wards and interacted with the injured girls, enquiring about their well-being, medical treatment and facilities being extended to them. She also interacted with the attending doctors and hospital authorities and sought a detailed briefing on the nature of injuries and the treatment plan being followed in each



case. The Minister directed the GMC administration and medical teams to ensure the best possible treatment, round-the-clock monitoring and comprehensive medical care to all the injured. She stressed that all necessary medical resources should be mobilised to facilitate their speedy recovery. "The health and well-being of every injured girl is our foremost concern.

The government stands firmly with the affected families in this difficult time. Every possible facility will be made available to ensure their best possible treatment", the Minister said. She further directed the doctors and concerned officers to maintain continuous monitoring of the condition of critically injured patients and ensure timely intervention wherever required.

"There must be no lapse in patient care and every injured girl should receive prompt and quality treatment, with special attention to those in critical condition", she said.

The Minister also asked the hospital authorities to ensure proper coordination among various departments and availability of medicines, diagnostics, surgical facilities and other requisite support for the injured.

Transport Commissioner reviews road safety measures in Doda District

Stresses strict enforcement of traffic rules, identification of black spots, crash barrier installation

■ HT News Network

DODA, AUGUST 10: Transport Commissioner J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan today reviewed road safety measures in District Doda here at a meeting held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The meeting was convened under the aegis of the District Road Safety Committee (DRSC) and was attended by officers from Police, ARTOs of Doda, Udhampur and Ramban, representatives from PWD (R&B), PMGSY, NHIDCL, BRO, Health, Education, Revenue, Forest, SDRF, Municipal

Committees and other concerned departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Doda Krishan Lal gave a detailed overview of the road safety scenario in the district. He apprised the Transport Commissioner about accident-prone and vulnerable road stretches, identified black spots, road safety interventions undertaken by the stakeholder departments and measures being taken to strengthen road safety infrastructure. He also informed about the crash barriers installed along sensitive road stretches and other measures being taken to prevent road accidents.



The Transport Commissioner stressed the need for close coordination among the concerned departments for effective and timely implementation of road safety measures. "Road safety is a shared responsibility involving engineering agencies, Traffic Police, Transport Department, local bodies, health institutions, educational institutions and the general public," he noted. He directed the concerned agencies to identify black spots and undertake necessary corrective measures on priority. He also called for regular safety audits of roads and bridges, proper road markings, marking of warnings

and regulatory signage, protective parapets and installation of crash barriers, particularly along vulnerable stretches in the hilly terrain of the district. The Transport Commissioner directed the ARTOs to coordinate with BRO and other concerned agencies in the process of improving road safety at identified accident-prone stretches. The NHIDCL and PMGSY authorities were directed to create adequate road safety infrastructure along roads under their respective jurisdictions, with special emphasis on installation and maintenance of crash barriers, signage and other essential safety equipment.





4 JKAP IR Organises Tiranga Rally in Kupwara Under ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ Campaign

■ **Aijaz Baba**

Kupwara The 4 JKAP IR Battalion organised a Tiranga Rally at Wayen, Kupwara, on August 10 as part of the nationwide ‘Har Ghar Tiranga’ campaign, marking the run-up to Independence Day and promoting the spirit of national unity and patriotism. The rally commenced from the Battalion Headquarters at Wayen and was conducted in accordance with the directions issued by the higher authorities to strengthen national integration and encourage citizens, particularly the youth, to celebrate the National Flag with pride and respect. The rally was led by Shri Ravinder Pal Singh, SSP (JKPS), Commandant, 4 JKAP IR, and witnessed enthusiastic participation of around 150-170 officers and officials, including Gazetted Officers, along with a contingent of local school children. Carrying the Tricolour with pride,



the participants marched along the designated route while raising patriotic slogans. The rally highlighted the significance of the National Flag and reinforced the values of unity, patriotism and collective responsibility. It also provided an opportunity to strengthen the bond between the security forces, young people and the local community. The event concluded with a solemn collective pledge by the participants to uphold the dignity and honour of the National Flag, remember the sacrifices of the freedom fighters, and contribute towards the peace, progress, unity and integrity of the nation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been incorrectly recorded in the bank records/passbook as "Ishrat Jan D/o Nazir Ahmad Gojar". However, the correct name, as appearing in the Aadhaar Card, is "Ishrat Jan D/o Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar". I intend to have the above-mentioned name corrected in the bank records to reflect the correct name as per the Aadhaar Card. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may submit the same to the concerned bank office within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained, and the bank records shall be corrected accordingly.

Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar (Father)
FATIMA (Mother)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is for information of general public that the (Electric bill) power connection name has been wrongly registered On GHULAM NABI WANI bearing Consumer ID NO 0212040005063 while my correct name is GHULAM NABI BHAT S/O HABIBULLAH BHAT. If any body have any objection in this regard He/She may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO krei within seven days from the date of publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....GHULAM NABI BHAT
S/O...HABIBULLAH BHAT
R/O...PUTHAR RESHIPORA
BLOCK....WAGOORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the name of my son has been incorrectly recorded in the bank records/passbook as "Fayaz Ahmad Gojar". However, the correct name, as appearing in the Aadhaar Card, is "Fayaz Ahmad Khan Gojar". I intend to have the above-mentioned name corrected in the bank records to reflect the correct name as per the Aadhaar Card. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may submit the same to the concerned bank office within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained, and the bank records shall be corrected accordingly.

Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar (Father)
FATIMA (Mother)

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is here by notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Adhaar card as AMANAT ASHRAF KHAN bearing Account No 2173 4092 5830 while my correct name is MOHAMMAD AMANAT KHAN S/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF KHAN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office concerned adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MOHAMMAD
AMANAT KHAN
S/O...MOHAMMAD ASHRAF
KHAN
R/O...DOLIPORA
Tehsil Kreeri
Dist....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is here by notified that my name has been incorrectly mentioned in my Adhaar card as AMANAT ASHRAF KHAN bearing Account No 2173 4092 5830 while my correct name is MOHAMMAD AMANAT KHAN S/O MOHAMMAD ASHRAF KHAN which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office concerned adhaar authority of India within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....MOHAMMAD
AMANAT KHAN
S/O...MOHAMMAD ASHRAF
KHAN
R/O...DOLIPORA
Tehsil Kreeri Dist....BARAMULLA

PUBLIC NOTICE

My daughters mother's name has been wrongly mentioned as SUMAIRA in her Date of Birth certificate bearing Registration NO B 202401902380001066 while her correct Mother's name is SUMAIRA MANZOOR as per adhaar card which needs to be corrected if anybody having any objection in this regard he/she may file his/her objection in the office of SDH/BMO krei within seven days from the publication of this notice after that no objection will be entertained.

Name....SHOWKAT AHMAD
KHAN
F/O...MEHREEN SHOWKAT
R/O...JAHANGIRPORA

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the name of my son has been incorrectly recorded in the bank records/passbook as "Reyaz Ahmad Khan S/o Nazir Ahmad Khan". However, the correct name, as appearing in the Aadhaar Card, is "Reyaz Ahmad Khan Gojar S/o Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar". I intend to have the above-mentioned name corrected in the bank records to reflect the correct name as per the Aadhaar Card. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may submit the same to the concerned bank office within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained, and the bank records shall be corrected accordingly.

Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar (Father)
FATIMA (Mother)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that the name of my daughter has been incorrectly recorded in the bank records/passbook as "Nusrat Jan D/o Nazir Ahmad Khan". However, the correct name, as appearing in the Aadhaar Card, is "Nusrat Jan D/o Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar". I intend to have the above-mentioned name corrected in the bank records to reflect the correct name as per the Aadhaar Card. If any person has any objection to this correction, they may submit the same to the concerned bank office within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice. No objection received after the stipulated period shall be entertained, and the bank records shall be corrected accordingly.

Nazir Ahmad Khan Gojar (Father)
FATIMA (Mother)

ARTO Rajouri suspends RCs of 612 vehicles operating without valid permits

■ **HT News Network**

RAJOURI, AUGUST 10: On the directions of Secretary, Transport Department, J&K Avny Lavasa and Transport Commissioner, J&K Vishesh Paul Mahajan, the Motor Vehicles Department (MVD), Rajouri, conducted a comprehensive exercise to identify vehicles operating without valid permits in the district.

During the exercise, around 622 vehicles were found plying without valid permits. Notices were subsequently issued through newspapers, providing the concerned vehicle owners

an opportunity to comply with the prescribed requirements.

After expiry of the stipulated 10-day period, few applied for permits, while the Registration Certificates (RCs) of remaining around 612 vehicles have been suspended for operating without valid permits.

ARTO Ashiq Rafiq Malik said that the action has been initiated to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Motor Vehicles Act and to discourage unauthorized commercial operation of vehicles.

The list of vehicles whose RCs have been suspended shall also be shared with the Traffic Police for necessary enforcement action and to ensure that these vehicles do not ply on the roads during the period of suspension.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Umar Jan, son of the late Ali Mohammad Tantray, resident of Darashpora, Handwara, hereby inform the general public through this notice that Shop No. 85, situated at the Fruit and Vegetable Market, Baripora, Handwara, was originally allotted in the name of Late Ali Mohammad Tantray. Since Ali Mohammad Tantray passed away on 09/02/2026, we, the legal heirs, intend to have the allotment holder rights of the said shop transferred and recorded in the name of Umar Jan, son of Late Ali Mohammad Tantray. If any person or persons have any objection or claim regarding this transfer, they are requested to submit their objection in writing to the Horticulture Planning & Marketing Office, Fruit Mandi, Baripora, Handwara, within one week from the publication of this notice. No objection or claim shall be entertained after the expiry of the stipulated period. Umar Jan Son of Late Ali Mohammad Tantray Resident of Darashpora, Handwara District Kupwara

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified for the information of the general public that the name of the undersigned has been incorrectly mentioned in the Aadhaar Card as "Asmat Ishaq". The correct and genuine name of the applicant, as recorded in the Domicile Certificate and other official records, is: AUSHMUATH ISHAQ, D/o Mohd Ishaq Malik, R/o Guloora, Langate, District Kupwara, Jammu & Kashmir 193302. Henceforth, "Aushmuath Ishaq" shall be treated as the correct name for all official, legal, and other purposes. The name "Asmat Ishaq" appearing in the Aadhaar Card is due to an inadvertent error and refers to the same person. If any person has any objection regarding this correction, the same may be communicated within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Otherwise, no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

Aushmuath Ishaq
D/o Mohd Ishaq Malik
R/o Guloora, Langate, Kupwara,
J&K 193302

PUBLIC NOTICE

MY ACTUAL NAME IS MANZOOR AHMAD BEIGHS/ONAZIRAHMAD BEIGH. BUT IN MY SCHOOL RECORDS MY NAME IS WRONGLY MENTIONED AS MANZOOR AHMAD BAIGHS/ONAZIRAHMAD BAIGH. I WANT ITS CORRECTION. ANYBODY HAVING ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL MUGHAL MOHALLA CHATTABAL SRINAGAR WITHIN THE PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS.

PUBLIC NOTICE

I HAVE LOST MY SCHOOL DISCHARGE CERTIFICATE IN 2014 FLOODS. NOW I WANT ITS DUPLICATE. ANYBODY HAVING ANY OBJECTION MAY CONTACT GOVERNMENT MIDDLE SCHOOL MUGHAL MOHALLA CHATTABAL WITHIN THE PERIOD OF SEVEN DAYS.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of BASHIR AHMAD KHAN S/O WALI MOHAMMAD KHAN R/O... KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 11/01/1970 event has been shown to be occurred at this Home for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of TAHIR AHMAD LONE S/O NAZIR AHMAD LONE R/O THINDIMA Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 11/08/2008 event has been shown to be occurred at this Home for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREERI

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE TEHSILDAR KREERI

(Executive Magistrate 1st Class)
Subject: Issuance of Registration Orders in respect of delayed Birth/Death certificate.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Registrar Births and Deaths (Block Development Officer Wagoora)/chokedar has submitted case file pertaining to Birth of BASHIR AHMAD KHAN S/O WALI MOHAMMAD KHAN R/O... KREERI Tehsil KREERI Distt. Baramulla having verified the date of Birth as 11/01/1970 event has been shown to be occurred at this Home for issuance of delay order. In this connection if anyone have any objection to the issuance of delay order of Birth certificate shall present his/her claim this office within 07 days, after that no objection shall be entertained.

Executive Magistrate 1st Class KREERI

130 water supply schemes coming up in Kishtwar District under JJM

DC reviews progress of ongoing projects

■ **HT News Network**

KISHTWAR, AUGUST 10: Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who is also the Chairman, District Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), today chaired a meeting in the Meeting Hall of the New DC Complex to review the progress, implementation status and pending issues related to 130 water supply schemes being executed under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the district.

At the outset, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (Hydraulic Division) apprised the Deputy Commissioner about the current status and progress of the schemes and the issues requiring intervention.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the stakeholder departments to expedite the Jal Aankalan process and initiate Jal Arpan for 10 schemes in accordance with JJM guidelines. "Align the Jal Aankalan with the ongoing Vande Mataram Phase-3 Campaign and submit the geo-tagged photographs of the activities to his office," he directed.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the status of 13



water supply schemes having minimal balance FHTCs and directed Jal Shakti department to pursue the matter with higher authorities and ensure procurement of the required 15 mm diameter pipes at the earliest to complete the schemes without further delay.

Regarding projects submitted under DAJGUA, the Chair was informed that five projects have already been submitted to the Chief Office for approval. The Executive Engineer was directed to closely follow the matter for speedy approval.

The functioning of the water testing laboratories was also reviewed. It was informed that staff of Jal Shakti has been deployed to assist the concerned

laboratories in sample collection. It was further informed that a proposal for strengthening and equipping all five water testing laboratories has been submitted to the Mission Directorate and the Chief Engineer's Office for the release of funds.

The PO ICDS was directed to provide the list of Anganwadi Workers to the Executive Engineer for their training in conducting water quality tests through Field Testing Kits in their respective areas. The Chemist, District Lab was directed to coordinate the training of Anganwadi Workers and ensure that water quality tests are conducted and reports are properly uploaded on the portal.

The Executive Engineer was

further directed to issue an order designating the Chemist, District Lab as the overall in-charge of all water testing laboratories in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner also reviewed the progress regarding rooftop rainwater harvesting structures under the JSA (CTR) guidelines. He directed to construct rooftop rainwater harvesting structures during the current financial year at 347 schools, 34 Anganwadi Centres and 93 Panchayat Ghars across the district. The funds for the same shall be provided under the VB-GRAM-G Scheme. The ACD was directed to provide a constituency-wise list of Panchayat Ghars to the Chief Planning Officer for the purpose.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the Assistant Executive Engineers, Assistant Engineers and Junior Engineers of Jal Shakti to conduct regular inspection of installations and networks falling within their respective jurisdictions and hold meetings with the concerned Pani Samitis/Village Level Water Sanitation Committees. They were also directed to submit geo-tagged photographs of the field activities to his office.

JAMMU AND KASHMIR POLICE OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER, POSHAN KANGAN

(Address ; Opposite Jamia Qadim near ZEO Office Kangan -191202)

Advertisement Notice: No. 02- CDPO of 2026. Dated: 10 - 08-2026

Subject: Advertisement for Recruitment of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of POSHAN Project Kangan.

Reference: 1. Government order No. 222-JK (SWD) of 2022, Dated: 30.11.2022
2. Government Order No. 103-JK (SWD) of 2023, Dated: 28.04.2023

In pursuance to the above Government Orders & Date and pursuant to the Orders issued by Mission Director Mission Poshan J&K, vide No.: MD/Poshan/2026/22218 -23, dated: 18-06-2026, the necessary approval has been accorded for filling up of various vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) in Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Kangan, as per the details given below:

S. No.	Name of The District	Name of the Poshan Project	Name of the Post	Number of Posts	Remarks
01	Ganderbal	Kangan	Sangini (AWW)	03	
			Sahayika (AWH)	02	

Applications are invited in the prescribed format annexed as "Annexure -A" from the eligible female candidates for engagement as Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers) and Sahikiyas (Anganwadi Helpers) on Honorarium basis, in the Panch-wards as shown against the below mentioned Panchayat Halqas, for the Anganwadi Centres of Poshan Project Kangan. The application along with the required documents should reach to the office of Child Development Project Officer, Poshan Kangan by or before 25th of August- 2026 against the proper receipt. Criteria for selection of Sanginis (Anganwadi worker).

S.N o.	Name of District	Name of the Poshan Project	Name of the Panchayat Halqa	03 Post of Sangini (Anganwadi Worker) Details of Vacancies of Sanginis (Anganwadi Workers)	
				Name & Number of the Panch Ward	Name of the AWC Location
1	Ganderbal	Kangan	Prang-A	06-Prang-Gujerpati	Prang Gujerpati
2	Ganderbal	Kangan	Arhama-B	04-Rather Mohalla	Yarmuqam Rather Mohalla
3	Ganderbal	Kangan	Wussan-B	02-Bhat Mohalla	Chunner-A

- The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
 - Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
 - The candidate should be a resident of the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is situated. Name in the voter list for the ward shall be considered as the proof of residence of the candidate.
 - In case the name of the candidate appears in the voter list along with her parents, then she must provide certificate of being unmarried issued by the concerned Tehsildar.
 - Wherever, there is any dispute as to residence for any reason, and then a residence proof certifying the ward of residence from the concerned SDM/ACR shall be considered.
 - Minimum qualifications for Anganwadi Worker shall be 10+ 2 and maximum graduation.
 - Weightage shall be given on the basis of marks obtained in 10+2 and selection shall be done purely on merit basis and no other criteria is to be considered.
 - In case of tie in merit of the eligible candidate, candidate with higher age will be preferred.
 - Candidate with qualification higher than graduation shall not be considered.
 - In case eligible candidate is available with the family of retiring AWW/AWH, the said candidate shall qualify for additional 2 points.
- Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form.
- Panch ward certificate issued by BDO concerned, as per format annexed with the application form.
 - Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
 - Date of Birth Certificate.
 - Academic Qualification with marks card of 10+2.
 - Self addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs. 5/=
 - Unmarried certificate wherever required.
 - Affidavit/undertaking as per format annexed with the application form, duly attested by the Executive Magistrate 1st Class authenticating the applicant's maximum qualification.

S.N o.	Name of District	Name of the Poshan Project	Name of the Panchayat Halqa	02 Posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helper) Details of Vacancies of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers)	
				Name & Number of the Panch Ward	Name of the AWC Location
1	Ganderbal	Kangan	Sonamarg-B	05-Herpora	Gagingeer-A
2	Ganderbal	Kangan	Hayan-Palpora	08-Ganai Mohalla	Ganai Mohalla Hayan

- Criteria for selection of Sahakiyas (Anganwadi Helper).
- The selection of Anganwadi helper shall be restricted to the electoral ward where Anganwadi Centre is located.
 - Women candidates in the age group of 18-37 years shall be eligible.
 - The candidate must be domicile of the UT of J&K.
 - Minimum qualification for Anganwadi Helper shall be matriculation.
 - In case no matriculate candidate is available in the ward, candidate with qualification not less than 8th standard shall be considered.
 - The eligible candidate (So selected as AWH for Rented AWC) shall have to provide sufficient accommodation for smooth functioning of Anganwadi Centre.
 - The committee shall select the most destitute/needy married women of the ward as Anganwadi Helper from amongst those who full fill the qualification criteria. In case no married candidate is available, unmarried may be considered.

Self-attested copies of documents to be attached with the application form.

- Panch ward certificate issued by BDO concerned, as per format annexed with the application form.
- Domicile Certificate issued by Tehsildar concerned.
- Date of Birth Certificate.
- Academic Qualification Certificate. (10th Pass)
- Self-addressed envelope with postage stamp of Rs. 5/=
- Unmarried certificate wherever required.
- Affidavit/undertaking as per format annexed with the application form, duly attested by the Executive Magistrate 1st Class.

DIPK-4377/26
Send Date: Aug 10 2026

Child Development Project Officer,
ICDS Poshan Kangan





Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign gains momentum across Bandipora with Rallies, Sports and Community Activities

■ HT News Network

BANDIPORA, AUGUST 10: The Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2026 witnessed enthusiastic participation across District Bandipora on Monday, with various departments, educational institutions, youth, sports persons and community-level institutions organising a range of activities to showcase patriotism, unity and pride in the national flag.

The Department of Youth Services and Sports, Bandipora, organised a Girls Cricket Match at Wangipora as part of the campaign. The sporting activity provided young girls an opportunity to showcase their talent, teamwork and sporting spirit while reinforcing the message of unity and patriotism. Har Ghar Tiranga rallies were also conducted across different institutions and zones with enthusiastic participation from students, athletes, staff and young sports enthusiasts.



A Tiranga Vehicle Rally was also organised by ARTO Bandipora, with enthusiastic participation from the ARTO, staff members and commercial vehicle drivers. The rally reflected the collective spirit of patriotism, unity and pride in the Tricolour.

The ICDS Department also participated in the campaign through various activities at Anganwadi Centres

across the district, involving children and the community and spreading awareness about the national flag, patriotism and civic responsibility.

As part of the campaign, cleanliness activities were undertaken at WSS in Dawar, highlighting the importance of cleanliness and proper upkeep of public assets. Cleanliness drives were also conducted at Panchayat Kehnusa,

Panchayat Aloosa B and Panchayat Aloosa Ghat of Block Aloosa, promoting cleanliness and community participation. Tiranga rallies were additionally organised at local schools in Panchayat Kehnusa and Panchayat Ashtengoo of Block Aloosa, with enthusiastic participation.

At H.K.M. Government Degree College Bandipora, a Tiranga Rangoli Competition was organised, with students showcasing their creativity through patriotic-themed rangoli designs.

Similarly, the NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ajas organised an awareness and participation activity, with faculty members taking part in the programme and highlighting the significance of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, Independence Day celebrations, patriotism, national unity and respect for the national flag.

PM Modi hails CWG champions, says their medals inspire a new generation

United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 10 Prime Minister Narendra Modi has hailed India's Commonwealth Games



He also spoke about the emotional journeys behind several of India's medal-winning performances. He recalled an athlete dedicating his Guru Purnima victory to his coach and



2026 medal winners, crediting their sustained success to the growing sports culture in the country and saying their achievements were inspiring a new generation of athletes.

Interacting with the Indian contingent at his residence in the national capital on Sunday, Modi said the success of sportspersons had a greater impact on young people than conventional efforts to promote sports. "Your medal inspires them more than anything we could say by going to schools," remarked Modi.

The Prime Minister also followed up on a previous interaction with an athlete who had spoken about encouraging her daughters to take up sports. He recalled her earlier commitment and heard her assurance that her daughters would win three medals at the upcoming Commonwealth Games.

another breaking down in tears on the podium after overcoming four years of injuries and personal difficulties.

"This victory of yours becomes a very big inspiration for the coming generations," affirmed Modi. The Prime Minister said Indian athletes now command greater respect on the international stage, with opponents increasingly wary of facing them. He particularly highlighted the rise of Indian boxing and acknowledged the athletes' feedback on the impact of government initiatives such as the Khelo India Scheme and continued competition support. "World players have now started fearing these boxers too," remarked Modi. Modi said India's sporting progress could not be measured only through infrastructure and stressed the need to develop a wider sporting culture.

Champions Trophy will be very special: Jemimah Rodrigues

United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 10 India batter Jemimah Rodrigues is looking forward to being part of the inaugural ICC Women's Champions Trophy in 2027, saying the historic tournament will not change the team's approach or mindset. The inaugural edition of the Women's Champions Trophy is scheduled to be held in Sri Lanka from February 14 to 28, 2027. India have enjoyed a successful run in recent times, and Jemimah believes that experience will only increase the team's hunger for more silverware.

"We've tasted success once, and we know what it feels like to be at the top. The more you taste it, the more you want to be there. So, I think our team is working towards that, and yes, the Champions Trophy is going to be very special.

"It's happening for the first time ever in women's cricket, and I'll be a part of it for the first time as well, so it'll be pretty special, and I'm really looking forward to it. I think mindset-wise, nothing changes. At the end of the day, it's about the team and how to make the team win, and that always stays," said Jemimah on JioHotstar. Before the Champions Trophy, India will travel to South Africa for a multi-format series in December. Jemimah expects the contest to be another tough test for the team, with both sides having established themselves among the leading teams in women's cricket.

"It's going to be a really exciting series for sure. Both teams have been doing really well.

Hockey WC 2026: Revamped format scraps quarters, puts greater emphasis on pool games

United News Of India

New Delhi, Aug 10 (UNI) The FIH Hockey men's and women's World Cup 2026 will have a new competition format, with the traditional quarterfinal stage removed and the top two teams from each of the two crossover pools progressing directly to the semi-finals. Belgium and the Netherlands will jointly host the tournament from August 15 to 30.

The revamped structure places greater importance on the opening pool matches, with one result from the first phase carried forward into the crossover stage. India's men have been placed in Pool D alongside England, Pakistan and Wales, while the women's team will face China, England and South Africa in Pool D.

The 16 teams in each competition will initially be divided into four pools of four. Between August 15 and 20, every team will play the other three sides in its pool, with the top two advancing to the next phase.

The leading two teams from Pools A and D will form Pool E, while the top two from Pools B and C will move into Pool F. The third- and fourth-placed teams from Pools A and D will enter Pool G, with the corresponding teams from Pools B and C forming Pool H.

The crossover phase will be played from



August 21 to 24, with each team playing three matches. However, the result of the first-phase match between the two teams coming from the same original pool will be carried forward. That makes every match in the opening phase crucial, particularly for teams aiming to reach the semi-finals.

The top two teams from Pools E and F will qualify directly for the last four. The Pool E winners will face the Pool F runners-up, while the Pool F winners will take on the Pool E runners-up.

Indian women's team chief coach Sjoerd Marijne admitted he would have preferred the traditional quarterfinal route but said his team would look for ways to benefit from the new structure.

Travis Head wants Australia focussed as WTC campaign resumes

United News Of India

Darwin, Aug 10 Australia's focus will once again shift back to their World Test Championship 2025-27 campaign against Bangladesh at Marrara Cricket Ground in Darwin

on August 13, with opening batter Travis Head urging his side to temper expectations as they begin their push towards a second World Test Championship mace.

Australia are presently atop the WTC standings with a point percentage of 87.5.

Australia will enter the two-Test series as favourites, given the home advantage and Bangladesh's poor start to the tour, with the side losing to Cricket Australia XI by an innings and 38 runs after being bowled out for 54 in a warm-up.

But Head, who was one of the architects of Australia's Ashes success, remained grounded ahead

of the opening Test.

"There's going to be a lot of scrutiny around what goes on - it's a Test match and we're playing for World Test Championship points," Head told Cricket.com.au.

"Sometimes playing the better countries, you sit there with expectation. You go into a Test going,

'I just hope I get through it'.

"Then you may come up against a team like Bangladesh, with the week they've had and the expectation of, 'I really expect myself to get runs', and that's sometimes the hardest place to

be, when you go out there expecting to (make runs).

"Because the game is a brutal game. So I think it's just about tempering expectations over the next little period (and) through these two Tests."

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Blood Pressure Without a Machine

Can Your Body Give the Warning Signs?



Dr. Vijay Garg

Blood pressure is one of the most important indicators of cardiovascular health, yet it is often called a “silent” condition because high blood pressure may produce no obvious symptoms. This raises an interesting question: Can we know whether our blood pressure is high without using a blood-pressure machine?

The short answer is: not reliably.

information that cannot be obtained simply by touching the wrist or feeling the heartbeat.

Can the Pulse Tell Us Anything?

Feeling the pulse can tell us about the heart rate and rhythm, but it cannot tell us the blood-pressure level. A strong or fast pulse does not necessarily mean that blood pressure is high, and a soft pulse does not necessarily mean that it is low.

This is an important distinction because many people assume that a “strong pulse” means high blood pressure. That is not a dependable method.

What About Smartphones and Smartwatches?

Modern wearable devices can monitor several health-related measurements, and technology is



depending on the device, technology, calibration, and individual circumstances.

For people who need reliable blood-pressure monitoring, a

may assist monitoring, but it should not encourage people to ignore proper medical assessment.

When Warning Signs Should Not Be Ignored

Although symptoms cannot diagnose high blood pressure, certain symptoms require urgent attention. Severe chest pain, significant breathing difficulty, sudden weakness or numbness, difficulty speaking, severe confusion,

or sudden changes in vision should be treated as medical emergencies rather than simply blamed on blood pressure.

The important lesson is that absence of symptoms does not mean absence of risk. High blood pressure can gradually damage the heart, brain, kidneys, and blood vessels without producing noticeable warning signs.

The Real Solution Is Regular Monitoring

There is no dependable “natural test” in which a person can look at their eyes, feel their pulse, press a finger against an artery, or observe another physical sign and accurately calculate blood pressure.

The safest approach is simple: measure it.

For people concerned about their blood pressure, regular monitoring, healthy food choices, physical activity, adequate sleep, maintaining a healthy weight, avoiding tobacco, limiting excessive salt intake, and following medical advice can all contribute to cardiovascular health.

Blood pressure does not always announce its presence with a symptom. Sometimes the body remains completely quiet while the pressure remains elevated.

That is why blood pressure is not something we should try to “feel”—it is something we should measure.

Dr Vijay Garg Retired Principal Educational columnist Eminent Educationist street kour Chand MHR Malout Punjab -152107 Mobile 9465682110



A person cannot accurately determine their blood pressure simply by feeling their pulse, checking their face, observing their eyes, or judging how they feel. Someone may have significantly elevated blood pressure and feel completely normal, while another person with a normal reading may experience headache, dizziness, or anxiety.

Symptoms sometimes associated with very high blood pressure can include severe headache, visual disturbances, chest discomfort, shortness of breath, weakness, confusion, or other unusual symptoms. However, these symptoms are not specific to blood pressure and should never be used as a substitute for measurement.

Why Measuring Blood Pressure Matters

Blood pressure changes throughout the day depending on physical activity, stress, sleep, emotions, caffeine intake, medications, and other factors. A single sensation cannot reveal the actual pressure inside the arteries.

A blood-pressure monitor measures two important values:

Systolic pressure — the pressure when the heart contracts.

Diastolic pressure — the pressure when the heart relaxes between beats.

together, these numbers provide

developing rapidly. Some devices claim to estimate blood pressure, but their accuracy varies considerably

validated blood-pressure monitor with an appropriately sized cuff remains the safer choice. Technology

BLOOD PRESSURE EMERGENCY

Warning Signs & Management

Warning Signs:

- Very High BP Reading:** A reading of 180/120 or higher is a major warning sign, especially with symptoms.
- Severe Headache:** A sudden strong headache can happen when BP is dangerously high.
- Blurred Vision or Vision Loss:** Vision changes need urgent medical attention.
- Chest Pain:** Chest pain may suggest strain on the heart and needs emergency care.
- Severe Headache:** A sudden strong headache can happen when BP is dangerously high.
- Blurred Vision:** Blurred vision.
- Chest Pain:** Chest pain.
- Breathing Trouble:** Breathing trouble.
- Confusion:** Confusion.
- Weakness / Numbness:** Weakness, numbness, or trouble speaking. Stroke-like symptoms can happen during a BP emergency.
- Seizure Warning:** Seizure or collapse. Seizure, fainting, or collapse is a medical emergency.
- Shortness of Breath:** Breathing difficulty can happen with heart or lung complications.
- Confusion or Severe Drowsiness:** The person may seem confused, less alert, or not act normally.
- Weakness, Numbness, or Trouble Speaking:** Stroke-like symptoms can happen during a BP emergency.
- Seizure or Collapse:** Seizure, fainting, or collapse is a medical emergency.

MANAGEMENT:

- Recheck BP After 5 Minutes:** Sit quietly, rest, and repeat the BP reading if possible.
- Call Emergency Help Immediately:** Very high BP with warning symptoms needs urgent emergency care.
- Go to Hospital / ER Quickly:** Doctors may need to monitor and lower BP safely.
- Take Prescribed BP Medicine Only as Advised:** Do not double extra doses unless your doctor told you to do so.
- Do Not Ignore Symptoms:** Do not sleep it off, drive yourself if unsafe, or wait for it to pass.
- Hospital Treatment May Be Needed:** Severe cases may need IV medicines and treatment for brain, heart, or kidney damage.

A blood pressure emergency means dangerously high blood pressure with possible organ damage and needs urgent medical care.

A Night of Verse and Vision at the Foothills of Faith

Cultural Forum Kreeri Revives the Soul of Kashmiri Poetry with a Grand SHABANA Mushaira at the Shrine of Hazrat Baba Paayam-ud-Din Reshi (RA)

**JEHANGIR BUKHARI,
HT CULTURAL DESK**

SRINAGAR, AUGUST 9 : Beneath the sacred canopy of the shrine of Hazrat Baba Paayam-ud-Din Reshi, where the night air carried whispers of centuries-old devotion, the Kruhen Cultural Forum Kreeri transformed an ordinary evening into an extraordinary celebration of words, wisdom and

and grace by Jinaab Sharief Hussain Qadri, whose skilled anchoring ensured a seamless flow through the evening's rich programme. The Forum's President, Jinaab Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim, opened the event with a heartfelt welcome address, setting a tone of warmth, purpose and cultural pride, before later closing the night with a sincere vote of thanks.

What made the Mushaira truly remarkable was the extraordinary breadth and depth of poetic

The shrine's sacred surroundings only deepened the emotional resonance of the evening, lending each couplet an almost spiritual dimension. The Shabana Mushaira continued well past midnight, yet not a single soul in the audience stirred to leave a testament to the magnetic power of poetry and the exceptional quality of the performances. The night was charged with an energy that only great literature can produce: a collective sense of belonging,



Kashmiri literary heritage. A grand Shabana Mushaira, one of the most cherished traditions of the region's poetic culture unfolded in all its brilliance, drawing together some of the most distinguished voices in contemporary Kashmiri poetry under a single, luminous gathering.

The event, rich in cultural significance and literary depth, was not merely a recitation of verses. It was a reaffirmation of a living tradition, one that has endured across generations, nurtured in the valleys and sanctuaries of Kashmir, and kept alive by poets who believe that the written and spoken word holds the power to heal, unite and inspire.

The Mushaira was presided over by the eminent and widely respected poet Jinaab Ghulam Qadir Shaad Dardpuri, whose towering presence and mastery over the craft lent the evening an air of distinguished solemnity. The role of chief guest was graciously fulfilled by Jinaab Shabnam Tilgami, General Secretary of the prestigious Adbi Markaz Kamraz, whose participation underscored the wider literary community's endorsement of the Forum's noble mission. Also gracing the occasion were Jinaab Roshan Qamar, Jinaab Shamim Ahmad Shamim and Jinaab Sanaullah Shaikal, all established figures in the Kashmiri literary landscape whose presence added both prestige and warmth to the evening.

The proceedings were conducted with eloquence

talent on display. A constellation of no fewer than thirty poets took to the stage, each bringing their own distinctive voice, style and sensibility to the gathering. The lineup read like a who's who of Kashmiri poetry from seasoned veterans to emerging literary voices, all united by their devotion to the art of verse. Among those who enthralled the audience were Jinaab Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim, Jinaab Syed Sharief Hussain Qadri, Jinaab Sarwar Hashmi, Jinaab Dilbar Wanigami, Jinaab Roshan Qamar,

Jinaab Chaan Rahman, Jinaab Arsalan Mushtaq, Jinaab Aabid Ashraf, Jinaab Ghulam Hassan Darwaish, Jinaab Rashid Roshan, Jinaab Shabnum Tilgami, Dr Irshaad Fida, Jinaab Fazil Muqami, Jinaab Rafiq Tahir Kawchaki,

Jinaab Bilal Sultan, Jinaab Haroon Rashid, Jinaab Jinaan Altaf, Jinaab Sanaullah Shaikal, Jinaab Ghulam Qadir Shaad Dardpuri, Jinaab Mumtaz Rashid, Jinaab Mehrajuddin Shakoor Muqami, Jinaab Mohiuddin Dilawar, Jinaab Mumtaz Hamdani, Jinaab Showkat Showkeen, Jinaab Syed Tasaduk Danish, Jinaab Ghulam Rasool Gamgeen and Jinaab Showkat Tilgami and Syed Jehangir Bukhari,

Each recitation was met with spontaneous applause, as verses rich in emotion, imagery and literary finesse washed over an audience deeply attuned to the nuances of Kashmiri poetic expression.

reflection and wonder.

For Cultural Forum Kreeri, this was far more than an event on a calendar. It was a bold, deliberate act of cultural custodianship a statement that the poetic traditions of Kashmir are not relics of a fading past but living, breathing expressions of a people's identity and soul. Through such meticulously organised gatherings, the Forum continues to serve as both a guardian of established literary heritage and a launchpad for the next generation of Kashmiri poets.

In an era increasingly dominated by digital distraction and cultural homogenisation, the Cultural Forum Kreeri stands out as a beacon of literary commitment. By choosing the hallowed grounds of a revered shrine as the venue, the Forum not only honoured the spiritual dimension of Kashmiri cultural life but also reinforced the deep and inseparable bond between faith, poetry and community in the region's collective consciousness. As the last verse faded into the cool night air and the poets and audience dispersed into the darkness, one thing remained unmistakably clear:

As vote of thanks presented by the President of the Forum, Syed Shamim Ahmad Shamim reiterated the commitment to serve the mother language, the spirit of Kashmiri poetry, lyrical, profound and endlessly resilient, is in safe and passionate hands.

