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DENGUE
WARNING SIGNS

Many people with dengue can be cared for at home with adequate rest and hydration. But, if you experience any warning signs, go immediately to the nearest medical center.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

A drop in body temperature accompanied by any of the following symptoms:

- Severe and continuous muscle pain
- Diarrhea
- Profound vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Darkness
- Steady but painless or mild, brief, aches or itches
- Redness

If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Amarnath pilgrims crossing 4 lakh mark miracle: LG Sinha

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 31 (KNO)

Termining the number of Amarnath pilgrims crossing the 4 lakh mark as a "miracle," Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday said the record participation of devotees from across the country and the world in the annual Amarnath Yatra stands as a testament to India's unity and its unwavering resolve to overcome challenges.

LG Sinha, who is also the chairman of the Shri Amarnath ji Shrine Board (SASB), while sharing the information about number of pilgrims crossing 4 lakh mark, according to the news agency wrote on his X handle: "Baba Amarnath makes the impos-



sible, possible. With his blessings, the Holy Yatra today crossed the figure of 4 Lakh. I bow to Lord Shiva for this miracle and express my gratitude to everyone involved in making the holy pilgrimage a divine experience for devotees."

"This godly expedition was incomparable not because it's arduous and challenging but because it's an inimitable journey into pure bliss. It's a spiritual experience & gives an opportunity to

devotees to know themselves & offers deep trust & fills their hearts with infinite gratitude," wrote LG Sinha.

"I am truly thankful to the devotees, who have shown immense faith and strengthened our priceless spiritual heritage," he said.

The cave shrine situated at 3888 metres above sea level in the Kashmir Himalayas houses an ice stalagmite structure that waxes and waxes with the phases of the moon.

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

This year's Yatra started on July 3 and will end on August 9, coinciding with Shravan Purnima and Raksha Bandhan festival. **KNO**

J&K offers vast opportunities for investment: CM Omar Abdullah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
AHMEDABAD, JULY 31

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

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

The event was jointly



organised by the Travel Agents Society of Kashmir (TASK), Kashmir Chamber of Commerce & Industry (KCCI), and South Gujarat Chamber of Commerce &

Industry (SGCCI), bringing together key stakeholders from both regions.

The evening commenced with a press interaction, followed by a

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

"Jammu & Kashmir is open for business," said the Chief Minister,

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Only 2 lakh smart meters installed in J&K: Centre

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 31 (KNO)

Under the Government of India's flagship Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) aimed at improving power distribution, Jammu and Kashmir has had 14.97 lakh smart meters sanctioned. However, only 2 lakh smart meters have been installed so far, according to a written reply tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

The information was provided by Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik, in response to a question raised by MP Pushpendra Saroj.

"In terms of funding, J&K was sanctioned Rs 272 crore for smart metering work under RDSS. However, the government data shows no funds have been released or utilised yet under this component, even as other states have begun receiving allocations since FY24," the reply, as per the news agency, reads.

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CM inaugurates Travel & Tourism Fair, Ahmedabad

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDHINAGAR (GUJARAT), JUL 31 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday extended a warm invitation to travellers from across the country to explore the unparal-



leled beauty, rich culture and warm hospitality of Jammu & Kashmir.

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

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

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 31 (KNO)

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

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

According to a written reply to Unstarred Question in the Rajya Sabha by Minister of State for Power, Shripad Naik said that J&K has successfully met its entire electricity peak demand in the months of April to June for the past

three years, reversing the worrying trend seen earlier in 2020 and 2021.

As per the news agency, during the summer months of April to June 2020, Jammu and Kashmir faced a significant electricity shortage. The peak demand stood at 2,940 MW, but only 2,352 MW could be supplied, resulting in a deficit of 588 MW, which translated to a 20 percent shortfall in meeting the region's power needs.

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

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

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

In 2024, the upward momentum was maintained. Jammu and Kashmir's peak summer demand rose slightly to 2,924 MW, yet the entire requirement was met, reaffirming the region's improved electricity man-

agement and supply capabilities.

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

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

Officials attribute this achievement to continued support from the

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Centre urged J&K and Ladakh to hold Panchayat polls: Parliamentary panel

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 31 (KNO)

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

In its report tabled in both Houses of Parliament on July 28, 2025, the department-related standing committee on Rural Development and Panchayati Raj revealed that the ministry had informed the committee it had issued an advisory to different States and Union Territories includ-

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J&K, Ladakh to get 677 new petrol pumps under PSU OMC plan

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 31 (KNO)

Jammu & Kashmir, along with Ladakh, will see the addition of 677 new petrol pumps as part of a large-scale expansion by Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (PSU OMCs), according to a written reply tabled in the Lok Sabha on Thursday.

Minister of State for Petroleum and Natural Gas, Suresh Gopi, as reported by the news agency, said the selection and setup of new retail outlets are being carried out based on field feasibility, demand potential, and transparent dealer selection processes.

As per the govern-

ment data, 643 new petrol pump locations have been identified and advertised in Jammu and Kashmir, while 34 are planned for the Union Territory of Ladakh. These outlets are part of the 49,964 dealership slots advertised nationwide in June and July 2023. So far, Letters of Intent (LoIs) have been issued for over 23,000 of these locations, with more than 5,200 petrol pumps already operational as of July 1, 2025.

The ministry clarified that the process is being handled solely by PSU OMCs through online systems involving draws of lots or bidding to ensure transparency. The selection is based

on eligibility criteria outlined under dealership selection guidelines.

The government said the total PSU OMC network in the country currently stands at 88,526 outlets, including 25,705 in rural and remote areas. However, 3,095 outlets across India remain temporarily non-operational due to various reasons, including financial constraints, legal disputes, and low sales. At present, there are no plans to repurpose these sites.

The expansion aims to enhance fuel accessibility, especially in rural and underserved regions such as parts of Jammu, Kashmir Valley, Kargil, and Leh. **KNO**

Post 'Operation Sindoor', APDs informed world about Pak's chequered history, it being epicentre of terror: MEA

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 31 (KNO)

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

In a written response to the query in Rajya Sabha about the recent All Party Parliamentary delegations, which were sent to rally global support against terrorism, post the Pahalgalam terror attack, Minister of State for External Affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh, accord-

ing to the news agency, said,

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

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

the MoS said.

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

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

Quality probes crucial for convictions in NDPS cases: CS

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

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

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



Taking strong note of seriousness of the issue, the Chief Secretary underlined the critical role of comprehensive investigations in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) cases, stating that the quality and timeliness of investigations directly influence the success of prosecutions and final outcomes in courts. He emphasized the need to strengthen the investigation process to ensure effective judicial disposal of cases.

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

Further stressing the importance of account-

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

Addressing the need for robust drug de-addiction infrastructure, the Chief Secretary reviewed the availability of treatment facilities across the districts. He instructed the Health Department to augment in-patient de-

addiction services in Government Medical Colleges and District Hospitals to reduce dependence on private facilities. He also called for enhancing the capacities of the medical and paramedical staff at the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS) in order to expand the outreach of services across health institutions.

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DC Poonch chairs District-Level NCORD Committee Meeting

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 31

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting of the District-Level Committee under the Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD) to review the implementation of anti-drug measures and assess progress in combating the drug menace across the district.

The meeting was attended by SSP Shafket Hussain; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Program Officer ICDS, Chief Medical Officer, Principals of Degree Colleges, Drugs Inspector, DIO NIC, and other concerned officials. SDMs from Surankote and Mendhar, along with Tehsildars, joined the meeting virtually.

The meeting witnessed a comprehensive sub-division-wise review of anti-narcotic initiatives,



including the destruction of illicit cannabis crops and the ongoing Information, Education and Communication (IEC) campaign launched across the District. Sub-Divisional Magistrates (SDMs) and Tehsildars presented detailed reports on the actions taken since the last NCORD meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Drugs Inspector to ensure regular monitoring of CCTV footage and computerized billing systems in all chemist shops to curb the misuse of prescription

drugs. He further directed the civil and police administration to intensify surveillance, particularly in identified hotspot areas, and ensure zero tolerance for any drug-related activities.

Heads of educational institutions briefed the committee on awareness and preventive activities conducted in schools and colleges. The DC emphasized the need for mass checking drives and continuous sensitization efforts within these institutions.

The Chief Medical Offi-

cer (CMO) shared updates on counseling services, medical support systems, and awareness initiatives rolled out by the Health Department to aid individuals affected by substance abuse.

Tehsildars were instructed to take immediate action for the destruction of cannabis in their respective jurisdictions without delay.

Highlighting the importance of a multi-departmental coordinated approach, DC stressed on enhanced surveillance, installation of CCTV cameras, visible enforcement presence, and sustained awareness drives to achieve the vision of a drug-free Poonch.

SSP Poonch Shafket Hussain emphasized the need for seamless inter-departmental coordination and swift action against any reported drug activity.

DM issues prohibitory order to prevent birds hazard near Jammu Airport

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

To safeguard aircraft operations and ensure passenger safety, District Magistrate Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya has issued a prohibitory order under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, regulating waste disposal in the vicinity of Jammu Airport.

The order has been issued in response to concerns raised by Indian Air Force authorities and corroborated by the Airport Authority of India regarding the indiscriminate dumping of garbage and food waste near the airport. This unregulated waste disposal has led to increased bird activity in the area, significantly raising the risk of bird-hit incidents involving both mili-



tary and civilian aircraft.

Recognising the critical need to address this hazard, the District Magistrate has prohibited the dumping of garbage, waste materials, and edible refuse within a one-kilometre radius of Jammu Airport, including areas such as Belicharana, Satwari, Miran Sahib and Phallian Mandal.

All commercial establishments, eateries, vendors and residential colonies in the vicinity have been directed to ensure safe and scientific disposal

of waste and refrain from leaving food scraps or refuse in the open.

To implement the directive effectively, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC), Cantonment Board, and Jammu Development Authority (JDA) have been tasked with the immediate removal of open garbage dumps and the installation of signage, discouraging dumping near water bodies, drains and public spaces close to the airport.

These civic bodies are also directed to devise

and operationalise a plan for daily door-to-door collection of segregated solid waste and prepare a time-bound strategy for scientific waste management to prevent recurrence of the issue.

Furthermore, Block Development Officers of Satwari, Miran Sahib and Phallian Mandal have been instructed to carry out regular inspections to enforce compliance within their respective jurisdictions.

All concerned authorities are required to submit a weekly action taken report to the District Magistrate's office. Strict action under relevant legal provisions shall be initiated against violators of the order.

The directive comes into immediate effect and shall remain operational until further orders.

Outreach visit organised for Legal Aid Defence Counsels of B'pora to District Jail Kupwara

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 31

An outreach visit for a team of Legal Aid Defense Counsels (LADCs) of Bandipora was today conducted to the District Jail Kupwara.

This initiative was effectively overseen by Khalil Ahmad Choudhary, Chairman, DLSA (Pr. District & Sessions Judge) Bandipora, and organised under the guidance of Sheikh Babar Hussain, Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Bandipora.

The purpose of the visit was to hold interaction with the jail inmates, assess their access to legal representation, and understand any concerns or issues they might be facing inside the jail premises.

During the visit, it was observed that the total number of inmates presently lodged in District



Jail Kupwara exceeded the sanctioned capacity, highlighting a significant issue of overcrowding.

Among the incarcerated individuals, 21 inmates are residents of District Bandipora. The remaining inmates are lodged in connection with various First Information Reports (FIRs), pending investigation or trial under applicable legal provisions.

The visiting team ensured that the legal and constitutional rights of all

inmates are being safeguarded. Attention was also given to the status of legal aid, and the team documented the individual legal aid requirements of eligible inmates.

Necessary instructions have been issued for appropriate follow-up action through the District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) and other concerned agencies. The authorities have been advised to take note of the overcrowding situa-

tion and to initiate appropriate remedial measures in accordance with established norms and guidelines.

The visit was facilitated by the superintendent of District Jail, along with his team, who was present throughout the interaction.

The visiting team of LADCs comprised members including Bilal Ahmad Bhat, Chief LADC Bandipora; Iqbal Rubani Bhat, Deputy LADC; Toiba Tabasum, Deputy LADC; Wani Nawaz ul Haq, Assistant LADC; Javaid Iqbal, Assistant LADC, and Tariq Ahmad, PLV DLSA Bandipora.

This visit reflects the unwavering commitment of the Legal Services Authorities towards ensuring justice, equity, and legal aid access for all, particularly for those behind bars.

FSD Anantnag imposes Rs. 05 lakh fine on FBOs for violating FS&SA, 2006

JNEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 31

Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, who is also Adjudicating Officer, today imposed a penalty of Rs.05 lakh on various Food Business Operators (FBOs) for violating various provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006/ Rules and Regulations,

2011.

The accused during the trial of the cases filed by the Food Safety department (FSD) were convicted after they were found violating the regulatory provisions of law on the subject. During the trial, it was revealed that the FBOs had breached regulatory provisions, leading to their products being of sub-standard and misbranded qualities and

operation of high risk food businesses under unhygienic conditions.

ADC after considering the complaints filed by the Food Safety department and the submissions made by the authorized counsels on behalf of the accused came to the conclusion that the charges of contravention of aforementioned provisions of Food Safety and Standards act were substantiated and war-

ranted imposition of penalty on the accused to the extent of the provisions of Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

Further, the Food Business operators were warned to desist from fraudulent practices failing which stern action as per law shall follow against those who are found violating the different provisions of Food Safety & Standards Act, 2006.

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



JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

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

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

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

The proceedings were

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

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

The proposed budget incorporates a wide spectrum of initiatives targeting the upliftment of rural and urban areas alike, with emphasis on Area Development Grants allocated to DDCs, BDCs and Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to support local governance and grassroots development; Aspirational Block Development Programme (ABDDP) and Aspirational Panchayat Development Programme (APDP) aimed

at transforming underdeveloped blocks and panchayats through targeted interventions; Infrastructure and service delivery enhancements across critical sectors, including Public Works Department (PWD), Education (Elementary and Secondary), Health, Youth Services & Sports, Samridh Seema Yojana (SSY) and Public Health Engineering (PHE).

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

Acknowledging the importance of timely planning, the Chair directed that all supplementary proposals must be formally submitted by 12:00 noon on July 31, 2025, for consideration in the revised Capex Budget. In the absence of new submissions by the deadline, the initially proposed budget

will be deemed final and approved.

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

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

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

CS reviews preparations of J&K varsities for nationwide Yuva Connect Programme

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

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

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

The Chief Secretary enquired from all the 10 Vice-Chancellors of the Universities about their preparations being made for both the pre-event activities and the main event to be held nationally on 12th of August.

He called upon them to devise a calendar of activities for all the pre-event activities to be implemented without any fail. He also



encouraged them to motivate all the students for registration on My Bharat portal and make the activities engaging and informative as per the broad counter of this programme.

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

He revealed that on this day the Prime Minister will address the youth in all these institutions. But

before that introduction to My Bharat portal had to be made in all these institutions. The PM's address had to be followed by display of Viksit Bharat presentation, holding of Yuva Samvad (Youth Parliament) in these universities besides Viksit Bharat Shapath (Pledge) and felicitations of winners.

The program also envisages conduct of activities to promote the spirit of Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan (Drug-Free India Campaign). These activities included training and awareness generation with children, adolescents, youth and master volunteers, Sports and physi-

cal activities, seminars, webinars or workshops for awareness generation besides holding of nukkad natak, skits and plays, flash mobs, drives, painting competitions and rallies as a prelude to the main event before few days.

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

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 31

SKUAST K- JKICP, Incubation and startup cell in collaboration with SKUAST K Innovation, Incubation & Entrepreneurship center Shalimar & KVK Kulgam kick started two-day Boot Camp/Ideation event aimed at identifying, mentoring, handholding, and supporting aspiring and early-stage Agri-entrepreneurs in the field of agriculture and allied sectors to resolve societal problems. The event marks a critical step in building a robust rural innovation and Agri-entrepreneurial ecosystem in the region. It seeks to unlock the potential of youth, local innovators, and Agri-preneurs to develop sustainable, tech-enabled, and scalable solutions for agricultural challenges in the region.

The Inaugural session was graced by Head KVK Kulgam, Prof. Manzoor A Ganai; CEO/Head SKIIE Centre, Dr. Naveed Hamid; Dr. Mohammad Mubashir,



Manager Incubation JKICP SKUAST-K, scientists of Kendra, members from different FPOs, SHGs, NGOs, aspiring entrepreneurs, Agri-tech enthusiasts, innovators and rural youth.

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

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

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

Addressing the participants, CEO/Head SKIIE centre, urged the aspiring entrepreneurs to think beyond conventional

boundaries, embrace creativity, and actively engage in the evolving start-up ecosystem.

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

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

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

Nasha Mukt J&K Abhiyan: Short plays staged at GGHSS Zadibal & GGHSS Amira Kadal

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 29

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

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

The play, performed by a local artist group, effectively portrayed the emo-



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

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

Burhan Hussain, Cultural Officer DIPR, empha-

sized the role of cultural engagement in community sensitization and praised the students for their enthusiastic participation.

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

Similarly at GGHSS Zadibal, a short play focusing on drug de-addiction and its social consequences was delivered by a local artist group. Their moving

performance portrayed the emotional and psychological toll of substance abuse, striking a powerful chord with the students and faculty alike.

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

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

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

Series of farmers' awareness camps held in Basohli Zone to promote fruit plantation in rainy season

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

To encourage fruit plantation in the current rainy season, the Department of Horticulture Kathua organised a series of farmers' awareness cum interaction programs in the Basohli Zone.

The awareness camps were held at Athoon, Dambra West and Sabar Panchayats in Manpur block and at Plahi, Prehta, Plassi and Jhankar Panchayats, attracting a large number of Farmers and Farm women



of the area.

District Level Subject Matter Specialist (Pomology) Sandeep Gupta chaired the programmes in presence of the HDO Sanjiv Andotra, Horticulture Tech-

nicians Arjun Sharma and Kartik Kumar Sharma.

The Programs were organised on the direction of the Chief Horticulture Officer Ashwani Sharma.

Sandeep Gupta, while interacting with the Farmers and Farm Women, briefed them about the Departmental Schemes and Programs presently under implementation in the District. He said the rainy season is the best time for planting of Fruit trees in the Sub-tropical areas. He urged them to

keep close liaison with the field functionaries of the Horticulture Department to avail maximum benefit from the Departmental Schemes.

Horticulture Development Officer Basohli educated the participants about the component wise incentives available under different schemes and asked them to come forward to avail it. The participants put forth different queries regarding Horticulture activities which were addressed on the spot by the Departmental experts.

BBBP: Awareness programme held at Govt. RMHSS Keegam Shopian

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 31

A vibrant and impactful programme under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) initiative was today organised at Government RMHSS Keegam, Shopian.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from a large gathering of female students from various schools falling under the educational zone Keegam.

The highlight of the event was a seminar where eminent speakers and subject experts delivered insightful talks on the importance of girls' education and the empowerment of women. They emphasized the need to ensure



equal opportunities for girls and promote awareness regarding their rights and potential.

In addition, students themselves took the stage to deliver powerful speeches reflecting their understanding and commitment towards the cause of women empowerment and gender equality.

To further engage and

inspire the participants, a series of competitions were held including Essay Writing, Painting, and Slogan Writing. The events drew enthusiastic participation, and the winners and participants were felicitated with mementoes and certificates as a token of appreciation and encouragement.

The programme culmi-

nated with an inspiring address by the Principal of Govt. RMHSS Keegam, who highlighted the pivotal role of girls' education in nation-building. She also threw light on various interventions under the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme and other government initiatives aimed at the welfare and upliftment of women.

DIET Jammu trains 55 Educators as First-Response Counselors under NEP 2020-Manodarpan

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

In a decisive step toward ensuring emotional well-being of school students and building psychosocial resilience in schools, DIET Jammu successfully concluded a three-day Capacity Building Program on "Teacher as first level Counsellor" here at Government Higher Secondary School Bakshi Nagar.

The move marks a strategic milestone in advancing the objectives of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the Manodarpan Initiative of the Ministry of Education and the UMED Mental Health Guidelines.

Pertinently, the training was conducted just days after the Supreme Court of India issued guidelines mandating all educational institutions to prioritise student mental health, making this intervention both timely and aligned with evolving national priorities.

The program was spearheaded by Principal, DIET Jammu R.G. Dogra and academically mentored by Joint Director, SCERT Jammu Division, Prof. (Dr.) Sindhu Kapoor.

Principal, GHSS Bakshi Nagar, Jabeen Akhtar graced the inaugural session as Special Guest. Joint Director Elementary Education Romi Kumar graced the valedictory function with his benign presence



The sessions were led by a multidisciplinary panel of experts who blended clinical insight with practical school-based strategies.

The training brought together 58 educators, including teachers, masters and lecturers from each cluster head schools from across all educational zones of Jammu district, united by a shared mission—to transform schools into emotionally safe and nurturing environments where students thrive both academically and psychologically.

Participants were introduced to the evolving role of teachers as first-response counsellors, highlighting the need to go beyond academic instruction and serve as emotional anchors for students. The training covered key domains including child psychology, core counselling skills, Psychological First Aid (PFA), social-emotional learning (SEL), and the creation of emotionally supportive classrooms. Teacher well-being was a central theme, with facilitators reinforcing that

"happy teachers create happy classrooms."

R.G. Dogra emphasized the importance of activity-based learning, identified teachers as frontline counsellors, and advocated for integrating yoga and meditation in school assemblies to foster positivity and mental balance.

While Speaking on the occasion, Prof. Dr. Sindhu Kapoor linked NEP 2020's holistic vision with Indian philosophical frameworks, elaborating on the five koshas—Annamaya (physical body), Pranamaya (breath/energy), Manomaya (emotions), Vijnanamaya (wisdom) and Anandamaya (inner joy)—as essential dimensions to be nurtured in true education.

Under the guidance of Principal DIET Jammu, the training followed an experiential and reflective pedagogy. Role-plays, storytelling, reflection circles, videos, Baal Geets, Music and mock counselling sessions created space for deep introspection. Many teachers shared personal experiences, visibly moved by the realiza-

tion that their presence, tone, and empathy could dramatically alter a child's emotional journey.

The program was enriched by the presence of a distinguished ensemble of mental health professionals who brought diverse expertise to the training sessions. Dr. Romesh Kumar, Psychologist and Head of Department at DIET Jammu, served as the lead facilitator and program anchor, providing a unifying psychological and pedagogical framework.

The program featured expert inputs from Dr. Rajinder Kumar, Psychiatrist at GMC Jammu, on adolescent mental health; Manpreet Kour, Counsellor at GMC Jammu who conducted counselling skill sessions; Dr. Rachna, clinical psychologist who introduced Psychological First Aid; Dr. Alka Sharma, who shared school-based counselling practices; Shria Abrol, RCI certified child psychologist who addressed child safety and protection; and a resource person from the Piramal Foundation, who presented the SEEL framework blending ethics, mindfulness, and compassion.

In his closing remarks at valedictory function Romi Kumar stated that "Every school must envision a trained counsellor, but more importantly, every teacher must walk into the classroom with emotional literacy.

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 31

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

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

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



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

FLOs of Block Nagseni and Thakrie were specifically instructed to motivate

the local farmers to apply and avail the benefits of the Project.

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

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

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

The District Sheep Husbandry Department was asked to expedite application collection and conduct the District Level Implementation Commit-

tee (DLIC) meeting for approved cases. A total of 38 applications have been received in this sector.

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

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

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

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

DC Jammu reviews defence land acquisition cases

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, chaired a meeting to review the status of pending and ongoing land acquisition cases pertaining to defence requirements in

the district.

The meeting was attended by all Sub-Divisional Magistrates of the district, Defence Estates Officers from Jammu and Udhampur, besides other senior officers. During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasised the need

for coordinated efforts to ensure the timely resolution of all land acquisition issues and directed the concerned officers to expedite the processing of cases as per the prescribed guidelines. He called for close monitoring of the progress on each case and urged the

officers to take proactive measures for early removal of any bottlenecks.

The Defence Estates Officers briefed the chair on specific cases, while the SDMs provided updates on the status of land records and other matters in their respective subdivisions.

MLA Arvind holds Public Darbaar at BJP HQs

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

Arvind Gupta, MLA from Jammu West Assembly Constituency, held a Public Darbaar at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The Darbaar served as an effective platform where citizens shared concerns pertaining to infrastructure development, public service delivery, and local administration. Residents brought forth a wide range of issues, including delayed drainage projects, malfunctioning streetlights, irregular garbage collection, and challenges in accessing welfare schemes.

In his address, Arvind Gupta emphasized the



BJP's ongoing efforts to bridge the gap between citizens and government institutions. He assured the attendees that their grievances would not only be documented but would also be followed up with the respective departments for swift action.

Arvind Gupta said that

such public outreach mechanisms are a core component of BJP's governance model, which is based on transparency, responsiveness, and accountability. "Our aim is to ensure that no citizen feels ignored or neglected. These Public Darbaars are an open channel where people can con-

nect directly with their elected representatives without any bureaucratic hurdles," he said.

Highlighting the impact of these initiatives, Gupta added that several previously raised issues have already been resolved through departmental coordination and on-ground monitoring. He reiterated the party's resolve to carry forward the practice of holding regular Darbaars not just at the party headquarters but also in different wards and blocks across the constituency.

He urged the public to remain proactive and to treat these platforms as a democratic right and tool for problem resolution.

One-Day Lecture Series Organized: Experts Shed Light on Drug De-addiction, Cyber Crime, Dangers of Chinese Manja (Gattu)

Sanskrit promotes truth, purity, discipline: Sanjeev Verma



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

On the auspicious occasion of Sanskrit Month, a grand one-day lecture series and seminar was organized today at the auditorium of Dewan Devi Higher Secondary School, Shakti Nagar (near Bawa Place), Jammu, with the dual aim of promoting the divine language Sanskrit and spreading social awareness. The event was jointly organized by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust and Dewan Devi High School, Jammu.

The Chief Guest of the program was Mr. Sanjeev Verma, Chief Electoral Officer, Jammu & Kashmir; the Guest of Honour was Mr. Kameshwar Puri, Superintendent of Police (Operations and Cyber Crime); and the Keynote Speaker was senior journalist Mr. Pradeep Dutta.

The objective of this lecture series was to raise awareness among students and youth about the dangers of drug addiction, protection against cyber crimes, and the life-threatening hazards of Chinese manja (gattu). Simultaneously, the event also aimed to highlight the cultural, educational, and

societal relevance of the Sanskrit language.

In his address, Mr. Sanjeev Verma, Chief Guest, stated, "Addiction is a social evil that darkens the future of youth. Such awareness programs are extremely important in bringing positive change to society. Addiction numbs self-awareness, suppresses intellect, and leads society towards decline." He further added, "Sanskrit is a language that promotes truth, purity, and self-discipline - values that can serve as a guiding light in today's social challenges." Mr. Verma also highly appreciated the efforts of Mahant Rohit Shastri, President of Shri Kailakh Trust, for promoting Sanskrit while also addressing contemporary issues.

Mr. Kameshwar Puri, the Guest of Honour, remarked, "In the digital age, cyber crimes are on the rise, and public awareness is crucial to prevent them." He emphasized the importance of vigilance, strong passwords, two-factor authentication, avoiding fraudulent links, and monitoring children's digital behavior. He stated, "De-addiction is not merely a medical concern, but a matter of moral and social consciousness."

Citing the Sanskrit verse "Na hi jñānena sad iśā pavitram iha vidyate" (There is nothing more purifying than knowledge), he emphasized that knowledge is the best tool for de-addiction.

Senior journalist Mr. Pradeep Dutta, addressing the students, said, "It is the duty of the media to guide society in the right direction. Both drug addiction and cyber crime are eroding the roots of modern society. Combating them requires a revival of Sanskrit values, awareness, and collective efforts." He asserted that "wisdom, intellect, and cultural connection alone can dispel this darkness."

Renowned physician Dr. Vishva Gupta spoke on the hazards of Chinese manja, stating that it is not only dangerous to human life, but also poses a serious threat to birds, animals, and electric lines.

Mahant Rohit Shastri, State Awardee and President of Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust, said, "Sanskrit is not merely a language but an art of living. The moral aphorisms contained within it inspire individuals toward self-restraint, discernment, and righteous conduct." Quoting

the verse "Dharmo rakati rakita" (Dharma protects those who protect it), he said that the preservation of religion and culture is essential for the protection of society.

Mr. Ashwani Suri, Managing Director of Dewan Devi School, stated, "Our aim is to provide students not only with bookish knowledge but also practical insights into real-life challenges. This lecture series was guided by this very objective."

On this occasion, Dr. Vishva Gupta, Pramod Sharma, Amit Jamwal, Lucky Sharma, Honey Singh, Uttam Chand Sharma, and a large number of students, parents, teachers, intellectuals, and social workers were present. All attendees praised the program and described it as inspiring for the holistic development of students.

The dignified presence of media representatives further enhanced the impact and reach of the event. The organizers expressed their heartfelt gratitude to all participants and reaffirmed their commitment to organizing such public awareness programs in the future.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

J&K offers vast...

"and we welcome our friends from Gujarat to explore, invest, and be part of our growth story."

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

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

CM inaugurates Travel...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Only 2 lakh smart...

The RDSS, launched in 2021, aims to modernise power infrastructure, reduce AT&C losses, and promote prepaid smart metering across the country. KNO

'Zero power deficit...

Union Government, which has implemented key reforms in grid management, enhanced hydroelectric generation schedules, and facilitated participation in the Real-Time Market (RTM) for electricity. These measures have collectively played a crucial role in maintaining uninterrupted power supply during peak summer demand. In contrast, states such as Kerala and Jharkhand have continued to experience electricity shortfalls during the same period. Jammu and Kashmir's consistent zero-deficit record stands out as a noteworthy example of effective power sector planning, especially considering its difficult terrain and historically complex grid infrastructure.

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

Centre urged J&K and Ladakh...

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

In its recommendations, the parliamentary panel had recommended to the ministry to take up the issue of holding Panchayat polls with the State governments. ".....the Committee strongly recommend that Ministry of MoPR should take up this matter at the highest level to ensure that purpose of 73rd Constitutional Amendment Bill may not be defeated by non-holding of Panchayat election by the State Government," reads the committee's recommendation.

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

Quality probes crucial...

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

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

Additionally, 181 cases under the PIT-NDPS Act were registered, resulting in the apprehension of 58 key drug traffickers through thorough backward and forward link investigations. Furthermore, 220 drug hotspots were identified including 20 newly identified areas of which 33 hotspots had been dismantled. A total of 413 arrests were made in these areas. Likewise, the property attachment actions were taken in 45 cases, involving 35 buildings and 13 vehicles linked to the drug trade. Assets worth Rs39 crore were frozen or seized, with relevant entries recorded in land revenue documents, the meeting was informed.

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

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

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

Jammu Set to Shine on Global Stage: Balwant Thakur

JJ NEWS SERVICE
LONDON, 31ST JULY 2025

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

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

Speaking with passionate clarity, Mr. Thakur stressed the artistic richness of Indian theatre and lamented the lack of institutional support it receives. "While Indian theatre possesses all the essential creative ele-



ments, it suffers due to the absence of government patronage, societal prioritisation, and public engagement," he noted. "In contrast, theatre in the West, especially in countries like England, is generously supported by both state and civil society. If similar structures existed in India, theatre could very well become a transformative economic and cultural force."

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

theatre, opening avenues for generations of diasporic voices.

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

In a promising development, Mr. Thakur engaged in dialogue with Professor Jerri Daboo, a prominent

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

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

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

Affectionate farewell accorded to Director Agriculture Jammu S. Arvinder Singh Reen

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

The officers and staff of the Agriculture Production & Farmers Welfare Department, Jammu, bid a warm and affectionate farewell to S. Arvinder Singh Reen, Director Agriculture Jammu, who superannuated today after rendering over 39 years of dedicated service to the department.

A heartfelt farewell function was organized at the Directorate of Agriculture Jammu to honour S. A.S Reen for his remarkable contribution to the department and the farming community.

Joint Directors, Chief Agriculture Officers of Jammu Division, sectoral heads, senior officers and staff extended best wishes



to the retiring officer. Director Agriculture Kashmir Jenab Sartaj Ahmad Shah and Staff of Directorate of Kashmir attended the farewell function through video conferencing.

Additional Mission Director HADP/Joint Director Extension Satish Sharma lauded his exemplary service, professionalism, and unwavering commitment towards agricultural development and

farmer welfare.

Speaking on the occasion Satish Sharma said that one of his most notable achievements includes the rapid implementation of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP). S. A.S Reen led the charge in the implementation of HADP and various Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS), ensuring structured development and capacity-building of

the farming community and reflecting his commitment to fast-track development and ensure timely execution of critical agricultural schemes.

Joint Director (Inputs) Dr. Ashwani Kumar Sharma said that a highly accomplished and visionary officer, S. Arvinder Singh Reen has made unparalleled contributions across various domains of agriculture, leaving a lasting legacy that will continue to shape the sector for years to come.

Senior officers from Agriculture Production Department, Director Agriculture Kashmir and officers from other districts also conveyed their warm wishes and heartfelt appreciation to S. A.S Reen.

Dy CM visits bereaved families of teachers at Ghordi

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 31

Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary today visited Block Ghordi in District Udhampur to meet the grieving families of two government school teachers who lost their lives in a tragic incident at Jalebi Morh near Sanasar.

The deceased teachers namely Jagdev Singh, posted at Primary School Patyaur and Sanjay Kumar, serving at Primary School SC Mohalla, Batota Zone



Ghordi were both residents of Block Ghordi, died in a tragic accident yesterday.

The Dy CM expressed deep sorrow and shock over the unfortunate incident. He offered heartfelt

condolences to the bereaved families, praying for eternal peace to the departed souls and strength to the families to bear this irreparable loss.

In his condolence message, Surinder Choudhary conveyed his sympathies and reassured the families that the government would extend all possible support and assistance during this difficult time.

District Fund office Shopian conducts 'Financial Literacy Camp'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 31

To enhance financial knowledge among department staff, including accountants and accounts assistants particularly on matters of GPF, SLI and online services, District Fund office Shopian today

organized a financial literacy camp at Shopian.

During the event, the role of different online services for financial management was highlighted by the District Fund Officer. He sensitized participants regarding the benefits of SLI policy for employees who were

asked to register for the pension scheme.

He said the scheme provides financial security to employees and their families through a life insurance policy.

"The office seeks to improve financial management and decision-making, which can con-

tribute to better governance and more effective use of resources," he added.

The program was attended by the officers/ officials of different departments as well the staff of the District Treasury and District Fund office.

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 31

A week-long training programme for elementary teachers under the 'Classes of Joy' initiative concluded today in Kulgam.

The training was organised by the District Administration in collaboration with Pratham Education Foundation and the School Education Department.

It aimed to enhance the capacity of teachers in bridging foundational learning gaps among students in Classes 3 to 5.

The initiative based on the Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) approach is being implemented across all 458 primary and middle

schools of the district to improve foundational literacy and numeracy.

Over 2,100 elementary teachers were trained in multiple batches, with each session accommodating 300 participants every day.

Teachers also received teaching-learning material to support implementation.

The valedictory session which was held here at Conference hall today, was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan.

He appreciated the active participation and commitment of teachers, and emphasised the need

to make classrooms joyful, engaging and focused on students' actual learning levels.

DC stated that the most joyful place for a child should be the classroom and teachers have a crucial role in shaping a child's future. He said gaps in learning do exist, but with the right approach, we can overcome them.

He urged all teachers to implement the methods learnt during this training in their classrooms.

The training focused on identifying learning gaps through simple assessments, grouping children according to their learning levels, and using activity-based methods to improve

foundational skills. It also aimed to build teachers' ability to provide level-specific instruction.

On the occasion, teachers shared their feedback, describing the training as practical and relevant to the challenges they face. They appreciated the activity-based teaching approach and expressed the need for more such capacity-building programmes in the future.

Also present in the session were Additional Deputy Commissioner Kulgam, Viqar Giri; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; CEO, Mohammad Shabir and other officers and stakeholders from the education department.

Sakeena Itoo, Javid Dar visit GMC Handwara

Visit family of deceased Govt teacher, offer condolences

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 31

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



Behnipora Handwara.

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

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

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

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

Shantmanu flags off 'SCERT on Wheels' in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

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

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

Organised by the SCERT, J&K, under the aegis of the 52nd RBVP sponsored by the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT), New Delhi, the event marked a significant step towards promoting the scientific temperament and innovation among the students.

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



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

Addressing the seminar, Shantmanu expressed heartfelt appreciation to the organisers for curating such impactful and community-driven initiatives. He also interacted with the students and inspected a range of scientific models developed by the student participants from various districts.

"I am highly impressed with the remarkable creativity and innovation displayed by the students. The models showcased

today reflect a deep understanding of critical issues and a promising future led by young minds," he stated.

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

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

He further reflected on the concept of Navachar (innovation), calling it a "fresh way of thinking and reformed conduct that brings about positive change and offers a new direction to the world." He urged the educators to continue nurturing innovative thinking and collaborative learning in schools. He emphasized that such creativity should be acknowledged and rewarded.

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

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

NEP UTSAV 2025: Sports events held at GHSS Ghagwal on Day 3

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 31

As a part of the 5th Anniversary celebration of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 Government Higher Secondary School Ghagwal marked the day three of festivities with an array of vibrant sports events to promote physical well-being, team spirit among the students in alignment with NEP 2020's vision.

The event was inaugurated by the Chief Education Officer Kewal Krishan, who graced the occasion as the chief guest. He inaugurated the event by tossing the coin for a volleyball match.

Multiple sports competitions were organized, including Track Races, Volleyball and traditional games which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students across all grades. The school grounds echoed with cheers and team spirit as students demonstrated their athletic talents and competitive zeal. Teachers, staff members



and students played an integral role in organizing and coordinating the events, making the celebration a true reflection of community spirit and educational reform.

The CEO encouraged the students for playing the traditional games like Stappu, Santolia, Gulli-Danda, Baraha-taan etc. He emphasized the significance of games and sports and urged the players to play the games with discipline by saying "Play the Game and Play it well".

The third day of NEP 2020 celebration concluded on a high note, with prize distribution to winners and a vote

of thanks extended by the Principal and ZEO to all

who contributed to the success of the event.

NORTHERN RAILWAY
Notice Inviting Tender

Sr. DEE/TRS/LDH acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders against Tender No 2025-26-04. Bidders will be able to submit their original/ revised bids upto closing date 25.08.2025 at 15:00 Hrs. only. Manual offers are not allowed against these tenders and any such manual offer received shall not be considered. Bidders are allowed to make payments against this tender towards cost of tender document and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand Draft, Banker's cheque, Deposit receipts, FDRs etc. are not allowed.

Tender No.	Name of work	App. Cost. (Rs)	Cost of tender form (Rs)	Date & time of submission of tender	Earnest Money (Rs)	Completion period	Opening of tender	Website Particulars
2025-26-04	Modification in under slung compressor mounting legs of WAG-9H (3 Phase) locomotives of Electric Loco Shed, Ludhiana as per RDSO Modification sheet No. RDSO/2022/EL/MS/0484, Rev '0' dated 24/01/2022 or latest.	34,79,560.25/-	0	Upto 25.08.2025 15:00 Hrs.	69,600/-	12 Months	25.08.2025 at or after 15:30 Hrs.	www.ireps.gov.in

Tender Notice No. 230-Elect/TRS/LDH/WC/CP Mounting Leg/OT/2025-26/04 Dated: 31-07-2025 2344/2025

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04081	23:45	New Delhi	10:30	04082	---
00:58	01:00	Panipat	07:30	07:32	---
01:43	01:45	Kurukshetra Jn.	06:48	06:50	---
02:32	02:40	Ambala Cantt.	05:50	05:55	---
04:06	04:16	Dhandari Kalan	04:00	04:10	---
05:26	05:28	Jalandhar Cantt.	02:45	02:50	---
07:15	07:20	Pathankot Cantt.	00:45	00:50	---
09:15	09:25	Jammu Tawi	23:00	23:05	---
11:08	11:10	Martyr Captain Tushar Mahajan	21:48	21:50	---
11:40	---	Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra	---	21:20	---

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EDITORIAL

NEP @5: Laying the foundation for Viksit Bharat

Education system needs holistic reforms

The education system in Jammu and Kashmir is mired in glaring administrative lapses, which are undermining the quality of education, especially in its remote and mountainous regions. The recent data reveals a troubling paradox: while over 1,300 government schools operate with just a single teacher for thousands of students, 119 schools with no enrolled students have been allocated an average of two teachers each. Such irrational deployment of human resources exemplifies the systemic dysfunction crippling public education in the Union Territory. According to a report, J&K has a total of 24,296 government schools enrolling 26.29 lakh students. The average ratio of teachers per school stands at seven, and students at 108 per school. However, this broad statistic masks severe disparities and imbalances in the ground realities. The adverse effects of this irrational deployment extend beyond mere numbers. With inadequate teaching staff in far-flung areas, students are deprived of quality education, personalized attention, and timely academic guidance. Resources remain squandered where there are zero students, pointing to a lack of data-driven decision-making and accountability within the education administration. The School Education Department's recent step to form district-level committees aimed at rationalizing teacher deployment is a positive move. Redeploying staff from closed or merged schools to those with higher enrollment could improve the teacher-student ratio and enhance learning outcomes. However, this process must be transparent, efficient, and ongoing to address long-standing disparities rather than providing a one-time fix. Infrastructure woes add another layer of complexity to the education crisis. Basic facilities such as separate toilets for girls and boys remain absent in thousands of schools, compromising not only hygiene but also the dignity and safety of students. The fact that over 3,500 schools operate without electricity is an unacceptable barrier in a world increasingly driven by technology and digital learning. While government initiatives like kitchen gardens and solar panel installations were introduced with great promise, their sluggish progress reflects poor execution and lack of follow-through. The digital divide is stark, with less than half of government schools equipped with internet connectivity and just over 10,000 having computers—despite the global shift towards digital education tools. These persistent issues are particularly distressing given the substantial funds allocated under the Central government's Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan scheme—Rs 1,721.60 crore sanctioned for 2024-25 alone, with over Rs 823 crore already released. The challenge is not the absence of financial resources but their optimal utilization to ensure equitable access, improved quality, and infrastructural development. The education system in Jammu and Kashmir stands at a critical juncture. Rational teacher deployment must be prioritized to prevent wastage and address shortages, especially in remote areas. Infrastructure deficits require urgent attention to provide a safe and conducive learning environment. Most importantly, there is a need for administrative accountability, data-driven planning, and community engagement to restore faith in the public schooling system. Only then can Jammu and Kashmir hope to fulfill the promise of education as a transformative tool for its youth and the region's future.

BY DHARMENDRA PRADHAN

In 2020, India did more than release a policy, it rekindled an ancient ideal. With the National Education Policy, learning was once again placed at the heart of nation-building, drawing from our civilisational wisdom to shape the possibilities of the future. Framed through one of the most participatory policy-making processes in our nation's history and guided by the foresight of (Late) Dr. K. Kasturirangan, whose contribution we deeply honour, NEP 2020 was not merely a policy document. It was a visionary roadmap rooted in our cultural values, reimagining learning as a process free from the confines of rote memorisation, rigid structures, and linguistic hierarchies. It set the stage for an education system that is holistic, inclusive, and future-ready, an education that empowers every learner to thrive in a rapidly changing world.

Five years on, the NEP's transformational impact is visible not just in policy corridors but across classrooms, campuses, and communities. It has redefined both the structure and spirit of India's education system, holistic in approach, learner-centric in design, and equitable in reach.

Today, NEP's imprint can be seen in early childhood classrooms where joyful, play-based learning is displacing rote memorisation; in schools where children read with fluency in their mother tongue; in vocational labs where Class 6 students explore hands-on skills; and in research hubs where India's knowledge systems engage in dialogue with cutting-edge science. It is reflected in the rise of women in STEM fields, in the growing global presence of Indian institutions, in inclusive classrooms that embrace diversity, and in the renewed belief that learning must be a lifelong pursuit.

Our foremost priority has been to rebuild the foundation of learning. The NIPUN Bharat Mis-

sion has been instrumental in bringing about a positive impact with significant improvement in learning outcomes by ensuring that all children attain foundational literacy and numeracy by Grade 2 as envisioned in NEP 2020. NIPUN Bharat's success, reflected in ASER 2024 and the PARAKH Rashtriya Sarvekshan 2024, which has turned classrooms into spaces of curiosity and comprehension, not just compliance.

Initiatives like Vidya Pravesh and the institutionalisation of Balvatikas have laid a strong foundation for integrating early childhood care and education across the country.

Further supporting this is the development of new age textbooks and the introduction of Jaadui Pitara and e-Jaadui Pitara in 22 Indian languages. More than 14 lakh teachers have completed NISHTHA training, and platforms like DIKSHA have expanded access to high-quality teaching resources nationwide.

Equally foundational is the policy's focus on language. NEP recognised that language is not a hurdle but a powerful medium of empowerment. With 117 language primers developed and the introduction of Indian Sign Language as a subject, the vision of multilingual, inclusive education is being realised at scale. These efforts not only enhance cognitive skills but reinforce a child's cultural identity. Initiatives like the Bhartiya Bhasha Pustak Yojana and the National Digital Depository for Indian Knowledge Systems will further democratise access to linguistic and civilisational learning.

Subsequently, the NEP has reimagined new curriculum and textbooks for igniting curiosity and critical thinking among students. The National Curriculum Framework for School Education (NCF-SE) and new textbooks for Grades 1-8 are already in place, promoting competency-based learning and integration across disciplines. The bridge programs for curriculum transition and experiential learning initiatives like Prerana

are ensuring students are not overwhelmed, but supported through each phase.

With the vibrant efforts of centrally sponsored schemes like Samagra Shiksha and PM POSHAN, India has achieved near-universal enrolment, with GER reaching 91.7% at the elementary level, and steady gains at the secondary level. The focus now is on improving learning outcomes across all levels of school education.

The NEP's reach has also extended to previously underserved populations. More than 7.12 lakh girls from disadvantaged groups are enrolled in over 5,138 Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalayas, over 490 hostels have been sanctioned for PVTG learners and 692 hostels under Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utarkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA).

These efforts to expand equitable access and reduce drop-outs reflect another defining achievement of NEP 2020, universal access to school education. With stronger infrastructure, inclusive programs like PRASHAST for disability screening, and new digital tools, the schooling system is becoming more resilient and inclusive.

A key driver of this transformation is the establishment of 14,500 PM SHRI Schools. These modern, inclusive, and green institutions are being developed as exemplar schools aligned with the NEP vision, redefining infrastructure and pedagogy while catalyzing innovation and best practices in their regions.

To foster community engagement, the Vidyanjali platform has connected over 8.2 lakh schools with more than 5.3 lakh volunteers and 2000 CSR partners, directly benefiting 1.7 crore students. It is an extraordinary example of Jan Bhagidari, strengthening the learning ecosystem through shared responsibility.

In higher education, the transformation is no less profound. Total enrolment has risen from 3.42 crore to 4.46 crore, a 30.5% increase. Women now comprise nearly 48% of all students, and

female PhD enrolment has more than doubled from 0.48 lakh to 1.12 lakh.

This expansion in enrolment, especially for SC, ST, OBC, and minority students, marks a historic achievement for inclusivity in higher education. Female GER has surpassed male GER for six consecutive years, an inspiring testament to NEP's equity vision.

Parallel to this, the structural fabric of higher education has been reshaped. The introduction of Multiple Entry and Exit (MEME), the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) with over 21.12 crore APAAR IDs issued, and the National Credit Framework (NCF) have provided unprecedented flexibility and mobility. With 153 universities offering multiple entry and 74 offering multiple exit options, learning is no longer linear, it is modular, student-driven, and future-ready.

The operationalisation of these frameworks, MEME, ABC, and NCF, has made India one of the few countries to support lifelong learning through such integrated digital academic systems.

NEP's emphasis on research and innovation has already yielded dividends. From improving India's Global Innovation Index rank from 81st to 39th, to incubating over 18,000 start-ups across 400 HEIs, our campuses are fast becoming innovation hubs. The Anusandhan NRF, revamped PMRF 2.0, and the 6,000 crore One Nation One Subscription initiative further demonstrate our commitment to democratising and decentralising access to research.

Technology continues to be a driving force. Platforms like SWAYAM and SWAYAM Plus have collectively recorded over 5.3 crore enrolments, and with the support of initiatives like DIKSHA and PM E-Vidya with over 200 DTH Channels, are making high-quality content available to learners across the country.

The success of India's digital learning ecosystem, including the roll-out of biannual admis-

sions, dual degree regulations, has made higher education more inclusive, interdisciplinary, and industry-relevant.

India's rising academic standing is now reflected globally. In the QS World University Rankings 2026, 54 Indian institutions made the list, up from just 11 in 2014. Simultaneously, global universities like Deakin, Wollongong, and Southampton have set up campuses in India, a testament to our growing credibility and ambition.

This transformative journey is being celebrated through the Akhil Bharatiya Shiksha Samagam, but more importantly, it is being measured in the quiet confidence of millions of learners, teachers, and parents. NEP 2020 was never an announcement. It is an unfolding renaissance, not marked by noise but by depth, not by speed but by scale.

Yet, we remain mindful of the road ahead. We must continue to green our campuses, expand critical research infrastructure, nurture talent in frontier technologies, and deepen learning outcomes in every district. Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we have realised that education is not just policy, it is our greatest national investment, our moral compass, and our collective promise to the future.

The flame that was lit in 2020 now lights up every corner of our education system. But its true purpose is to spark a million more, across homes, hearts, and horizons. Yatra vidya, tatra pragati, where there is learning, there is progress. A billion minds, unshackled and empowered, are not just a demographic dividend; they are the supernova of a new India.

This is Bharat's sankalp, unfolding each day in the luminous dreams of children who now believe they can soar high while staying rooted, and who will shape the destiny of a developed India.

(Union Minister for Education, Government of India. Views expressed are personal)

How India's UPI Rewired the Global Payment Network

SUNDAR SUNDARAJAN

Ten years. That's all it took for India's UPI to do what Visa couldn't in forty – dominate daily digital payments at a global scale. With 650 million transactions a day, UPI hasn't just overtaken Visa. It has redrawn the financial networks map, forcing the world to rethink payments in a digital-first economy.

When India launched the Unified Payments Interface (UPI) in 2016, few expected a system from a cash-reliant country to become the world's most-used real-time payment network. By 2025, it surpassed Visa's peak of 639 million daily transactions – a milestone unmatched in four decades.

Openness by Design
UPI is not the story of a single app – it is the story of a nation's transition from disconnected financial systems to a cohesive, democratically designed digital infrastructure.

UPI's rise wasn't a startup story. It was a convergence of visionary regulation, public digital infrastructure, and private innovation. To understand this shift, one must first understand the terrain India started from. Digital payments were fragmented. Card usage was low outside cities. Wallets were closed systems – each with separate logins, fees, and barriers. Transfers were slow, costly, and limited in reach. Meanwhile, the government pushed founda-

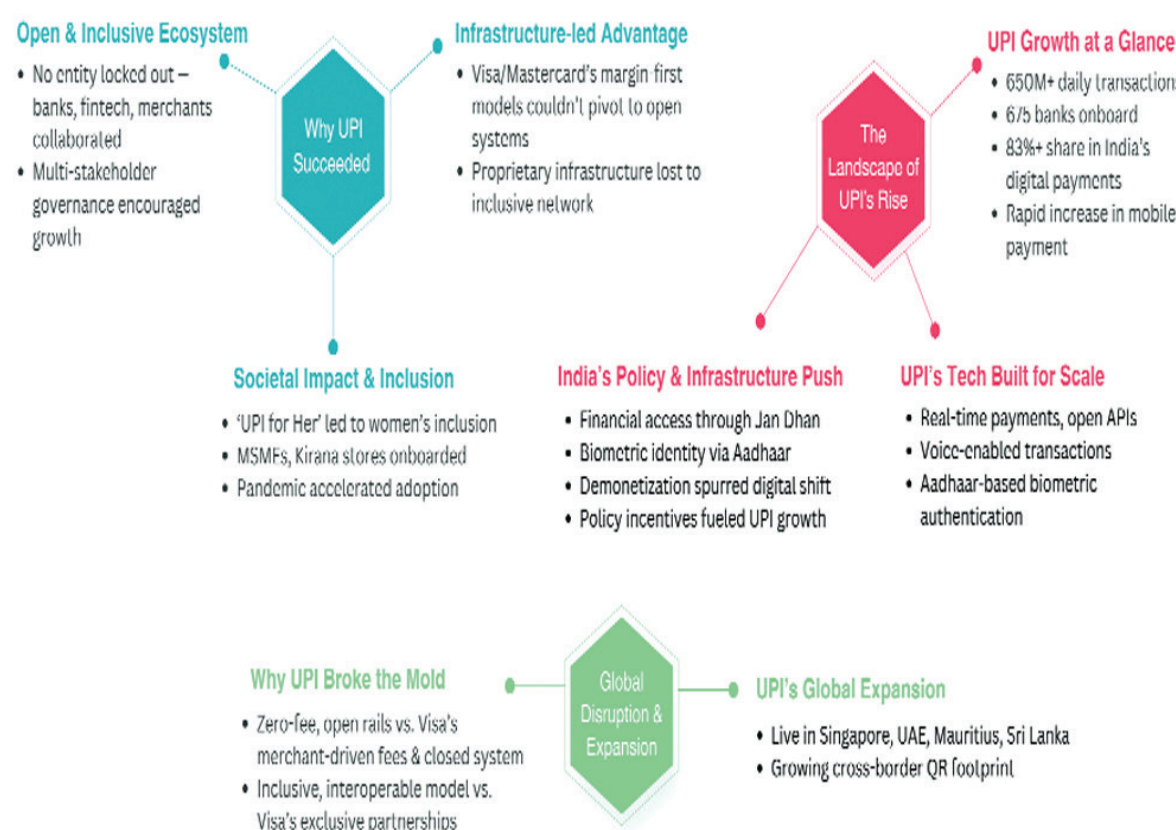
tional initiatives: Jan Dhan Yojana for banking, Aadhaar for identity, and Direct Benefit Transfers for welfare. But access alone meant little without affordable, reliable payment rails. A mobile revolution was shaping the user behaviour. A young, digitally fluent population embraced smartphones, fuelling demand for simple mobile payments. Then, demonetisation in 2016 accelerated the need for cashless alternatives. UPI was India's answer – to its own gaps and rigid global payment models. Unlike card networks built on exclusivity and profit, UPI, developed by NPCI with regulatory backing and multi-stakeholder governance, was public infrastructure – open by design.

Its architecture embodied this vision: open APIs, zero-cost transactions, and seamless interoperability. Any bank or fintech could easily integrate. Control wasn't centralised, yet innovation thrived.

From Kiranas to Digital Economy: The UPI Ecosystem in Motion
UPI removed friction, built trust, and turned collaboration into infrastructure.

By removing entry barriers, UPI encouraged both collaboration and competition. Banks expanded reach. Fintechs improved user journeys. Merchants, from malls to corner shops, adopted QR codes. Even auto-rickshaws and kirana stores became part of the digital economy.

Today, UPI connects



675 banks and now touches every corner of India (NPCI Report, 2025). It handles 83.4 per cent of India's digital payment transactions (RBI Payments Data, FY2024). In rural and semi-urban areas, 38 per cent of users prefer UPI (EY-CII Financial Inclusion Report, 2024). This democratisation was no accident – it was engineered.

But UPI's true innovation wasn't just in numbers – it was in how it redefined platform economics and participation. Instead of enforcing rigid standards, it created a shared platform where banks, fintechs, and merchants could engage on

their terms. Where competition usually fragments ecosystems, UPI built interoperable nodes in a unified system. Cohesion wasn't a byproduct – it was the goal.

Payments in India became critical infrastructure, not mere profit engines. Between 2011 and 2023, financial inclusion rose from 25 per cent to over 80 per cent (World Bank G20 Report, 2023), powered by Aadhaar, mobile adoption, and UPI. The government's ₹1,500 crore fund for promoting low-value transactions lowered entry barriers (Press Information Bureau, 2024). By 2025, 89 per cent of Indian adults

held a financial account, up from 35 per cent in 2011, among the fastest global shifts, enabled by Aadhaar, Jan Dhan, and UPI (World Bank Global Findex Report, 2025).

Beating Giants by Redefining the Game

As global giants leaned on margins and exclusivity, UPI rewrote the rules with openness, access, and shared innovation. Global incumbents took notice. Visa and Mastercard, long dominant, began rethinking India strategies. Visa's margin-led model thrived in wealthy markets – its 1980s and 1990s expansion proved that. But in India, that logic couldn't

scale. UPI didn't win by charging more – it won by enabling access. UPI didn't beat them with margins – it outpaced them with openness. Legacy systems relied on exclusivity to protect margins. UPI flipped that. It unlocked participation, giving every player, like banks, fintechs and merchants, a stake. Inclusivity sparked innovation. NPCI's voice-based payments and Paytm's sound-box integrations didn't just enhance UX, they enabled digital access for first-time users.

From Bharat to the World: UPI Is Now a Global Standard

Born out of inclusion,

built on intent – UPI redefined platform economics, empowered millions, and now inspires payment strategies from Bharat to the globe.

UPI's biggest success lies in reaching those left out of traditional banking systems. In 2023, NPCI launched "UPI for Her," driving adoption among women users and merchants, pushing gender equity into digital finance. Agent-led models and local language interfaces penetrated Bharat – India beyond metros.

And UPI's reach isn't just local. Its cross-border ties with Singapore, UAE, Sri Lanka, and Mauritius, plus QR acceptance abroad, hint at interoperable, real-time global payments (MEA Press Release, 2024; NPCI International Partnerships, 2024). What started as India's solution is becoming a global reference model.

Having observed financial networks rise, recede, and realign over decades, I view UPI not merely as India's digital breakthrough, but as a profound challenge to long-held assumptions. It dismantled the belief that closed, proprietary systems are the default path to dominance.

UPI demonstrated that openness – when governed with intent and balance – can outperform even the most entrenched incumbents. Its ascent was fuelled by structural design choices that prioritised participation over control.

In doing so, it reaffirmed

a larger truth: transformative innovation doesn't require monopolies.

Digital banking service providers like i-exceed Technology Solutions exemplify the critical role of digital technology in modernising financial ecosystem.

The company has supported numerous banks across India in their digital transformation journeys, enabling the collective onboarding of over 150,000 customers daily. Its digital platform processes more than 30 million real-time transactions each day.

As a key enabler of digital banking infrastructure, i-exceed underscores how technology providers can drive broader financial inclusion, enhance operational efficiency, and scale the financial ecosystem at large.

Today, UPI is shaping payment strategies from Jakarta to Johannesburg. But its legacy runs deeper than numbers.

It proved finance and payments needn't be extractive or exclusive. They can be open, inclusive, and infrastructure for all.

India didn't just build a digital payments system. It built a model the world is now studying – and adopting. UPI may have started in India. But today, the world is playing by its rules.

(The writer is Global Digital Banking & Finance Industry Technologist. He is also the Co-Founder & CEO at i-exceed Technologies)

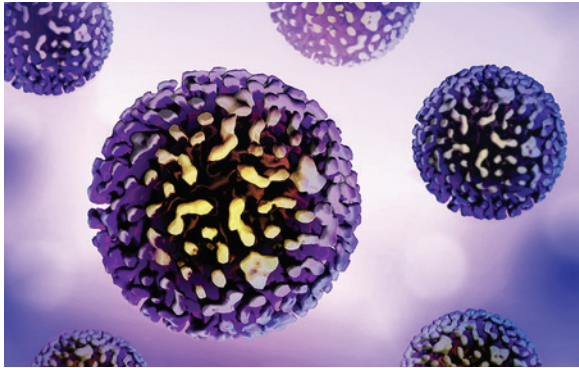
Hepatitis B: Enhance screening, vaccination to fight stealthy, silent virus, say experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Hepatitis B is a stealthy and silent virus; enhancing screening and vaccination is very important to fight it, said experts on World Hepatitis Day on Monday.

World Hepatitis Day is observed every year on July 28 to raise awareness about hepatitis and strengthen efforts to prevent and manage it. The theme this year is 'Hepatitis: Let's Break It Down'. According to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global hepatitis report 2022, India had 29.8 million hepatitis B cases which is equivalent to 11.7 per cent of the total global hepatitis B cases. Globally, 254 million people were living with hepatitis B in 2022.

"Hepatitis B is a stealthy, silent virus. It only activates at a later age -- 40, 50, or 60 years -- and remains silent until one day you hear someone



has liver cancer," said Dr. (Prof.) S K Sarin, Senior Professor, Department of Hepatology and Director, Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences, New Delhi, at an event held in the national capital.

Hepatitis B is transmitted from mother to baby.

"Today, 95 per cent of hepatitis B is mother-to-baby transmission. Only 15 per cent of people are aware they have hepatitis B, and only 3 per cent of them are treated. This condition is invisible. Of the 3 crore hepatitis B cases in India, we are only treating maybe a few lakhs," the

expert said.

He stressed the need for enhancing screening and vaccination against hepatitis B in the country.

"If somebody has hepatitis B, we need to screen the whole family. The risk of having a second family member test positive is five times higher. So, illness to wellness should start from those who are not unwell today but can become unwell. The family index person and all family members must be screened and vaccinated -- it will protect us," said Sarin, a Padma Bhushan awardee.

Rajesh Bhushan, Former Secretary, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, shared that to boost hepatitis control and to reduce the burden of hepatitis B by 2030, the government in 2007 included the hepatitis B vaccine under the Universal Immunisation Programme.

"The third dose coverage of hepatitis B now exceeds 93 per cent as per National Family Health Survey 5 and HMIS 2023-24," he said.

In addition, the government also launched the National Viral Hepatitis Control Programme (NVHCP) in 2018 under the National Health Mission.

"The initiative has made free testing and treatment for hepatitis B and C available in all states and Union Territories for which adequate funds are given to the state government," said Bhushan at the event organised by Illness to Wellness Foundation.

AIIMS-led study shows two-drug combination therapy effective in controlling high BP

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 28

Using a single pill comprising two blood pressure medicines is a safe and highly effective way to treat hypertension among South Asians, particularly Indians, finds a study led by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

The study, in partnership with the Centre for Chronic Disease Control (CCDC) and Imperial College London, UK, compared three widely used drug combinations: amlodipine plus perindopril, amlodipine plus indapamide, and perindopril plus indapamide.

The first randomised trial to test three different two-drug combination pills among South Asians involved over 1,200 patients with uncontrolled hypertension across 32 hospitals in India.

"All three combinations worked equally well



in reducing blood pressure and were safe for patients," revealed the study, published in the journal Nature Medicine.

The findings showed that either of the two-drug combinations led to a significant drop in blood pressure after 6 months -- by around 14/8 mmHg when measured over 24 hours and about 30/14 mmHg in clinic settings.

"Nearly 70 per cent of patients got their blood pressure under control, a huge improvement over the current national average. And the pills were safe and easy to use. This study gives clear guidance for better hypertension

care," said Dr Ambuj Roy, Professor of Cardiology at AIIMS Delhi.

"This study shows that a single daily pill with two drugs can be a simple and powerful way to manage blood pressure in Indian and South Asian patients," said Dr Dorairaj Prabhakaran, Executive Director of CCDC.

High blood pressure (hypertension) is the leading risk factor for death worldwide and affects over 300 million people in India alone. Treating it early and effectively can prevent heart attacks, strokes, and kidney failure.

Doctors often recom-

mend starting with two medications in one pill to control blood pressure better and help patients stick to treatment. But until now, no large study had tested which combinations worked best for South Asians, who make up a quarter of the world's population.

The results revealed that nearly 70 per cent of patients with any of the dual drug therapy reached the recommended blood pressure target of below 140/90 mmHg -- five times higher than India's current average control rate.

Less than 3 per cent of patients reported side effects serious enough to stop treatment.

"These findings can help guide doctors and policymakers. If added to India's list of essential medicines and made available at primary health centres, these pills could greatly improve blood pressure control in the country," Prabhakaran said.

Stuttering caused by genes: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Understanding the causes of stuttering may no longer be a mystery, as US researchers on Monday provided evidence to show that the speech disorder is influenced by our genes.

Stuttering -- characterised by syllable and word repetitions, sound prolongations, and breaks between words -- is the most common fluency disorder, with more than 400 million people affected worldwide. And yet, the causes of this common speech disorder are unclear.

In the paper, published in the journal Nature Genetics, the researchers identified 48 genes, and 57 distinct genomic loci associated with the speech disorder, based on genetic data of more than 1 million individuals.

The findings may lead to earlier identification or therapeutic advances in stuttering and help



Below said.

Developmental stuttering onset typically occurs in children between the ages of 2 and 5, and about 80 per cent of children will spontaneously recover, with or without speech therapy.

At its onset, stuttering affects both males and females, but it is more common in adolescent and adult males (4:1 ratio of males to females) because of differences in the rate of spontaneous recovery by sex.

To decode the difference, the researchers also conducted studies on eight sex- and ancestry-specific groups, followed by meta-analyses that combined the findings.

They identified 57 distinct genomic loci, which mapped to 48 genes, associated with stuttering risk. The genetic signatures differed between males and females, which could relate to persistent stuttering versus recovered stuttering, Below said.

replace outdated views of stuttering often held by the general public that contribute to stigma, said the researchers.

"No one really understands why someone stutters; it has been a complete mystery. And that's true for most speech and language pathologies. They are profoundly understudied because they don't put people in the hospital, but they can have enormous consequences on people's quality of life," said Jennifer (Piper) Below, Professor of Medicine at Vanderbilt University Medical Center.

"We need to understand risk factors for speech and

language traits so that we can identify kids early and get appropriate care for those that want it," she said.

Young people who stutter report increased bullying, decreased classroom participation, and a more negative educational experience.

Stuttering can also negatively impact employment opportunities and perceived job performance, and mental and social well-being, Below noted.

"Rather than being caused by personal or familial failings or intelligence, our study shows that stuttering is influenced by our genes,"

Eating chips, cookies can raise addiction risk akin to substance-use disorders: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Your favourite chips, cookies, soda -- ultra-processed foods -- can trigger addictive behaviours that meet the same clinical criteria used to diagnose substance-use disorders, warned a study.

Researchers argued that failure to recognise this in diagnostic systems is a dangerous oversight with grave consequences for global public health.

"People aren't becoming addicted to apples or brown rice," said lead author Ashley Gearhardt, Professor of psychology at the University of Michigan, US.

"They're struggling with industrial products specifically engineered to hit the brain like a drug -- rapidly, intensely and repeatedly," Gearhardt added.

The paper, published in the journal Nature Medicine, synthesised evidence



from nearly 300 studies across 36 countries. Their findings demonstrated that ultra-processed foods can hijack the brain's reward system, triggering cravings, loss of control, and persistent use despite harmful consequences -- key features of addiction.

Further, neuroimaging studies reveal that individuals with compulsive intake of these foods show brain circuit disruptions strikingly similar to those seen in alcohol and cocaine addiction.

Notably, medications that reduce cravings for ultra-processed foods have also been found to reduce compulsive drug use, underscoring the shared

neurobiological mechanisms.

Importantly, Gearhardt and team highlighted that while conditions like nitrous oxide and caffeine use disorder have been included in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders,

despite abundant and growing support, ultra-processed food addiction has yet to receive even preliminary recognition as a condition worthy of further study. The manual classifies mental disorders based on limited evidence.

"The bar for recognising addiction has been far lower in other cases," said co-author Erica LaFata, assistant research profes-

sor at Drexel University's Center for Weight, Eating, and Lifestyle Science. "It's time ultra-processed food addiction was held to the same scientific standard."

The study calls on public health leaders, clinicians, and policymakers to take immediate steps to formally recognise ultra-processed food addiction, fund research, and develop clinical tools for identification and treatment. They also urged the enactment of protective measures similar to those used in tobacco control -- including restrictions on marketing to children, clearer labeling, and public education.

"We're not saying all food is addictive," Gearhardt said. "We're saying that many ultra-processed foods are designed to be addictive. And unless we recognise that, we'll continue to fail the people most affected -- especially kids."

ORS affordable, effective healthcare solution for dehydration & diarrhoea: Nadda

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

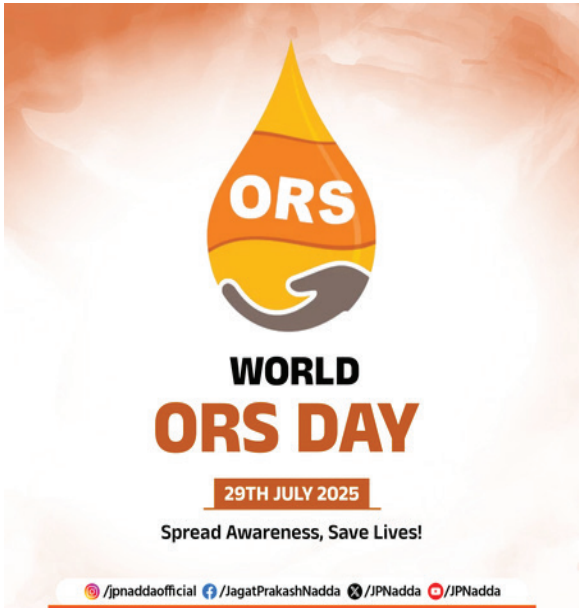
Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) is an affordable and effective healthcare solution for dehydration and diarrhoea, said Union Health Minister JP Nadda on Tuesday.

World ORS Day is observed annually on July 29 to raise awareness about the importance of Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS) in treating dehydration caused by diarrhoea and other conditions.

"Today, we observe World ORS Day to highlight the importance of Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) as an affordable and effective healthcare solution for treating dehydration and diarrhea," Nadda said in a post on social media platform X.

"ORS is a simple yet powerful remedy that prevents and treats dehydration, a condition that can be life-threatening, especially in young children.

"This day aims to raise



widespread awareness about this lifesaving treatment, ensuring that everyone has access to this crucial remedy that has the potential to save millions of lives," the Union Minister said.

Acute diarrhoeal diseases are one of the leading causes of mortality in infants and young children

in many developing countries. In most cases, death is caused by dehydration.

Dehydration from diarrhoea can be prevented by giving extra fluids at home, or it can be treated effectively and cheaply in all age groups. In severe cases, patients must be given an adequate glucose-electrolyte solution

-- ORS as recommended by the WHO Diarrhoeal Diseases Control (CDD) Programme.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW) advises giving ORS and zinc to children on time to prevent diarrhoea and dehydration. It is also available free of cost at every health centre.

In 2024, the MoHFW rebranded its long-standing Intensified Diarrhoea Control Fortnight (IDCF) as the STOP Diarrhoea Campaign to tackle the persistent issue of childhood diarrhoea and strive for zero child deaths.

The initiative, which began in 2014, focuses on enhancing the Prevent, Protect, and Treat (PPT) strategy and increasing the use of ORS and Zinc.

The campaign aimed at strengthening health infrastructure, improving access to clean water and sanitation, enhancing nutritional programmes, and promoting hygiene education.

India Inc's CSR spending rises 29pc in FY22-FY24, education & healthcare lead: Report

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

India Inc's annual corporate social responsibility (CSR) spending increased by 29 per cent between FY2022 and FY2024, according to a report on Tuesday.

The report by ICRA ESG Ratings showed that till March 2024, the sample set of companies collectively spent Rs 12,897 crore, with an average of Rs 129 crore on CSR initiatives.

Between FY2022 and FY2024, average net profits rose by 37 per cent while CSR spending increased by 29 per cent.

Notably, 16 out of 100 companies increased their CSR spending despite the decline in profits during the same period, reflecting a commitment to social responsibility beyond compliance.

Despite a decline in profits, 48 per cent of companies surpassed the mandated CSR budgets, under-



scoring their commitment beyond compliance.

"The growing alignment with UN SDGs and proactive CSR spending -- even beyond mandated budgets -- reflects a maturing approach to inclusive development. These efforts are not only enhancing stakeholder value but also contributing meaningfully to India's broader climate and social goals," said Sheetal Sharad, Chief Ratings Officer, ICRA ESG Ratings.

Further, the report showed deepening alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN SDGs), as companies increasingly move beyond regulatory

compliance to proactively invest in initiatives -- particularly in quality education and good health and well-being -- that deliver long-term societal impact.

Education and healthcare remained the top CSR focus areas, with SDG 4 (Quality Education) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) showing the highest alignment across the sample set.

Maharashtra and Gujarat received the highest CSR allocations by corporates, while Odisha recorded a major growth of 85 per cent, followed by Andhra Pradesh with 70 per cent growth in CSR spending concentration, reflecting an increased

corporate focus on underdeveloped regions with high development needs and potential for impact.

Sectoral leaders in CSR spending include the oil and gas refineries sector, private sector banks, the iron and steel sector, and software consulting firms.

CSR spending in aspirational districts surged by 115 per cent from FY2021 to FY2023.

While a few companies have directed up to half of their CSR budgets toward aspirational districts, the majority continue to allocate less than 5 per cent -- highlighting the need for greater strategic focus and resource allocation in aspirational districts.

While progress is evident, the report emphasises the importance of diversification in the CSR focus and exploration of innovative partnerships along with funding alternatives that can bring attention to other causes which are less supported yet remain vital.

US tariffs hit Indian exports: Tony slams Modi Govt over 'Disastrous' Foreign Policy

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SUCHETGARH, JULY 31

The imposition of new tariffs by former US President Donald Trump on Indian exports has sparked a political firestorm back home, with Congress leader and District Development Council (DDC) Suchetgarh, Taranjit Singh Tony, launching a scathing attack on the Modi government. Tony accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi of "reckless diplomacy" and said India is now "paying the price of a failed foreign policy."

Trump announced a 25% tariff on Indian goods starting August 1, citing trade imbalances, India's tariffs on American products, and ongoing defense and energy ties with Russia. This decision, which affects key sectors like textiles, pharmaceuticals, and auto components, could have major implications for India's economy - especially for exporters and MSMEs.

Issuing a statement, Tony said, "This is a direct consequence of the Modi government's headline-driven foreign policy. It's all about photo ops and PR. Where is the sub-



stance? Where is the strategy? India's interests have been compromised for the sake of chest-thumping and hollow rhetoric."

Tony argued that instead of protecting India's economic and strategic interests, the Modi-led BJP government has alienated crucial partners like the United States with its inconsistent and overly personalized diplomacy.

"The so-called friendship between Modi and Trump was reduced to slogans and showmanship. What did it give India? We've lost bargaining power, and now we are slapped with tariffs and penalties," he said.

India's exports to the United States stood at nearly \$87 billion in 2024, making the US its largest trading partner. With

a 25% tariff now being levied, exporters are staring at a significant increase in cost and a potential loss of competitiveness in the global market.

Tony warned that small businesses, farmers, and manufacturers will be the worst hit.

"From Punjab's basmati rice growers to textile workers in Tamil Nadu - this tariff will hurt every corner of India. And the Modi government has no plan to shield our people from this blow," he said.

The Congress leader further demanded that the government release a detailed white paper on the impact of recent foreign policy decisions on trade, particularly the losses incurred due to India's exclusion from the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) and now these new punitive tariffs.

Tony also criticized India's foreign policy alignment, particularly its handling of relations with Russia and the West.

"The Modi government tried to play both sides but ended up pleasing neither. Strategic autonomy doesn't mean strategic confusion. India's foreign policy has become reac-

tionary, not visionary," he said.

The Suchetgarh DDC member emphasized that the country cannot afford to be used as a pawn in global geopolitical games, and that national economic interests must come first.

Tony called for an immediate debate in Parliament to review India's foreign policy posture and urged the Modi government to stop "running foreign policy through WhatsApp forwards and election rallies."

"The PM travels abroad more than he visits Indian farmers. He meets world leaders but fails to build meaningful outcomes. This tariff shock is proof of how disconnected this government is from ground realities," Tony said.

He also accused the BJP of turning diplomacy into a political tool rather than a strategic framework guided by experts and long-term planning.

As the Modi government faces mounting pressure, opposition leaders like Taranjit Singh Tony are making it clear - the economic cost of foreign policy mismanagement is now hitting home.

NS Bhau attends Langer preparations for Machail Mata Yatra at Jammu Lok Sewa Samiti, Pargwal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

Prominent social activist Narinder Singh Bhau was honored as the Chief Guest at a special event organized by the Jammu Lok Sewa Samiti, Pargwal, to oversee the preparations for the Langer (community kitchen) set up for the annual Machail Mata pilgrimage.

The gathering marked the seventh consecutive year of the committee's heartfelt service to pilgrims heading to Gulargarh for the revered



yatra. The event showcased the spirit of devotion and community service deeply embedded in the Samiti's work.

Under the guidance of Chairman Ramnath Sharma and President Karan Singh, the preparations were carried out

with the active support of several committed members including Ghar Singh, Sethi Sharma, Surinder Singh, Joginder Singh, Jagdish Singh, Pawan Singh, Jagdish Sharma, Tarsem Singh, Monu Lal, Daler, Kaali, Nittu, Surinder, Kewal

Manhas (Social Activist), Retired Captain Raj Singh, Harshwardhan Sharma, Sohan Lal, Tushar Bharadwaj, among others.

Addressing the gathering, Narinder Singh Bhau praised the tireless efforts of the Samiti and emphasized the role of such community-led initiatives in preserving the region's spiritual and cultural heritage. "It is heartening to see such unity and devotion. Service to pilgrims is service to the divine," he remarked.

BJP MLAs from District Jammu call on IGP Jammu; raise concerns on Law & Order

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

A delegation of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MLAs from District Jammu today called on Inspector General of Police (IGP) Jammu, Shri Bheem Sen Tuti (IPS), to raise several pressing issues related to public safety, security, and effective policing specially in the Jammu region. The delegation comprised Sh. Sham Lal Sharma (MLA Jammu North), Prof. Gharu Ram Bhagat (MLA Suchetgarh), Narinder Singh (MLA RS Pura), Sh. Vikram Randhawa (MLA Bahu), Sh. Yudhvir Sethi (MLA Jammu East), Sh. Arvind Gupta (MLA Jammu West), Sh. Surinder Kumar (MLA Marh), Sh. Mohan Lal (MLA Akhnoor), and Sh. Rajeev Bhagat (MLA Bishnah). The meeting was held in a constructive and result-oriented atmosphere, where the BJP leaders conveyed their concerns and suggestions on behalf of the people of their respective constituencies.

The BJP MLAs emphasized the need for stron-

ger coordination between the police and the general public to enhance trust and ensure better law enforcement. They recommended regular public meets, the revival of Mohalla Committees, and increased visibility of beat officers. A major point of concern raised was the increasing drug abuse among youth. The MLAs urged the police to intensify operations against drug trafficking, conduct surprise raids in hotspots, and work in collaboration with educational institutions and NGOs to launch awareness and de-addiction campaigns.

The delegation also brought up the persistent problem of bovine smuggling, especially during night hours, which poses a serious threat to peace and communal harmony. They called for more robust night patrolling, the establishment of special checkpoints on highways and other areas, and the use of drone surveillance in vulnerable zones.

Another significant issue discussed was the rise in anti-social and crimi-

nal elements operating in both urban and rural pockets. The BJP leaders stressed the importance of proactive intelligence input, cyber monitoring, and swift legal action to curb any activities aimed at disrupting public peace and order.

The MLAs expressed serious concern over the widespread use of Gattu/Manjha thread (synthetic kite-flying string), which has caused numerous injuries and fatalities, particularly among two-wheeler riders and birds. They demanded a complete ban on the sale and use of such dangerous material, with strict enforcement through market inspections and punitive measures against violators. The delegation also highlighted the importance of improving women and senior citizens' safety through dedicated helplines, patrolling units, and a quick response mechanism by the police.

The BJP leaders recommended coordinated action between the police, traffic authorities, and municipal bodies to

ensure smoother vehicular movement and pedestrian safety.

IGP Jammu, Shri Bheem Sen Tuti (IPS) and DIG Jammu-Samba-Kathua Range, Shri Shiv Kumar Sharma (IPS), gave a patient hearing to the issues raised and assured the delegation that the Jammu Police is fully committed to maintaining law and order and protecting the safety of all citizens. He appreciated the proactive approach of the legislators and assured them of appropriate and timely action on the concerns raised. He also underlined the importance of public cooperation in ensuring long-term peace and crime prevention across the region.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to work in close coordination for the greater good of the people of Jammu. The BJP MLAs reaffirmed their dedication to safeguarding public interest and assured their full cooperation with law enforcement agencies in achieving a peaceful, safe, and progressive society.


Indian Army conducts Medical Patrol in Remote Area at Gunda, Rajouri

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 31 JUL 25


In its continued efforts to reach out to the underserved populations in remote regions of Rajouri, particularly the Gujjar and Bakkarwals, the Indian Army conducted a Medical Patrol in the village of Gunda. This initiative, part of the Army's outreach to ensure the welfare, safety, and security of the local populace, focuses on providing essential medical assistance in areas where healthcare infrastructure is minimal or absent. During the patrol, 07 females, 06 males, and 11



children received much-needed medical attention. The villagers, predominantly from the Gujjar and Bakkarwal communities, expressed deep appreciation and satisfaction with the support extended. The Indian Army remains committed to its mission of fostering trust, goodwill, and assistance to the communities living in the remotest corners of the region.



Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir
Office of the Child Development Project Officer Poshan ,Nowshera
email: icdsnr90@gmail.com



Subject:- Final Selection list of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) of Poshan Project Nowshera, Pursuant to advertisement Notice No. 01 of 2025, Dated:-08-01-2025.

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, vide advertisement notification No. 01 of 2025, Dated:-08-01-2025, 06(Six) number of posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers) were advertised for filling up of the vacant posts in Poshan Project Nowshera in pursuance to HR Policy as notified Vide Government Order No. 222- JK(SWD) of 2022, dated:-30-11-2022 read with Government Order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023, dated:-28-04-2023; and

Whereas, 12 (Twelve) number of application forms were received for the Vacant posts of Sahayikas (Anganwadi Helpers), for various anganwadi centers in different Panchayats/MC Ward of Poshan Project Nowshera, as on last date of receipt of application forms i.e.25-01-2025; and

Whereas, after scrutiny of application forms as per eligibility conditions as contained in the aforementioned advertisement notification, and in accordance with HR policy referred above, the tentative merit list alongwith tentative select list has been framed and placed in public domain for seeking objections vide notice No. ICDS/NSR/210-15/2025 dated:- 28.05.2025; and

Whereas one objection/representation was received and placed before selection committee for consideration. After examining the matter, the committee has disposed of the objection/representation, deeming it unacceptable in light of the prescribed eligibility criteria

Whereas the selection committee in its meeting held on 10.07.2025 recommended the final select list of 06 candidates as detailed in Annexure-A and merit list of the 12 candidates as detailed in Annexure-B for the post of sahayikas (AWHs) in various Anganwadi Centres in different panchayats/MC ward of Poshan Project Nowshera as per minutes issued vide No. ICDS/NSR/792/2025 dated:- 10.07.2025.

Now, therefore, the final selection list of 06 candidates as Annexure-A along with merit list as Annexure-B is hereby notified in terms of HR policy in pursuance to Government order No.-222-JK(SWD) of 2022 dated 30.11.2022 read with Government order No. 103-JK(SWD) of 2023 dated:- 28.04.2023 for information of the concerned candidates.

Further in terms of clause - XI of HR policy/forementioned Government orders, where a candidate feels aggrieved with the selection may file an appeal before the Deputy Commissioner Rajouri within a period of 10 days from the date of issuance of this notification.

Sd/-
Child Development Project Officer
Poshan Project Nowshera
(Member Secretary Selection Committee)

No:-ICDS/NSR / 866-73 /2025
DIP/J-4123/25
Date: 31-7-25

Dated:- 30/07/2025.

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN NOWSHERA															
ANNEXURE "B"															
FINAL MERIT LIST OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS) UNDER PHASE - IV IN ANGANWARI CENTRE /PANCHAYAT /MC WARD WISE IN PURSUANCE TO ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION NO.01 OF 2025, DATED:-08-01-2025															
S.No	Name of the Project	Name of Panchayat/ Municipality	Name of Anganwari Centre	Ward Number	S.No	Name of Candidate	Husband Name	Date of Birth (DD-MM-YYYY)	10th		12th		Total Points	Remarks	
									Marks Obtained	Max. Marks	percentage	Marks Obtained			Max. Marks
									1	Nowshera	MC.W.No.05	MC.W.No.05			5
					2	Bulbul Kumari	Jaiveer Kumar	05.03.1995	204	500	40.8	0	0	40.8	
					1	Rubi Devi	Rattan Singh	01.03.1990	366	600	61	0	0	61	
2	Nowshera	Narian	Narian kaller	1	2	Manju Devi	Didar Singh	05.12.1994	237	500	47.4	0	0	47.4	
					1	Pooja Devi	Reenu Kumar	26.03.1998	286	500	57.2	290	500	57.2	
3	Nowshera	Mangiote	Mangiote-A	2	1	Joshi Thakur	Sandeep Singh	05.09.1997	247	500	49.4	0	0	49.4	
					2	Pooja Sharma	Atul Kumar	13.03.1998	198	500	39.6	0	0	39.6	
					3	Vandana Devi	Narotam Singh	03.01.1995	190	500	38	217	500	38	
5	Nowshera	Chowki	Kanara East	1	1	Satvir Kour	Satnam Singh	06.03.1995	209	500	41.8	233	500	41.8	
					2	Paramjeet Kour	Harjeet Singh	12.04.1992	189	500	37.8	0	0	37.8	
6	Nowshera	Dabber-A	Dabber-A	6	1	Anu Choudhary	Mukesh Kumar	03.05.2001	366	500	73.2	299	500	73.2	
					2	Nisha Choudhary	Yogesh Kumar	10.03.1994	204	500	40.8	0	0	40.8	

No: ICDS/NSR/866-73/2025
Dated:-30.07.2025

CDPO Nowshera
(Member Secretary)

OFFICE OF THE CHILD DEVELOPMENT PROJECT OFFICER POSHAN NOWSHERA														
ANNEXURE "A"														
FINAL SELECT LIST OF SAHAYIKAS (ANGANWADI HELPERS) UNDER PHASE - IV IN ANGANWARI CENTRE /PANCHAYAT /MC WARD WISE IN PURSUANCE TO ADVERTISEMENT NOTIFICATION NO.01 OF 2025, DATED:-08-01-2025														
S.No	Name of the Project	Name of Panchayat/ Municipality	Name of Anganwari Centre	Ward Number/ Name	Name of Candidate	Husband Name	Date of Birth (DD-MM-YYYY)	10th		12th		Total Points	Remarks	
								Marks Obtained	Max. Marks	percentage	Marks Obtained			Max. Marks
								1	Nowshera	MC.W.No.05	MC.W.No.05			5
2	Nowshera	Narian	Narian kaller	1	Rubi Devi	Rattan Singh	01.03.1990	366	600	61	0	0	61	
3	Nowshera	Mangiote	Mangiote-A	2	Pooja Devi	Reenu Kumar	26.03.1998	286	500	57.2	290	500	57.2	
4	Nowshera	Rajal-A	Rajal-A	6	Joshi Thakur	Sandeep Singh	05.09.1997	247	500	49.4	0	0	49.4	
5	Nowshera	Chowki	Kanara East	1	Satvir Kour	Satnam Singh	06.03.1995	209	500	41.8	233	500	41.8	
6	Nowshera	Dabber-A	Dabber-A	6	Anu Choudhary	Mukesh Kumar	03.05.2001	366	500	73.2	299	500	73.2	

No: ICDS/NSR/866-73/2025
Dated:-30.07.2025

CDPO Nowshera
(Member Secretary)

Indian Army dedicates State of the Art School Infrastructure, Created as Part of CSR Initiatives at Pinewood School, Hamirpur, Poonch

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 31 JUL 25

As part of its ongoing commitment to nation building and community outreach, the Indian Army in collaboration with Adani Foundation, J&K Bank, JSW Group & Allen Institute formally dedicated the modern infrastructure which included a state of art Auditorium with seating capacity of 510 at Pinewood School, Hamirpur to the local population focusing on modern & quality infrastructure for education of children residing in remote locations near Line of Control.

The auditorium was inaugurated by GOC, Ace of Spades Division in the presence of corporate representatives, senior Army officers, officials from the civil administration, local sarpanches, parents & students. The construction of the Auditorium by Adani Foundation, offers dedicated space for cultural and academic activities for the students of PWS, Hamirpur. The event also marked provisioning of one school bus by J&K Bank and two school buses by JSW



Group aimed at improving student accessibility and daily school commute. The buses were handed over by respective corporate representatives to the school administration. To ensure future of children in senior classes, Indian Army collaborated with Allen Coaching Institute, Kota who have graciously adopted students from class IX to XII to provide them quality education & coaching for competitive examination such as NEET. The coaching is being imparted through online mode at Pinewood School, Hamirpur free of cost.

The Indian Army's deep commitment to holistic development of our border regions was witnessed in its proactive engagement with various corporate houses to bring

these projects under CSR initiative. This collaboration between Indian Army & Corporate entities is a prime example of PPP model, wherein both Indian Army & Private Sectors have pitched in developing remote areas close to Line of Control. Today's inauguration was in continuation to many infrastructure upgrades to classrooms and facilities, aimed at enhancing the quality of education being carried out by Indian Army at Pinewood School, Hamirpur. A Sapling Plantation Drive, was also organized on the school campus with participation from students, Army personnel, corporate representatives and local community members, reinforcing the importance of environmental stewardship.

The event was well received by the local populace & witnessed enthusiastic participation from all sections of society with parents and sarpanches expressing appreciation for the Indian Army's efforts in uplifting educational standards in remote areas. The cultural programme by the students was the highlight of the event displaying their talent & quality of education being imparted to the students. The corporate representatives were felicitated by GOC, Ace of Spades Division on behalf of Indian Army for their unwavering commitment to development of school infrastructure.

The students enthusiastically participated during the inauguration ceremony and the plantation drive. This initiative exemplified a strong military corporate partnership, delivering impactful results in education system in the region. The projects not only have improved the infrastructure at the school but is a defining factor in motivating young minds residing in remote areas to pursue formal education & dream of a bright future.

Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort, others pay floral tribute to Shaheed-e-Azam Udham Singh

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha, Bahu Fort, Jammu along with prominent personalities paid floral tributes to Amar Shaheed, Amar Balidani, Sheed-E-Azam Udham Singh. While speaking on this occasion Sham Lal Basson, General Secy Shri Guru Ravi Dass Sabha Bahu Fort, Jammu said that Udham Singh was born on 26 December 1899 in Sunam in Sangrur distt to Chuhar Ram and Narain Devi. Later they converted in Sikh religion and became Sardar Tehal Singh and Harnam Kour. The childhood name of Udham Singh was Sher Singh and his elder brother was Mukta Singh who became Sadhu Singh. Sardar Tehal Singh was working as watchman on railway crossing at village Uppli. Udham Singh's mother died in 1901. His father expires in 1907. Udham Singh and brother were given admission in the orphanage. His elder brother died in 1918. Udham Singh was trained in various arts and crafts. He passed his matriculation in 1918 and left orphanage in 1919.

Udham Singh was present in the Jhalianwala Bagh on the fateful Baisakhi day on 13th April 1919 when peaceful assembly of people was fired upon by Brigadier General REH. Dyer on the order of Michael O-Dwyer Lieutenant Governor of Punjab. At the age of 19 years Udham Singh defied curfew and was wounded in the course of retrieving the body of the husband of Rattna devi in the aftermath of the massacre.

Udham Singh considered Rattna Devi as his sister and took her to Multan because she had come to Amritsar along with her husband. Subsequently Udham Singh travelled abroad in Africa, United States



and Europe. He Joined Dwyer. After killing Michael O Dwyer, Udham Singh was arrested, After the assassination of Michael O Dwyer udham Singh was given death sentence. An appeal was filed by three Barristers. On 15th July 1940 the court of Criminal Appeal heard and dismissed the appeal of Udham Singh against the death sentence. On 31st July 1940

Udham Singh was hanged at pentonville Jail in London. During the trial Udham Singh had made a request that his remains be sent back to India but this was not allowed. In 1974 the remains of Udham Singh were sent to India. The Casket was received by Indira Gandhi, Shankar Dayal Sharma and Giani Zail Singh. On 2nd August 1974 his ashes were divided into seven urns and distributed one each to Haridwar, Kiratpur Saheb, Rauza Sharif in Sunam and the museum at Jallianwala Bagh and two urns to the library of the Shaheed Udham Singh arts college in Sunam. In the honour of Udham Singh,

Udham Singh shot Michael O Dwyer. After killing Michael O Dwyer, Udham Singh was arrested, After the assassination of Michael O Dwyer udham Singh was given death sentence. An appeal was filed by three Barristers. On 15th July 1940 the court of Criminal Appeal heard and dismissed the appeal of Udham Singh against the death sentence. On 31st July 1940

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Udham Singh Nagar distict was named in Utrakhand by Behan Mayawati CM.

Madam Krishna Bangotra director Tapasya Art Drama Party and retd BSNL officer acted as stage secretary. She also threw light on the life and mission of Shaheed Udham

Singh right from childhood to martyrdom on 31st July 1940 at Pantonville jail in London

.She also mentioned that Udham Singh also met with Bharat Rattan Baba Saheb Dr B R

Ambedkar in London when Baba Saheb was studying on Problem of Rupee.

Those who paid tributes to Shaheed Udham Singh included Retd. ZEO Tara Chand , retd director planning Sh M L Bangotra, Brij Mohan Mehra , State president All India Kashyap Mahasang, Dr. Buti Ram, Parshotam Thapa, B D Naryal , Surjeet Singh Heer, Om Prakash , Joginder kumar, Madam Veena Bakshi, Moti Ram Angral, Ram Lal, OP Thapa, Rattan Lal Basson, Rattan Lal.

All citizens must unite to raise voice against Drugs, Chinese Manja: Balbir Ram

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

Senior BJP leader and former Vice Chairman, Balbir Ram Rattan, made an emotional appeal during a meeting with some of his associates, urging people to step out and spread awareness among the public about the dangers of drug abuse and the deadly consequences of Chinese manja. He emphasized the urgent need for a collective and wide-reaching movement against these two serious threats prevalent in society.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated that drug addiction is a slow poison leading



the youth toward destruction. It not only harms the body but also weakens the very foundation of families and society. The growing prevalence of drug abuse has ruined many households and pushed the youth into darkness. We must spread awareness about this social evil and work together to achieve the goal of a "Drug-Free

Jammu and Kashmir."

Similarly, Chinese Manja has also become a lethal weapon. This nylon or synthetic thread, used for flying kites, is extremely sharp and dangerous. Every year, many birds, animals, and even humans lose their lives due to this deadly string. It has proven especially fatal for children and two-

wheeler riders. Balbir appealed to all citizens to become part of a public movement against drugs and Chinese Manja and demonstrate their responsibility toward society and the nation.

"We must not only stay away from these evils but also make our families, friends, and communities aware of their dangers," Balbir added, emphasizing that it is also our duty to leave behind a safe, clean, and healthy environment for future generations.

Together, as aware and responsible citizens, we must contribute to achieving the goal of a "Drug-Free and Chinese Manja-Free Jammu and Kashmir."

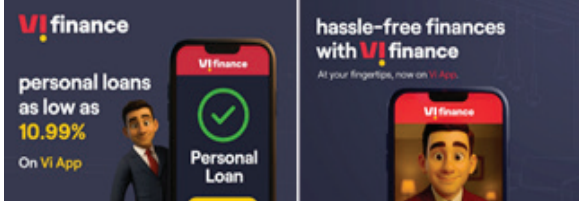
Vi launches Vi Finance – a Hassle-free way to manage Loans, Investments, Credit Cards

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

India's leading telecom operator Vi (Vodafone Idea) today announced the launch of Vi Finance, a comprehensive platform on the Vi App, to help customers easily access loans, fixed deposits and credit cards. This adds yet another useful feature and capability to the Vi App, which already offers multiple services such as utility payments, movies & TV shows, gaming, shopping discounts on e-commerce & quick commerce and more.

Built on the philosophy of making the Vi App a one-stop solution for an array of lifestyle requirements, Vi Finance has been launched in partnership with trusted financial institutions with the aim to offer convenient, comprehensive personal finance solutions across Personal Loans, Fixed Deposits, and Credit Cards.

Avneesh Khosla, CMO, Vi said, "At Vi, we are committed to bringing conve-



nience to our customers' lives through digital solutions. By making financial solutions easy, quick, and accessible within the Vi App with Vi Finance, we are enabling customers to take control of their finances without the usual complexities. Our partnerships with trusted financial institutions ensure that every customer can find the right product for their needs. We believe this digital-first, paperless approach will simplify how millions of Indians manage their finances."

Vi Finance offers the following personal finance solutions:

- Personal Loans: Simple, Fast and Collateral-free
- Vi Finance, in partnership with Aditya Birla Capital, makes it easy for customers to access and secure personal loans

- Customers can apply for loans starting from Rs 50,000 at attractive interest rates, starting 10.99% per annum

- The entire process is digital and paperless, with minimal documentation and easy KYC, making it ideal for urgent needs

- Fixed Deposits: Zero Paperwork, Instant booking

- With a strategic tie-up with fintech startup Upswing Financial Technologies, Vi Finance offers a marketplace with high interest fixed deposit options from multiple leading banks and financial institutions

- Customers can start investing with as little as Rs 1,000 and earn assured interest of up to 8.4%, making it ideal for both short-term and long-term wealth building

- FDs are covered under Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation (wholly owned subsidiary of RBI) up to Rs 5 lakh per bank.

Credit Cards: Diverse Choices

- In partnership with Credilio, Vi Finance enables customers to explore and apply for a range of credit cards from leading banks and financial institutions such as SBI, Axis Bank, HDFC, etc.

- The platform also provides FD-backed credit cards, which allow first-time customers or those with low credit history to build their credit profile

- With benefits like cashback, discounts, reward points, and EMI options, customers can unlock the power of credit without the paperwork or complexity traditionally associated with the process

Vi Finance is now live on the Vi App, offering a secure, easy, and integrated experience for all customers nationwide. Customers can download the Vi App from the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M) G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER
E -NIT NO GWD/43 OF 2025-26 DATED 30.07.2025

For and on behalf of the Lieutenant Governor UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms for below mentioned works:-

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee(In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Re-development of (02 Nos) defunct Mark-II hand pumps at Trikuta Vihar Society W. No. 01 Opp. House of Utam Singh Village Loundana Pyt. Rathian West and Bakli Hartaryan C/o Dr. Shakil in District Udhampur under 2215-M&R 2025-26	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	500.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	02 Nos	Rs. 96000.00	@2% of the estimated value in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 st March 2026

- Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 30.07.2025 to 12.08.2025
- The pre bid meeting if desired, shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) G.W.D. Division Jammu on 01.08.2025 at 1300 hrs.
- The Bids shall be uploaded on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 02.08.2025 (1400 hrs) to 12.08.2025 (1800 hrs.)
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
(i) Scanned copy of treasury e-Challan/receipt for Rs. 500.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed. **It may be noted that** the receipt of the e-challan should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender. (ii) Scanned copy of EMD in the shape of CDR/FDR @2% of the estimated value pledged in favour of Executive Engineer, PHE (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu. **It may be noted that** the EMD should be of the date after the issuance of publication of the e-tender (iii) Scanned Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder. (iv) Scanned copy of GST Registration from competent authority (v) Scanned copy of PAN Card. (vi) Scanned copy of Valid Registration of Water Well Drillers issued by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu for the year 2025-26. Moreover, the firm shall have to upload a valid registration Water Well Drillers issued by Chief Engineer Jal Shakti (PHE) Department Jammu for the year 2024-25. In case, the firm (L) fails to produce the registration certificate at the time of allotment, the tender will be cancelled.
- The Technical Bids of the tender document received shall be opened online in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 14.08.2025 at 1400 hrs. If the office happens to be closed on the date of opening of the bids as specified, the bids shall be opened on the next working day during the office hours.
- The Cover - II i.e. Financial Bids of the firms who qualify in Cover - I shall also be opened online in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu during office hours or some other working day convenient to tender opening authority.
- Other details can be seen inside the detailed tender document.
- Account Head: 2215-M&R (2025-26)
- Status of funds: (under approved budget)
- AAA No. JSPHE/MC(R)/10 of 2025-26 Dated 03.05.2025
- Accord of T.S. No: 151 of 07/2025 Dated 22.07.2025

No GWD/2730-32
Dated 30.07.2025

DIP/J-4104/25
Date: 31-7-25

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division
Jammu

Malegaon blast case: Special NIA court acquits all seven accused

AGENCIES
MUMBAI, JULY 31

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

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



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

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

Advocate Ranjit Nair said, "I was representing accused number 11 Sudha-

kar Chaturvedi. Court has acquitted him. The Court has observed that prosecution cannot present any proof against accused."

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

asked for compensation to all those people."

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

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

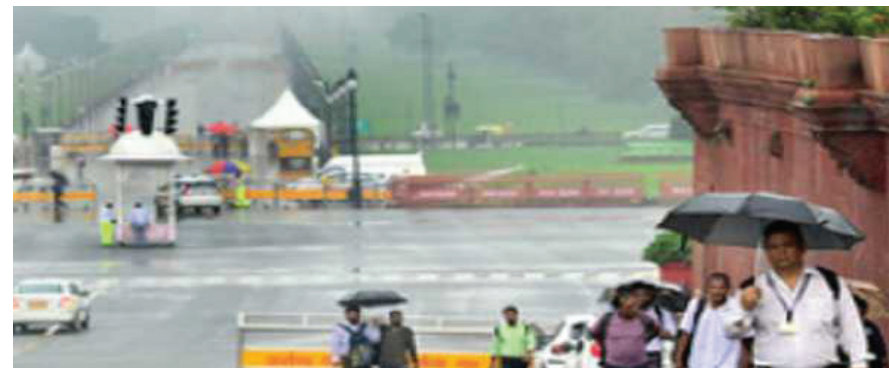
IMD predicts light to moderate rain in Delhi-NCR till August 5

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

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

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

Delhiites experienced waterlogging and traf-



fic disruptions following heavy rains. The areas which saw maximum waterlogging included ITO area, Yamuna Expressway, Delhi-Meerut Expressway, Dhaura Kuan, Nehru Place, Kailash Colony Road, Patel Nagar, Vijay Chowk, Jang-

pura, RK Puram, Lajpat Nagar and Mehrauli-Gurgaon road.

The IMD has forecast light rain till August 5 for Delhi-NCR. There will be heavy to very heavy rain over the northeast region during the next seven

days, as per IMD.

Meanwhile, July has recorded the cleanest air in Delhi in over a decade with the average Air Quality Index (AQI) at 79, according to the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

Philippines President Marcos to visit India on Aug 4-8

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

President of the Republic of the Philippines, Ferdinand R Marcos Jr., will pay a state visit to India from August 4 to 8, 2025, at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

This will be President Marcos's first official visit to India since assuming office.

The visit coincides with the 75th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Philippines, an important milestone that reflects the growing strategic and people-centric ties between the two nations.

According to the Ministry of External Affairs,



The visit is an "opportunity for both leaders to set the path for future bilateral cooperation, and to engage on regional and international issues of mutual interest".

President Marcos will hold bilateral talks with PM Modi in New Delhi on August 5 to discuss the full spectrum of India-Philippines relations, with a focus on defense cooperation, trade and investment, maritime security, and regional developments.

The Ministry of External Affairs noted, "India's relations with the Philippines are an integral pillar of our 'Act East' Policy, Vision MAHASAGAR, and our broader Indo-Pacific outlook."

the President will be accompanied by First Lady Madame Louise Araneta Marcos, along with a high-level delegation that includes Cabinet Ministers, senior government officials, and leading rep-

resentatives from the Philippine business sector. In addition to high-profile engagements in New Delhi, President Marcos will also visit Bengaluru before returning to the Philippines on August 8.

Mayawati urges Centre to protect farmers, small businesses from impact of US tariffs

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, JULY 31

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) chief Mayawati has strongly criticized the newly imposed trade tariffs by the United States and urged the Modi government to take decisive steps to safeguard national interests, particularly those of farmers and small businesses.

Mayawati expressed serious concern over US President Donald Trump's decision to levy a 25% tariff on Indian exports beginning August 1, alongside "a penalty on oil imports from Russia, both of which she said could have damaging repercussions for



the Indian economy".

Despite the US being described as a 'friendly'

nation, Mayawati emphasized, "Such economic pressures should be met

with resilience and transformed into opportunities for self-reliance. The central government should honour its assurance that no section, especially small and medium enterprises and the agricultural sector, will be adversely affected."

Highlighting India's vast labour force and the need for inclusive development, the BSP leader stressed the need for "effective policies rooted in public welfare and constitutional values that would help India achieve sustainable prosperity under the guiding principle of 'Sarvajana Hitaya, Sarvajana Sukhaya', the welfare and happiness of all."

TMC Leader Pintu Chakraborty hacked to death in Hooghly

AGENCIES
KOLKATA, JULY 31

In a shocking and brazen attack, another Trinamool Congress (TMC) leader, Pintu Chakraborty, alias Pintu, was brutally hacked to death by two unidentified assailants in a crowded market area in West Bengal's Hooghly district, police confirmed today.

Chakraborty, a businessman and a member of the TMC-led Kanaipur Panchayat Committee in Konnagar, was attacked with sharp weapons on Tuesday (July 29) near an auto stand in the market after he closed his gas agency shop and was on



his way to attend a party meeting, according to TMC sources.

He was rushed to a nearby local hospital and later shifted to Kolkata's

SSKM Hospital, where he succumbed to multiple grievous injuries.

Konnagar is located approximately 23 kilometers north of Kolkata.

With the latest killing of TMC Panchayat member, a total of six leaders from the ruling party were murdered at different parts of the state in this current month.

The political killings happened in South 24 Parganas, Birbhum, Murshidabad and several other places.

The string of killings comes amid rising political tension ahead of the upcoming assembly elections, expected in eight to nine months.

Police have launched an investigation and said efforts are underway to identify and apprehend the perpetrators.

'Saffron terror' theory busted, Congress must apologise: BJP after Malegaon verdict

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Hailing the NIA court's verdict acquitting all accused in the 2008 Malegaon blast case as "historic", the BJP today slammed the Congress, asserting that its theory of "Hindu terrorism" has been completely discredited.

The BJP demanded a public apology from Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi for perpetuating this false narrative and demanded compensation for the discharged accused, including former BJP MP Paragya Singh Thakur and Lt Col Prasad Purohit.

Addressing the media

here, senior BJP leader and party spokesperson Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "Today is a historic day. The conspiracy of the Congress party to forcibly impose the narrative of 'Hindu terrorism' on the country has been shattered."

He said, "On behalf of the BJP, we say with humility but conviction that the Congress party concocted the term 'Bhagwa Atankwad' (saffron terror) and relentlessly sought to implicate innocent people in fabricated cases. The prosecution should also apologise for allegedly using torture and planting evidence to frame them".

Criticising Rahul Gandhi's recent response, Prasad said, "When questioned, Rahul Gandhi evaded by saying, 'Don't distract, let's talk about Adani'. Why is he running away from the truth? If anyone claims that Hindu terrorism is more dangerous than Lashkar-e-Taiba or Pakistan-sponsored terror, shouldn't he respond? We demand that Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi apologise to the nation for propagating the term 'Bhagwa Atank'."

Nearly 17 years after the Malegaon blast claimed six lives, a special court in Mumbai acquitted all seven accused, including former

Thakur and Purohit, noting there was "no reliable and cogent evidence" against them. The BJP leader also hailed Thakur and Purohit respectively as a saint and decorated officer who fought terrorism in Kashmir.

Slamming Rahul Gandhi, former Home Ministers P Chidambaram and Sushil Kumar Shinde during the UPA tenure for coining and promoting the term 'saffron terror', Ravi Shankar Prasad said, "The Congress will go to any lengths for vote-bank politics. This was a premeditated strategy hatched solely to divide the nation. But the truth cannot be hidden forever."

SC directs Telangana Speaker to decide disqualification petitions within 3 months

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

The Supreme Court today directed the Telangana Speaker to decide disqualification petitions within three months.

The Bench allowed the appeals filed by Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS) leaders challenging the Telangana High Court's refusal to direct the Assembly Speaker to adjudicate disqualification petitions against 10 MLAs who had defected to the ruling Congress party.

A Bench comprising Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice Augustine George Masih emphasised that political defections pose a grave threat to

democratic stability. Delivering the judgment, CJI Gavai stated, "Political defection has been a matter of national discourse. If not curbed, it has the power to disrupt democracy."

The Court reiterated that when the Speaker acts in disqualification matters under the Tenth Schedule, they function as a tribunal and are subject to judicial review.

Citing speeches made in Parliament by leaders like Rajesh Pilot and Devendra Nath Munshi, the Court underlined the historical concern over unchecked defections and the constitutional scheme that entrusts the Speaker with the duty of expedi-

tious adjudication in such cases, thereby reducing the burden on courts.

Referring to the landmark Kihoto Hollohan judgment, the Bench reaffirmed that judicial review under Articles 136, 226, and 227 of the Constitution, though limited, remains available in cases involving the Speaker's decisions on disqualification.

The Court found fault with the Telangana High Court's Division Bench for setting aside the order of a Single Judge, observing that the Single Judge had not even directed time-bound disposal of the petitions.

"The Speaker, while acting as an adjudicating

authority, acts as a tribunal amenable to the jurisdiction of the High Court and the Supreme Court. He does not enjoy constitutional immunity in this capacity," the Court held.

Setting aside the Division Bench's order dated November 22, 2024, the Supreme Court directed that the disqualification proceedings be decided "as expeditiously as possible and within three months."

The Court further warned, "No MLA shall be allowed to protract the proceedings, and in case of any such attempt, the Speaker shall be at liberty to draw adverse inferences."

Rahul Gandhi backs Trump's 'dead economy' remark, slams Modi and Sitharaman

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today backed US President Donald Trump's remark calling the Indian economy as "dead", and said the whole world knows except for the Prime Minister and Finance Minister.

Responding to a media query in the Parliament House complex, about Trump's "Indian economy is a dead economy" remark, Rahul said, "Yes, he is right. Everybody knows this, except the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. I'm glad that President Trump has stated a fact."



Notably, Trump on his social media platform said that a trade deal with Pakistan had just been concluded and both countries (India and Russia) could take their "dead economies" down together.

Gandhi further alleged, "The main issue facing India today is that the government has completely destroyed our economic policy, our defence policy, and our foreign policy. Prime Minister Modi is working for only one person - Adani. Small businesses across the country have been ruined under this government."

Prime Minister of "destroying the Indian", the Raebareilly MP said that he (Modi) was "running the country into the ground".

Commenting on the 25 percent tariff and penalty against India announced by Trump, Gandhi claimed, "You will see that this trade deal will happen entirely on Trump's terms. Modi will simply follow Trump's instructions."

"Trump has said multiple times that he negotiated a ceasefire, he's claimed that five planes were shot down, and now he's imposing a 25 percent tariff. Have you asked yourself why Prime Minister Modi is unable to respond?" he said.

5th Test: Woakes key for England with the ball at The Oval: Hussain

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 31

Former captain Nasser Hussain believes that Chris Woakes will be key to England's bowling performance on a green pitch in the fifth Test against India at The Oval. England electing to bowl first means Woakes will have the first crack at bowling under overcast skies and damp conditions.

So far Woakes, leader of England's pace bowling attack, has picked 10 in four matches of this series, which the hosts' are leading by 2-1.

"It is good to see Atkin-



son back as he adds to the batting as well as the bowling but I think Woakes is the key. He will have got out of bed this morning stiff and sore after playing

all four Tests so far but then seen the pitch. His body might be exhausted but he has waited two months for a pitch like this so make sure you use

it well," said Hussain on Sky Sports' broadcast.

A right shoulder issue has meant that regular skipper Ben Stokes is not playing in the fifth Test. Stokes has taken 17 wickets in this series and been arguably the best bowler on either side.

"Ben Stokes is irreplaceable. There's not many in the world you'd want to seal the series. But was a good toss to win. Someone like Chris Woakes will be licking his lips with the new ball," said former England women's cricketer Ebony Rainford-Brent on BBC Test Match Special.

5th Test: Jurel, Karun, Prasidh and Akash come in as England elect to bowl against India

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 31

Dhruv Jurel, Karun Nair and Prasidh Krishna have been included in India's playing eleven as England's stand-in captain Ollie Pope won the toss and elected to bowl first in the fifth Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test at The Oval on Thursday.

The game could be in for a delayed start as rain arrived after the toss and covers have come back on the pitch and playing square. England are currently leading the series 2-1 and are looking to win a five-match series for the first time since 2018, when they beat India 4-1. England will be captained



by Ollie Pope after Ben Stokes was ruled out due to a right shoulder injury.

With Stokes going out, Jacob Bethell comes into the playing eleven. Fast bowling trio of Gus Atkinson, Jamie Overton and Josh Tongue are also

included in place of pacers Jofra Archer and Brydon Carse and left-arm spin bowling all-rounder Liam Dawson. Pope had no hesitation in bowling first after winning the toss due to the green pitch, damp conditions and a sky full

of clouds.

"I think it was a no-brainer to bowl first with the conditions we have. We are 2-1 up but we will not be content with a 2-2 and want to make it 3-1. Lost a few men, the captain down, but Woakes is tracking nicely, and some fresh faces and a long batting order," said Pope.

For India, Jurel comes in for injured Rishabh Pant, while Nair replaces Shardul Thakur, and Krishna is in for Jasprit Bumrah. Skipper Shubman Gill forgot to mention that seamer Akash Deep is also included in place of Anshul Kamboj, who made his Test debut in the previous game at Old Trafford, Manchester.

Nepal to host ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Qualifier

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JULY 31

Nepal has been named the host nation for the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 Qualifier, scheduled to take place from January 12 to February 2, 2026.

The tournament will feature 10 teams competing for four prized spots at the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026, which will be held in England and Wales.

The qualifier promises to be a high-stakes competition, offering teams a chance to secure their place at the prestigious main event. Bangladesh and Ireland have already



secured automatic entry into the Qualifier after participating in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2024.

Hosts Nepal and Thailand have booked their spots through the Asia

regional pathway, while the USA will represent the Americas region.

The remaining five places in the Qualifier will be filled once regional competitions in Africa, Europe, and East Asia-

Pacific conclude. Two teams each from Africa and Europe, and one from East Asia-Pacific will complete the 10-team lineup.

The format of the Qualifier will see the teams divided into two groups of five, followed by a Super Six stage and a Final. The top four teams at the end of the tournament will progress to the Women's T20 World Cup 2026 in England and Wales.

Nepal hosting a global women's cricket event marks a significant milestone for the development of the game in the region and is expected to generate fresh interest and support for women's cricket across South Asia.

BCA chief congratulates Vaibhav Suryavanshi for U19 call-up for Aus tour

AGENCIES
PATNA, JULY 31

Bihar Cricket Association (BCA) president Rakesh Tiwari on Thursday congratulated young batting sensation Vaibhav Suryavanshi for earning a call-up in the India under-19 squad for the upcoming Tour of Australia.

India have announced the Ayush Mhatre-led U19's squad for the upcoming tour of Australia, which begins on September 21 at Ian Healy Oval in Brisbane. The India U19 side will play three one-day games and two multi-day matches against Australia's U19.

After making waves



in the IPL 2025, Suryavanshi hogged the limelight during the England tour last month. In the fourth ODI against England under-19, Vaibhav smashed 52-ball ton and etched his name into the record books as he set

a new world record for slamming fastest hundred in Youth ODIs.

"We have high hopes from Vaibhav. He has made Bihar and India immensely proud with his performances, and now he has a great opportunity

to showcase his talent on the Australian tour. I wish him all the very best for this new chapter," PCA chief Tiwari said.

He also reaffirmed Bihar Cricket Association commitment to nurturing and supporting emerging talents like Vaibhav Suryavanshi in the State. "The Bihar Cricket Association remains committed to providing opportunities and support for budding talents like Vaibhav. His achievement will serve as an inspiration for other young players in the state. We are confident that Vaibhav will continue to reach new heights in the world of cricket," Tiwari added.

F1: Ferrari hand Fred Vasseur new multi-year deal as team eyes stronger future

AGENCIES
MARANELLO, JULY 31

Ferrari have announced a multi-year contract extension for Team Principal Fred Vasseur, a move the team says reflects their determination to build on the strong foundation laid under his leadership since he joined ahead of the 2023 Formula 1 season.

The Frenchman took charge of the Scuderia after a stint at Sauber and has since overseen a period of renewed competitiveness and internal stability.

Under his watch, Ferrari narrowly lost out to McLaren in the 2023



Teams' Championship, finishing just 14 points behind the title winners.

Though the gap this season has widened - Ferrari trail McLaren by a

hefty 268 points heading into the summer break - the team remains second in the standings, ahead of Mercedes and Red Bull. On the eve of the Hun-

garian Grand Prix weekend, Ferrari confirmed the new deal, bringing an end to recent speculation about Vasseur's future.

In June, reports in the Italian media had suggested that he was at risk of losing his job - claims that had deeply frustrated the 57-year-old. He dismissed the rumours at the time, calling them "disrespectful" and "clearly hurting the team".

Ferrari, however, have shown faith. "His ability to lead under pressure, embrace innovation and pursue performance aligns fully with Ferrari's values and long-term ambitions," the team said in a statement.

Jr Women Hockey Nationals: 30 teams set to participate across three divisions in Kakinada

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

The 15th Hockey India Junior Women National Championship is set to begin on August 1 in Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh. The tournament will run until August 12 and will follow the newly introduced division-based format, which has been implemented earlier this year for the Senior and Sub Junior Men and Women's National Championships.

It features 30 teams divided into three divisions - Division A, Division B, and Division C - with the bottom teams in Division A and B being relegated to



Division B and Division C, respectively, and the top two teams of Division B and Division C being promoted to Division A and Division B next year.

Division A of the Women's Junior National Championship comprises the top 12 teams in the country and will feature defending champions

Hockey Jharkhand in Pool A, last year's runners-up Hockey Madhya Pradesh in Pool B, and second runners-up Hockey Haryana in Pool C. Meanwhile, Division B and Division C will comprise teams that are not in the top 12 national rankings, fighting to climb the ranks and make it to a higher division for next year's National Championship.

Division format & pool composition

Division 'A' (Top-tier Championship Division): Teams will compete for the title, and the 11th and 12th-ranked teams will be relegated to Division 'B'. Matches for Division A will start on August 5.

Alyssa Healy rejigs wicketkeeping technique to overcome injury woes

AGENCIES
SYDNEY, JULY 31

Australia captain Alyssa Healy has made subtle adjustments to her wicketkeeping technique to help reduce the physical strain on her body ahead of the upcoming ODI World Cup in India and Sri Lanka.

Healy hasn't taken up the gloves in a competitive match since the ODI series against England during the Ashes in January. During that series, she played the Test as a specialist batter



paign.

She explained that while the changes may not be obvious to the eye, they involve adopting a slightly more upright stance - a hybrid style blending

elements of wicketkeeping techniques typically taught in Australia and England.

"We've been taught how to wicket keep a certain way in this country for an

extended period of time," Healy said at Cricket Australia's event.

"At the end of the day, it's not overly efficient on our bodies, and doing it at 35 is not ideal.

"We've just been looking at ways to make it a little bit easier for some ageing joints and trying to keep things moving the way they should. It's been a nice learning experience later in my career, so hopefully it pays off."

Healy shared more details about the changes, explaining that they stemmed from discussions with a podiatrist she had been consulting during her recovery from the recent injury.

'Quite funny': Dhruv Jurel reacts to 'wicketkeeping only' meme fest ahead of Oval Test

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 31

Dhruv Jurel has been keeping wickets for India in the last two Tests against England as an injury substitute for Rishabh Pant and hasn't had a chance to bat yet, which sparks a meme fest on social media, with the most famous one being related to the scene from MS Dhoni: The Untold Story.

There is the scene in the movie where a young Dhoni was asked by his coach to only do the keeping drills instead of batting during the practice sessions. Jurel said he enjoyed the meme that compared his situation to a scene from the movie.



"You know that scene from the MS Dhoni movie, where he says, 'I want to bat' and the teacher replies, 'No, do wicketkeeping' and the kid replies, 'No, I like batting' and the response is 'No, you'll have to do keeping.' That part was quite funny,"

Jurel said in a video shared by the BCCI.

Now, with Rishabh Pant ruled out the final Test after sustaining a fracture in his right foot during the fourth Test in Manchester, Jurel will finally get a chance to play as both wicketkeeper and batter

in the Oval Test starting July 31.

The 24-year-old is excited to finally get a chance with the bat. "To overcome challenges when you go overseas is always a special thing. If you perform overseas, people will rate you high so I am very excited, just want to go out and express myself," Jurel said.

"I am very excited to play because this match is very crucial for all of us. I am very excited to do that one thing which helps the team win. I used to think about playing at Lord's since childhood so I was just feeling the moment. The experience (of playing there) was great," he added.

Satish Sharma chairs 'Sampoornata Samman Samaroh', inaugurates 'Aakanksha Haat' in Bandipora

JINNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 31

Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport, Science & Technology, Information Technology, Youth Services & Sports, and ARI & Trainings, Satish Sharma, today presided over the Sampoornata Samman Samaroh and inaugurated the week-long Aakanksha Haat at Nishat Park, Bandipora.

The event was organized to commemorate the successful saturation of six key indicators under the Sampoornata Abhiyan, launched on July 1, 2024, as part of the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) of NITI Aayog.

The six indicators that achieved full saturation included Antenatal Care (ANC) coverage, institutional deliveries, full immunization of children, reduction in underweight children (nutrition), foundational literacy and numeracy (learning outcomes) and household tap water connections (Har Ghar Jal).

The Sampoornata Samman Samaroh served as a platform to felicitate the departments, officers,



frontline workers and stakeholders who played a pivotal role in achieving this milestone. The initiative reflects a strong collaborative effort towards inclusive and measurable development in remote and aspirational areas.

It was given out that Bandipora district, particularly blocks like Tulail and Arin, has made remarkable strides under the Aspirational Block Programme. The district was recently ranked 2nd nationally and received a performance incentive of Rs.1 crore in recognition of its outstanding achievements in health, nutrition, education, water supply, agriculture and infrastructure.

The event was attended by prominent dignitaries including Chairperson District Development Council Ab Gani Bhat, MLA Ban-

dipora Nizam Uddin Bhat, MLA Gurez Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, Deputy Commissioner Bandipora Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, Vice Chairperson DDC Kowsar Shafeeq, members, senior officers and community stakeholders.

Satish Sharma congratulated the district administration and the people of Bandipora, calling it a proud moment that reflects the collective dedication of all stakeholders. He assured full support from the government in sustaining the momentum of development and improving services at the grassroots level. He praised the remarkable transformation brought about in Tulail block under the ABP.

The day also marked the inauguration of Aakanksha Haat, a week-long exhibition aimed

at showcasing the local innovations, departmental achievements and flagship schemes. The exhibition featured interactive stalls by various departments, cultural performances and awareness campaigns, particularly highlighting the contributions of field functionaries from remote areas like Tulail.

MLA Bandipora, Nizam Uddin Bhat, raised several public concerns, including the demand for National Highway status to the Srinagar-Bandipora road and strengthening of infrastructure at District Hospital Bandipora.

MLA Gurez, Nazir Ahmad Khan Gurezi, applauded the efforts of the district administration and frontline workers in achieving Sampoornata in Tulail block.

Earlier, the Minister visited and inspected the exhibition stalls set up by various departments, interacting with staff and beneficiaries to assess service delivery and innovation on the ground.

The programme concluded with a grand felicitation ceremony honouring contributors to the Abhiyan's success.

Safety First: Tourism Department Jammu asks Water Sports Operators to comply with protocols

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 31

The Directorate of Tourism Jammu convened a significant meeting today at its Conference Hall to deliberate on the fixation of rafting charges for registered adventure tour operators operating in Reasi district. This initiative marks a continued effort to promote adventure tourism in a sustainable, safe, and regulated manner.

The meeting was chaired by Joint Director Tourism Jammu Aijaz Qaiser and attended by Deputy Director Savita Chouhan and Assistant Director Vishal Sadhotra.

Representing the Rafting Association were Gurjit Singh, President, and Sachin Singh Sambal, General Secretary. During the meeting, several key issues concerning rafting activities in the region were raised and discussed. A prominent concern highlighted by



the Association was the unchecked proliferation of unregistered and unregulated rafting operators, which has implications for both tourist safety and the sustainability of the industry.

To address the same, it was collectively decided that the carrying capacity for each white-water rafting site across Jammu Province will be assessed and finalized in consultation with the National Institute of Water sports (NIWS), Goa. The step is intended to promote responsible and well-managed tourism, ensuring optimal visitor experiences without compromising ecological or safety standards. In addition,

both parties thoroughly discussed the importance of enforcing strict safety protocols and maintaining high operational standards.

It was emphasized that all registered rafting operators must strictly adhere to the safety protocols and guidelines issued by the Ministry of Tourism (MoT), Government of India, to ensure a secure and high-quality experience for tourists. These guidelines include the mandatory use of certified safety equipment such as life jackets and helmets, and the deployment of properly trained and certified personnel for all rafting operations.

Regular maintenance

and upkeep of rafts must be ensured to keep all equipment in optimal condition. The association was advised to avoid rafting activities during the monsoon season, due to heightened risks associated with turbulent river conditions during this period.

The Directorate of Tourism reiterated its full cooperation and support to the Rafting Association and registered operators, assuring a collaborative approach in the regulation, promotion, and smooth functioning of rafting and other adventure tourism activities in the region. Officials underlined that these efforts are part of a broader commitment to position Reasi as a key destination for adventure tourism within the Jammu Division, by ensuring safety, quality, and a positive tourist experience through regulated and professionally managed services.

DEO Shopian organizes training for newly appointed BLOs

JINNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, JULY 31

District Election Office (DEO) Shopian, today organized a comprehensive training session for all newly appointed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of the district in the Meeting Hall of the Mini Secretariat Complex Arhama, Shopian.

The training was imparted by District Level Master Trainers,



who provided detailed instructions on the roles and responsibilities of BLOs in accordance with the guidelines laid down

by the Election Commission of India.

Key topics on which training imparted included the maintenance and

verification of electoral rolls, procedures for inclusion, deletion, and shifting of voter names, and the effective use of digital platforms for voter registration and data management.

A special focus of the session was to orient the BLOs on their specific duties for the upcoming Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls.

DC Kupwara holds interactive meeting with PWDs

JINNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 31

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

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

Speaking at the occasion, DC said that the aim of holding the interactive meeting is to know the field of interest of the persons with disabilities



so that they can be covered under different self employment schemes of the Government which will transform their lives.

She urged the PWDs to express their interest so that the administration can support them by skilling or financing them under different self employment schemes like Mission Yuva and PM Vishwakarma. She said the

objective is to make them self reliant and ensure they earn their living with hard work and dignity.

Superintendent ITI Kupwara while interacting with the participants provided them detailed awareness about different trades and skill programmes available in ITIs for the specially-abled persons.

Later, a separate session

was held for the participants wherein their details including name, address, qualification, field of interest and other information were sought from them. During the session, the participants were guided about the courses and the schemes in which they had shown their interest.

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

DC Srinagar reviews progress of works under District Capex Budget

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 31

In order to review the progress of the developmental works taken up under District Capex Budget 2025-26 in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo today chaired a comprehensive meeting of all sectoral/district officers here at meeting hall of the DC office Complex.

DC also assessed the progress made in the preparation of estimates of works for various components under the District Capex Budget for the ongoing fiscal year.

Besides, Additional District Development Commissioner, Srinagar, Rifat Aftab Qureshi; Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Superintending Engineer R&B, Shabir Ahmad;



Chief Medical Officer, Assistant Commissioner Development, Chief Education Officer, Executive Engineers of R&B, PHE, KPDCL, SMC the meeting was attended by all district/sectoral officers, Engineers and other concerned.

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

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

On the occasion, DC directed the line departments to accelerate the pace of work on all ongoing projects to ensure their timely completion. He further underscored the

importance of expediting estimation preparation for early execution of works keeping in view the limited working season.

He asked the concerned to ensure project estimates of all approved works for current fiscal are submitted this week in order to speed up the development process in the district.

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

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

DDC Poonch reviews implementation of Financial Inclusion, Social Security Schemes

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 31

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the DC Office Complex to evaluate the implementation and progress of the Financial Inclusion and Social Security schemes being executed in the district through banks and other financial institutions.

The DDC conducted an extensive assessment of saturation levels, enrollment status, target achievements and pendency related to major social security schemes including Atal Pension Yojana (APY), Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY), Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha



Bima Yojana (PMSBY), PM Mudra Yojana.

He further reviewed progress under pension schemes such as Widow, Old Age and Disability pensions, State Marriage Assistance Scheme and the registration of Building and Other Construction Workers for various welfare schemes offered by Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (BOCWWB).

The DDC directed the officers to work in close coordination with banks to ensure the implementation of all schemes in letter and spirit. He emphasized the need to generate mass

awareness about these initiatives and directed banks to organize awareness camps across the district to reach out to the grassroots level.

He urged all departments and financial institutions to redouble their efforts in bringing more eligible beneficiaries, particularly from economically weaker and marginalized communities, under the coverage of these schemes. He underscored the significance of these programs not merely as financial tools but as critical social security instruments offering insurance, pension, and livelihood

support to the unorganised sector.

Furthermore, he called for improved coordination between the banking sector and concerned departments for effective rollout of the Smart KCC Scheme, ensuring that the benefits reach the intended targets without delay.

The meeting reinforced the district administration's commitment towards inclusive growth, with a strong focus on social justice, financial empowerment, and poverty alleviation.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Poonch, ACP, ACD, DSWO, CMO, Assistant Labour Commissioner, XENs PWD (R&B) Poonch/Mendhar/Surankote, XEN PMG/SY, LDM, Cluster Head J&K Bank and other concerned officers.

DC Poonch gives away Kissan Credit Cards to Farmers Encourages them to avail government schemes

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 31

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today gave away Kissan Credit Cards (KCC) to a group of eligible farmers. The beneficiaries can now have easy access to the credit, enabling them to purchase necessary agricultural equipment



and cover operational costs.

While handing over the cards to the beneficiaries, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized

the importance of utilizing government schemes to enhance productivity and improve the financial stability of farmers. "The Kissan Credit Card

is designed to offer easy access to credit for the farmers," the Deputy Commissioner said. "This initiative will not only support them in acquiring essential agricultural tools but will also reduce their financial burden."

Chief Agriculture Officer, LDM and other concerned officers were also present at the event.