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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:
 • Increase in body temperature
 • Persistent vomiting
 • A sharp rise in temperature
 • Dizziness
 • Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
 If you have any of these symptoms, go to the nearest medical center IMMEDIATELY.

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Sat Sharma invites HM Shah to visit J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir BJP President Sat Sharma on Friday extended a formal invitation to Union Home Minister Amit Shah to visit the Union Territory. Sharma, according to the news agency called on the Home Minister in New Delhi today and told him that his J&K visit would greatly motivate the party cadre and support ongoing developmental efforts.

The BJP's J&K UT President discussed key issues concerning the region and the party's organizational matters. Sharma congratulated the Home Minister on the successful 'Operation Mahadev,' which neutralized terrorists behind the Pahalgam attack, and termed it a major step under the broader 'Operation Sindoor' to secure lasting peace in J&K.

He also lauded Shah's strong leadership in combating terrorism and promoting grassroots governance. KNO

DGP visits Kulgam, holds operational review

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

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

At the onset of the meeting, SSP Kulgam made a detailed presentation, on operational preparedness and ongoing operations, a police spokesman said in a statement issued to the news agency.

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

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

Encounter underway in Kulgam woods

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 KULGAM, AUG 01 (KNO)

An encounter between terrorists and security forces is underway in the Akhal forest area of Devsar in South Kashmir's Kulgam district, officials said on Friday.

A top police official told the news agency that a joint team of police, Army and CRPF launched a Cordon and Search Operation (CASO) in the area following specific inputs about the presence of terrorists.

He said during the search operation, contact was established with the hiding terrorists. "The exchange of fire is going on and further details will be shared accordingly," he said.
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Indo-Pak relations strained after Pahalgam attack; 'Op Sindoor' on: GoI

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 NEW DELHI, AUG 01 (KNO)

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

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



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

series of diplomatic and military measures taken by India following the attack that resulted in multiple civilian casualties in Jammu and Kashmir. According to the minis-

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

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

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AIIMS projects progressing in Jammu & Kashmir: GoI

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

The Government of India (GoI) has said that two All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) projects have been approved in Jammu and Kashmir, one each in Jammu's Vijaypur and Kashmir's Awantipora, with only the former currently functional.

According to a written reply in the Lok Sabha by the Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, Prataprao Jadhav, accessed by the news agency, AIIMS Vijaypur in



Jammu was approved on January 10, 2019, and has become operational. It currently has 32 Intensive Care Unit (ICU) beds and one ventilator ambulance.

The second AIIMS in the region, located in

Awantipora, Kashmir, was sanctioned on the same date, January 10, 2019, but is still under construction. No ICU beds or ambulance facilities are yet available

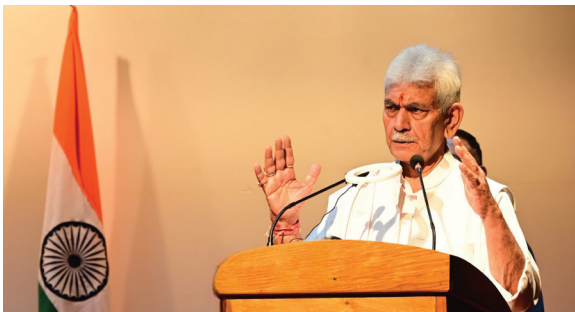
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Take a pledge to eliminate every terrorist, their outfits: LG Sinha to Army Officers

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

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

Interacting with the officers attending Higher Command Course - 54 at Army War College Mhow at Raj Bhawan here, LG Sinha, according to the



news agency said, "I congratulate and thank the outstanding officers of the three services for keeping all citizens safe and safe-

guarding the unity, integrity and sovereignty of the country. We must vow to eliminate every

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

MBBS seats increased in J&K, Ladakh gets first Medical College: GoI

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW) has released state-wise data on MBBS seats for the academic year 2024-25, revealing a significant boost in medical education capacity in Jammu & Kashmir and the long-awaited inclusion of Ladakh.

According to the data, Jammu & Kashmir has seen its MBBS seat capacity increase from 1,135 in 2020-21 to 1,385 in 2024-25, adding 250 new seats over five years.



In a significant development, the Union Territory of Ladakh, which had no medical college until now, has been allotted 100 MBBS seats for the first time.

According to the news agency, the region had

long demanded a Medical College to address the shortage of doctors and improve healthcare infrastructure in the high-altitude Himalayan territory.

Officials say the increase in J&K's seat count

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

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

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

As per the Ministry of Law and Justice written reply to Lok Sabha on August 1, 2025, there are 3,35,513 cases pending in the district and subordinate courts

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J&K has 5,447 registered AYUSH doctors: Centre

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir has a total of 5,447 registered AYUSH practitioners as of January 1, 2023, according to a reply tabled in the Lok Sabha by Minister of AYUSH Prataprao Jadhav.

The government, as reported by the news agency, said the responsibility to increase the number of AYUSH doctors lies with the respective State and UT

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PMGSY-III: J&K sees completion of 169 rural roads, 15 bridges so far

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana-III (PMGSY-III), Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed noteworthy progress in rural connectivity with the completion of 169 roads and 15 bridges till July 28, 2025, according to the Ministry of Rural Development.

The data, tabled in the Rajya Sabha in response to a question by Member of Parliament Harsh Mahajan, as per the details collected by the news agency, reveals that a total of 223



roads and 66 bridges had been sanctioned for the Union Territory under PMGSY-III.

It said of these, 169 roads covering 1,465.65 kilometres and 15 bridges have already been completed.

The data reveals that a total value of sanctioned projects in J&K under the scheme stands at Rs 1,752.12 crore, while the expenditure incurred so far, including the state share, is Rs 1,580.72 crore.

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60 judges vacant in J&K courts, Centre informs Lok Sabha

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

The Government of India (GoI) on Friday informed the Lok Sabha that 60 judge positions are vacant across courts in Jammu & Kashmir as of July 2025.

According to the written reply by Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal, accessed by the news agency, 10 out of 25 sanctioned posts in the High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh are vacant, while 15 judges are currently serving as of July 25, 2025.

In the District and Sub-



ordinate Courts of Jammu & Kashmir, there are 50 vacancies. Out of 322 sanctioned posts, 272 judicial officers are in place, as per data from the Department of Justice's MIS portal on July 28, 2025.

At the national level,

the government said that between May 1, 2014, and July 21, 2025, a total of 70 judges were appointed to the Supreme Court, and 1058 new judges were appointed to the High Courts, with 794

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Only 4 FTSCs functioning in J&K: Centre

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

The Union Ministry of Law and Justice has disclosed that only four Fast Track Special Courts (FTSCs) are currently operational in Jammu and Kashmir, including two exclusive POCSO courts, despite a growing backlog of sexual offence cases.

According to official data submitted in the Lok Sabha, a copy of which lies with the news agency, 808 cases have been instituted in these courts in the region since the scheme's implementation. Of these, only 311 cases have been

disposed of, indicating a disposal rate of just 38.5% as of June 30, 2025.

The average time for completion of trial in Jammu & Kashmir is among the highest nationally: Rape cases: 1,095 days (3 years). POCSO cases: 730 days (2 years).

These figures raise serious concerns about the timely delivery of justice to victims of sexual violence, particularly minors.

Between FY 2019-20 and 2024-25, the Centre has sanctioned Rs 8.58 crore to Jammu and Kashmir under the FTSC scheme. However, no funds have yet been released for the current

financial year (2025-26), despite an overall national budget of Rs 200 crore.

Nationally, the scheme has sanctioned 763 FTSCs, of which 653 courts across 31 States and UTs are functional. Jammu & Kashmir lags significantly in both court count and case disposal efficiency.

The FTSCs were launched in October 2019 to ensure swift justice in rape and POCSO cases, following directions from the Supreme Court. But in Jammu & Kashmir, the infrastructure and resource constraints appear to be undermining this objective. KNO

Learning with Tech out of bounds for 64% Jammu & Kashmir students

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 SRINAGAR, AUG 01 (KNO)

In Jammu and Kashmir, at least 64 percent school students have no access to use and avail the technology for better learning at home.

According to the report of the Ministry of Education (MoE), only 36 percent of school students have a laptop, desktop and tablet for learning at home.

According to the news agency, the report further states that only 60 percent of students were using a

smartphone for learning at home.

It also said that only 66 percent of students were having internet access at home and 66 percent of schools were having internet connectivity available for the students.

The report further said that only 62 percent of schools were having computers and tablets for students.

"Many students reported having smartphones and internet access at home, making it possible for them to engage with online learning content,"

it reads.

The report however said that fewer students mentioned having access to laptops or tablets for educational use. Internet connectivity and digital devices like computers or tablets are available in several schools.

"Strengthening access to personal learning devices at home and enhancing the integration of digital tools in classrooms can further support better learning outcomes," it reads. It also states that most students

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Ladakh's legal infra expands slowly: GoI

JJ NEWS SERVICE
 KARGIL, AUG 01 (KNO)

The Ministry of Law and Justice has acknowledged critical gaps in the judicial infrastructure of Ladakh, confirming that more than 30% of sanctioned judicial posts remain vacant and only half of the Union Territory's subdivisions currently have functioning court infrastructure. Responding to a

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Kishtwar gears up for Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign-2025

JINNEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, AUG 1

Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness for the upcoming Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2025, scheduled to be held from August 2, to August 15, 2025.

The campaign will be conducted in three phases from Aug 2 to August 8, August 9 to August 12 and August 13 to August 15.

At the outset, Additional Deputy Commissioner Pawan Kotwal shared detailed insights into the activities planned across the three phases. Events such as Rangoli Competitions, Tiranga Rakhi Making Workshops, and Tiranga Bike Rallies are scheduled to be held at different venues across the district.

In conjunction with the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, a week-long Swachhata (Cleanliness) Campaign will also be launched. Cleanliness drives will be conducted across all Panchayats in the district, with a special



mega cleanliness event scheduled at the historic Chowgan Grounds, the meeting was told.

Emphasizing that it is a national campaign, the Deputy Commissioner directed all Heads of Departments (HODs) to ensure maximum public participation. He also stressed the importance of inclusive celebrations, urging everyone to participate in the campaign with unity and patriotic spirit.

Furthermore, the DC directed the stakeholder departments to organize flag hoisting ceremonies and illuminate government buildings, educational institutions, offices, bridges, hotels and key public infrastructure during the

campaign period.

The ASP briefed the meeting about the security arrangements put in place to ensure a safe and smooth conduct of the campaign.

The Deputy Commissioner asked all government officials and staff to hoist the Tiranga at their respective offices and also encourage the general public to proudly display the national flag at their homes and schools.

He urged everyone to celebrate the campaign with full fervor, enthusiasm and national spirit.

The Deputy Commissioner also took a detailed review of the arrangements related to essential services and commodities

including Health, PHE, PDD, Sanitation and others to ensure the smooth conduct of the Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign.

The concerned departments were instructed to maintain a high level of preparedness and coordination, ensuring that all necessary infrastructure and support systems are in place well in advance of the campaign's commencement.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal, ASP Kishtwar Pardeep Singh, PO ICDS Kishtwar Rishi Kumar Sharma, ACR Kishtwar Idrees lone, SDMs besides other senior officers and concerned staff.

Mission Shakti SWD conducts week-long PMMVY awareness, enrolment drive across Jammu District

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

Mission Shakti District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu (Social Welfare Department), in collaboration with the Poshan Projects, successfully organised a week-long awareness and enrolment cum outreach drive under the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

The drive was conducted at multiple Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) across Jammu district, including Old Janipur, Bishnah, Satrayan (R.S. Pura), Arjan Kotli (R.S. Pura), Lower



Shiv Nagar and Nagrota in coordination with the respective Child Development Project Officers and their dedicated staff.

The initiative aimed to spread awareness about maternal health, nutrition, and the benefits of

PMMVY while ensuring the enrolment of all eligible beneficiaries. Community women and local residents actively participated in the sessions, where the Mission Shakti officials and CDPO officials provided guidance on availing the

benefits of the scheme. Mission Shakti officials stated that such outreach programs play a crucial role in ensuring that government welfare schemes reach the grassroots level and empower women across the district.

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, AUG 1

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

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

The event was attend-



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

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

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

MLA Pattan, in his remarks, appreciated the work done by the administration and supporting staff. He said, "Programmes like Sampoonnata Abhiyan reflect the government's commitment to equitable development.

Baramulla's performance is an encouraging example of what focused teamwork and mission-driven governance can achieve."

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

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

Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan: Awareness event on Drug De-Addiction organised at GMBHSS Samba

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, AUG 1

In a continued effort to combat substance abuse and promote a healthier youth community, an Awareness Programme on Drug De-Addiction was held today at Government Model Boys Higher Secondary School Samba under the banner of the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan. The event was organised in collaboration with the District Administration and the school authorities.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted



the growing threat of drug addiction among the youth and urged students and educators alike to stay proactive in fostering awareness and resilience against this social evil.

The programme featured a series of impactful presentations by students, including powerful speeches, poetic recitations and a

thought-provoking skit—all centered around the harmful consequences of drug abuse and the importance of choosing a positive drug-free life.

The event saw the participation of the Assistant Commissioner Revenue, school faculty and a large number of students. The Principal of GMBHSS

Samba expressed heartfelt gratitude to all dignitaries and contributors during the vote of thanks.

The programme concluded on a strong note of collective commitment to a drug-free future, encouraging everyone present to become ambassadors of change within their communities.

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUG 1

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

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

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



of a playground at Larh. Responding to the projected demands, Mankotia issued on-the-spot directions to the concerned officers seeking speedy redressal of genuine grievances. He stressed that all issues raised during the camp should be addressed either immediately or within a defined time-frame.

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

Scores of public issues were resolved at the camp through direct intervention and coordination with departmental officers. Mankotia also emphasized

working with a sense of mission and dedication to avoid any inconvenience to public due to poor services. Besides, he encouraged officers to create awareness among the public regarding the income-generating and beneficiary-oriented schemes launched by the Government of India, ensuring that all eligible citizens avail themselves of these benefits.

Sakeena Itoo reviews development scenario of Khan Sahib Constituency

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 1

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here to review the developmental scenario of Khansahib Constituency of Budgam district.

The meeting was attended by MLA Khan Sahib, Saifu-din Bhat; Secretary School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma; Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; Director School Education Kashmir, Director Health Services Kashmir, Director Coordination New GMCs, Director Finance Health and Medical Education, Director Planning Health and Medical Education, CEO Budgam, CMO Budgam and other concerned officers.

During the meeting, the Minister took holistic assessment on the progress of various ongoing



projects spanning health-care, education and civic amenities.

The Minister emphasized the enhancing infrastructure at Primary Health Centres and local hospitals. She directed the health department to fast track ongoing proposals aimed at strengthening the critical infrastructure like diagnostic facilities, dialysis centres as well as other facilities.

While reviewing education infrastructure in the

Constituency, Sakeena Itoo directed the officers for renovating key schools and college facilities with main focus on developing basic amenities for the students. He also called for setting up ICT-ready classrooms and upgrading labs in various schools to meet current educational standards.

The Minister reiterated the Government's commitment to equitable and grassroots development across J&K. She reaffirmed

that addressing gaps in critical sectors like health-care and education and infrastructure remains priority of the Omar Abdullah led Government.

Sakeena Itoo further called for interdepartmental coordination to ensure seamless implementation of welfare and development schemes. He called for establishing monthly grievance forums at constituency level to ensure citizens grievances are addressed promptly.

ALC Samba listens to issues of Beopar Mandal

JINNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, AUG 1

Assistant Labour Commissioner (ALC) Samba, Himani Jerath convened a meeting with a delegation of Beopar Mandal Samba market at her office chamber. The meeting aimed to foster dialogue and address labour-

related concerns faced by local business stakeholders.

During the interactive session, the ALC patiently listened to the grievances and issues raised by the attendees. Demonstrating a proactive approach, she resolved several matters on the spot, ensuring swift redressal and support for

the business community.

In her concluding remarks, the Assistant Labour Commissioner emphasized the importance of strict compliance with labour laws. She urged all shop owners and commercial establishments to ensure proper registration under the Shops and

Establishment Act, 1966 and to renew their licenses promptly if due.

The meeting underscored the Labour Department's commitment to facilitating a transparent and cooperative environment between regulatory authorities and the local business fraternity.

DC discusses arrangements for Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in Udhampur

JINNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUG 1

Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of officers of line departments to discuss the arrangements for effective implementation of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Assistant Commissioner Revenue Dr. Umesh Shan; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh and other



officers from line departments.

Speaking at the meeting, the DC informed that a series of activities, events and competitions will be organized under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav to commemorate the spirit of independence and patriotism.

She emphasized that the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative aims to instill a deep sense of patriotism among citizens, foster respect for the

National Flag and promote awareness about national symbols.

The DC directed all departments to complete necessary preparations well in advance to ensure the successful execution of the campaign. She added that the district administration has already put in place essential arrangements and urged all stakeholders to work in close coordination for the effective implementation of scheduled events.

She also stressed the importance of adhering to the Flag Code of India and following standard protocol to maintain the sanctity and honor of the National Flag.

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
REASI, AUG 1

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

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

DC Nidhi Malik directed



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

felicitation. In the same meeting, the DC Reasi also reviewed preparations for the Sampoonnata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh, which will honor the achievements under the Sampoonnata Abhiyan held from July to September 2024. The campaign focused on achieving saturation of six critical indica-

tors in Aspirational Districts and Blocks. Thakrakote Block has shown exceptional progress, with other areas nearing completion of key targets. The Samaroh will recognize the contributions of officials, frontline workers and stakeholders who played a key role in this milestone.

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

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

Ramban all set to launch Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, AUGUST 1

Deputy Commissioner Ramban Mohammad Alyas Khan today chaired a meeting to review the preparations for the nationwide Har Ghar Tiranga-2025 campaign starting from August 2, 2025 across the district.

The meeting was attended by Additional Deputy Commissioner Varunjeet Singh Charak, Assistant Commissioner Revenue Shokat Hayat Mattoo, Chief Planning Officer Dr. Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat at Mohammad Ashfaq, SDMs, Executive Engineers, Executive Officers of Municipal Committees, Tehsildars, BDOs and other district and sectoral officers.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commis-



sioner rolled out the date-wise activity plan and briefed the officers on their role and responsibilities for the smooth and successful conduct of the campaign across the district. He directed all stakeholder departments to work in close coordination to attract maximum public participation and spread patriotic fervor to every household.

It was informed that the Har Ghar Tiranga 2025 campaign will be organized in three phases, invoking patriotic spirit

through Tricolor-themed decorations, exhibitions, Rangoli competitions, Rakhi-making, Swachhta Abhiyan, Amrit Mahotsav activities, letter writing to soldiers, Tiranga Mahotsav, melas, bike rallies, Tiranga Yatras, Flag-hoisting ceremonies at designated locations, homes, offices, institutions and public places along with the nationwide "Selfie with Tiranga" initiative to ensure maximum visibility and extensive flag distribution across urban and rural areas. Emphasizing the

importance of collective participation, the Deputy Commissioner said, "Har Ghar Tiranga is not just a campaign but a celebration of our unity, freedom, and national pride. I urge every citizen of Ramban district to participate wholeheartedly and make this campaign a memorable tribute to our nation."

The DC also stressed the need for timely arrangements, enhanced tricolor decorations in public spaces, and active participation from volunteers, youth, students, and civil society groups. He further instructed officers to intensify awareness drives so that citizens enthusiastically hoist the national flag with dignity and pride during the campaign.

All the officers assured their full cooperation in making the Har Ghar Tiranga Rally a grand success in Ramban district.

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 01

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

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

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

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



CITIZEN CENTRIC SERVICES OF DEPARTMENT OF LAW, JUSTICE & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

website and the India Code website.

It will have unique feature of providing enrolment process, welfare schemes, notary and oath commissioner services and a list of government advocates besides standing counsels and career guidance for Advocates. App will provide unique features for guiding the citizens for registration of documents and registration of marriages under different Laws.

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

The mobile app will also feature informa-

tion on various courts, including the Supreme Court, High Court and District Courts, along with cause lists and the status of cases. It will also provides information on landmark judgments and details of courts and their locations.

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

The citizens can also find details on the registration process, including office locations, model templates, a checklist of required documents and a list of stamp vendors.

An AI-powered chatbot will be available to assist with various legal issues for the assistance of all. The final module allows

for submission of grievances, complaints, and feedback, with a system for generating acknowledgements and replies.

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

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

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

JINNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, AUG 1

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

Addressing a felicitation ceremony organized by the district administration at Dak Bungalow, Poonch, Rana celebrated the transformational achievements of Mankote Block, which, he said, has emerged as a leading example of successful grassroots governance and community-driven development.

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

"Mankote's journey is not only a story of impressive rankings, it is a story of determination,



of resilience and of belief. It reflects the commitment of our frontline workers, the synergy between the departments and the faith of the people that development must be inclusive, equitable and far-reaching," the Minister said.

He highlighted that the transformation was significantly accelerated during the 90 days focused saturation campaign that aimed to achieve key development milestones across priority sectors such as health, nutrition, education, agriculture and financial inclusion.

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

Rana proudly noted that Mankote Block had

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

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

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

Reiterating the Omar

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

He affirmed that his ministries would provide full support in scaling up such transformative efforts to other underdeveloped blocks in the district.

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

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

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

DPO reviews PMMVY special registration drive at Poshan Project Assar

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, AUG 1

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

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

During the visit, the DPO Doda interacted with field functionaries, includ-



ing Anganwadi Workers, Supervisors and beneficiaries. He appreciated the efforts of the CDPO Assar and her team for effective community mobilization and on-ground execution of the drive.

Addressing the gathering, the DPO advised the field staff to work with utmost dedication to achieve 100% targets under all components of the Poshan Abhiyaan, including PMMVY, Supple-

mentary Nutrition, Growth Monitoring, Health Check-ups and IEC activities. He exhorted the staff to maintain transparency and accountability in working and ensure coverage of every eligible beneficiary.

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

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

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

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

Indo-Pak relations...

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

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

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

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

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

AIIMS projects...

at this site, as per the Ministry's response. Both AIIMS projects in Jammu and Kashmir fall under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PSSY). These institutions are being developed to enhance the availability of tertiary-level healthcare services and to promote medical education and research across the country.

As of now, 22 AIIMS projects have been approved across India, of which several are still under various stages of development. Each functional AIIMS is equipped with ICU beds and ambulances, although the number varies by location. KNO

Take a pledge...

terrorist and terrorist organization that threatens our safety, security and prosperity."

LG Sinha discussed contemporary geo-political and geo-strategic issues, besides Counter-Terrorism strategy and whole-of-government approach to dismantle terror ecosystem.

He also shared a range of key reforms and initiatives taken by the J&K UT administration and security apparatus in the past few years to ensure inclusive development, peace and prosperity.

Lt Gen Harjeet Singh Sahi, Commandant, Army War College, faculty members and senior officers of the Security Forces were present on the occasion. KNO

MBBS seats...

is the result of both the establishment of new medical colleges and the expansion of existing institutions under centrally sponsored schemes.

"This is a major step towards strengthening the healthcare system and addressing the doctor-patient ratio in both Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh," a senior health official said.

In terms of total MBBS seats for the academic year 2024-25, Jammu and Kashmir ranks around 21st among all Indian states and Union Territories, with 1,385 seats.

This places it in the mid-tier range higher than smaller or north-eastern states like Jharkhand, Himachal Pradesh and Meghalaya, but significantly behind leading states such as Karnataka, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. KNO

3.8 lakh cases...

of Jammu and Kashmir, while 1,417 cases are pending in the courts of Ladakh.

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

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

To address delays and facilitate faster disposal of cases, the Government cited several initiatives under Article 21 of the Constitution. These include the establishment of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms in August 2011, which focuses on reducing delays and enhancing accountability in judicial administration. The Mission promotes structural changes, computerization, increased judge strength and re-engineering of court procedures.

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

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

J&K has 5,447...

administrations, since public health is a state subject. The reply did not provide separate figures on the estimated shortage of doctors in Jammu and Kashmir.

While the Centre does not directly manage recruitment or retention, it supports capacity-building under the Ayurgyan scheme, aimed at upgrading the professional competence of AYUSH practitioners through Continuing Medical Education (CME).

The Union Territory's numbers form part of the 7.5 lakh total AYUSH registered doctors across India. KNO

PMGSY-III: J&K sees...

At the national level, the Ministry of Rural Development informed that under PMGSY-III, launched in 2019 to upgrade 1.25 lakh kilometres of rural roads across India, a total of 15,972 roads covering 1,22,419 km and 3,212 bridges have been sanctioned so far. Of these, 11,740 roads (98,653 km) and 1,380 bridges have already been completed as of July 28, 2025.

Notably, PMGSY-III aims to improve rural access to markets, schools and healthcare. The Ministry stated that all ongoing works under the scheme are targeted for completion by March 2026. KNO

60 judges vacant...

additional judges made permanent. The sanctioned strength of High Court judges rose from 906 in 2014 to 1122 by July 2025.

The Centre also clarified that appointing judicial officers in District and Subordinate Courts is the responsibility of the State governments and respective High Courts, under Articles 233 and 234 of the Constitution.

The government added that the Supreme Court's 2007 order in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case prescribes timelines that States and High Courts are required to follow for the timely recruitment of judicial officers. KNO

Learning with Tech...

shared that their schools are equipped with basic facilities such as functional toilets, clean drinking water, and proper ventilation through working fans and lights in classrooms.

"Access to sports facilities is also reported by many students. However, the availability of functional laboratories for Grade IX students is relatively lower in comparison," reads the report.

The MoE report further states that ensuring consistent access to all essential infrastructure is important to create a more enabling environment for learning.

Pertinently KNO already reported that at least 17 percent of students in Jammu and Kashmir engage in family work after completing 10th standard, reveals a report of Ministry of Education (MoE).

Stating the status of 'students outside the educational system' the report said that, "Students exit the education system after Grade 10 because of different reasons like taking up a job, doing an apprenticeship, repeating the grade, and participating in family work.". KNO

Ladakh's legal infra...

question raised by MP Mohammad Haneefa in the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of Law and Justice Arjun Ram Meghwal informed that of the 10 sub-divisions in Ladakh, courts are operational in only five including Zaskar, Sankoo, Khalsi, Nubra and Drass.

According to government data, 17 judicial officer posts have been sanctioned for the region, but only 10 are currently filled.

According to the news agency, 11 court halls and four residential units are available, while four additional court halls and two residences are under construction.

Over the last five years, the Centre has released Rs 8.33 crore to Ladakh under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS) for the development of judicial infrastructure. For the year 2025-26, Rs 2 crore has been earmarked under the CSS specifically for UTs without legislatures.

To address access issues in remote areas, the Ladakh administration has set up Special Mobile Magistrate Courts in Leh and Kargil. Lok Adalats are also held regularly under the framework of the Legal Services Authorities Act.

In the last three years, National Lok Adalats in Ladakh settled 5,375 cases, while State Lok Adalats handled 240 cases, mostly during 2022-23.

In September 2023, a Legal Aid Clinic was opened in Tangtse village of Leh district, as part of efforts to expand grassroots legal support. Overall, 1,540 people including 477 women and 24 children have benefited from various legal aid services across Ladakh in the last three years, according to the Ladakh Legal Services Authority (LLSA).

The government said steps are being taken, in consultation with the High Court, to fill judicial vacancies following Supreme Court guidelines in the Malik Mazhar Sultan case.

Also, a national toll-free legal aid helpline (15100) was launched in August 2024 to offer legal advice and referral services to citizens, including residents of Ladakh. KNO

Encounter underway...

Meanwhile, Police in a post on X, informed that SOG, J&K Police, Army and CRPF are on job.

"#Encounter has started at Akhal area of district #Kulgam. SOG, J&K Police, Army and CRPF on job. Further details shall follow," the post reads. KNO

MLA Arvind leads plantation drive at GGHSS Rehari; Promises educational reforms in Jammu West

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

In a commendable initiative, MLA Jammu West Arvind Gupta visited Government Girls Higher Secondary School (GGHSS), Rehari, accompanied by Mandal President Kushant Prajapati, the school Principal, faculty, and staff members.

During the visit, Arvind Gupta addressed enthusiastic students from NCC and NSS units, emphasizing the importance of discipline, patriotism, and environmental consciousness.

He also distributed various essential items among the students, aiming to support their academic journey and personal development.

The highlight of the event was a tree plantation drive organized under the banner of "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam", a green initiative dedicated to honoring motherhood

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

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

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

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

Speaking at a programme, Mahajan highlighted the scheme's significant role in empower-



ing pregnant and lactating women by providing financial assistance to ensure better health and nutrition.

Mahajan emphasized that the PM Matru Vandana Yojana directly addresses critical challenges faced by expecting and new mothers by offering a cash incentive of Rs 5,000 in three installments. This

financial support encourages timely antenatal care, institutional deliveries, and breastfeeding, which are essential for reducing maternal and infant mortality rates.

Mahajan stated that the Yojana aligns perfectly with the government's vision of a healthier India and complements other welfare initiatives aimed

at improving the quality of life for women and children.

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

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

AESL celebrates 16 glorious years of ANTHE with the Launch of ANTHE 2025 & Aakash Invictus Ace Test

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

Marking 16 successful years of transforming student aspirations into achievements, Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), the national leader in test preparatory services, proudly announces the launch of its flagship initiative - ANTHE 2025 (Aakash National Talent Hunt Exam). One of the most awaited annual events in the Indian academic calendar, ANTHE 2025 aims to empower Class V-XII studying students to rise above challenges and emerge as true problem solvers. Carrying forward its mission of democratizing access to quality education, ANTHE 2025 offers up to 100% scholarships worth Rs 250 Cr in total to Classroom, Aakash Digital and Invictus Courses, along with significant cash awards worth Rs 2.5 Cr helping students achieve their dreams of a successful career in medicine or engineering. The exam opens the door for students to avail the best coaching for competitive exams like NEET, JEE, State CETs, NTSE, and Olympiads, offered by Aakash's expert faculty.

Adding to this commitment, Aakash is also launching the Invictus Ace test, a scholarship exam for admission to the Aakash Invictus JEE Advanced preparation program for students from Classes 8 to 12 studying. The national-level eligibility-cum-scholarship test will be conducted on August 24, August 31, and September 7, 2025. The three-hour test (10:00 AM to 1:00 PM), available in both online and offline modes, carries a Rs 300 application fee. Those who perform exceptionally well will be rewarded with scholarships of up to 100% and exciting cash prizes. Aakash Invictus is available to students at exclusive Invictus Centers in Delhi-NCR, Chennai, Bengaluru, Lucknow, Meerut, Praya-



graj, Dehradun, Bhopal, Indore, Ahmedabad, Chandigarh, Rohtak, Hyderabad, Namakkal, Coimbatore, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Trichy, Vizag, Mumbai, Kolkata, Durgapur & Patna. Mr. Deepak Mehrotra, CEO and MD of Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL), remarked, "ANTHE has become a symbol of possibility for students across India. Over the past 16 years, we have enabled meritorious students to pursue their dreams, regardless of financial background or location. At Aakash, we believe every student has the potential to become a problem solver, someone who can think critically, face challenges head-on, and create impact. ANTHE 2025 continues this legacy by providing deserving students with the resources, support, and motivation to rise and shine. With our wide network and hybrid learning approach, we are making quality education truly inclusive and outcome-focused. From this year onwards, we are also launching the Invictus Ace Test For Scholarship & admission to the prestigious Aakash Invictus course for Advanced JEE preparation, that has been thoughtfully designed to evaluate students' understanding of core concepts and their preparedness for competitive exams." ANTHE has been instrumental in nurturing several top achievers over the years. In 2025, more

than one million students appeared for the exam, making it one of the largest scholarship tests in the country. Many of AESL's current toppers began their academic journey with ANTHE. Notably, this year 22 out of Top 100 in NEET and 10 out of Top 100 in JEE Advanced 2025 started their journey through ANTHE. The examination will be conducted both online and offline, ensuring flexibility and reach for students across India. The online mode of ANTHE 2025 will be available from October 4 to 12, 2025, during which students can take the test at their convenience by selecting a one-hour slot. The offline exam will be conducted on 5th and 12th October 2025, at over 415 Aakash centres located in 26 states and union territories. Registrations for ANTHE 2025 are now open. Students can register online at <https://anthe.aakash.ac.in/home> or visit their nearest Aakash centre. The examination fee is Rs 300 for both online and offline modes. A flat 50% discount is available for those who apply early. The last date to submit the application form is three days prior to the chosen online exam date and seven days before the selected offline exam date. Admit cards will be issued five days before the respective exam dates. The results of ANTHE 2025 will be announced in phases. Results for Class X students will be declared

on October 24, 2025, while results for Classes VII to IX will be declared on October 29, 2025. Results of Class V & VI will be declared on November 1st 2025. Results for Classes XI and XII will be announced on November 4, 2025. All results will be available on the official ANTHE website. ANTHE will be a one-hour test comprising 40 multiple-choice questions based on the grade and stream aspirations of students. For Class V-IX students, the questions will cover subjects such as Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Mathematics and Mental Ability. For Class X students aspiring for medical education, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mental Ability, while for engineering aspirants of the same class, the questions will cover Physics, Chemistry, Botany and Zoology, while for engineering aspirants they will cover Physics, Chemistry and Mathematics.

Aakash Educational Services Limited (AESL) is redefining test preparation with two powerful initiatives: Aakash Digital 2.0 and Aakash Invictus. Aakash Digital 2.0 is a unified, AI-powered learning platform that brings all AESL offerings online, delivering personalized, affordable, and high-impact coaching for NEET, JEE, and Olympiads. Complementing this is Aakash Invictus, a first-of-its-kind, elite JEE Advanced program designed for India's brightest engineering aspirants. With small batches, top 500 JEE faculty, AI-driven insights, exclusive content, and a rigorous revision and testing module, Invictus offers precision-focused, physical learning tailored for students targeting top IIT ranks or global engineering institutes.

in the plantation drive and encouraged them to be lifelong ambassadors of environmental protection. The event concluded with a message of hope, unity, and shared responsibility towards a cleaner and greener India.

Committee members of schools present on the occasion were Jyoti Prakash, Poonam Gupta, Arun Gupta, Kushant Prajapati, Amit Dutta, Arun Khanna, Pooja Rani,

Tilak Raj Sharma, Sonia Jandiyal, Babu Raj Jandiyal, Desh Raj Bhagat, Jyoti Gupta, Payal Mahajan, Rama, Shifali, Sachin Goel, Ashwani and Sunita Sharma.

MLA Arvind Gupta assured that monthly meetings of the school committee members will be held regularly to ensure better coordination and address issues related to the development and functioning of educational institutions.

80 loan assistance cases approved under Mission YUVA scheme

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUG 1

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

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



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

While speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner under-

scored the need to expedite the implementation process through effective coordination among all line departments. She directed the concerned officers to ensure 100 per cent approval of eligible cases under the scheme.

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

Garhi-Gatyal Road widening Project Chairman DDC Udhampur reviews disbursement of compensation to structure owners at Jib Stretch

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUG 1

Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Udhampur Lal Chand reviewed the status of payment of compensation to owners of structures coming under the alignment of the pending 200 meter stretch of the Garhi-Gatyal road at Jib.

At a meeting, the Chairman had a threadbare discussion with the Assistant Commissioner Revenue on the issue. The Chairman was informed that 50% of



the compensation amount, totaling Rs. 18, 32,930 out of 91, 53,900 has been disbursed to 9 structure owners. The remaining amount will be disbursed once the dismantling process commences.

The Chairman urged

structure owners to cooperate and initiate dismantling on their own, ensuring timely project execution.

The Chairman directed authorities to commence the widening and upgradation of the road as ten-

dering for the same has already been completed. On the completion of the widening and upgradation of the pending 200 meter stretch, the Garhi-Gatyal road will ensure better transport facility to the Jib-Thathi area and further links to the Katra town.

The DDC Chairman's proactive approach aims to expedite project completion, benefiting local communities with better infrastructure in the region and enhanced transportation facility in the region.

CS reviews readiness for the launch of 'Har Ghar Tiranga' Campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 1

In a high-level meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo to review the preparedness for the nationwide 'Har Ghar Tiranga Campaign 2025', scheduled from 2nd to 15th August as part of the ongoing Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations.

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

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

Following the remarkable success of the campaign over the last three years, this year's edition aims to deepen its impact



through community-led, culturally enriched activities that will be held across panchayats, urban wards, educational institutions, and key public spaces throughout J&K.

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

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

with Tiranga-themed wall paintings, murals, and rangoli art. Exhibitions curated by the Ministry of Culture will be displayed in schools and government offices.

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

This phase will also witness bike and cycle rallies, youth parades, and community Tiranga Yatras aimed at enhancing public involvement. Markets and public areas will be decorated, and the distribu-

tion of National Flags will be facilitated primarily through SHGs.

The final phase to be celebrated between 13th-15th August will witness flag hoisting ceremonies, and illuminations of key government buildings, institutions, and public landmarks. Major flag hoisting events are scheduled in Srinagar and Jammu. Citizens will also be encouraged to participate in the popular 'Selfie with Tiranga' campaign, uploading their photos with the National Flag on the designated online portal.

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

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

Government funds carding machine to revive Namdha Craft

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 1

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

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

Namdha, a Centuries-old craft involving felting and embroidery of woolen fabric, has been witnessing a steady decline due to various constraints, notably the lack of wool processing facilities, high input costs, and time-consuming manual methods. The refurbishment of the Carding Machine under



the Capital Expenditure (CAPEX) budgeting is expected to address these bottlenecks directly.

In a press statement issued here today, Mirza Shahid Ali, Deputy Director, UNDP, stated that the

availability of modernized carding facilities shall reduce manual labour and processing time significantly, making the craft economically viable for artisans and increase production capacity, enabling

them to meet the growing domestic and international demand. This step is also expected to attract younger artisans to the trade by improving working conditions and productivity.

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

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

Anil Gupta takes over as Director Agriculture Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

Anil Gupta today assumed charge as the Director of Agriculture Jammu here at Krishi Bhawan Talab Tillo. His appointment is being widely welcomed and the stakeholders anticipate renewed growth and modernization in Jammu's agriculture sector under his leadership. With a wealth of experience and recognized expertise in the agriculture sector, Anil Gupta is poised to bring fresh energy and strategic direction to key initiatives aimed at promoting sustainability, diversification and enhanced farmer income.

A warm welcome was



extended to Anil Gupta in a ceremonial programme organized at the Directorate of Agriculture. The event was attended by Joint Director Agriculture (Inputs) Dr. Ashwani Kumar, Joint Director (SLUB) Sohan Singh, sectoral heads, senior officers

and staff members, who expressed their commitment to work collaboratively under his guidance to achieve new milestones in agricultural development.

Speaking on the occasion, Anil Gupta expressed gratitude for the warm

welcome and shared his vision for inclusive and technology-driven agricultural development in the region. He emphasized the importance of collaborative efforts, timely implementation of government schemes and continuous engagement with farming communities to ensure that the benefits of policies and projects reach the grassroots level. He reiterated his commitment to improving service delivery, boosting productivity and supporting farmers through innovation and capacity building. He assured that all the service-related issues of all cadres will be resolved on priority.

Kathua admin rolls out Har Ghar Tiranga campaign plan

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, AUG 1

The District Administration Kathua today rolled out a comprehensive plan for the upcoming Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, scheduled to be observed across the district from August 2 to August 15, 2025 as part of the nationwide initiative.

In this regard, a preparatory review meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex under the chairmanship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Vishavjeet Singh. He elaborated on the phase-wise implementation of activities and underscored the collective role of all stakeholders in ensuring the campaign is celebrated in a befitting manner.

The campaign will be conducted in three phases. The first phase will run from 2nd to 7th August, the second phase from 8th to 12th August, and the final phase from 13th to 15th August. Each phase will witness thematic and coor-



ordinated activities across urban and rural areas.

As part of the campaign, a range of patriotic activities have been planned including decoration of houses, buildings, and offices; organisation of quiz competitions; rakhimaking and rakhiti-tying events on 6th and 7th August; bike rallies; 'Selfie with Tiranga' initiative and ceremonial flag hoisting at various locations. The campaign will also feature illumination of government buildings and iconic landmarks in tricolour lighting.

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

Citizens have been encouraged to actively participate by hoisting the National Flag at their

homes, offices and establishments. The administration also appealed to the public to purchase the Tricolour from local markets to support and promote the local economy.

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

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

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

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

Delhi-Katra Expressway

Compensation disbursement Camp for Acquired Land held at Vijaypur

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, AUGUST 01

A compensation disbursement camp was organized at Vijaypur under the supervision of Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma for the land and structures acquired for the construction of the Delhi-Katra Expressway (DKE).

During the camp, an amount of Rs 3.17 crore was disbursed among 29 beneficiaries. The



Deputy Commissioner also addressed the grievances of the landowners and locals on the spot.

The event witnessed the presence of Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Sub-Divisional Magis-

trate Vijaypur and Tehsildar, besides other concerned officers and officials. A large number of locals also attended the camp.

The initiative marked a significant step towards ensuring timely compensation and smooth execution of the Delhi-Katra Expressway project.

EDITORIAL

From policy to practice: Five years of National Education Policy 2020

Lighting up Ladakh

The Union Territory of Ladakh, with its unique beauty and unforgiving terrain, has long struggled with power scarcity, especially in its remote and border regions. Now, with strategic grid connectivity and renewable energy projects taking shape, there is a palpable sense of progress. Yet, this transition—while welcome—is incomplete without the critical element of sustainability checks, particularly carbon-neutral energy audits. Several frontier areas including Nubra, Zaskar, and Changthang are currently dependent on off-grid systems like diesel generators, solar PV plants, and micro-hydel projects. While these modes offer temporary relief, they are insufficient for the long-term vision of energy security and economic stability. The current push to extend the National Power Grid to these areas by October 2026 via the under-construction 220 kV Phyang-Disket and Drass-Padum transmission lines signals a major policy shift towards integration, reliability, and inclusivity. Complementing this infrastructure development is a slew of renewable energy projects—the 25 MW solar plant at Taru, solar-battery hybrids at Stakna, Nubra, and Zaskar, all supported under the RESCO model. These projects aim to address one of Ladakh's critical issues: the drop in solar output during long winter months. Coupled with Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS), they promise not just power but continuity. The Rs 687 crore sanctioned under the Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) and other central schemes like DDUGJY and IPDS signify the Centre's commitment to not just electrification but quality and reliability of power. The vision is clear: an electrified Ladakh that is connected to the heart of India's energy infrastructure while also embracing a cleaner, greener path. Yet, one cannot overlook a glaring omission in this otherwise promising picture: the lack of carbon-neutral energy audits. Despite Ladakh being touted as India's first potential carbon-neutral region, no audits have been conducted for government buildings or defence installations. This is deeply problematic. Audits are not a bureaucratic formality—they are an essential tool for assessing energy consumption patterns, identifying inefficiencies, and charting a roadmap to carbon neutrality. Without them, the region risks replacing one set of inefficiencies with another. Moreover, winter electricity reliability, despite being guaranteed under Rule (10) of the Electricity (Rights of Consumers) Rules, 2020, remains uneven in practice. Ground reports from villages indicate intermittent power during the harshest months, especially when solar panels are buried under snow or the grid struggles with maintenance in sub-zero conditions. In a region as strategically and environmentally sensitive as Ladakh, the government's dual objective should be self-sufficiency and sustainability. Border infrastructure has national security implications, and uninterrupted power supply is critical not just for civilian life but also for the armed forces. Simultaneously, Ladakh's fragile ecosystem cannot bear the burden of unchecked emissions and outdated energy habits. To truly light up Ladakh, we must go beyond megawatts and milestones. Energy access must be clean, reliable, and future-proof. The roadmap is half-way drawn—it's time the government backs its renewable push with measurable climate action. Conducting carbon-neutral audits, implementing demand-side energy efficiency, and incorporating local communities in energy governance must be the next steps. Because in Ladakh, light is not just a utility—it is a lifeline, and increasingly, a symbol of responsible progress.

GEETA BHATT

Education and the knowledge paradigms related to it have been the foundation of progressive societies. A rich ancient repository of Bhartiya scholarship has been acknowledged worldwide and has inspired many to contribute in their respective academic fields.

Despite such illustrious knowledge heritage, this nation took 73 years to embrace a National Education Policy in the year 2020 that was aligned with the 'aspirational goals of 21st century education while building upon India's knowledge traditions and value systems'. National Education Policy 2020 (NEP2020) was introduced on 29 July 2020 and is completing five years.

This allows us to take a holistic view of the implementation of the policy, assess the conducive changes, overall progress in school and higher education, as well as the further scope of improvement.

Language as a medium of instruction plays a pivotal role in the conceptual clarity of subjects. Educationists have advocated for imparting education in Bhartiya languages since the time we attained independence from the British. Post-independence, one of the earliest recommendations on education in the University Education Commission report (December 1948-August 1949), chaired by Dr Radhakrishnan, said that English should be replaced as the medium of instruction as early as practicable by Bhartiya languages.

However, this recommendation only saw the light of the day when NEP2020 recommended that the 'medium of instruction until at least Grade 5, but preferably till Grade 8 and beyond' should be in the native language. Availability of textbooks in Bhartiya languages has been an ongoing exercise in the last five years.

Two years ago, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had launched 100 books in 12 Bhartiya languages in line with NEP 2020. DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge Sharing) is a national web platform used as an education e-infrastructure where energised books (which come with a QR code) for 31 Bhartiya languages and 7 foreign languages are being prepared.

The 2025-26 budget allocation of ₹347.03 crore for Bharatiya Bhasha Pustak Scheme to provide digital books for school and higher education in Bhartiya languages will encourage institutions to adopt Bhartiya



languages as a medium of education in the curriculum. The census report of 2011 states that 96.71 per cent have one of the twenty-two scheduled languages as their mother tongue, while only 10.6 per cent stated that they can speak English.

Education in Bhartiya languages as a medium will make education more inclusive and augment the learning outcomes in the coming years. For instance, in Pimpri Chinchwad College located in Maharashtra, B. Tech students were taught Computer Science and Engineering entirely in Marathi. They secured placements in top companies, demonstrating that language is not a barrier to success in technical education.

The burden of the colonial hangover in our textbooks has eventually been replaced by Bhartiya contributions.

While imparting education in Bhartiya languages is one of the primary concerns of NEP2020, it emphasises building a positive cultural identity. National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has launched ten new textbooks for classes five and eight in Hindi, English and Urdu, covering languages, social science, science and art education. More are in the offing with emphasis on conceptual understanding, pedagogical approaches, and experiential learning. Under NEP2020, rooting textbooks in our heritage has

been a guiding principle that aims to strengthen our national identity.

NEP2020 has also envisaged the incorporation of hands-on experience and skilling necessities of the 21st century in the curriculum. Regulatory Frameworks ensuring parity and integration of academic and skill-based learning have been formalised by the National Credit Framework (NCF). This parity and equivalence in academic programs, especially in tertiary education, will assist seamless transfer in a unified credit system.

Multiple entry-exit options for a student in a programme in higher education have introduced academic flexibility. To streamline the academic credentials of the students countrywide, a unique 12-digit ID is being generated for the students called Automated Permanent Academic Account Registry (APAAR) that digitally manages the academic records and stores them in the Academic Bank of Credit. This technology-assisted record management supports the 'One Nation, One Student ID' campaign, ensuring accessibility and continuity throughout the country.

Five years of NEP2020 have brought a radical transformation in the education system in the country. An important aspect of taking the leap in its implementation in the next five

years would be capacity building of the faculty. At present, NISTHA (National Initiative for School Heads and Teachers Holistic Advancement) and MMTTC (Malviya Mission Teachers Training Programme) are undertaking training programs for teachers in schools and higher education, respectively. Teachers need to be equipped with new pedagogical methods like experiential learning and competency-based assessments. Robust professional development programs in physical mode can cascade the execution pace of NEP2020. A constant feature across the various education policies in the country, from the Kothari Commission in 1965 to NEP2020, has been the budgetary provision of 6 per cent of the GDP for education.

The 2023-24 annual report of the Ministry of Education states that the Centre and States will work together to increase public investment in the Education sector to reach 6 per cent of GDP at the earliest. Education, being a concurrent subject in the constitution, needs handholding from the Central Government as well as the State Governments.

Initiatives like Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan by the Centre aim to improve existing systems, level performances, learning outcomes and bridge social as well as gender gaps at the school level. However, state Governments are important stakehold-

er, and their lack of political will may lead to potential gaps in reaching the goals.

A standardised monitoring mechanism can help in effective evaluation and implementation of the National Education Policy, particularly in infrastructure and foundational literacy and numeracy (FLN) and early childhood care and education (ECCE). The varying level of engagement with the policy by the states and the sheer size of the country, at times, poses a concern to the uniform and effective implementation of NEP2020.

NEP2020 has introduced systemic academic and administrative reforms within the first five years of its implementation. As a nation preparing to become a developed nation by 2047, significant impetus to education will play a pivotal role in shaping the intellectual and skill capital, and economic strength, of India.

The implementation of National Education Policy 2020 across the country in letter and spirit will prepare citizens who take pride in being Bhartiya, fuel innovation, develop a knowledge economy, foster equity, sustainable development, and democratic values and will be equipped to engage with the world confidently.

(The writer is Director of Non-Collegiate Women's Education Board, University of Delhi)

PM-KISAN: India's Global Blueprint for Empowering Farmers and Transforming Rural Economies

DR. PRAMOD MEHERDA,
ARINDAM MODAK

Empowering Farmers Through Direct Support

At its core, PM-KISAN provides Rs 6,000 annually to eligible farmer families, disbursed in three equal installments of Rs 2,000 directly into their bank accounts via the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system. This streamlined, technology-driven approach eliminates intermediaries, delays, and leakages, ensuring every rupee reaches the intended beneficiary.

Since its inception, over Rs 3.69 lakh crore has been transferred, making PM-KISAN one of the largest digitally executed cash transfer programmes in the world. Beyond numbers, it represents a shift in paradigm, from subsidies to empowerment, allowing farmers the autonomy to

decide how best to utilise the support, whether for seeds, tools, education, or health.

A Game-Changer for India's Small Farmers

For India's more than 85% of farmers who own less than two hectares of land, the benefits serve as a crucial financial bridge during sowing or harvesting seasons. They relieve short-term cash flow stress, reduce dependence on informal credit, and provide a safety net in times of distress.

More than financial aid, PM-KISAN symbolizes inclusion, dignity, and the recognition of the farmer as a partner in nation-building.

A Triumph of Digital Governance

PM-KISAN owes much of

its success to India's robust digital infrastructure. The JAM trinity, Jan Dhan bank accounts, Aadhaar biometric identity, and mobile connectivity have enabled seamless delivery at scale. From self-registration to land ownership verification and DBT-enabled payments, the entire scheme's lifecycle is digital.

With support from State Governments, PM-KISAN operates as a digitally integrated, end-to-end model of governance. It has successfully unified land records, beneficiary databases, and payment systems across diverse geographies, creating a farmer-centric architecture unlike any in the world.

PM KISAN has also inspired innovative projects in the agriculture ecosystem, such as the Kisan eMitra voice-based chatbot

and the Agri Stack. The AgriStack is poised to deliver personalized, timely, and transparent services, enabling Indian agriculture to become future-ready.

Setting Global Standards

Around the world, direct benefit programmes are increasingly being recognised as effective tools for poverty alleviation. Yet PM-KISAN offers something unique—its sheer scale, speed, and digital integrity make it a replicable model for countries striving to reform fragmented agricultural support systems.

International institutions like IFPRI, FAO, ICAR, and ICRISAT I have highlighted the role of PM KISAN in boosting smallholder incomes, improving credit access, reducing inequality, and encourag-

ing adoption of modern practices. Its trust-based, unconditional approach, unlike conditional transfers in many countries, represents a leap forward in participatory and dignity-driven welfare delivery.

Catalysing Rural Development

PM-KISAN's positive impact goes far beyond individual beneficiaries. The infusion of predictable cash has revitalized rural markets, stimulated demand for agri-inputs, and strengthened household consumption patterns. It has played a pivotal role in empowering women, especially where bank accounts are jointly held.

Moreover, it complements other flagship schemes, such as Soil Health Cards, Kisan Credit

Cards, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, and e-NAM, by creating a holistic and interconnected rural development ecosystem. Its integration with the PM-Kisan Maandhan Yojana, a pension scheme for farmers, is a further step in building social security nets for India's agricultural workforce.

A vision for the future: Resilience, Equity, and Sustainability

PM-KISAN is more than a financial support mechanism. It is a transformative vision of farmer-led growth of the Government of India. By shifting from entitlement to empowerment, from assistance to autonomy, it redefines the contract between the state and the farmer.

As India aspires to become a \$5 trillion economy, initiatives like PM-

KISAN form the foundation of inclusive progress. With continued integration of advanced technologies and a focus on climate resilience, sustainability, and precision agriculture, the scheme is set to evolve into an even more powerful force for change.

PM-KISAN is a story of trust, technology, and transformation. It is India's contribution to the world, a living example of how visionary policy, combined with digital innovation and political will, can empower millions and redefine governance for the 21st century.

Dr. Pramod Meherda is a Additional Secretary & Arindam Modak is a Adviser, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India

Why tobacco-style warnings on alcohol bottles can aid fight against cancer

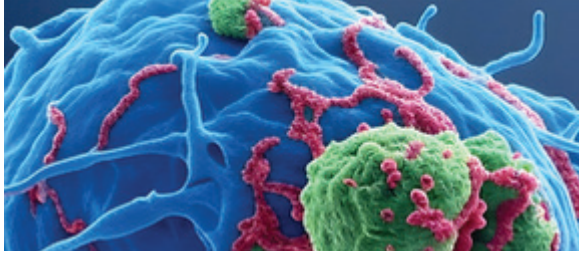
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Adopting tobacco-style warning labels on alcohol bottles can be a key measure to prevent the rising burden of cancer in India, said experts on Tuesday.

A recent paper, published in the journal *Frontiers in Public Health*, called for strong, evidence-based warning labels on alcohol products, building on India's success with tobacco warnings.

Alcohol, like tobacco, is a proven carcinogen linked to several cancers, including liver, breast and colon, yet awareness remains low.

"Cancer warning labels on alcohol bottles are a low-cost, high-impact intervention that can raise awareness, influence consumption habits, and prevent long-term health harm," lead author Dr Abhishek Shankar, Assistant Professor, Department of Radiation Oncol-



ogy at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Delhi, said.

"With India having one of the fastest-growing alcohol markets and the largest adolescent population globally, adopting such preventive measures is not just necessary but urgent to protect our youth and reduce the nation's growing burden of alcohol-related cancers," the oncologist added.

Cancer cases in India have seen a steep rise, with data from the 2012 to 2022 period suggesting a 36 per cent uptick in incidence (1.01 million-1.38 million).

Data from GLOBOCAN 2022 showed about 1.41

million new cancer cases in India, with a five-year prevalence of around 3.25 million and a total cancer mortality of 916,827 cases.

The alcohol attributable fraction for cancer and age-standardised rate per 100,000 in India are 4.7 per cent and 4.8, respectively, according to the GLOBOCAN 2020 data.

"Alcohol consumption in India is rising at an alarming pace, particularly among adolescents and young adults, making it a silent driver of preventable cancers. Evidence now confirms there is no safe level of alcohol use when it comes to cancer risk, with links to cancers of the colon, breast, liver,

oral cavity, and more," Shankar said.

"Among preventable diseases and deaths, alcohol-related conditions rank high. It raises the risk of many types of cancer and also liver cirrhosis -- all of which are expensive and cumbersome to treat," added Dr Rajeev Jayadevan, Chairman, Scientific Committee, IMA Cochin.

The expert also called out against glorifying the use of alcohol in movies.

"Unfortunately, our movie culture glorifies alcohol use, with younger viewers wanting to emulate movie characters despite statutory warnings. There is also rampant misinformation circulating on social media claiming the health benefits of alcohol, almost all of which have been proven wrong. Still, many people wrongly believe it is good for the heart. Therefore, it is important to include clear health-related labels," Jayadevan said.

Over 98 lakh cataract surgeries performed in FY25, highest in last 5 years: Minister

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

More than 98 lakh cataract surgeries were performed in the fiscal year 2024-25, said Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav.

In a written reply in Rajya Sabha, Jadhav stated that the surgeries performed under the National Programme for Control of Blindness and Visual Impairment (NPCB&VI) in 2024-25 were the highest in the last five years.

"In 2020-21, 35,50,765 surgeries took place. The number spiked to 61,98,830 in 2021-22, 83,44,824 in 2022-23, and 90,29,242 in 2023-24," Jadhav said.

Further, the Minister noted that a total of 4,34,48,416 persons have been directly benefitted under NPCB&VI since the fiscal year 2020-21.

"In 2020-21, the programme benefitted



40,31,340 people, which in 2021-22 helped 70,89,142 persons. In 2022-23, 98,81,022 people benefited. And the number spiked to 1,06,91,727 in 2023-24 and to 1,17,55,185 in the fiscal year 2024-25," Jadhav said.

The benefits include cataract operations, free spectacles to school children suffering from refractive errors, treatment/

management of other eye diseases (diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, childhood blindness, keratoplasty, vitreoretinal surgery, etc.)

While the programme provided 12,14,395 school children with free spectacles in 2024-25, it treated 6,47,111 people for various eye diseases, the MoS said.

The Minister also informed that "during 2025, three multipurpose

district mobile ophthalmic units have been established under NPCBVI".

The States/UTs were also provided ample funding for the purchase of sophisticated modern ophthalmic equipment.

"Under NPCBVI, indigenous cornea storage media have been developed to support cornea transplant in the country," Jadhav said.

Meanwhile, the NPCBVI played a significant role in eliminating trachoma over the years. The efforts undertaken under the programme enabled India to become the third country in the world to eliminate the disease, which causes irreversible blindness, as a public health problem.

Trachoma is a disease affecting the eyes caused by the bacterium *Chlamydia trachomatis*. It remains a public health problem in 42 countries and is responsible for the blindness or visual impairment of about 1.9 million people.

Tobacco use among women declines from 20.3pc to 14.2pc: Centre

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Tobacco use among women and adolescents has declined, said Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare Prataprao Jadhav, in the Parliament on Tuesday.

In a written reply in the Rajya Sabha, Jadhav stated the decline in tobacco use, citing two global surveys.

"As per the Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS)-1 (2009-10) and GATS-2 (2016-17) conducted among the age group of 15 years and above, there is a decline in tobacco use among women from 20.3 per cent to 14.2 per cent," the Minister said.

"The Global Youth Tobacco Survey (GYTS) conducted for school-going children of age group 13-15 years reported a decline in tobacco use from 14.6 per cent (GYTS-3, 2009) to 8.5 per cent



(GYTS-4, 2019)," he added. Jadhav also shared the measures undertaken by the Health Ministry to reduce tobacco consumption among women and children in the country.

The Ministry enacted a comprehensive legislation, namely the Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products (Prohibition of Advertisement and Regulation of Trade and Commerce, Production, Supply and Distribution) Act, 2003 (COTPA 2003), to regulate the tobacco products and

to discourage the consumption of tobacco.

"The provisions under COTPA, 2003 and the Rules made thereunder prohibit smoking in public places, ban on sale of tobacco products to and by minors, sale of tobacco products within a radius of 100 yards of educational institutions, prohibition on direct and indirect advertising of tobacco products and mandatory display of specified health warnings on all tobacco product packs," Jadhav said.

In 2007, the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was launched to discourage the use of tobacco, create awareness about the harmful effects of tobacco consumption through regular and sustained public awareness campaigns, and ensure effective implementation of the provisions under COTPA 2003.

As part of these, the Ministry launches a 60-day annual Tobacco Free Youth Campaign to educate young people about the dangers of tobacco and empower them to resist or quit its use.

The Government has also enforced a complete ban on electronic cigarettes, including heat-not-burn products, under "The Prohibition of Electronic Cigarettes (Production, Manufacture, Import, Export, Transport, Sale, Distribution, Storage and Advertisement) Act, 2019, Jadhav.

Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme settles over 1.06 lakh claims: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

More than 1.06 lakh claims have been settled under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Scheme, said Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare, on Tuesday.

In October 2024, the scope of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) was expanded to include all senior citizens aged 70 years and above, irrespective of their socio-economic status.

Under this initiative, beneficiaries can receive free treatment benefits of up to Rs 5 lakh per year through Ayushman Vay Vandana cards.

"As on date, over 1.06 lakh claims have been settled under Ayushman Vay Vandana scheme since its launch," Jadhav said.

"A total of 75.41 lakh Ayushman Vay Vandana



cards have been created, out of which 32.3 lakh cards have been created for female beneficiaries," he added.

In addition, the portability feature of AB-PMJAY allows eligible beneficiaries -- including those under the Vay Vandana scheme -- to access healthcare services at any of the 31,466 empanelled hospitals across the country, regardless of their place of residence.

"This ensures seamless and equitable access to quality healthcare for the elderly population nation-

wide," the MoS said.

"Vay Vandana scheme beneficiaries can also avail treatment through a vast network of 14,194 private healthcare providers empanelled under the scheme," he noted.

To ensure quality and consistency in service delivery, the National Health Authority (NHA) issued comprehensive Hospital Empanelment and Management (HEM) Guidelines for the empanelment of hospitals under the AB-PMJAY.

The AB-PMJAY has emerged as one of the

world's largest publicly funded health insurance schemes. It has enabled 8.59 crore hospital admissions worth Rs 1,19,858 crore, ensuring access to secondary and tertiary care without pushing families into debt, according to an official statement by the government.

Meanwhile, Jadhav also shared the steps taken to strengthen the district-level health system, such as the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM).

"PM-ABHIM has been launched with an outlay of Rs 64,180 crore over five years (FY 2021-26). The mission focuses on strengthening the capacities of health systems across all levels -- primary, secondary, and tertiary care -- to ensure effective response to current and future pandemics and disasters," the Minister said.

16,912 Jan Aushadhi Kendras operational till June, citizens save Rs 38,000 cr: Minister

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A total of 16,912 Jan Aushadhi Kendras (JAKs) have been opened till June, under the Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana scheme, said Union Minister of State for Chemicals and Fertilizers Anupriya Patel in the Parliament on Tuesday.

In a written reply to a question in Rajya Sabha, Patel noted that the scheme aims to make quality generic medicines available at affordable prices to all.

About 2,110 medicines and 315 surgicals, medical consumables and devices are under the scheme product basket.

It also covers all major therapeutic groups, such as cardiovascular, anti-cancers, anti-diabetic, anti-infectives, anti-allergic and gastro-intestinal medicines and nutraceuticals. Almost all generic medicines included in the National List of Essential



Medicines, except lab reagents and vaccines, are included in the scheme product basket.

"In the last 11 years, estimated savings of about Rs 38,000 crore have accrued to citizens in comparison to the prices of branded medicines," Patel said.

The JAKs also contributed "significantly to the sharp reduction in out-of-pocket expenditure by households from 62.6 per cent of total health expenditure in financial year (FY) 2014-15 to 39.4 per cent in FY2021-22," she added citing data from the National Health Accounts Estimates.

Uttar Pradesh (3,550) has the highest number of JAKs, followed by Kerala (1,629), Karnataka (1,480) and Tamil Nadu (1,432).

The MoS also informed of the government's "target to open 25,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras by March 2027".

In opening of JAKs, the government has adopted a franchisee-like model, in which online applications from individual entrepreneurs, non-governmental organisations, societies, trusts, firms, private companies, etc. are invited online through the website of the Pharmaceuticals and Medical

Devices Bureau of India from across the country, including in various blocks and tehsils.

Under the stocking mandate, the JAK owners become eligible for claiming incentive based on stocks of the said 200 medicines maintained by them.

"For smooth supply and product availability at JAKs, an end-to-end IT-enabled supply chain system has been established, comprising a central warehouse, four regional warehouses and 39 distributors appointed across the country," Patel said.

"Availability of 400 fast-moving products is monitored regularly to ensure their availability. Further, a minimum stocking mandate has been implemented for 200 medicines consisting of the 100 top-selling medicines in the scheme product basket and 100 fast-selling medicines in the market," the MoS added.

Salt warning labels on restaurant menus key to fight heart, kidney disease: The Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Salt warning labels on menus in restaurants may help diners rethink over high-salt meals and make healthier choices, according to a study.

It may also be a key strategy to fight cardiovascular diseases as well as kidney damage caused by a high-salt diet.

In a first-of-its-kind research, a team from the University of Liverpool in the UK compared people ordering at a restaurant after seeing salt warnings with those who received a menu without warnings.

The findings, published in the journal *The Lancet Public Health*, showed that warning labels are perceived by consumers as effective in discouraging the selection of high-salt items. Warning labels also prompted greater awareness of salt content when ordering, and significantly reduced the amount of salt



actually ordered.

"Our study has found that salt warning labels on menus help people make healthier choices," said lead author Dr. Rebecca Evans, Postdoctoral Researcher in Psychology at the varsity.

"Given that excess salt intake is a leading cause of diet-related disease, this kind of labeling policy could play a vital role in improving population health."

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends less than 5 grams per day of salt (roughly under a teaspoon) or below 2g of sodium per

day. Each year, 1.89 million deaths are associated with excessive salt consumption.

The salt content of many common foods eaten in restaurants is very high, but policy options to address this are lacking.

Studies have proved that too much salt in the diet can increase blood sodium, trigger water retention, increase blood volume, raise blood pressure (hypertension), leading to stroke, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, osteoporosis, and obesity.

The research included both an online and a real-

world randomised controlled trial (RCT), with findings supporting the potential of menu labeling as a scalable public health strategy.

In the restaurant setting, 454 participants took part, and those who received the salt warning labelled menus ordered 12.5 per cent (0.54g) less salt on average relative to people who received menus without warning labels, said the researchers.

In the online RCT with 2,391 UK adults, salt warning labels were perceived by participants as effective in discouraging the selection of high-salt items and reduced the amount of salt ordered by 0.26g per meal.

Across both trials, labels were found to be equally effective regardless of age, sex, or education level -- suggesting the intervention may be helpful for all and therefore will not exacerbate health inequalities.

NIPPON India Mutual fund sets new milestone only AMC To establish branch in Leh, Ladakh

JNEWS SERVICE
LEH, AUGUST 1

Nippon Life India Asset Management Limited (NAM India), asset manager of Nippon India Mutual Fund (NIMF), one of the India's largest asset managers, today announced the opening of its new branch in Leh, Ladakh. This marks a significant milestone for the mutual fund industry as NIMF becomes the only asset management company in the country to establish a physical presence in such a high-altitude region.

This milestone marks NAM India's 167th branch and extends our presence to 266 pin codes across the country, underscoring our commitment to democratizing access to investments, especially in underserved and remote regions.

Ladakh, a Union Territory known for its breathtaking landscapes and rich cultural heritage, has seen a surge in tourism and economic activity in recent years. However, the region's financial landscape remains relatively underdeveloped, with limited access to a diverse range of investment products.

General Ved Prakash Malik (Retd.), Independent Director at Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd. says, "Leh holds a unique place in India's national consciousness—not just for its altitude and terrain, but for its strategic and cultural significance. Nippon India Mutual Fund's decision to set-up a branch here goes beyond financial services—it's a signal of confidence



in Ladakh's local spirit and the aspirations of our armed forces, veterans, and civilian communities alike. By supporting financial inclusion in a region known for its strength and diversity, NIMF is enabling dreams to grow in soil that has long stood strong for the nation."

The average assets under management (AAUM) in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh is Rs 10,844 crore as of June 2025 which still accounts for less than -0.14% of India's total mutual fund assets. In contrast, India's overall mutual fund AAUM reached an impressive Rs 74.80 lakh crore as of June 2025. With a presence in Leh, Ladakh, NIMF aims to bridge the financial literacy gap, develop a healthy Mutual Fund ecosystem and offer local residents the opportunity to participate in the Indian capital markets.

Sundeep Sikka, ED and CEO of Nippon Life India Asset Management Ltd, expresses, "We are excited to expand our footprint to Leh, Ladakh—a region with immense potential. Today, Nippon India

retail investors in mutual funds is a key focus area and our large base of unique investors is testimony of the efforts in that direction. As India's economy continues to flourish, we remain dedicated to providing innovative investment options that cater to the evolving needs of our investors."

With increasing investor awareness and improving access, Jammu & Kashmir is showing promising signs of financial inclusion. The region's average assets under management (AAUM) grew from Rs 8,703 crore in June 2024 to Rs 10,825 crore in June 2025—a healthy 24% year-on-year rise. NIMF presence in Leh will help create financial literacy and awareness for potential future investors.

India's financial instruments is rapidly expanding, with over 19Cr demat accounts and 9.19Cr systematic investment plans (SIPs) recorded as of June 2025. This robust growth, coupled with SIP AUM reaching a record Rs 15.30 lakh crore as of June 2025, is a strong indicator of increasing financialization across the country.

However, far-flung area like Leh and Kargil, significant challenges regarding financial literacy persist. Nippon India Mutual Fund is dedicated to addressing these challenges. The establishment of only Mutual Fund branch in Leh is not just a business expansion; it represents a commitment to financial inclusion and empowerment in one of India's most picturesque yet underserved regions.

Mutual Fund is present in 100% of districts and 97% of pin codes across India. We continue to deepen our reach because we believe every Indian deserves to participate in the country's growth story and journey towards financial inclusion. We're proud to be the only asset management company in the mutual fund industry with a physical presence in Leh, reinforcing our commitment to empowering investors in every corner of the nation."

In a landmark initiative aimed at promoting financial literacy among the armed forces, an Investor Awareness Program (IAP) was successfully conducted for 300 Army personnel on the same day as the launch of a new branch. This strategic move reinforces our commitment to making quality investments accessible to maximum investors in every corner of the country.

We aim to contribute to the region's economic growth and empower individuals to achieve their financial goals. Financialization of savings through increased participation of

Yudhvir strongly defends shopkeepers, slams JMC over unjustified drive in Purani Mandi

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

In a people-centric stand, BJP Senior Leader and MLA Jammu East, Yudhvir Sethi, came out in strong support of the shopkeepers and traders of Purani Mandi, condemning the anti-encroachment drive by the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC).

The sudden and harsh action by the Jammu Municipal Corporation during the festive season has drawn widespread criticism from the local business community, who accused JMC of harassment and selective targeting.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi minced no words while addressing the issue. "Jammu is my city, and I will not allow its soul—the heritage bazaars—to be attacked under the guise of regulation, especially during Hindu festivals. I had spoken directly with the JMC Commissioner and made it clear that no action should be taken without prior consultation with the Bazaar Association President," he said while interacting with aggrieved shopkeepers.

He questioned the timing and intent behind the drive. "The festive season is not a time for demolition and disruption. It's a time when shopkeepers, many of whom are small-scale traders, earn their living. These unannounced actions appear to be deliberate and suspicious, especially when targeted at Hindu-majority areas. Is there a deeper agenda behind this?" he asked.



Yudhvir Sethi accused certain JMC employees of overstepping their mandate and spreading fear and chaos.

"This is not governance. This is bullying of honest shopkeepers and citizens. I will not allow it. If the JMC needs to regulate, let them do it respectfully and lawfully — by involving local leadership and market presidents," he added.

He issued a stern warning to the officials saying, "If such actions are repeated without coordination, I, as the elected MLA and public representative, will intervene firmly. These shopkeepers

made me their MLA, and I will stand by them, come what may."

MLA Sethi demanded that any future action must be carried out in the presence of the Bazaar Association President and the MLA.

"Jammu's old city is not just a market, it's our heritage. Every small shop, every trader here carries forward our culture and economy. Hurting them is like hurting Jammu itself," he said emotionally.

He also emphasized that a full inquiry must be launched into whether the drive was politically motivated or executed under any influence.

"If this is a conspiracy against the Hindu festivals and sentiments of the people, it will not be tolerated. I will take this matter to the highest level."

Calling for administrative maturity and coordination, he urged the JMC to adopt a people-first approach.

"Jammu Smart City is not just about development of roads and buildings, it's about protecting livelihoods and respecting the people who give life to the city," he asserted.

MLA Yudhvir Sethi concluded with a strong message, "No such drive will be allowed again without consensus. The trust of the people of Jammu is my top priority. I will ensure that justice is done and that no poor or hardworking trader is made to suffer due to bureaucratic high-handedness."

The shopkeepers and traders of Purani Mandi expressed heartfelt appreciation for MLA Yudhvir Sethi's timely intervention and unwavering support. Many of them hailed his visit as a morale booster, stating that his presence gave them the courage to voice their grievances openly.

They praised him for standing by them during a crucial time and protecting their interests when they felt unheard by the administration. Several local businessmen remarked that his assurance brought a sense of relief, and they now feel confident that their concerns will be addressed with seriousness and fairness.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
J&K SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION COUNCIL
DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
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Call for Proposals under Sponsored Research and Extension Program (SREP) 2025-26

The Jammu & Kashmir Science, Technology & Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Department of Science & Technology, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, Invites applications for research proposals under the Sponsored Research and Extension Program (SREP) for the financial year 2025-26.

This program seeks to empower scientific institutions and domain experts to generate regionally grounded, innovation-driven solutions and evidence-based insights that directly inform public policy, address regional development challenges, and catalyze transformative change across sectors in the Union Territory.

About the Program

The Sponsored Research and Extension Program (SREP) is JKSTIC's flagship initiative designed to harness the intellectual capital of J&K for the public good. It funds original, applied, and inter disciplinary research aligned with local governance, social needs, ecological sustainability and National/UT-level missions.

SREP aims to:

Promote high-quality scientific inquiry focused on challenges unique to J&K's geography, economy, demography and environment.

Bridge institutional research with ground level implementation.

Strengthen the scientific ecosystem across academic institutions, premier research centres and government departments. Create a curated repository of policy-linked knowledge to inform decision making at every level.

Findings from approved projects will be consolidated in an annual publication to be shared with all relevant departments, institutions and development partners.

Program Objectives

- Foster collaboration between academia, R&D institutions, premier national bodies (IITS, IIMS, NITS, IIIMS, AIMS) and Government Departments.
- Generate scalable models and sustainable solutions in agriculture, energy, health, environment, disaster management, digital governance and more.
- Deepen public sector adoption of scientific tools and methods.
- Empower S&T personnel through structured capacity building.
- Integrate tribal and rural knowledge systems into the scientific mainstream.
- Create synergies with flagship Central and UT Government schemes.

Scope of Program Components

Research Projects

Funding support for collaborative, interdisciplinary research proposals focused on high-impact problem-solving, technological development, policy insights or system innovation. Research must be thematic, scalable and locally relevant.

Thematic Research Areas (2025-26)

Research proposals must align with one or more of the following themes, curated to reflect the developmental, ecological, and governance priorities of Jammu & Kashmir and the Government of India:

- Digital Governance, AI & Smart Systems for Citizen Service Delivery.
- Technology-Enabled Monitoring of Jal Shakti, Amrit Sarovars & Natural Springs.
- Geospatial Technologies for Forests, Land Records & Wetland Mapping.
- Integrated Solid Waste, Plastic, and Biomedical Waste Management Models.
- Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Precision Farming, IoT, and Crop Diversification.
- Fodder Innovation, Livestock Health & Climate-Smart Animal Husbandry.
- Tribal Knowledge Systems, Migratory Pastoralism & Technology Inclusion.
- Women in STEM and Gender mainstreaming in Science Research.
- Hydropower Potential Optimization & Renewable Energy Integration.
- S&T Innovations for Public Health, Epidemiology & Primary Health care Access.
- Data Science, GIS & Remote Governance in Natural Resource Governance.
- Inclusive Tech for Disability, Minorities, Gender & Social Justice.
- Circular Economy, Waste to wealth models & Green Entrepreneurship.
- Scientific Innovations in Disaster Risk Reduction and Early Warning.
- Affordable, Sustainable Housing & Eco-friendly rural Infrastructure.
- Transport Tech, Intelligent Mobility & Scientific Traffic Management.
- Science & Technology for enhancing Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Education Innovation, STEM Popularization & Scientific Temper Campaigns.
- AI & Predictive Modelling for Supply Chain, Procurement & Public Distribution.
- S&T Interface with Law Governance & evidence-based policymaking.

a. Applicants must be faculty, researchers or scientists affiliated with recognized academic or research institutions in J&K or premier national institutions (IITS, IIMS, AIIMS, NITS, etc.).

b. Proposals from government departments with research capabilities are welcome.

c. Individual proposals are not accepted. However, individuals affiliated with eligible institutions/Government departments may apply if their proposals are formally routed and recommended by the HOD/Dean/Director (Research) of the respective institution.

d. Multi-institutional and interdepartmental collaborations are encouraged.

Submission Guidelines

a. Maximum of 15 proposals only per institution will be accepted.

b. All the proposals must be submitted in two hard copies through the institutional forwarding authority (Dean/Director Research) in one go under a proper covering letter addressed to Additional Director, Jk Science Technology & Innovation Council, Department of Science & Technology SDA Colony Bemina Srinagar in respect of the Kashmir Division Institutions and 5 B/C Gandhi Nagar Jammu in respect of Jammu Division Institutions.

Each Proposal Cover Page Must Include:

1 Project Title
2 PI Name & Contact Information
3 Co-Investigators (if any)
4 Institution & Department
5 Field of Study
6 Estimated Budget (with break-up)
7 Expected Outcomes (in 100 words)

Each project may be sanctioned funding of up to 20.00 lakhs based on merit and feasibility.

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals will be reviewed by a panel of experts based on:

- Relevance to policy, scheme or sectoral priority
- Scientific merit and research methodology
- Clarity of implementation strategy
- Innovation quotient and scalability
- Potential for interdepartmental integration and policy uptake

Deadline

The last date for submission of complete proposals is 26th August 2025 and in case the date falls on a public holiday, the next working day will be treated as the final deadline.

Important

a. Only proposals routed through the correct Institutional authority will be considered.

b. Proposals without endorsement or incomplete submissions will be rejected.

c. JKSTIC reserves the right to accept, modify, or reject any proposals without assigning reasons.

d. Selected proposals will be notified officially and published on the JKSTIC website.

e. The application form can be had from the office of Dean Research / Registrar of the Concerned Universities

No:-JKST&IC/2025/1290

Dated: 31-07-2025

Sd/

Additional Director

J&K Science, Technology & Innovation Council
Department of Science & Technology
J&K Govt.

DIP/J-4162/25

Date: 1-8-25

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

JNEWS SERVICE
MARIH, AUG 1

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

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

As an MLA, Surinder



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

Surinder Kumar's visit to village Manyal Brahman demonstrates his dedi-

cation to public service and his commitment to addressing the concerns of his constituents. The MLA's efforts are expected to bring about positive change in the region, improving the lives of the people. MLA Marh Surinder Kumar has emphasized that all-round development of the Marh constituency is his top priority. He has been actively engaging with his constituents, listening to their concerns, and working towards resolving issues related to infrastruc-

ture, public services, and amenities.

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

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

APS Akhnoor clinches Bronze Medal in CBSE Cluster XVIII U-14 Boys Football Tournament



JNEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, AUG 1

Army Public School Akhnoor delivered a stellar performance at the CBSE Cluster XVIII Football Tournament (2025-26), held at Om Prakash Bansal Modern School, Gobindgarh (Punjab) from 27th to 31st July 2025, securing the Bronze Medal in the Under-14 (Boys) category. The tournament saw participation from 32 reputed schools across the region, each putting forth their best teams in a spirited display of talent and competition.

The young footballers of

APS Akhnoor began their campaign with exceptional zeal and discipline. In their opening match, they outclassed the Norwood School, Balachaur, with a convincing 3-0 victory, setting a positive tone for the matches ahead. Riding on this momentum, the team edged past Doaba Public Senior Secondary School with a narrow 1-0 win. In the quarterfinals, APS Akhnoor displayed superior gameplay against Cambridge International School, Phagwara, securing a decisive 2-0 victory and earning a well-deserved place in the semi-finals.

In a hard-fought semi-final clash with King Edward Public School, Mahilpur, both teams exhibited brilliant sportsmanship and composure. After a goalless draw in regulation time, the match was decided through a tense penalty shootout, where APS Akhnoor narrowly missed out on a spot in the finals. On the basis of overall points, the team won the Bronze medal, a testament to their skill, determination and teamwork.

The team's performance was ably guided by Coach Mr Hritik Manhas, whose dedicated mentorship

played a pivotal role in their success. The school community extended heartfelt congratulations to the players for their admirable performance and exemplary sportsmanship throughout the tournament. Principal Mrs Geeta Sharma lauded the team's achievement and expressed immense pride in their consistent efforts. She stated that this success is a clear reflection of the school's unwavering commitment to holistic development, where students are encouraged to excel not only in academics but also in sports and other co-curricular domains.

JKPDP leader Narinder Sharma leads Party's Foundation Day celebrations in RS Pura

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

The People's Democratic Party (PDP) today celebrated its Foundation Day at the party's headquarters in Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Senior PDP leaders Narinder Sharma and Karan Singh led the celebrations in RS Pura and Suchetgarh constituencies respectively, which were marked by a strong commitment to the party's pro-people agenda.

The gathering paid tribute to the party's founding leaders, who laid the foundation of the PDP with a vision to serve the people and work towards their empowerment. The party workers and leaders reaffirmed their commitment to carrying forward the legacy of their leaders and working towards the



party's objectives.

The celebrations began with a rally of hundreds of party workers, who gathered at Kotli Shah Doula main road in RS Pura constituency. From there, they traveled to the party headquarters in passenger vehicles, showcasing their enthusiasm and dedication to the party.

Addressing the gathering, Narinder Sharma highlighted the party's policies and programs, as well as its future blueprint

to strengthen the organization. He emphasized the pro-people works undertaken by the party's leaders, including former Chief Ministers Late Mufti Mohd Sayeed and Mehbooba Mufti.

Sharma reiterated the party's commitment to its core ideology of serving the people and working towards their welfare. He emphasized that the party's agenda is centered around the needs and aspirations of the people,

and that it will continue to work tirelessly to address their concerns and issues.

The Foundation Day celebrations concluded with a renewed commitment to the party's pro-people agenda and a resolve to work towards the welfare of the people. The PDP is determined to continue its efforts to address the concerns and issues of the people and to work towards a brighter future for the state of Jammu and Kashmir, added Sharma.

Shiv Kumar Sharma IPS releases devotional song "Pakka Karaar" in Jammu

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

Dy Inspector General of Police Jammu Samba Kathua Range Shiv Kumar Sharma IPS along with Social Activist, Chairman of the Samvedna Society Keshav Chopra and M.D Maa Bawe Wali Records Sahil Mahajan releases a new devotional song titled "Pakka Karaar" adding a new melody to the rich tapestry of local spiritual music.

The song, "Pakka Karaar," features the heartfelt voices of singers Sanju Bigwan and Jyoti Parkash. The soulful lyrics



have been penned by Parwana, with music composed by Bunty Shah. The song's visual narrative was directed by Ranjan Singh Saini, with cinematography by Yogi Singh.

Shiv Kumar Sharma while Speaking said "It is a great pleasure to be a part of the release of 'Pakka Karaar' especially devotional music which has a unique way of con-

necting people and bringing peace. I congratulate the entire team for their dedication and creating such a beautiful piece of art. This song will surely resonate with many and strengthen their spiritual connection."

Keshav Chopra while speaking said that he has always believed in promoting local talent and preserving our cultural

heritage. 'Pakka Karaar' is a testament to the immense talent present in our region. The song's message of faith and devotion is something that we all need in our lives, and I am confident it will be very well received by the audience."

Speaking During the Programme Sahil Mahajan said that "We at Maa Bawe Wali Records are committed to promote the unique musical culture of Jammu and Kashmir. We hope this song touches the hearts of listeners and becomes a staple in their devotional playlists."

Sham Lal holds Public Darbar at BJP headquarters

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

Raising serious alarm over the growing social evils plaguing society, Senior BJP Leader and MLA Sham Lal Sharma called for immediate and proactive intervention by the J&K Government, Police, and Civil Administration to tackle the alarming rise in bovine smuggling, the worsening drug menace among youth, and the spread of unsocial and delinquent behavior in the region.

Addressing a Public Darbar held at the BJP headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, Sham Lal Sharma expressed concern over the deteriorating moral and social fabric of society, especially among the younger generation. "We are witnessing an unfortunate rise in drug abuse, criminal tendencies, and other unsocial activities among the youth. This not only endangers their future but also poses a threat to peace, law and order in our society," Sharma said. He emphasized the urgent need for coordinated efforts between law enforcement agencies,



educational institutions, community leaders, and civil society to curb these evils.

"Bovine smuggling is not just a matter of law violation, but it is also hurting the religious sentiments and peace of the region. The administration must act swiftly and firmly to crack down on such networks. Similarly, the drug trade is silently destroying our youth, if we don't act now, we will lose an entire generation," he warned.

Among other deputations, a deputation from Janipur presented the issue of uprooted Safeda trees at Middle School. A deputation from Ploura Top requested for the construction of lanes and drains and blacktopping of the lane. A deputation from Azad Colony Ploura Tok requested for the repair and installation of street lights. Deputations

from Wazir Lane requested for the iron gratings and new street lights. A deputation from Om Vihar Vijay Nagar Talab Tillo presented a complained about leaking water pipes since many months. A deputation from Channi Himmat presented issues of non-functional street lights.

A deputation from Bantalab requested for blacktopping of road at Shaie Swami Nagar. A deputation from Baba Kailakh requested for repair of leaking OHT. A deputation from Laondiya Panchayat Poonch presented an issue related to water supply. Deputations from Surankote Poonch presented issues related to the Housing board and new road construction. A deputation from Janipur requested for the upgradation of transformer and repair of lanes and drains. A deputation from Nanak

Nagar requested for the grant of land for cremation ground at Leh. A deputation from Akhnoor requested for new hand-pump. A deputation from Muthi requested for the boundary wall of cremation ground. A deputation from Banihal requested for upgradation/blacktopping of old national highway. A deputation from Gharota requested for electric poles.

Sham Lal Sharma assured the public that all their issues would be taken up with the concerned departments and pursued until resolved. He reiterated BJP's commitment to responsive governance and grassroots outreach, adding that such platforms would continue to serve as a bridge between citizens and administration.

Public darbar was coordinated by Er. Dil Bahadur Jamwal, Incharge, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. He said that the people are suffering due to irregular water supply and repeated technical faults at pumping stations. The department must strengthen its monitoring mechanisms and ensure uninterrupted water supply, he added.

NMC urges PM to release pending installments of DA

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) President Subash Shastri today appealed to Prime Minister Narendra Modi to announce and release the pending installment of 4% DA due from July 1, this year in favor of the employees/pensioners of the Centre as well as the state governments in view of increasing inflation and price hike of essential commodities and take decision in this regard at the forthcoming meeting of the union cabinet. In a memorandum

sent to the Prime Minister, Shastri while giving facts and figures said the price index which was 6.89 per cent in December 31 Last year has now increased to 12.49 per cent in June 30, 2025. The rate of compensation was revised every six months based on average of the consumer price index for previous months, he added.

He said prices of all essential commodities had gone up considerably, there was no justification on the part of Central Government for withholding this installment for their employees

and pensioners. He urged Modi to declare Jammu and Srinagar B-1 City also. He said giving B-1 cities status to both capital cities would ensure more flow of funds for upgrading infrastructures and modernizing civic amenities.

While pleading the cause of sixty one thousand daily rated workers working in various departments of the JKUT Government, Shastri also urged Modi to immediately grant special package to the tune of Rs 2000 crore per annum for at regularization of 61000 casual/seasonal laborers in one go.

Restore old pension scheme (OPS) as a confidence building measure, release of 18 months pending DA arrears, like UT Ladakh the amount of should be increased to Rs.1000 per month in favour of JK UT pensioners from April 2020, computation period should be reduced to 12 years, pension should be increased @5,10 and 15 percent after completion of 65, 70 and 75 years of age of pensioners, beside issue the notification of appointment of chairman and members of 8th pay commission were other demands highlighted in the memorandum.

NSF pays tribute to Bal Gangadhar Tilak

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 1

National Secular Forum (NSF), Jammu Unit paid tributes to Bal Gangadhar Tilak on his 105th Death Anniversary who laid his life for the country. Amid slogans "Bal Gangadhar Tilak Amar Raha "Inqilaab Zindabad" Bharat Mata ki Jai, the activists of NSF paid rich tributes to Bal Gangadhar Tilak and garlanded the portrait of the son of soil.

On this occasion, Ankush Abrol Provincial Joint Secretary JKNC and former Member BCCI, was the Chief Guest while Dr Vikas Sharma Coordinator Jammu District and Secretary Central Zone JKNC presided over the function. Sh TR Sharma (Retd KAS) was the guest of honour.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol appreciated the efforts of NSF members to come forward and organize these

functions. He further said that the right tribute to Bal Gangadhar Tilak would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State. "People of J&K have suffered a lot during the past six years since the abolition of statehood.

On this occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of "Bal Gangadhar Tilak". Sharma said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradica-

ting evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction.

Dr Vikas further said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He further said that J&K suffered immensely due to misadventures of the Centre. Dr Sharma urged the youth to come together on a single platform to push for this demand. NC would leave no stone unturned to achieve statehood for J&K.

Whatever charges he is levelling are to protect illegal voters: BJP's Jagdambika Pal slams Rahul Gandhi

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Jagdambika Pal on Friday said that Lok Sabha LoP Rahul Gandhi's objections to the voter list revision in Bihar are aimed at protecting illegal voters, including Rohingyas and Bangladeshis.

He said the Election Commission is an independent body responsible for ensuring that only eligible Indian citizens can vote.



Speaking to news agency, Jagdambika Pal said, "...As LoP, he should be aware that the Election Commission is a constitutional body and is completely independent. It is EC's responsibility to ensure fair and free elec-

tions. Before the elections, they must verify door-to-door the names of those who have died and ensure they are removed from the voter list. Similarly, those who have been transferred should also have their names deleted. Only individuals who are 18 years or older should be part of the voter list."

"A person who is Rohingya, Bangladeshi, or an illegal foreigner, if they have illegally become a voter, has no right to vote, only Indian citizens can

vote in elections. Whatever charges he is levelling are to protect the Rohingyas, Bangladeshi, and illegal voters," he added.

Earlier in the day, Congress MP and Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, has levelled serious allegations against the Election Commission of India (ECI), accusing it of direct involvement in large-scale voter fraud with the Congress having "open-and-shut proof" of the alleged theft.

SC refuses to entertain plea to apply POSH Act to political parties

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

The Supreme Court on Friday refused to entertain a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking direction to apply the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition, and Redressal) Act, 2013 (POSH Act) to all political parties across the country.

A bench of Chief Justice of India BR Gavai and Justice K Vinod Chandran said that the issue falls within the domain of the parliament.

"This is the domain of the Parliament. How can we interfere? It is a matter



within the domain of policy," said CJI Gavai to senior advocate Shobha Gupta representing the petitioner.

The bench allowed the petitioner to withdraw the plea with liberty to challenge a judgment of the Kerala High Court, which held that the POSH Act

wouldn't apply to political parties.

The petitioner filed by advocate Yogamaya MG highlighted non-compliance with the Act by political parties, particularly when it comes to the constitution of Internal Complaints Committees (ICCs) to deal with sexual harassment complaints.

It sought direction that all political parties constitute ICCs in compliance with Section 4 of the PoSH Act, 2013 and declare that individuals engaged in activities within political parties fall within the scope of "employees" under Section 2(f) of the POSH Act.

Shambhavi Choudhary meets PM Modi, presents picture of Babu Jagjivan Ram

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Lok Janshakti Party (LJP) (Ram Vilas) MP Shambhavi Choudhary on Friday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with family and presented him a picture of Babu Jagjivan Ramji, the hero of the 1971 war.

In a post on X, Shambhavi said, "Respectful, affectionate meeting with parents...Met with the honourable Prime Minister of our country, our inspiration, the respected Shri Narendra Modi ji, along with family, and received his blessings and guidance, while also presenting him with a picture



of Babu Jagjivan Ram ji, the hero of the 1971 war." <https://x.com/Sham4Samastipur/status/1951201904647610862>

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today invited the Indian citizens to suggest themes and ideas for his Independence Day speech.

Sharing an X post, PM Modi appealed to the public to share their suggestions on MyGov in the NaMo app.

"As we approach this year's Independence Day, I look forward to hearing from my fellow Indians! What themes or ideas would you like

to see reflected in this year's Independence Day speech? Share your thoughts on the Open Forums on MyGov and the NaMo App," PM Modi wrote.

As per tradition, the Prime Minister of India hoists the tricolour at the Red Fort in Delhi and addresses the nation on August 15, India's Independence Day.

Last year, marking India's 78th Independence Day, PM Modi's speech was based on the theme of 'Viksit Bharat @ 2047,' aiming to drive the Government's efforts to transform India into a developed nation by 2047.

Orange alert in Himachal: Heavy rainfall expected to continue till August 6

AGENCIES
SHIMLA (HIMACHAL PRADESH), AUGUST 1

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has issued an orange alert for three districts in Himachal Pradesh, warning of continued heavy rainfall across the region over the next several days. The alert comes as monsoon activity remains intense in the state, which has already witnessed widespread rain over the past week.

"During the past 24 hours, most parts of Himachal Pradesh received light to moderate rainfall," said Sandeep Kumar Sharma, Senior Scientist



at IMD Himachal Pradesh, while speaking to news agency in Shimla on Friday.

"The Chuwadi area of Chamba district recorded heavy to very heavy rain-

fall. Kullu, Bilaspur, and Hamirpur experienced moderate rainfall," he said.

According to the latest data shared by IMD, Chuwari in Chamba received

the highest rainfall in the state at 57mm. Banjar in Kullu recorded 52 mm of rain, Naina Devi in Bilaspur recorded 43 mm, and several other areas witnessed light rainfall.

Sharma said the rainfall trend is expected to continue in the mid-hill and lower-hill regions of the state.

"An orange alert has been issued for Chamba, Kangra, and Mandi districts on August 1 due to the possibility of heavy to very heavy rainfall," said Sharma.

"A yellow alert has been issued for Kullu, Bilaspur, Una, and Hamirpur districts for the same day," he said.

TN: Jyeshthabishekam performed at Woraiyur Kamalavalli Nachiyar temple

AGENCIES
TRICHY (TAMIL NADU), AUGUST 1

Jyeshthabishekam (Aani Thirumanjanam), the annual sacred bathing ritual, was held in grandeur at the famous Kamalavalli Nachiyar Temple, Woraiyur, one of the 108 Divya Desams and revered as the second among them. The temple is especially known for removing obstacles in marriage through the blessings of Goddess Kamalavalli.

Following the tradition at the Srirangam Ranganathar and Ranganayaki shrines, the sacred bath was performed for God-



dess Kamalavalli this year as well. Holy water for the ritual was fetched from the sacred river Kaveri in both golden and

silver pots and carried in a ceremonial procession through the streets by temple priests and devotees.

Inside the temple, accompanied by the sounds of mangala vadhyan (auspicious instruments), the golden and silver pots were brought in procession through the inner prakaram. The previous adornments of the goddess were respectfully removed, and she was given a ceremonial abhishekam (holy bath), after which fresh garments and decorations were offered.

Large numbers of devotees lined the streets and temple premises to witness the holy event and receive the divine blessings of Kamalavalli Nachiyar.

PM Modi to Visit Assam on September 8, inaugurate Rs 4,200 cr bio-refinery

AGENCIES
GUWAHATI (ASSAM), AUGUST 1

Assam Chief Minister Dr Himanta Biswa Sarma on Friday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit Assam on September 8 and will inaugurate a bio-refinery at Numaligarh.

Sarma, while addressing a press conference held at Lok Sewa Bhawan in Guwahati, said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate a bio-refinery at Numaligarh, which will convert bamboo to 2G ethanol. The plant has been established at a cost of Rs 4200 crore. The Prime Minister will also take part in a meeting at



Numaligarh." CM Sarma said that at Mangaldoi, he will lay the foundation stone for several key infrastructure projects.

He said, "Thereafter, he will go to Mangaldoi in Darrang district and he will lay the foundation stone for the ring road of Guwahati, a new bridge over the river Brahmaputra connecting Kurua and Narengi, and he will also

lay the foundation stone for the Darrang Medical College."

Following these engagements, the Prime Minister will return to Guwahati to attend the inaugural ceremony of the year-long centenary celebrations of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika, organised by the Assam government.

"Thereafter he will come to Guwahati. He will participate in the inaugural ceremony of the year-long celebration of the 100th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr Bhupen Hazarika, organised by the State government of Assam. It is a day-long

programme and we have already started preparations to welcome Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Assam on that day," Sarma said.

Meanwhile, Union Home Minister Amit Shah is also scheduled to visit Guwahati on August 29 where he will inaugurate the newly built Raj Bhawan.

CM Sarma said, "We have constructed a new Raj Bhawan in Guwahati, and the Union Home Minister will inaugurate the new Raj Bhawan on August 29 morning. In recent Panchayat polls in Assam, the BJP-led NDA has registered a massive victory."

Kiran Bedi pitches 'SWAT' framework for senior citizens at national conference on ageing

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

Former Puducherry Lt Governor Kiran Bedi on Thursday proposed a "SWAT" (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats) framework for senior citizens to guide policymaking on ageing in India, calling for coordinated efforts at the grassroots level to address challenges faced by the elderly.

Speaking at a session on Leveraging Ageing for Growth and Development during the National Conference on Ageing in India, Bedi said, "All ministers and ministries responsible for senior citizen policymaking must come



together once a month exactly like the Prime Minister does for major projects. I would like to offer a concept called SWAT for seniors' attendance."

Elaborating on the idea, she said families, friends, professional and spiritual fraternities should be recognised as strengths, and policies should incentivise intergenerational living as

done in countries like Singapore. At the same time, she flagged weaknesses such as lack of preparation for ageing, inadequate infrastructure, poor coordination at the village and RWA levels, and health concerns like joint care.

"Yoga and healthy eating are solutions, but weaknesses like ignorance about the body and lack of exercise need urgent attention," Bedi stressed. She highlighted opportunities in the wisdom, skills, and time that elderly citizens possess, urging linkages with schools, NGOs, industries, and startups under the "silver economy." She also pointed to

threats such as loneliness and financial insecurity.

V. Srinivas, Secretary, Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, underlined the government's focus on ensuring timely pensions, digital empowerment, and healthcare for senior citizens. "More than 1.62 crore pensioners submitted digital life certificates last year. This year, we expect more than two crore. Digital empowerment of pensioners has been a major area of work," he said. Srinivas added that recognition of lifetime contributions through initiatives like the Anubhav awards and dedicated healthcare facilities remains a core priority.

ED raids 10 places in Bengaluru, Mumbai in money laundering case of builder group

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 1

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Friday conducted searches at 10 premises connected to a builder group and its key management personnel at Bengaluru and Mumbai, officials said.

The searches are still underway. ED's Bengaluru zonal office is conducting the search under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

The searches are being conducted on money laundering allegations against the company in its project in Devanahalli Taluk in Bengaluru, the officials



said. "The integrated township project was to be handed over to buyers in 2018. However, till 2024, only 49 per cent of the project was completed.

The company has failed to hand over the project and has neither returned the money to the buyers," said the officials.

It is alleged that "the accused company, along with its key management personnel, have cheated various gullible customers by inducing the customers in many ways".

As per the ED, the firm and its key management personnel cheated various gullible customers by promising to pay EMIs to the banks against the loans taken by the home buyers from the financial institutions on behalf of the buyers until completion of the project; and by prom-

ising many buyers huge discounts, if they pay full amount in advance against the bookings.

It is also accused that "the builder also induced the buyers who purchased units, flats and apartments in the project with buy-back scheme, 2X-scheme, etc."

It is alleged that the directors of the company have "cheated its buyers collectively to the tune of hundreds of crores and misappropriated the funds."

"There are multiple FIRs against the company and its promoters, which necessitated the investigation under PMLA," added the officials.

5th Test: Jasprit Bumrah released from India squad ahead of day two's play

AGENCIES
LONDON, AUG 1

Fast-bowling spearhead Jasprit Bumrah has been released from India's squad, after not being included in playing XI for the ongoing fifth Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy Test against England at The Oval, due to workload management, said the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI).

Bumrah wasn't spotted in the Indian team bus ahead of arriving at the venue for day two's play. "Mr Jasprit Bumrah has been released from India's squad for the fifth Test of the series against Eng-



land. The fifth and final Test of the series is underway at Kennington Oval, London," said the BCCI in a statement on Friday.

Before the five-match series began in England, chief selector Ajit Agarkar and head coach Gautam Gambhir said Bumrah wouldn't feature in more

than three Tests on tour due to workload management. Bumrah featured in the first Test at Headingley, Leeds, followed by the third and fourth games at Lord's and Old Trafford, Manchester, respectively.

In three games, Bumrah picked 14 wickets, including two five-wicket hauls,

coming off bowling 119.4 overs at an average of 26 to be the leading wicket-taker for India in the ongoing series. Bumrah could have been expected to play in the fifth Test at The Oval, but he wasn't included in the playing eleven.

"We obviously want to wheel him out, but we also want to respect where his body is at, and on the basis of that, we just felt that it wasn't worth including him in the squad. He has bowled a large number of overs, I know it doesn't always seem like that because he's only played three tests and he's only bowled in one innings in Manchester."

Lakshya, Mannepalli reach Macau Open semifinals

AGENCIES
MACAU, AUG 1

Second-seed Lakshya Sen advanced to the BWF Macau Open semifinal after defeating Zhu Xuan Chen of China 21-14, 18-21, 21-14 here at East Asian Games Dome on Friday.

This is Lakshya's first semifinal in 10 BWF tour events since his triumph at the Syed Modi International late last year. He will next take on fifth seed Indonesian Alwi Farhan for a place in the final.

He made a strong start to the match, securing a 6-point lead by the first mid-game interval and comfortably sealing the opening game 21-14. After the change of sides. The Indian held a five-point cushion, but the Chinese



shuttler mounted a comeback, levelling the score at 18-all before clinching the next three points to take the game.

Lakshya, however, bounced back in the decider, establishing a lead in the decider, and maintained his grip to close out the match 21-14.

Lakshya battled his

able comeback to defeat top seed Lee Cheuk Yiu of Hong Kong.

The world No. 9 men's doubles pair of Satwik-sairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty will be in action later in the day against the Malaysian duo Choong Hon Jian and Muhammad Haikal.

Satwik and Chirag had fought back from a game down to overcome Japan's Kakeru Kumagai and Hiroki Nishi for a place in the quarterfinals.

India's women's singles campaign at the Macau Open came to an end on Thursday after the only remaining player in the draw, Rakshitha Ramraj, went down fighting 14-21, 21-10, 21-11 against second seed Busanan Ongbunrunghpan of Thailand.

LPL 2025 to be held in Colombo, Pallekele and Dambulla from November 27

AGENCIES
COLOMBO, AUG 1

The 2025 edition of the Lanka Premier League (LPL) will run from November 27 to December 23, marking the tournament's sixth season. Matches will be held across three venues - Colombo, Pallekele and Dambulla.

This will be the fourth time in six years that the LPL is being staged in the November-December window instead of its usual July-August slot. While the last two seasons were held during the mid-year period, Sri Lanka Cricket (SLC) opted for a later schedule this year, considering the 2026 T20



World Cup is set to begin in February, making the revised window more strategic.

"The idea to conduct the LPL during this time frame is aimed at aligning the tournament with the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026," said Samantha

Dodanwela, Tournament Director, LPL.

The LPL, Sri Lanka's flagship domestic T20 tournament with an international appeal, serves as a dynamic platform for the country's top first-class cricketers to compete alongside and against

international stars. Since the inaugural edition in 2020, the Lanka Premier League has been held annually and has become a vital fixture in Sri Lanka's cricketing calendar.

Earlier this year, Sri Lanka Cricket terminated the contracts of Jaffna Kings - previously the longest-standing franchise since joining in the tournament's second edition - and Colombo Strikers, citing "failure to uphold contractual obligations."

As a result, none of the current LPL franchises have ownership histories dating back beyond 2024. New owners for the Jaffna and Colombo teams are yet to be announced.

Woakes ruled out of remainder of 5th Test with shoulder injury

AGENCIES
LONDON, AUG 1

England's experienced seamer Chris Woakes has been ruled out of the remainder of the ongoing fifth Test of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy against India after injuring his shoulder on opening day, the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Friday.

"England seamer Chris Woakes will continue to be monitored throughout the remainder of the Fifth Test at The Kia Oval, following a left shoulder injury sustained on day one of the match against India," ECB said in a statement.

"At this stage, the injury



has ruled him out of any further participation in the Test. A further assessment will be conducted at the conclusion of the series," it added.

In the 57th over of India's first innings on Day 1, Woakes walked off the field after he landed awkwardly on his left shoulder and stayed down clutch-

ing it while saving a ball hit to the boundary by Karun Nair at long-off. He received medical attention from England physio, before using his sweater as a makeshift sling on his way to the dressing room.

Woakes bowled 14 overs on Day 1, returning figures of 1 for 46. His injury added to England's grow-

ing list of concerns, with the team already missing several key players for the all-important final Test, including captain Ben Stokes, who was ruled out of the series decider due to a right shoulder injury.

Woakes' absence would leave England with an attack short of experience, with the rest of the attack having a combined 18 Test caps for England.

The 35-year-old has been a workhorse for England throughout the series, one of only two seamers - along with India's Mohammed Siraj - to feature in all five matches. Across the series, he has bowled 181 overs and taken 11 wickets at an average of 52.18.

UAE to host Afghanistan and Pakistan in T20I tri-series ahead of Asia Cup

AGENCIES
DUBAI, AUG 1

UAE will host Pakistan and Afghanistan in a seven-match T20I Tri-Series at the historic Sharjah Cricket Stadium from August 29. The three teams will play each other twice in the six-match group stage. The top two teams will then compete in the final on September 7.

Afghanistan will take on Pakistan in the tournament opener on August 29. Host UAE will open their campaign against Pakistan on August 30 followed by Afghanistan's clash against UAE on September 1 and their second group-stage match against



Pakistan on September 2. Pakistan and UAE's second group-stage match will be played on September 4 followed by the Afghanistan-UAE match on September 5.

The tournament will provide the ideal preparation opportunity to the

three teams ahead of the eight-team ACC Asia Cup 2025 which will be played in the UAE from September 9.

According to the ICC's Future Tours Programme, Pakistan were initially scheduled to host Afghanistan for a three-match

T20I series during the window now taken up by the upcoming tri-series.

Among the three participating teams, Pakistan are the highest-ranked in the ICC T20I rankings at No. 8, followed by Afghanistan at No. 9 and UAE at No. 14.

Pakistan are currently playing a bilateral white-ball series against the West Indies, having won the opening game. Their Asia Cup campaign begins on September 12 against Oman. Afghanistan, who last played a T20I series in Zimbabwe at the end of the previous year, will open their Asia Cup campaign on September 9 against Hong Kong.

AIFF appoint Khalid Jamil as head coach of men's national team

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 1

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) have confirmed the appointment of head coach Khalid Jamil as the new head coach of the Senior India Men's National Football Team.

The decision comes after the AIFF Executive Committee approved the appointment from a three-man short list submitted by the AIFF Technical Committee. The other two contenders were former India head coach Stephen Constantine and Stefan Tarkovic, who previously managed the Slovakia national team.

A former India mid-



fielder and now an AFC Pro Licensed coach, the 48-year-old becomes the first Indian to take charge of the national team since Savio Medeira in 2012. He also becomes the first Indian to take the full-time reign of the national team since Sukhwinder.

Jamil has worked his

way through the Indian football ecosystem having made an impact on the I-League, I-League 2 and the Indian Super League. His time with Aizawl FC saw the team win their only top-flight title. He joined Jamshedpur FC midway through the 2023-24 season and led them to the Super Cup semifinals and later to a runner-up finish and an ISL semifinal spot in the next.

He follows after an underwhelming stint by FC Goa head coach Manolo Marquez, who parted ways with the national team with only one win in over a year.

Jamil's first challenge will be a huge one as India

take part in the CAFA Nations Cup, after Malaysia withdrew from the tournament, which is outside the official FIFA calendar, in preparation for the two AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers against Singapore in October.

India have been placed in Group B and will play hosts Tajikistan on August 29, defending champions Iran on September 1 and Afghanistan on September 4.

India suffered a heartbreaking 0-1 away defeat to Hong Kong in their second match of the AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers Final Round, following a goalless draw against Bangladesh in the opener.

India's young pugilists begin U19 Asian Boxing Championships campaign with wins

AGENCIES
BANGKOK, AUG 1

India's junior boxing team kicks off its campaign on Friday at the U19 Asian Boxing Championships 2025 in Bangkok, with four young athletes representing the country on the opening day. As the tournament unfolds, these rising stars are set to showcase their grit and determination against some of Asia's toughest opponents.

The morning session saw Suman Kumari taking on Meng-Sin Cheng of Chinese Taipei in the Women's Light Flyweight (48kg) category, in which the Indian pugilist emerged victorious. Additionally, Aakash Badhwar will step



into the ring in the Men's Flyweight (50kg) division, facing a formidable opponent in Odilshoh Khalimov of Uzbekistan.

The action continues in the evening session where Sarthi Saini will

face off against Haosheng Zhang of China in the Light Middleweight (70kg) category. Later in the session, Lokesh will represent India in the Light Heavyweight (80kg) division, going up against Norbek

Abdullaev of Uzbekistan.

These bouts mark a significant start for India at the championships, with each athlete carrying the promise of future glory. With focused preparation and national pride on their shoulders, the Indian contingent is aiming to set a strong tone early in

The tournament, organised by Asian Boxing in association with World Boxing and the Thailand Boxing Association, will bring together 396 boxers from 26 nations. It features two age groups U19 (born between 2007 and 2008) and U22 (born between 2004 and 2006) with both men and women competing under Olympic-style boxing rules.

South Africa all geared up to break Pakistan Champions' dream in WCL 2025 final

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM, AUG 1

The World Championship of Legends 2025 (WCL) is all set for its ultimate showdown as South Africa Champions, led by AB de Villiers, go head-to-head against Pakistan Champions in the grand finale on Saturday.

In 2024, Indian cricket fans witnessed Yuvraj Singh lead the India Champions to victory. This year, AB de Villiers stands at the forefront, ready to take the crown and secure the title for South Africa. Backed by a stellar line-up featuring Hashim Amla, Imran Tahir, Wayne Parnell and Chris Morris, the South Africa Champions earned



their place in the final with a commanding win over Australia Champions in the semi-final.

Their final opponents, the Pakistan Champions, have looked unstoppable throughout the tournament. With a powerful squad comprising Mohammad Hafeez, Shoaib Malik,

Sharjeel Khan and Saeed Aijal, they bring experience, aggression and consistency to the final stage.

WCL 2025 has been a celebration of cricket's golden era. Sanctioned by the England & Wales Cricket Board, the tournament has brought together some of the biggest names

in world cricket.

This season featured a star-studded cast including Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, Chris Gayle, DJ Bravo, Brett Lee, Chris Lynn, Shaun Marsh, Eoin Morgan, Moeen Ali, and Sir Alastair Cook, drawing fans from across the globe.

Now, the journey comes to an epic conclusion. As anticipation builds, millions of fans across the globe will tune in to witness history. The WCL grand finale is not just about cricket - it's about legacy, pride, and the love of the game.

The high-stakes clash will be broadcast live in India on Star Sports and FanCode at 9:00 PM IST.

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

JNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, AUG 1

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

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

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

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



Similarly, under Phase II which will commence from 9th and culminates on 12th August, Tiranga Mahotsav comprising Mela and Concert shall be held, besides display and sale of local Tiranga-themed products, organization of Tiranga Rallies, Cycle/Bike Yatraas, and lighting/decor of markets, Selfie booths to encourage mass participation via the national portal website, ie, www.harghartiranga.com

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The meeting was attended by SSP Budgam, Nikhil Borkar; ADC, GM DIC, ACR, ACD, Principals of all Government Degree Colleges of Budgam, Dy. CEO, DEPO, Principals of all Higher Secondary Schools, and ZEOs, District Youth Services and Sports Officer, District Information Officer Budgam, District Informatics Officer (NIC) Budgam, all BDOs, and representatives from the Culture department, NRLM, handicraft & handlooms and other concerned officials of the district.

Rajouri celebrates perked up ABP ranking of Khawas block

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, AUGUST 1

The District Administration Rajouri today organized the NITI Aayog Aspirational Block Programme (Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh) here at Dak Bungalow, celebrating the remarkable progress achieved under the Aspirational Block Programme in the Khawas block.

The programme was graced by Member of Parliament Mian Altaf Ahmed Larvi, who inaugurated the Akanksha Haat as a part of the week-long Sampoornata Abhiyan Samman Samaroh set up at Baila Bus Stand Rajouri. There, he inspected the departmental stalls showcasing developmental initiatives and welfare schemes.

The ceremonial proceedings at Dak Bungalow commenced with a brief introduction by ACP Sheraz Choudhary, followed by a formal welcome address by Deputy Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma.

The DC extended a warm welcome to the MP and all the team members from Khawas Block, acknowledging their dedication and efforts in significantly improving the block's performance under NITI Aayog's rank-



ing framework.

A documentary film highlighting the transformation journey of Aspirational Block Khawas was screened, capturing the milestones achieved across health, education, agriculture and other developmental indicators.

The event also featured cultural performances by local artists, showcasing the vibrant talent and rich heritage of the region.

As a mark of appreciation, frontline workers,

officials from district and block-level departments and other key contributors were felicitated by the dignitaries for their commendable efforts under the Sampoornata Abhiyan.

MP Mian Altaf Ahmed Larvi delivered the closing remarks, lauding the collective resolve and hard work demonstrated by the entire district administration and stakeholders.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by

District Statistics and Evaluation Officer, Sandeep Sharma.

The programme was also attended by MLA Budhal Javed Iqbal Choudhary, DDC Doongi, ADC Budhal Dil Mir, Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, ACD Auqil Naveed, Ex-En PDD Abdul Rasheed, Chief Medical Officer Manohar Lal Rana, District Sheep Husbandry Officer, Chief Agriculture Officer and other district and sectoral officers.

Rana launches Akaanksha Haat in Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, AUGUST 01

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

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

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

The initiative is rooted in the core objectives of promoting rural entre-



preneurship, advancing women's empowerment and enhancing livelihood opportunities in border and tribal areas.

During the inaugural ceremony, the Minister visited a diverse range of stalls showcasing handmade textiles, eco-friendly crafts, organic produce and processed local foods. Rana appreciated the creativity, craftsmanship and cultural richness reflected in the exhibits and commended the artisans for their dedication towards preserving regional traditions.

Reaffirming the Omar led government's commitment to grassroots economic development,

the Minister emphasized the importance of creating sustainable market linkages for rural producers, particularly women-led SHGs. He observed that

such efforts are vital for achieving long-term economic self-reliance among rural households.

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

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

DC Poonch welcomes 5th Batch of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra Pilgrims at Base Camp

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, AUG 1

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today visited the Yatra Base Camp at the College Ground to welcome the 5th batch of Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra pilgrims.

He was accompanied by Additional District Development Commissioner, Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Rev-



enue, ACD, Tehsildar Haveli, Additional Superintendent of Police and other senior officers of the district administration.

During the visit, the Deputy

Commissioner inspected various departmental stalls, reviewed the medical facilities being provided to the pilgrims, assessed the quality of langar (community kitchen)

services and took stock of the security and lodging arrangements in place to ensure a smooth and safe pilgrimage.

Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner reaffirmed the commitment of the district administration to ensure the successful and peaceful conduct of the yatra. He also extended a warm welcome to the pilgrims and urged them to continue visiting the holy shrine every year.

Bhaderwah Admin conducts market inspection, issues public advisory amid heavy rainfall

JNEWS SERVICE
BHADERWAH, AUG 1

Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah Sunil Kumar Bhutyal today conducted a comprehensive inspection of local markets to ensure public safety, fair pricing, and hygiene standards.

The continuous downpour has resulted in water-logging, road blockades and minor damages, particularly on the interior road, disrupting normal life and causing concern among residents.

The ADC issued a public advisory urging the citizens to remain cautious and avoid movement in

low-lying and flood-prone areas, especially near water bodies.


"The safety and well-being of the public remain our foremost priority. We are closely monitoring the weather situation and market activities to ensure timely response and civic order," said the ADC during the inspection.

To enforce traffic discipline and civic order, action was taken against violators. Individuals riding without helmets were fined, while vehicles parked in no-parking zones were removed. Several vehicles were also seized for repeated viola-

WORLD BREASTFEEDING WEEK


1st-7th AUGUST 2025

THEME :- Prioritize Breastfeeding : Create Sustainable Support Systems



Benefits of Breastfeeding to baby:

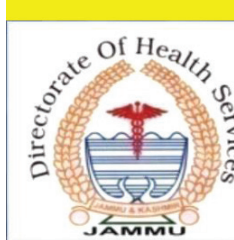
- Boosts immunity.
- Improves physical growth.
- Enhances mental development.
- Prevents diarrhoea, ear infections, food & respiratory allergies and many more diseases.



Benefits of Breastfeeding to mother:

- Decreases postpartum bleeding.
- Lessens risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, osteoporosis.
- Helps to lose post pregnancy weight
- Strengthens maternal bonding with baby.

- Initiate breastfeeding within 1 hour of birth.
- Give exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life.
- Continue breastfeeding up to 2 years of age or beyond with introduction of nutritionally adequate and safe complementary (solid) foods at 6 months.



Health Education Bureau

Directorate of Health Services Jammu

DIP/J-4182/25
Date: 1-8-25