

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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IMD issues weather alert for 4 districts of Jammu region

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 04

The India Meteorological Department (IMD), MET center Srinagar, has issued a nowcast update predicting moderate to heavy rainfall with thunderstorms in Rajouri, Ramban, Reasi and Udhampur districts of Jammu region over the next 2-3 hours.

This weather alert also warns of potential flash floods, landslides, mudslides and shooting stones in vulnerable areas.

As such, the concerned authorities have been requested to take necessary measures to ensure public safety and minimize risk. The people are advised to stay cautious and avoid unnecessary travel, especially in areas prone to landslides and flash floods.

The situation is being closely monitored, and preventive actions will be initiated wherever required.

Govt extends power amnesty scheme till Mar-2026

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 04

The government Monday extended power amnesty scheme for domestic consumers till March-31-2026.

According to the news agency Principal Secretary Power Development Department in a H Rajesh Prasad in a communique said, "Sanction is accorded to the extension of amnesty in favour of the domestic consumers for the period ending 31-03-2026."

Prasad however clarified that the extension

Security situation in J&K improved since 2019

Reorganisation: Official data

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 04

Six years after Jammu and Kashmir's special status was revoked and the erstwhile State was reorganised into two Union Territories, official data indicates a substantial decline in terror-related deaths across the region and overall security situation.

Between August 5, 2019, when Article 370 was abrogated, and August 4, 2025, Jammu and Kashmir recorded a total of 1,230 terror-related fatalities, according to official figures accessed by the news agency. This marks a 33.3% decline compared to the previous six-year period from 2013 to 2019, during which 1,845 such deaths were reported.

The drop reflects a notable shift in the security landscape

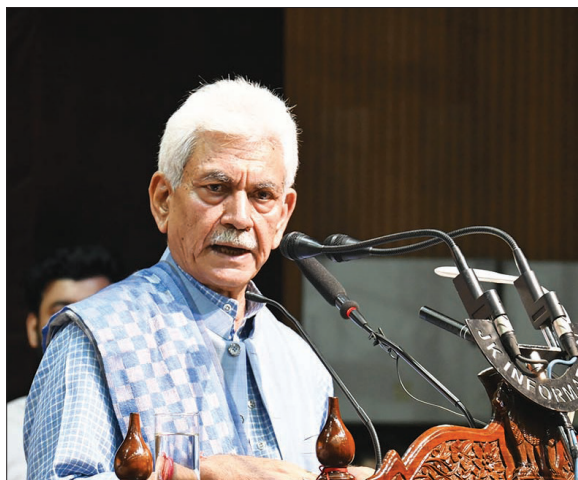
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National Education Policy, PM Modi's gift to younger generation: LG Sinha

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 04

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that the National Education Policy is PM Modi's gift to younger generation and it has empowered them.

Addressing the Medhavi Chhatra Samman Samaroh organized by Amar Ujala Group at Convention Centre Jammu here, LG Sinha, according to the news agency said, "Prime Minister Narendra Modi has gifted to the nation's education system, which has empowered the younger generation and is set to change their destinies."



He said that the NEP lays emphasis on value-based education, and it has ensured that the young students not only gain knowledge but also

develop a moral and ethical foundation to become responsible citizens. "True Knowledge is transformative. It changes the life of the seeker. It fosters new

innovations, discoveries, and research while instilling core values like integrity, patience, and honesty. The true Knowledge allows an individual to contribute meaningfully to society and the nation," LG Sinha said, adding, "We must understand that the right education triggers curiosity and creative thinking and inspires students to explore the unknown."

"It should be our prime responsibility to nurture future-oriented talent and create a conducive environment where the students acquire knowledge and education in their truest forms," he said. The Lieutenant

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Farmer welfare top priority of PM Modi led Govt: LG Sinha



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 04

Lauding the contribution of 'Nari Shakti' towards

enhancing productivity and efficiency in the agriculture sector, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Monday said that "farmer

welfare is the top priority of Prime Minister Narendra Modi led government." Addressing the

CONTINUED ON ► PAGE 4

CM reviews progress of Tawi Riverfront Development Project in Jammu



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 04

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Monday conducted an extensive inspection of the Tawi Riverfront Development Project, a flagship initiative under Jammu Smart City Limited (JSCL). The project aims to revitalise the banks of the Tawi River by integrating flood protection with recreational and commercial infrastructure to create a dynamic urban space.

The inspection was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir

Aslam Wani and Minister for Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs, IT, S&T and Transport, Satish Sharma.

Commissioner JMC and CEO JSCL, Devansh Yadav; Additional CEO JSCL and Joint Commissioner JMC, Subah Mehta; Director Projects JSCL, Sunil Thusu; Senior GM JSCL, Rajesh Abrol; AEE JSCL, Akhil Samyal; and senior engineers and officers from UEED Jammu and Irrigation & Flood Control Department were also present on the occasion. The Chief

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CM advocates organic farming & climate-resilient agriculture



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 04

Underscoring the critical role of agriculture in shaping the economic future of J&K, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, who is also the Pro-Chancellor of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology, Jammu, Monday addressed the 9th Convocation of the University at Baba Jitto

Auditorium, Chatha. Congratulating the graduating scholars, the Chief Minister said that agriculture and allied sectors are "fields of promise as well as of responsibility" and acknowledged their growing complexity in the face of climate change, resource depletion and emerging global standards.

He observed that fragmented land holdings,

depleting water resources and the unchecked use of chemical-based fertilizers are issues that demand urgent course correction, calling for a decisive shift toward sustainable and organic practices. He also emphasized the rising concerns around microplastics in the food chain and climate vulnerability, noting that environmental awareness is no

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After Pahalgam attack, India won't relent on terror: Army Chief

J1 NEWS SERVICE
CHENNAI, AUG 04

Describing Operation Sindoor as a major shift in India's counter-terror strategy following the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, Army Chief General Uday Shankar Dwivedi on Monday said the 88-hour-long tri-services operation compelled Pakistan to seek a ceasefire.

General Dwivedi said the Indian Armed



Forces are preparing for fifth-generation warfare marked by non-contact operations and strategic psychological pressure. He said modern conflicts demand the co-existence of conventional forces and technological tools, where "boots must share space with bots".

He said the Army is working towards self-reliance through collaborations under national technology missions like INDIAai, Chip-to-Startup, and Project QuILA. Institutions like MCTE Mhow are acting as key

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72-hour-long gunbattle in Kulgam continues as security forces push to neutralise terrorists

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, AUG 04

The encounter in the Akhal forest area of Devsar in south Kashmir's Kulgam district entered its fourth day on Monday, with intermittent firing and explosions continuing.

The operation was launched on Friday evening after security forces received credible intelligence inputs about the presence of terrorists hiding in the dense Akhal forest. As the troops moved in to cordon off the area, they came under fire, triggering a prolonged gun battle, according to officials.

"So far, one terrorist has been killed and four soldiers injured," an official informed the news agency, adding that the injured personnel are being treated at the Army hospital in



Srinagar. The firing is still going on, and terrorists appear to be firing from multiple directions, he added.

In a post on X, Chinar Corps of the Indian Army said, "OP AKHAL, Kulgam. Intermittent and intense firefight continued through the night. Alert troops responded with calibrated fire and tightened the noose while maintaining contact."

"One terrorist has been neutralised by the secu-

rity forces so far. Operation continues," the post added.

The Indian Army last night kept the terrorists engaged in intense gun-fights to prevent them from escaping in the dark. This is one of the longest anti-terrorist operations, as it has taken four days and is likely to take more time.

Top police and Army officials, including the Director General of Police (DGP) and senior com-

manders from the Army's 15 Corps, are closely monitoring the operation.

The encounter has stretched beyond 72 hours, with fierce exchanges of fire in dense and difficult terrain. "The thick forest and challenging landscape are slowing the progress," the official said.

He said that to track and neutralise the remaining terrorists, the forces have deployed high-tech surveillance systems, drones, elite Para forces, and attack helicopters like the HAL Rudra. Ammunition was dropped through a hexacopter to eliminate the terrorists, he added.

The official said the source said additional deployments of security forces have been activated to maintain pressure on the hiding terrorists. "The cordon has been extended to a larger area," he said.

Increase surveillance upon anti-national elements, monitor social media platforms: DGP to officers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 04

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Monday directed the officers to increase surveillance upon anti-national elements and to increase area domination in their respective areas.

Chairing a security review meeting in view of forthcoming events PCR Kashmir here, the DGP, according to the news agency, emphasized the need to review and enhance the security plans and to design effective counter insurgency strategies for smooth and peaceful conduct of the events.

The DGP also directed the district heads to closely monitor social media



platforms to prevent any attempt to spread misinformation impacting public safety and order.

The Director General of Police stressed on the need to enhance the security of vulnerable targets and to ensure foolproof security arrangements.

The meeting, according to the officials, was attended by Special DG Coordination J&K SJM Gillani, ADG CRPF Rajesh Kumar, ADGP Armed J&K

Anand Jain, ADGP CID J&K Nitish Kumar, JD SIB J&K/L, IGsP of (Kashmir zone, Jammu Zone, Security J&K), IG BSF, IG CRPF KOS, IG CRPF Srinagar, all range DIsG of J&K, DIsG (Traffic, Railways Kashmir, ITBP Srinagar, SSB Jammu, CISF Jammu), all district SSSP of J&K, SSSP of (PCR Kashmir, Railways, APCR, CID SBK, Security Kashmir, CID CIK), SSp of PC Srinagar, PC Jammu

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DC Ramban conducts surprise visit to Child Care Institution, District Hospital

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, AUGUST 4

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, conducted a surprise visit to PALAASH, a Mission Vatsalya initiative under the Department of Social Welfare, the Child Care Institution for Boys at Maitra.

During his inspection at PALAASH, a Mission Vatsalya initiative under the Department of Social Welfare, the Deputy Commissioner interacted directly with the boys residing at the institution.

He gathered feedback on the available facilities and services, emphasizing



the importance of handling every child with love and affection, providing proper care and ensuring overall child welfare.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to the concerned officers

for maintaining the quality and hygiene of food as well as personal hygiene among the boys. He highlighted the significance of a compassionate environment and instructed staff to ensure the best possible

care for the children.

The Deputy Commissioner also conducted a surprise late night visit to the District Hospital Ramban. During the inspection the DC spoke with patients and reviewed the healthcare services being provided to them. He directed the Medical Superintendent to ensure adequate deployment of doctors and paramedical staff with special emphasis on maintaining full staffing levels during night shifts to address patient needs promptly and efficiently.

SHA J&K clarifies allegations of denial of PM-JAY benefits in Private Hospitals

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4

In response to a recent news report by KNS Kashmir highlighting the concerns about alleged denial of services under the Ayushman Bharat scheme in certain private hospitals, the State Health Agency, J&K, has issued a clarification to reassure the beneficiaries of their rights and the support available to them.

As per an official communication issued today in this regard, the SHA has established a robust and transparent grievance redressal mechanism to

ensure that no eligible beneficiary is denied treatment under the Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY and AB PM-JAY SEHAT schemes.

If any empanelled private or public hospital refuses to provide treatment under the scheme, beneficiaries are advised to immediately report the issue. Complaints can be registered by calling the toll-free helpline 104 for direct assistance and quick action. Additionally, grievances can be submitted online through the Centralized Public Grievance Redress and Monitoring System (CPGRAMS), Cen-

tral Grievance Redressal and Management System (CGRMS) or the JK Samadhan Portal. If any hospital is found guilty of denying treatment or violating scheme guidelines, strict action is taken, including imposition of penalties, temporary suspension and even permanent de-empanelment from the scheme.

A dedicated Grievance Cell at SHA monitors and resolves complaints on a priority basis. Additionally, the State Anti-Fraud Unit (SAFU) conducts regular follow-up calls with the patients to verify whether they received the

entitled cashless treatment.

It is important to note that all treatment packages under the Ayushman Bharat scheme are scientifically designed and standardized by the expert committees under the National Health Authority (NHA). These packages define clear medical protocols, costs and durations and are applicable uniformly across all empanelled hospitals in the country. Hospitals are not permitted to alter or overcharge for these packages, ensuring transparency and uniform quality of care.

Intensified awareness campaign underway in Udhampur under Har Ghar Tiranga

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 4

An intensified awareness campaign under the Har Ghar Tiranga initiative was organized by the District Administration Udhampur under the overall supervision of Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai.

A series of patriotic activities were organized across the district to celebrate the spirit of the National Flag and evoke a sense of national pride among citizens.

As part of the campaign, various educational institutions and stakeholder



departments conducted multiple events at Block and Tehsil levels. These activities received enthusi-

astic participation from the public, with active involvement from officials of various government depart-

ments.

Prominent among the participating institutions were Government Higher Secondary School Dhanas, Government Higher Secondary School Chenani and Government Middle School Dhandi. These schools organized wall painting initiatives and painting competitions centered on patriotic themes.

At Government Middle School Dhandi, students proudly held the Tricolour under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan, spreading the message of unity, pride and patriotism.

DC Reasi, AIGR Jammu launch first-of-its-kind digitization of legacy land records in Registrar office

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, AUGUST 4

In a significant move towards modernizing land and property record management, Deputy Commissioner Reasi, Nidhi Malik along with Additional Inspector General of Registration (AIGR), Pankaj Gupta today inaugurated the process of Digitization/Scanning/Uploading of Legacy Records, for the first time in J&K at the Registrar Office, Reasi.

Under this initiative, land and registration records dating from 1995 to 2020 will be digitized in a format compatible with the National Generic Document Registration System (NGDRS).

The program stands mooted by the J&K Registration Department, under the leadership of IGR Dr. Bashir Ahmad Bhat. This effort is a part of the Digital India Land Records Modernization



Programme (DILRMP) which seeks to bring greater transparency, accuracy and accessibility to land-related services.

During the launch, the Deputy Commissioner reviewed the entire digitization process and was informed that the work is expected to be completed within the next two to three months. Once finalized, the digitized records will be seamlessly integrated with NGDRS, enabling

easy online access and reducing dependency on manual documentation.

Speaking on the occasion, DC Nidhi Malik emphasized the importance of this step in creating a citizen-centric and transparent land record ecosystem. "Digitization not only preserves vital historical data but also simplifies processes for the public, making services more efficient and accessible," she said.

The Deputy Commissioner also appreciated the efforts of the Revenue Department, National Informatics Centre (NIC) and the Registrar Office for initiating this vital project. She urged all departments involved to ensure timely completion and to maintain high standards of quality and data integrity throughout the process.

In addition to this, AIGR Jammu Pankaj Gupta stated this project is part of citizen-centric reform that will greatly facilitate the easy retrieval of land records, improve service delivery and strengthen public trust in the registration system.

The event was also attended by Registrar Udhampur Gurvinderjeet Singh, Registrar Reasi Vinderjeet Singh and other senior officials.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign sees vibrant participation across Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, AUG 4

A series of patriotic activities were held today across various educational institutions and public offices in district Budgam as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, being celebrated under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

These events were organized under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, aimed at fostering a spirit of nationalism and deepening the emotional connect of citizens with the Indian national flag.

All departments, educational institutions, and local bodies have been actively mobilized to ensure widespread awareness and community



involvement.

The day witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, and community members in flag hoisting ceremonies, cultural programs, awareness rallies, and painting competitions. Special focus was laid on educating students about the significance of the national flag and the Flag Code of India, ensuring they understand the correct ways of displaying the Tiranga.

At various Government schools across the dis-

trict, including Government Higher Secondary School Kanir, students showcased handmade tricolour-themed artwork and participated in engaging patriotic song competitions. The school premises were decorated with flags and banners echoing national pride.

The Municipal Council building and Clock Tower in Budgam town were beautifully illuminated in the colours of the national flag, creating a vibrant ambiance and drawing public attention towards

the importance of the campaign.

District administration also appreciated the efforts of schools, government departments, local bodies, and community stakeholders for their proactive role in spreading awareness and encouraging public participation.

The campaign continues to gain momentum in Budgam, as students, citizens come together to honour the Tricolour and reaffirm their commitment to the ideals of the nation.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign gains momentum across Ramban District

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, AUGUST 4

District Administration under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today organized a series of patriotic activities across the district as part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

Events were held at educational institutions and across Block, Tehsil, and Sub-Division levels, focusing on Tiranga rallies, Swachhata Abhiyan, water conservation and hygiene awareness which witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, staff, and members of the public.

Notable rallies were organized at HSS Kaskoot Banihal and HS Chacknawah, which also hosted an Anti-Drug Awareness march. Similar events were held at HSS Pogal, HSS Gandhri, GHSS Thatharka, and HS Juwagh. PM SHRI institutions including HSS Tethar and HS Perhinder also led spirited rallies, joined by MS Dharamkund,



HS Goyee, HS Salli Dhandra, HS Dhalwas, and HS Tulhal.

The Tiranga rallies held across the district saw active participation from parents and Village Education Committee members, reflecting the inclusive spirit of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

Adding a creative touch, Rangoli and Rakhi making competitions were held

at PM SHRI HSS Sangaldan in zone Gool and GHS Bhartund in zone Batote. Schools such as PM SHRI, GHS Ramban and HS Bhartund decorated their campuses with Tiranga-themed artwork.

The students and other participants emphasized the unifying spirit of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign; they inspired participants to widen the

campaign's reach by motivating friends, families and neighbors to proudly hoist the National Flag atop their homes and within markets. Students also presented cultural performances in their institutions and localities.

The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign continues to inspire civic pride and unity in Ramban district ahead of the Independence Day celebrations.

Public Accounts Committee holds meeting in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 4

The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review the audit paras pertaining to the Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Department.

The meeting was chaired by PAC Chairman Sham Lal Sharma and attended by members including Mubarak Gul, Nazir Ahmad Khan (Gurezi), Qaysar Jamshaid Lone, Altaf Ahmed Wani (Kaloo), Javid Hassan Baig, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal and Sajad Shaheen.

During the session, the Committee conducted a detailed examination of Audit Paras 3.8 and 3.9 from the year 2000-01 and 3.5, 3.6 and 3.7 from 2017-18, pertaining to the H&ME Department.

The Committee deliberated on several key issues including construction of an Animal House at the Food and Drug Laboratory Jammu, testing of antibiotics and innovative drugs in the laboratory, functionality of air conditioners and



related infrastructure and the wasteful expenditure on imported dental units by Dental College Srinagar. Other matters discussed included establishment of spinal injury centres, non-establishment of a swine flu testing laboratory at GMC Jammu and non-functional status of the Trauma Centre at Khelani.

Speaking on the occasion, Chairman Sham Lal Sharma called for strengthening the healthcare services and upgrading infrastructure across all health institutions in Jammu and Kashmir. He emphasized the need to provide affordable and accessible healthcare in remote and far-flung areas such as Gurez, Tanghdar, Bani and Basoli. He also highlighted the importance of adopting best practices from other states

to improve the healthcare delivery.

The Chairman underscored the vital role of the Health Department in the social sector and stressed the need for greater transparency, accountability and seriousness in its functioning. He emphasized the need for establishment of trauma healthcare infrastructure at all designated locations to ensure prompt and effective medical care for trauma patients.

To ensure efficient oversight, the Chairman directed that sub-committees be constituted to inspect the functioning of Biosafety Laboratories and Spinal Injury Centres in both Srinagar and Jammu divisions. He also stressed the importance of fostering a sense of duty and accountability among doctors and paramedical

staff. He called for consistent efforts to improve the work culture in all healthcare institutions across J&K.

The meeting was attended by Principal Accountant General J&K, K. P. Yadav; Secretary H&ME, Abid Raheed; MD NHM, Baseer ul Haq Choudhary; Secretary Legislative Assembly; Commissioner, Drug and Food Administration; Director General Accounts and Treasuries; Principal GMC Srinagar; Principal Dental College Srinagar; Director Finance H&ME; State Drug Controller; Director Planning and other senior officials.

The Chairman reiterated the PAC's mandate to promote transparency, fiscal discipline and accountability in governance. He appreciated the commitment of Committee members and officials, urging them to continue upholding high standards of legislative oversight and contributing meaningfully to good governance and public accountability.

Various audit paras were also dropped by the Committee with directions to further improve patient care across health institutions in J&K.

Seminar on Medicinal Plants conservation & entrepreneurship held at Town Hall Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, AUGUST 4

In a forward-looking move to promote conservation and economic development through medicinal plant cultivation, the Jammu & Kashmir Medicinal Plants Board in collaboration with the District Administration Doda organized a one-day seminar at Town Hall Doda.

The seminar was themed "Promoting Conservation, Cultivation of Medicinal Plants and Developing Entrepreneurship in the Medicinal Plants Sector".

Organized under the supervision of the District AYUSH Officer, Doda, the program saw active participation from agricultural experts, local entrepreneurs, progressive farmers, officials and youth from across the district.

The seminar aimed to raise awareness about the rich medicinal plant biodiversity in the region and explore its potential



as a sustainable livelihood avenue. Experts emphasized that Doda's unique agro-climatic conditions make it highly conducive for cultivating a wide range of medicinal and aromatic plants.

Chief Guest, Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Doda,

Roshan Lal praised the initiative and underscored the importance of such awareness programs in educating the local population about the untapped potential of the region. He directed officials to ensure similar outreach activities across rural areas to maximize community participation.

The seminar featured technical sessions, expert talks, and interactive discussions, offering insights into scientific cultivation methods, value addition, post-harvest processing, marketing opportunities, and government schemes available in the AYUSH and medicinal plants sector.

Awareness programme to sensitize students on critical legal & social issues held at GBHSS Hazratbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 4

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, organized a comprehensive legal awareness programme today at Government Boys Higher Secondary School (GBHSS) Hazratbal, Srinagar.

The initiative aimed to sensitize students about critical legal and social issues including the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, drug abuse, bullying, teasing, violence, and the services available through the NALSA Helpline No. 15100.

The event was held under the chairmanship of Tasleem Arief, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Srinagar, and conducted under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman,



Sub-Judge and Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

On the occasion, insightful presentations from legal experts addressed the pressing concerns faced by young individuals.

Zeenat Nazir, Deputy Chief Legal Aid Defense Counsel (LADC), DLSA Srinagar, spoke at length about the provisions and significance of the POCSO Act. She also shed light on the growing menace of

drug abuse among youth, urging students to stay informed and vigilant.

Suhaila Ali, Panel Lawyer, DLSA Srinagar, addressed the issues of bullying, teasing, and violence in educational institutions. She emphasized the importance of early intervention and encouraged students to seek help through the NALSA Helpline No. 15100, a vital resource for legal aid and support.

The programme concluded with an interactive session where students expressed their concerns and queries, reflecting the impact and relevance of the awareness drive.

DLSA Srinagar reaffirmed its commitment to empowering youth through legal literacy and proactive engagement, ensuring that students are equipped with the knowledge to protect themselves and others.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress achieved under HADP, JKCIIP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, AUGUST 4

District Development Commissioner Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and deliberate on the rollout of the Jammu & Kashmir Climate Innovation Programme (JKCIIP) in the district.

During the meeting, the DDC emphasized the importance of JKCIIP in promoting sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices across the district. He directed that JKCIIP must be implemented in four identified blocks – Thanamandi, Darhal, Budhal and Rajouri – with a focus on integrated development through convergence with other line



departments.

The DDC directed officials to ensure wide publicity of JKCIIP through Self Help Groups (SHGs) and emphasized training of Krishi Udyamis (KUs) regarding JKCIIP portal to build their capacity for climate-smart interventions. He also stressed on convergence with other schemes, especially water management components under MGNREGA to maximize impact and resource utilization.

Highlighting the significance of promoting the wool sector, the DDC called for the organisation of a dedicated workshop for wool growers in collaboration with Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs). He underscored the importance of avoiding duplication of beneficiaries and targeting interventions within defined cluster areas.

The DDC directed the formulation of a comprehensive awareness plan on

HADP and climate-smart agriculture to enhance understanding at the grassroots level. Regarding the HADP component, it was decided that centralized distribution of resources will be carried out at the sub-divisional level, and concerned departments were asked to expedite fertilizer and seed licensing procedures.

Among those present in the meeting were CPO, Maqsood Ahmed; Chief Agriculture Officer, Madan Gopal Singh; Chief Horticulture Officer, Sushil Kumar Angurana; DDM NABARD, Chander Sharma; Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies, Adnan Rather; Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Dr. Khalid Hussain; Assistant Director Fisheries, Bodh Raj and Accounts Officer DC Office, Mohd Ameen.

Takeena Itoo conducts extensive tour of Haveli Constituency, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, AUGUST 4

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Takeena Itoo, today conducted extensive tour of Haveli Constituency of Poonch district and inaugurated several public infrastructure projects besides laying foundation stone for multiple developmental projects.

During the visit, the Minister inaugurated Outpatient Department (OPD) block at Sub-District Hospital (SDH) Mandi and also laid foundation stone for Dialysis Unit at the hospital.

Addressing the gathering on the occasion, the Health Minister said that the operationalization of OPD at SDH Mandi is a critical step in bolstering healthcare facilities in this remote area. She added that this OPD block, equipped with modern diagnostic and consultation facilities, is expected to ease the patient load on the existing infrastructure and enhance service delivery for residents of Mandi and adjacent areas.

"This new OPD block is a testament to our commitment towards



improving the healthcare delivery in underserved regions. Timely and accessible medical care is not a luxury but a necessity and our government will ensure that no one is left behind", the Minister stated.

Reiterating the Government's commitment to grassroots level development, the Minister said that the Omar Abdullah led government is focusing on strengthening grassroots development and improving public health infrastructure across J&K. She added that Dialysis facilities are being established at all Sub District Hospitals of J&K so that public get better healthcare facilities near their vicinities.

Later, the Minister laid foundation stone for Government Degree College

Mandi. Addressing a mammoth gathering after inauguration, the Minister highlighted that with the efforts of Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah, the long pending demand of the public has been fulfilled. She expressed gratitude to Chief Minister for timely release of funds which will lead to timely construction of college.

The Minister further said that the College will lead to significant development in the field of higher education in this region. She also praised the MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan and Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal for resolving the land dispute issue of GDC Mandi.

During the visit, the Minister also interacted with the locals and took

stock of their genuine issues and grievances. She received feedback on several ongoing projects and also various social sector schemes.

While interacting with the locals, the Minister said, "Our aim is to ensure inclusive growth of J&K, where development reaches the last mile." She assured the public delegations that their genuine issues will be addressed promptly.

MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal; Director Social Welfare Jammu; Director Health Services Jammu; Director School Education Jammu; Director Colleges; other senior officers of district administration and locals were also present on the occasions.


UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
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SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. 51 of 2025-2026/Jammu East Dated 02-08-2025

For and on behalf of the **Lieutenant Governor, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir** e-tenders are invited on **percentage basis** from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K, CPWD, Railways, MES and other State / Central Governments for each of the following works :-

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. Lakh)	Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (in Rs.)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Repair of Bathroom, Plumbing, Creation of Pantry and Other Minor Repair Works in the Office of Assistant Commissioner, Nazool, Jammu (2 nd CALL)	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	4.73	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Month	(1300 Hrs) on or after 08-08-2025	A,B,C&D
2	Repair and renovation of Police Quarters at Deputy Commissioner's Office, Jammu.	PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East	2.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	01 Month	(1300 Hrs) on or after 08-08-2025	A,B,C&D

Position of AAA/TS : Accorded

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	02-08-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 02-08-2025 to 07-08-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	05-08-2025 at 1200Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
4	Bid submission Start Date	02-08-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	07-08-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	08-08-2025 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to MH 0059 (Revenue) favoring **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** and upload the same i.e treasury challan / receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East**. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East** at the time of allotment.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder needs not to make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Jammu East**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**.

No :- 4961-71
Dated :- 02-08-2025

Sd/-
(Er. Parvez Malik)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Jammu East

DIP/J-4248/25
Date: 4-8-25

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

National Education...

Governor felicitated the meritorious students of class 10th and 12th from JKBOSE. He congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the students.

"It is inspiring to see the soaring spirit of our young generation and equally firm resolve for nation building. The adventurous pursuit of our students will ensure a bright future for the nation and humanity," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the educational institutions and teaching community to focus on the overall development of the youth, impart life values, encourage new ideas, promote creativity and independent thinking among the students while ensuring they have access to global standards of education.

"I firmly believe that the right balance of science and sanskar will provide students with the ability to face the challenges of the future. To fully exploit the potential of India's growing economic power, school education must focus on developing scientific temper and curiosity among students," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He urged the Amar Ujala Group to dedicate a special award to recognize and honour students for unique innovations and research. The unique ideas, original and distinct essays and research papers of the students which reflect their individual personality and critical thinking should be honoured and celebrated, he added.

The Lieutenant Governor also called upon the youth to find their inner voice and achieve excellence in life.

"You are the future of this nation and the engine of its growth. The responsibility for steering India towards a Viksit Bharat lies on your shoulders," he further said.

Advisor, Amar Ujala Group, Uday Sinha; Executive Editor, Amar Ujala Group, Dr. Indu Shekhar Pancholi, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Dr KS Chandrasekar; Principal Secretary, School Education, RN Sharma; Editors and members of Amar Ujala Group; teachers, students and their parents were present.

Farmer welfare top priority...

9th convocation ceremony of of SKUAST- Jammu, LG Sinha, according to the news agency congratulated all the graduating students and he also extended his felicitations to the management, faculty, and staff on the completion of 25 glorious years of the University.

He said the significant contribution of Nari Shakti towards enhancing productivity and efficiency in the agriculture sector has given new direction to the agriculture and allied sector.

"In areas like climate smart crops, pest management, biotech solutions, organic farming, the participation of women scientists has made invaluable contribution," he said.

"I am extremely proud that out of 8 gold medalists in post-graduate and graduate students, 7 are our daughters. Out of 35 Certificates of Merit in PhD and Post-Graduate, 32 Merit Certificates were awarded to our daughters. It is a symbol of the rising influence of Nari Shakti in Agriculture and allied sectors and I believe they will be driving innovation for sustainable agriculture and enhancing farmers' income," the Lieutenant Governor said.

LG Sinha spoke on the need for a stronger innovation and modern technology ecosystem for sustainable agricultural practices to prioritize farmer incomes, risk mitigation and strengthening farmer-industry linkages.

The positive impact of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) and competitiveness improvement of Agriculture and Allied Sectors Project in J&K (JKCIP) on farmers' income is now visible.

Total transformation at all stages of Beej se Bazar tak- from Seed to Market has been our Mantra in J&K. The resolution of Lab to Land has been realised to make the small and marginal farmers self-reliant," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon the new generation of scientists and experts to focus on smart farming.

He said the revolution in seed production, pest management, food processing, farm mechanization has ensured opportunities for the young professional to contribute in product development and quality control.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor inaugurated a state-of-the-art Ex-Situ Gene Bank. SKUAST Jammu has become the 3rd institution in the country to have Ex-Situ Gene Bank. This facility will preserve genetic resources such as seeds, plant tissue, animal germplasm outside their natural habitat and will prove to be an invaluable resource for breeding and research programmes.

The Lieutenant Governor also laid the Foundation stone for 200-bedded Farmers' Hostel and a Faculty Building with common academic facilities.

During the convocation, 446 degrees were awarded including 157 Masters, 46 Doctorates, and 243 Undergraduate degrees. Eight Gold Medals were also conferred to meritorious students.

Chief Minister, Omar Abdullah; Minister for Agriculture Production, Javid Ahmad Dar; Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; Principal Secretary, Agriculture Production, Shailendra Kumar; Dr. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST Jammu; members of Board of Management and University Council, faculty members and students were present.

Members of Legislative Assembly and Vice Chancellors of various universities were also present at the convocation ceremony.

CM reviews progress...

Minister reviewed the progress of civil works under Phase-I of the project, which spans from Bhagwati Nagar Barrage to Bikram Chowk Bridge. He was informed that over 97 percent of work under Part-A, which includes the construction component of Phase-I, has been completed. The target for full completion is set for September 2025.

During the inspection, the Chief Minister reviewed key features of the project, including the development of multi-tiered promenades along both banks of the river and a central island, construction of flood mitigation infrastructure such as diaphragm and retaining walls, pier protection measures on existing bridges, creation of a central business and recreational zone

and installation of interceptor drains to divert polluted nallahs away from the river.

The CM was briefed that under Part-A, a total embankment length of 2.70 kilometres is being developed, incorporating four promenades of varying widths and reclaiming around 23 hectares of land. Part-B of the project will include finishing works such as construction of connecting roads, food courts, viaducts, toilet blocks, horticulture and promenade flooring.

The Chief Minister expressed satisfaction with the pace of execution and stressed the importance of its timely completion. He stated that the project is not solely about urban beautification but about shaping a new identity for Jammu centred on the historic Tawi River. He added that the initiative will serve both ecological and economic objectives.

He also highlighted the potential of the project to enhance tourism, generate employment and provide sustainable commercial real estate options, including green buildings, parks, sports zones and cultural plazas.

The Chief Minister reviewed the monetisation strategy currently being prepared by CBRE, which will support the extension of the riverfront development from Tawi Bridge to Sidhra Bridge in future phases.

The Chief Minister appreciated the coordinated efforts of JSCL, JMC and the Jal Shakti Department. He directed the concerned officials to maintain strict adherence to quality and timelines while ensuring sustainability and public convenience throughout the execution of the project.

CM advocates organic...

longer optional, but an operational imperative. Encouraging the graduating students, Omar Abdullah urged them to imbibe the ideals of SKUAST and contribute to the broader mission of rural transformation. "Let your innovation create employment, let your knowledge build enterprises and let your compassion redefine agriculture," he said, calling on the new graduates to be job creators rather than seekers.

Commending the University's efforts, the Chief Minister appreciated the launch of the Ex Situ Gene Bank, highlighting its role in conserving native seed varieties and crop diversity. "Such infrastructure will only bear fruit when paired with the right talent," he said, urging students and faculty to make full use of the facilities to address the evolving challenges of agri-science.

The Chief Minister also lauded the students' academic excellence and equal participation in developmental narratives, expressing confidence that SKUAST-Jammu's alumni will drive innovation and entrepreneurship in the agri-sector.

Among other dignitaries present at the Convocation of SKUAST-Jammu were Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha as the Chief Guest, Minister of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare, Javid Ahmed Dar; Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo; and Principal Secretary Shailendra Kumar, who congratulated the university on its silver jubilee and commended the Vice Chancellor and faculty for their visionary alignment with national frameworks such as NEP-2020, Startup India and Viksit Bharat @2047.

Presenting the University Report, Vice Chancellor Prof. B.N. Tripathi highlighted SKUAST-Jammu's consistent achievements in education, research, innovation and outreach. "Our commitment to excellence is reflected in the patents we've secured, the start-ups we've incubated and the knowledge we've transferred to empower the farming community," he noted.

The convocation saw the awarding of 446 degrees, including 157 Master's, 46 Doctorates and 243 Undergraduate degrees, in addition to 8 Gold Medals for meritorious students. Several Professors of Practice, innovators and entrepreneurs were also felicitated for their contributions to agri-technology and rural entrepreneurship.

The ceremony also marked the inauguration of a Farmers' Hostel and a state-of-the-art Faculty Building funded under CAPEX-NABARD and J&K Government, bolstering SKUAST-Jammu's capacity for academic and research excellence.

The event was attended by senior officials, members of the University Council and Board of Management, faculty, students, farmers and members of the public.

Increase surveillance...

and other senior officers. DGP Prabhat was apprised of the prevailing security situation in the Union Territory by the Zonal Inspectors General and heads of various wings.

Senior officials from the intelligence wing also presented their assessments and briefed the DGP on relevant developments. During the meeting, the officers discussed the recent security developments along with the current challenges viz a viz the measures to counter these challenges.

The meeting concluded with the resolve to ensure heightened vigilance, improved coordination and effective implementation of security measures to maintain peace and safety across the valley.

Govt extends...

of the scheme is subjected to the same terms and conditions previously issued in 2022 and 2024 except that 100 percent waiver of interest and surcharge is allowed in respect of outstanding amount as on 31-03-2025.

"It is further ordered that there shall be no further extension of the amnesty," reads the communique.

The Amnesty Scheme introduced last year proved beneficial for economically weaker consumers who were struggling to clear their pending electricity dues. It enabled them to pay with ease and also helped the department to recover much-needed revenue.

In the meantime, Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has welcomed the government's recent decision of extending the power amnesty scheme for domestic consumers in Jammu and Kashmir till March 31, 2026.

While appreciating this timely relief for households, KCCI has urged the administration to extend similar amnesty benefits to commercial power consumers

JKSDM launches India Skills Competition 2025 across 20 districts of J&K

J NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4

The Jammu & Kashmir Skill Development Mission (JKSDM) today launched the India Skills Competition 2025 across all 20 districts of the Union Territory, signaling a significant push to empower the skilled youth of J&K and align them with national and global platforms of excellence.

The launch, held simultaneously across the districts, is part of the nationwide campaign initiated by the Union Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) to discover and reward the most skilled young professionals across India through India's largest skill competition.

On the occasion, the Mission Director, JKSDM, remarked that "India Skills 2025 is more than just a competition, it is a movement that recognizes skill as a tool for empowerment. Launching it across all the 20 districts ensures inclusivity and access for every aspiring youth in J&K. Our goal is to continue building on past successes and prepare our youth to meet world-class standards."

The district-level rollouts were conducted in collaboration with the District Skill Committees, ITIs, Polytechnics, educational institutions and industry partners. The activities included awareness sessions, orientation drives and registration support for the interested candidates. On the spot registration kiosks were setup and many candidates registered for the competitions. All the information related to India Skills was provided to the aspirants.

As per J&K's track record in the India Skills 2023-24, the UT showcased stellar performance during the India Skills 2023-24 competition, securing 3 Gold Medals, 4 Bronze Medals and 6 Medallions of Excellence. This performance reflects the growing competence and potential of youth across the Union Territory. With expanded outreach and strategic mentoring, JKSDM is aiming for even greater success in the upcoming national rounds.

India Skills 2025 is featuring 63 official and provisional skill trades including sectors like Mechatronics, Welding, Web Technologies, Fashion Technology, Cyber Security, Bakery, Health, Social Care and many more. All the eligible youth born on or after 01 January 2004 (and for select skills, after 01 January 2001) are encouraged to register for the competition. "There is no formal educational requirement for participation, the only eligibility criteria is that participant should fall in the speci-

fied age group and should have skills to showcase in the competitions even if acquired informally", said one of the Officers of J&K Skill Mission.

As per the format, the participants shall have to compete at the District Level Competitions which will lead to State Level Competitions. The State Level Winners will form Team J&K and will represent the UT at the Regional Level Competitions that shall be conducted by the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the winner will proceed to National Level Competitions.

The winners of National Level Competitions will form Team India and represent India in the World Skills Competitions scheduled in Shanghai, China in 2026. In previous edition, J&K sent 03 candidates who won Gold at National Level and represented India at World Skills Competitions that were held in Lyon, France in September 2024. All the expenses on part of competitions and trainings for level

of competitions shall be borne by the Government. "This is the biggest platform where the youth can showcase their skills and get recognized and appreciated at State, National and International Levels. The India Skills Competitions are aimed at glamorizing the skills and evade the blue collar stigma", added Leena Padha, Mission Director JKSDM.

JKSDM will continue its outreach and mobilization through institutional networks and local industry. District Nodal Officers have been activated and SPOCs (Single Points of Contact) will be assigned for each skill sector to streamline the registration and training coordination. All the information about India Skills 2025 and the guidelines and tutorials of registration are available at www.skill.jk.gov.in/cms/competition.

All the eligible candidates can register themselves for the competitions by or before 30th of September 2025 which is the last date for registration and trainings for level



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across the Union Territory.

"Thousands of commercial establishments in Jammu and Kashmir—ranging from small shops and service units to hotels, industrial units, and offices—are under financial strain due to the accumulation of power dues. The continuing burden of these outstanding bills poses a serious threat to business continuity, employment, and overall economic stability," KCCI said.

It also said that though the J&K government announced an amnesty for commercial power consumers, it was never implemented on the ground.

KCCI emphasised that a power amnesty scheme for commercial consumers would provide much-needed financial relief, help avert business closures, and support the recovery and resilience of the region's economy. "Such a measure would also encourage timely compliance in the future and improve the overall revenue collection environment in the power sector."

The Chamber has further urged that the commercial sector be treated with the same consideration extended to domestic consumers. "In the wake of prolonged disruptions in the past caused by successive lockdowns, pandemic-related losses, and low demand cycles, businesses have faced extraordinary challenges and now require targeted support to regain financial footing."

Security situation in...

following the region's constitutional reorganisation. Breaking down the fatalities by category, the post-abrogation period recorded 833 terrorist deaths, 204 security personnel fatalities, and 189 civilian deaths, along with four others whose identities were not specified. In contrast, the pre-abrogation period saw 1,121 terrorists killed, 475 security personnel lost, and 243 civilian deaths.

This translates to a 25.7% reduction in militant fatalities, a 57% drop in security force casualties, and a 22.2% decline in civilian deaths over the comparative six-year spans.

The trend becomes clearer when viewed annually. The year 2018 remains the deadliest of the last decade, with 452 fatalities, comprising 271 militants and 86 civilians. Before 2019, yearly fatalities frequently exceeded 170.

For example, 2013 recorded 172 deaths, followed by 189 in 2014, 175 in 2015, 267 in 2016, and 357 in 2017. Security forces faced heavy losses during this period, especially in 2016 and 2017, which saw 88 and 83 personnel killed, respectively.

A sharp shift was observed in the second half of 2019. From January to July that year, 233 terror-related deaths were recorded. But in the five months following the abrogation, from August to December, the number dropped sharply to just 50, reflecting a 78.5% decline in fatalities in the latter part of the year.

Capacity building programme on e-Office rollout held at Kathua

JJ NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, AUG 4

A capacity building training programme on the rollout of e-Office 2.0 was successfully conducted at the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex Kathua.

The session was part of administration's efforts to familiarise district-level officers and master trainers with the upgraded digital office management system.

The awareness-cum-training session witnessed active participation of officials from various line departments. During the session, participants were sensitized about the significance of adopting digital governance tools to improve efficiency and streamline office func-



tioning. Live demonstrations were conducted by the resource persons on key features of the e-Office portal including file creation, movement, tracking and overall digital workflow management.

District Informatics Officer, NIC Kathua, Shubham Singh stressed the need for timely adoption and uniform implementa-

tion of the e-Office system across all departments to minimize physical paperwork, enhance administrative transparency, improve productivity and ensure faster citizen service delivery. The session also provided a platform for participants to engage in an interactive discussion where they raised queries and shared feedback regarding the new system.

The training was conducted in the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner Kathua, Surinder Mohan who appreciated the efforts of the NIC team and stressed upon the importance of capacity building to ensure seamless transition to a digital work environment.

Distribution camp for 'Children with Special Needs' organized at Shopian

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, AUG 4

In a significant initiative towards inclusive education, Chief Education Officer Shopian organised a distribution camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha.

The camp was graced by the Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Shopian, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, as chief guest.

During the event, necessary aids and appliances were distributed among the CWSN students enrolled in various educational institutions across the district, tailored to their individual needs.

The objective of the camp was to facilitate inclusive education by ensuring that specially-abled children receive the required support to learn and grow alongside their peers.

A team of ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India) along with the team of Special Education Teachers under Samagra Shiksha, Shop-



ian managed the distribution process and provided guidance on the use of the equipment.

The aids included braille kits, hearing aids, wheelchairs, walking sticks, and other assistive devices, essential for smooth classroom learning and mobility.

In his address, MLA Shopian lauded the efforts of the Education department and assured continued support for such initiatives. He stressed the importance of holding similar camps in remote and far-flung areas of the district to ensure no child is left behind. He further promised to advocate for additional resources to strengthen support for CWSN students in the future.

Speaking on the occasion, CEO Shopian, Mukhtar Ahmad Shah, emphasized the importance of empowering children with special needs through education. He highlighted various initiatives undertaken in this direction, such as the construction of ramps, CWSN-friendly toilets, and provisioning of specialised equipment in schools.

He encouraged parents to actively support the education of their children, stating, "They are born with special abilities and can achieve greatness if nurtured with care and guidance." He also cited inspiring examples like Stephen Hawking, who overcame severe physical challenges to become a global icon.

Speaker Legislative Assembly reviews arrangements for upcoming Urs at Pakherpora Shrine

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, AUG 4

Speaker, Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, Abdul Rahim Rather, today visited the revered Pakherpora Shrine to review the preparations and arrangements being put in place for the upcoming Urs celebration.

During the visit, the Speaker held public interaction with the local residents, civil society members and shrine management.

The public raised wide range of issues and demands regarding smooth conduct of the Urs. Main issues raised included uninterrupted electricity, adequate water supply, timely ration distribution and proper transport facilities from major routes like Budgam, Pulwama and Charar-i-Sharief to Pakherpora Shrine.



The Speaker assured the public that all the necessary arrangements will be made well in advance. He directed the concerned departments to ensure that adequate electricity, water and ration supplies are available during the Urs days to avoid any inconvenience to the devotees. Furthermore, he emphasized on the need for hassle-free transport facility from the surrounding districts and towns to facilitate smooth movement of pilgrims.

The Speaker reiterated that the administration is committed to facilitate the religious events with dignity and proper planning. He added that all public grievances would be resolved at the earliest to ensure a peaceful and spiritually enriching Urs at Pakherpora Shrine.

The locals expressed gratitude to the Speaker and District Administration for active role and commitment for arrangements for the Urs.

OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER SOCIAL FORESTRY DIVISION, UDHAMPUR

e-TENDERING

Short Term Tender Notice :01 of 2025-26 Dated 01 -08-2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, e-tenders are invited from approved and eligible contractors registered with UT of J&K Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:-

S/N	Name of work	Adv. Cost (₹. In Lacs)	EMD (Amount in ₹.)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender Document	Time of Completion
01	(1) Galvanised Barbed wire with product code IS 278:280, 2.50 mm dia line wire with tolerance +/-0.08 mm having barbs @ distance of 75+/-12mm with number of Lays between the two consecutive Barbs (Mass of completed barbed wire Max= 155g/m and min= 136 g/m) fencing meeting the BIS certification Marking with square PCC Posts confirming to product code PCFP-3 (5 strand with Criss cross) at a space of 10 feet. Fencing rate include cost of all material to be used and carriage charges both (off road and on road) of the material. The specification of key material and specification of fixtures be maintained strictly. Every fence post to be fixed in cement concrete block of size 1x1x1.3" in 1:2:x4 (CC) (1 cement:2 Coarse sand and 4 graded stone aggregate). The rate include cost and carriage charges of material, up-to the working site, digging of 1.6'x1.6' pit, fixing of fence post firmly on the ground up-to basal height of 1.6' stretching and fixing of Galvanized Barbed wire in the hooks, painting, numbering of fence post and display of plantation boards of size 2x3 with 7 feet legs /Iron stairs etc.(900 Rft) (2) Planting of 300 Nos of poly bagged plants in pits of size 45x45x45 cms with water harvesting structure around each plants, exclude cost of plants but include cost of digging of pits, refilling with clean surface soil and carriage at Strip Miya Bagh -I	1.303	2606/-	A,B&C	Rs 500/-	30 Days
02	(1) Galvanised Barbed wire with product code IS 278:280, 2.50 mm dia line wire with tolerance +/-0.08 mm having barbs @ distance of 75+/-12mm with number of Lays between the two consecutive Barbs (Mass of completed barbed wire Max= 155g/m and min= 136 g/m) fencing meeting the BIS certification Marking with square PCC Posts confirming to product code PCFP-3 (5 strand with Criss cross) at a space of 10 feet. Fencing rate include cost of all material to be used and carriage charges both (off road and on road) of the material. The specification of key material and specification of fixtures be maintained strictly. Every fence post to be fixed in cement concrete block of size 1x1x1.3" in 1:2:x4 (CC) (1 cement:2 Coarse sand and 4 graded stone aggregate). The rate include cost and carriage charges of material, up-to the working site, digging of 1.6'x1.6' pit, fixing of fence post firmly on the ground up-to basal height of 1.6' stretching and fixing of Galvanized Barbed wire in the hooks, painting, numbering of fence post and display of plantation boards of size 2x3 with 7 feet legs /Iron stairs etc.(800 Rft) (2) Planting of 300 Nos of poly bagged plants in pits of size 45x45x45 cms with water harvesting structure around each plants, exclude cost of plants but include cost of digging of pits, refilling with clean surface soil and carriage at Strip Miya Bagh-II	1.168	2336/-	A,B&C	Rs 500/-	30 Days
03	(1) Galvanised Barbed wire with product code IS 278:280, 2.50 mm dia line wire with tolerance +/-0.08 mm having barbs @ distance of 75+/-12mm with number of Lays between the two consecutive Barbs (Mass of completed barbed wire Max= 155g/m and min= 136 g/m) fencing meeting the BIS certification Marking with square PCC Posts confirming to product code PCFP-3 (5 strand with Criss cross) at a space of 10 feet. Fencing rate include cost of all material to be used and carriage charges both (off road and on road) of the material. The specification of key material and specification of fixtures be maintained strictly. Every fence post to be fixed in cement concrete block of size 1x1x1.3" in 1:2:x4 (CC) (1 cement:2 Coarse sand and 4 graded stone aggregate). The rate include cost and carriage charges of material, up-to the working site, digging of 1.6'x1.6' pit, fixing of fence post firmly on the ground up-to basal height of 1.6' stretching and fixing of Galvanized Barbed wire in the hooks, painting, numbering of fence post and display of plantation boards of size 2x3 with 7 feet legs /Iron stairs etc.(1100 Rft) (2) Planting of 300 Nos of poly bagged plants in pits of size 45x45x45 cms with water harvesting structure around each plants, exclude cost of plants but include cost of digging of pits, refilling with clean surface soil and carriage at Strip Miya Bagh -III	1.573	3146/-	A,B&C	Rs 500/-	30 Days
04	(1) Galvanised Barbed wire with product code IS 278:280, 2.50 mm dia line wire with tolerance +/-0.08 mm having barbs @ distance of 75+/-12mm with number of Lays between the two consecutive Barbs (Mass of completed barbed wire Max= 155g/m and min= 136 g/m) fencing meeting the BIS certification Marking with square PCC Posts confirming to product code PCFP-3 (5 strand with Criss cross) at a space of 10 feet. Fencing rate include cost of all material to be used and carriage charges both (off road and on road) of the material. The specification of key material and specification of fixtures be maintained strictly. Every fence post to be fixed in cement concrete block of size 1x1x1.3" in 1:2:x4 (CC) (1 cement:2 Coarse sand and 4 graded stone aggregate). The rate include cost and carriage charges of material, up-to the working site, digging of 1.6'x1.6' pit, fixing of fence post firmly on the ground up-to basal height of 1.6' stretching and fixing of Galvanized Barbed wire in the hooks, painting, numbering of fence post and display of plantation boards of size 2x3 with 7 feet legs /Iron stairs etc.(1450 Rft) (2) Planting of 400 Nos of poly bagged plants in pits of size 45x45x45 cms with water harvesting structure around each plants, exclude cost of plants but include cost of digging of pits, refilling with clean surface soil and carriage at Strip Miya Bagh -IV	2.075	4150/-	A,B&C	Rs 500/-	30 Days
05	(1) Galvanised Barbed wire with product code IS 278:280, 2.50 mm dia line wire with tolerance +/-0.08 mm having barbs @ distance of 75+/-12mm with number of Lays between the two consecutive Barbs (Mass of completed barbed wire Max= 155g/m and min= 136 g/m) fencing meeting the BIS certification Marking with square PCC Posts confirming to product code PCFP-3 (5 strand with Criss cross) at a space of 10 feet. Fencing rate include cost of all material to be used and carriage charges both (off road and on road) of the material. The specification of key material and specification of fixtures be maintained strictly. Every fence post to be fixed in cement concrete block of size 1x1x1.3" in 1:2:x4 (CC) (1 cement:2 Coarse sand and 4 graded stone aggregate). The rate include cost and carriage charges of material, up-to the working site, digging of 1.6'x1.6' pit, fixing of fence post firmly on the ground up-to basal height of 1.6' stretching and fixing of Galvanized Barbed wire in the hooks, painting, numbering of fence post and display of plantation boards of size 2x3 with 7 feet legs /Iron stairs etc.(1200 Rft) (2) Planting of 300 Nos of poly bagged plants in pits of size 45x45x45 cms with water harvesting structure around each plants, exclude cost of plants but include cost of digging of pits, refilling with clean surface soil and carriage at Strip Miya Bagh -V	1.708	3416/-	A,B&C	Rs 500/-	30 Days
06	(1) Galvanised Barbed wire with product code IS 278:280, 2.50 mm dia line wire with tolerance +/-0.08 mm having barbs @ distance of 75+/-12mm with number of Lays between the two consecutive Barbs (Mass of completed barbed wire Max= 155g/m and min= 136 g/m) fencing meeting the BIS certification Marking with square PCC Posts confirming to product code PCFP-3 (5 strand with Criss cross) at a space of 10 feet. Fencing rate include cost of all material to be used and carriage charges both (off road and on road) of the material. The specification of key material and specification of fixtures be maintained strictly. Every fence post to be fixed in cement concrete block of size 1x1x1.3" in 1:2:x4 (CC) (1 cement:2 Coarse sand and 4 graded stone aggregate). The rate include cost and carriage charges of material, up-to the working site, digging of 1.6'x1.6' pit, fixing of fence post firmly on the ground up-to basal height of 1.6' stretching and fixing of Galvanized Barbed wire in the hooks, painting, numbering of fence post and display of plantation boards of size 2x3 with 7 feet legs /Iron stairs etc.(1050 Rft) (2) Planting of 250 Nos of poly bagged plants in pits of size 45x45x45 cms with water harvesting structure around each plants, exclude cost of plants but include cost of digging of pits, refilling with clean surface soil and carriage at Strip Miya Bagh -VI	1.491	2982/-	A,B&C	Rs 500/-	30 Days

The e-NIT consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, bill of quantities,(B.O.Q), Set of Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the departmental Website:- www.iktenders.gov.in

Position of Funds: 50% Released

Position of AA: Accorded.

Position of TS: Accorded.

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Date of Opening of Financial Bid (online) :-	12-10-2025 at 02:00 PM

Sd/-
Divisional Forest Officer
Social Forestry Division
Udhampur

No.: 646-49 /SFD/U Dated :- 01/08/2025

DIP/J-4219/25

Date: 4-8-25

EDITORIAL

Celebrate Gains, Sustain Vigilance

The Latest data from the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, presented in the Lok Sabha, offers a rare piece of good news: wildlife crime cases in Jammu and Kashmir have steadily declined over the past five years, from 18 cases in 2020 to none in 2024. Equally noteworthy is the fact that Ladakh reported zero such cases throughout this period.

On the face of it, this is an encouraging sign. It may reflect greater enforcement efficiency, increased awareness among communities, and perhaps a growing respect for the fragile ecosystems of the region. The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau's (WCCB) coordinated efforts—ranging from intelligence sharing to joint operations and public awareness programs—appear to be making a tangible impact.

However, a falling number of reported cases does not necessarily mean that the problem has been eradicated. In regions with vast and inaccessible terrains like J&K and Ladakh, underreporting or undetected offences remain real possibilities. Wildlife trafficking is often covert, involving well-organised networks that adapt quickly to enforcement measures. Zero cases in official records must therefore be interpreted cautiously—it could mean eradication, or it could mean evasion.

Moreover, the decline in numbers should not lead to complacency. The Himalayan biodiversity is rich but fragile, hosting rare species like the snow leopard, hangul deer, and Himalayan brown bear. These species remain vulnerable to poaching, habitat loss, and climate change. Any lapse in vigilance could reverse the gains achieved in recent years.

The Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides a strong legal framework, but laws are only as effective as their implementation. Continued training for enforcement personnel, community engagement programs, and the use of technology—such as drones, camera traps, and satellite monitoring—will be key to maintaining momentum.

For now, J&K and Ladakh can take cautious pride in this apparent progress. But in the realm of wildlife conservation, the real challenge is sustaining success. The goal should not just be a drop in reported crime, but the creation of an environment where illegal wildlife trade cannot take root at all.

The message is clear: celebrate the gains, but guard them fiercely.

India Speaks in Many Tongues, Marches with One Heart

SANDEEP JOSHI

In a country as richly diverse as India, home to hundreds of spoken languages and countless dialects, language has always been more than a means of communication. It is identity, heritage, and culture. But in the wrong hands, it can also become a tool for division. The Narendra Modi Government has firmly rejected the politics of linguistic discrimination and instead adopted a unifying, inclusive approach that celebrates every regional tongue as a national treasure.

Time and again, PM Modi has demonstrated that India's linguistic plurality is not a challenge to manage but a strength to cherish. From beginning his speeches in the local language of the state he visits to honouring classical languages like Tamil on global platforms such as the United Nations, his Government has made language a symbol of national pride. This is not accidental. It is central to the ethos of a government that believes in 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, Sabka Prayas.'

Linguistic Heritage

The Modi Government has taken historic steps in recognising and preserving India's linguistic and cultural richness. Classical language status has been granted to Marathi, Bengali, Assamese, Pali, and Prakrit in 2024, adding to the existing list of Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, and Sanskrit. Eleven

Indian languages now enjoy this status, a testament to the government's commitment to preserving linguistic heritage.

Initiatives like 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat' have fostered cultural exchanges. Kashi-Tamil Sangam, Kashi-Telugu Sangam, and Kashi-Saurashtra Sangam are prime examples of language being used to connect regions, not divide them. Over 200 PM e-Vidya channels under the One Class, One Channel scheme have also been launched to broadcast school education in regional languages, ensuring linguistic inclusion from a young age.

Empowering Indians in Their Own Language

The Modi Government's landmark National Education Policy (NEP-2020) is a transformative initiative that underscores this linguistic commitment. For the first time in independent India's history, students are now encouraged to learn in their mother tongue or regional language, especially in primary and technical education. Engineering and medical courses are being translated into multiple Indian languages including Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Gujarati, and Bengali, ensuring that no student is excluded from opportunity due to language.

The policy is not about imposing one language over another but about creating access so that learning is not hindered by the medium of instruction. This stands in sharp contrast to the

colonial-era education model, which privileged English and alienated generations from their native cultural context. The Modi Government's vision doesn't stop at the classroom. Competitive examinations like SSC, JEE, NEET, and UGC-NET are now being conducted in 13 to 15 Indian languages with a roadmap to expand this to all 22 Scheduled Languages. The Staff Selection Commission has unveiled its format to allow aspirants to take exams in their mother tongue, addressing long-standing demands from various states and improving the prospects of lakhs of youth.

Three-Language Policy

Much controversy has been generated largely by the Opposition around the Three-Language Policy proposed under NEP. Let us be clear. This policy is not about imposing Hindi or any other language. It is about encouraging Indians to learn more Indian languages, just as English became popular because it was widely taught and available.

The three-language formula, first introduced in the post-1956 era after states were reorganised on linguistic lines, was meant for administrative convenience and national cohesion, not coercion. The Modi government is simply giving it a modern, inclusive interpretation. Encouraging linguistic diversity is not the same as enforcing uniformity. In fact, the policy provides the flexibility to choose languages based on

regional preference and practical utility.

This is a step toward healing the damage inflicted by colonial and post-colonial policies that prioritised English over native languages. India is now building a digital, educational, and administrative ecosystem where no citizen feels left behind due to language.

The Dangerous Game of Division

In stark contrast to the Modi Government's inclusive approach, the Opposition, especially the Congress party, has consistently indulged in divisive rhetoric. Be it stoking fear of "Hindi imposition" or promoting North-South binaries, their strategy hinges on weaponising language to fuel identity politics. For instance, a Congress MP recently suggested that South India should demand a separate country, blaming the so-called "Hindi region" for economic imbalance. Such statements are not just irresponsible. They are dangerously seditious.

This is against the Rahul Gandhi's political outreach titled "Bharat Jodo". Historically, Congress has presided over linguistic agitations, favoured certain regions, and neglected the preservation of Indian languages. Even now, when the Modi Government launches policies to promote education in regional languages, the Opposition distorts the narrative, calling it "majoritarian" or "regressive." Nothing could be further from the truth.

A Call for Unity, Not Uniformity

The Modi Government's language policy is rooted in a deep respect for India's cultural diversity and a firm belief in empowerment through inclusion. It rejects the old model of top-down imposition and embraces a bottom-up approach, one that strengthens regional identities while weaving them into the national fabric.

During the 75th anniversary of the Constitution in Parliament, the Prime Minister remarked that celebrating India's diversity would be the greatest tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar. He underscored that the government's policies aim to unify the nation – not divide it – and to reverse the long-standing neglect of linguistic pride that past decades have caused.

India's future lies not in homogenisation but in harmonisation. A 'Viksit Bharat' can only be built when every Indian, regardless of their language, feels heard, respected, and included.

PM Modi's vision is not to replace one language with another but to build a society where every language is a vehicle of progress. Let us reject divisive politics that seek to pit one region against another and one language against another. Let us embrace the idea of unity in diversity not just as a slogan but as a shared national mission.

(The author is a freelance journalist)

Ego, isolation and the path to inner clarity

RAJYOGI BRAHMA KUMAR NIKUNJ JI

It's a known fact that the pursuit of power is a fundamentally human drive that knows no exceptions. From the scrolls of time in history to the present, man's quest for power has been fueled by greed, the desire to acquire more over time, envy, jealousy, control, and many other negative traits that humans, by nature, seem to possess. Most of us are aware of the famous dictum that says, "Power corrupts man; absolute power corrupts absolutely."

History is also replete with numerous examples of individuals corrupted by power. But still, many people recklessly seek power! Initially, most people think that they will work for the public good if they have political, economic, administrative or some other kind of power.

However, they forget the fact that man's weakness for seeking mundane power, by its very nature, results in blurring his judgment of what is good and what is bad or what is fair and what is foul.

This weakness or loss of proper judgment results in vitiating his intentions. It allows corruptive tendencies to enter his mind or to manifest. It changes his focus and modus operandi and makes him seek more and more power, even by dishonest means. We should understand that it is in the very nature of things that when a person acquires power, he is moved more and more away from the common people because he does not have time to meet them or to listen to them. Thus, his very aim of acquiring power for the public good is defeated because he is cut off from the public for various reasons. He

meets only the VIPs or VVIPs, and this further inflates his ego, which had already become puffed up by the pressure of power.

In this state of mind and mood, he is unable to know whether the use of power by him is doing some public good or is doing exactly the opposite, for he is now surrounded generally by sycophants who expect to win favours by praising him for whatever he does – good or bad.

This constant praise further inflates his false ego and alienates him from his real well-wishers and sincere friends, whose plain speaking he now cannot tolerate. He adopts all sorts of methods to silence or subdue those who attempt to point out to him the pitfalls and dangers in his ways.

He begins to suspect everyone and uses his power to silence all opposition and finish all

opponents. He loses all sense of propriety because power has so strongly gone into his head. Blinded by it, he rushes towards one pitfall after another, and yet he does not learn his lesson. Power also creates the tendency to help friends, relatives and those who praise or who helped the individual in the seat of power to acquire power even though these persons do not deserve help. This tendency further gives rise to criticism of his ways and, then, with a hurt ego and malicious spirit of vengeance, he uses his power vigorously to suppress or eliminate such elements. It is not that only individuals work for attaining seats of power; cultural, ethnic, racial or economic groups, certain classes, dynasties, religious communities and nations also make all efforts to gain power without taking adequate and effective precautions against its

corruptive influence. Whatever the name of the group, the net of power is so wide that all get entrapped and entangled in its corruptive meshes. Hence, the only safety measure to save oneself from this devastation is to be free from the ambition of name and fame in the power game & listen to those learned souls who have views that are different from ours. Whilst keeping in touch with reality as it is, one should also try to maintain the sanctity of character & mind through Meditation, which facilitates our intimate contact with the Supreme, who is the ultimate source of Power. Remember! The closer we get to the supreme source, the safer we get and live an uncorrupted life, without any kind of illusion.

(The writer is a spiritual teacher)

The AI Revolution: Transforming work, health and society

ASHOK KUMAR SINHA

Technology is changing our society day by day. Things which were in the science fiction realm 25-30 years ago have now become commonplace. Remember the science fiction TV Serial Star Trek in the 80s. It showed communication between astronauts on a mobile phone type device, which also showed videos. Now it has become commonplace. Remember telephonic communications 40 years back. Talking to someone in another country involved extremely high prices and a lot of time to connect. Now we can talk literally free and without any delay for hours anywhere in the world.

These examples were just to set the frame for the drastic changes brought about by technology in our day to day lives. The latest new kid on the block is Artificial Intelligence, which is revolutionising society as no other technology has ever done.

Artificial intelligence has mimicked the human brain and has far surpassed it in almost all things. This may seem like a controversial statement. But it is the truth!

Below are some examples:

The air defence systems of many advanced Countries is by and large unmanned. Once air defence radars have detected a launch of a missile from an enemy country it reacts based on the algorithms of its software and takes defensive measures in a few seconds. It acts and reacts much faster than a human could. A sophisticated cyber strike could destroy infrastructure in a few seconds much before a human can defend it. Only AI can detect and react fast enough to stop it.

Most stock trades today are managed by computer algorithms that can process more data in a second than a human can process in a year. And react much faster than a human can blink. Some traders in the US have filed lawsuits against trading with the use of computer algorithms since it unfairly discriminates against human traders who cannot react fast enough to compete. Use of artificial intelligence in medicine is equally path breaking. In a recent experiment a computer algorithm was correctly able to diagnose lung cancer cases in 90 per cent cases while human doctors had a correct diagnosis in 50 per cent cases.

In 2011 a pharmacy opened in San Francisco was manned by a single robot. In one year it managed 2 million prescription without making a single mistake while human pharmacists erred in 1.7 per cent of all prescriptions.

In February 2015 an AI program developed by Google Deepmind learned by itself how to play 49 Atari games. It then played all of them much better than humans, using strategies which never occurred to human players.

The future of AI is already here. In May 2014 Deep Knowledge, a Hong Kong venture capital firm dealing with regenerative medicine appointed an AI algorithm named VITAL to its board. Like other 5 board members, VITAL gets to vote whether or not the firm invests in a particular company, based on massive amounts of data which it processes.

It was earlier thought that the arts were beyond the ken of artificial intelligence. It is not so. David Cook is a musicology professor in the US. He created an AI program named EMI which specialised in composing music in the style of various classical musicians. In one day, EMI composed 5000 chorales in the style of the

legend Sebastian Bach. When critics said that the music had no soul, David Cook organised a showdown where they were nine pieces of music, 3 composed by himself, 3 by EMI and three by the legendary Sebastian Bach.

After this a large audience of music buffs were asked to identify which piece was by whom. Amazingly, the audience was not able to differentiate between the music composed by EMI, and that by Bach.

In light of the above here are the areas in which AI is going to have a massive impact in the coming times;

Economic impact

Job transformation; AI will automate routine tasks leading to job displacement in many sectors

Technologists and experts in artificial intelligence will be the most sought after jobs

Productivity boost; all economic activities will be much more efficient decision making will be better and faster based on data without any human biases

Healthcare

AI algorithms are already aiding in the customisation of treatment plans based on indi-

vidual patient data improving outcomes and reducing costs

Diagnostics will improve. AI Technologies will enhance diagnostic accuracy enabling early detection of diseases through tools like imaging analysis and predictive analytics

Education

AI can tailor educational experiences to individual needs, helping to identify strengths and weaknesses and adapt curricula accordingly

Transportation

Self driving vehicles and smart transportation systems with smart urban planning will reduce traffic accidents and improve efficiency in logistics

AI driven tools like Chatbots and translation services can facilitate global communication and support

The integration of AI into society offers immense opportunities for advancements. Collaborative efforts among technologists, policymakers and communities will be essential to shape a future where AI serves the common good while minimising risks.

(The writer is Former Director General of Police, Jharkhand)

Over Rs 10 cr spent for prevention of zoonotic diseases in FY 25: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

More than Rs 10 crore has been spent under the National One Health programme for preventing zoonotic diseases in FY 2024-25, the government informed the Parliament on Friday.

In a written reply to the Lok Sabha, Union Minister of State for Health Prataprao Jadhav, funds allocated and expenditure under the National One Health Programme for Prevention and Control of Zoonoses (NOHP-PCZ) during the last five years.

"More than Rs 15.73 crore were allocated in FY25 -- the highest in the last five years. Of this, over Rs 10 crore has been spent," Jadhav said.

In comparison, more than Rs 15.11 was allocated, and Rs 6.6 crore was spent in 2023-24.

Under the NOHP-PCZ, various initiatives are



taken to strengthen prevention, detection, and response capacities for zoonotic diseases in India, including Nipah Virus Disease (NiV).

"Three cases of Nipah Virus infection have been reported in Malappuram and Palakkad

district in Kerala in 2025 and a total of 677 contacts were traced," Jadhav said.

Nipah virus disease is an emerging zoonotic

infectious disease caused by the Nipah virus (NiV). It mainly affects pigs and humans. Nipah cases in humans tend to occur in a cluster or as an outbreak, especially in close contacts and caregivers.

The natural host of the virus is believed to be Pteropid fruit bats (flying foxes). According to the information available, fruit bats play a significant role in the transmission of

this disease. The NiV infection closely follows the spillover of the pathogen from fruit bats to intermediate hosts or human beings.

"In India, a majority of the infections coincide with palm date sap collection times. Due to this, Nipah cases occur again and again in some areas," the MoS said.

In India, Nipah outbreaks have also been reported in West Bengal in the years 2001 & 2007 and in Kerala in 2018, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024, and 2025, the Minister added.

Control measures initiated and steps taken by the government to contain Nipah outbreaks include enhancing surveillance mechanisms, establishing a National Joint Outbreak Response Team (NJORT) and whole genome sequencing on clinical specimens from all positive cases, among others.

Indian scientists develop new approach for treatment of liver cirrhosis

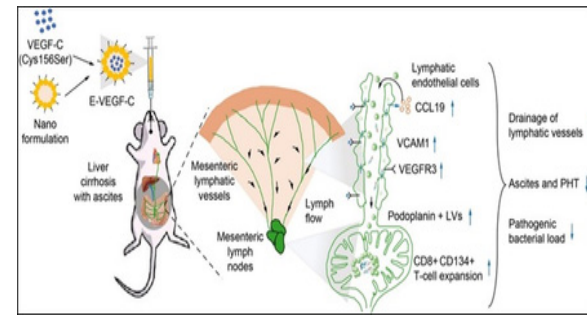
AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A team of Indian scientists has found a new way to treat liver cirrhosis, by targeting the lymphatic vessels in the liver and intestine that fail in case of cirrhosis.

Chronic liver disease can progress from mild disease to fibrosis to cirrhosis (also known as scarring).

Cirrhosis is accompanied by the distortion of both blood and lymphatic vessels in the liver and the intestine. Patients with advanced cirrhosis often develop complications like fluid accumulation in the abdomen.

A team of scientists from the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS), New Delhi, and National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), Guwahati, focussed on improving the drainage capacity



of lymphatic vessels in the liver and intestine by using nanocarriers filled with a powerful protein called VEGF-C.

"Vascular endothelial growth factor-C (VEGF-C) is a key pro-lymphangiogenic factor that activates lymphangiogenesis or new lymphatic vessel growth. It does this through binding to a cell membrane tyrosine kinase receptor, vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-3 (VEGFR-3), the activation of which is essential for the growth and development of new lymphatic vessels," said the researchers.

The team probed the therapeutic efficacy of VEGF-C in ameliorating gut lymphatic dysfunction and improving lymph drainage.

Owing to the hydrophilicity, short half-life, and systemic side effects of VEGF-C, the team led by Dr Subham Banerjee from NIPER Guwahati first focused on the development of VEGF-C encapsulated reverse micelle-based nanocarriers, which specifically bind to VEGFR-3 homodimers.

Next, the ILBS team, led by Dr Savneet Kaur, tested the developed VEGF-C nanocarriers

extensively in animal models of advanced cirrhosis and portal hypertension.

The developed molecule was delivered via the oral route to ensure its gut lymphatic vessel uptake in the animal models. The team showed that VEGF-C nanocarriers significantly increased mesenteric lymph drainage, which reduced ascites.

Importantly, the treatment also led to an attenuation of the portal pressures, improved cytotoxic T-cell immunity in mesenteric lymph nodes, and reduced local and systemic bacterial load.

The research, published in the JHEP Reports journal, is the first to highlight that therapeutic lymphangiogenesis with VEGF-C is a promising treatment for reconstructing the fragmented lymphatic network and restoring lymphatic function and drainage in advanced cirrhosis.

Study finds inflammatory pathways behind asthma attacks in children

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Scientists have found inflammatory pathways that contribute to asthma flare-ups in children that occur despite treatment.

Eosinophilic asthma is characterised by high levels of eosinophils -- a type of white blood cell involved in the body's immune response. While eosinophils typically help fight infections, in eosinophilic asthma, they accumulate in the lungs and airways, causing chronic inflammation, swelling, and damage to the respiratory system.

Eosinophilic asthma is driven by type 2 (T2) inflammation -- an immune response involving cytokines that promote the production and activation of eosinophils.

Because of this, therapies targeting T2 inflam-



mation are used to reduce eosinophil levels and prevent asthma flare-ups.

"But even with targeted therapies against T2 inflammation, some children still experience asthma attacks. This suggests that other inflammatory pathways also play a role in exacerbations," said Rajesh Kumar, Interim Division Head of Allergy and Immunology at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, US.

In the study, published in JAMA Pediatrics, the scientists employed RNA sequencing of nasal sam-

ples collected during 176 episodes of acute respiratory illness/

They identified three distinct inflammatory drivers of asthma exacerbations.

The first were epithelial inflammatory pathways, which were increased in children receiving mepolizumab, regardless of viral infection.

The second was macrophage-driven inflammation, which was specifically linked to viral respiratory illnesses, and the third involved mucus hypersecretion and cellular stress responses, which

were elevated in both treatment and placebo groups during flare-ups.

"We found that children who still exacerbated on the drug had less of this allergic type of inflammation, but they had other residual epithelial pathways which were driving some of that inflammatory response that was involved in exacerbation," Dr. Kumar said.

The study highlights the complexity of asthma in children and underscores the need for more personalised treatment strategies, Dr. Kumar said.

As asthma continues to affect children in urban communities disproportionately, the insights from the study could pave the way for precision interventions for children based on the type of inflammation driving their asthma, and lead to improved quality of life for young patients, Dr. Kumar said.

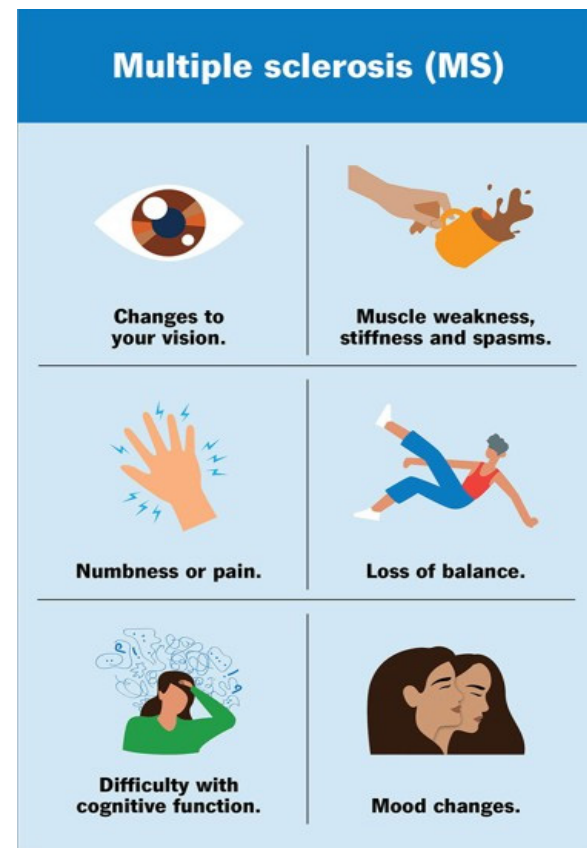
Multiple sclerosis may emerge a decade before neurological symptoms begin to appear

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Multiple sclerosis (MS) may begin far earlier than previously thought. Canadian researchers have decoded that the earliest warning signs of the immune system disorder may emerge more than a decade before the first classical neurological symptoms occur.

The findings, published in JAMA Network Open, challenge long-held assumptions about when the disease truly begins, offering the most comprehensive picture to date of how patients engage with a range of health care providers in the years leading up to a diagnosis as they search for answers to ill-defined medical challenges.

"MS can be difficult to recognise as many of the earliest signs -- like fatigue, headache, pain and mental health con-



cerns -- can be quite general and easily mistaken for other conditions," said senior author Dr.

Helen Tremlett, Professor of neurology at the University of British Columbia.

"Our findings dramatically shift the timeline for when these early warning signs are thought to begin, potentially opening the door to opportunities for earlier detection and intervention," she added.

The study analysed the health records of more than 12,000 people in British Columbia and found that those with MS began using health care services at elevated rates 15 years before their first MS symptoms appeared.

The team utilised linked clinical and administrative provincial health data to track physician visits in the 25 years preceding the onset of a patient's MS symptoms, as determined by a neurologist through a detailed medical history and clinical assessments.

Severe malnourishment in children under five years old can spike antibiotic resistance: Study

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Children under the age of five with severe malnourishment could be at significant risk of antimicrobial resistant bacteria, according to an alarming study.

Globally, 45 million children under the age of five are estimated to be severely malnourished. These children are also at a higher risk of developing life-threatening infections such as tuberculosis or sepsis due to their weakened immune systems.

The new study led by researchers at the Ineos Oxford Institute for antimicrobial research (IOI) has found that antimicrobial-resistant bacteria are spreading rapidly among children being treated for severe malnutrition in a hospital facility in Niger.

The findings, published in the journal Nature Communications, showed that 76 per cent of children carried bacteria



with extended-spectrum beta-lactamase (ESBL) genes, which can break down many commonly used antibiotics.

One in four children (25 per cent) carried bacteria with carbapenemase genes like blaNDM, which confer resistance to some of the most powerful and last-line antibiotics.

"These are some of the most vulnerable children in the world, and we're seeing them pick up bacteria that don't respond to life-saving antibiotics," said lead author Dr Kirsty Sands, Scientific Lead, Ineos Oxford Institute for antimicrobial research.

"While our study was focused on one treatment facility in Niger, this situation is likely mirrored in many more hospitals around the world. As AMR continues to increase globally, concurrent humanitarian crises such as wars and climate change are exacerbating malnutrition, leading to overcrowded treatment centres," Sands added.

Antibiotics are life-saving medicines that are becoming ineffective due to antimicrobial resistance (AMR) -- a process in which bacteria, fungi, and parasites have developed the ability to resist

the action of medicines.

Working with Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), researchers analysed over 3,000 rectal swabs from 1,371 children under the age of five being treated for severe malnutrition between 2016 and 2017.

Nearly 70 per cent of children who did not carry carbapenem-resistant bacteria upon admission were found to carry them at discharge. Carbapenems are a class of last-resort antibiotics used when other antibiotics have failed to treat an infection.

Over 10 per cent of children were carrying E. coli ST167 strains with the blaNDM gene, which is of major concern because it limits treatment options for infections caused by these bacteria.

The study stressed the need to prioritise infection prevention and control measures in hospitals to protect the most vulnerable patients.

States asked to undertake regular screening to tackle rising fatty liver disease: Nadda

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Amid the rising incidence of fatty liver disease, Union Health Minister JP Nadda informed the Parliament that the states have been asked to undertake screening to tackle and mitigate the condition.

Replying to a query in the Lok Sabha, Nadda shared that the government has issued operational guidelines that aim to raise awareness about Metabolic Dysfunction Associated Fatty Liver Disease (MAFLD) as well as promote healthy lifestyle interventions.

MAFLD, previously known as Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease, is characterised by excessive fat buildup in the liver. MAFLD highlights the link between fatty liver and metabolic issues like obesity, Type 2 diabetes, and high cholesterol.

"The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued operational



guidelines for Non-Alcoholic Fatty Liver Disease (NAFLD) under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases, which provides for a healthy diet, regular physical activity, weight management, and reduced sugar/saturated fat consumption for prevention and management of NAFLD," Nadda said.

"Further, States and Union Territories have been requested to undertake screening and risk stratification by the health care providers as per the guidelines and guide appropriate referrals," he added.

The Union Minister cited two studies that indicate the rising prevalence of MAFLD in India.

The study published in the Nature Scientific Reports Journal in 2025 focussed on the rising prevalence of MAFLD among information technology employees in India. The study, involving 345 IT employees in Hyderabad, showed that "Metabolic Syndrome (MetS) was present in 118 (34.20 per cent) of the employees," Nadda said.

"A total of 290 (84.06 per cent) employees had increased liver fat accumulation, which indicates a high prevalence of MAFLD

among IT employees," he added.

Another research led by ICMR was conducted on Indian Metabolic and Liver Disease (IMELD) to understand the regional risk factors for fatty liver disease, MetS, diabetes, and hypertension in various villages of Rajasthan.

"The key findings of the study are that 37.19 per cent of participants had fatty liver disease, with males showing a higher prevalence. Those consuming fast food weekly (76.3 per cent) were at higher risk," Nadda said.

To tackle the burden of non-communicable diseases like diabetes, hypertension, obesity, and cancer, the Health Minister stated that a comprehensive primary health care is being provided via Ayushman Arogya Mandir.

Other initiatives include increasing public awareness about NCDs and promoting a healthy lifestyle by observing national and international health days.

Kiran Wattal honored with Mahatma Gandhi Rashtriya Seva Medal

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 4

In a grand ceremony, Kiran Wattal, Vice President of the Gymnastic Federation of India and former Commissioner of Jammu Municipal Corporation, Convener Vishwa Kashmir Samaj, Convener Mata Kheer Bhawani Yatra Welfare Society, President Amar Nath Yatra Welfare Society, Vice Chairman Tourism Federation of Jammu, President J&K Civil Society was conferred the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Rashtriya Seva Medal by the Gandhi Global Family, Jammu & Kashmir. This esteemed award recognizes Wattal's outstanding contributions to humanitarian service, reflecting his unwavering commitment to the values of non-



violence, peacebuilding, and the Gandhian philosophy.

Wattal's dedication to public service spans over four decades, with notable achievements in various capacities. As Commissioner of JMC, he has been instrumental in transforming the city's infrastructure and services. Some of his key accomplishments include construction of 336 flats at Sunjwan under the BSUP scheme, providing shelter to homeless

families. Establishment of a Municipal Helpline for prompt redressal of public grievances. Launching the "Cleanup Jammu" scheme, ensuring proper sanitation during important occasions and odd hours. Setting up a Municipal Animal Care Centre and a dog sterilization and care centre for stray animals.

Serving as Chef-de-Mission for the Indian squad in the Asian Wrestling Championship and holding positions in various sports organizations.

Wattal's work has been consistently praised by his peers and superiors. He has received appreciation letters from prominent officials, including the former Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, G.C. Saxena, and the Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, A. Sahasranaman.

The Mahatma Gandhi Rashtriya Seva Medal is a testament to Wattal's tireless efforts in serving humanity. His contributions to aiding victims during border shellings, supporting freedom fighters, and engaging with marginalized groups have left an indelible mark on the community. GGF team extends heartfelt congratulations to Kiran Wattal on this well-deserved honor and wishes him continued success in his journey of service and compassion.

IIM Jammu and Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India inaugurate five-day MDP for Elected Representatives and Functionaries of PRIs

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 4

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) under the leadership of Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu inaugurated the 5-day residential Management Development Programme (MDP) (Batch-II) aimed at enhancing the leadership, management, and governance skills of Elected Representatives and Functionaries of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) on 4th Aug 2025. The program organized by Ministry of Panchayati Raj, Govt. of India at IIM Jammu Jagti Campus Vedanta MDP Classroom, Academic Block from 04th Aug to 08th Aug 2025, is hosting 24 participants from states and UTs ranging from Jammu and Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab.

The MDP is a pioneering initiative designed to empower PRI leaders—Presidents and Vice Presidents of District Panchayats, Block Panchayat Samitis, and other Panchayat officials—with the knowledge and tools necessary to drive community leadership effectively. The five-day intensive program covers critical topics such as leadership, management and ethics, resource mobilization and convergence, rural innovation, effective project management, and the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in governance.

The inaugural ceremony was graced by Shri Sham Lal, Director, JKAS, PRI, Dept. of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Jammu & Kashmir; Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu; Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu; Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Pro-



gram Director, IIM Jammu and Dr. Archana Sharma, Program Director, IIM Jammu.

Shri Sham Lal, Director, JKAS, PRI, Dept. of Rural Development and Panchayati Raj, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, welcomed participants and expressed his delight in interacting with them. Reflecting on previous successful programs, he emphasized the evolving challenges in scheme implementation and the need for continuous learning and adaptation. He underscored the importance of cultivating leadership among BDOs and Sarpanches through cross-learning and collaboration. Highlighting the critical role of financial independence for Panchayats, he noted that the program would empower them to manage resources effectively, respond to local needs, and drive sustainable rural development.

Prof. Nitin Upadhyay, Dean Academics, IIM Jammu, welcomed participants and highlighted the Institute's journey from 47 to over 1200 students. He emphasized IIM Jammu's unique positioning, including its unique MBA in Healthcare and collaboration with three Institutes ranging from IIT Jammu, AIIMS Jammu of National Importance. Stressing the importance of excellence, peer learning, and community engagement, he underlined the Institute's grow-

ing role in nation-building and its commitment to learning beyond the classrooms.

Prof. Sanjeev Pathak, Chairperson, Executive Education & Consultancy (EE & C), IIM Jammu, outlined the broader vision of Executive Education and Consultancy, IIM Jammu, emphasizing its relevance beyond corporates to include government officials and personnel from various ministries. He highlighted that the program is designed for impactful learning through peer interaction, enriched by the campus environment and learning beyond classrooms, reinforcing IIM Jammu's commitment to inclusive and responsive governance. The inaugural session began with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp, symbolizing the collective pursuit of wisdom and empowerment. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. Sanjay Gupta, Program Director, IIM Jammu who provided an overview of the training program, emphasizing its relevance to decentralized governance and rural transformation. He outlined the focus on digital transformation, rural development through six dedicated sessions, financial management, and effective communication. He also mentioned a field visit to a model panchayat nearby and encouraged active participation for an interactive and enriching five-day learning experience.

The vote of thanks was proposed by Dr. Archana Sharma, Program Director, IIM Jammu who expressed gratitude to all dignitaries, participants, and the organizing team for their support. The session concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem. The entire training program is being coordinated by Executive Education and Consultancy office, IIM Jammu.

Participants toured key landmarks of the IIM Jammu campus, including the Clock Tower, Nalanda Library, and smart classrooms. During the inaugural session, 24 participants from states and UTs ranging from Jammu and Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Punjab introduced themselves, shared grassroots governance challenges, and outlined their expectations from the MDP. The training program will be featuring expert-led sessions, case studies, and interactive discussions, aims to foster collaborative governance and strengthen local administration. It is designed to equip participants with the skills and insights needed to enhance service delivery and improve rural livelihoods. This MDP represents a significant step in IIM Jammu's mission to develop transformational leaders and empower grassroots institutions in alignment with India's inclusive development goals.

Sukhnandan Choudhary visits border villages in Ramgarh, interacts with Farmers

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMGARH, AUG 4

Former Minister Sukhnandan Choudhary conducted a visit to the border region of Ramgarh, where he met with local farmers to listen to their concerns and discuss the welfare schemes launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He informed the farmers about the various initiatives under the Modi government, especially the PM-Kisan scheme, and expressed gratitude for



the second installment of 2000 being disbursed to the farmers.

During the interaction, he also discussed key issues related to electricity and water supply in the border

areas. He assured the farmers that he would return soon for another visit and would highlight their problems at the appropriate forums.

On this occasion, Sar-

panch Choudhary Vijay Kumar thanked Sukhnandan Choudhary for visiting the Ramgarh border region and hearing the concerns of the locals. Representatives from villages like Jerda, Marajpur, Shtake Chak, Jad Malshah, and Nandpur Ex s Vijay Kumar Nandpur Jagdish Batti ex S Malshah Panchayat Ch Shiv Kumar Ex s Mandal Pardhan & lambardar Baba ram mahrajpurwre chairman Chambyal committee charan dass billu also present.

SKJAVST organizes Tree Plantation Drive in Akhnoor on occasion of Sanskrit Month

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 4

To promote the Sanskrit language, conserve the environment, and raise public awareness in society, a special tree plantation program was organized today at Akhnoor Police Station by Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Jammu, on the auspicious occasion of Sanskrit Month.

On this occasion, DSP

Virendra Gupta graced the event as the Chief Guest. DSP Gupta stated that the tree plantation initiative undertaken by Shri Kailakh Trust during Sanskrit Month is highly commendable. Such efforts instill a sense of responsibility among the youth towards language, culture, and nature. Sanskrit is our identity, and the environment is our future—protecting both is essential.

President of the Trust,

Mahant Rohit Shastri, said that Sanskrit Month is not merely a linguistic celebration but also an expression of Indian culture, love for nature, and social responsibility. By planting trees, we express our devotion and responsibility towards nature. Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust will continue to serve in the fields of society, culture, and environment.

The event witnessed

enthusiastic participation from Akhnoor SHO Sanjeev chib, former BDC Chairman Kuldeep Kumar, Rajesh Langar, Bhushan Singh, Uttam Chand Sharma, Lucky Sharma, Harsh Sharma, along with local citizens, students, police personnel, and Sanskrit enthusiasts. On this occasion, various medicinal and shady trees were planted, and all participants pledged to protect the environment.

Aug 5 fulfilled Mookerjee's dream of One Constitution, One Flag, One Nation: Balbir Ram

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 4

On the eve of the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, senior BJP leader and former Vice Chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Backward Classes Development Corporation, Balbir Ram Rattan, described August 5, 2019, as a historic day that fulfilled the vision of Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee – "Ek Vidhan, Ek Nishan, Ek Pradhan" (One Constitution, One Flag, One Head of State).

Balbir said that the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 had long kept the region isolated from the constitutional and legal framework of the rest of India, resulting in discrimination against several marginalized sections including refugees,



Dalits, and women. The existence of a separate Constitution and flag, he noted, created a psychological and political divide, obstructing full integration with the nation.

Balbir Ram Rattan was discussing the plight of the Dalits, refugees, women, during the decades long period under Article 370, when he was provided books on Dr. Mookerjee and Dr. Ambedkar by BJP Library Incharge Prof. Kulbhushan Mohtra, in presence of party's senior

colleagues Surinder Bhagat and Guldev Raj Bhagat.

Balbir recalled that Dr. Mookerjee had raised strong opposition to this anomaly as early as 1953, questioning, "Why is there a permit system in my own country?" It was the time when Indians were required to obtain special permission to enter Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Mookerjee defied this permit system, entered Jammu and Kashmir without permission, was arrested, and died in cus-

tody under mysterious circumstances – a sacrifice that galvanized nationalist sentiment for full constitutional integration.

According to Balbir, the revocation of Article 370 by the Narendra Modi-led government in 2019 was not merely an administrative decision but a decisive ideological assertion – fulfilling a core promise made by nationalist forces and finally bringing Jammu and Kashmir completely under the ambit of the Indian Constitution.

He also highlighted that the move also upheld the constitutional vision of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who had strongly opposed Article 370 during its inception. Its removal, he said, has brought equality, unity, and one legal framework across the country – a true tribute to the sacrifices of national leaders and a landmark in India's constitutional journey.

SMVDU Air NCC Cadets shine at Annual Training Camp in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 4

A contingent of Air NCC cadets from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) recently participated in the 10-day Annual Training Camp (ATC) organized by 1 J&K Air Squadron NCC at Udhampur. Notably, this was the first camp conducted by the 1 J&K Air Squadron NCC, witnessing the enthusiastic participation of 334 cadets from various institutions across the region. Cadet Charvi Thakur served as the Senior Cadet, guiding and motivating her peers throughout the camp with dedication and leadership. The cadets underwent a structured schedule including Physical Training (PT), drill sessions, and theory classes covering topics such as Principles of Flight, Aero Engine, Air Wing Procedures, Weapon Training, Health and Hygiene, and First



Aid. A joint firing practice session with Army cadets further enhanced their practical training experience. They also benefited from guest lectures delivered by distinguished experts on a range of subjects. A number of competitions were organized during the camp to test the cadets' leadership, teamwork, and creative abilities. SMVDU cadets performed exceptionally well in events like Poster Making, Games competition, Firing Competition, Drill Square Test, and Debate. Their commendable performance was

appreciated by the Commanding Officer of the

Air NCC Sqn. Cadet Mukti Porwal secured 2nd position in the Poster Making competition under the SW category on the theme "World Nature Conservation and Environmental Protection." In the Debate competition, Cadet Saher clinched the 1st position on the topic "In today's world, protective upbringing does more harm than good to women's empowerment."

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Sourav S/o Barfi Nath, R/o Batkoot, Kuntwara, Kishtwar, Jammu & Kashmir - 182204, hereby inform that my name has been wrongly recorded as Suroop Singh in my Aadhaar records. The correct name is Sourav. I am applying for the necessary correction. If anyone has any objection, they may contact the concerned authorities within 7 days of publication of this notice.

Sourav
S/o Barfi Nath
R/o Batkoot, Kuntwara,
Kishtwar, J&K - 182204

Notice

I Raju S/o Dhani Ram R/o Village Sangar, Ransoo, Distt. Reasi (J&K) my wife name Varsha Devi deliver a male child on 22.12.2020 at Govt. SMGS Hospital Shalamar, Jammu that in the hospital record my name is wrongly been written as Rajveer Singh instead of Raju. Now I want to correct the same. Objection if any may be conveyed to concerned authority within seven days from the date of publication of this notice.

NOTICE

I Paramjeet Kour W/o Simranjeet Singh R/o H.No. 105 Sector 5 Model Town Digiana (180010) hereby inform that I am applying for contractor card of P.W.D deptt. Jammu (UT of Jammu and Kashmir) Objection if any may kindly contact the undersigned or notify the concerned deptt. Within 7 days from the date of publication.

ADC Udhampur distributes nutrition kits to 15 TB patients under Red Cross

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUG 4

Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur, Prem Singh today distributed nutrition kits to 15 TB patients.

The distribution was carried out under the Nikshay initiative, a key component of the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan, with financial support from the District Red Cross Society.

The event took place at the DC Office Complex in the presence of Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan,



Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Anil Manhas and District Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. Anil Saloch.

The initiative aimed to provide vital nutritional support to TB patients,

consuming hygienic food and adhering to prescribed precautionary measures to combat the disease effectively. He also stressed the importance of public awareness and community participation in eradicating TB from the district.

The ADC called upon the officers of the Health Department to intensify efforts and ensure strong inter-departmental coordination to achieve the goal of a TB-free Udhampur.

He further directed the DTO to ensure that all identified TB patients receive timely and adequate nutritional assistance.

emphasizing the importance of a balanced diet in enhancing immunity and aiding faster recovery.

During his interaction with the patients, ADC highlighted the need for

DC Srinagar inspects progress on new Rev. Complex at tehsil Panthachowk, Migrant Transit Accom. Zewan

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 4

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Monday undertook a visit to Zewan area of district to oversee the progress of ongoing works being executed on construction of migrant transit accommodation for PM Package employees. He also inspected construction works on the new Revenue Complex for housing Tehsil Office Panthachowk.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Executive Engineer R&B, Executive Engineer PDD, Executive Engineer PHE, Tehsildar Panthachowk, Tehsildar Chanapora and other concerned Officers.

At Migrant Transit Accommodation Zewan, DC took a round of the various under construction blocks and completed blocks of the project. He was apprised that the work on the project for construction of 39 blocks comprising 936 flats is going on in full swing and as on date 26 blocks comprising 624 flats are ready.



DC instructed the officers to expedite the pace of works on the remaining 13 accommodation blocks to ensure they are completed in all respects. He also asked them to take up allied works for installation of DTs, macadamization of approach road, street lights, lifts, protection wall etc in a time bound manner.

Labroo emphasized swift pace and quality of work with adherence to safety standards. He directed concerned officials and executing agencies to work in a coordinated approach to expedite the accommodation project in committed timelines.

At the construction site of the upcoming Tehsil

office building at Panthachowk, DC took onsite inspection of the under construction new building being executed at a cost of Rs 60. lakh by R&B department.

It was informed that a full-fledged Tehsil Office comprising Tehsildars Court Room, Naib Tehsildar Office, Establishment section, Record Room and waiting area for visitors are main components in the project.

On the occasion, DC directed the executing agency to work in tandem with the departments of PHE and PDD to complete the project this year in order to improve delivery of revenue services to the public and provide a better working environ-

ment for officials.

Later, DC also visited the new Tehsil office Chanapora, which has recently been shifted from its old premises to a new building of Housing Board. He took stock of facilities and functioning in the newly established building, ensuring that public services are being delivered efficiently from the new location.

DC on the occasion directed the line departments of PHE, R&B and PDD to complete the minor works required for efficient functioning of the Tehsil office on priority basis to create a well-organized and citizen-friendly work environment in the Revenue office.

DDC Rajouri reviews progress of Aspirational Block Khawas

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, AUGUST 4



District Development Commissioner (DDC) Rajouri, Abhishek Sharma today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of developmental activities under the Aspirational Block Programme (ABP) in Block Khawas. The meeting focused on the key performance indicators, overall progress, and strategies to improve the block's delta ranking.

During the meeting, the DDC conducted a

comprehensive review of all ABP indicators, with a special emphasis on priority areas impacting the block's developmental trajectory. He directed the Nodal Officers of both Khawas and Budhal Old to submit a detailed analysis report highlighting progress, gaps and strategies

for improvement in each indicator.

In view of the ongoing Sampoonata Abhiyan, the DDC instructed Self Help Groups (SHGs) to achieve 100% target saturation under the Abhiyan within the next six days. He also took stock of the status of the revolving fund provided to SHGs and urged concerned officials to ensure timely disbursement and proper utilization.

The DDC impressed upon all departments to work in close coordination to achieve the satura-

tion of key indicators and improve the quality of life in the Aspirational Block. He stressed the importance of grassroots-level planning, timely reporting and community participation to bring about meaningful change in Khawas.

The meeting witnessed participation from key officials including ACP Sheraz Chouhan, ACD Auqil Naveed, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, DSEO Sandeep Kumar, Block Development Officer Khawas, along with other sectoral and district-level officers.

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24X7 Helpline: 1077

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT MAGISTRATE, JAMMU

कार्यालय जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, जम्मू
Wazarat Road Jammu-180001 (J&K)
वज़ारत रोड, जम्मू -१८०००१ (जम्मू एवं कश्मीर)

Subject:- Order under Section 163 BNSS for prohibition on sale and purchase of accessories used for unauthorized vehicle modifications in District Jammu.

ORDER

Whereas, it has been brought to the notice of this office by the Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic Jammu, that a large number of commercial establishments and vendors in District Jammu are engaged in the sale and purchase of various motor vehicle accessories which are being used for unauthorized modifications of vehicles in contravention of Section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988;

Whereas, such accessories include but are not limited to oversized tyres, pressure horns, musical horns, metallic bumpers, high-intensity halogen lights, tinted or reflective window films, roof rail spoilers, modified exhausts, and similar fittings, which alter the original manufacturer specifications of the vehicles and compromise the roadworthiness, thereby posing a serious threat to the safety of passengers and pedestrians;

Whereas, despite enforcement action by Traffic Police Jammu against violators, the availability of such accessories continues, leading to illegal vehicle modifications, endangering lives and contributing to public nuisance;

Whereas, given the compelling need to prohibit the sale and purchase of such accessories, it is imperative on the part of district administration that immediate preventive measures be taken to reduce road accidents and thereby ensure public safety;

Now, therefore, in exercise of powers conferred upon me under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, I, Sachin Kumar Vaishya, IAS, District Magistrate, Jammu, do hereby order that:

- The sale, purchase, storage, distribution, and display for sale of all motor vehicle accessories which are intended or likely to be used for unauthorized modifications in violation of Section 52 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, is hereby prohibited within the territorial jurisdiction of District Jammu, with immediate effect.**

It is further ordered that:

- The Senior Superintendent of Police, Jammu, and the Senior Superintendent of Police, Traffic Jammu shall ensure effective enforcement of this order in coordination with concerned field officers.
- A joint committee comprising of the following officials shall carry out periodic inspections within their respective jurisdictions to ensure strict compliance with this order and submit fortnightly reports to the Office of the District Magistrate:
 - Tehsildar concerned.
 - Station House Officer (SHO) concerned.
 - DTI concerned.
 - Representative(s) from the RTO
- Any person, firm, or establishment found violating this order shall be liable for penal action under the relevant provisions of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, and the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, and the said materials shall be liable to seizure.

This order is issued *ex-parte* in the interest of public safety and security and shall be widely publicized through print, electronic and social media.

This order shall come into force with immediate effect from today afternoon and will remain operative for eight weeks or till further orders whichever is earlier.

This order shall be applicable within the territorial jurisdiction of District Jammu.

Issued under my hand and seal at Jammu on this 2nd day of August, 2025.

DIP/J-4260/25
Date: 4-8-25

(Sachin Kumar Vaishya) IAS
District Magistrate
Jammu

No. DMJ/LO/2025-26/1205-18
Dated:-02-08-2025.

Kathua Administration dedicates Model Anganwadi Centre at Kabir Nagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, AUGUST 4

In a landmark step towards strengthening grassroots childcare and maternal health services, the District Administration Kathua today dedicated a state-of-the-art Model Anganwadi Centre at Kabir Nagar.

The maiden facility was jointly inaugurated by Member Legislative Assembly Kathua, Dr. Bharat Bhushan and Deputy Commissioner Kathua, Dr. Rakesh Minhas.

Designed with a child-centric approach, the Model Anganwadi Centre features safe and vibrant infrastructure including age-appropriate furniture, engaging play equipment, modern teaching-learning aids, a fully equipped kitchen, clean and child-friendly toilets, a ventilated storage area and a dedicated hand-washing unit scaled to child height. A small kitchen garden has also been developed to promote awareness around



nutrition and healthy eating habits.

The facility, which amalgamates services of three peripheral Anganwadi Centres, has the capacity to serve over 250 beneficiaries, including children, pregnant women and lactating mothers. The centre aims to offer a secure and nurturing environment focused on growth monitoring, early learning and maternal care.

Speaking on the occasion, the MLA applauded the district administration for its vision in establishing Anganwadi Centres on modern lines. "These

upgraded facilities are at par with private setups and will certainly encourage greater community participation in government welfare initiatives," he said. He also urged local families to actively engage with and benefit from the services being offered.

The Deputy Commissioner highlighted the significance of early childhood care and the role of infrastructure in ensuring safe and effective service delivery. "By creating a healthy, safe and educational environment, we're investing in the future of our children and empow-

ering mothers at the grassroots level," he stated. He expressed gratitude to Kandhari Group for supporting the construction of the centre under their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative.

Dr. Minhas also informed that more such model centres are being developed across the district to serve as replicable models for Anganwadi transformation.

The inaugural event witnessed participation of CDPO Kathua Haqiqat Singh, ICDS functionaries, Anganwadi workers, community elders and local residents.

PM visits Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to pay homage to Shibu Soren

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 4

Prime Minister Narendra Modi today visited Sir Ganga Ram Hospital in the national capital to pay homage to Jharkhand former Chief Minister Shibu Soren.

In separate posts on X, he wrote: "Went to Sir Ganga Ram Hospital to pay homage to Shri Shibu Soren Ji. Also met his family. My thoughts are with Hemant Ji, Kalpana Ji and the admirers of Shri Shibu Soren Ji."

"I paid heartfelt tribute to Shri Shibu Soren Ji, former Chief Minister of Jharkhand. In this moment



of grief, I met his family and expressed my condolences. His entire life was dedicated to the welfare of the tribal community, for which he will always be remembered."

Shibu Soren, former Jharkhand Chief Minister and founding patron of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM), passed away today at the age of 81. He died at Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram

Hospital after a prolonged illness.

His son Hemant Soren, the current Jharkhand Chief Minister, wrote in his X post: "Respected Dishom Guruji has left us all. Today I am zero..."

The hospital declared his death at 8:56 am, citing complications from a kidney ailment and a stroke he suffered nearly six weeks ago. Soren had been on ventilator support for over a month.

A towering figure in Indian tribal politics, Soren's legacy spans decades, from grassroots mobilization to national prominence.

Shibu Soren: The reluctant revolutionary Who became Jharkhand's conscience

AGENCIES
RANCHI, AUG 4

Shibu Soren did not begin his life with the ambition to govern. Born in 1944 in a modest tribal household in Nemra village, Ramgarh, he grew up witnessing systemic injustice, and lived the brutal reality of land seizures, forest exclusion, and social alienation. He didn't enter politics for power. He entered it because people like him had no power.

In that sense, Shibu Soren never really left the movement even after becoming the government.

Known widely as



Dishom Guru, Soren was many things at once – a folk hero, a feared agitator, a reluctant administrator, and, above all, the unflinching voice of Jharkhand's tribal soul. He spent his early political years organising 'hul' (rebellions) against land dispossession and bonded labour, leading to the for-

mation of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha in the early 1970s – a party that wasn't just a political outfit, but a social assertion.

While national politics often overlooked tribal issues, Soren forced them on to the agenda with grit, sometimes fury. He wasn't polished, but he spoke a language that echoed in the hills of Santhal Pargana and the forests of Chaibasa.

His fight culminated in the creation of Jharkhand in 2000 – a state carved from the dreams of dispossessed people who had found in Soren a leader

who looked like them, spoke like them, and suffered like them.

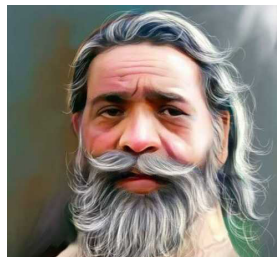
He served as Jharkhand's Chief Minister thrice, though his administrative tenures were often brief and tumultuous. He also served as Union Coal Minister in 2004 during the UPA government. But governance was never his strong suit. His strength lay in symbolism – in what he represented more than what he ruled. Even when political storms engulfed him, controversies shadowed him, and allies deserted him, his identity as the father of Jharkhand's statehood remained untouched.

'A grassroots leader, passionate about empowering tribals': PM Modi's tribute to Shibu Soren, former Jharkhand CM

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/RANCHI, AUG 4

Expressing deep sorrow over the passing of Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) founder Shibu Soren, Prime Minister Narendra Modi headed him as a grassroots leader who rose through the ranks of public life and was passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor, and the downtrodden.

In his message on X, PM Modi wrote, "Shri Shibu Soren Ji was a grassroots leader who rose through



The Prime Minister said the he has spoken to his son Hemant Soren, the current CM of Jharkhand, "Spoke to Jharkhand CM Shri Hemant Soren Ji and expressed condolences. Om Shanti."

the ranks of public life with unwavering dedication to the people. He was particularly passionate about empowering tribal communities, the poor and downtrodden. Pained by his passing away. My thoughts are with his family and admirers."

Soren passed away today morning at the age of 81 at Delhi's Sir Ganga Ram Hospital, where he had been undergoing treatment for a kidney infection and bronchitis. He was declared dead at 8:56 am, according to Dr AK Bhalla, Chair of the hospital's nephrology department.

Announcing his father's death, Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren wrote on X: "Adarniya Dishom Guruji has left us all... Today, I am hollow."

Fondly called "Dishom Guru" (the people's tribal leader), Shibu Soren was a towering figure in tribal politics. As a founding member of the JMM, he played a pivotal role in the movement for the creation of Jharkhand state. Over a political career spanning decades, he served in several union ministries and was thrice the Chief Minister of Jharkhand.

Army deserves better: SC anguished over police assault on Colonel, upholds CBI inquiry

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 4

The Supreme Court today came down heavily on the conduct of Punjab police officers accused of assaulting a serving Army Colonel and his son, while upholding the Punjab and Haryana High Court's decision to hand over the investigation to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

A bench comprising Justice Sanjay Kumar and Justice Satish Chandra Sharma dismissed a special leave petition filed by the four police officers challenging the High Court's July 16 order.

The High Court had ordered a CBI probe after

observing that the state police failed to conduct a fair investigation, even after the initial inquiry was entrusted to a senior officer.

According to the complainant, a serving Army Colonel, he and his son were brutally beaten by the police personnel at an eatery during their travel from Delhi to Patiala.

The altercation reportedly began after they declined to move their vehicle while eating. The Colonel further alleged that no FIR was filed for several days despite multiple complaints, suggesting an attempt by state authorities to shield the accused officers.

The top court expressed strong disapproval of the police's conduct and the delay in action.

Justice Sharma observed, "When the war is going on, you glorify Army officers... but when they face injustice, no one acts. The SSP claims he can't arrest them despite the rejection of anticipatory bail just because they are police officers. This lawlessness is unacceptable."

He further rebuked the State's inaction, highlighting, "You sleep peacefully at home because that man is serving on the border at minus 40 degrees. Yet, his complaint isn't even registered in time."

Though the Court initially expressed an intention to impose heavy costs on the petitioners, it refrained from doing so in the final order.

Justice Kumar also remarked pointedly, "If you have nothing to hide, why are you afraid of an independent investigation?"

Despite a High Court order earlier assigning the investigation to Chandigarh SP Manjit, IPS, to conclude the probe in four months, no arrests were made.

Dissatisfied with the progress and fairness of the investigation, the High Court finally transferred the matter to the CBI.

"If you were a true Indian, you would not say this," SC raps Rahul Gandhi over Army remarks

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 4

The Supreme Court today pulled up Congress leader Rahul Gandhi for his alleged remarks against the Indian Army during the 2022 Bharat Jodo Yatra, questioning the veracity and propriety of his statements.

The Court said such comments were unbecoming of a "true Indian" and sought to know the basis for his claims regarding Chinese incursions.

A Bench comprising Justice Dipankar Datta and Justice AG Masih was hearing Gandhi's plea challenging a defamation case filed over his December 16,



2022, remarks made after a border clash between Indian and Chinese troops in Arunachal Pradesh.

"If you were a true Indian, you would not say all these things," Justice Datta observed during the hearing.

The Bench questioned

Gandhi's claim that 2,000 km of Indian territory had been occupied by China.

"Are you there? Do you have any credible material? Why would you make these statements without anything?"

Justice Datta questioned the credibility of state-

ments and said that public figures have a responsibility when making sensitive statements.

Senior Advocate Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for Gandhi, argued that the remarks were political in nature and made in the public interest.

He read out the actual statements made by Gandhi and contended that the defamation complaint was politically motivated.

"There is a technique now, become an MP and file defamation for any criticism," Singhvi submitted, arguing that the complaint was an abuse of the legal process.

Heavy rainfall batters Himachal, death toll reaches 184

AGENCIES
SHIMLA, AUG 4

Heavy rains continue to lash Himachal Pradesh, pushing the death toll to 184, with 36 individuals still missing, as reported by the State Emergency Operations Centre.

Of the total death toll, 103 deaths have been caused due to landslides, flash floods, and cloudbursts, and another 81 in road accidents due to incessant rain in the region. As many as 36 people remain missing.

The Manali sub-division in Kullu district has declared a holiday for all government and private



schools, and ITIs today. Roads have been blocked and the Beas river water level has risen alarmingly, prompting the Sub-Divisional Magistrate to take precautionary action.

In Shimla, a landslide at Panthaghati around 9

pm on Sunday sent debris crashing into nearby shops.

Meanwhile, in the Solan district, a trolley carrying apples got stuck on the Chhaila-Maipul-Rajgarh road, blocking the highway for over 12 hours, stranding dozens of vehicles.

At least 295 roads in the state remain closed following the incidents caused by the extreme weather over the past four days. According to the Meteorological Centre in Shimla, Manali recorded 45 mm of rain in the last 24 hours, while Kasauli and Naina Devi received 82 mm and 62.6 mm respectively.

The IMD has issued an orange alert for Una, Hamirpur, and Bilaspur, warning of heavy to very heavy rainfall that can result in flooding and waterlogging. A yellow alert is in place for Kangra, Mandi, Solan, and Sirmour, with more rain expected across several districts today and tomorrow.

As per official data, 457 houses have been completely destroyed and 1,192 partially damaged in the state so far. Dam infrastructure remains under control, with pond levels across all major reservoirs within permissible limits despite increased inflows.

Congress gears up for Delhi protest demanding 42 pc reservation for BCs

AGENCIES
HYDERABAD, AUG 4

The Telangana Congress will launch a three-day agitation in Delhi from August 5, demanding 42 percent reservations for Backward Classes (BCs) in the state.

As part of the movement, a special train carrying hundreds of Congress workers departed from Charlapalli Railway Station on Monday morning at 9:00 am.

The initiative, led by Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and TPCC President Mahesh Kumar Goud, will include a series of programs in the nation-



al capital from August 5 to 7. AICC in-charge Meenakshi Natarajan is accompanying the party workers on the train up to Nagpur.

According to the TPCC, the schedule of the agitation is as follows: Party MPs will push for a dis-

ussion on the 42 percent BC reservation issue in Parliament on August 5 (tomorrow) by moving an adjournment motion.

On August 6, a massive protest will be organised at Jantar Mantar, with large participation from the Telangana Congress

cadre.

A delegation will submit a petition to the President of India on August 7, seeking the immediate implementation of the BC reservation bill passed by the Telangana Assembly.

TPCC has instructed the district presidents to ensure that local workers reach Charlapalli on time, and all participants have been asked to carry their Aadhaar cards.

Party leaders said the movement reflects the Congress government's commitment to securing social justice for BCs and pressuring the Centre to act on the state's resolution.

Liquor Scam: SC declines Baghel's plea on 'Piecemeal' probe, will hear PMLA challenge

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 4

The Supreme Court today declined to directly hear former Chhattisgarh Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's plea challenging what he described as a "piecemeal investigation" in the alleged Rs 2,000 crore liquor scam.

The Court said the matter must first be raised before the appropriate High Court or trial court.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi emphasised the need to follow procedural hierarchy, observing, "Why do we have High Courts

and special courts? These issues only come up when affluent individuals are involved. If this becomes a trend, ordinary citizens and lawyers will lose access to this Court."

The Court passed similar directions in a connected plea filed by Baghel's son, Chaitanya Baghel, who was arrested by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) on July 18 in connection with the same case.

He too was advised to first move the High Court. However, the Bench agreed to examine Bhupesh Baghel's separate constitutional challenge to Sections 50 and 63 of the Prevention of Money Lau-

ndering Act (PMLA), which relate to the ED's powers to summon individuals, record statements, and demand documents under threat of penalty.

Baghel argued that these provisions infringe on the fundamental right to silence and force individuals into self-incrimination.

Baghel's petition further sought clarity on whether ED officers can continue investigations after filing a chargesheet without prior court approval.

He also urged the Court to ensure that the right to default bail is protected in such scenarios.

The Bench directed

that this plea be listed on August 6, along with other pending petitions challenging the PMLA framework.

Meanwhile, liberty was granted to Chaitanya Baghel to file a fresh petition on similar grounds before the apex court. His existing petition was allowed to be withdrawn.

Senior Advocates Kapil Sibal, AM Singhvi, and Mukul Rohatgi appeared for the petitioners.

Sibal warned that without judicial scrutiny, investigation agencies could indefinitely file supplementary chargesheets, undermining the accused's right to default bail.

Siraj five seals Oval epic as India level series 2-2

AGENCIES
OVAL, AUG 4

Mohammed Siraj started in a stunning come-from-behind win at The Oval as India levelled the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy 2-2 with a thrilling six-run victory on an overcast fifth morning in London. England needed 35 runs with four wickets in hand, one of which was Chirs Woakes with a dislocated right shoulder. Siraj, however, got the ball to swing as much as two degrees amidst a drizzle, and picked up three wickets in a testing spell with the old ball to finish with a fifer that scripted a memorable

win.

It was Harry Brook and Joe Root's hundreds, and a 195-run stand, on Day 4 that gave England the upper hand before a short sharp spell of rain shortly after Tea forced action to spill into the fifth day. Prasidh Krishna resumed his over from last evening with a short ball first up, and Jamie Overton pulled him confidently to the fence to begin with a boundary. He almost chopped on the next ball, but the edge snuck over the stumps and into the fine leg ropes for four more.

India's comeback started at the other end where Jamie Smith was beaten

twice by Siraj before he finally nicked one behind without adding anything to his overnight score of 2. Siraj, and India, could have had a second wicket in as many deliveries but Gus Atkinson lucked out when the edge dropped just short of KL Rahul at second slip.

Overton's luck then ran out. Siraj had him trapped in front of middle and leg with a nip-backer and saw umpire Kumar Dharmasena raise his finger after a moment of deliberation. Overton availed a review, only to find 'umpire's call' on wickets and see the finger raised again. The review came to Josh Tongue's rescue in



the following over when he was adjudged LBW, off Prasidh, but the tracking down leg. Tongue, after a bunch

of play-and-a-miss against Siraj, was then cleaned up by a pinpoint yorker from Prasidh, leaving England 17 away with no option but to call on the injured Woakes. The allrounder walked out to a rousing applause - bat in the left hand and his dominant arm in a sling.

Atkinson did his part in ensuring Woakes stayed at the non-striker's end. It involved refusing singles until the last deliveries of the overs, and targeting big hits - the very first attempt at which could have been caught in the deep but Akash Deep palmed it over for a six instead.

Fittingly, it was Siraj's

tenacity that prevailed over England's last pair's valiant fight. The pacer nailed a yorker to clean up Atkinson on 17, propelling India to a momentous win in front of a near capacity Oval.

Brief scores: India 224 (Karun Nair 57; Gus Atkinson 5-33, Josh Tongue 3-57) & 396 (Yashasvi Jaiswal 118, Akash Deep 66, Washington Sundar 53, Ravindra Jadeja 53; Josh Tongue 5-125, Gus Atkinson 3-127) beat England 247 (Zak Crawley 64, Harry Brook 53; Prasidh Krishna 4-62, Mohd. Siraj 4-86) & 367 (Harry Brook 111, Joe Root 105; Mohd. Siraj 5-104, Prasidh Krishna 4-126) by 6 runs.

Hockey India names Harmanpreet-led squad for Tour of Australia

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 4

Hockey India on Monday named the 24-member men's team for the four-match Tour of Australia, scheduled from August 15 to 21 in Perth. This will be an exposure tour ahead of the all-important Asia Cup Rajgir, Bihar from August 29, which is a World Cup qualifier.

The team led by ace dragflicker and defender Harmanpreet Singh will leave for Australia on August 8 from Bengaluru, where they are currently training at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) campus.



The 24-member team features Krishan Pathak and Suraj Karkera as goalkeepers. Defenders in the squad along with Harmanpreet are Sumit, Jarmanpreet Singh, Sanjay, Amit Rohidas, Nilam Sanjeep Xess, Jugraj Singh, while Karnataka's Poovanna CB

comes in as a fresh face in the squad.

Talented young midfielder Rajinder Singh, who is often likened to stalwart former India Captain Sardar Singh, has been named in the squad as midfielder along with Raj Kumar Pal, Hardik

Singh, Manpreet Singh, Vivek Sagar Prasad, Rabichandra Singh Moirangthem, Vishnu Kant Singh while Mandeep Singh, Shilinand Lakra, Abhishek, Sukhjeet Singh, Dilpreet Singh, Selvam Karthi and Aditya Lalage will join them as forwards.

Speaking about the tour ahead of the Asia Cup, chief coach Craig Fulton said, "We are heading to Perth Australia to sharpen up ahead of the Asia Cup in Bihar. The focus will be on improving our physical conditioning and technical execution through quality training and warm up matches."

Archery Association of India announces inaugural Archery League

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 4

Archery Association of India (AAI) on Monday announced the first-of-its-kind Archery League, bringing together men and women recurve and compound archers from India and the world, who will be competing in a franchise-styled tournament.

The inaugural edition of the league is expected to take place over a 11-day period in October this year at the Yamuna Sports Complex, New Delhi. It has received encouragement from World Archery, World Archery Asia and the Sports Ministry of



India. The league will feature foreign archers from among the world's top 10, along with top Indian archers who will all be representing six franchise teams.

With a unique team

setup never seen before in world archery, recurve & compound archers shooting 70m and 50m, respectively, together under lights, the league will boost the confidence of Indian archers and raise their performance level.

Archery Association of India president Arjun Munda said, "The dream envisioned by us is the dream that has lived for many years in every young archer residing across villages of India. They have been hoping to get an opportunity to showcase their skills on the biggest stage."

"We are confident that with the help of the Archery League, we will be able to fulfil these dreams and provide more opportunities. Let us all join hands to launch this league for archery so that we can take the sport to the next level in the country."

Indewheelers Motorsports joins ISRL Season 2 as newest franchise

AGENCIES
PUNE, AUG 4

Indewheelers Motorsports has joined Indian Supercross Racing League (ISRL) as the newest franchise team to the Season 2 grid.

As Pune's second franchise, Indewheelers Motorsports Pvt. Ltd. is set to make the league more competitive while boosting the city's already established position as a national motorsport hub. Founded by motorsport veteran Vikram Dhar and co-owned by young entrepreneur Ajay Agrawal, the team blends racing pedigree with next-gener-



ation business leadership, ready to make its mark on India's premier Supercross league.

"Our mission is to build India's most respected, performance-driven Supercross team rooted in professionalism and passion. Indewheelers Motor-

sports aims to inspire the next generation of racers and contribute to the long-term growth of India's motorsport ecosystem," said Vikram, Founder & Team Principal.

A passionate off-roader since 2006, Vikram is the 2017-18 Emirates Desert

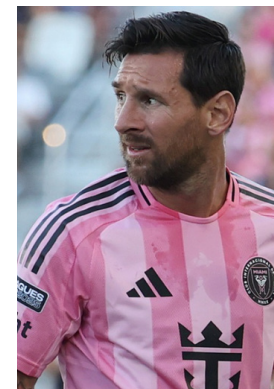
Championship Champion and has competed across global terrains, while also holding senior regional director roles in multinational corporations. Co-owner Ajay Agrawal, an entrepreneur and chartered accountant, brings sharp financial acumen and global distribution experience, representing the new wave of leaders transforming industries. Indewheelers Motorsports has also partnered with global infrastructure major Arabian Coast Group. This partnership underscores growing interest from international investors in India's evolving motorsport ecosystem.

Messi sustains minor muscle injury in right leg, confirms Inter Miami

AGENCIES
FORT LAUDERDALE (USA), AUG 4

Inter Miami CF provided a fresh update for club captain Lionel Messi, stating that he is suffering from a minor muscle injury. However, the MLS club did not provide a timeline for the 38-year-old's return to action.

Messi was forced to make an early exit from Inter Miami's 5-4 penalty kick shootout win over Necaxa on Saturday evening, due to an injury picked up in the opening minutes of the Leagues Cup Phase One clash at Chase Stadium.



"Messi underwent medical tests to evaluate the extent of the muscle discomfort he experienced during last night's Leagues Cup match against Necaxa, which forced him to leave the field," Inter Miami

statement read. "The results confirmed a minor muscle injury in his right leg. His medical clearance will depend on his clinical progress and response to treatment," it added.

The Argentine legend stumbled on the turf after several defenders crowded him off the ball as he dribbled at the heart of the Rayos back line, slapping the grass in frustration after hitting the deck. He sat down in front of the Herons' bench a few moments later, receiving extensive treatment from the IMCF medical staff on what appeared to be his right hamstring or groin

area. Messi eventually walked off the pitch and made his way down the tunnel for further evaluation, coach Javier Mascherano and his staff electing to substitute on Federico Redondo in the 11th minute.

Messi was hampered by adductor and thigh strain issues earlier this year, missing Argentina's World Cup qualifiers in March. He has tallied 18 goals and nine assists in 18 league appearances this season and bagged assists on both of the Herons' goals in their last-second 2-1 win over Atlas in their Leagues Cup 2025 opener on Wednesday.

Mitchell Owen ready to translate T20I success to ODIs against South Africa

AGENCIES
HOBART, AUG 4

Mitchell Owen revealed that he will be translating his T20I success as he prepares to make his ODI debut for Australia later this month, following an impressive start to his international career in the T20Is against the West Indies.

The 23-year-old was a standout selection in Australia's revamped ODI squad for the upcoming three-match home series against South Africa, set to be played in Cairns and Mackay from August 19. The ODI series will follow a three-match T20I series against the same



opponents in Darwin and Cairns, beginning next week. Owen has retained his place in the squad after a strong T20I debut where he posted scores of 50, 36*, 2 and 37 while batting at No. 6, finishing the series with an exceptional

strike rate of 192.30. Although Owen made his name as an opener in the BBL, it was his composed power-hitting in the middle and death overs during the recent Caribbean T20Is - along with his handy medium-

pace bowling - that earned him a spot in Australia's ODI squad. His inclusion comes as the team enters a new era, beginning preparations for the 2027 ODI World Cup in South Africa following the post-Champions Trophy retirements of veterans Steven Smith, Glenn Maxwell and Marcus Stoinis.

Owen admitted he hasn't been told where he might slot into the batting order if given the opportunity in the upcoming ODI series, but he made it clear that his mindset and aggressive style at the crease will remain unchanged from his breakout performances in the Caribbean.

Fakhar Zaman ruled out of West Indies tour with hamstring injury

AGENCIES
LAUDERHILL (USA), AUG 4

Pakistan's top-order batter Fakhar Zaman, who was sidelined for the third T20I against the West Indies after picking up a left hamstring strain during the second T20I in Lauderhill, has been ruled out of the forthcoming three-match ODI series against the Caribbean side.

Khushdil Shah stepped in to replace Zaman in the playing XI for the third T20I on Monday (IST). The injury occurred in the 19th over of West Indies' innings as Zaman chased a ball in the outfield. A medical evaluation by the team's support staff later



confirmed a mild strain in his left hamstring.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) has confirmed that Fakhar received immediate treatment and initial care fol-

lowing his injury. He is set to return to Pakistan on August 4, a day after the final and deciding T20I. His rehabilitation will be overseen by the PCB medical team at the National

Cricket Academy (NCA) in Lahore. The PCB has not yet announced whether a replacement will be named for the ODI squad.

Fakhar managed promising starts in the first two T20Is, scoring 28 and 20, but was unable to convert either into a substantial innings.

The 35-year-old's current injury is strikingly similar to the one he sustained at the start of the Champions Trophy earlier this year. In that incident, Fakhar pulled up in pain after sprinting after a cover drive on just the second ball of the opening match. He was ruled out of the tournament the very next day.

Govt releases Rs 33.34 lakh for Karkhandar Scheme in Kashmir Div

J1NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 4

Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, today announced release of Rs 33.34 lakh for the implementation of its Karkhandar Scheme across the Kashmir Division.

This significant financial allocation, disbursed to the respective Assistant Directors of Handicrafts and Handloom, underscores the Government's commitment to preserving and promoting the rich artisanal heritage of the region while ensuring the welfare and economic upliftment of craftsmen.

The Karkhandar Scheme, notified in 2021, is a landmark initiative designed to revive languishing crafts like pottery and foster sustainable development of the craft sector in UT of J&K.



Implemented by the Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, the scheme aims to empower artisans, enhance skill development, and boost the livelihoods of craftsmen through structured interventions.

Highlighting its role in revival of languishing crafts, a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, stated that the Karkhandar Scheme focuses on preserving traditional crafts such as walnut wood carv-

ing, silver filigree, carpet weaving, Kani shawl weaving, Khatamband, papier-mâché, and others like Sozni, tapestry, and engraved copperware, which face a shortage of skilled artisans. "It prioritizes crafts at risk of extinction, ensuring their legacy endures. It also facilitates skill transfer from master craftsmen, including National/State/Shilp Guru awardees, to the younger generation," he said, adding meritorious trainees from depart-

mental training centres receive advanced training in nearby Karkhanas to enhance their expertise and productivity.

Trainees receive a monthly stipend of Rs 2,000 during the six-month training period, disbursed via direct bank transfer. "Karkhandars are provided Rs 25,000 in two equal installments to cover logistics, tools, equipment, and raw materials, along with Rs 2,000 per trainee per month to support their efforts.

This financial release of Rs. 33.34 lakh will empower Assistant Directors, in first phase, of Anantnag, Budgam, Baramulla, Kulgam, and Srinagar districts to accelerate the scheme's implementation, ensuring artisans receive the necessary resources, training, and support to thrive.

MD JJM conducts site visit to Verinag PHE sub division; reviews scheme completion

J1NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, AUG 4

As part of monitoring and accelerating the implementation of the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) in the region, Mission Director (MD), JJM J&K, Khurshid Ahmad Shah today conducted site visits to Verinag sub division of PHE Division Qazigund, and later reviewed the status of Water Supply schemes in PHE Division Qazigund.

During the visit, Mission Director reviewed the progress of water supply schemes under JJM, focusing on the sustainability of water sources and technical feasibility of ongoing projects. He emphasized the need for timely completion of schemes to achieve the target of providing functional household tap connections and



Har Ghar Jal certification to all rural households in the area.

The visit also included interaction with locals, officials and field staff to ensure adherence to quality standards and to resolve any implementation challenges. This initiative aligns with JJM's broader objectives of ensuring safe and adequate drinking water access to every household in rural Jammu and Kashmir through sustainable water supply infrastructure.

Reviewing the progress in execution of civil & mechanical schemes under

JJM in PHE Division Qazigund, it was informed that out of 96 civil schemes and 15 Mechanical schemes, 64 and 6 stands completed respectively. Among 116 allotted works pertaining to the civil component, 71 works have been completed so far and work is going on the rest of the projects.

The works comprise of Bore wells, Rapid Sand Filtration Plants (RSFP), Over Head Tanks (OHT), Pipe Networks, Slow Sand Filtration Plants (SSFP), General Service Reservoirs (GSR) and Pump Rooms.

Mission Director directed the officers to speed up

the pace of execution in view of the good weather conditions and complete the works before the onset of winter.

The chair was informed that out of 26478 Rural Households 23794 Households have been provided with Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs).

Mission Director enjoined upon officers to give a renewed push to enhance pace of providing remaining Functional Household Tap Connections (FHTCs).

The Meeting was attended by Superintendent Engineer Hydraulic Circle Anantnag/ Kulgam, Executive Engineer of PHE Division Qazigund, Executive Engineer Ground Water Division, Srinagar, Executive Engineer, Water Quality Monitoring and other officers of the department.

Training session held for newly appointed BLOs in Doda

J1NEWS SERVICE
DODA, AUGUST 4

A comprehensive training session for newly appointed Booth Level Officers (BLOs) was held at the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex, Doda.

The session was chaired by the Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, who also serves as the District Election Officer and was supervised by ACR Doda, Ashraf Parvez, who holds the additional charge of Deputy District Election Officer and also serves as Assistant Returning Officer (ARO) for AC-52 Doda.

The training aimed to sensitize the BLOs about their critical role in the electoral process from accurate voter list management to responsibilities at the polling stations.

During the session, the Deputy Commissioner urged BLOs to conduct



thorough door-to-door verification to ensure correct entries in the electoral rolls.

He stressed the importance of identifying eligible voters who have recently attained the prescribed age as well as removing names of deceased individuals and women who have migrated due to marriage.

ACR Doda reviewed the status of basic facilities at polling stations and instructed the BLOs to assess infrastructure and report any deficiencies to ensure Assured Minimum Facilities (AMFs).

Master Trainers delivered a detailed Power-Point presentation covering the duties of BLOs during various phases of the electoral process. Key topics included addition, deletion, correction and migration in the electoral rolls using the correct forms and nomenclature. BLOs were also informed about the different types of rolls such as the draft, final and integrated electoral rolls, along with the standard procedures, legal responsibilities, and reporting protocols under the supervision of the Election Naib Tehsildar

and other officials of the District Election Office.

Both male and female BLOs participated actively in the session, highlighting the inclusive and gender-balanced approach of the election machinery. The session concluded with a directive from the Deputy Commissioner, asking BLOs to regularly visit their assigned polling booths to review arrangements and ensure availability of essential infrastructure, thereby supporting a smooth and transparent voter management process in the district.

CS inspects Jammu's premier health institutions

J1NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 4

In a move to assess and strengthen the healthcare delivery system in Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today conducted an extensive tour of the city's major government-run medical institutions.

Those who accompanied the Chief Secretary included the Principals of concerned Medical Colleges, Medical Superintendents, Faculty Members, Chief Engineer (PWD) and others.

The visit aimed to take stock of the patient care facilities being provided in these premier medical facilities besides taking on spot assessment of the status of critical infrastructure projects currently underway to upgrade healthcare services in the region.

The Chief Secretary commenced his visit from the Government Medical College (GMC), Bakshi Nagar, where he inspected the newly constructed 100-bedded Critical Care Block, a vital addition to the hospital's capacity to handle high-dependency patients.

He also reviewed the



progress on the site of the Department of Interventional Pulmonology and High-End Laboratory (DIPHL), which is envisioned to further enhance the specialized care services at the institution.

Afterwards, the Chief Secretary visited the adjoining Bone & Joint Hospital and later the Shri Maharaja Gulab Singh (SMGS) Hospital at Shalamar, Jammu.

At SMGS, he undertook a detailed inspection of the under-construction 243-bedded Gynaecological Block, being developed at a cost of Rs31.59 crore.

The Chief Secretary was apprised that the new block is poised to significantly strengthen the hospital's maternal and neonatal care services, with advanced Perinatology and Neonatology units. The facility is expected to

reduce the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) and Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR) besides cutting down the waiting time for planned surgeries considerably.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary also reviewed the functioning and infrastructure of the State Cancer Institute (SCI), Jammu, which is being developed at an estimated cost of Rs104 crore. He took a first-hand assessment of various crucial services including Outpatient and Inpatient Departments (OPD/IPD), diagnostic laboratory facilities, chemotherapy and radiotherapy units and the PET Scan operations.

He also enquired about the ongoing work on three modern operation theatres, and the status of installation of Linear Accelerator (LINAC) and other high-end medical

equipment, being facilitated by Jammu and Kashmir Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) here.

The Chief Secretary was briefed on other flagship projects taken up at GMC Jammu to further augment specialized patient services, including the establishment of a Catheterization Laboratory (Cath Lab) and other related infrastructure components.

Earlier, he visited the Government Dental College, Amphalla, where he inspected both the patient care arrangements and the newly constructed infrastructure block. He directed the executing agency to expedite the formal handover of the building to the department to ensure its early operationalization for public benefit.

During the day-long visit, the Chief Secretary emphasized the timely completion of all ongoing works with strict adherence to the set quality standards. He asked for ensuring that the new facilities are optimally utilized to deliver high-quality healthcare services to the people of Jammu and its adjoining areas.

GDC Doda wins 1st position in Men's Athletic Tournament under Viksit Bharat Yuva Connect Programme

J1NEWS SERVICE
DODA, AUGUST 4

The athletics team of Government Degree College (GDC) Doda has made the district proud by winning 1st position in the Men's Athletic Tournament held under the Viksit Bharat

Yuva Connect Programme organized by the University of Jammu.

The students of GDC Doda showed excellent performance and strong determination by winning a total of 16 medals – 8 Gold, 3 Silver and 5 Bronze in various track and field events.

Their efforts brought great pride to the college and the district.

To honour their achievement, the team was felicitated by the Lieutenant Governor, Manoj Sinha during a grand ceremony held at Rajinder Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu.

More than 45 colleges from University of Jammu and Cluster University participated in the event. The success of GDC Doda is a big inspiration for the youth of Doda district and reflects the growing talent and potential of students in the region.

Know Dengue for no Dengue We can prevent ourselves from Dengue

DENGUE

- Dengue is a viral disease.
- It is transmitted by the bite of Aedes mosquito.
- Dengue Fever is a severe, flu-like illness.
- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever & Dengue Shock Syndrome are more severe forms of disease, which may cause death if not treated properly in time.

Dengue manifests in three forms:

- Classical Dengue fever (majority of cases are of this type and can be treated at home).
- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (severe type needs admission).
- Dengue Shock Syndrome (severe type needs admission).

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS

- Dengue Classical fever.**
 - High grade fever.
 - Pain behind the eyes which worsens with eye movement.
 - Muscle and joint pains.
 - Pain abdomen.
 - Frontal headache.
 - Rashes on the body.
 - Nausea and vomiting.
- Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever:**
 - Bleeding through Gums/nose
 - abdominal pain
 - blood in stools (black motion).
 - small hemorrhagic spots over skin
 - blood in vomiting
 - Low BP, shock
- Dengue Shock Syndrome:**
 - Cold clammy limbs,
 - feeble pulse
 - low B.P, shock
 - unconsciousness
 - If not treated timely and properly can lead to death.

PREVENTION

- Avoid water stagnation in & around the house.
- Empty water reservoirs regularly like storage utensils, air coolers, plant pots, drums, flower pots and bird baths etc. Destroy and dispose off junk items like old tyres, coconut shells, disposable glasses and used cold drink bottles etc.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Use mosquito repellents/ Anti mosquito creams.
- On leaving home, do not wear clothes that expose arms and legs.
- Use mosquito nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens for doors & windows to prevent entry of mosquitoes.
- Avoid sleeping on terrace to prevent mosquito bites.

Management

- On having symptoms of dengue go to the nearby health institution.
- The tests and treatment are available free of cost in Govt. Health Institutions. Rapid tests are not reliable and should be avoided, ELISA is the only confirmatory test.
- Don't go for self medication.
- For first aid for high grade fever in inaccessible areas and during odd hours you can use tablet Paracetamol and tepid sponging.
- Don't take pain killers and any other medicines without the consultation of Doctors.
- Most of the Dengue cases are mild and can be treated at home.
- Once the fever subsides, the patient needs to be more careful as this is "Lull before the Storm", The severe types of Dengue can develop after the fever is over. Consult doctor immediately in case of symptoms of severe type of Dengue. Patient can resume daily activities only after 2 weeks of onset of fever.
- Take adequate fluids like coconut water, lassi, fruit juices and ORS etc. Take fresh fruits & vegetables and adequate rest in case of symptoms of Dengue.

ISSUED IN PUBLIC INTEREST BY

STATE PROGRAMME OFFICER/STATE MALARIOLOGIST, J&K DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES, JAMMU

DIP/J-4259/25

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