

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 centre.

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous abdominal pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in vomit, urine or stool
- Restlessness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Centre releases Rs 17.19 cr old age pension to J&K in 5 years

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

The Government of India has released Rs 17.19 crore to Jammu and Kashmir under the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNO-APS) over the past five years, according to data presented in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Under the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), senior citizens aged 60-79 years receive a central pension of Rs 200 per month, while those aged 80 years and above get Rs 500 per month.

States and Union Territories are encouraged to provide an equivalent "top-up" so that beneficiaries receive around Rs 1,000 per month in most regions.

For Jammu & Kashmir, central allocations stood at Rs 2.28 crore in 2020-21, Rs 3.50 crore in 2021-22, Rs 1.92 crore in 2022-23, Rs 7.31 crore in 2023-24, and Rs 3.16 crore in 2024-25. The highest release was in 2023-24, while the lowest was in 2022-23.

Responding to a question on whether the Centre plans to increase the pension to Rs 1,000 for those aged 60-79 years and Rs 1,500 for those above 79 years, Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan said no such proposal is under consideration at present.

J&K reports 5 rabies deaths in 2024: Centre

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir recorded five human rabies deaths in 2024, up from four in 2023 and none in 2022, according to data tabled in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying, as per the news agency, said the deaths were linked to the stray dog menace, which has been rising across several states.

The Centre said municipalities are responsible for controlling stray dog populations under Article 243(W) of the Constitution and are implementing the Animal Birth Control (ABC) programme, which focuses on neutering and anti-rabies vaccination.

It said that in November 2024 and again in July 2025, the advisories were issued to all states and Union Territories, including Jammu and Kashmir, to ensure effective ABC implementation and to develop required infrastructure.

LG hands over appointment letters to 158 NoKs of terror victims



'We were forgotten, but not today': NoKs of terror victims moved to tears as LG Sinha hands over jobs

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

Tears, memories, and hope filled the air at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre

(SKICC) on Tuesday as the next of kin (NoKs) of terrorism victims opened up about their long years of suffering, survival and today, a sense of recognition.

The emotional outpouring came during an official ceremony where the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir, Manoj Sinha, handed over

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New J&K cleansing terror from within, healing victims: Sinha

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 5

Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha today handed over the appointment letters to 158 Next of Kins (NoKs) of Kashmiri Civilians killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

The families of terror victims narrated their traumatic experiences. They exposed the injustice perpetrated by

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Families of terror victims thank LG Sinha for job appointments

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

Families of terrorism victims from various parts of Jammu and Kashmir expressed their gratitude after receiving government job appointment letters from Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha

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29 years later, LG Sinha gave us justice, says Anantnag's Samena

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

For 22 years, Samena of Anantnag district carried a wound time could never heal, as the loss of her family members, who fell victim to a terrorist attack in the early 1990s.

She said decades passed in silence, with no justice, no support and no recognition. But on August 5, 2025, her tears carried a different meaning – tears of justice, gratitude, and hope.

"For the first time in 29 years, someone in power looked at us with compassion. Today, we felt heard. LG Manoj Sinha gave us justice, not sympathy," Samena said while speaking to the news agency, with moist eyes.

As she sat among dozens of families of terror victims during an official event in Srinagar, LG Sinha assured that justice will prevail. For Samena, those words felt like a long-awaited answer to years of unanswered prayers.

"Nobody ever came to ask how we survived all these years. But today, LG sahib stood before us and promised that justice would no longer be delayed. When he said appointments will be fulfilled, we cried. We truly cried,"



she said.

Over the years, Samena says her family struggled – financially, emotionally and mentally. "We were not just grieving; we were abandoned," she recalled. But this year's event, which marked six years since the abrogation of Article 370, brought something her family had never experienced before: dignity and closure.

"People used to ask us why we still talk about something that happened so long ago. But pain doesn't expire. For the first time, our pain was acknowledged. LG Sinha made us feel like we matter," she said.

She added, "LG Manoj Sinha has given us more than a job, he has restored our dignity, our faith and our place in this land."

Notably, LG Sinha shared

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'I was in UKG when my father was killed': Bijbehara girl thanks LG Sinha for appointment letter

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

For 16-year-old Soliha Javed from Bijbehara, August 05, 2025, will be etched in her memory not just as a date, but as the day justice finally knocked at her door after 12 long years of silence, pain and perseverance.

"I was in UKG when my father was killed in a terrorist attack," Soliha said, her voice steady but eyes welling with emotion.

"Now, I am in Class 10 and this is the first time I have felt that someone heard our cries," she said while speaking to the news agency.

Soliha said her father was killed in a terrorist attack more than a decade ago. Since then, her mother, a single parent, bore the burden of raising her daughter while knocking on every door for justice.

"My mother would hold my hand with one and the documents in the other," she said. The girl spoke of fighting every battle—legal, emotional and financial on her own. "Today, I saw relief on her face for the first



time," she added.

At the official event in Srinagar, where Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha handed over appointment letters to families of terror victims, Soliha said she felt overwhelmed with gratitude.

"This appointment letter is not just a paper; it is a reward for my mother's struggle and a recognition of my father's sacrifice," she said.

Soliha said she wants to focus on her studies now. "My father's dream was for me to become something in life. With this support, I can think of a future. I feel light, as if a heavy weight

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Flashflood havoc in Uttarakhand: houses buried, scores trapped and at least four killed



AGENCIES
UTTARAKHANDI (UTTARAKHANDI), AUG 5

Disaster swept through the Himalayan village of Dharali on Tuesday with a massive cloudburst leading to flashfloods that barreled through homes, trees and cars, trapping 60-70 people and leaving at least four dead.

Dharali is the main stopover on way to Gangotri on Tuesday with the Ganges, and home to many hotels, restaurants and home stays.

At least half the village was buried under the fast flowing mudslide of slush, rubble and water, officials said as rescue personnel battled the elements in the ecologically fragile

heights to contain the damage of the afternoon.

Contiguous buildings, including three and four-storey houses, fell like a pack of cards as the surging waters washed over them. The devastating flashflood came in the wake of a cloudburst somewhere in the catchment area of the Kheer Ganga river.

And Dharali was not the only hit.

The raging waters flowed down two different sides of the same hill, one towards Dharali and the other towards the village of Sukki, said state Disaster Management Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman.

The rain continued through the afternoon and till evening,

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Former Governor Satya Pal Malik passes away

PM, LS speaker condole demise

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

Jammu & Kashmir's former Governor Satya Pal Malik passed away on Tuesday at New Delhi.

79-year old Malik died at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital (RMLH) in New Delhi today after a prolonged illness.

In a statement issued to media, the RMLH said that Malik passed away today at 1:12 PM.

"It is with deep regret that we confirm the demise of Satyapal Malik who had been receiving intensive care at our facility. The patient had a longstanding history of diabetic kidney disease, hypertension, and other



chronic health issues including morbid obesity and obstructive sleep apnea," the hospital said, as per the news agency.

Malik was admitted in the hospital on May 11, 2025 with complicated urinary tract infection and subsequently developed refractory septic shock secondary to urinary tract infection,

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Rs 13.12 Crore MGNREGS wages pending in J&K: GoI

JIN NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, AUG 05 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir has pending wage liabilities of Rs 13.12 crore under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) as of July 30, 2025, the Ministry of Rural Development informed the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

Minister of State for Rural Development Kamlesh Paswan, in a written reply, said the pending amount pertains to the

current financial year and that 100% of wage liabilities from 2024-25 have already been cleared. "Wage payments are credited directly to workers' bank accounts through the Aadhaar-based Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) system," he said.

As per the news agency, Paswan clarified that job cards under MGNREGS are not deleted due to Aadhaar-bank account linking failures.

However, he said the ministry issued a Stan-

dard Operating Procedure (SOP) in January 2025 to guide states and Union Territories on deleting or restoring job cards. The SOP requires Gram Sabha verification, public display of draft deletion lists, a grievance redressal mechanism and settlement of pending dues before any cancellation.

The Minister added that PMGSY fund releases are a continuous process, with daily sanctions issued through the

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J&K's GeM procurement share drops to 0.4%

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUG 05 (KNO)

Jammu and Kashmir's share in total procurement through the Government e-Marketplace (GeM) has seen a consistent decline over the last five financial years, falling to just 0.40% in 2024-25, according to data provided in the Lok Sabha by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry on Monday.

In 2020-21, J&K accounted for 2.29% of the total procurement on GeM. This figure dropped to 1.41% in 2021-22, then

further to 1.06% in 2022-23 and 0.57% in 2023-24 before reaching its current low of 0.40%.

Despite the decline in procurement share, seller participation in Jammu and Kashmir remains strong. The number of new sellers and service providers from the Union Territory onboarded on GeM in 2024-25 was 4,455, while 746 new buyers joined the platform during the same period. In comparison, 6,318 new sellers joined in 2020-21, followed by 6,132 in 2021-22, 5,146 in 2022-23, and

4,852 in 2023-24, the data. A copy of which lies with the news agency, reads.

The number of new buyer registrations, though lower than seller registrations, showed fluctuating trends, with 3,159 new buyers in 2020-21, 4,369 in 2021-22, 2,178 in 2022-23, and 1,211 in 2023-24, it added.

Responding to the parliamentary question, Minister of State for Commerce and Industry, Jitin Prasada, said the total procurement value through GeM across India since inception has

reached Rs 14.77 lakh crore.

The platform's usage by central government entities has significantly increased over time—from 54.5% in 2020-21 to 88.8% in 2024-25—while the share of State and UT procurement has dropped.

The government has also introduced several technological upgrades to improve the platform's efficiency and has been encouraging Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to join GeM to promote inclusive economic participation.

Har Ghar Tiranga campaign sees vibrant celebrations across Ramban

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, AUGUST 05

As part of the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, the District Administration Ramban, led by Deputy Commissioner Mohamad Alyas Khan, today organised a series of events to inspire patriotism and public engagement.

Departments across the district held Tiranga Rangoli competitions in schools, colleges and public areas. Students used tricolour themes and organic materials to create artistic displays, turning



institutions into vibrant hubs of celebration.

Rakhi-making competitions, Tiranga rallies,

painting contests and awareness drives on cleanliness, water conservation and hygiene were also organised at Block, Tehsil and Sub-Division levels.

Students performed patriotic songs and skits, promoting unity and national pride. Youth participants urged families and neighbours to hoist the National Flag at their homes.

The celebrations will continue across Ramban in the lead-up to Independence Day, strengthening community participation and the spirit of patriotism.

SvaNidhi Se Samridhi: Awareness camp held for street vendors at Shopian

JNEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, AUGUST 05

In order to acquaint street vendors and their families about various welfare and social security schemes, Municipal Council Shopian today organized an awareness camp for them at Government Degree College (GDC) Shopian.

The camp was presided over by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta, and attended by officers of departments along with scores of street vendors, traders and representatives of various market & business bodies of the Shopian town.

Speaking on the occasion, DC stressed that waste generation must be properly segregated and asked street vendors to act as responsible citizens by adhering to the



good market and business values.

He also asked them to keep bins with their carts for waste collection. Water and land resources must be preserved for future generations, said DC while deploring the practice of some traders who throw waste in water bodies and in open areas of the town.

Gupta informed them about the upcoming dedication of Vending Zone

in the town for the allotment of street vendors and called for their cooperation in mitigating the traffic concerns in the town.

Earlier, CEO, MC Shopian gave a brief about the progress of PM SvaNidhi. Out of a total of 234 registered vendors in the town, 221 vendors have taken benefits till date under the scheme.

He informed them about the Helpline and Facilitation Centre in place in the office at MC Shopian and called upon them to approach the centre for availing the financial assistance under any scheme.

He also presented the eligibility and benefits of various important schemes of the Government available for the street vendors including social security schemes of PMJJBY, PMSBY, labour

welfare and social welfare besides other financial security schemes.

Green Bin for wet waste and Blue Bin for dry waste along with stopping the usage of polythene & other harmful products of environmental pollution was emphasized, so was the usage of biodegradables like paper, cloth and jute bags.

LDM, J&K Bank also highlighted the key benefits of Atal Pension Yojana scheme guaranteeing monthly pension after the age of 60 with a meagre monthly premium.

Street Vendors were also exhorted to ensure cent percent Digital onboarding & Digital payments in their business transactions and advised to conduct transactions sustainably and transparently within market norms.

Swift action in Rajouri after social media complaint of traffic violation

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, AUGUST 05

The District Administration Rajouri swiftly responded to a public complaint received via social media regarding traffic violations by a vehicle bearing registration number JK02AW-2065.

Acting on the directions of Deputy Commissioner



Rajouri Abhishek Sharma, Gupta seized the vehicle. The ARTO also recom-

mended the suspension of the driver's licence for three months.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's zero-tolerance policy towards traffic violations and stressed the importance of road safety. He appealed to citizens to follow traffic rules to protect lives and property.

DC Poonch reviews Change of Land Use (CLU) cases

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, AUGUST 05

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, today chaired a meeting to review the status of various Change of Land Use (CLU) cases in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner conducted a detailed assessment of the performance of concerned departments in processing CLU applications. A total of 12 cases were taken up



for review. Of these, eight cases were reverted while four cases were deferred after extensive deliberations on their compliance

with existing norms and policies.

Stressing the importance of timely issuance of No Objection Certificates

(NOCs), the DC directed the concerned officers to ensure thorough documentation verification and strict adherence to policy guidelines. He emphasised the need to streamline the CLU approval process to enhance transparency and efficiency in future cases.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Chief Agriculture Officer, CEO PDA, officers from BRO and Executive Engineers from PWD, JPDCL, I&FC, along with other concerned officials.

ADC Udhampur approves 5 cases under Change of Land Use

JNEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 05

A meeting of the District Level Committee on Change of Land Use was held today under the chairpersonship of Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh, here at Mini Conference Hall DC Office Complex Udhampur.

The Committee reviewed



15 applications submitted online and after due deliberation, 5 cases were approved.

The ADC emphasised the need for timely communication of deficiencies to applicants. He directed the

concerned officers to issue No Objection Certificates only after thorough verification of documents. He further instructed the officers to conduct joint site visits and verify geo-coordinates before granting approvals.

Among others, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr. Umesh Shan and other officers attended the meeting.

Sakeena Ito reviews functioning of Health, Social Welfare, Education departments in Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, AUGUST 05

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Ito, today chaired a meeting to review the performance and functioning of Health, Social Welfare and Education departments in Poonch district.

The meeting was attended by MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; MLA Surankote, Choudhary Mohammad Akram; Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal; Director Social Welfare Jammu, Director School Education Jammu, Director Health Services Jammu, Director Colleges, Medical Superintendent District Hospital Poonch besides other district and sectoral officers.

While reviewing the functioning of education sector, the Minister had in-depth assessment of ongoing works on under construction buildings. She directed the concerned executing agencies to complete the projects in time so that they can be dedicated for public use at the earliest.

The Minister further directed the Director School Education to prioritize deployment of subject-specific teachers and rationalization of staff,



particularly in border zones and far-flung hamlets. She also emphasized the periodic teacher training, strengthening School Management Committees (SMCs) and community involvement in ensuring quality education.

"Education is the foundation for every society and the government is investing both human and infrastructural resources to give children a bright future they deserve", she stated.

Regarding health sector, the Minister sought details of all ongoing projects as well as staff position in healthcare institutions of the district. She directed the Director Health services Jammu to cancel the attachment of all doctors and send them to their original place of postings immediately. She further called for deployment of doctors to other remote areas once a week or as per need to provide basic health care services to the public at their doorsteps.

"A healthy society forms the backbone of a progressive region. People living

in rural and border areas deserve equitable access to quality healthcare", the Minister asserted.

She also asked the healthcare department to minimise the referral of the patients to higher institutions.

While reviewing implementation of various social sector schemes in the district, the Minister emphasized the need for transparency in selection of beneficiaries. She directed the officers to organize more awareness camps in rural and tribal areas to ensure that deserving populations are not left out due to lack of information and awareness.

"Social welfare must translate into real impact. It's not just about disbursement but also about dignity and empowerment of the most vulnerable sections of the society", she said.

During the meeting, MLA Haveli and MLA Surankote raised various issues of their concerned constituencies, seeking their immediate redressal.

The Minister assured them these concerns will be addressed promptly.

Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, briefed the Minister about the performance and functioning of each department through presentation.

He informed the Minister about the enrolments, cadre-wise strength of teaching faculty, infrastructure development, school upgradation and other key school developmental projects, healthcare infrastructure, status of ambulances, work done report and healthcare services being provided to the patient's across the district.

He also briefed the Minister about the services being provided by the social welfare department like old age, widow and PHC pension schemes, state marriage assistance scheme, motorised tricycle scheme, functioning of child care institutions and child protection, one stop centres, District hub for women empowerment and other related aspects.

DFCO cancels sale licenses of 8 pharmacies, suspends operations of 75 retail sale establishments

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 05

In a significant move to ensure the public safety and curb the misuse of pharmaceutical drugs, the government of Jammu & Kashmir has launched a special enforcement drive across Jammu and Kashmir, targeting the pharmacies and drug outlets for compliance with legal and regulatory standards.

During the drive, the officers of Drug & Food Control Organization (DFCO) carried out surprise inspections at various locations across the districts of Jammu & Kashmir. The objective of the initiative is to identify the pharmacies operating in violation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940

and to strengthen the mechanisms preventing the unauthorised sale of psychotropic substances and prescription drugs.

Pertinently, the inspection teams cancelled the Drugs Sale Licenses of eight pharmacies for non-maintenance of sale records of habit forming drugs and not adopting the computerized system of billing for maintenance of sales records. These included M/s Aatir Enterprises Ganjwara Anantnag, M/s Al-Mehdi Medicate, M/s Shehjar Pharmacy Budgam, M/s Medicity Pharmacy, Chadoora,, M/s New Bhat Medicate Chadoora, M/s Dar Medicate Qazipora, Chadoora, Budgam, M/S Pharma Plus Medicare Near Zara Diagnostic Lab Kheora Rajouri

and M/s Happy Saini Medical Hall, Haria Chak, Marheem.

Besides, the operations of seventy five retail sale establishments were disallowed on the spot under section 22 (d) of Drugs & Cosmetics Act, 1940 on spot for non maintenance of sale records, impersonation and improper storage conditions. These included 9 each in Jammu, Rajouri and Anantnag; 6 each in Kupwara and Budgam districts; 5 each in Udhampur and Kulgam; 4 in Pulwama, 3 each in Kathua, Samba, Ramban, Doda, Baramulla and Shopian districts; 2 in Poonch district, 1 each in Kathua, Ramban, Reasi, Kishtwar, Srinagar and Ganderbal.

Likewise, the statutory drug samples of more than

500 formulations of various categories were lifted randomly for determination of strength and purity. These samples were referred to the Drug Testing Laboratories located within J&K for framing of legal opinion to ascertain their quality parameters.

Besides, stocks of drugs worth Rs 8,40,348, found to be contravening the provisions of the D&C Act, have also been confiscated from the supply chain by the Regulatory Officers of the organization under section 23 of the Drugs & Cosmetics Act.

Lotika Khajuria, State Drugs Controller, J&K has once again impressed upon the trade fraternity to follow the conditions of licenses in letter and spirit.

GDC Ramkote organises intra-college National Anthem singing and painting competition

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, AUGUST 05

As part of the series of activities being organised to celebrate Independence Day, the NSS Unit of Government Degree College Ramkote today conducted an intra-college National Anthem singing competition.

The event was held under the guidance of the college Principal, Dr Rakesh Kumar Koul. A total of 13 students from BA Semesters I, III and V participated, showcasing their talent in singing.

The panel of judges comprised Prof Pankaj Nandan, IQAC Convener, and Prof Suresh Chander, Convener Cultural Committee. Participants performed



renditions of the National Anthem with enthusiasm and were judged on confidence, pronunciation and intonation.

Tania Sharma of BA Semester III secured the first position, followed by Monika Devi of BA Semester V and Kriti Devi of BA Semester III in second and third positions respectively.

An intra-college paint-

ing competition was also organised on the theme 'Portraits of Unsung Heroes of Indian Independence'. Students used the opportunity to artistically honour those whose contributions to the freedom struggle remain less recognised.

The painting competition was adjudged by Prof Pankaj Nandan and Prof Vasundra Raje. Taniya Sharma of BA Semester

V bagged first position, Meenakshi Sharma of BA Semester III secured second, and Latasha Sharma of BA Semester V placed third.

The event provided a platform for students to express their creativity while reflecting on India's freedom struggle and the significance of Independence.

Athletic Meet for AAG Girls inaugurated at Chowgan Ground Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, AUGUST 05

The Youth Services & Sports Department Kishtwar today inaugurated an Athletic Meet for AAG Girls at Chowgan Ground, with participation from all zones of the district.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer Jaffer Haider Sheikh inaugurated the



event as Chief Guest, joined by Zonal Physical Education Officers and other dignitaries. In his address,

DYSSO highlighted the department's commitment to promoting fitness and sports among young girls. The meet featured track and field events showcasing energy, discipline and competitive spirit.

A prize distribution ceremony followed, where winners were felicitated and encouraged to continue excelling in sports.

GCW Udhampur hosts National Anthem singing competition to mark I-Day

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 05

As part of the ongoing Independence Day 2025 celebrations, the Music Department of Government College for Women, Udhampur organised an Inter-College National Anthem Singing Competition in solo and group categories.

The event was held under the supervision of Principal Dr. Nalini Pathania.

HoD Chemistry Dr. Indu Khajuria appreci-



ated the Music Department's efforts in organising the competition and emphasised its significance in fostering patriotism among students.

Students from various departments of the college participated in the event.

In the solo category, Mehak Devi (Semester

5) secured the first position, while Shruti Gupta and Taniya (Semester 5) won second and third positions respectively. Consolation certificates were awarded to Sonali Devi and Ashu Sambyal, both from Semester 5.

In the group category, Shruti Gupta, Mehak and Sapna Devi (Semester

5) secured first place. Taniya, Surbhi Sharma and Kavita came second, while Sonali Devi, Preeti Devi and Luxmi Devi won third place.

Earlier, Assistant Professor Dr. Sanjay Kumar, HoD Music, presented an overview of departmental activities held on national occasions.

The jury for the competition included Associate Professor Dr. Mool Raj (HoD Urdu), Assistant Professor Dr. Sanjay Kumar (HoD Music) and Assistant Professor Dr. Mukteshi Sharma.

DC Rajouri reviews arrangements for I-Day 2025 and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, AUGUST 05

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting at Dak Bungalow Rajouri to review preparedness for Independence Day 2025 celebrations and the Har Ghar Tiranga campaign across the district.

The Deputy Commissioner issued directions to all concerned departments for timely and coordinated execution of responsibilities. He instructed the PWD to carry out ground levelling at the main venue, ensure matting arrangements for student performances and erect barricades for crowd control. A joint inspection of the venue by the PWD, Police and PHE departments was also directed to address all logistical and



safety requirements.

He emphasised the importance of scrutinising proposed cultural performances to ensure they are respectful and inclusive, without offending sentiments of any religion, caste or community.

Committees including the Invitation Committee and Reception Committee were constituted to manage various aspects of the event and guest protocol.

Preparations being undertaken by ADCs and SDMs in their respective jurisdictions were also

reviewed, with instructions to ensure similar arrangements at the sub-divisional level.

The Har Ghar Tiranga campaign will be conducted in three distinct phases across the district. The DC directed all stakeholders to facilitate the mass hoisting of the Tricolour and illuminate towns, bridges and key marketplaces in the national colours. He also instructed that Tiranga rallies be organised at prominent locations to inspire patriotic fervour and public participation.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kalakote Tanvir Ahmed, ADC Kotranka Dilmir Chowdhary, ADC Rajouri Chander Prakash, ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, SE PWD Tilak Raj, ACR Rajouri Mohd Jahangir Khan, SDM Thanamandi Abid Husain, ADC Additional SP Rajouri Bikram Kumar, ACD Auqil Naveed, Executive Engineer PDD Abdul Rasheed and representatives from the Army, CRPF, BRO and other district and sectoral officers.

Several legislators call on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, raise issues concerning development

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, AUGUST 05

Several Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) today called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at Civil Secretariat, Srinagar, to discuss a range of public concerns and development issues of their respective constituencies.

The legislators who met the Chief Minister included Ali Mohammad Dar (Chadoora), Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani (Beerwah), Saifuddin Bhat (Khan Sahib) and Javed Iqbal Choudhary (Budhal).

During the meeting, the MLAs brought to the Chief Minister's attention various constituency-specific issues relating to infrastructure development, public service delivery and implementation of welfare schemes. They urged for swift redressal of pressing public demands to ensure timely benefits reach the



people.

The MLAs further urged the Chief Minister to take necessary measures for early opening of tourist destinations of Tosamaidan and Doodhpathri in Budgam district, as the livelihoods of the local population depend on these areas.

The legislators also expressed their gratitude to the Chief Minister for

recently extending the power amnesty scheme to electricity consumers across Jammu and Kashmir. They lauded the initiative as a significant step towards providing relief to thousands of households grappling with non-payment of timely power bills resulting in interest and penalty on principal amount and making it difficult for them to clear the

payments.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah assured the legislators that the government remains committed to addressing the genuine concerns of the people and emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts between the administration and elected representatives for inclusive development.

140 Assistive devices distributed among CWSN students at Shopian

JI NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, AUGUST 05

Education department Shopian under the aegis of Samagra Shiksha today organized a distribution camp for Children with Special Needs (CWSN) at Government Higher Secondary School Imamsahib, Shopian.

The event aimed at providing aids and appliances to specially-abled students to promote inclusive education and enable their seamless integration into mainstream classrooms.

Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) Zainapora, Showkat Hussain Ganie was present at the event. Principal HSS Imamsahib, Mushtaq Ahmad, other dignitaries, officials, and education stakeholders were also present.

A team of experts from ALIMCO, along with Special Education Teachers under Samagra Shiksha, distributed aids and appliances and provided hands-on training to children on their usage, thereby empow-



ering them with tools for better mobility and participation in regular educational activities.

In his address, MLA Zainapora lauded the efforts of the education department and all stakeholders for organizing the event while also commending the parents of specially-

abled children for their dedication. He emphasized the empowerment of differently-abled students through education.

Speaking on the occasion, Principal HSS Imamsahib appreciated the parents for their unwavering support towards the education of their specially-

abled wards. He highlighted the significance of such camps in complementing the efforts toward creating a disability-friendly infrastructure in schools, including accessible toilets, ramps, and other essential facilities that foster an inclusive learning environment.

The camp served as a meaningful step toward achieving the vision of inclu-

sive education under Samagra Shiksha and was well-received by the community and participating families.

More than 140 assistive devices were distributed among CWSN by the department in two camps covering all four education zones.

Arrangements for 3-day Sankri Devta Mela and Kailash Kund Yatra reviewed in Udhampur

JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 05

Arrangements for the upcoming Kailash Kund Yatra and the three-day historic Baba Sankri Devta Mela, scheduled to commence on AUGUST 19 in Meer village, Block Panchari, were reviewed in a meeting held today.

The meeting, chaired by Additional Deputy Commissioner Udhampur Prem Singh at the DC Office Com-

plex, was attended by DDC Member Jasvir Singh, ACR Dr Umesh Shan, senior officers and mela committee members.

Detailed discussions were held on security, sanitation, healthcare, transport, traffic management, water and power supply, and price monitoring.

ADC Prem Singh stressed early coordination among all departments and encouraged mela committee members to

participate actively. Executive Engineers of Jal Shakti and JPDCCL were directed to ensure drinking water and uninterrupted power supply. The PMGSY Executive Engineer was assigned road maintenance.

The Chief Medical Officer was instructed to deploy a medical team and ambulance. The District Youth Services and Sports Officer was tasked with organising sports events during the mela.

District Police will deploy sufficient personnel and ARTO will provide bus services from various locations. Government departments will set up awareness stalls for public outreach.

Tehsildar Panchari has been designated as the Mela Officer, while the Legal Metrology Department will monitor rates and consumable quality in coordination with other departments.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

It is notified for the information of Rail Passengers that Railways have decided to provide stoppage of following Express Trains as per details given below:-

Train No. & Train Name	Stations	Timings		With Effect From
		Arr.	Dep.	
13005 Howrah - Amritsar Mail Express	Bhadaura	05:45	05:47	07.08.25
13006 Amritsar - Howrah Mail Express	Bhadaura	19:00	19:02	07.08.25
12435 Jaynagar - Anand Vihar (T) Garibrath Express	Gahmar	20:14	20:16	08.08.25
12436 Anand Vihar (T) - Jaynagar Garibrath Express	Gahmar	03:30	03:32	10.08.25
15623 Jodhpur - Kamakhya Express	Gahmar	00:35	00:37	14.08.25
15624 Kamakhya - Jodhpur Express	Gahmar	15:08	15:10	09.08.25
20801 Islampur-New Delhi Magadh Express	Gahmar	19:42	19:44	06.08.25
15652 Jammu Tawi - Guwahati Lohit Express	Akshaywat Rai Nagar	02:18	02:20	08.08.25
15933 New Tinsukia - Amritsar Express	Akshaywat Rai Nagar	14:06	14:08	13.08.25
15934 Amritsar - New Tinsukia Express	Akshaywat Rai Nagar	21:33	21:35	09.08.25
14005 Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar (T) Lichhvi Express	Awatar Nagar	06:31	06:33	07.08.25
14006 Anand Vihar - Sitamarhi (T) Lichhvi Express	Awatar Nagar	14:32	14:34	08.08.25
13019 Howrah - Kathgodam Bagh Express	Nayagaon	11:33	11:35	08.08.25
13020 Kathgodam - Howrah Bagh Express	Nayagaon	18:18	18:20	08.08.25
14005 Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar (T) Lichhvi Express	Nayagaon	06:07	06:09	07.08.25
14006 Anand Vihar - Sitamarhi (T) Lichhvi Express	Nayagaon	14:55	14:57	08.08.25
14005 Sitamarhi - Anand Vihar (T) Lichhvi Express	Parmanandpur	06:00	06:02	07.08.25
11123 Gwalior - Barauni Express	Sarai	08:28	08:30	08.08.25
11124 Barauni - Gwalior Express	Sarai	22:14	22:16	07.08.25
14523 Barauni - Ambala Harihar Express	Sarai	07:57	07:59	07.08.25
14524 Ambala - Barauni Harihar Express	Sarai	21:35	21:37	10.08.25
14007 Raxaul - Anand Vihar (T) Sadbhavana Express	Sonpur	04:55	04:57	09.08.25
14008 Anand Vihar (T) - Raxaul Sadbhavana Express	Sonpur	15:31	15:33	08.08.25
14017 Raxaul - Anand Vihar (T) Sadbhavana Express	Sonpur	04:55	04:57	09.08.25
14018 Anand Vihar (T) - Raxaul Sadbhavana Express	Sonpur	16:08	16:10	14.08.25
14649 Jaynagar - Amritsar Saryu Yamuna Express	Sonpur	12:55	12:57	08.08.25
14650 Amritsar - Jaynagar Saryu Yamuna Express	Sonpur	18:05	18:07	08.08.25
14673 Jaynagar - Amritsar Shaheed Express	Sonpur	12:55	12:57	07.08.25
15231 Barauni - Gondia Express	Sonpur	13:10	13:12	07.08.25
15715 Kishanganj - Ajmer Garib Nawaz Express	Sonpur	15:15	15:17	08.08.25
15716 Ajmer - Kishanganj Garib Nawaz Express	Sonpur	17:13	17:15	08.08.25
19053 Surat - Muzaffarpur Express	Sonpur	02:26	02:28	10.08.25
19054 Muzaffarpur - Surat Express	Sonpur	21:15	21:17	10.08.25

For any kind of information, passengers are requested to contact RailMadad Helpline No. 139 or visit Indian Railways website <https://enquiry.indianrail.gov.in> or NTES App.



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2386/2025

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG hands over...

Pakistan-sponsored terrorists and their sympathizers against their families.

The Lieutenant Governor paid his heartfelt tribute to civilian martyrs and saluted the courage and perseverance of families who have suffered from terrorism in Jammu Kashmir.

"Wounds that have persisted for decades are now being healed. Today's landmark event provided a sense of closure to the families who have silently suffered trauma for years.

For more than three decades, the terror state Pakistan is shedding innocent blood through its proxy terrorist outfits. Time did not erase the pain of loss. Invisible scars on their soul can be felt and the mute eyes are witness to many unfulfilled dreams.

The long wait for justice and for healing to begin is over for the terror victim families. They have come out to reveal the role of Pakistani terrorists and terror ecosystem that was operating in J&K," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor shared the tragic account of Abdul Majid Mir's family, whose lives were shattered on June 29, 2004. On that day, Abdul Majid, from Sheikh-pura, Baramulla, was kidnapped and brutally murdered by terrorists.

"Abdul Majid's family lost their sole breadwinner and received Rs 1 lakh as an ex-gratia payment under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) scheme. Despite Abdul Majid Mir's martyrdom, his family struggled to live a life of dignity. Today, by providing a government job to his son, Mudassir Majid, the administration has fulfilled its long-overdue responsibility.

After three decades of hardship, justice has finally been delivered to Suhail Majeed and his family. Today, Suhail, a resident of Anantnag, received an appointment letter for the government job. His father, Abdul Majeed Wani, was shot dead by Pakistan-backed terrorists on August 30, 1994. Justice has been finally delivered to the family after 31 years.

On February 24, 2000, SPO Manzoor Ahmad Rather, a resident of Warpora, Baramulla, was killed by Pakistan-backed terrorists. For 25 years, his family received no compensation. Today his son Khurshid Ahmad Rather has received an appointment letter. Traumatic period for the family is finally over.

For Parvez Ahmad Dar, the path to justice was painful. On July 6, 1996, terrorists killed his father, Ghulam Qadir Dar. On July 30, 2004, his brother, Aijaz Ahmad Dar, was also killed by terrorists. 29 years after his father's death, Parvez's nightmare is over," the Lieutenant Governor said.

He observed that the void in the lives of terror victims' families cannot be filled with financial assistance or jobs, but it will be ensured that these families can live with dignity.

"We will do everything possible for the rehabilitation of terror victims. It is my promise to the NoKs of terror victim families that perpetrators of heinous crime will receive exemplary punishment. We will also ensure the harshest possible punishment to terror sympathisers.

I assure the family members of civilian martyrs that I will not rest until every family that has been a victim of the terrorists' atrocities gets justice. I want to tell the loved ones of martyrs that the dreams of your father or your mother will now be fulfilled," the Lieutenant Governor said.

On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also spoke on the transformative journey of new Jammu Kashmir post abrogation of Article 370.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that, because of Article 370, terrorism had increased and the terror ecosystem was emboldened. He said, on 5 August 2019, the dismantling of terror ecosystem had begun.

"On 5 August 2019, a new Jammu Kashmir was born. A new Jammu Kashmir that had dreams of a golden future in its eyes. A new Jammu Kashmir, which treated all its citizens as equal and removed discrimination that was prevalent for seven decades.

People ask me what is new Jammu Kashmir. I want to tell them that the new Jammu Kashmir is one where jobs are not given to terrorists but to the real martyrs of this UT. The new Jammu Kashmir is one where tears are not shed on the death of terrorists but the tears of common Kashmiris are wiped away.

The new Jammu and Kashmir is one where the terrorist elements sitting in the government system are being cleaned out one by one and the decades-old wounds of terror victim families are being healed.

The new Jammu Kashmir is one where common Kashmiris are being embraced and not the separatists. The new Jammu Kashmir is one where children have pens in their hands and not stones," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor called upon every section of the society to rise against terrorism.

"Under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, India has drawn a new redline against terrorism and equal punishment will be given to terrorists and their sponsors. India has made it clear that if terror is state policy, it will be met with a visible and forceful response.

Peace is a prerequisite for progress. There is no place for terrorism in a civilized society. Many generations of J&K have suffered the brunt of terrorism perpetrated by the neighbouring country. Every person has to take a pledge that they will not allow this to happen again," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor also commended the Administrative and Police officials for addressing the issues and grievances of Terror victim families with utmost sensitivity and sincerity.

Following the historic events on July 13th in Baramulla and July 28th in Jammu, today's event marks another milestone. It reaffirms the commitment of the Government of India and the J&K Administration, to deliver justice to victims of terrorism. Today, a total of 158 Next of Kin (NoKs) of terror victim families received their appointment letters from the Lieutenant Governor in Srinagar. The remaining will soon be handed over the appointment letters at their respective district headquarters. This process will continue till every genuine case is settled.

J&K Administration has developed a web portal to streamline and expedite the process of providing relief,

compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from terrorism in the UT. Helplines have also been established at District and Divisional Level.

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo; DGP, Nalin Prabhat; Principal Secretary Home, Chandraker Bharti; Commissioner Secretary GAD, M Raju; Divisional Commissioner, Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri; VK Birdi, IGP Kashmir; Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Akshay Labroo; SSP Srinagar, Dr. G.V.Sundeeep Chakravarthy, senior administrative and police officials and family members of victims of terrorism were present.

'We were forgotten...

government job appointment letters to the affected families.

The event, as per the news agency, held on the anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, saw more than 150 families in attendance.

At SKICC, beyond the ceremonial moment, it was the voices of the victims' children, some orphaned in infancy that captured the pain of Kashmir's prolonged conflict.

Junaid Ahmad from Anantnag, who lost his father when he was just two years old, shared how his life spiraled after his mother also passed away a decade later.

"My sister had to marry at 15. We were completely alone. I walked from pillar to post, but no one ever helped. Even our relatives turned their backs," he said, adding, "I used to think of ending my life. But today, holding this letter in my hand, I feel seen for the first time. I have nothing but prayers for LG Manoj Sinha."

"Tears rolled down as I held the letter"

Yasmeen Bano from Baramulla was too choked with emotion to speak much.

"When my father was killed, my mother raised me alone. Today, I just couldn't stop my tears while receiving the appointment letter. I'm overwhelmed," she said softly.

Bisma, from Qazigund (Anantnag), another NoK, was not even born when her father was killed. Her entire childhood was shaped by her mother's sacrifices.

"My mother worked in homes with one hand and held me in the other. No one helped us. But today, this man—LG Sinha, came to us like an angel. I have no words, only gratitude and tears," she said.

Junaid Ali Malla, who lost his policeman father to a terrorist attack, said he was three when the tragedy struck. "No one helped us. I had to build everything on my own. But I always told my mother that my father's sacrifice won't go in vain. Today, I feel proud, and this letter proves his sacrifice mattered."

Anju Riyaz, another victim who was just six months old when her father was killed, recalled being thrown out by her paternal family. "We lived in my maternal home. My mother made me what I am. We were never helped, not even once. But today, this letter brought us a moment of peace we never had," she said.

On Tuesday, a total of 158 appointment letters were distributed by LG Sinha himself to victims and their family members from north, south and central Kashmir.

Families of terror...

at an event held at SKICC Srinagar on Tuesday.

As per the details available with the news agency, the event was attended by more than 150 affected families, and a total of 158 appointment letters were handed over to the next of kin of those who lost their lives in terror-related incidents.

The details say, beneficiaries included people from north, south and central Kashmir.

Many of the recipients became emotional as they recalled their difficult journeys and years of struggle following the loss of their loved ones.

Muzaffar Ahmad Sheikh from Anantnag said that after losing his father, life became a constant battle. "We were left alone with no one to help us. Today, this job letter gives me hope and recognition," he said.

Suhail Majeed Wani also shared his experience, saying the day brought back many painful memories but also a sense of relief. "This means a lot to us. We were not remembered for years, but today the administration stood by us," he said.

From Srinagar, Amir Khan said that the gesture by LG Sinha has given him a reason to feel hopeful. "This has come after years of silence. It is a step that gives meaning to my father's sacrifice," he added.

Similarly, many other beneficiaries present at the event also thanked the administration and said that the opportunity will help them build a stable future.

Flashflood havoc in...

hampering rescue efforts.

Besides, landslides blocked 163 roads, including five national highways, seven state highways and two border roads across the state, further impeding rescue and preventing personnel from getting to the far-flung area, about 140 km from the state capital Dehradun and usually a five-hour drive.

An army team from the nearest location of Harsil was immediately rushed to the spot to launch rescue operations but teams from other places found it difficult to reach due to bad weather and disrupted roads, Suman said.

According to initial reports, at least four people have died, Uttarkashi District Magistrate Prashant Arya told reporters in Dehradun before rushing to the spot.

There was no official confirmation on the number of people who went missing after the flashflood but it is likely to be high as the sudden rush of floodwaters gave people no time to run towards safety.

Uttarakhand Principal Secretary R K Sudhanshu said 40 to 50 buildings are damaged. He added that helicopters could not be pressed into service either because of bad weather.

As darkness fell, announcements were made asking people to move to safer ground.

Locals said a large portion of the Dharali market was washed away.

Rajesh Panwar, an eyewitness to the horror of nature's relentless fury, told PTI that about 20-25 hotels and homestays may have been washed away.

A 16-member Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) team

reached Dharali from its 12th battalion stationed at Matli in Uttarakhand while another unit of the same strength was also asked to rush to the disaster site, officials said.

The team of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is yet to reach the area.

There was widespread panic in the neighbouring villages following the flashflood.

Videos from the area showed a torrent of muddy water and silt tearing through the slopes towards settlements along the banks of the river. People could be heard screaming in fear.

In one video, people can be heard in the video gasping for breath and trying to call their relatives in affected areas to find out if they were alright.

A voice is heard in the video saying, "Everything is finished." In another, a man is seen trying to walk through the slushy waters but being unable to.

No stone is being left unturned in providing assistance to the people, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said in a post on X.

"I express my condolences to the people affected by this tragedy in Dharali, Uttarkashi. Along with this, I pray for the well-being of all the victims. I have spoken to Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami ji and obtained information about the situation. Under the supervision of the state government, relief and rescue teams are engaged in every possible effort," he said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah also spoke to Dhami and ordered the dispatch of seven rescue teams to assist the affected people.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh added that the Centre and the state government are working in tandem, taking all possible measures to save precious lives.

"Have been seeing disturbing visuals from Uttarkashi (Uttarakhand) on the devastation caused by flash floods. Praying for the well-being of the people affected by the tragedy...," he wrote on X.

Beds have been kept ready at AIIMS, Rishikesh and ambulances rushed to Dharali.

Dhami, who happened to be in Andhra Pradesh, cancelled his trip to return to Dehradun. He said he is constantly in touch with senior officials and the situation is being closely monitored.

"The news of heavy losses due to cloudburst in Dharali (Uttarkashi) area is extremely sad and painful. SDRF, NDRF, district administration and other related teams are engaged on war footing in relief and rescue operations," he said in a post on X.

Tomorrow might not bring much relief either. The Meteorological department has put out an orange alert for heavy rain for seven districts, including Nainital, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar, Bageshwar, Pauri Tehri, Haridwar and Dehradun.

Cloudbursts are counted as among the most devastating natural disasters in the Indian Himalayas, causing an enormous amount of rainfall across a limited area within an extremely short span of time.

According to the India Meteorological Department, rain falling at a rate of over 100 millimetres an hour with strong winds and lightning across 20-30 square kilometres of area is termed a cloudburst.

The Indian Himalayas are considered vulnerable to unusual and extreme weather events, including cloudbursts, extreme precipitation, flash floods, and avalanches, the risk of all of which is said to increase as climate change intensifies.

Occurrence of extreme weather events is frequent for locations at elevation 1,000-2,000 metres, "which are densely populated valley folds of the Himalayas", according to a 2023 paper by researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu, and National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee. Uttarkashi is located at about 1,160 metres above sea level.

Cloudburst events per unit area are "very high in Uttarakhand", compared to other regions in the Indian Himalayas, with recent events being more severe and impacting more communities, it said.

Researchers have called for concrete policies, planning and management of cloudburst events by national and global organisations.

29 years later, LG...

that wounds which have persisted for decades are now being healed. He said today's landmark event provided a sense of closure to the families who have silently suffered trauma for years.

'I was in UKG when...

has been lifted from our shoulders," she added.

Moreover, Soliha expressed deep gratitude to the LG Manoj Sinha administration: "We are very happy and thankful to LG Sahab. He didn't just announce something, but he gave us justice but something we have waited for all these years."

Notably, LG Sinha said the long wait for justice and for healing to begin is over for the terror victim families. "We will do everything possible for the rehabilitation of terror victims. It is my promise to the NoKs of terror victim families that perpetrators of heinous crimes will receive exemplary punishment. We will also ensure the harshest possible punishment to terror sympathisers," he said.

Former Governor...

hospital acquired pneumonia and multi-organ dysfunction.

"Despite all appropriate and aggressive medical interventions including multiple antibiotics and two CytoSorb sessions, including ventilator support and critical care management, his condition continued to deteriorate. He also developed disseminated intravascular coagulation (DIC) and acute kidney injury on chronic kidney disease needing multiple hemodialysis sessions," the RML said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has condoled the demise of Malik. "Saddened by the passing away of Shri Satyapal Malik Ji. My thoughts are with his family and supporters in this hour of grief. Om Shanti," the PM said in a post on X.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla also expressed grief over the death. "The passing of Shri Satya Pal Malik Ji, former Governor and member of the 9th Lok Sabha, is extremely sorrowful. I pray to God to grant peace to the

Central University of Jammu records Approx. 90% PG Admissions for 2025 Academic Session

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 5

The Central University of Jammu has successfully recorded approximately 90% admissions to its Postgraduate (PG) programs for the 2025 academic session.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain expressed satisfaction over the encouraging response to the PG programs this year. He highlighted the University's strong commitment to academic excellence, inclusive education, and fostering a vibrant learning environment—key factors that continue to attract students from across the country.

Prof. Jain also extended his gratitude to all stakeholders who have shown trust in the Central University of Jammu for its robust academic and research credentials.

He further noted that today, during the document verification process, the University witnessed an overwhelming response from students, reflecting their enthusiasm and eagerness to join the institution.

Currently, the Central University of Jammu is offering 20 Postgraduate programs across various disciplines. The University administration extended heartfelt thanks to all stakeholders, faculty, and staff for their efforts in ensuring a smooth, transparent, and efficient admission process.

Shiv Sena condoles death of Satyapal Malik

JNEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, AUG 5

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu and Kashmir unit chief Manish Sahni expressed deep condolences on the death of former Jammu and Kashmir Governor Satyapal Malik. Sahni said that Satyapal Malik was the 10th and last Governor of Jammu and Kashmir. He was in the post of Governor at the time of repeal of Article 370 and removal of special status from Jammu and Kashmir on 5 August 2019. Sahni said that with the formation of Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, he was appointed as the Governor of Goa and exactly 6 years later today he left the world. He always became the voice of farmers and the poor and walked on the path of truth. He expressed his opinion frankly on agricultural movement, corruption and many national issues.

BJP holds organizational meeting in Akhnoor to Plan Tiranga Yatras across District

JNEWS SERVICE

AKHNOOR, AUG 5

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma chaired an important organizational meeting of the BJP's Akhnoor District Unit at Akhnoor today. The meeting was focused on planning and mobilizing Tiranga Yatras across the district in connection with the upcoming Independence Day celebrations.

The meeting was attended by DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh, BJP District Prabhari Brijeshwar Rana, and District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma, along with District team, Mandal Presidents, General Secretaries, and key activists.

Addressing the meeting, Sat Sharma said that the Tiranga Yatras are not just symbolic events; they are mass mobilizations that inspire patriotism and reinforce the commitment to national unity. Every booth, village, and ward should echo with the spirit of the tricolor.

departed soul and strength to the grieving family and supporters," Birla said in a post on X.

Malik became MLA from Baghapat assembly seat of Uttar Pradesh in 1974. He was elected to Rajya Sabha in 1980 and 1986 respectively on Lok Dal and Congress tickets.

In 1989 Malik won Lok Sabha polls and also served as Union Minister of state for Tourism and Parliamentary Affairs for a brief period

In 2004 Malik joined BJP. In October 2017, he was appointed as Governor of Bihar. A year later, in August 2018, he was shifted to J&K as Governor.

In November 2018, Malik dissolved J&K Assembly after rival claims were made for forming a government in the then state.

Malik cited reports of "horse trading" and "impossibility of forming a stable government by the coming together of political parties with opposing political ideologies". "The best course of action is to dissolve the assembly so as to provide stability and security to the state and hold elections at an appropriate time so that a government with a clear mandate is duly formed," Malik had said.

As Governor of J&K, Malik conducted Panchayat and Municipal polls in 2018.

Malik was Governor of J&K when Union Government abrogated Article 370 and bifurcated J&K into two Union Territories.

Two months after scrapping of J&K's special status, Malik was shifted to Goa. After his run-ins with the state government there, Malik was shifted to Meghalaya where he served as Governor till October 03, 2022.

Rs 13.12 Crore MGNREGS...

Public Finance Management System (PFMS) after due process.

He said the government remains committed to ensuring timely wage payments and addressing any delays reported by states or other stakeholders.

Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Ghar Swachhata campaign launched with Swachhata Cyclathon in Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, AUGUST 05

The week-long campaign "Har Ghar Tiranga, Har Ghar Swachhata, Swantartata ka utsav, swachhata ke sung" was launched today by District Administration Udhampur to promote cleanliness and patriotism.

In collaboration with the National Highways Authority of India, a Swachhata Cyclathon rally was organised under Swachh



Bharat Mission and Har Ghar Tiranga. Additional Deputy Commissioner Prem Singh flagged off the rally from DC Office Complex Udhampur.

Around 100 cyclists participated, covering Court Road, Gole Market, Sallian Talab and concluding at Dhar Road Gole Mela Ground.

The ADC praised the initiative and urged public participation in Swachh Bharat efforts. He also called upon citizens to hoist the National Flag at their homes and take part in the campaign to express national pride.

GDC Vijaypur organises seminar on 'Role of J&K youth in achieving Viksit Bharat@2047'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBHA, AUGUST 05

As part of the Independence Day Celebrations 2025, Government Degree College Vijaypur organised a seminar competition on the theme "Role of J&K Youth in Achieving Viksit Bharat@2047".

The event aimed to promote youth engagement, critical thinking and national responsibility among students.

Students from various departments participated

enthusiastically, presenting their views on how the youth of Jammu & Kashmir can contribute to India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047—the centenary year of independence.

Principal Dr Ashu Vashisht inaugurated the seminar and emphasised the role of youth as change-makers and nation-builders. "The aspirations and innovation of our young minds are pivotal for realising the dream of Viksit

Bharat by 2047. Events like these nurture leadership, responsibility and a spirit of patriotism," she said.

A panel of judges comprising Prof Anita Jamwal (HoD Political Science), Dr Anoop Kumar Bhagat (HoD Sociology) and Prof Ritu Bhagat (HoD Education) evaluated the participants based on content, clarity, originality and presentation.

Vinayak of Semester V secured the first position, followed by Akash

of Semester V and Sudhanshu of Semester III in second and third places respectively.

Winners were felicitated with certificates recognising their insightful contributions and oratory skills.

The event concluded with the National Anthem and a vote of thanks by Prof Mamta Gupta (HoD Commerce), who appreciated the efforts of the organising faculty and the enthusiastic participation of students.

CEO Jammu inspects govt schools to assess resources, attendance and NEP implementation

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 05

Chief Education Officer Jammu, Ajeet Sharma along with Zonal Education Officer Rukhsana Kousar conducted an extensive tour of various government schools located within the Jammu Municipality to assess their functioning and the utilisation of Government-provided resources.

During the visit, the CEO issued instructions to Heads of Institutions to maintain cleanliness in and around school premises and ensure a hygienic learning environment.

He also directed Prin-



cipals to closely monitor staff attendance through the JK Attendance App and ensure data is also uploaded on the Smart Attendance App. Expressing displeasure over low student attendance in some schools, the CEO instructed Heads of Institutions to organise regu-

lar meetings with parents, community members and other stakeholders to ensure consistent student attendance.

Teachers were advised to align classroom content with the guidelines of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, promoting critical thinking,

creativity and activity-based learning. The CEO emphasised that students should be encouraged to learn through hands-on experiences to improve comprehension.

As part of the visit, the CEO also interacted with students and conducted a counselling session for Class 12 students at SRML Higher Secondary School, Parade, Jammu.

The schools visited included Government Girls Higher Secondary School Nowabad, Government Boys Higher Secondary School Bakshi Nagar and SRML Higher Secondary School Parade, Jammu.

DDC Reasi approves Rs 6277.53 lakh District Capex Budget for FY 2025-26



J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, AUGUST 05

The District Development Council (DDC) Reasi, chaired by DDC Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag, today approved the District Capex Budget of Rs 6277.53 lakh for the financial year 2025-26. The budget includes Rs 1147.34 lakh for ongoing works and Rs 5130.19 lakh for new development proposals, aimed at accelerating infrastructure development and service delivery.

The meeting was attended by MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey, MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma, Vice Chairperson DDC Sajra

Qadir, ADDC Reasi Sukhdev Singh Samyal, DDC Members and senior district officials.

Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag commended the consistent efforts of council members and line departments. He called for regular monitoring and strict quality control. He also directed a detailed inquiry into the NHM building at Pouni and instructed the Health Department to maintain proper documentation.

Vice Chairperson Sajra Qadir highlighted the need for constructing a two-storey building at Government High School Lar. Chief Planning Officer Narinder Kumar delivered

a presentation covering the district's development status, achievements and investment priorities.

Council members actively raised local concerns. DDC Panthal sought funding for school playgrounds and infrastructure, along with road and bridge upgradation. DDC Ransoo demanded playgrounds in Pouni and Ransoo. DDC Thakrakote pointed out delays in sanctioned school building work. DDC Pouni highlighted staff shortages at PHC Pouni and the urgent need for hband pump repairs. DDC Reasi stressed canal repairs, road connectivity and the need to verify all works.

The ADDC stressed time-bound completion and quality adherence. He noted the Capex Plan was prepared with department and stakeholder input.

MLA Reasi emphasised the importance of project inspections to ensure transparency. Both MLAs urged timely, quality execution and community engagement.

The Council resolved to prioritise capital investment in sectors such as Education, Health, ICDS, PDD and RDD. With the plan now approved, the district administration will begin implementation to ensure swift and impactful development.

Extensive sanitation drive 'Clean Up' held at Kolar Shopian

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SHOPIAN, AUGUST 05

Rural Development department Keller Shopian in collaboration with NGO, Chinar International and a group of volunteers today held a sanitation

drive, 'Clean Up' at the tourist resort of Kolar Keller.

Officials of BDO Office Keller, members of Chinar International and various volunteers participated in the drive aimed to clean up the tourist spot from

the accumulated waste, posing threat to the serene environment.

The drive also aimed to educate the picnickers and visitors about the irresponsible dumping of waste and the need to uphold ethical sanitation

values while on picnicking.

The participants engaged in the drive wholeheartedly and the collected waste was properly transported for further disposal.

DC Kishtwar disburses compensation to four families of road accident victims

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, AUGUST 05

In a considerate gesture to support grieving families, Deputy Commissioner Kishtwar, Pankaj Kumar Sharma, today disbursed Rs 3.75 lakh as compensation under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund. The disbursement followed case submissions by ARTO Kishtwar, Tasleem Wani.



An amount of Rs 1 lakh each was disbursed to the legal heirs of three deceased road accident

victims, while Rs 75,000 was given to a victim who suffered permanent disability.

The families who received compensation were Nandani Devi D/o Kewal Singh R/o Chitto Paddar, Yasir Hussain S/o Mohammad Hussain R/o Nagseni, Tahir Hussain S/o Ranjha R/o Keshwan and Khifitulah S/o Mohd Hanief R/o Chamoti (permanently disabled).

Div Com and IGP review preparations for Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in Jammu Division

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 05

Divisional Commissioner Jammu Ramesh Kumar and Inspector General of Police Bhim Sen Tuti today reviewed the preparations for the Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign in the Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by IG CRPF Jammu, DIG Traffic Jammu, Deputy Commissioners and SSPs from Jammu Division, Secretary J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, SSP Security Jammu, and Heads of Departments and representatives from Industries, Education, Jammu Municipal Corporation, CRPF, Health, Youth Services and Sports, ULB, and RDD. The participants discussed various arrangements for the successful



conduct of the events to be organised as run-up activities to the Independence Day 2025 celebrations.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Heads of Departments to ensure proper arrangements by their respective departments, including flag distribution, participation of students, civil society members and personnel from security forces, distribution of T-shirts, refreshments, sanitation, traffic management, healthcare facilities, deployment of

fire tenders and wide publicity of the activities.

He further directed JKAACL to deploy a nodal officer to coordinate with district-level nodal officers for flag distribution under the Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

It was informed that the Tiranga Yatra in Jammu District will be organised on August 12. The yatra will commence from Gulshan Ground PHQ and proceed towards the back gate of Jammu University, Gujar Nagar Tawi Bridge

and culminate at Maharaja Hari Singh Park.

IGP Jammu emphasised the importance of adhering strictly to the Flag Code during the celebrations. He also directed the deployment of adequate security personnel for the events across the division.

All Deputy Commissioners were directed to ensure proper planning and security arrangements in their respective districts for the Tiranga Yatra and Har Ghar Tiranga campaign.

Further directions were issued for traffic advisories, illumination of iconic infrastructure and Government buildings and active involvement of all stakeholders, particularly school students, to ensure mass participation in the national festival celebrations.

DC Doda inspects development works in Block Ghat, emphasises timely completion and grievance redressal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, AUGUST 05

Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, conducted an extensive inspection of various ongoing development works in Block Ghat (Doda) to review the pace and quality of developmental activities and ensure timely execution of projects for public benefit.

During the inspection, the DC directed the concerned officers and



executing agencies to expedite the works and complete them within the stipulated timeframes

without compromising quality.

The DC also interacted with local residents and

listened to their concerns and grievances. He assured them that all issues would be addressed promptly in coordination with the concerned departments.

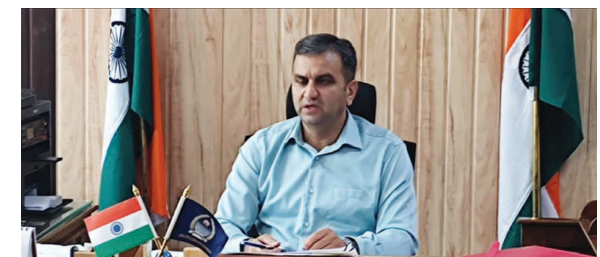
He further visited the natural spring site used for domestic water supply in the area. Taking note of the condition of the source, he directed the concerned officials to take necessary steps for its protection, maintenance and sustainable use.

DC Ramban reviews arrangements for Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, AUGUST 05

Deputy Commissioner Ramban, Mohammad Alyas Khan, today chaired a review meeting to finalise arrangements for the upcoming Shri Krishna Janmashtami celebrations.

The meeting was attended by ADC Varunjeet Singh Charak, CPO Dr Shakeeb Ahmed Rather, senior officers, religious leaders and



local stakeholders.

The DC directed all departments to ensure smooth, secure and spiritually enriching festivities.

He emphasised sanitation, traffic regulation, and provision of public services.

Traffic Police were instructed to manage traf-

fic in Ramban town. Municipal authorities were asked to maintain cleanliness around temples and along the Shri Krishna Jhanki route, which is expected to see large participation.

Arrangements for water, medical aid, fire safety and uninterrupted electricity were also mandated. The DC called for close coordination with religious committees to ensure hassle-free celebrations.

EDITORIAL

A flyover of frustration!

What should have been a routine resurfacing project has turned into an emblem of official apathy, poor planning, and mismanagement—crippling one of Jammu's busiest flyovers and turning the city's arterial roads into traffic traps. The ongoing chaos surrounding the resurfacing of the flyover from the Chief Education Officer's office to the Tawi Bridge reveals not just the inefficiency of the Roads and Buildings (R&B) Department but also the alarming inertia of the Traffic Police. Instead of taking a phased approach, wherein one carriageway is refurbished while the other remains operational, both tubes of the flyover were scarified simultaneously. This reckless decision, made without ensuring immediate follow-up work, has led to a complete blockade of a vital stretch, leaving thousands of commuters to battle dust, disorder, and detours. Shockingly, after the top surface was scraped, the contractor—entrusted with the task—vanished from the site, leaving behind an uneven, dusty mess. For several days now, there has been no machinery, no manpower, and no visible sign of ongoing work. What was expected to be a swift and efficient blacktopping job has now stalled, not due to any natural calamity or logistical challenge, but sheer negligence and procedural lapses. Students are stranded in school buses for hours, office-goers are delayed, emergency services are hampered, and businesses are suffering—all because of a bureaucratic bungling that has gone unchecked. The situation is further aggravated by the dismal performance of the Traffic Police. With vehicles forced off the flyover and rerouted onto already congested city roads, several areas have turned into bottlenecks. Yet, personnel designated to manage this mess are either missing in action or simply ineffective, allowing confusion and frustration to grow unchecked. What's worse, no alternate traffic plan seems to have been chalked out to mitigate the chaos caused by the flyover's unavailability. While the R&B Department claims to have issued a formal warning to the defaulting contractor and has cited procedural delays related to methodology submissions and material sourcing, such explanations do little to justify the daily suffering inflicted on the public. If the contractor has violated the execution timeline, why was his contract not terminated immediately? Why were preparatory checks not conducted before allowing him to scarify the entire stretch? Why does the city always have to pay the price for administrative leniency? This entire episode is a grim reminder that public infrastructure projects, even those as basic as road resurfacing, continue to be marred by lack of accountability. The people of Jammu are not asking for miracles. They demand punctual, transparent, and citizen-centric governance—one where flyovers don't become dead ends, and daily commutes don't turn into endurance tests. The administration must now act decisively: penalize the contractor as per rules, press for immediate resumption of work, and deploy effective traffic management personnel to ease the ongoing chaos. Anything less would be an insult to the patience and suffering of the citizens who deserve better—not just roads, but respect.

Unsafe at work: Break the silence and improve competitiveness

AJIT RANADE

Let's look at three recent events which symbolise workers' plight due to lack of safety at the workplace. On June 30, in Telangana's worst industrial mishap, 46 people died, eight are still in hospital and another eight are still missing, some possibly charred beyond recognition. This human tragedy in an industrial area, was caused by the explosion of a reactor in a chemical plant, heard several kilometres away.

To call it an accident absolves the management of the neglect of proper maintenance, or not adhering to safety protocols. In the same Sangareddy district alone, 25 workers died within a four month period in 2024. The cases of injuries or near fatal cases, which have not been reported can only be guessed. But Sangareddy is just an illustrative case, not an isolated one, across the country.

Now consider another "accident". On June 7, In the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) area near Pirangut on the outskirts of Pune city, 18 workers were charred to death, 15 being women, in a deadly fire in a chemical factory. As per the investigation by some intrepid labour activists, it was revealed that the workers were not even aware they were handling hazardous chemicals. They were marked by codes

masking the true name of the chemicals. It was revealed that the women workers were paid less than minimum wage.

The vulnerable are exploited, have job insecurity and face the most unsafe and risky conditions. This company was in operation since 2012, but got registered only in 2020. It also managed to obtain an ISO 9001 certification for quality management. No inspector ever visited the factory till this "accident" happened. This cannot be attributed to ease of doing business.

While EODB has shifted the onus to self-certification on the owners and managers of factories, it surely does not mean complete abdication of inspection, especially of worker safety in hazardous industries. It is made worse by the management's greed and corner-cutting, like disabling safety sensors, or running the presses at higher speeds to achieve sales targets.

The third event is the launch of a report called "Crushed". This is India's only long running evidence based report published by Safe in India (SII), an NGO dedicated to improving worker safety in India's manufacturing sector, particularly the automotive and auto-component industry, which accounts for one third of the manufacturing sector GDP. SII founded in 2016 by Sandeep Sachdeva and his colleagues, works for



workers' rights, putting pressure on auto brands to improve safety for over 10 million workers in that industry. SII's work has increased worker awareness about the Employees State Insurance scheme and the ESIC role. Their work is data driven, painstaking and based on authentic testimonies of workers.

Over the past seven years SII has helped 10,000 workers access ESIC benefits, but this still represents only 40 percent of the victims. In the last few years the vendors to top ten auto brands accounted for the crushed fingers of 2333 workers. This work breaks the silence around injuries showing its true scale with official statistics. It also throws up laughable anomalies. For instance the source of data could be from two arms of the government, the labour ministry and the insurance corporation.

In Haryana routinely

the ministry reports the number of injuries around 40 to 50 per year for several years. But the ESIC claims benefits are going to nearly a thousand workers. And this is with only 40 percent awareness among workers. It is clear that thousands of workers are getting killed or maimed across the automotive sector, and the official silence must be broken.

Thankfully the Economic Survey of this year has highlighted the issue of workplace safety. It says that Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) regulations are not to be seen as burdensome expenses but as strategic investment. The SII estimates that the country loses up to 4 percent of GDP due to neglect of safety. India ranks a low 133 in global labour productivity, and this rank is directly correlated with inadequate OSH standards and poor working conditions.

India's rank is sig-

nificantly below China, Vietnam and Mexico. Investment in safety and OSH protocols not only improve the life of the worker and her family, but raise productivity, morale and improve the trust between workers and management. For the factories it reduces absenteeism, medical expenses and penalties for non-compliance. Frequent shutdowns due to crushed fingers can disrupt supply schedules and reduce competitiveness.

The lesson from neighbouring Bangladesh is telling. In 2013 an eight story building housing garment factories collapsed in the Rana Plaza, and 1134 people died. This shocking incident led to drastic changes, including the putting in place the Accord on Fire and Building Safety, which led to the training of 1.4 million workers. It was certainly a factor which increased Bangladesh's garment sector competitiveness and its exports outpaced even India and Vietnam.

Even Chile and Costa Rica experienced strong labour productivity growth due to improved OSH standards and reduced occupational injuries. Economic theory also suggests that investing in worker safety and occupational health leads to reaping benefits of higher productivity, motivation, loyalty and possibly lower absenteeism. Management's demonstrated and visible commitment is important.

The most ironic thing about the provision of workplace injury and death benefits or compensation is this. The Employee State Insurance scheme was established by the ESI Act of 1948, the same year as the setting up of the National Health Scheme of the United Kingdom. Both aim to provide universal social security and healthcare (in case of India to workers, and in UK to all citizens). The present reality is that almost all citizens have access and get benefits from the NHS whereas for the ESI, many workers are not even aware of their rights and benefits. In design the ESI is one of the finest schemes in the world, but in implementation it falls very short.

The way forward is clear. There should be complete transparency in data reporting on accidents and fatalities, making it consistent across ESIC and labour department. Compliance of safety and OSH protocols must be incentive based. There should be public private partnership (through NGO's if necessary) to increase worker awareness about rights and safety. The top brands must be made accountable for practices in their vendors, across the supply chain.

Finally let us note that worker safety does not merely have an instrumental value but is ultimately a moral and ethical commitment too.

SOURCE: THEBILLIONPRESS

The Election Commission and the state of elections in India

DR. MALAY MISHRA

At the Samvidhan Bachao (Save the Constitution) rally organised by the Congress in Bhubaneswar on July 11, Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi called out the Election Commission of India for "stealing" the elections as part of a mass disenfranchisement exercise in Bihar slated for polls in November this year, under the guise of undertaking the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls, which had already been completed in 2005.

The previous day, a two-member bench of the Supreme Court, while upholding the constitutionality of SIR, suggested that the ECI may consider the addition of three more documents, viz. Aadhaar, voter's card (EPIC) and ration card in addition to the 11 documents already listed on the ground that the registration exercise according to the ECI's submission was not "exhaustive" and that Aadhaar though not deemed to be a proof of citizenship could be used as an identity-bearing document.

Incidentally, Aadhaar is used to generate all the supporting documents, therefore its exclusion by the ECI seems illogical. The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 had amended the RP Act, 1950 to include Aadhaar as a valid document to establish the identity of the voter.

According to the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) website, Aadhaar cover-

age in Bihar is at 94 % and therefore there is no reason for the EC not to include the Aadhaar as an acceptable document. This smacks of the integrity of the voter registration process which is aimed more at exclusion than inclusion of genuine voters.

It may be noted that the ECI had conducted a similar exercise in Bihar in 2003 and had then needed two years to finalise the revised electoral rolls. To again revise the electoral rolls, that too within one month's time, is both unprecedented and impractical. Surmising the possible cause of this measure implemented by the ECI "all of a sudden" suggests government attempts to keep out a certain category of voters, mostly the marginalised including minority groups, who may not be able to procure the required documents in such a short time.

These include birth certificates, passport, matriculation certificate, National Register of Citizens, family register, land/house allotment certificate, pension payment order or any identity card issued by the government/local authorities prior to July 1, 1987. Not surprisingly, the combined opposition led by the RJD and comprising of the Congress, left parties and AIMIM (representing the Muslims) led a mass agitation (Chakka Jam) last week to garner popular awareness against the ECI's shenanigans.

ECI has highlighted SIR as an exercise to ensure that no eligible voter is



left out while no ineligible person is entered in the electoral rolls. However, as observers point out, it is not the essence of SIR (Sec 21 of the People's Representation Act, 1950 mandates the ECI to carry out the exercise) which is wrong, but the method and procedures adopted which leave a cloud of suspicion in the minds of the largely illiterate, impoverished and uneducated sections of the society, and the bulk of migrant labour, who mostly do not have a permanent address to register. This stands contrary to the ECI's claim of having done large-scale consultations with all opposition parties as well as the BJP in arriving at this decision.

As a columnist in a national newspaper observed on July 13, "The EC's requirements betray not merely incompetence but something far more troubling - a fundamental contempt for the poor." In rural Bihar where around 65.58 percent are homeless, the EC expects citizens to produce land allotment certificates. Where illiteracy is rampant, they demand school certificates. Where poverty forces migration, they require 'permanent residence proof'. "And

the timeline-less than one month for potentially millions of voters to gather these obscure documents.

Even if by some miracle citizens manage this bureaucratic treasure hunt, does the EC possess the manpower to verify them all?" the newspaper columnist asks. The EC has stated in response that it has put more than 1 lakh Block Level Officers, 4 lakh volunteers and more than 1.5 lakh Booth-level agents appointed by political parties to conduct this mammoth exercise, and that 80% of voter registration forms have already been collected.

The brief for the SCI in its hearing of July 11 was to focus on the EC's power to undertake this exercise (which is satisfied by Sec 21 of the RP Act), the manner in which the revision exercise is conducted and the timing thereof. On both the latter grounds the EC has much to explain. The SC has given July 21 as the date to file a counter-affidavit by the EC while the final hearing has been fixed for July 28, just days before the electoral rolls are to be finalised.

Coming in the wake of diminution of the EC's credibility with several

PILs filed by activists and the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) alleging voter (read EVM-VVPAT) manipulation and significant discrepancy between votes cast and votes polled in the recent State elections which the EC has treated in a lackadaisical manner, has given rise to further concern.

Rahul Gandhi's allegations of vote rigging in the last Maharashtra assembly elections, voices the anger and concern of citizens, of a brazen violation of constitutional norms (universal adult suffrage under Article 326).

Furthermore, the spectre of the NRC, which is included as one of the 11 documents (done in Assam to segregate "foreigners" from bonafide citizens), could find a backdoor entry into Bihar making this a mechanism for exclusion rather than a genuine enfranchisement exercise. The Home Minister's ominous declaration that SIR is going to be implemented in all States coming up for elections in the future starting with West Bengal and Tamil Nadu early next year has added to doubts about the government's intent to "standardise" election procedures.

Linking this to the larger issue of "One Nation One Election (ONOE)", which was first introduced in the BJP's 2014 election manifesto and given concrete shape in the PM's declaration in his Independence Day address last year when he said, "I request everyone to come together to achieve the resolve of 'One Nation One Elec-

tion" which is the need of the hour", the situation demands serious introspection.

An 8-member high-level committee led by former President Ram Nath Kovind was subsequently formed to delve into the pros and cons of ONOE which would require several provisos of the constitution (Articles 83, 85, 172, 174, 356) to be amended. The committee has hitherto held several sittings where former Chief Justices have given their views about the admissibility of ONOE.

Jagdeep Chhokar, founder of ADR in his paper, "Simultaneous Elections: Striking at the Roots of Parliamentary Democracy" has argued that the combination of elections of Union and State governments is flawed as it would require extensive amendments to the constitution besides upsetting the balance of power between the Union and State governments. Opposition parties including the Congress have rejected the ONOE proposal.

The government is once again playing for higher stakes. Restarting the SIR exercise in Bihar, has been a deliberately thought-out plan to bring in one-party rule which runs contrary to the ethics of the constitution and ignores the significant diversities of political cultures across the country. This does not augur well for the continuance of constitutional democracy in the long run.

SOURCE: THEBILLIONPRESS

Plastic pollution is underrecognised threat to health: The Lancet

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Ahead of the UN treaty on plastics, a new report in The Lancet journal on Monday has warned that plastic pollution is an underrecognised threat to the health of both humans and the planet, which must be addressed immediately.

The report, led by a group of international experts, reviews the current evidence on how plastics – including microplastics and plastic chemicals – impact health.

“Plastics are a grave, growing, and under-recognised danger to human and planetary health. Plastics cause disease and death from infancy to old age and are responsible for health-related economic losses exceeding \$1.5 trillion annually,” said corresponding author Prof Philip J Landrigan, from Boston College, US.

The report discusses



evidence that plastics endanger human health at every stage of their life cycle – in production, use, and disposal. It showed that airborne emissions from plastic production include particulate matter (PM2.5), sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen oxides, as well as hazardous chemicals to which plastic workers can be exposed.

The experts from the US, Switzerland, Germany, and Australia noted the lack of transparency around which chemicals are present in plastics,

their production volumes, uses, and known or potential toxicity.

“Many plastic chemicals are associated with multiple health effects at all stages of human life,” the experts said.

Further, the report stated that microplastics have been reported in human tissues and body fluids, and, while further research is needed to understand the relationship with potential health impacts, a precautionary approach is warranted.

An estimated 57 per

cent of unmanaged plastic waste is burned in the open – a major source of air pollution in low-and middle-income countries.

Plastic waste can also provide a habitat for mosquitoes to lay their eggs and for the growth of microorganisms, potentially contributing to the spread of vector-borne diseases and antimicrobial resistance, said the experts.

They called for a greater focus on health impacts when considering plastic pollution.

Notably, the report projected that, without changes, plastic production will almost triple between 2019 and 2060.

Landrigan stated that while “continued worsening of plastics’ harms is not inevitable,” it can be mitigated cost-effectively by evidence-based, transparently tracked, effectively implemented, and adequately financed laws and policies.

Preventable corneal blindness rising among teenagers, youth: Experts

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

Corneal blindness, once considered a condition largely confined to the elderly, is now emerging as a significant threat among teenagers and young adults across the country, health experts said on Monday.

Corneal blindness, while serious, is a largely preventable cause of blindness. It occurs when the transparent front part of the eye, the cornea, becomes cloudy or scarred due to infections, trauma, or nutritional deficiencies.

Corneal opacities are now the second leading cause of blindness in India, affecting tens of thousands annually.

According to experts at the Indian Society of Cornea and Kerato-Refractive Surgeons’ (ISCKRS) three-day meet in New Delhi, India, records between 20,000



and 25,000 new cases of corneal blindness every year, and the number is growing.

“A large number of fresh corneal blindness cases in India are now being seen in individuals under the age of 30 years. We are witnessing a dangerous shift. Young people are losing their vision due to entirely avoidable conditions,” said Prof. Rajesh Sinha, Professor of Ophthalmology at AIIMS, New Delhi.

“Simple infections, untreated injuries, and lack of awareness are turning into permanent visual disabilities,” he added.

At the event, the expert panel highlighted factors such as trauma-related injuries, particularly among youth engaged in agriculture, manual labour, or industrial work, behind this disturbing rise.

These injuries often go untreated or are

addressed with home remedies, leading to serious infections and scarring.

Simultaneously, Vitamin A deficiency, still prevalent in many parts of the country, continues to cause severe corneal damage in children and adolescents. These issues are compounded by low awareness, lack of early diagnosis, and inadequate access to specialized eye care in rural and underserved regions, the experts said.

“It is unacceptable that in 2025, we are still losing thousands of young eyes to entirely preventable causes. India must treat corneal blindness among youth as a public health emergency. A national strategy with strong community engagement is the need of the hour,” Dr. Ikeda Lal, Senior Consultant, Cornea, Cataract and Refractory Surgery at a leading hospital in the national capital.

103 Indian cities reduced PM10 concentration in 2024-25: Govt

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

A total of 103 Indian cities, as part of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP), have shown a reduction in particulate matter PM10 concentration in 2024-25, the government informed the Parliament on Monday.

Launched in 2019 to tackle air pollution across India, NCAP focusses on 131 “non-attainment” cities and Million Plus Cities in 24 states. The programme aimed to reduce PM10 concentrations by 20-30 per cent by 2024.

Of the 103, “64 cities showed reduction in PM10 levels by more than 20 per cent and 25 of these cities have achieved a reduction of more than 40 per cent,” said Kirti Vardhan Singh, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, in a written reply



in the Lok Sabha.

“A total of 22 Cities also met the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) and have PM10 concentrations less than 60 micrograms per cubic metre of air,” he added.

To address air pollution in urban areas, Singh stated that a “performance-linked grant of Rs 13,036.52 crore has been provided to 130 cities

during 2019-20 till date, as a critical gap funding to implement air quality improvement measures”.

Further, the programme leverages the mobilisation of resources through the convergence

of various schemes of the central government such as Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban), AMRUT, Smart City Mission, PM e-Bus Sewa, Sustainable Alter-

native Towards Affordable Transportation (SATAT), and Nagar Van Yojana, as well as the resources of state governments.

“Under NCAP, an amount of Rs. 5,318 crore has been provided to eight States/UTs that are part of the Indo-Gangetic plain to implement the city action plan of 41 targeted cities,” Singh said.

City-specific clean air action plans are prepared by all cities to implement air quality improvement measures in their respective cities. These plans target air pollution sources such as soil and road dust, vehicular emissions, waste burning, construction and demolition activities, and industrial pollution.

Notably, ambient air quality monitoring is carried out by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) and State Pollution Control Boards (SPCB).

Study explores role of brain in treating type 1 diabetes

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The brain might become the target of new type 1 diabetes treatments and pave a better way for insulin management, according to a study.

Researchers had, over a decade ago, found that an acute complication of type 1 diabetes – diabetic ketoacidosis (DKA) – can be resolved with the hormone leptin, even in the absence of insulin.

In the analysis, published in the Journal of Clinical Investigation, the team explained how leptin affects the brain and how it might be used in future therapeutics.

DKA happens when the body is unable to make insulin and begins to break down fat for fuel. This can lead to a life-threatening buildup of sugar (glucose) and ketoacids in the blood.



Doctors have typically administered insulin to address the complication. But evidence now shows that, when insulin is insufficient, the brain plays a key role in driving DKA, explained researchers from the University of Washington in the US.

When the pancreas can't make insulin, “the brain gets the message that the body is out of

fuel, even if it's not. This information is being communicated in part by a low blood level of the hormone leptin,” said Dr. Michael Schwartz, Professor of Medicine, at the University's School of Medicine.

Leptin helps the brain regulate appetite and body weight. Leptin is produced by your body's fat cells. The hormone

is carried by the bloodstream into the brain, particularly an area called the hypothalamus.

The study noted that controlling blood glucose with leptin could unlock new avenues of treatment for patients.

Schwartz noted that insulin management is a substantial burden for patients and their families.

“I think if you could treat type 1 diabetes without daily insulin injections and blood sugar monitoring, patients would say that is the greatest thing ever,” he added.

If the brain can be convinced that fuel stores are not depleted, or if specific brain neurons that trigger the production of glucose and ketones are turned off, the body stops the reaction that leads to severe hyperglycaemia and DKA.

Ayush Ministry, NMPB sign MoUs to boost conservation, awareness of medicinal plants

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Ministry of Ayush on Monday signed two significant Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with the National Medicinal Plants Board (NMPB), to boost the conservation and increase public awareness of medicinal plants in the country.

The first MoU was signed between the NMPB and IshVed-Bioplants Venture, Maharashtra, and the second tripartite MoU was signed among NMPB, All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA), and All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), New Delhi.

“The vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to build a healthier and self-reliant India by 2047 guides our efforts today. I congratulate all the institutions involved in signing these important MoUs, which represent a significant milestone in conserving and promoting India's



rich medicinal plant heritage,” said Union Minister Prataprao Jadhav.

“By integrating traditional knowledge with modern science, we are making meaningful progress toward realising this ambitious vision,” he added.

The MoU between NMPB and IshVed-Bioplants Venture aims to conserve and maintain the germplasm of rare, endangered, and threatened (RET) medicinal plants through tissue culture methods.

This will bring better value to the stakeholders through the development of tissue culture methods and their extensive cultivation and maintenance protocols. It will also help facilitate the supply of medicinal plants in the rare, endangered, and threatened (RET) category used in the Ayush industry.

The second MoU aims to establish a national-level medicinal plants garden in the premises of AIIMS, New Delhi, and to spread public awareness about

medicinal plants, sharing knowledge and expertise.

This will develop public awareness about the medicinal plants among patients and students who come from distant areas and will also benefit the visitors in the hospital premises, the Ministry said.

Both MoUs mark a milestone in the Ministry of Ayush's continued efforts to promote evidence-based conservation, research, and public engagement in the medicinal plants sector.

Govt extends special registration drive for pregnant, lactating women till Aug 15

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI

The Union government has extended the special registration drive for the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY), which provides financial assistance to pregnant, lactating women, till August 15, the Ministry of Women and Child Development said on Monday.

Launched first in 2010 and then renamed in 2017, the PMMVY scheme provides financial assistance to support nutritious diets and improve health-seeking behaviour amongst pregnant women and lactating mothers and also promotes positive attitudes toward the girl child.

The PMMVY offers cash incentives as partial compensation for wage loss to enable mothers to rest before and after the delivery of the first child.

Till July 31, “more than 4.05 crore beneficiaries have been paid the maternity benefit (at least one



instalment) amounting to Rs 19,028 crore. through direct benefit transfer in their bank/post office accounts,” the Ministry said.

“The ongoing door-

to-door awareness-cum-enrolment campaign, led by Anganwadi and ASHA workers, aims to reach out to all eligible pregnant and lactating women and ensure their timely regis-

tration under the scheme,” it added.

PMMVY is a centrally sponsored scheme under Mission Shakti's sub-scheme 'Samarthya', and provides direct financial assistance through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode.

Under PMMVY, a cash incentive of Rs 5,000 is provided in two instalments for the first child, and Rs 6,000 is provided in one instalment post-birth for the second girl child, in accordance with Mission Shakti Scheme Guidelines.

The scheme also aims to improve health-seeking behaviour among pregnant women and lactating mothers and ensure better maternal and child health outcomes across the country.

The scheme is implemented by state officials through their field functionaries using the new Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana Software (PMMVYSoft) launched in March 2023.

BJP celebrates anniversary of abrogation of Articles 370 & 35A across Jammu & Kashmir

J&K NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 5

The Jammu & Kashmir unit of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today marked the anniversary of the abrogation of Articles 370 and 35A with widespread celebrations across all districts of the Union Territory.

From cities to border villages, BJP activists held public programmes, hoisted Tiranga, held Tiranga Yatras, and patriotic events to commemorate the historic decision taken on August 5, 2019, by the Narendra Modi-led central government.

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, while addressing a gathering in Akhnoor, said that the abrogation



of Articles 370 and 35A has brought constitutional unity, equal rights, and dignity to every citizen of Jammu & Kashmir. This day reminds us of our collective achievement which led to the welfare of the neglected and the oppressed communities of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sat Sharma was accom-

panied by DDC Chairman Bharat Bhushan, MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat, DDC Vice Chairman Suraj Singh, BJP District Prabhari Brijeshwar Rana, and District President Kuldeep Raj Sharma and others.

Ashok Koul said that the historic step of nullifying Articles 370 and 35A has ushered in a new dawn of

development and governance in J&K. BJP is reaching the last person in the queue, with benefits of welfare schemes now flowing uninterrupted, he said.

All the senior BJP leaders participated in different programmes organized across Jammu, and Kashmir, reaffirming the party's commitment to building a new J&K. BJP leaders also participated in various programmes organized by various sections of society, across the region, which witnessed large participation from the public.

The day-long celebrations highlighted the growing unity, progress, and national integration of Jammu & Kashmir under the BJP's leadership.

Sat Sharma flags off Baba Budha Amarnath Yatra from Akhnoor

J&K NEWS SERVICE
AKHNOOR, AUG 5

J&K BJP President Sat Sharma today flagged off a convoy of devotees undertaking the sacred yatra to Baba Budha Amarnath Ji from the historic Kameshwar Mandir in Akhnoor. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Sadhu Samaaj, pilgrims and party workers who gathered in large numbers to seek blessings before the spiritual journey to the revered shrine in Poonch.



Speaking on the occasion, Sat Sharma expressed deep reverence for the yatra and

said, "Baba Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra is a symbol of our spiritual heritage and unity. It connects

the people of different regions through faith, devotion, and cultural pride."

Youth Connect with Legacy of Courage at Sikh War Memorial

J&K NEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, AUGUST 5

In a meaningful effort to foster national pride and historical awareness among the younger generation, a Youth Engagement Program was organised today at the iconic Sikh War Memorial in Baramulla. The event, conducted by the Baramulla Rashtriya Rifles, witnessed enthusiastic participation from 130 students representing four local schools.

The program aimed to acquaint students with the heroic defence of Baramulla during the 1947 tribal invasion, with a special focus on the legendary sacrifice of Mohd Maqbool Sherwani, who bravely misled enemy raiders to delay their advance – an act of courage that played a crucial role in protecting



the town and symbolised unwavering patriotism.

During the session, students were also introduced to the significance of Operation Sindoor, a major military action that played a vital role

in restoring stability and securing key areas in the region. The operation was presented as a testament to the Indian Army's continuous efforts in ensuring peace and protecting the sovereignty of the nation.

Inspiring the next generation of leaders in uniform, officers also briefed the students on various avenues to join the Indian Army. The interaction aimed to ignite ambition and instil a sense of purpose among youth interested in serving the nation.

The visit concluded with students and teachers paying solemn tribute to the fallen soldiers at the memorial. Many described the experience as both educational and deeply moving, leaving them with a greater sense of connection to India's military heritage.

This initiative reflects the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to youth outreach, nation-building, and countering misinformation through constructive and informed engagement.

Congress observes black day on 6th anniversary of downgrading of J&K state

J&K NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 5

Congress today observed black day on the 6th anniversary of the downgrading of the J&K state into UT and held strong protest demonstrations & dharnas all across UT in Jammu and Srinagar and at all district headquarters press for early restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Congress which is spearheading the movement for the restoration of statehood " Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq " for the past over eight months, today observed black day ,on 6th anniversary of downgrading of the historical &K state & held impressive protest demonstration in Jammu and Srinagar .

JKPCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra led the protest demonstration in Srinagar in front of party Office, as Headquarters were locked from outside by police, while in Jammu , protest dharna was held in front of Maharaja Hari Singh ji statue on Tawi Bridge, besides at all Districts Hqs across UT, to press for early restoration of complete statehood.

Led by Working President Raman Bhalla

alongwith Former MP/Former ministers Ch Lal Singh, Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma, AICC Secretary Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, Rajnish Sharma, DDC Presidents Manmohan Singh, Th Hari Singh Chib, Ex Legislators, senior functionaries, Ex corporators, front heads & contested candidates including T S Tony, Satish Sharma , Pawan Raina, Shashi Sharma , Suresh Dogra, Vijay Sharma(Seva Dal) Anuradha Sharma, Parveen Akhtar, Ashok Bhagat, Dwarka Choudhary, Mtr Zahida Khan , Ajaib Moton, Gajan Singh, Ajay Lakhotra(NSUI) , Anirudh Sawhney (YC) Madan Chlotra, Virinder Manhas & several others took part in the protest.

The protesters held strong protest demonstration bearing black wadges ,raising slogans against centre government and BJP for downgrading historical Dogra state on this day and non restoration of statehood despite repeated promises and directions of Supreme Court over one & half years back.

he protesters raised slogans in the memories of Maharaja Hari Singh and garlanded his statue while invoking his legacy

to demand restoration of full state to J&K UT.

Speaking to reporters Raman Bhalla lashed out at BJP govt at the centre for the betrayal of the people despite repeated promises for early restoration of statehood to J&K.

Six years ago BJP snatched statehood from people and promised early restoration but today is sixth anniversary and statehood has not been restored despite Supreme Court directions.

Congress shall intensify struggle for restoration of complete statehood and Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq movement shall continue till we achieve the goal of full statehood.

Former Minister Mula Ram told reporters that statehood is the right of people of J&K and its snatching is arbitrary and undemocratic against which our leadership has always raised voice and we shall continue our struggle.

Ch Lal Singh lashed out BJP for its authoritarian style at the centre and said statehood is our basic right .BJP has destroyed the dogra identity, status and dignity and insulted dogra rulers, he said, adding our land, jobs & resources are being looted ruthlessly.

He said Congress shall

intensify the struggle to get statehood and safeguard rights of our future generations.


Chief Spokesperson Ravinder Sharma referred to the directions of Supreme Court in December 2023 wherein centre was directed to restore statehood as soon as possible but even after more than one year and eight months that order has not been implemented.

Protest dharnas were held all across different Districts of Jammu region and slogans were raised against centre and BJP, seeking restoration of statehood to J&K.

Senior PCC leaders were deputed by the party to Coordinate the protests in Districts also attended.

At Kathua an impressive protest dharna was held by the District Congress committee under Presidentship of Pankaj Dogra, which was led by Senior Congress leader & former MLA Th Balwan Singh and attended by senior leaders of district.

At Samba, Protest was organized by President DCC Samba which was led by Smt. Indu Pawar (Ex-MLA) & Dist. Coordinator and attended by Yash Pal Kundal (Ex-Minister, Babal Gupta, Vinod Kumar, Kumer Singh and others.


UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR
OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) PROJECT DIVISION- III, JAMMU
E-MAIL: xenpwdprojectdiv3jmu@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER
Short e-NIT No. 29 of 2025-2026 Dated 04-08-2025

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 completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	Upgradation of Govt. Qtr. No. 21-A & 25-A at Gandhi Nagar Jammu by way of construction of additional room & other allied works. CNO 119 P.	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	24.27	600	2% of Advertised Cost	60 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A, B, & C
2	Upgradation of Block A,B and C at New B.C colony, Jammu. CNO 120 P	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	38.80	600	2% of Advertised Cost	60 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A & B
3	Upgradation of V.I.P-1 Honorable Chief Minister Residence by way of construction of sump tank, white wash and other allied works. CNO 121 P	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	48.50	600	2% of Advertised Cost	60 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A & B
4	Repair/Renovation of Govt. Qtr. No 12-B, 25-E & 27-E at Poonch House, Talab Tillo Jammu. CNO 122 NP	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	10.00	600	2% of Advertised Cost	45 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A, B, C & D
5	Upgradation of Block- 3 & 4 at Rehari Nallah colony, Jammu. CNO 123 P	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	31.05	600	2% of Advertised Cost	60 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A & B
6	Facelifting of Govt. Qtrs. at OLD/NEW BC and Rehari Nallah, Jammu. CNO 124 P	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	19.80	600	2% of Advertised Cost	60 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A, B & C
7	Upgradation of BLOCK A to F at OLD B.C colony, Jammu. CNO 125 P	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	58.20	1500	2% of Advertised Cost	90 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A Class
8	Upgradation of sheds at New B.C colony, Jammu. CNO 126 P	PWD (R&B) Project Div. III, Jammu	58.20	1500	2% of Advertised Cost	90 Days	(1300 Hrs) on or after 12-08-2025	A Class

Position of AAA: Accorded
Position of TS: Completed
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	04-08-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 04-08-2025 to 11-08-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	07-08-2025 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	04-08-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	11-08-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	12-08-2025 on or after 1300 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu
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) Project Division III, Jammu** 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) Project Division III, Jammu**. The date of both should be in between publishing and closing of NIT. 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 LI be submitted to the **Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Project Division III, Jammu** within 03(three) days after the issuance of the Letter of Acceptance.
- 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) Project Division III, Jammu** 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 :- PWD(R&B)/PD-III/3496-3508
Dated :-04-08-2025

sd
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
Project Division III
Jammu

DIP/J-4266/25
Date: 5-8-25

'Har Ghar Tiranga' workshop held at Ramban, Langeh calls for public participation

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, AUG 5

As part of the nationwide campaign to strengthen patriotism and national unity, a workshop on the 'Har Ghar Tiranga Abhiyan' was organized at the BJP District Headquarters in Ramban, chaired by Neelam Langeh, former MLA and District President BJP Ramban, in the presence of party functionaries. The workshop witnessed the presence of District Prabhari Puran Chand, and Rajeshwar Kumar, DDC Members Jagbeer Dass and Renuka Katoch, District General Secretary Gurdeep Singh, District Vice President Anchal Singh Chib, District Secretary Sahil Kumar, Ajaz Sohil, Raghuveer Singh Jaggi, Spokesperson Mohammad Ali Sohail and several other



prominent leaders and BJP Karyakartas. All the Mandal presidents were also present in this workshop.

Speaking on the occasion, Neelam Langeh called upon every citizen of Ramban district and across Jammu and Kashmir to participate wholeheartedly in the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign.

He said, "The National Flag is a symbol of our unity, sovereignty, and pride. Every home must

hoist the Tricolour to show our unwavering commitment to the nation."

Langeh urged BJP workers to reach out to every household to ensure maximum participation in the campaign and to promote awareness about its significance.

He further linked the spirit of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign with the ongoing celebration of the abrogation of Article 370, calling August 5 a "historic

turning point" in Jammu and Kashmir's political journey.

"August 5 marks the day when the dream of 'One Constitution, One Nation' became a reality. The abrogation of Article 370 has opened the doors of development, equality, and true integration for the people of Jammu and Kashmir," Langeh stated.

He added that the successful implementation of central laws and schemes post-abrogation has positively transformed the lives of the common people and ensured that the benefits of governance reach the grassroots level.

The workshop concluded with a pledge by all attendees to ensure the success of the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign and to uphold the spirit of nationalism in every action.

SSP Traffic Jammu Farooq Qaiser releases Devotional Song "Kudh paana Aisa Tere Darbar" at Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 5

A new Devotional song, "Kudh paana Aisa Tere Darbar" was officially released today at a special event in Jammu, marking a significant step towards promoting local culture and talent. The song was unveiled by Senior Superintendent of Police Jammu, Farooq Qaiser who was joined by Sahil Mahajan Maa Bawe Wali Records MD along with Sunny Jogi, Pawan Jogi, Ramesh Jogi, Lavish Sharma and Master Manish.

The melodious track, sung by Master Shammi, features music composed by Rahul Bhardwaj. The music video, directed by K K Malhotra, Lyrics by Vikrant Sonu "Kudh Paana Aisa Tere Darbar" is now available for streaming on Master Shammi Records Presents YouTube Channel



Speaking during the Occasion Farooq Qaiser said that "I am incredibly proud to be part of the release of 'Kudh paana Aise Tere Darbar.' This song is a beautiful representation of our rich Dogri culture and heritage. It's crucial that we support and encourage local artists like Master Shammi and the entire team who are working tirelessly to keep our traditions alive through art. Such initiatives not only entertain but also strengthen our cultural identity and promote harmony within the community. I extend my best wishes to the entire team

and hope this song receives immense love and appreciation from the people."

Sahil Mahajan while speaking said that

"The release of 'Kudh paana Aise Tere Darbar' is a moment of great joy and #pride for all of us. Our aim has always been to uplift and promote local talent and culture, and this song perfectly embodies that mission. Master Shammi and the dedicated team behind this project have created something truly special that resonates with the soul of Jammu. We believe that music has the power to connect people

and preserve our invaluable traditions for future generations. We urge everyone to watch and share this wonderful Dogri song."

Speaking during the programme Sahil Mahajan said that "We are incredibly thrilled to witness the launch of 'Kudh paana Aise Tere Darbar,' a song that truly captures the essence and beauty of Dogri culture. As individuals and as representatives of Master Shammi and Maa Bawe Wali Records, we are deeply committed to fostering and showcasing the vibrant artistic talent prevalent in our region. This collaboration, bringing together the melodious voice of Master Shammi.

The release event was attended by various prominent personalities including Manish Manotra, Sufiya Jogi, Munna Dogra, Ankush Kumar and others.

Asian Star London Showcases Padma Shri Balwant Thakur

JINNEWS SERVICE
LONDON, AUGUST 5

Asian Star Radio, London, brought a rare treat to its listeners today with an exclusive feature on the celebrated theatre personality Padma Shri Balwant Thakur. Aired during primetime across London and Birmingham, the special program delved deep into Thakur's vibrant creative journey, offering listeners an inspiring glimpse into the life and legacy of one of India's foremost cultural ambassadors.

Hosted by the dynamic and engaging anchor Payal, the hour long show turned into a masterclass in theatre, culture, and international collaboration. Touching upon a wide range of subjects from cross-cultural storytelling to the global future of Indian theatre, the broadcast proved to be both informative and enriching for a diverse audience.

Currently on a creative mission in the UK, Balwant Thakur spoke passionately about his ongoing tour and the series of events he is undertaking to expand the global footprint of Natrang, his Jammu-based



theatre organization. Highlighting his recent visit to Shakespeare's Birthplace in Stratford-upon-Avon, Thakur shared his profound experience of engaging with resident actors who performed excerpts from Romeo and Juliet especially for him. Inspired by the experience, he revealed his ambitious plan to develop a new cross-cultural theatre production based on the folk tale Kunju Chanchlo from the Jammu region. Drawing parallels with Shakespearean themes of love and tragedy, Thakur envisions this production as a powerful Indo-English narrative that will resonate with audiences across both cultures.

Expanding on his creative pursuits, Thakur also spoke of his research into the internationally acclaimed musical The Lion King. With admira-

tion for its scale, spectacle, and storytelling, he expressed his desire to conceptualize an even grander production based on Indian mythology. "Our stories are deeply layered, emotionally rich, and culturally vibrant," he noted. "The only thing we lack is professional showcasing access to world class production facilities, cutting-edge technologies, and large scale spectacle-making. With the right support, Indian narratives can not only match but surpass global benchmarks in engagement and universal appeal."

Reflecting on his previous visit to the UK, Thakur reminisced about his acclaimed performance Celebrating Diversity, a visually stunning, dance-based narrative that was staged before an audience of over 50,000 at Trafalgar Square. The production,

which portrayed the multifaceted cultural identity of Jammu and Kashmir, received overwhelming applause and was later presented at the British Parliament, further amplifying its cultural impact on international audiences.

Earlier in his international engagements, Thakur had also represented India at an international seminar hosted by the prestigious University of Oxford. There, he presented key findings from his Ford Foundation USA supported research project titled In Search of a New Theatre Language. His work explored innovative approaches to theatre-making that bridge traditional Indian performance arts with contemporary global aesthetics.

Through decades of tireless work, Balwant Thakur has emerged as a powerful force in Indian and global theatre, championing the richness of indigenous stories while forging pathways for international collaboration. His ongoing efforts in the UK underscore not just his personal vision, but also the limitless potential of Indian performing arts on the world stage.

IYA celebrates 'Jadi Buti Diwas, in Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUG 5

The birthday of Acharya Bal Krishan Ji, a pioneering force behind the revival of Ayurveda and traditional Indian healing sciences, was celebrated with great reverence and enthusiasm as Jadi Buti Diwas across India and around the globe. In Jammu, the Indian Yoga Association marked the occasion with a special programme at Bhat Caterer, Plough, Lohan Park Basti.

The event was graced by Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain, State Yoga Commissioner and Chairman of the Indian Yoga Association, as the Chief Guest. Shri Ashok Kumar Gupta, Vice President of Vichar Kranti Manch International, presided over the event, and Smt. Anju Bansal, Former President of Bharat Vikas Parishad Shivalik, was the Guest of Honour.

The programme was meticulously organised by



Sudha Chander Sharma, Jammu District Prabhari, Patanjali Yogpeeth, with the active support of Meenakshi Bhat, Tej Krishan Bhat, and Suraksha Sharma, Head Yoga Class Teacher.

Special invitees included Shashi Pal Sharma, Yash Pal Sharma, and Romesh Singh Slathia, who added grace to the celebration.

The programme commenced with the chanting of Vedic mantras by Sudha Chander Sharma, setting a serene and spiritual tone. This was followed by a warm welcome address

and the introduction of the dignitaries on the dais.

Dr. Shreyansh Kumar Jain highlighted the inspiring life journey of Acharya Bal Krishan Ji and elaborated on the significance of observing Jadi Buti Diwas every year on August 4th. He emphasized the critical role of herbs in human health and well-being, stressing how Acharyaji has revived and globalized the ancient Indian knowledge of Ayurveda in the modern era.


Dr. Jain also recited a self-composed poem dedicated to Acharyaji, extending heartfelt wishes for his

long and healthy life. He spoke at length about the medicinal importance of Tulsi, Giloy, Ashwagandha, Neem, and other native herbs, underlining their everyday applications in maintaining immunity and overall vitality.

Sh. Ashok Kumar Gupta also shared his thoughts on the theme, praising the efforts of Acharyaji in reconnecting the nation with its herbal heritage.

Renowned social activist Narinder Wadhwa enlightened participants on practical ways of growing medicinal plants, nurturing them with care, and integrating them into household wellness routines.

As a symbolic gesture of green awareness, various medicinal plants were distributed among the participants to promote home-grown herbal culture. The programme concluded with a soulful Vedic prayer, resonating with the spirit of natural healing and gratitude.



Government of Jammu and Kashmir
OFFICE OF THE DIVISIONAL FOREST OFFICER
KISHTWAR FOREST DIVISION, KISHTWAR
dfokishtwar1@gmail.com, dfokishtwar.for-ik@nic.in

Tender Notice: e-NIT No.: 03 of 2025 Dated: 04-08-2025

For and on behalf of the Hon'ble President of India, e-tenders (Two cover system) are invited from registered, reputed and resourceful Contractors/Firms registered with Jammu & Kashmir Govt./Central Govt. Organizations for the following works:

S.No.	Location	Name of work	Qty.	Adv. Cost (Rs in Lacs)	Earnest Money 3% (in Rs)	Class of Contractor	Cost of Tender	Time of completion	Receiving Opening Authority
1	17/K (Dhuni) & 57/K (Painbar)	Erection of fencing using 150 Wooden fence posts & 4 strands with 2 Criss cross of B.A wire on Wooden fence Posts at spacing of 8 feet.	1200	0.81978	2459	All classes	600	02 months	Tender Opening Committee
2		Afforestation work by means of site clearance, digging of pits of size 45cm x 45cm x 45 cm along the contours as well as flat surface including excavation of Soil & planting of Poly bag conifer plants in staggered pits, refilling of pits with clean Soil. Plants shall be made available by the Department from different Nurseries of Kishtwar/Marwah Forest Division. Note:- The extraction of plants from the nurseries and their Mechanical transportation including loading/unloading from nursery to site of work has to be done by the contractor on its own.	2000	0.5868	1760				
3		Afforestation work by means of patch sowing of Deodar/Kail Seeds in patches of size 45cm x 45cm x 15cm including cost & carriage of seed.	400	0.02796	84				
4		Pruning and Trimming	600	0.0381	114				
5		S&MC work: Cost and carriage of stones, preparation of foundation for Dangas, construction of retaining walls in dry rubble stone Masonry at desired height and width numbering and preparation of sing board including writing with green and white paint. The item includes all kind carriage.	90	0.98946	2968				
Total:				2.4621	7385				

The position of codal formalities in respect of above work(s) is as under:

Position of Funds	Approved
Position of AA/TS	Accorded

The e-NIT Consisting of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, scope of work, Bills of Quantities, (B.O.Q), Terms & Conditions of contract and other details can be seen/downloaded from the website:- www.jktenders.gov.in

Publishing Date	04-08-2025
Download Start Date	04-08-2025
Bid Submission Start Date	05-08-2025 at 10:00 AM
Bid submission End Date	18-08-2025 upto 01:30 PM
Date of opening of Technical Bid (online).	20-08-2025 at 12:30 PM (In the Office of Divisional Forest Officer, Kishtwar).
Date of opening of Financial Bid(online)	22-08-2025 at 12:30 PM (In the Office of Divisional Forest Officer, Kishtwar).

Sd/-
Mahesh Thakur, JKFS
Divisional Forest Officer,
Kishtwar.

No.: KFD/ 2025-26/ Tender/ 236-42 Dated: 02-08-2025
DIP/J-4278/25
Date: 5-8-25

SC continues hearing pleas against UP's Banke Bihari Temple Trust Ordinance, suggests interim oversight panel

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

The Supreme Court today, continued hearing a batch of petitions challenging the constitutional validity of the Uttar Pradesh Shri Banke Bihari Ji Temple Trust Ordinance, 2025, which seeks to regulate the administration and development of the historic temple in Vrindavan.

A Bench comprising Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi heard arguments from both sides and suggested the formation of an inter-



im committee headed by a retired High Court judge to oversee the temple's administration until a final

decision is rendered. The petitioners, represented by Senior Advocate Kapil Sibal, have opposed

the Ordinance and also sought an injunction against the alleged diversion of temple funds for the proposed Banke Bihari Corridor Project. Sibal raised concerns over what he called "complete government control" over temple management, as indicated in a chart presented by the state.

"This chart shows complete government control," Sibal submitted, urging the Court to allow petitioners to file counter-suggestions. Justice Kant assured, "We'll address that."

NDA resolution hails armed forces for Op Sindoor & Mahadev, lauds Modi leadership

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) today unanimously passed a resolution celebrating the success of Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev.

"The NDA Parliamentary Party salutes the unmatched courage and unwavering commitment of our armed forces, who showed heroic valour during Operation Sindoor and Operation Mahadev. Their courage highlights their unflinching devotion to protecting our nation. We pay our deepest condolences and respect to



those who lost their lives in the Pahalgam terror attack," the resolution stated.

The NDA Parliamentary Party also lauded the leadership displayed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during these times.

"His unwavering resolve, visionary statesmanship, and resolute

command have not only steered the nation with purpose but also ignited a renewed spirit of unity and pride in the hearts of all Indians," the resolution added.

Through military might and resolute leadership, justice was delivered, it said, reaffirming that "India does not forget nor

forgives terror." The resolution hailed Operation Sindoor's decisive strike on Pakistan-based terror camps.

The US designating The Resistance Front (TRF), responsible for the Pahalgam attack, as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT), and the BRICS Joint Declaration condemning the Pahalgam attack while vowing to "ensure zero tolerance for terrorism and reject double standards in countering terrorism," reflect a diplomatic win for India and its rising clout on the global stage.

SC refers plea seeking lifetime ban on convicted MPs/MLAs to CJI

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

The Supreme Court today took note of a Public Interest Litigation (PIL) seeking permanent disqualification of Members of Parliament (MPs) and Members of Legislative Assemblies (MLAs) upon conviction in criminal cases, and directed that the matter be placed before the Chief Justice of India (CJI) BR Gavai for listing before an appropriate larger Bench.

The PIL, filed by Advocate Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay, challenges the constitutional validity of

provisions under Section 8 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, which currently bar convicted legislators from contesting elections only for six years after completing their sentence.

Senior Advocate Vijay Hansaria mentioned the matter before a Bench of Justice Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi, urging for an early hearing.

"This is a matter of grave concern. Orders have been passed from time to time. The February 10 order requires that it be listed before a three-judge bench," Hansaria

submitted. The Bench acknowledged the urgency and referred to paragraphs 4 and 5 of the February 10, 2025 order passed by a Bench led by Justice Dipankar Datta, directing that the matter be placed before the CJI for further directions.

The plea is now expected to be heard finally on October 20, subject to the CJI's listing.

In February 2025, the Union government opposed the plea, arguing that a lifetime disqualification of elected representatives was a matter purely within the domain

of Parliament and not for the judiciary to decide.

The Centre, through the Legislative Department, maintained that while the court may declare a provision unconstitutional under its power of judicial review, it cannot rewrite legislation to substitute "lifetime" for "six years" as suggested by the petitioner.

"The relief sought effectively asks the Court to read 'lifetime' instead of 'six years' in all subsections of Section 8. This is unknown to judicial review and constitutional law," the Centre submitted.

Himachal HC strikes down Encroachment Regularisation Law; Thousands face eviction

AGENCIES
SHIMLA, AUG 5

In a landmark decision with far-reaching implications, the Himachal Pradesh High Court today struck down Section 163-A of the Himachal Pradesh Land Revenue Act, 1954, a provision that enabled the regularisation of encroachments on government land.

The judgment, delivered by a division bench comprising Justice Vivek Singh Thakur and Justice Bipin Chander Negi, ruled the provision unconstitutional and directed the State to remove all encroach-

ments that were to be regularised under the now-nullified section.

The verdict came in response to a writ petition filed 23 years ago: Poonam Gupta vs State of Himachal Pradesh. It challenged the constitutional validity of Section 163-A. The provision, introduced in 2002 during the first tenure of Chief Minister Prem Kumar Dhumal, allowed the State Government to frame rules for the regularisation of encroachments on government land, ostensibly to benefit small and marginal farmers.

However, the court

observed that this legislative maneuver attempted to "legalise illegality" and was inherently violative of Article 14 of the Constitution, which guarantees equality before law. "Equality cannot be claimed in illegality," the court stated, adding that "the impugned provision is in fact legislation for a class of dishonest persons."

The court emphasized that deliberate and voluntary encroachments amount to criminal trespass under Section 441 of the Indian Penal Code and held that such infractions cannot be regularised. It cited

earlier Supreme Court judgments which make a distinction between involuntary encroachments due to dire circumstances and deliberate, designed land grabs.

The court cited government records to show that over 1.23 lakh hectares of land had been encroached upon and that 1.67 lakh applications had been received under the now-struck down regularisation scheme. This, the court noted, encouraged large-scale land grabbing, dishonesty, and complete disregard for environmental and legal safeguards.

US supplied arms to Pak worth 2 Bn Dollars between 1954-1971: Indian Army Post

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

The United States supplied arms and ammunition worth 2 billion Dollars to Pakistan between 1954 and 1971, according to a social media post by the Eastern Command of the Indian Army.

The Eastern Command, tagged a 1971 newspaper clipping of '05 Aug 1971' headlined 'US Arms Worth \$ 2 Billion Shipped to Pakistan Since 1954.'

The post given exactly 54 years ago, said "This Day That Year" Build Up of War - 05 Aug 1971 #KnowFacts.'



According to the post shared under the tag #KnowFacts, on Aug 4, 1971, the then Minister for Defence Production VC Shukla had informed the Rajya Sabha, "Our estimate" of the value of US

arms shipments to Pakistan since they entered into arms pact in 1954 was \$2 billion."

He noted that both the United States and China had supplied military equipment to Pakistan

at highly concessional rates, even describing them as "throw-away prices" while the French sold them against hard cash "with no concessions".

He further said that while there was no precise information on the arms supplied to Pakistan after March 26 (when it cracked down on Bangladesh) available, Shukla, however, said "China had supplied "large quantities" of Non-lethal items".

India, Philippines elevate ties to strategic partnership; focus on defence, Indo-Pacific

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

India and the Philippines elevated their bilateral relationship to a "strategic partnership" following talks between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting Philippine President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr.

The move marks a significant upgrade in ties as the two nations seek to deepen cooperation across defence, trade, and the Indo-Pacific region.

Addressing the media after delegation-level talks, Prime Minister Modi said, "Dialogue at every level and coopera-



tion in every sector have long defined our relations. Today, we held extensive discussions on mutual cooperation, regional issues, and the global situation. I am pleased to announce that we have agreed to elevate our ties

to a strategic partnership." Modi said a comprehensive action plan has been formulated to translate the potential of this new partnership into tangible results. "Our bilateral trade continues to grow and has

crossed USD 3 billion. To strengthen this further, we will prioritise the early completion of the India-ASEAN Free Trade Agreement review and move towards a bilateral Preferential Trade Agreement," he said.

"The Philippines is a key partner in India's Act East Policy and SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region). We are committed to peace, security, prosperity, and a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region. We support freedom of navigation in accordance with international law," he said, highlighting India's broader East Asia policy.

Indian researchers decode venomous sting of black scorpion

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUGUST 5

Indian scientists have identified the complex composition of the venom of the black scorpion (Heterometrus bengalensis), a species native found in the forests across Eastern and Southern India.

The study offers new insights into its toxic effects.

Scorpion envenomation is a significant health concern worldwide, particularly in tropical and subtropical regions, due to its associated morbidity and

mortality. Despite its prevalence, limited research has been conducted on the biochemical properties and toxicological mechanisms of scorpion venom, leading to gaps in understanding and treatment.

In their study the scientists from the Institute of Advanced Study in Science and Technology (IASST), Guwahati—an autonomous institute under the Department of Science and Technology (DST)—undertook the first comprehensive profiling of the venom of the slither black scorpion.

Led by Prof. Ashis K Mukherjee, Director of IASST, and research scholar Susmita Nath, the study identified 25 distinct toxins across eight protein families in the venom. Through spectrometry and biochemical analyses, the researchers characterised these components and evaluated their pharmacological impact in Swiss albino mice.

The venom was observed to induce systemic toxicity, evident from elevated liver enzymes, organ damage and a marked proinflammatory

immune response. These findings indicate that the venom triggers significant physiological distress, potentially resulting in shock or severe allergic reactions.

The study has been published in the International Journal of Biological Macromolecules.

"This study addresses a critical gap in venom research on lesser-known scorpion species and lays a foundation for future investigations aimed at improving clinical management of scorpion envenomation," said the researchers.

India, Philippines sign four agreements

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

India and the Philippines signed four key agreements aimed at enhancing their bilateral ties and formally establishing a strategic partnership.

The first was a 'declaration on the establishment of the strategic partnership', accompanied by a plan of action outlining steps for its implementation.

The second agreement included terms of reference for institutionalising defence dialogues between the armed forces of both countries.

The third agreement comprised a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and a



treaty on the transfer of sentenced persons, aimed at strengthening cooperation in legal and judicial matters.

The fourth agreement was a programme of cooperation in the field of science and technology for the period 2025-2028, signed between the

Department of Science and Technology of both countries to facilitate joint research and innovation.

Philippines President Ferdinand R Marcos Jr, who is on a state visit at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, while addressing a joint press meeting here, said

that India has become the fifth strategic partner for the Philippines.

Marcos said Prime Minister Modi and he have agreed to cooperate further in the defence and security sector.

"Today, India becomes only the fifth strategic partner for the Philippines. This new apex attests as much to the remarkably rapid growth, broadening and deepening of our 75-year-old bilateral relationship, the possibilities represented by the strong upward trajectory of our true economies as it does to the growing alignment of our interests and views on the challenges and imperatives of our time," he said.

ITTF World Team C'ships 2026 expand to 64 teams per gender

AGENCIES
LAUSANNE, AUG 5

The 2026 World Team Table Tennis Championships Finals in London will feature 64 teams each in the men's and women's events, expanding significantly from the 40-team format used in recent championships, the International Table Tennis Federation (ITTF) said.

The expanded format marks the centenary of both the first table tennis world championships, held in London in 1926, and the founding of the ITTF the same year. The



inaugural World Table Tennis Championships took place in London in 1926.

According to the schedule, the Copper Box Arena will stage the opening rounds from April 28 to May 1, 2026. Compe-

dition will then move to Wembley Arena from May 2 to 10.

The 64 teams in each gender are organised into 16 groups of four teams. Each group plays a complete round robin competition - three matches

per team.

The key innovation lies in the staging. Stage 1a features the elite eight teams (the top seven ranked nations plus the host team) in just two groups. These matches determine seedings for the main draw, with all eight teams progressing automatically.

Stage 1b contains the remaining 56 teams across 14 groups, where only the strongest performers advance. All 14 group winners progress directly, plus six of the best second-placed teams based on their match records.

Irish spinner Aimee Maguire cleared to resume bowling in international cricket

AGENCIES
DUBAI, AUG 5

Ireland's young left-arm spinner Aimee Maguire has been cleared by the International Cricket Council (ICC) to resume bowling in international cricket with immediate effect, following a successful reassessment of her bowling action.

Maguire was reported for a suspect bowling action during the first ODI of the ICC Women's Championship series against India, held in Rajkot on January 10 this year. She subsequently underwent a bowling assessment at the ICC Accredited test-



erance permitted under the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations.

"Following remedial work and reassessment, the bowling action of Ireland spinner Aimee Maguire has been found to be legal, and she can resume bowling in international cricket," the ICC said in a statement.

"An independent assessment of Maguire's remodelled bowling action at an ICC-accredited testing centre concluded that the amount of elbow extension was within the 15-degree level of tolerance permitted under the ICC Illegal Bowling Regulations," it added.

Graeme West, Director of High Performance at Cricket Ireland, said, "We are delighted with the results from Aimee's testing at Loughborough. Aimee has put in an incredible amount of work to re-model her action, and full credit must go to James Cameron-Dow and the entire Senior Women's Team support staff and playing squad who have supported Aimee over the last six months. We will gradually integrate Aimee back into the senior squad high performance programme, and look forward to watching Aimee resume her international career."

That would be something special: Gayle on potential reunion with Kohli and De Villiers in WCL 2026

AGENCIES
LONDON, AUG 5

While the West Indies Champions narrowly missed out on a World Championship of Legends semifinal, the tournament ended on a powerful note with Chris Gayle opening up about the team's journey, his plans and a possible dream reunion with Virat Kohli and AB de Villiers.

Gayle was quoted as saying, "Virat is a phenomenal player. We've spent some great time together both on and off the field. He is a true legend of the sport, and we miss him dearly in international cricket."



Asked about a potential appearance by Kohli in the Legends League alongside him and AB de Villiers, Gayle added, "That would be something special. Fans would love that."

Reflecting on WCL 2025, Gayle candidly admitted, "We made some mistakes this season that cost us a place in the semis. But we'll be back

stronger next year. This was a great experience, and the mission now is to come back with a bang in WCL 2026."

Ajay Sethi, owner of the West Indies Champions, backed the sentiment, stating, "Wins and losses are part of the game. I'll sit with Chris and plan new strategies for next season. Every edition teaches us some-

thing new, and we are committed to a serious title run in 2026."

The two-week tournament in England ended with South Africa Champions lifting the trophy, thanks to AB de Villiers, who shone with a sensational century as South Africa Champions outplayed Pakistan Champions by nine wickets to clinch their maiden WCL title.

With the promise of a bigger, bolder return and hopes of a Kohli-Gayle-ABD reunion, WCL fans across the globe now have their eyes set on 2026. One thing is certain - the legends aren't done yet.

Drawing Test series in England with young team is big motivation for Gill: Kaneria

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

Former Pakistan spinner Danish Kaneria believes that India skipper Shubman Gill's leadership debut - guiding a young team to a 2-2 Test series draw against England - will serve as a major source of motivation for the youngster going ahead in his career.

Before the start of the tour, Gill's appointment as Test captain after the retirements of former captain Rohit Sharma and Virat Kohli attracted mixed reactions. However, Gill not only silenced his doubters but also attained



new heights as a batter after finishing the five-Test series with an aggregate of 754 runs, including four centuries.

"Hats off to the crowd, they made it feel like the game was being played in India. Shubman Gill did a

great captaincy throughout the tour and his tactical brilliance on the final day helped India a lot. His decision to continue with the old bowl hugely benefited India," Kaneria told IANS.

"This series was impor-

tant for Shubman Gill as it was his first series as a captain. Drawing a series overseas with a young team is a big motivation for him. He will learn a lot of things in the future, and there will always be ifs and buts but I think he can be a fantastic captain in a long run. He absorbed the pressure brilliantly, and it is a good start of his captaincy career."

The former spinner continued his praise for pacer Mohammed Siraj for his outstanding morning spell on the final day of the series that enabled India to win the fifth Test by six runs and level the series 2-2.

Sub-Junior boxing nationals to commence from Aug 7 in Greater Noida

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

The 4th Sub-Junior (U-15) Boys and Girls National Boxing Championships will be held from August 7 to 13 at Galgotias University in Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh, the Boxing Federation of India (BFI) said on Tuesday.

The event will see the participation of over 700 young boxers, including 400 boys and 300 girls aged between 13 and 14, who will compete across 15 weight categories.

As part of BFI's broader vision to build a robust grassroots-to-elite pathway, the Sub-Junior Nationals serve as a crucial plat-



form to identify young talent and prepare them for higher levels of competition.

The event follows the successful conduct of the men's, women's, and junior nationals earlier this year, competitions which have already produced international medallists and future stars. Haryana (Girls) and Chandigarh (Boys) enter this edition as the defending champions

from the 3rd Sub-Junior Nationals.

Boxers will compete under World Boxing Technical Rules, with three rounds of 1.5 minutes each, with a minute's rest in between rounds. A 10-point scoring system shall be followed. Medal winners from the REC Combined Talent Hunt 2024 are also eligible, making the competition even more competitive.

"The Sub-Junior Nationals are where India's boxing journey truly begins," BFI official said. "This platform helps identify talented individuals and allows them to experience real competition

early in their careers. The skills, discipline, and confidence developed here are the first building blocks of international success. This is a significant grassroots step in these young boxers' journeys, and we're sure we'll see many stars of the future in action."

Indian boxing's youth program has been making headlines globally, not only at the senior level, but also in age-group competitions. At the recent Asian U-15 and U-17 Championships, Indian boxers bagged 43 medals and finished second overall, reflecting the depth of talent and promise in the junior ranks.

If Jaiswal didn't score a ton, Siraj wouldn't have runs to defend: Kaif

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

Former India cricketer Mohammed Kaif has said that alongside Mohammed Siraj, young opener Yashasvi Jaiswal also deserves equal credit for India's thrilling win at The Oval. He pointed out that if Jaiswal hadn't scored a century in the second innings, there wouldn't have been enough runs on the board for Siraj to defend, and India could have ended up on the losing side.

Jaiswal, who started off with a dominating century at Headingley in the opening Test, ended



the series with a gritty 118 in the second innings of the deciding match at The Oval.

England ended India's first innings at 224 before being bowled out for 247 and taking a slender 23-run lead. India lost two wickets early in the second innings, then

Jaiswal stepped up and stitched a 107-run stand with Akashdeep (66), along with a couple of handy partnerships of 40 and 44 with Karun Nair and Ravindra Jadeja, respectively, as India posted 396 in the second innings, setting England a target of 376 for a win.

On Day 5 of the final Test, Siraj delivered a fiery five-wicket haul as India produced a sensational four-wicket burst on a nerve-shredding final morning at The Oval to beat England by six runs and square the series.

Speaking exclusively to IANS, Kaif while praising India for its nerve win, said, "Before Siraj, I'll mention (Yashasvi) Jaiswal. If Jaiswal hadn't scored a century, there wouldn't have been so many runs on the board to defend. Why is this a close match Till the end? Because Jaiswal got out early in the first innings."

Tennis Premier League adds Gurgaon Grand Slammers as new franchise

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, AUG 5

Gurgaon Grand Slammers have been added to the Tennis Premier League (TPL) as the new franchise ahead of its seventh season.

Hygia Ventures, a Canadian-backed investment firm founded by entrepreneur Gaurav Agarwal, has acquired the Gurgaon franchise. Legendary tennis icon Sania Mirza joins as their brand ambassador.

"Sports have always held a special place in my heart, not just as a father to a passionate young tennis player but also as someone who admires



the discipline it brings. Acquiring a team in the Tennis Premier League is a meaningful way for us to support emerging Indian talent while expanding our investments into

sports and franchise management," Agarwal said.

Sania added, "I'm thrilled to be associated with a team that values both talent and innovation. Gaurav's vision aligns

perfectly with what Indian tennis needs - structured, long-term investment. I'm looking forward to supporting the Gurgaon Grand Slammers this season."

TPL is the 4th Indian sports league to successfully enter its seventh season, joining an elite group of long-running sporting leagues in India. Known for its fast-paced, viewer-friendly format and a mix of international stars and emerging Indian players, the league continues to attract top investors and global attention. Gurgaon Grand Slammers marks another international investment into the TPL ecosystem.

Argentine delight at Pan American Cups 2025

AGENCIES
MONTEVIDEO (URUGUAY), AUG 4

The Pan American Cup 2025 came to an end at Montevideo, Uruguay, with Argentina men and women winning the gold medals. United States men and women took the silver medals in both competitions, with Canada men and Uruguay women winning bronze.

Argentina men and USA women also secured a place at the upcoming FIH Hockey World Cup, Belgium and Netherlands 2026, through their first and second-place finishes, respectively, at the competition. Argentina women had already secured their place in the World Cup via the FIH



Hockey Pro League, leaving second-placed USA to get the one available women's World Cup spot through the continental competition.

In the men's competition, Argentina were the dominant team in Pool A, winning all three matches to finish in first place.

They scored 28 goals through the league stage while keeping three clean sheets! The USA finished in second with two wins and one loss. In Pool B, Chile finished atop the table with three wins, followed by Canada in second with two wins.

In the first semifinal,

Argentina dispatched Canada with consummate ease, winning 9-1, despite Canada scoring the first goal of the game. Tomas Domene with 4 goals and Nicolas della Torre with 3 starred for the Leones. The second semi-final was a tightly contested affair with the USA and Chile playing out a 1-1 draw in regulation time. The ensuing shootout saw the USA prevail 3-1 to earn a chance at the gold medal against Argentina.

The final once again highlighted Argentina's continental supremacy as they ran a rout against the USA defence, winning the contest 10-0 to secure a fourth consecutive Pan American Cup title, and their fifth title overall.

ADC Jammu reviews arrangements for Janmashtami festivities

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 05

Additional Deputy Commissioner Jammu, Ansumya Jamwal, today chaired a preparatory meeting to review the arrangements for the forthcoming Janmashtami celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, the ADC directed for foolproof security arrangements and the deployment of magistrates at key locations to maintain law and order throughout the festivities. Stressing the importance of public convenience and safe celebrations,

she instructed the concerned departments to intensify night patrolling and conduct special sanitation drives, particularly in and around prominent temples, community halls and congregation venues.

The ADC directed for adequate provision and uninterrupted supply of essential commodities including fruits, vegetables, milk and flowers for religious purposes. Instructions were issued for the constitution of joint market-checking teams to curb overcharging and ensure the availability of quality edible items at fair

prices. She also emphasised on the need for uninterrupted power and potable water supply to all main celebration sites. Departments were asked to fast-track the repair of potholes and ensure the cleaning of all approach roads, lanes and marketplaces, facilitating smooth movement for devotees.

The deployment of fire and emergency services, medical teams and ambulances at designated locations was also reviewed. For public safety and convenience, the ADC stressed efficient traffic manage-

ment plans and directed close coordination between the traffic police and municipal authorities to avoid congestion and ensure smooth vehicular flow during processions and at celebration venues.

ADC Ansumya Jamwal urged all departments to work in close coordination and maintain heightened vigil to ensure the peaceful, smooth and joyous conduct of Janmashtami in Jammu. She appealed to citizens and devotees to cooperate with the administration and follow all guidelines for a safe festival.

National Tobacco Control Programme reviewed in Kathua

JNEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, AUGUST 05

A review meeting of the National Tobacco Control Programme (NTCP) was held at the DC Office Complex, chaired by Additional District Development Commissioner Surinder Mohan Sharma to assess progress and strengthen anti-tobacco measures.

The meeting was attended by ADC Basholi, ADC Billawar, CMO Kathua, CEO Municipal Council, BDO HQ Kathua, Food Safety Officer, District Programme Manager NHM, and representatives from the CEO's Office. All Block



Medical Officers joined virtually.

The ADDC underlined the importance of coordination and enforcement to achieve a tobacco-free India. He highlighted the need to protect youth and called for intensified awareness and inter-departmental synergy.

The CMO presented an overview of NTCP implementation and stakeholder responsibilities. BDO HQ,

as Nodal Officer, was tasked with declaring at least one tobacco-free village per block, eventually expanding to two. Signboards and active participation from Village Level Committees were mandated.

The CEO Office Kathua was directed to declare all Higher Secondary and High Schools as tobacco-free zones. Schools must display statutory warnings, designate No Smok-

ing Zones within 100 yards, and conduct pledge-taking assemblies.

The meeting also decided to form multi-departmental teams and roll out weekly outreach programmes in hotspot areas. ADC Basohli and ADC Billawar will identify such areas and ensure regular inspections.

The CEO Municipal Council Kathua was directed to inspect hotels and restaurants for tobacco control compliance and display of IEC material. All departments must nominate Nodal Officers for effective programme implementation.

Bhadrakali Temple to be developed as Cultural Heritage Centre under NHPC CSR initiative

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, AUGUST 05

Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K Dr. Arvind Karwani, accompanied by Deputy Commissioner (Relief) Vijay Kumar Sharma, CAO (Relief) Shiwani Bhan and senior officers from the Regional Offices of NHPC Jammu and NBCC, visited the Mata Bhadrakali Temple complex located on the banks of the Nikki Tawi river in Thalwal, Jammu to assess on-site requirements for its development as a heritage complex.

The Office of the Relief and Rehabilitation Commissioner (M), J&K, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with NHPC for the development of the Bhadrakali Temple as a



Cultural Heritage Centre under NHPC's Corporate Social Responsibility programme. The MoU was signed at Raj Bhawan in an event presided over by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha.

Mata Bhadrakali Temple is a revered shrine, particularly significant

to the Kashmiri Pandit community. It stands as a powerful symbol of their enduring faith and cultural preservation. The temple mirrors the historical Bhadrakali Temple of Wadipora, Handwara, Kashmir.

The proposed Cultural Heritage Centre aims to

represent the traditions, values and creativity of the community, fostering a sense of pride, belonging and unity. It is also envisioned as an educational resource, allowing students, scholars and visitors to learn about the region's history, art, architecture and diversity.

Transport Commissioner visits Katra town, directs strict enforcement of traffic norms

JNEWS SERVICE
KATRA, AUGUST 05

Transport Commissioner Vishesh Mahajan today paid a surprise visit to Katra town to review transport management and assess compliance with Motor Vehicle norms.

During the visit, the Transport Commissioner held meetings with civil and police officers and other stakeholders. He directed officers and concerned ARTO to conduct regular enforcement drives against commercial vehicles operating without valid documentation, including permits and licences. Special emphasis was placed on establishing NAKAs at designated loca-



tions and conducting joint vehicle checking drives to ensure strict compliance.

An awareness-cum-interaction session was also conducted for taxi and three-wheeler auto drivers. Directions were issued to their unions to strictly adhere to traffic norms and provisions of

the Motor Vehicles Act. On-the-spot instructions were issued to defaulters, stressing immediate compliance with the prevailing traffic regulations.

During the enforcement drive, approximately 450 vehicles were checked at various locations. A total of 73 vehicles were

e-challaned, 10 vehicles were seized and penalties amounting to Rs 2,35,000 are expected from the e-challans.

The enforcement team accompanying the Transport Commissioner included MVIs S. Jagandeep Singh, Lakhwinder Singh and Surinder Rana. The drive was supervised by ARTOs Bipen Singh Charak, Taramani Sharma and Neeraj Sharma.

The Transport Commissioner reiterated the department's commitment to delivering efficient, transparent public services while ensuring strict enforcement of Motor Vehicle laws across the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign-2025 gains momentum in Kupwara

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, AUGUST 05

The spirit of patriotism is sweeping across Kupwara district as the 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign 2025, launched as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav gains strong momentum.

Under the nationwide initiative, district administration Kupwara has geared up to ensure wide public participation through a series of vibrant activities across schools, public institutions and communities.

The campaign, which runs from August 2 to August 15, is being implemented in three phases, with the first phase (August



2-8) currently underway. This initial phase is focused on spreading awareness and building patriotic fervor, especially among the youth.

As part of the first phase, schools, colleges, and public institutions across Kupwara are engaging in wall decoration drives, with students and staff creatively painting school walls with patriotic themes and messages.

Thematic exhibitions, showcasing India's rich history, the evolution of the national flag, and stories of national heroes are also being conducted.

Also, Tiranga Rangoli competitions are being organized across schools, public spaces, and marketplaces, adding color and vibrancy to the campaign.

Besides, various awareness and cultural activities, including essay competi-

tions, quizzes, and patriotic song performances are conducted across the district.

District administration, under the leadership of Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan, has called for active community participation and coordination at all levels, right from panchayats to educational institutions and youth clubs.

The second and third phases of the campaign (August 9-12 and August 13-15 respectively) will focus on community mobilization and mass flag hoisting, culminating in the grand celebrations of Independence Day.

Budgam celebrates 'Har Ghar Tiranga' with district-wide patriotic fervour

JNEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, AUGUST 05

A series of vibrant activities and events continued today across Budgam district under the ongoing Har Ghar Tiranga campaign, being observed as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

The celebrations, which began on August 2, continue to gather momentum with enthusiastic participation from educational institutions, municipal bodies, and local communities.

At PM SHRI HSS Kandooraa Beerwah, students showcased their talent in essay writing and painting competitions, expressing their patriotism through words and art. Similarly, PM SHRI GHSS Dagger organised a spirited Tiranga rally, where students marched with national flags, echoing the message of unity.

Also the students at HSS Khansahib participated in a range of engaging activities including



cultural performances, speeches, and thematic exhibitions. At HSS Khag, colourful rangoli designs were created by students, reflecting both creativity and devotion to the national cause.

A special highlight came from Ishtiaque Memorial Government Girls Middle School, Drang (Zone Khag) where students prepared a beautiful Thread Work Tiranga as a tribute to the nation. GDC Magam hosted a day-long programme featuring painting, wall painting, and rangoli competitions, with active involvement of students and faculty members.

In this connection,

Municipal Committee Chadoora conducted a successful Har Ghar Tiranga Yatra, bringing together officials and citizens in a collective celebration of national pride. Tiranga rallies were held across several wards by the Municipal Council Budgam, promoting mass awareness and public participation.

As part of the campaign, the college building, Municipal Council building and Clock Tower Budgam were illuminated in the colours of the national flag, becoming visual symbols of patriotic spirit during evening hours.

Throughout the district, government buildings,

institutions, and private homes proudly hoisted the Tricolour, turning Budgam into a living representation of unity and pride.

Deputy Commissioner Budgam Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat lauded the collective efforts of educational institutions, civic bodies, and residents in making Har Ghar Tiranga a true people's movement.

These activities not only honour the national flag but also foster a deeper emotional connect with the ideals it represents.

The campaign will continue in the coming days with more initiatives planned to sustain the momentum and patriotic spirit across Budgam.

Sakeena Itoo distributes motorized Tricycles among specially abled persons at Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, AUGUST 05

Minister for Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo, today distributed motorized Tricycles among 28 specially abled persons at a function held here today.

The event was organized by the Department of Social Welfare department with an aim at enhancing the mobility and independence of individuals with physical challenges.

MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan; Director Social Welfare Jammu; Additional District Development Commissioner Poonch; DSWO Poonch; other district and sectoral officers and locals were also present on the occasion.

Speaking on the occasion, the Minister reaffirmed the commitment of government to social welfare and inclusive governance. "Empowering the differently-abled is not just a matter of providing mobility aids, it is about ensuring dignity, accessibility and opportunity for every individual, regardless of their physical abilities," she stated.

The Minister emphasized the need for con-



tinued efforts to bridge the gaps in accessibility, adding that more such initiatives in other districts will be held for facilitation of specially abled persons. She urged the administration to prioritize the needs of marginalized communities and ensure timely support for persons with disabilities.

The Minister further highlighted that these tricycles are not just about mobility, they symbolize dignity, independence and opportunity for those with special needs.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA Haveli, Ajaz Ahmed Jan appreciated the department's efforts in reaching out to most vulnerable sections of the society. He emphasized the importance of empow-

ering the differently abled through accessible mobility and government support.

The beneficiaries expressed sincere gratitude to the Minister for the support, describing the tricycles as life changing support which will enhance their access to education, employment and public services.

Later, the Minister inaugurated training cum awareness program under Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY).

Addressing the participants on the occasion, the Minister highlighted that the present government led by Omar Abdullah is committed to provide essential services to the people at their door steps. She spoke in length

about various social sector schemes, particularly for women folk like WDC loan scheme, Ladli beti scheme and other which are aimed for empowerment of women.

She asked the concerned department to organise awareness camps in remote areas of the district so that maximum people can take benefits of these schemes.

She also appreciated the commendable job done by Anganwari workers and helpers in implementing scheme smoothly across Jammu and Kashmir.

In his welcome address, Mission Director Poshan highlighted the progress on mission implementation, benefits and procedures of the scheme.

During the event, the Minister also distributed the letter of appreciation among the POCS and data entry operators for their commendable job in implementing the scheme in the district. She also presented appointment orders to Workers and helpers.

On the occasion, Anganwari workers also presented a skit depicting the whole process and benefits of the scheme.