

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Increased and continuous fever above 102°F
- Severe joint and muscle pain
- Severe headache
- Stomach pain
- Redness on the face
- Redness on the eyes
- Redness on the skin
- Redness on the tongue
- Redness on the throat
- Redness on the neck
- Redness on the chest
- Redness on the back
- Redness on the abdomen
- Redness on the pelvis
- Redness on the legs
- Redness on the feet

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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7 dead, 17 injured in Doda accident

LG Sinha, CM Omar, others express grief over loss of lives



JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JUL 15 (KNO)

Seven persons were killed and 17 were injured after a passenger vehicle skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge in Ponda area of hilly Doda district on Tuesday, officials said. An official told the news

agency that an accident occurred when a tempo traveller (JK06-4847) skidded off the road and plunged into a deep gorge along the Doda-Barath road near Ponda.

The vehicle was carrying multiple passengers when it lost its control, resulting in the fatal road

accident, the official said. According to officials, 26 passengers were travelling in the vehicle at the time of the accident. Rescue operations were immediately launched by the local police and volunteers, with authorities rushing to the scene

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3 dead, 8 injured in 3 road accidents along Sgr-Jmu NH

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 15 (KNO)

At least three people lost their lives, while eight others including three Amarnath pilgrims were injured in three separate road accidents that occurred along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway, from Ramban to Pulwama district, on Tuesday.

Two persons were killed and two others, including a woman, were critically injured after an Alto car collided with a truck near Dangerpora Padgampora area of Awantipora on Tuesday evening.

The victims, all residents of Kulgam district, were travelling in the Alto when the accident

occurred.

Rouf Gull, son of Gull Mohammad Lone from Dardgund, died on the spot. Abdul Rashid Sheikh, son of Ghulam Hassan Sheikh from Devsar, was declared dead on arrival at SMHS Hospital in Srinagar.

The injured have been identified as Showkat Ahmad Lone from Dardgund, who is undergoing treatment, and Firdousa, wife of Aijaz Ahmad Lone from Devsar, who remains in critical condition at SMHS Hospital.

In Banihal, one person died and three others were injured when a car collided with a crane, hydra working inside the Navyug Tunnel. Officials said the injured

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Astronaut Shukla creates history, stays at International Space Station for 18 days; PM Modi lauds feat

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 15 (KNO)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday lauded the feat of astronaut and group captain Shubhanshu Shukla, who created history by becoming the first Indian ever to set foot on the International Space Station (ISS), and returned to earth after an 18-day stay there.

According to the details available with the news agency, Group Captain Shukla is only the second Indian to have gone to space. His trip came 41 years after cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma flew aboard a Russian Soyuz in 1984.

Prime Minister Modi while congratulating the astronaut said that he has inspired a billion dreams with his dedication, courage and pioneering spirit. "I join the nation in wel-



coming Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla as he returns to Earth from his historic mission to Space," PM Modi wrote on X.

The Prime Minister said it marks another milestone towards India's own human space flight mission - Gaganyaan.

Pertinently, in his farewell address from aboard the ISS on Sunday, astronaut Shukla had said India's journey in space exploration may be tough, but it has begun. "It has been an incredible jour-

ney. Even though now it is coming to an end, for you and me there is a long way to go. The journey of our human space mission is very long and difficult. But if we are determined, even the stars are attainable," he had said.

He referred to India's first man in space cosmonaut Rakesh Sharma famously quoting from a 1924 Urdu song "Sare jahan se achcha" to say "India looked better than the rest of the world".

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Health & Education pillars of J&K's progress, prosperity: CM



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 15 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday inaugurated a 120-bedded state-of-the-art additional block at the Bone & Joint Hospital, Srinagar, reaffirming his government's firm commitment to strengthening the two foundational pillars of development—health and education.

Post inauguration, the Chief Minister also took a round of the operation theatres, staircase, ramp and wards, and interacted with the hospital staff and faculty members. Addressing a large

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CM Omar addresses Annual Day Function at SKIMS MC Bemina



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 15 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday addressed the Annual Day function of SKIMS Medical College & Hospital, Bemina, where he commended the commit-

ment of the faculty, students and newly inducted doctors.

Addressing a gathering of medical professionals, students, staff, and parents, the Chief Minister said that the role of doctors in society is

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Amid overcast conditions, Amarnath Yatra progresses smoothly; Over 13,000 perform darshan on Tuesday

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 15 (KNO)

Despite overcast weather conditions in the higher reaches of Kashmir, the annual Amarnath Yatra continues to progress smoothly, with thousands of devotees undertaking the pilgrimage to the holy cave.

According to official figures accessed by news agency, a total of 13,490 pilgrims performed dar-



shan at the holy cave on July 15, including 9,096 male, 3,546 female, 199 children, 67 sadhus, and 14 sadhvis. 568 security personnel also availed darshan.

The cumulative number of yatris who have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine so far this year has now reached 2,34,001, officials said.

Meanwhile, fresh batches of pilgrims continue to proceed from the Jammu

base camp towards the Valley. As per data, a total of 6,388 yatris left Jammu in the 14th batch on Tuesday. These included 2,501 pilgrims via the Baltal axis and 3,887 via the Pahalgam route.

The convoy consisted of 248 vehicles, comprising 129 buses, 38 medium motor vehicles (MMVs), 73 light motor vehicles (LMVs), and 8 two-wheelers.

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EAM Jaishankar appries Prez Xi Jinping about recent developments in India- China bilateral ties

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 15 (KNO)

External Affairs Minister (EAM) S Jaishankar on Tuesday apprised Chinese President Xi Jinping of the recent development of bilateral ties.

Jaishankar along with his counterparts from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), member nations met Chinese President Xi Jinping



today. In a social media post, Jaishankar, according to the news agency, said he apprised President Xi about the recent develop-

ment in India-China bilateral ties.

The EAM had arrived in China on Monday on a two-day visit to attend SCO conclave. It is his first visit to China since bilateral ties witnessed a severe downturn following the Galwan Valley clashes in June 2020.

"Called on President Xi Jinping this morning in Beijing along with

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CS for making cyber security audit of websites a time-bound process



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today chaired a crucial meeting to thoroughly review cyber security measures safeguarding government websites and critical infrastructure across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting besides the Secretary IT was attended by all Administrative Secretaries of various departments, and key officers from NIC, JaKeGA, and the IT Department.

In this meeting the Chief Secretary underscored the urgent need for fixing clear timelines for completing website security audits, stressing that prolonged website downtime causes significant inconvenience to the public. He emphasized that all exercises must be time-bound, with a focus on reviving all important websites at the earliest.

Furthermore, he directed the immediate decommissioning of all redundant and unused websites, stating they serve no purpose and pose unnecessary security risks.

To bolster internal capabilities, the Chief Secretary advocated for capacity building of all departmental Chief Information Security Officers (CISOs) and Information Security Officers (ISOs). This initiative aims to empower them to conduct future website audits independently, thereby mitigating potential security compromises.

He also mandated the installation of necessary security software on all devices used for official work and strictly directed the discontinuation of private email IDs for official communications, citing the inherent security risks to official data and devices.

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In JK, 1900 Govt schools lack separate toilets for girls

8.5% schools without electricity; 50% without benches, desks

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 15 (KNO)

In Jammu and Kashmir at least 1900 government-run-schools lack basic amenities of separate girls toilets while 8.5 percent schools are without electricity.

Besides, at least 184 'Hanging Schools' upgraded from time to time without creation of staff and are functioning through

internal arrangement. According to news agency, Education Minister Sakina Itoo in a review meeting about the basic amenities of separate girls toilets, drinking water and power supply was informed that "Still 1900 schools are without separate girls toilets and 8.5 percent schools are without electricity."

The minister directed all the CEOs to ensure

the availability of girls toilets within four months. "Besides, all the Hols shall be designated as estate officers of their schools with the responsibility of ensuring the availability of basic facilities and proper maintenance of the institutions.

"In the meeting, Itoo while reviewing the availability of school buildings and basic infrastructure, it was apprised that some

schools do not have own school buildings and are functioning in rented buildings.

The minister in this regard directed the both the directors to furnish the proposals for construction of school buildings within available funds to ensure that all schools have their own buildings and sufficient class rooms.

"Besides this, both the directors shall share

the list of building less schools and schools with deficient infrastructure with the Project Director, Samagra Shiksha, J&K for their projection in the PAB of Samagra Shiksha," she said.

About the availability of desks, the minister was apprised that only 50 percent desks are available in the schools.

"Both the directors of Jammu and Kashmir divi-

sions shall workout the deficiency with regard to availability of Desks for their respective divisions and shall formulate a District-wise proposal for providing of school desks of appropriate size. Besides, both the directors shall expedite the procurement of school desks for which funds are available with the CEOs so that students may not suffer any more," the minister directed. KNO

District Development Council Kupwara convenes review meeting of District Capex Budget 2025-26

JNEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 15

Chairman, District Development Council (DDC) Kupwara, Irfan Sultan Panditpori today chaired the council meeting in the meeting hall of DC office Complex here to review the progress of various developmental projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26.

Deputy Commissioner Kupwara, Ayushi Sudan; Vice-Chairman, District Development Council, Haji Farooq Ahmad Mir; CEO District Development Council, Mufti Fareed ud din; Members of District Development Council, besides, district and sectoral officers attended the meeting.

At the outset, Chief Planning Officer Kupwara, presented a detailed over-

view of the ongoing projects under District CAPEX Budget 2025-26 including sectors like Minor Irrigation, R&B, Elementary Education, Secondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, Health, PHE, NFB, United Grants, ADF (DDC/BDC/PRI grants) and Samridh Seema Yojna.

The meeting was informed that total approved outlay for 2025-26 involves Rs.10908 lakh, and funds released as on date is Rs.3007 lakh for execution of 1874 ongoing works.

Chairman took a detailed review of the physical and financial status of works taken up under the District Capex schemes and other sectors.

During the meeting, council members projected various demands con-

cerning their respective constituencies including shortage of BDOs in different blocks.

After reviewing the sector wise progress of the works, Chairman impressed upon district level officers of all departments to expedite the process of tendering, allotments and speed up the pace of development projects, keeping in mind the limited working season and ensure completion of projects so that all targets for the current financial year are achieved within the stipulated time frame.

On the occasion, Vice Chairman, DDC also asked the officers to put in their best efforts for timely completion of works for optimum utilization of funds under different schemes.

Deputy Commissioner also impressed upon all

the officers to gear up their men and machinery to ensure timely execution of the works. She directed them to redouble their efforts to ensure completion of the developmental projects before the onset of winter.

ADDC Kupwara who is CEO of District Development Council urged the officers to be responsive to the public, actively address their genuine needs and embrace the role as public servants. He emphasized upon the officers for accountability, empathy, and prioritization of proactive service and public welfare.

He encouraged the officers to work diligently to propel the district Kupwara towards greater development, progress, and improving the quality of life for residents.

Operation Sadbhavana: Army organises Quiz Competition on Agra Summit

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 15

To foster educational engagement and spread awareness about historical events among the youth, the Halemaidan Company Operating Base (COB) of the 12 Rashtriya Rifles today organized an insightful Quiz Competition at Upper Primary School Tantreytura Banihal. The event centered on the historic Indo-Pak Agra Summit, aiming to deepen students' understanding of regional diplomacy and peace efforts.

The competition saw enthusiastic participation from students of different classes, who displayed remarkable knowledge and curiosity on the theme. Structured in multiple rounds, the quiz covered key facts, notable person-



alities, historical context, and the outcome of the Agra Summit held in July 2001.

Officers and senior officials from the 12 RR were present to motivate the students, emphasizing the importance of understanding India's diplomatic history and encouraging a spirit of critical thinking and national pride among young minds.

Speaking on the occasion, a senior Army officer

stated, "Our aim is not just to ensure security, but also to contribute to the holistic development of the region's youth. Events like these promote awareness, foster education, and build a bridge of trust and knowledge between the Army and the local community."

Prizes were awarded to the top-performing teams, while all participants received tokens of appreciation for their active and spirited involvement.

The event concluded with a vote of thanks by the Head of the Institution, who lauded the Indian Army's continuous support and impactful role in community engagement and youth empowerment in the region.

This initiative is part of the Indian Army's ongoing Operation Sadbhavana, which aims to win hearts and minds through sustained educational and outreach programs.

Camp for free distribution of aids, assistive devices held at Ramban

JNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 15

The District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with the Department of Social Welfare and Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO) today organized a special camp to provide free aids and assistive devices to pre-identified Divyangjans (Persons with Disabilities) of block Ramban and Gandhri.

Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan inaugurated the camp and handed over prosthetic aids and appliances to eligible beneficiaries here at the Tehsil Social Welfare Office. The initiative was conducted under the centrally sponsored Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana (RVY) and Assistance to Disabled Persons for Purchase/Fitting of Aids and Appliances



(ADIP) schemes.

The beneficiaries identified and assessed in advance were provided with a range of assistive aids including wheelchairs, walking sticks, tricycles, motorized tricycles, waist belts, knee braces, artificial limbs, blind kits, kits for intellectual disability, sugma canes, smartphones, hearing aids and crutches.

A total of 28 beneficiaries from different parts of District Ramban received the aids and appliances

aimed at improving their mobility, independence and quality of life.

Appreciating the efforts of the Social Welfare Department and ALIMCO, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the transformative impact of such initiatives, especially on students and working individuals with disabilities. He called for organizing similar camps more frequently across all blocks and zones of the district to ensure inclusive development.

The camp was coordinated by District Social Welfare Officer Tariq Qazi and Tehsil Social Welfare Officer Hardev Singh, along with the dedicated team from ALIMCO and the staff of the Social Welfare Department.

CS, Secretary MoTA review tribal development measures in J&K

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Chief Secretary Atal Dulloo together with Secretary, Union Ministry for Tribal Affairs (MoTA), Vibhu Nayar today held detailed deliberations over implementation of the Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DA-JGUA) and Aadi Karmayogi Abhiyan aimed at tribal welfare and development in J&K.

The meeting besides the Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department was participated by Additional Chief Secretary (ACS), Planning and Tourism Departments; Principal Secretaries of Power Development, Public Works and Finance Departments; Commissioner Secretary, Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs; Secretary, School Education Department; Director General, Budget and other senior officers of the UT administration.

The Deputy Commissioners joined the session via video conferencing.

During the meeting, the Chief Secretary emphasized the need for building capacity among local officers and community resource persons to strengthen last-mile delivery of services, ensuring participatory governance in tribal areas. He called upon the officers to remain grounded and engage closely with the communities, resolving local issues



through a coordinated approach with the concerned departments.

Highlighting the importance of empowered human resources, Dulloo directed the ACS Planning to identify the capable resource persons across departments who could be trained as master trainers. These trainers, he said, would further build capacities at district and block levels, thereby institutionalizing an effective implementation mechanism across the UT.

The Union Secretary, in his remarks, reiterated the Ministry's steadfast support to the UT administration in achieving saturation of welfare services in tribal areas. He informed the participants that a cumulative outlay of Rs 2.5 crore has been earmarked nationally under various schemes for upliftment of tribal communities. He said that efficient utilization of these funds could significantly transform the socio-economic landscape of tribal areas.

Nayar further advocated for a focused, village-centric strategy rooted in

inter-departmental collaboration. He recommended establishing single-window centres in tribal villages to serve as grievance redressal points, provide scheme information and act as touch points for direct community engagement. Stressing on ownership, accountability and fast-track service delivery, he emphasized the importance of grooming a cadre of empowered trainers at each level of administration.

Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department, Prasanna Ramaswamy G, apprised the meeting of the progress made in J&K under DA-JGUA. He informed that a comprehensive gap analysis for all selected tribal villages has been completed and subsequently ratified by respective Gram Sabhas through the Deputy Commissioners.

He added that proposals for addressing these gaps are being prepared in convergence mode, with the support of line departments and funding provisions under DA-JGUA.

He stated that the UT administration is now positioned to submit detailed proposals for each tribal village, ensuring targeted interventions based on ground realities. These would be integrated into departmental plans for seamless execution and development in tribal areas.

Training imparted to Supervisors, BLOs at Doda



JNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 15

A comprehensive day-long training programme for Supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) was conducted at Town Hall Doda, the other Day. The event was organized by the District Administration under the supervision of District Election Officer (DEO) Harvinder Singh.

The primary objective of the training was to familiarize the participants with constitutional provisions related to elections, their role and responsibilities as key field-level functionaries and detailed procedures for the preparation and updating of the Draft Electoral Roll. The session emphasized the importance of accuracy, inclu-

siveness and accountability in maintaining voter lists and addressing claims and objections in a time-bound and transparent manner.

The participants were guided on verifying voter details, removing duplicate or ineligible entries and ensuring that no eligible voter is left out. The resource persons also highlighted the ethical responsibilities of Supervisors and BLOs in assisting citizens, safeguarding sensitive information and preventing malpractices. Discussions included practical challenges faced during field verification, the use of technology in electoral roll management and the significance of public awareness campaigns to enhance voter participation.

Bhumesh Sharma flags off farmers for field visit; pushes for adopting modern agriculture practices

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Secretary J&K Advisory Board for Development of Kisans, Bhumesh Sharma, accompanied by Director Horticulture, Kashmir, Vikas Anand, today flagged off 40 progressive farmers from Horticulture sector for one day field visit cum training on "Best Field Practices".

The event, with a focus on "How to double the income of farmers", was organised in collaboration with the Directorate of Extension Education Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agriculture Science and Technology (SKUAST) Kashmir.

Bhumesh Sharma highlighted the importance of such exposure programmes for the farmers. He informed that the Board plays a crucial role in introducing the farmers of J&K with the latest research work and best field practices devised by the scientists and technocrats at SKUAST Kashmir.

He emphasised the need to acquaint the farmers with the modern agriculture technology so that they succeed in doubling their income, contributing towards sustainable agri-



culture development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Secretary advised the farmers to optimally utilize initiatives of the government and take full advantage of schemes available under HADP in agriculture, Horticulture, fisheries, Floriculture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry and Sericulture. He asked the farmers to adopt integrated farming in their fields which will enable them to double their farm income.

He informed that more than 90% population of Jammu and Kashmir is directly or indirectly involved with Agriculture and with the growth of population land has got fragmented and now on

an average each family has land holdings ranging from 10 to 20 kanals. Hence there is a need to adopt multi cropping and integrating farming approach. Besides, we should explore better marketing for our surplus crops, he added.

Director Horticulture Kashmir appreciated the initiatives of Kisan Advisory Board for organizing such Kisan friendly awareness programmes. He exhorted upon the farmers to take full advantage of this one-day visit cum training programme.

During the flag off ceremony, Chief Horticulture Officer, Srinagar, District SMS along with Assistant Director Horticulture were also present.

DLIC Samba approves 53 Mission YUVA cases

JNEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 15

In a significant move to foster youth entrepreneurship and promote self-employment, the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) Samba for the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) today approved 53 cases.

The meeting was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma. The meeting scrutinized each proposal submitted by the aspiring entrepreneurs seeking support under the scheme. Mission YUVA aims to provide financial assistance, skill and capacity-building support to enable youth



to start and sustain their entrepreneurial ventures.

During the meeting, concerned departments presented a comprehensive review of the applications received. After detailed scrutiny and discussions, the Committee approved 53 eligible cases for financial support and necessary guidance.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized the transformative potential of Mission YUVA in empowering local youth and promoting

sustainable livelihoods. He called for intensified awareness campaigns to reach a broader section of eligible beneficiaries and directed the District Employment & Counselling Centre Samba to proactively engage with the youth and encourage participation in the scheme.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Champa Devi Thakur; AD Employment, officers from DIC, Social Welfare Department, JKEDI and other concerned departments.

DC Bandipora kick-starts provincial level Inter district Handball competition



JNEWS SERVICE
BANDIPORA, JULY 15

A week-long inter-district provincial level Handball competition (AAG Boys) formally commenced on Tuesday at S.K. Stadium Bandipora.

The event was inaugurated by Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, who graced the occasion as the chief guest.

Organized by the Youth Services and Sports Bandipora, the competition is being held from 15th to 20th July 2025 and features teams from across various districts of Kashmir. Participants will compete in three age categories viz. 14, 17, and 19

years, showcasing talent and team spirit in the discipline of Handball.

Speaking at the inaugural function, DC lauded the efforts of the department for providing such platforms for young athletes to display their potential. He emphasized the importance of sports in shaping the overall personality and career of the youth.

On the occasion, District Youth Services and Sports Officer (DYSSO) said that the event is expected to witness a large turnout of players, officials, and sports enthusiasts throughout the week, making it one of the most significant youth sports gatherings in the district.

MLA Tarigami reviews Agricultural initiatives at Lalmandi Srinagar



JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

In a focused effort to strengthen the agricultural and horticultural sectors of Kulgam constituency, Member of Legislative Assembly (MLA) for Kulgam M.Y. Tarigami chaired a comprehensive review meeting at the Directorate of Agriculture, Lalmandi Srinagar.

The session spotlighted strategic planning for the Kulgam constituency, with emphasis on the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme, Farmer Producer Organization (FPO) formation, and market linkage enhancement.

Director Agriculture

Kashmir, Sartaj Ahmad Shah, delivered a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining current initiatives, challenges, and future goals. The presentation emphasized innovation, farmer empowerment, and sustainable growth.

The meeting was attended by key dignitaries and stakeholders, including Farooq Ahmad Dar, Managing Director, HPMC; Jeelani Zargar, Director, Horticulture Planning and Marketing; Vikas Anand, Director, Horticulture Kashmir, Joint Directors, senior officers from relevant departments, and senior citizens.

MLA commended the department's efforts toward transforming the

agriculture sector through innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth. He particularly appreciated the initiatives aimed at empowering small and marginal farmers, promoting agri-entrepreneurship among youth, and improving market access through integrated value chains.

He reiterated the importance of institutional collaboration and grassroots engagement to transform Kulgam into a model constituency for agri-horticultural development.

The gathering concluded with a shared commitment to accelerate implementation and ensure tangible benefits for farming communities.

Zone Doda Lifts Inter Zonal District Level U/19 Boys Kabaddi Trophy



JIN NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 15

The 2nd Phase of Inter Zonal District Level tournament on Tuesday witnessed thrilling contests at different venues across Doda District. The competitions were held in the disciplines of Rifle shooting AAG Girls, Kabaddi U/19 Boys, Football AAG Boys & Girls and archery AAG Boys.

The Tournament has been organised by Youth Services and Sports Department as

per approved Calendar of activities issued by the Directorate of Youth Services and Sports, J&K. The Competitions are being organised to select the best probable for the next level of competition.

In an exciting Final Kabaddi match, Zone Doda beat Zone Assar by 03 points. The competition was officiated by a selected panel and experts of the Department. The Competitions will continue till July 22 witnessing contests in different games scheduled in all categories.

DIPR Samba organises Bhajan Sandhya at Narsingh Dev Ji Temple Ghagwal



JIN NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 15

Adding spiritual fervour to the ongoing Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, a soulful Bhajan Sandhya was organised this evening at the historic Narsingh Dev Ji Temple in Ghagwal. The event was organised by the Samba District Centre of the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR).

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma graced the occasion as the Chief Guest

SDM Ghagwal and Tehsildar also joined devotees at the devotional gathering. The Bhajan Sandhya created a spiritually uplifting atmosphere, with local artists rendering melodious bhajans that captivated the audience and filled the temple premises with divine energy.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries, officers and locals who came together in reverence and celebration. The initiative aimed

to strengthen communal harmony and enhance the spiritual ambience of the yatra season.

The DC appreciated the Information Department for promoting cultural and devotional events and called upon citizens to uphold the rich spiritual traditions of the region.

The evening concluded with collective prayers for peace, prosperity and the successful conduct of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

Week-long FDP on 'Emerging Research Trends in Science' commences at GCW Srinagar

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

The week-long Faculty Development Programme (FDP) titled 'Emerging Research Trends in Science' organized by Government College for Women (GCW), M.A. Road, Srinagar commenced here today.

Director Colleges, Prof. Sheikh Ajaz Bashir was the Chief Guest at the inaugural function held at the college's auditorium. Nodal Principal (Kashmir) who also serves as Dean Academic Affairs, Cluster University Srinagar (CUS), Prof. Seema Naz; Registrar CUS, Prof. Wilayat Hussain Rizvi; Principal Amar Singh College, Prof. Aijaz Ahmed Hakak and Principal AAAM College, Bemina, Prof. Mudasar Afshan were also present on the occasion.

In his keynote address, Director Colleges appreciated the initiative of the college to organize the FDP on a relevant theme. Addressing the young faculty members, Prof. Ajaz said, "You should think how you want to spend your years of active service. Emoluments will come to you. But what is important is what is going to be your contribution to higher education. Take ownership of the college. Don't be in a college on the basis of biometric attendance. Be there on the basis of your engagement with the students. It should be a mentor-mentee kind of mechanism. It should not be a monologue."

Referring to the overwhelming response of students for the ongoing admission process in colleges, Prof. Ajaz said, "We have been able to register 54,000 students for



admissions this year and we should understand how big a change they can bring if we stand by their side."

He referred to the ensuing academic session and the challenge of rolling out the fourth year of the UG programme under NEP-2020 with two clear research and honors- verticals.

Director Colleges also assured the faculty that the placement cases are being resolved on fast track cases. "This month we are going to launch an online portal for these placements. Now nobody has to come to directorate of colleges. You have to apply online for the placement and your cases will be moved to technical committee twice in a year and thereby to DPC," he added.

In her address, Nodal Principal (Kashmir), Prof. Seema Naz also referred to the crucial fourth year of the Four-Year Undergraduate Programme under NEP-2020 from the ensuing session.

"For the first time in the colleges, we have to go for the research vertical and we are all deliberating on how we will execute it in our institutions though no doubt it is a big challenge.

When we talk about implementing anything, we not only have to make our students aware, but more importantly the faculty members should be aware about the nuances and then only they can mentor the students in the right manner," Prof. Seema said.

Referring to the theme of the FDP in this backdrop, she said, "I think this is a very good platform and a time to talk about the research trends in science. This college is a premier college and has always been known for conducting programs on pertinent themes. I think this program is an effort in the same direction. I congratulate the principal and staff and I hope meaningful deliberations happen throughout this one week FDP."

Earlier, in her welcome address, Principal, Prof. Yasmee Farooq spoke on the relevance of the FDP theme. "Applications of technology and innovation in interdisciplinary research is witnessing a boom and it has become imperative for our faculty members to keep pace with new research and techniques that are expanding at an exponential rate. Programmes like this serve as an excellent

opportunity of learning, upskilling and meaningful networking so that ideas can evolve, skills can be sharpened and professional connections can fructify into bigger futures," said Prof. Yasmee.

Presenting the concept note of the FDP, Course Coordinator and HoD Chemistry, Prof. Majida Maqbool listed the various themes to be covered during the week-long deliberations including Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning in Transforming the Society, Biotechnology & Life Sciences Advancements, Advanced Materials & Nanotechnology and Sustainable Science & Environmental Research. She said the FDP comprises of two daily sessions, each lasting two hours followed by a panel discussion for 30 minutes.

On the occasion, the electronic version of the Coffee Table Book of the college was launched by Director Colleges. The book is an attempt to record the past, present and future potential of this glorious institution.

A book on 'Machine Learning & Cyber-security (AI for Threat Detection & Prevention)' authored by senior faculty members of Department of Computer Sciences, Prof. Rashid Ashraf Malik and Dr. Asif Iqbal Kawoosa was also released on the occasion.

Dr. Momina Nazir from Department of Chemistry was felicitated in recognition of successfully obtaining a patent titled 'Nano Fungicidal Composition and Method Thereof'. Similarly, Dr. Parsa Sarosh from Department of Electronics was felicitated for her patent titled 'Adaptive Headlight Control with Lamp Deflection for Vehicles'.

Electoral Roll Revision 2025: Supervisors, BLOs imparted orientation training at Doda

JIN NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 15

The District Election Office (DEO) Doda today hosted two training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) and BLO Supervisors of 53-Doda

Assembly Constituency. The training, conducted in morning and afternoon sessions at Town Hall Doda, aimed to equip field-level election functionaries with updated knowledge and practical guidance for

carrying out revision-related tasks as per the guidelines of the Election Commission of India (ECI).

Key areas covered during the training included house-to-house verification,

accurate handling of claims and objections, and the effective use of IT tools. Emphasis was laid on ensuring inclusivity, transparency, and error-free electoral rolls to uphold the integrity of the electoral process.

Special Lok-Adalat for MACT & Matrimonial cases on July 26 in Srinagar deferred

JIN NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

As per an official communication received from DLSA Srinagar, the Special Lok Adalat on Motor

Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT), Matrimonial Cases and Bank Cases which was scheduled to be held on 26th July, 2025 at District Court Complex Moominabad Srinagar and

Addl. Special Mobile Magistrate Panthachowk, has been deferred for the time being.

The Special Lok Adalat has been postponed in view of the upcoming

North Zone Regional Conference to be held on 26th & 27th July.

Meanwhile, the next date for the conduct of the Special Lok Adalat will be notified separately.

Milestone towards safety of women at workplace

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DIP/J-3508/25 Date: 15-7-25

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

7 dead, 17 injured...

to assist in retrieving the victims and providing emergency medical aid.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda, Harvinder Singh told KNO that a total of seven persons were killed and 17 others were injured in the accident.

The bodies of the deceased have been handed over to their families for last rites after post-mortem and completion of legal formalities, while the injured are undergoing treatment at GMC Doda and Jammu, the official said.

The injured include Mohammad Rafi, son of Bashir Ahmad from Aul; Hakim, son of Gh. Mohd from Dhar; Ghulam Mohammad, son of Abdul Subhan from Aul; Abdul Qasim, son of Asdoo Wani from Aul; another individual named Mohd Rafi, son of Ghulam Mohammad from Aul; Abdul Rashid, son of Abdul Gani from Aul; Muzee-ur-Rehman, son of Shams Din Parry from Gundna; Sahil Farooq, son of Farooq Ahmed from Udyanpur; Saima Banoo, daughter of Lassa Naik from Aul; Shamima Begum, wife of Mohd Amin from Aul; Shamala Begum, wife of Amjad from Aul; Heena Banoo, daughter of Ghulam Malik from Aul; Aqib Hussain, son of Ghulam Mohd; Abdul Qayoom, son of Ghulam Wani from Aul; Shakoor Din, son of Asdullah Wani from Aul; Uzma, daughter of Amjad from Aul; and Kulsma, wife of Tariq Hussain from Aul.

Five of the deceased have been identified as Mohd Ashraf, son of Mohd Abdullah from Aul; Mangta, son of Gh. Wani from Aul; Atta Mohd, son of Gh. Mohd from Balidhar; Tariq Hussain, son of Abdul Jabbar; and Rafiq Begum, wife of Abdul Latif, both residents of Aul. The identities of two others are yet to be ascertained.

Meanwhile, police have registered a case and started an investigation in this regard.

Moreover, J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, Democratic Progressive Azad Party president Ghulam Nabi Azad, and Apni Party President Syed Mohammad Altaf Bukhari have consoled the loss of lives in the tragic accident.

In a condolence message, the Lt Governor said: "Pained by the loss of lives due to the tragic road accident in Doda. My heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families in this hour of grief. Praying for a speedy recovery of the injured."

In a post on X, the Office of the CM wrote, "Deeply saddened by the tragic road accident in Doda that has claimed six lives and left several injured. The Chief Minister extends heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families and prays for the speedy recovery of the injured."

"The administration has been directed to ensure immediate medical assistance and support to all affected," the post reads.

Union Minister Jitendra Singh said he spoke to Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh, upon receiving the information about the accident. "All possible help and medical aid are being provided. The DC is personally supervising the entire exercise and giving me regular updates. Any further assistance, as required, will also be provided," Singh said in a post on X. He expressed condolences to the families of the deceased. KNO

3 dead, 8 injured in...

were rushed to a nearby hospital, where one critically injured person succumbed to his injuries.

The deceased was identified as Tariq Ahmad, son of Abdul Aziz Wani of Banihal, an employee of the Health Department.

The remaining two injured persons are undergoing treatment at GMC Anantnag.

In Ramban, three Amarnath yatrins were injured after a bus, part of the Baltal down convoy, met with an accident inside Tunnel T-1 at Kela Morh in Ramban district.

The incident occurred as the convoy was passing through the tunnel. The injured were immediately taken to District Hospital Ramban for treatment.

Meanwhile, police have taken cognizance of all the three accidents. KNO

Astronaut Shukla creates...

"Even today we want to know how it looks from space. I'll tell you. From space, today's India looks ambitious. It looks fearless. It looks confident. It looks proud. And so, I can once again say that today's India still looks better than the rest of the world," Group Captain Shukla said.

Group Captain Shukla is among four Indian air force officers shortlisted last year to travel on Gaganyaan. Born on 10 October 1985 in the northern city of Lucknow, Shukla joined the air force as a fighter pilot in 2006. He has flown MiGs, Sukhois, Dorniers, Jaguars and Hawks and has more than 2,000 hours of flying experience. KNO

Amid overcast conditions...

Among the pilgrims were 4,886 males, 1,300 females, 15 children, 158 sadhus, and 21 sadhvis.

Despite intermittent rain and cloudy conditions, authorities said the yatra is continuing peacefully and all necessary arrangements including medical aid, escort security, and traffic regulation remain in place.

Over 51 lakh undertake Amarnath Yatra in past 15 years

Over the past decade and a half, the Amarnath Yatra has seen a cumulative footfall of more than 51 lakh pilgrims. Official figures reflect sharp fluctuations in pilgrim turnout, influenced by both natural and administrative factors.

In 2010, 4.55 lakh pilgrims made their way to the Amarnath cave shrine. The numbers peaked in the following two years, with 6.21 lakh pilgrims recorded in 2011 and 6.35 lakh in 2012. However, subsequent years witnessed a decline, reaching a low of 2.21 lakh in 2016.

The dip was attributed to weather-related disruptions and security concerns. The turnaround began in the years that followed, with authorities ramping up facilities and tightening safety arrangements.

The Yatra began regaining momentum, crossing 3 lakh in 2018 and remaining steady until the pandemic halted the pilgrimage entirely in 2020 and 2021.

In 2022, the Yatra resumed with 3.04 lakh pilgrims, followed by a notable increase in 2023 as 4.50 lakh

devotees participated. The upward trend continued into 2024, when a record 5 lakh pilgrims—both domestic and international—undertook the journey to the high-altitude shrine.

It was the highest turnout since 2012. Between 2021 and 2024, the duration of the pilgrimage varied widely. In 2021, it was scheduled for 56 days but was suspended midway due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The yatra was conducted over 43 days in 2022, 62 days in 2023, and 52 days in 2024. KNO

Health & Education...

gathering on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that no amount of infrastructure development—be it roads, power projects, or commercial complexes—can substitute for quality healthcare and education. "Without robust schools, colleges, universities and hospitals, our progress as a society will remain incomplete," he stated.

Recalling the rich legacy of the Bone & Joint Hospital, CM Omar said that the institution has faced extraordinary challenges over the past 30-35 years. "From natural disasters to tragic accidents, this hospital has stood as a symbol of resilience and commitment," he said.

He reminisced about the 2014 floods, when floodwaters first breached the Bone & Joint Hospital. "I vividly remember standing under this bridge, trying to protect the hospital from being overrun. Despite the devastation, this hospital never turned its back on people—it continued to provide treatment," he said.

The Chief Minister also referred to the 2022 fire that destroyed major sections of the hospital, including four operation theatres, referral rooms, teaching areas, and multiple wards. "Even without a roof for six months, our doctors and administrators resumed surgeries within days. Their dedication is commendable," he added.

Highlighting the vision of Sher-e-Kashmir Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who had inaugurated the hospital in May 1982, the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah expressed pride in carrying that vision forward. "Today, we are opening a new chapter in the hospital's journey—one that will serve not just Srinagar, but patients from every corner of the Valley, and even from Chenab, Pir Panjal, and Kargil," he said.

Sharing a personal anecdote, CM Omar revealed that he, too, had been a patient at the hospital following a cycling accident five years after its inauguration. "Thanks to the skill of the surgeons here, I can still run 10-12 kilometers at the age of 55. That's the quality of care this hospital provides," he remarked.

The Chief Minister emphasized the urgent need for staffing in the newly inaugurated facility and directed concerned departments to expedite the creation of required posts. "We didn't cut this ribbon for a photo opportunity. It will only be meaningful when these beds are occupied, OTs are functional, and our faculty is teaching future doctors," he asserted.

As Minister for Housing & Urban Development, Omar Abdullah also announced a special survey to identify water-logging hotspots in Srinagar. He said a comprehensive project will be framed to address the issue, drain by drain, to make Srinagar a true smart city.

He further assured that two to three major infrastructure projects will soon be launched to ease traffic congestion in the city.

The Chief Minister extended his congratulations to the Principal of Government Medical College Srinagar, faculty members, doctors, staff, and administration of Bone and Joint Hospital. "This hospital is not just a building—it's a beacon of hope and healing. Together, we will ensure it continues to serve generations to come," he said.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Kumar Choudhary reaffirmed that the mission and vision laid down by Sher-e-Kashmir will continue with renewed focus and energy under the able leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah.

Minister for Health & Medical Education, Sakeena Itoo, in her address, said that following the formation of the present government under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, the Bone & Joint Hospital project has witnessed significant progress and was successfully completed.

She further emphasized that medical care facilities across Jammu and Kashmir are being continuously upgraded. "From MRI facilities to Cath Labs and other advanced diagnostic and treatment services, our aim is to provide world-class healthcare through our Government Medical Colleges and associated hospitals," she said.

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, MLA Lal Chowk Sheikh Ahsan Pardesi, and Secretary Health & Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah also addressed the gathering, lauding the efforts of the administration and healthcare workers involved in the project.

The event was attended by several legislators from across Kashmir, Principal GMC Srinagar Dr. Iffat Hassan, Medical Superintendent Bone & Joint Hospital, senior faculty members, doctors and a large number of citizens. KNO

CM Omar addresses...

one of immense responsibility and trust. "Patients in our region place their utmost faith in their doctors, almost as much as they place in Allah," he said. "It is our collective duty to uphold that sacred trust with integrity and compassion."

Highlighting the rapid evolution in medical science, the Chief Minister noted the constant advancement in technologies, treatments, and surgical methods. "From robotics to artificial intelligence, the medical profession is now at a crossroads of human care and machine efficiency. While tools like ChatGPT can simulate empathy and generate treatment suggestions, they can never replace the human touch that defines this profession," he remarked.

In a light-hearted personal reflection, Omar Abdullah recalled how he narrowly avoided a career in medicine due to his fear of cadaver dissection, choosing instead to pursue commerce. "I lacked the aptitude and courage to become a doctor—but I have always had the utmost respect for those who do," he said.

The Chief Minister emphasized that earning a medical degree is only the beginning, and the real challenge lies in applying that knowledge to serve people, especially in underserved and rural areas. He urged young doctors to embrace government service not merely for job security but as a platform to deliver care where it is most needed. "I meet aspirants who seek government jobs but don't want to be posted even a few kilometers away from home. That mindset needs to change," he added.

Underscoring the government's focus on healthcare, the Chief Minister said that health and medical education would continue to receive top priority in budgetary allocations. "You have our full support—whether it's infrastructure, staffing or training. But improving urban hospitals alone is not enough. If we are referring normal deliveries and minor surgeries to tertiary care due to staff shortages in rural areas, we are failing our system," he said.

Omar Abdullah also praised the Principal of SKIMS Medical College for gaining wide popularity and earning the trust of students and staff in a remarkably short time. "It's rare to see a rising popularity graph after four months in any leadership role. This speaks volumes about the direction in which this institution is headed," he said.

Congratulating the graduating students and their families, the Chief Minister assured the parents that their sacrifices will not go in vain. "You have fulfilled your responsibility by educating your children. Now it is our duty to ensure they thrive and contribute meaningfully to the health sector of Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

He wished the students continued success and reaffirmed the government's unwavering support for SKIMS and its affiliated institutions.

Minister for Health & Medical Education Sakina Itoo, Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani, Secretary H&ME Dr. Syed Abid Rashid Shah, Director SKIMS Soura Prof. Mohammad Ashraf Ganai, and Principal SKIMS Medical College & Hospital Dr. Fazlul Qadir Parry also addressed the gathering.

The event was attended by several MLAs, former Directors of SKIMS, senior faculty members, outgoing graduates, students, parents, and other distinguished guests.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah presented certificates to the graduates of the 2019 batch and felicitated the families of deceased faculty members in recognition of their invaluable contributions to the college and hospital. KNO

EAM Jaishankar apprises...

my fellow SCO Foreign Ministers," Jaishankar said on 'X'.

"Conveyed the greetings of President Droupadi Murmu & Prime Minister @narendramodi," he said.

"Apprised President Xi of the recent development of our bilateral ties. Value the guidance of our leaders in that regard," the EAM added. KNO

CS for making cyber...

Addressing infrastructure needs, the Chief Secretary took note of the requirement for augmenting the State Data Centre (SDC) in Jammu. He directed the IT Department to promptly initiate the process using available funds, assuring that additional requisite funding would be provided as the work progresses.

During the meeting, Administrative Secretaries also contributed valuable suggestions to enhance the overall security of IT assets and prevent data breaches.

The Secretary, IT, Dr. Piyush Singla took this occasion to provide a comprehensive presentation detailing the safety and security precautionary measures undertaken by the department to ensure the cyber security of all government websites and assets. He informed the meeting that an audit agency has been engaged to conduct security audits of websites/portals hosted at the J&K SDC.

Dr. Singla highlighted the current status of websites hosted at the J&K SDC. He gave out that of a total of 239 websites, 140 are live. Of the 99 non-live websites, 70 are currently under audit by a Third-Party Auditor (TPA), 11 are under departmental audit, 10 are yet to be audited but are covered under the audit plan, 6 more have been allocated for auditing but their staging is not ready, and 2 websites have been decommissioned till date.

He further informed that to expedite the security audit process, the TPA has been requested to engage four additional resources, with the audit of all pending websites expected to be completed within the next two months. Regular follow-ups with CISOs/ISOs is done by the Department and detailed reports are being shared with all Administrative Secretaries for their appraisal.

Regarding other departmental measures, it was reported that Endpoint Detection and Response (EDR) deployment is underway at the Civil Secretariat in Jammu and Srinagar, with 4011 EDR and 1789 UEM installations completed. VPN access has been restricted to users with Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA), and all routers have been configured to accept requests only from India. Furthermore, Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) have been mandated for opening IP/Ports via firewalls only.

The meeting was also informed that compliance with CERT-In and OWASP top 10 guidelines is being strictly enforced for all websites and web applications. To ensure public convenience and data security, the audit of critical applications such as Land Records, NGDRS, and CVS Portal has been initiated, and reports have been shared with respective departments for mitigation actions and necessary source code patching as required under the cyber security framework.

Samba: Rs 2.72 lakh fine imposed on Distillery for violation of norms

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 15

The Legal Metrology Department Samba has imposed a penalty of Rs 2.72 lakh on a prominent distillery for serious violations of the Legal Metrology (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 2011 and the Legal Metrology Act, 2009.

An enforcement team headed by the Assistant Controller Samba conducted a detailed inspection of the distillery unit and unearthed multiple violations. These included the use of unverified weighing and measuring instruments during production and packaging, along with non-compliance of mandatory declarations on packaged products.

Following the inspec-

tion, a formal case was registered by the LMD team under the applicable legal provisions. Compounding proceedings were initiated and a penalty of Rs 2.72 lakh was imposed on the unit.

The distillery has been directed to immediately verify all instruments and ensure strict adherence to Legal Metrology norms.

Commenting on the enforcement action, Controller Rajinder Singh Tara said "The department is committed to protecting consumer rights and ensuring fairness in trade practices across Jammu & Kashmir. Enforcement drives will continue with full vigour, and violations will be dealt with as per law. All manufacturers and traders are advised to strictly comply with Legal Metrology standards."

DLSA Udhampur convenes UTRC meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 15

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur today convened an Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting in compliance with the Quarterly Schedule of UTRC Meetings-2025 and in adherence to the directives of the National Legal Services Authority (NLSA) and J&K Legal Services Authority (J&K LSA).

The meeting was chaired by Chairperson DLSA (Principal District & Sessions Judge) Virinder Singh Bhou and attended by Secretary DLSA Dr. Smriti Sharma; Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai; Senior Superintendent of Police Amod Ashok Nagpure; Superintendent District Jail Mohammad Irfan; Chief LADC Pawan Gupta; Deputy LADC Atul Singh and Veney Singh Kotwal.

The committee reviewed cases based on guidelines from the Supreme Court and NALSA SOPs, focusing on prisoners with no proper representation or those who have spent substantial time behind bars without trial. The Committee recommended the release of eligible prisoners, ensuring that the benefits of legal provisions reach the intended beneficiaries. The meeting also discussed action items, such as conducting regular meetings to track progress, maintaining a consolidated data sheet to monitor prisoner cases, and preparing quarterly reports.

The meeting concluded with the Chairperson DLSA offering words of appreciation to all the stakeholders for their proactive participation in addressing the concerns related to under trial prisoners.

DC Srinagar inspects progress of work on construction of Tehsil Office Khanyar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Akshay Labroo on Tuesday conducted onsite inspection of under construction new building for Tehsil office Khanyar in the district being executed by R&B department.

On the occasion, DC took stock of ongoing works and inspected various sections of G+2 designated Revenue Office Complex.

He directed the executing agency to accelerate the pace of construction while ensuring strict adherence to quality standards and timely completion.

Labroo emphasized the need to strengthen infrastructure and modernize Revenue offices in the district to enhance public service delivery. He added that all Revenue offices including SDM office and Tehsil office are being equipped with modern facilities to improve delivery of revenue services to the public and provide a better working environment for officials.

DC underlined that to create a more efficient and citizen-friendly work environment Revenue infrastructure is being further strengthened across the district.

Preparations for I-Day 2025 celebrations kick-off at Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a meeting at the Conference Hall of DC office complex to review the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day-2025 celebrations in the district.

The meeting discussed various arrangements and measures to be taken to ensure the smooth execution of the Independence Day events.

It was given out that besides the main function at sports stadium Budgam, similar functions will also be held at sub divisional and block levels as well as at all schools, colleges and Government Institutions of the district.

DC emphasised the importance of National event and directed the departments to make sure that every arrangement is meticulously planned and executed.

He urged all departments to work in close coordination to ensure the seamless celebration of the Independence Day functions.

DC passed directives



to different departments to ensure that all necessary arrangements are in place and operational well before the event, besides designating ADC Budgam as the nodal officer for the event.

Chief Medical officer was directed to ensure that emergency medical services are available throughout all the functions.

Directions were also issued to the Jal Shakti department to make arrangements for drinking water facility, KPDC for power supply, R&B and Irrigation for venue arrangements, DIO for PAS system, EO MCs for cleanliness.

DC further emphasized that celebrations should foster an environment of festivity across the district and directed the Chief Education Officer to organize public and youth engagement activities including cultural and patriotic activities for wider participation of youth and students to foster a sense of patriotism and community engagement in celebrations.

He also directed the concerned officers to ensure smooth movement of traffic and prevent congestion during the event.

DC directed all sectoral and district officers to ensure arrangements for flag hoisting at office premises and also abide by the rules given in flag code.

Speaking on the occasion, SSP Budgam Nikhil Borkar assured that all security arrangements will be in place well before the function to maintain law and order.

Among others, the meeting was attended by ADDC Budgam, ADC Budgam, GM DIC, PO ICDS, ACR, CPO, ACD, CMO, CEO, Officers from CRPF, District Officers of different departments and other concerned.

DC Rajouri launches Vibrant Village Programme 2.0

Pays Tributes to Brigadier Usman- The Lion of Nowshera

JI NEWS SERVICE
JHANGAR (NOWSHERA), JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today launched the Vibrant Village Programme 2.0 and led the district in celebrating the 113th birth anniversary of Brigadier Mohammad Usman popularly known as "The Lion of Nowshera."

The event was organized at the historic Jhangar village near the Line of Control in Nowshera Sub-division.

The event was organized by the District Administration Rajouri in collaboration with the Indian Army, attracting enthusiastic participation from officers, students, locals and representatives of different departments.

The commemoration began with a grand welcome ceremony followed by paying of floral tributes in the memorial of Brigadier Usman. A documentary showcasing the life and valour of Brigadier Mohammad Usman was screened, highlighting his supreme sacrifice in the 1947-48 Indo-Pak war.

To honour the legacy of service and patriotism, school students spoke on the life and contribution of Brigadier Usman and



presented patriotic songs. The Deputy Commissioner felicitated the participating students for their efforts and patriotic spirit.

The government departments had set up awareness stalls at the venue to inform the public about different schemes and initiatives under the Vibrant Village Programme.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC underscored the significance of the Vibrant Village Programme in transforming the lives of people residing in remote and border areas. He reiterated the commitment of the administration to bridge critical gaps in infrastructure and services delivery.

"The supreme sacrifice of Brigadier Mohammad Usman is an eternal source of inspiration for all of us," said the DC. "I extend heartfelt congratulations to his family, the institu-

tion he served and the residents of his native place who continue to uphold his legacy with pride," he added.

Later, the Deputy Commissioner chaired a meeting with district officers, instructing them to identify gaps and improve basic facilities, including drinking water, road connectivity, reading rooms, play zones, and dispensary services in the border villages.

Refreshments were served to all participants as the event concluded on a note of national pride and developmental resolve.

Among the dignitaries present were SSP Rajouri Gaurav Sikarwar, ADC Nowshera, CO Saurav Pandey, SE Tilak Raj, CPO Maqsood Ahmed, ACD Auqil Naveed, DSWO Abdul Raheem, Tehsildar Nowshera, BDO Nowshera and other district and sectoral officers.



Shri Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chamber of Commerce Jammu Chapter called on Lieutenant Governor Shri Manoj Sinha, today and put forth important matters pertaining to trade and industry sector.

Distt admin Pulwama begins two-day training prog for Supervisors, BLOs



JI NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JULY 15

District Administration Pulwama today started a two-day training programme for Supervisors and Booth Level Officers (BLOs) across the district.

The training sessions are being conducted under the supervision of District Election Officer, Dr. Basharat Qayoom and aim to equip participants with a comprehensive understanding of their roles and responsibilities in the election process.

Sessions are being conducted by District Level

Master Trainers and are being held simultaneously across all the four assembly constituencies of the district.

Concerned Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) and Assistant Electoral Registration Officers (AEROs) were also present on the occasion to oversee the training sessions.

These sessions emphasized the role of BLOs as the grassroots facilitators of the Election Commission of India and stressed the need for accuracy, transparency and accountability in maintaining electoral rolls.

DLC reviews Change of Land Use cases at Ramban

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 15

The District Level Committee (DLC) on Change of Land Use met today under the chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan to review the status of the cases received from different parts of the district.

The meeting was attended by ACR Shokat Hayat Mattoo; GM DIC Ravinder Anand; SDM Banihal Mohammad Naseeb Bajraan; SDM Gool Intiaz Ahmed; ACD Shrinath Suman; DFO Batote Abhinav Ramotra; DFO Ramban Hitender Singh



Chandel; Executive Engineers of JPDCL, Jal Shakti, PWD Ramban and Banihal and other concerned officers.

A total of 14 CLU cases were taken up for review ensuring thorough scrutiny of documents and verification of compliance with land conversion

rules. The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the need to make the CLU process effective and fool-proof. He further instructed the concerned officers to recommend cases strictly as per the provisions of the Jammu and Kashmir Land Revenue Act.

DDC Reasi approves 122 Youth Entrepreneurship cases under Mission YUVA

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 15

The District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) for Mission YUVA met here today to review and approve youth entrepreneurship cases verified by the Small Business Development Units (SBDU). The meeting was chaired by District Development Commissioner (DDC) Nidhi Malik.

A total of 130 cases, verified by SBDUs, were presented before the Committee for consideration. Of these, 122 were approved for financial assistance and handholding support under Mission YUVA. The committee carried out a detailed scrutiny of each application based on eligibility, business viability, and the socio-economic background of the applicants.

The DDC emphasised the importance of promoting self-employment opportunities for local youth, particularly those from underprivileged and marginalized communities. She further directed the stakeholders to support the beneficiaries in preparing sustainable project reports.

The DDC also urged all relevant departments to expedite release of financial assistance and extend technical and logistic support to entrepreneurs to ensure the long-term success and sustainability of the approved projects.

DC Srinagar reviews progress of construction of Panchayat Ghars

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo Tuesday chaired a meeting at Meeting Hall of the DC office here to review the current status of construction of Panchayat Ghars in the district.

At the outset, DC took a block wise review on the progress of works on the construction of the Panchayat Ghars.

Speaking on the occasion, DC directed the Block Development Officers, Executing agencies & the concerned Tehsildar to have synergetic coordination to resolve any teething issues on ground and ensure timely completion of all the sanctioned Panchayat Ghars. He also directed them to resolve land issues, if any, regarding the construction of Panchayat Ghars to ensure timely project completion.

While highlighting the significance of the Panchayat Ghars, DC said that the initiative is a



part of broader efforts to empower and facilitate rural population by strengthening local self-governance, enhancing rural administration, and ensuring better service delivery to residents.

DC was apprised that out of 10 Panchayat Ghars sanctioned in 2023-24, construction of 4 Panchayat Ghars have been completed and work on 3 Panchayat Ghars is going

on while land has been identified for the remaining 3 Panchayat Ghars.

It was also informed that 3 additional Panchayat Ghars have been sanctioned for the year 2024-25 including 2 in Harwan block and one in Srinagar Block. The work is in progress for construction of the Panchayat Ghar at Theed-A in Harwan Block, while land is being identified for the remaining 2 Panchayat Ghars on fast track basis.

Chief Planning officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar; Assistant commissioner Revenue, Umar Gulzar; Tehsildars of Panthachowk, North, Shalteng, Block Development Officers of Harwan, Khonmoh, Srinagar and Qamarwari, Executive Engineer REW and other concerned were present in the meeting.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR KANWAR MELA-2025 (UPTO 23.07.2025)

For the convenience of Kanwariyas during Kanwar Mela-2025, Northern Railway has decided to run Kanwar Special Trains, extend the nominated train services upto Haridwar and to provide temporary stoppages to some of existing services. The details are as under :-

Extension of Train No. 74023/74022 Delhi Jn. - Shamli - Delhi Jn. DEMU upto Haridwar					
Train No.:	74023	STATIONS		Train No.:	74022
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	20:00		Delhi Jn.	09:25	----
22:50	22:55		Shamli	06:25	06:30
23:20	23:22		Thana Bhawan	05:25	05:27
23:44	23:46		Rampur Maniheran	05:02	05:04
00:15	00:17		Tapri	04:46	04:48
00:56	00:58		Roorkee	04:17	04:19
01:38	01:40		Jwalapur	03:15	03:17
01:55	----		Haridwar	----	03:05

DAYS OF RUN: 74023 Ex Delhi Jn. Upto 24.07.2025 and 74022 Ex Haridwar Upto 25.07.2025.
ACCOMMODATION: General.

Extension of Train No. 64557/64558 Delhi Jn. - Saharanpur - Delhi Jn. MEMU upto Haridwar					
Train No.:	64557	STATIONS		Train No.:	64558
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	16:25		Delhi Jn.	08:45	----
20:50	21:10		Saharanpur	03:40	04:20
21:48	21:50		Roorkee	02:53	02:55
22:25	22:27		Jwalapur	02:10	02:12
22:50	----		Haridwar	----	02:00

DAYS OF RUN: 64557 Ex Delhi Jn. Upto 24.07.2025 and 64558 Ex Haridwar Upto 25.07.2025.
ACCOMMODATION: General.

Run of Mela Special Trains as per Time-Table give below:

Train No. 04311/04312 Moradabad - Laksar - Moradabad Unreserved Mela Special Train					
Train No.:	04311	STATIONS		Train No.:	04312
ARR.	DEP.	↑	↓	ARR.	DEP.
----	04:15		Moradabad Jn.	15:15	----
07:15	----		Laksar Jn.	----	12:00

DAYS OF RUN: 04311 Ex Moradabad Jn. & 04312 Ex Laksar Jn. Upto 25.07.2025.
STOPPAGES: Balawali, Muazzampur Narayan Jn., Najibabad Jn., Nagina, Dhampur, Seohara & Kanth stations.
ACCOMMODATION: General.

Train No. 04314/04313 Haridwar - Delhi Jn. - Haridwar Unreserved Mela Special Train					
Train No.:	04314	STATIONS		Train No.:	04313
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	17:05		Haridwar	07:55	----
23:10	----		Delhi Jn.	----	01:10

DAYS OF RUN: 04314 Ex Haridwar Upto 24.07.2025 & 04313 Ex Delhi Jn. Upto 25.07.2025.
STOPPAGES: Jwalapur, Roorkee, Tapri Jn., Muzaafarnagar, Meerut City Jn., Ghaziabad Jn. & Delhi Shahdara stations.
ACCOMMODATION: General.

Train No. 04316/04315 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Delhi Shahdara - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Unreserved Mela Special Train					
Train No.:	04316	STATIONS		Train No.:	04315
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	20:35		Yog Nagari Rishikesh	11:00	----
03:50	----		Delhi Shahdara	----	04:20

DAYS OF RUN: 04316 Ex Yog Nagari Rishikesh Upto 24.07.2025 & 04315 Ex Delhi Shahdara Upto 25.07.2025.
STOPPAGES: Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Roorkee, Tapri & Shamli stations.
ACCOMMODATION: General.

Train No. 04318/04317 Yog Nagari Rishikesh - Alamnagar - Yog Nagari Rishikesh Unreserved Mela Special Train					
Train No.:	04318	STATIONS		Train No.:	04317
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	19:00		Yog Nagari Rishikesh	23:00	----
10:45	----		Alamnagar	----	12:05

DAYS OF RUN: 04318 Ex Yog Nagari Rishikesh Upto 09.08.2025 & 04317 Ex Alamnagar Upto 10.08.2025.
STOPPAGES: Raiwala, Motichur, Haridwar, Jwalapur, Laksar, Balawali, Muazzampur Narayan, Najibabad, Moradabad, Rampur, Bareilly & Shahjahanpur stations.
ACCOMMODATION: General.

Train No. 04413/04414 Delhi Jn. - Haridwar - Delhi Jn. Unreserved Mela Special Train					
Train No.:	04413	STATIONS		Train No.:	04414
ARR.	DEP.	↓	↑	ARR.	DEP.
----	16:45		Delhi Jn.	09:40	----
22:55	----		Haridwar	----	03:30

DAYS OF RUN: 04413 Ex Delhi Jn. Upto 24.07.2025 & 04414 Ex Haridwar Upto 25.07.2025.
STOPPAGES: Delhi Shahdara, Noli, Gotra Halt, Fakharpur Halt, Khehra, Sanhera Halt, Ahera Halt, Baghat Road, Sujra, Baraut, Qasimpur Kheri, Ailam, Kandhla, Shamli, Hind, Thana Bhawan, Nanauta, Sona Arjunpur, Rampurmani Haran, Tapri, Roorkee & Jwalapur stations.
ACCOMMODATION: General.

Temporary Stoppages of Trains Upto 24.07.2025

Train No. & Name	Frequency	Temporary Stoppages	Timings	
			ARR.	DEP.
14113 Subedarganj-Dehradun Express	Daily	Jwalapur	10:43	10:45
		Motichur	11:04	11:06
		Raiwala	11:14	11:16
14114 Dehradun-Subedarganj Express	Daily	Raiwala	14:15	14:17
		Motichur	14:34	14:36
		Jwalapur	15:15	15:17
14309 Ujjain-Dehradun Express	Bi-Weekly	Jwalapur	15:53	15:55
		Motichur	17:00	17:02
		Raiwala	17:35	17:37
14310 Dehradun-Ujjain Express	Bi-Weekly	Raiwala	07:08	07:10
		Motichur	07:24	07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
14317 Indore-Dehradun Express	Bi-Weekly	Jwalapur	15:53	15:55
		Motichur	17:00	17:02
		Raiwala	17:35	17:37
14318 Dehradun-Indore Express	Bi-Weekly	Raiwala	07:08	07:10
		Motichur	07:24	07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
19565 Okha-Dehradun Express	Weekly	Jwalapur	15:53	15:55
		Motichur	17:00	17:02
		Raiwala	17:35	17:37
19566 Dehradun-Okha Express	Weekly	Raiwala	07:08	07:10
		Motichur	07:24	07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
22659 Kochuveli-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Superfast Express	Weekly	Jwalapur	12:08	12:10
		Motichur	12:45	12:47
		Raiwala	13:00	13:02
22660 Yog Nagari Rishikesh-Kochuveli Superfast Express	Weekly	Raiwala	07:08	07:10
		Motichur	07:24	07:26
		Jwalapur	07:52	07:54
14610 Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra-Yog Nagari Rishikesh Hemkunt Express	Daily	Jwalapur	06:48	06:50
		Motichur	07:20	07:22
14609 Yog Nagari Rishikesh-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Katra Hemkunt Express	Daily	Jwalapur	18:31	18:33
54075 Bareilly-Delhi Special Passenger	Daily	Kankather	23:36	23:38
54076 Delhi-Bareilly Special Passenger	Daily	Kankather	02:40	02:42

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SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE

EDITORIAL

NITI Aayog's Human Capital Revolution

Kashmir's Flood Crisis—A Decade of Delays and Denial

More than a decade after the catastrophic floods of 2014 devastated the Kashmir Valley, one might expect a robust, well-executed flood mitigation system to be in place. Unfortunately, the opposite is true. A recent Right to Information (RTI) response by the Irrigation and Flood Control (I&FC) Department has laid bare the alarming state of inaction and bureaucratic inertia that continues to leave the Valley perilously exposed to flood risk.

Despite repeated flood scares and rising public anxiety, the government has failed to carry out any dredging in the River Jhelum or its flood spill channels since March 2020. This is in stark contradiction to expert recommendations, including those from the Central Water and Power Research Station (CWPRS) in 2018, which stressed the urgent need for dredging along the critical Sangam-Asham stretch of the river. The River Jhelum, the primary drainage artery of the Valley, remains choked with silt, encroachments, and neglect.

The Comprehensive Flood Management Plan (CFMP), launched under the Prime Minister's Development Package in 2015, aimed to be the blueprint for Kashmir's flood resilience. But ten years and Rs 399 crore later, the first phase of the CFMP is only 80 percent complete. Out of 31 projects tendered, just 16 have reached completion, while the remaining languish amid bureaucratic delays. This sluggish progress is nothing short of administrative apathy.

To make matters worse, the department has not submitted a single new Detailed Project Report (DPR) for flood mitigation in recent years, despite a fresh flood study conducted under the Jhelum Tawi Flood Recovery Project. No new tenders for dredging have been floated since 2020, signaling a complete halt in capital works necessary for long-term safety. Meanwhile, the Valley waits helplessly each monsoon season, clinging to hope that disaster will spare it once more.

While the department has reported desilting of irrigation canals, this cannot be confused with river dredging, a fact made clear by hydrologists. Canals may help agricultural flow, but they do not compensate for the silt-laden Jhelum's diminished capacity to carry floodwaters. Moreover, the shocking revelation of 1,884 illegal encroachments along the river and its flood channels—including structures, boundary walls, and tree plantations—illustrates how weak enforcement and political lethargy are compounding the crisis.

Of those nearly two thousand encroachments, only a fraction have been removed, despite repeated government directives. The claim that encroachment removal is an "ongoing process" rings hollow when seen against the backdrop of ground realities—especially in urban and high-risk zones such as Srinagar and Anantnag.

What Kashmir faces today is not just a hydrological threat but an administrative failure. There is a glaring disconnect between the urgency of the flood threat and the glacial pace of government response. The Valley cannot afford this "start-stop" approach any longer. Climate change is amplifying the frequency and intensity of rainfall events, and without urgent structural interventions, the specter of another 2014-like disaster looms large.

It is time for the government to move beyond paperwork and pilot studies. The people of Kashmir deserve accountability, not excuses. A clear, time-bound action plan must be implemented—starting with immediate dredging, full execution of CFMP Phase-I, and removal of encroachments without fear or favour. Only then can the Valley begin to breathe easy during the rains.

Otherwise, history will not be kind to those who knew the risks, had the resources, and still chose to look the other way.

BY RAO INDERJIT SINGH

In a country as vast and varied as India, the true measure of progress lies not merely in GDP figures or infrastructure milestones but in how well a nation nurtures its people. Human capital—our education, skills, health, and productivity—is not just an economic asset but a moral imperative. Over the last ten years, a quiet yet formidable revolution has taken shape under the stewardship of India's premier policy think tank, NITI Aayog, reshaping how the country invests in its most valuable resource: its citizens.

In a nation where over 65% of the population is below the age of 35, the demographic dividend presents a once-in-a-generation opportunity. But the sheer scale of this young population brings enormous responsibility. The challenge lies in converting youthful energy into a force for economic growth and national development. This is where NITI Aayog has emerged as a visionary catalyst—charting a roadmap not just for today's progress but for tomorrow's prosperity.

Over the last decade, NITI Aayog has evolved from a think tank into a reformist engine and an execution partner, known for bold ideas backed by

data, collaboration, and human-centered design. It has transformed policymaking from a top-down exercise to a dynamic process of cocreation with states, private players, global institutions, and civil society. Its strength lies not just in planning, but in listening—and turning those insights into action.

Education, the bedrock of human capital, has witnessed a complete reimagining under its guidance. Recognizing that access alone isn't enough, NITI Aayog pushed for quality and equity. The National Education Policy 2020, where it played a pivotal role, ushered in a new era—shifting from rote learning to critical thinking, flexibility, and vocational integration. It emphasized early childhood education, mother-tongue instruction, and seamless transitions between disciplines. Through initiatives like the Atal Innovation Mission, it ensured both accountability and imagination—embedding innovation in over 10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs that now dot the country.

Skilling India's youth for the 21st century has been another cornerstone of its mission. From backing the Skill India Mission to ensuring that vocational programs reach the heart of underserved districts via the Aspirational Dis-

tricts Programme, NITI Aayog has helped bridge the gap between classroom and career. Under Skill India Mission, more than 1.5 crore youth have been trained through initiatives that blend technology, industry linkages, and demand-driven curricula. It didn't just train for training's sake—it mapped sectoral needs and designed programs that opened real economic doors for India's rural and urban youth alike.

In parallel, it championed a dynamic, inclusive labour market. It supported the rationalization of 44 central labour laws into four simplified codes—on wages, social security, industrial relations, and occupational safety. These reforms balanced employer flexibility with worker protection, particularly benefiting informal sector workers who make up the majority of India's workforce. By simplifying compliance and encouraging formalization, the workplace became not only more productive but also more humane.

Healthcare, often seen as a cost, was reframed as an investment. NITI Aayog helped architect the shift from reactive treatment to proactive wellness. The flagship Ayushman Bharat scheme, backed and monitored by NITI Aayog, provided over 50

crore Indians with health insurance, while more than 1.5 lakh Health and Wellness Centres took primary care to the grassroots. Programs targeted nutrition, maternal and child health, mental well-being, and noncommunicable diseases—aiming not just to heal the sick, but to keep people healthy. The COVID-19 pandemic tested the resilience of India's health system like never before. In this crisis, NITI Aayog stood tall—partnering with the Ministry of Health and ICMR to model infection patterns, ensure equitable medical resource allocation, and roll out platforms like eSanjeevani for telemedicine. Its post-pandemic vision emphasized not just recovery, but readiness—pushing for public health management cadres and modern digital health infrastructure.

Beyond these domains, NITI Aayog has been a lighthouse for entrepreneurship and innovation. Programs like Start-Up India, Stand-Up India, and the Atal Innovation Mission created a fertile ecosystem for ideas to flourish. Thousands of startups in fintech, EdTech, agrotech, healthtech, and clean energy are thriving today because they had policy support, incubation, and mentorship at crucial stages. These are

not just businesses; they are job creators and problem solvers, contributing to a resilient and self-reliant India.

But perhaps its greatest achievement lies in how it has institutionalized a culture of evidence-based policymaking. By leveraging big data, artificial intelligence, real-time dashboards, and rigorous monitoring frameworks, it ensured policies remain adaptive, accountable, and aligned with ground realities. Whether it was launching India's first SDG Index, guiding states on performance metrics, or using behavioural insights for policy design, NITI Aayog brought scientific thinking to the heart of governance.

Its ability to convene and coordinate across ministries and sectors made it more than an advisory body—it became the conscience-keeper of development. It encouraged healthy competition among states through performance-based rankings, worked with civil society to amplify voices from the margins, and engaged global partners to bring the best practices home. India's rising position in the Global Innovation Index and the praise from institutions like the UN, World Bank, and UNESCO reflect the world's recognition of this effort.

More than just achieving targets, NITI Aayog has focused on creating systems that are sustainable, inclusive, and future-ready. Its commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals is evident in every initiative—from clean energy transitions to green mobility, from digital public infrastructure to gender equity in workplaces.

India's rise as a knowledge economy is no longer a distant dream—it is a work in progress, propelled by policies that see people as the nation's greatest asset. What NITI Aayog has done is elevate the discourse around development, reminding us that true progress is measured not by the tallest buildings or biggest factories, but by the strength, health, and dignity of its people. In doing so, it has become more than a think tank. It has become the pulse of a young, aspiring India—an India that dreams, dares, and does. And at the heart of this story is the quiet confidence that when you invest in people, you build not just a better economy, but a better nation.

Author is Minister of State (Independent Charge) Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation; Planning and Minister of State, Culture

Kashmir's tourism renaissance - A story of hope and revival

VINOD CHANDRASHEKHAR DIXIT

Tourism is the mainstay of the economy of Jammu and Kashmir, a federally-administered territory, and the unprecedented targeting of tourists in Pahalgam sent shockwaves through India. Tourism in Jammu and Kashmir is gradually recovering after the Pahalgam terror attack on April 22, 2025, which claimed 26 lives and led to widespread cancellations. The Pahalgam attack has severely impacted Jammu and Kashmir's tourism industry, which contributes 7-8% to the region's GDP. The region has seen a phased reopening of major tourist destinations, with Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announcing the revival efforts.

Tourists have started arriving in large numbers. Tourists from states like Maharashtra and Gujarat have started returning to key destinations like Gulmarg and Pahalgam and the visitors

have expressed satisfaction with security arrangements and the warm hospitality of locals. More than 2 months after a deadly attack in Indian-administered Kashmir scared away tourists and brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war but now with the improved security measures, visible deployment of forces in sensitive zones, and proactive reassurance from the Jammu and Kashmir administration, tourists have now become informal ambassadors of normalcy, sharing photos and stories of peaceful experiences on social media. Kashmir's booming tourism season, the Valley is bouncing back—with tourists returning, hotels filling up and hope outpacing fear. Tourists who have visited the valley since the attack are expressing their satisfaction with the security arrangements and the warm hospitality of locals.

The targeted killings of tourists in Pahalgam in Jammu and

Kashmir took place at a time when the region was witnessing a tourism boom. The number of visitors was at a 15-year high and the Union Territory's own revenue generation had started showing signs of improvement. The tourism sector has long been a cornerstone of Kashmir's economy, and the impact of the attack was devastating.

Kashmir's tourism sector is slowly finding its footing again as tourists begin to return to the valley, though numbers are still relatively small. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has been at the forefront of efforts to reinstate normalcy to Kashmir's tourism sector. CM Abdullah also assured people that the government is taking multiple measures to ensure that tourists remain safe and secure in their homeland. It is to be appreciated that the government is engaging with institutions like the World Bank to promote new destinations and develop nec-

essary infrastructure and the centre has also identified five focus areas to support locals, including financial assistance and promoting religious and adventure tourism. While speaking at the Travel & Tourism Fair in Kolkata, CM Abdullah has said that West Bengal and J&K have always shared a bond that goes beyond economic relations, or that of host and guests. Adding further, he rightly pointed out that even when tourism was in a lull during the 1990s, he said that people from Bengal and Gujarat were the first to head back to J&K that helped revive business. The Central government is also facilitating official meetings and visits by parliamentary delegations here, which will further enhance confidence and contribute to an increase in tourist numbers. The Modi government is planning a major tourism push for Jammu and Kashmir following the Pahalgam massacre. Now, in order to sustain tour-

ism, it is essential to promote responsible tourism practices that respect the local culture, environment, and community. Community-based tourism initiatives can help ensure that the benefits of tourism are shared equitably among locals. Sustainable tourism practices can help more to conserve Kashmir's natural beauty and cultural heritage for future generations.

The return of tourists to Kashmir is indeed a promising sign for the region's economic and emotional recovery. Tourism plays a vital role in Kashmir's economy, and its revival can have a positive impact on the local community. The revival of tourism can instil hope and optimism in the local community, which can be essential for emotional healing.

Vinod Chandrashekhara Dixit is a Free-Lance Journalist, Writer & Cartoonist

Beware of Samosa and Jalebi for Good Health

LALIT GARG-

In a diverse country like India, where the aroma of Samosa and the sweetness of Jalebi attract people at every corner, these tasty dishes are now becoming a danger signal for health. Deeply connected to our traditions and food habits, fried and excessively sweet items like Samosa, Kachori and Jalebi have now become the main cause of diseases like obesity, diabetes, heart disease and high blood pressure. Due to these reasons, realizing the need to start an awareness campaign across the country, Janjagrati Abhiyan has been started. This effort being made towards reducing the consumption of fried dishes is commendable and is a call for revolution in view of the increasing health concerns. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called for reducing the consumption of oil and sugar under the Fit India campaign. With the activeness of the Central Government, just like there is a health warning on cigarette packets, a similar warning will be issued about

these oily and sweet food items. It is being widely publicised through radio and other TV channels that one should stay away from consuming oily or excessively sweet foods.

The shocking facts related to the serious condition of obesity and other incurable diseases are worrisome. Health experts consider sugar and Trans fat to be the main causes of obesity, diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. 1 out of every 5 people in India is obese, and the main reason behind this is excessive fried food. India ranks second in the world in terms of obesity. According to WHO, the number of diabetes patients in India can reach 13.4 crores by 2045, which will be the highest in the world? A major reason for the increasing obesity rate in children is things like samosas, kachoris, and burgers available around schools. Things like samosas and kachoris are fried again and again in the same oil, due to which Trans fat and carcinogenic elements (acrylamide) start growing in them. These harden the arteries of the heart and increase cholesterol. Jalebi

is dipped in thick sugar syrup, which immediately increases the amount of glucose in the body. This condition invites diseases like insulin resistance, type-2 diabetes and fatty liver. Excessive use of refined flour is made in samosas and kachoris, which slows down digestion. This causes disorders like gas, constipation, acidity and obesity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has from time to time not only inspired the countrymen for social and economic development, but has also called for adopting a healthy lifestyle. Recently, taking an important initiative, he has appealed to the countrymen to reduce the amount of oil in food items and avoid serious health problems like obesity. Reflecting on this increasing health problem, Modi said that we have to change our eating habits. Less oil, less salt and less sugar - this is the key to health. Modi's call is - Reduce oil, make life healthy. Because excess oil is not healthy, it is the gateway to disease. Remember, obesity is increasing in the

country and awareness against it is also increasing. It has also been said that people can help in making India developed by reducing oil in their food. In this context, if samosas, jalebis and other dishes that are harmful to health have been officially targeted, then it is not surprising but a great need of the hour.

Oil is an integral part of Indian kitchens. But today, the way excessive oil is being used in every dish, obesity has become a major health problem in India, it has encouraged many other diseases and has given rise to a health crisis. Fried foods like samosa, kachori, pakoda, puri, jalebi, fast food, etc. are becoming the cause of diseases like obesity, heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes. Central health institutions have been instructed to put up clear 'oil and sugar warning boards' in cafeterias and public places. These informative posters will highlight the amount of fat and sugar in very popular foods. The time has come to discourage fried and sugar-rich foods. It should start with the careless restaurants running in hos-

pitals. It is necessary to hang this warning on all restaurants and sweet shops. It is not that people will stop eating samosa or jalebi, but they will become aware. Cardiologist Dr. Bimal Chhajed has achieved remarkable success by effectively treating heart patients through the 'Zero Oil' diet system for the last three decades. While presenting the formula for a healthy lifestyle, the Prime Minister has appealed to the public to use limited oil and fry, boil or steam food instead of frying. To increase physical activity, do yoga, pranayam, walking or exercise daily. Stop junk food at home; give children fresh fruits, dry fruits, sprouted grains. Fight habits, not diseases. Control in diet is the biggest treatment. Therefore, preventive measures are necessary. Recently, every person has been appealing to reduce the consumption of oil in their food by ten percent. Some people must have moved towards improvement and now when there will be warnings on food items like samosas and jalebis, the pace of improvement in diet will get

further stronger. The 'Fit India Movement' started under the leadership of Modiji is not just a campaign, but a message of lifestyle. This is a revolutionary step taken towards freeing the country from the burden of diseases. In this movement, people are being made aware that only a healthy person can build a prosperous nation.

The Fit India campaign needs more honesty and at the same time, the government departments responsible for pure food will have to be more alert and cautious than honesty. Today, many types of foreign dishes are also available in the markets; most of these dishes have dangerous use of refined flour, oil, artificial colors and chemicals. It should not seem at all that only Indian dishes are being targeted. The second important thing is that both the eaters and the cooks have to wake up. The repeated use of the same oil and the use of bad or wrong ingredients at many sweet shops should stop immediately.

Today, there is a need that we should not just become slaves of taste, but listen to our body. A

responsible society is the one that hands over healthy habits and not diseases to the next generation in the name of taste. A generation is being prepared, which is sacrificing health for taste. This is not a warning, but a message of consciousness that if we do not improve now, then the coming generations will continue to struggle with diseases. So come, let us all pledge that we will reduce oil, increase walking, and make life long and healthy! The government will have to make strict provisions especially for businessmen, restaurant owners and confectioners. Those who play with the health of the country in the pursuit of earning money should not be left free. When there is no guarantee of milk and cheese, then we will have to think that only warnings will not bring improvement. The departments and officials ensuring quality will have to be active on a war footing, only then will we be able to realize the dream of Fit India.

Lalit Garg is a Writer, Journalist, Columnist

'No Palm Oil' label a marketing gimmick, not a health fact: IFBA

The sudden increase in the use of "No Palm Oil" labels on consumer products is misleading and nothing but a marketing gimmick, the Ind Food and Beverage Association (IFBA) said on Tuesday, raising concerns over the practice.

Despite being consumed in India since the 19th century, palm oil continues to be misunderstood due to selective branding tactics that exploit health-related fears. Best restaurants near me

Palm oil remains one of the most affordable, versatile, and accessible edible oils widely used by leading global brands for its long shelf life and nutritional stability.

The association raised concerns about the practice where people are making food choices based on social media trends rather than on scientific data.

IFBA advised consumers not to take health



advice from influencers who exaggerate false information without having a thorough understanding of nutrition.

According to the association, labels such as "Palm Oil Free" have taken the place of reliable dietary recommendations and are now used as a marketing tactic to play on consumer anxieties, particularly in the Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG) industry.

"Palm oil has a recognised role in a healthy

and balanced diet. Despite this, labels such as 'No Palm Oil' mislead consumers by prioritising marketing over science," said Deepak Jolly, Chairperson of the IFBA, referencing the Ministry of Health's dietary guidelines.

"These narratives distract from the importance of overall nutritional balance and can undermine India's efforts toward self-reliance, ultimately harming all stakeholders - from farmers and producers to

consumers and the national economy," Jolly added.

India consumes 26 million tonnes of edible oil annually, including 9 million tonnes of palm oil.

"The Dietary Guidelines for Indians-2024 of the ICMR-National Institute of Nutrition acknowledge the role of tocotrienols in palm oil in lowering cholesterol and supporting heart health," Shilpa Agrawal, Director of Scientific and Regulatory Affairs, IFBA, said. Best restaurants near me Buy vitamins and supplements

"It recommends a rotation of edible oils, including palm oil, for a balanced fatty acid profile. This is science, not speculation," she added.

The IFBA lauded the Indian Government's initiative of establishing the National Mission on Edible Oils-Oil Palm (NMEOP) in 2021, which will increase oil palm cultivation with an investment of Rs 11,040 crore.

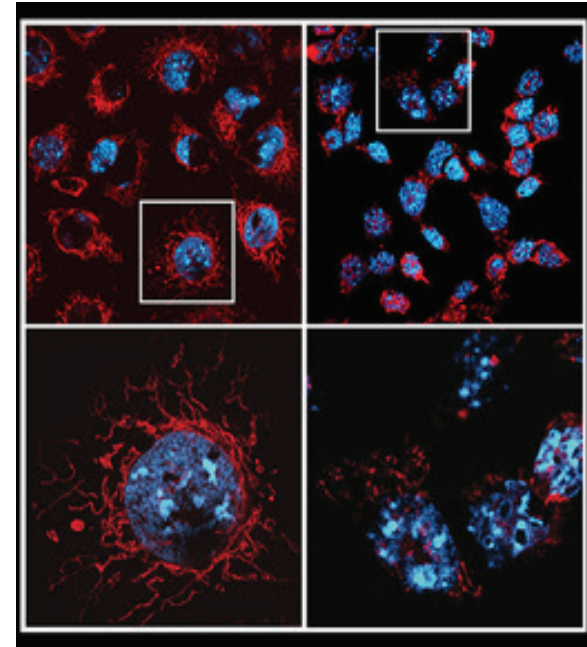
Study decodes why promising cancer treatments trigger serious side effects

While cancer has seen some significant advancements in treatments that have shown promise and increased lifespan, however, it also causes serious side effects, which can affect quality of life.

A new study by researchers from Australia is shedding new light on the reasons behind these side effects, Xinhua news agency reported.

The team from Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research (WEHI) in Melbourne discovered that the protein MCL-1 -- a key target in cancer drug development -- plays not only a role in preventing cell death in cancer cells but also supplying energy to normal cells.

As a result, drugs that inhibit MCL-1 can inadvertently damage healthy tissues that rely on this protein for energy, especially in organs with high energy demand like the heart and liver, leading to the severe



side effects observed in clinical trials, said the team. Buy vitamins and supplements

The new findings clarify that these side effects may be linked to the protein's critical role in cellular energy production, which enables the development

of safer, more targeted cancer therapies that reduce harm to healthy tissues while staying effective against cancer.

First author Dr Kerstin Brinkmann said that while previous research in cell cultures had hinted at the metabolic role of MCL-1 in

providing energy to cells, it was unclear whether this mattered in living organisms.

"The findings open up a completely new way of thinking about the intersection between programmed cell death and metabolism - something that's been speculated on for years but never been shown in a living organism until now," Brinkmann said.

The study, published in the journal Science, also paves the way for safer combination therapies by enabling smarter dosing and pairing of MCL-1 inhibitors with other treatments to reduce toxicity.

"If we can direct MCL-1 inhibitors preferentially to tumour cells and away from the cells of the heart and other healthy tissues, we may be able to selectively kill cancer cells while sparing healthy tissues," said Andreas Strasser, a researcher at the WEHI laboratory head.

Low intake of ultra-processed foods regularly may raise diabetes, cancer risk

Even in moderation, consumption of ultra-processed foods is linked with measurable increases in risk for chronic diseases such as diabetes and cancers, according to research.

The study showed that low but regular intake of processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages (SSBs), and trans fatty acids (TFAs) can increase the risk of diseases like Type 2 diabetes, ischemic heart disease (IHD), and colorectal cancer.

While the risks have long been known, systematic characterisation of the dose-response relationships between these foods and health outcomes is limited, said the researchers from the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington.

In the paper published in the journal Nature Medicine, the team showed that consumption of pro-



cessed meat between 0.6 grams and 57 grams daily can raise the risk of type 2 diabetes by at least 11 per cent compared with no consumption.

For colorectal cancer, the risk was 7 per cent higher for consumption between 0.78 grams per day and 55 grams per day. The relative risk of IHD was estimated at 1.15 at 50 grams per day intake.

Further, an intake of sugar-sweetened beverage intake between 1.5 and 390 grams daily was found to raise the average risk of type 2 diabetes by 8 per cent.

Intake between 0 and 365 grams per day was

associated with a 2 per cent higher average risk of IHD. Best restaurants near me Buy vitamins and supplements

"The new analysis supports dietary guidelines to reduce the consumption of processed meat, sugar-sweetened beverages and trans-fatty acids -- highlighting the need for a collaborative, meticulous health assessment framework for ultra-processed foods," said the researchers in the paper.

The findings showed that the risk increased continuously at every level of consumption, with the steepest increases occurring at low habit-

ual intake, approximately equivalent to one serving or less daily.

Several previous studies have linked ultra-processed foods, particularly processed meats, sugar-sweetened beverages, and trans fatty acids, with elevated chronic disease risks.

Estimates suggest that diets high in processed meat contributed to nearly 300,000 deaths worldwide in 2021, while diets rich in sugar-sweetened beverages and trans fats accounted for millions of disability-adjusted life years.

It is because processed meats preserved through smoking, curing, or chemical additives often contain compounds such as N-nitroso agents, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, and heterocyclic amines -- compounds implicated in tumour development, explained the researchers.

How verbal autopsy can be a key tool to decode TB deaths in India

Verbal autopsy is a scientific tool that can significantly aid India in the fight against tuberculosis, as it helps identify the deep reasons for mortality caused by the world's deadliest infection, said Dr Kavita Vasudevan from Indira Gandhi Medical College and Research Institute (IGMC&RI) in Puducherry.

Speaking to news agency, Vasudevan, from the Community Medicine Department at the Medical College explained how a verbal autopsy model can help identify TB treatment delay patterns, and reasons for TB deaths and improve the referral process.

"A comprehensive approach is essential to effectively tackle TB, which includes the provision of quality TB care through access to quality diagnostics, effective drugs for therapy, pre-



vention strategies, and identifying the underlying causes of mortality associated with the disease. Identifying the reasons for TB mortality can provide critical insights into the factors leading to these deaths," the doctor said.

What is a verbal autopsy?

A verbal autopsy is an interview-based process where close relatives or caregivers of the deceased are asked questions about the circumstances and factors leading to death. "This technique

involves mixing both quantitative and qualitative methods to arrive at factors that lead to mortality in TB patients. For the quantitative method, clinical records of TB deaths are being reviewed, while for the qualitative component, stakeholder interviews are being with National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP) staff as well as the kin of the deceased patients," Vasudevan explained.

It is especially relevant where the factors leading to deaths cannot be

clearly determined from medical records.

For example, close relatives or caregivers of the deceased are asked about the deceased's symptoms, treatment history, hospital admission time, treatment received, and the circumstances at the time of death. This information is collected in a structured format, after which doctors assess the probable cause of death.

"Verbal autopsy provides insights into the patient as well as health system delays, social or financial challenges faced during the illness, perceptions of healthcare services, and barriers to accessing timely diagnosis and treatment," Vasudevan said. Buy vitamins and supplements

The model is also a part of the government's Sample Registration System since 2001 and has been providing excellent cause-of-death data.

New implantable device to save diabetics from dangerously low blood sugar

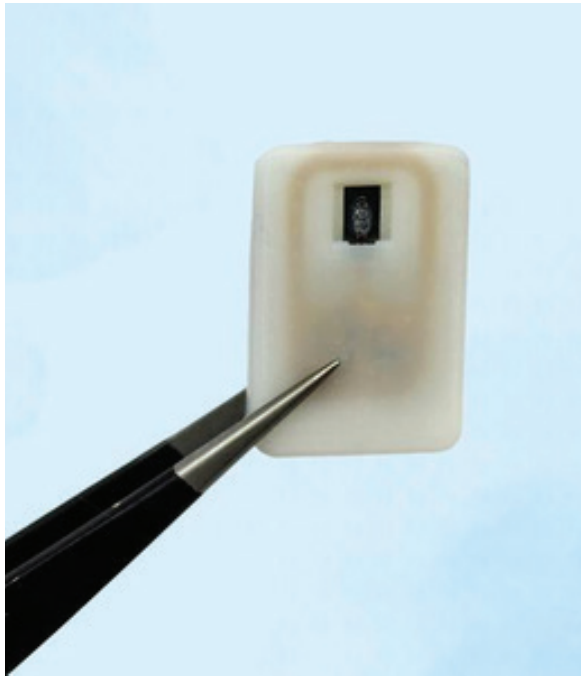
A team of US researchers has developed a novel implantable device that can save people with Type 1 diabetes from developing hypoglycaemia, or low blood sugar, which can be life-threatening.

When glucose levels become extremely low, it creates a life-threatening situation for which the standard treatment of care is injecting a hormone called glucagon.

The new implant, developed by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, carries a reservoir of glucagon that can be stored under the skin and deployed during an emergency -- with no need for injections.

The device, which is about the size of a quarter, contains a small drug reservoir made of a 3D-printed polymer. It can be triggered either by the person using it or automatically by a sensor.

The approach could also help in cases where



hypoglycaemia occurs during sleep, or for diabetic children who are unable to administer injections on their own.

"This is a small, emergency-event device that can be placed under the skin, where it is ready to act if the patient's blood

sugar drops too low," said Daniel Anderson, a professor in MIT's Department of Chemical Engineering.

"Our goal was to build a device that is always ready to protect patients from low blood sugar. We think this can also help relieve

the fear of hypoglycaemia that many patients, and their parents, suffer from," he added.

The device can receive wireless signals, and the drug release is triggered by a glucose monitor when the wearer's blood sugar drops below a certain level.

After implanting the device in diabetic mice, the researchers used it to trigger glucagon release as the animals' blood sugar levels were dropping. Within less than 10 minutes of activating the drug release, blood sugar levels began to level off, allowing them to remain within the normal range and avert hypoglycemia.

Beyond Type 1 diabetes, the researchers have shown that the device also has the potential to deliver emergency doses of epinephrine -- a drug that is used to treat heart attacks and can also prevent severe allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock.

Study finds lead exposure may impair children's memory retention

Exposure to lead during pregnancy and early childhood may speed up the rate at which children forget information, potentially impairing learning and cognitive development, according to a new study.

The study employed a well-established cognitive test known as the delayed matching-to-sample task to assess memory performance in children aged 6 to 8, Xinhua news agency reported.

Researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, US, applied a novel statistical model -- the nonlinear modified power function -- which had previously been used in animal and human studies but is now being adapted for environmental health research. Buy vitamins and supplements

The study found that higher blood lead levels between the ages of 4 and 6 were significantly associated with faster rates of forgetting, even at relative-



low levels of exposure, with a median blood lead level of approximately 1.7 micrograms per deciliter.

The findings, published in the journal Science Advances, suggest that even low-level lead exposure can compromise critical cognitive functions during early childhood.

"There may be no more important a trait than the ability to form memories. Memories define who we

are and how we learn," said Robert Wright, from the Department of Environmental Medicine at the Icahn School.

"This paper breaks new ground by showing how environmental chemicals can interfere with the rate of memory formation. Children with higher levels of blood lead forgot the test stimulus faster than those with low blood lead levels," he added.

The study opens the door for future work to explore how environmental exposures like lead intersect with other cognitive domains such as attention, executive function, and reward processing.

It also strengthens the case for policy interventions that protect children's developing brains before irreversible harm occurs, the researchers said.

Indian Army organizes Awam meet to Strengthen Cooperation with Local Community

J1 NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, 15 JUL 2025

The Indian Army successfully organized an Awam Meet at Nar village to engage with the local populace and strengthen cooperation in the face of regional security challenges. This community engagement initiative provided a platform for the Army to connect with the villagers, address concerns and reinforce collective efforts toward maintaining peace and security in the region. During the meet, discussions centred around the need for increased vigilance, particularly in the aftermath of Operation Sindoor, with specific emphasis on the importance of adhering to movement restrictions



post last light. The Army also addressed the implications of the ongoing Makki season and its impact on the region's security dynamics. Additionally, the challenges posed by the region's inclement weather were discussed, especially concerning the accessibility and movement of security forces. The meeting highlighted concerns about the rising drug use among local youth and the increasing trend of unauthorized

movement into forested areas, which could pose potential security risks. The delay in reporting suspicious activity was also raised as a significant challenge, with the Army urging the community to remain alert and collaborate actively in identifying and addressing security threats. This Awam Meet underscores the Indian Army's commitment to fostering closer ties with local communities while tackling regional security.

Sat Sharma holds joint organizational meeting of District Jammu North and Akhnoor

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 15:

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, held a joint organizational review meeting of District Jammu North and District Akhnoor at Purkhoo today. The meeting was presided by BJP State President Sh. Sat Sharma and attended by Vice President BJP & MLA Jammu North Sh. Sham Lal Sharma, MLA Akhnoor Sh. Mohan Lal Bhagat, MLA Marh Sh. Surinder Bhagat, Sh. Nand Kishore Sharma, District President Jammu North, Sh. Kuldeep Sharma, District President Akhnoor, and Ms. Devyani Rana, State Vice President BJYM.

The primary agenda was to assess the ongoing activities of both districts, review the functioning and booth-level preparedness, and chalk out an action plan for the effective execution of the party's forthcoming initiatives, particularly the #BLA2 campaign.

BJP State President Sh. Sat Sharma emphasized the importance of organizational discipline, booth-level empowerment, and timely execution of responsibilities. He stated, "Our core strength lies in our structured network of committed workers. The #BLA2 campaign must be executed with full seriousness to ensure complete booth coverage and grassroots mobilization."

He added, "Both Jammu North and Akhnoor districts are strategically significant, and we must work with unity, dedication, and accountability to ensure that every booth reflects the spirit and vision of the party. Regular monitoring and



capacity-building of booth workers are the need of the hour."

Sh. Sat Sharma further emphasized that the coming months are critical for the party's grassroots mobilization, and every karyakarta must work with renewed energy and purpose. He said, "This is not just an organizational exercise, it is a mission to empower every booth with clarity, capability, and connectivity. We must ensure that our message, our schemes, and our leadership vision reach every household through the strength of our booth-level teams."

Sh. Sat Sharma further said that close coordination between elected representatives and party organizations is essential for seamless execution of public-centric programs. He said, "Our MLAs and district teams must work hand-in-hand to ensure that the voice of the people is heard and addressed effectively through both governance and organizational action." He also took note of the concern raised over the Setup new toll plaza on the Jammu-Akhnoor highway at Khati Chowk in Malpur Panchayat, and assured that the party would take up the matter with the concerned authorities, keeping in view the interests of the local population and daily commuters.

The concerned MLAs from the respective districts—Sh. Sham Lal Sharma (Jammu North), Sh. Mohan Lal Bhagat (Akhnoor), and Sh. Surinder Bhagat (Marh)—shared valuable suggestions to enhance on-ground performance. They collectively stressed the importance of effective communication with the public, improved coordination with booth-level karyarkartas, and the implementation of constituency-specific outreach programs. They also emphasized the need to align party strategy with public sentiment and grassroots realities.

District Presidents Sh. Nand Kishore Sharma and Sh. Kuldeep Sharma presented comprehensive reports on current organizational status, progress on the BLA2 campaign, and district-wise activities. They proposed intensified training sessions for Booth Prabharkars, Panna Pramukhs, and BLAs to further strengthen the party's presence at the booth level.

Ms. Devyani Devinder Rana, State Vice President BJYM, called for greater youth engagement and digital mobilization. She also shared several important suggestions to further strengthen the role of youth in the organizational structure and enhance the party's visibility in emerging voter segments.

Rozgar Mela reflects PM Modi's vision for Empowered Youth & Nation-Building: Bali Bhagat

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 15

Senior BJP leader and former Minister, Bali Bhagat today asserted that the 16th edition of Rozgar Mela is yet another testament to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's unwavering commitment to empowering the youth and building a self-reliant India. He said the distribution of over 51,000 appointment letters to newly appointed candidates reflects the Centre's focus on providing meaningful employment and strengthening the nation's workforce.



ment, and Financial Services. "These appointments will not only enhance administrative efficiency but will also ensure that governance becomes more responsive and citizen-centric," he added.

Linking the initiative to Jammu & Kashmir, Bhagat said, "Such employment drives have a profound impact in regions like J&K, where unemployment among educated youth has long been a concern. Rozgar Melas are opening doors of opportunity and bringing the region into the mainstream of national development."

He appreciated the efforts of the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) and the Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship for organizing these Melas under a structured and inclusive framework. By targeting youth

aged 18-35 and accommodating educational qualifications from Class 8 to graduate and diploma levels, the Rozgar Melas have become a truly inclusive model of employment facilitation, he noted.

Bali Bhagat also underlined the significance of additional components such as career counseling, skill registration under PMKVY and PMKK, Mudra Loan counters, and exhibitions showcasing emerging job roles, which make the Rozgar Melas more than just job fairs—they become full-fledged empowerment platforms.

Calling upon the youth of Jammu and Kashmir to actively participate in such initiatives, he said, "This is the time to rise, skill up, and contribute meaningfully to the country's growth story. The Rozgar Mela is a golden opportunity that must be fully utilized."

The former Minister reaffirmed BJP's commitment to youth empowerment, skill development, and inclusive growth, stating that under PM Modi's leadership, India is witnessing a "new employment culture based on merit, transparency, and equal opportunity."

J&K Referees successfully complete Nat'l Taekwondo Referee Course in Gujarat

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 15

In a commendable development for Taekwondo in the Union Territory, five referees from Jammu & Kashmir have successfully completed the prestigious National Taekwondo Referee Course conducted by India Taekwondo from 10th to 13th July 2025 at the Wagodia Sports Complex, Vadodra, Gujarat.

The participants who represented different districts of J&K were:

1. Mr. Amit Kumar - District Jammu
2. Mr. Ashaq Hussain - District Poonch (District Instructor/Mentor, JKSC Taekwondo Training Centre Poonch)
3. Mr. Siddharth Sharma - District Udhampur
4. Mr. Sumit Kumar - District Jammu
5. Mr. Kashif Iqbal - District Doda



The four-day course focused on the updated rules and regulations for Kyorugi and Poomsae, blending in-depth theoretical sessions with rigorous practical training under the supervision of senior instructors from India Taekwondo.

This milestone was made possible with the generous support of GameOn Foundation, which sponsored all five participants—a gesture that reflects the foundation's commitment to empowering grassroots sports and nurturing sports officials alongside

athletes. The successful completion of this course marks a significant stride towards strengthening the refereeing standards across J&K and underlines the growing ecosystem of professionalism, support, and opportunity within the state's Taekwondo community. All five referees expressed their sincere gratitude to GameOn Foundation and pledged to uphold the spirit of fair play and excellence in all future Taekwondo events they officiate.

Indian Army felicitates Local Artisans to mark World Youth Skill Day



J1 NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JUL 15

On World Youth Skills Day, the Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers organised a felicitation ceremony for local artisans to celebrate World Youth Skills Day on 15 July 2025 at Pathahirri Garrison Kupwara.

The events included showcasing local talent and craftsmanship, distributing certificates and motivating young individuals for sharpen their skills. These initiatives aim to empower the youth, create sustainable livelihoods, and contribute to the region's overall development.

Indian Army's Kupwara Terriers celebrated the

day with local artisans by acknowledging their contributions to the community and the preservation of traditional crafts.

The event focused on promoting various vocational skills among the youth, including traditional crafts and other relevant trades.

The event was attended by more than 15 local artisans from Kupwara including male and female. These artisans displayed their class in various fields and served the society. The event was presided over by the Officiating Commanding Officer of Kupwara Terriers along with the other officers and artisans.

The Officer applauded

all the participants for their valuable contribution towards the society and assured them for sustained motivation from Battalion. The Commanding officer encouraged the artists by distributing certificates and awards.

The event underscored the link between skill development, economic opportunities, and peaceful community development, aligning with the World Youth Skills Day.

This effort aimed to create pathways for young people to achieve self-reliance and contribute to the local economy through their acquired skills. Kupwara Terriers committed to the cause of youth and women empowerment.

IIM Jammu unveils 'Rang Tarang'-A Dynamic Four-Day Festival of Theatre and Dance



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 15

The Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu launched its much-anticipated cultural festival, 'Rang Tarang', today at the Mandapam Auditorium, with a grand inaugural ceremony led by Prof. B.S. Sahai, Director of IIM Jammu. The festival began with the traditional lighting of the ceremonial lamp, symbolizing the spirit of creativity, learning, and celebration.

Spanning four days, 'Rang Tarang' showcases a vibrant lineup of 20 performances, including 16 plays and 4 dance presentations, under the direction of Padmashri Balwant Thakur, renowned for his creativity, innovation, and transformative training in the performing arts. This landmark volume of participation makes 'Rang Tarang' the largest in-house cultural festival in IIM Jammu's history. A total of 128 student performers from Batch IV of the Integrated Programme in Management (IPM) are taking part, turning the festival into a powerful display of talent, teamwork, and transformatory.

In his address, Festival Director Balwant Thakur highlighted the unique vision behind the event: "This is more than a cultural event—it is a movement of expression, of growth, and of leadership. As the name suggests, 'Rang Tarang' is a vibrant wave of color, energy, and youth that celebrates the power of performing arts to shape individuals and society." The festival features an eclectic mix of plays from timeless global classics like "Dear Departed" to iconic Indian works such as Bhartendu Harishchandra's "Andher Nagri". Many of the productions are based on powerful short stories by literary

greats including Anton Chekhov, Munshi Premchand, Krishan Chander, and Upendranath Ashk, offering audiences a rich blend of global and Indian storytelling traditions. What truly sets 'Rang Tarang' apart is its origin: it is the culmination of a uniquely designed Performing Arts course developed exclusively for management students. This course breaks away from conventional academic modules, focusing instead on experiential learning, emotional intelligence, and expressive leadership. Through performance-based activities such as improvisation, role-play, scene work, movement exercises, storytelling, and theatre games, students were encouraged to explore their full potential—enhancing self-awareness, communication skills, and empathy. "Every moment on this stage is a reflection of discipline, courage, and personal growth," added Thakur. "This festival stands as proof that performing arts can be a transformative tool—not just to create artists, but to shape emotionally intelligent, resilient, and visionary leaders."

As the curtains rise on 'Rang Tarang', IIM Jammu invites students, faculty and the distinguished guests to be part of this celebration of creativity, commitment, and character. The festival promises not just outstanding performances, but also a compelling vision of how education, when combined with the arts, can truly inspire excellence.

The festival Young Tarang is coordinated and assisted by a team of senior professionals from Natrang including Neeraj Kant, Pawan Verma, Sunny Mujoo, Kananpreet Kaur and Brijesh Avtar Sharma.

Congress Leader and Former Minister J&K, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of life in a tragic accident that took place in Bharat area of district Doda, resulting in the death of six individuals and injuries to eleven others. Conveying his sympathies to the bereaved families, Saroori has prayed Almighty Allah for granting solace to the departed souls and courage to the

family members of the deceased's to bear with the loss. He also conveyed his sympathies to those who sustained injuries in this tragic accident.

Saroori has urged the Government to provide Rs. 10 lakhs adequate ex-gratia relief to the family members of those who died in a tragic accident. He also urged the Government to make available required medical assistance to all those who have been injured and shifted to Government Medical College Doda and Jammu for higher level of care and treatment.

Congress express grief over tragic accident at Bharat Doda

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHITWAR, JUNE 15

Congress Leader and Former Minister J&K, Ghulam Mohammad Saroori expressed deep grief and sorrow over the loss of life in a tragic accident that took place in Bharat area of district Doda, resulting in the death of six individuals and injuries to eleven others. Conveying his sympathies to the bereaved families, Saroori has prayed Almighty Allah for granting solace to the departed souls and courage to the

BJP slams CM Omar Abdullah for glorifying rioters, undermining law & order

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 15 JULY 2025:

Adv. Sunil Sethi, Chief Spokesperson, J&K BJP accompanied by Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia, Spokesperson, and Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Media Incharge, J&K BJP was addressing a press conference at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

Adv. Sunil Sethi strongly criticized Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's recent actions and statements, calling them a mockery of the law-and-order system. He said it was shocking to see the CM himself publicly violating laws by climbing over walls to pay tribute to rioters who were killed in the 1931 police firing incident while attacking a Central Jail where anti-national elements were imprisoned.

It is ironic that a Chief Minister who demands full statehood and seeks control over law and order is himself seen violating the law and then brazenly showcasing it in the media. Those who attack courts, storm jails, and fuel lawlessness are villains not heroes.

Sethi questioned whether, under Omar's leadership, if such violent incidents occurred again, would he not allow the police to maintain order? He stated that glorifying such elements and giving them martyr status emboldens separatists and disturbs peace. He added that even in 1931, all peaceful means were first used to control the mob before the police were forced to open fire.

He condemned the CM



for equating the 1931 incident with the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, an illogical and misleading comparison that insults the real martyrs of India's freedom struggle. He further said that the CM gave tributes to these rioters on July 14, the next day after the 1931 incident, rioters targeted Kashmiri Hindus by burning properties and looting, a fact neither Omar Abdullah nor National Conference has ever acknowledged or apologized for.

Sethi accused National Conference of having a history of siding with traitors, recalling that even the Congress had once labelled Sheikh Abdullah a traitor. He warned that today, when Jammu & Kashmir is progressing toward peace and normalcy, the NC is trying to derail this development for political gains. There is an ongoing race between NC and PDP to see who can violate more laws and appease separatist and terrorist ideologies, he said and added that these activities will give boost to terrorism.

The BJP leader noted that the CM seeks tourists in Kashmir from various parts of the nation, but questioned how peace and tourism in the Valley could be promoted when the CM himself encourages lawlessness. He asserted that the Omar-led government has repeatedly failed in governance, be it in health, education, revenue, or mining and whenever questioned, they deflect with emotional slogans of statehood.

The J&K government should function in coordination with the Union government, but under Omar Abdullah's leadership, the two have been projected as adversaries.

The people of Kashmir recognize this deliberate strategy aimed at misleading the public. The common Kashmiri aspires for peace and development, not political theatrics. The BJP urges Omar Abdullah to focus on fostering stability and progress instead of issuing provocative statements that only fuel unrest and darkness.

Sethi also condemned Omar Abdullah's remark branding media as "cowardly" and "bought," stating that such baseless accusations attack the independence and credibility of the press. He emphasized that the media in J&K has been performing its duty with courage and integrity by bringing the truth to the people.

Sethi reaffirmed BJP's commitment to the unity and development of Jammu & Kashmir. "We do not differentiate between Jammu and Kashmir, or between Hindus and Muslims. Our goal is inclusive development," he said. He added that Kashmir is moving forward with a national spirit, and BJP will continue its mission to end separatist mindsets and integrate J&K fully with the rest of India.

Dr. Abhijeet Jasrotia added that the wall-jumping episode was nothing but a media stunt. He reminded the public of the 2010 unrest in which over 120 people died under Abdullah's watch as head of the Unified Command.

Škoda Auto hits a 300 in India

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 15

Škoda Auto is revving to newer highs as it celebrates its 25-year legacy in India, and 130 years globally. Earlier this month, the brand achieved its highest half-yearly sales ever in H1 2025. In yet another achievement, the company has now crossed 300 customer touchpoints, catering to customers across 172 cities in India. Providing an unmatched customer experience is central to Škoda Auto's India growth strategy. The rapid network expansion reflects this, along with the strong momentum the brand is building across India.

Commenting on the achievement, Ashish Gupta, Brand Director, Škoda Auto India, said, "Our growing network

makes our product range more accessible to customers, while enabling smarter, faster service with consistent quality, across the country. With a strong emphasis on 'growing together and getting closer to customers', a large part of our expansion has been undertaken with Škoda Auto's long-term dealer partners in India, while also bringing new partners with a proven track record of customer centricity into the fold. This expansion is a step forward in strengthening Škoda Auto's legacy in India and delivering on our promise of safety, value, and a truly rewarding ownership experience."

The Kylaq is a key driver of Škoda Auto's growth in India as it targets new customers in new markets that are now being catered to with the brand's network expansion. Com-

bined with the Kushaq and Kodiaq, Škoda Auto India now has an SUV For Everyone. The Slavia continues Škoda Auto's sedan legacy in India with a global icon soon to be introduced in the country. The growing network perfectly complements Škoda Auto's product strategy in India.

Škoda Auto India's growth strategy is to go deeper in Tier 1 markets and expand further in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets. In line with this strategy, in the past nine months, the brand has entered over 30 new cities, all in Tier 2 and Tier 3 markets, in addition to continued expansion in existing Tier 1 cities. Furthermore, 86% of the expansion in this period has been in Tier 2 and 3 geographies, and 75% of the 300 touchpoints directly cater to customers in these cities. This provides them with easier

access to sales and service support, reduces travel time to the nearest dealership or service facility, and brings consistent quality closer to customers.

The company's endeavour to be closer to its customers by expanding its network and increasing its touchpoints is further defined by a slew of warranty, maintenance, and Road Side Assistance packages that ensure customers are provided a quality ownership and maintenance experience with a Škoda. In addition to this, Škoda Auto India offers the Škoda Super-care maintenance package as complimentary with every Škoda car for a period of one year. With this, a Škoda owner's first expense for routine service is only at the end of the second year of ownership or 30,000kms, whichever is earlier.

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI MECH. G.W.D. DIVISION JAMMU SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

E-NIT NO GWD/32 OF 2025-26 DATED 14.07.2025

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms with Jal Shakti PHE/I&FC Deptt. J&K Govt. who have sufficient experience in the field of drilling and are well equipped with drilling Rigs suitable for ODEX method of drilling.

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Qty.	Estimated cost (value of work) (in Rs.)	Earnest Money (In Rs)	Validity of Rates
Deep drilling of 125mm dia. bore hole and providing, installation, testing and commissioning of submersible pump set at Buffalo Breeding Farm Ari Galhutha Mendhar District Poonch on Turnkey Basis (EPC) under UT Capex Budget (2025-26)	Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	500.00 (Non-Refundable) Deposited in Govt. treasury through e-challan under the receipt head 0215 in favour of the Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu payable at Jammu mentioning name of work	01 No.	Rs. 5.15 lacs	@ 2% of the estimated value in shape of Fresh CDR/FDR pledged to Executive Engineer PHE (M) GWD Division	31 st March 2026

- The complete bidding process shall be online.
- Bid documents can be seen and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 14.07.2025 to 24.07.2025.
- The pre bid meeting if desired by the participating firms shall be held in the office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division Jammu on 15.07.2025 (1300 hrs).
- The bids shall be submitted/uploaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16.07.2025 (1400 hrs) to 24.07.2025 (1800 hrs).

GWD/1919-21
DATED: 14.07.2025

Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti Mech. G.W.D. Division
Jammu

DIP/J-3459/25
Date: 15-7-25

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU & KASHMIR OFFICE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION BILLAWAR

Email:- xenpwdbillawar@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 39 of 2025-26 Dated 14-07-2025.

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 work:-

(Table 1)

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of Tender document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money/Bid-Security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contr.
1	Construction of Park at Karanwara Mahanpur, Kathua by way of providing and fixing Garden Benches and Dustbins etc. in Park. (Under Capex Budget)	PWD (R&B) Division Billawar	2.00	600	2% of Adv. Cost	02 Months	23/07/2025 (1200 hours)	"C" & "D"

Position of AAA :-Accorded
Technical Sanction :-Sanctioned

(Table 2)

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	14-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 14-07-2025 to 22-07-2025 upto 1600 Hrs
3	Bid submission Start Date	14-07-2025 at 1600 hours
4	Bid Submission End Date	22-07-2025 upto 1600 hours
5	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	23-07-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar.
6	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	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. name of work e-NIT No. & dt: duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar and upload the same i.e treasury challan Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Billawar within 07 (Seven) days after the date of receipt 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) Division Billawar**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.

No:- 841-858

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Billawar

Dated:- 14-07-2025

DIP/J-3464/25
Date: 15-7-25

Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER PWD(R&B) JAMMU ZONE

(Phone No. 0191-2471788, Fax No. 0191-2471866
e-mail id: cejmurnbpwd@gmail.com, cetendersection@gmail.com)

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

Fresh e-NIT No.09 of 2025-26 Dated 14.07.2025

For and on behalf of the Lt. Governor, J&K Union Territory e-tenders are invited on percentage rate basis from approved and eligible Contractors registered with Union Territory of J&K/CPWD / BRO/ Railways/ MES and other State/ Central Government for the work mentioned below:-

S.No	Name of Work	Advertised cost (Rs. in lacs)			Cost of document (in Rs.)	Earnest Money Deposit in the form of CDR/FDR	Time Allowed for completion	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contract or
		Construction part	Maintenance part	Total cost					
1	Construction of Road from Patta Chowk Bohri to Gajansoo upto Chuchu da Amb District Jammu. (Phase -1) (Under Nabard).	911.68	91.16	1002.84	6000/-	2% of the advertised cost	24 Months	(1200 Hrs) on or after 6.08.2025	'A' Class

Position of AAA = Accorded
Project Authority = PWD(R&B) Department Jammu Zone.
R&B Division = Satwari

The Bidding documents consist of qualifying information, eligibility criteria, specifications, 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:-

Bid submission Start Date	14.07.2025 (time of start is mentioned on portal)
Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	22.07.2025 in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu(time is mentioned on portal)
Bid Submission End Date	05.08.2025 (time of closing is mentioned on portal)
Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	06.08.2025 in the Office of the Chief Engineer PW (R&B) Department, Jammu(time of opening is mentioned on portal)

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of challan through Treasury indicating the name of work and e-NIT No. favouring Chief Accounts Officer, PW (R&B)Department, Jammu Zone by crediting to 0059-PWD (Revenue) issued after issuance of e-NIT No. & Date uploading a copy of treasury challan/receipt issued after the advertisement of e-NIT. The date on challan should be between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date.

No: CEJ/TS/4950-59
Dated: 14.07.2025

Sd/-
[Er. R K Gupta]
Chief Engineer
PWD (R&B)
Jammu Zone

DIP/J-3466/25
Date: 15-7-25

Shubhanshu Shukla returns from space, his family overwhelmed with emotion

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Indian astronaut and IAF Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on Tuesday returned to Earth after a historic mission aboard the International Space Station (ISS), his family back home was overwhelmed with a mix of emotion including excitement, nervousness and pride.

The family members of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, in Lucknow was filled with emotion, pride, and celebration as the news came in of his safe return



from the International Space Station (ISS).

Shukla, who became the first Indian astronaut in over four decades to visit the ISS, successfully splashed down in the Pacific Ocean off the California coast at 3:00 PM IST, completing Axiom

Space's historic Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission.

After the successful landing, Shukla's family members shared their heartfelt emotions.

Speaking to IANS, his mother, Asha Shukla, said, "The excitement is visible on our faces.

We're extremely overwhelmed with emotion, knowing that our son has finally returned to Earth. I want to thank everyone for this. I feel so happy to see my son back, after so many days. Our excitement is endless—we are very proud."

His sister Shuchi Mishra said, "Honestly, I couldn't sleep last night; there was just so much excitement. I have butterflies in my stomach right now. I want to thank everyone. We were waiting for this moment. He has finally come back. We are so happy."

Punjab Assembly refers anti-sacrilege Bill to select panel; report in 6 months

AGENCIES
CHANDIGARH, JULY 15

After three hours of intense debate of allegations and counter allegations, the Punjab Vidhan Sabha on Tuesday unanimously decided to refer the highly emotive Punjab Prevention of Offences Against Holy Scriptures Bill of 2025 to a select committee for consultation with all stakeholders.

On the suggestion of both the treasury and the opposition benches, Speaker Kultar Singh Sandhwan said the select committee would gather public opinion on the Bill and return with recommendations



within six months.

Earlier, the Chief Minister proposed a four-month timeline. The Bill proposes stringent penalties for sacrilege-related offences, pre-

scribing a minimum sentence of 10 years, extendable to life imprisonment, along with fines ranging from Rs 5 lakh to Rs 10 lakh. The holy scriptures

referred to in the Bill are Guru Granth Sahib or extracts thereof, the Bhagavad Gita, the Quran and the Bible.

This is the third attempt by the Assembly to enact a Bill on sacrilege issues.

In 2016 and 2018, the SAD-BJP government and later the Congress government, respectively, passed the Bills in the Assembly.

On both occasions, the Bills were returned by the President without assent.

Introducing the Bill in the House on Tuesday, Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann said that this "is an emotive and critical issue that concerns every Punjabi".

FM College row: Naveen Patnaik demands accountability from authorities

AGENCIES
BHUBANESWAR, JULY 15

Former Chief Minister and Leader of Opposition in Odisha Assembly, Naveen Patnaik, on Tuesday, expressed deep sorrow and anguish over the death of the Balasore FM College girl student, Soumyashree Bisi, who succumbed to her injuries while undergoing treatment at AIIMS, Bhubaneswar, on Monday night.

In a heartfelt post on X on Tuesday, Patnaik conveyed his condolences and demanded accountability from those in power who failed to act despite repeated appeals from the



victim.

"I am deeply saddened and heartbroken to learn about the demise of the Balasore girl student. May Mahaprabhu Jagannath grant infinite strength and courage to her grieving family during this unbearable time," Patnaik wrote.

The former Chief Minister termed the incident a

result of systemic failure, not an accident.

"What disturbs me most is how a collapsed system can claim someone's life. The most painful part is that this was not an accident, but the outcome of a system that remained silent and indifferent instead of offering help. After a long and painful fight for justice, the girl finally closed her eyes forever," wrote Patnaik on his X handle.

Patnaik highlighted the bravery of the victim, stating she had formally written to the college principal about the sexual harassment she faced, and when no action was taken, she

reached out to the Higher Education Minister, the Chief Minister's Office, and a Union Minister. She even personally met the local MP from Balasore and narrated her ordeal seeking justice.

"If even one person had taken personal responsibility and intervened, her life could have been saved. She did not just die from physical injuries, but because of the state government's apathy and act of indifference that left the victim to fight her battle alone. It appears from the incident, this is nothing short of an institutional betrayal -- an orchestrated injustice," alleged Patnaik.

Rahul Gandhi appears in Lucknow court, granted bail in defamation case

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, JULY 15

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and Raebareilly Member of Parliament, Rahul Gandhi, appeared before the MP-MLA court in Lucknow on Tuesday in connection with a defamation case filed against him for allegedly making objectionable remarks about Indian soldiers during the Bharat Jodo Yatra.

The court promptly granted him bail on the condition of furnishing his personal bond of Rs 20,000 with two sureties of the like amount. The next date of hearing is August 13.



Rahul Gandhi surrendered before the MP-MLA court, following which his legal team filed a bail application. The court accepted the bail plea and granted

him relief. He remained in the court premises for about an hour.

The Congress leader had earlier moved the Allahabad High Court

seeking to quash the summons, but his plea was dismissed last Thursday.

The trial court had issued several summonses to Rahul Gandhi in this case, but he did not appear. His continued absence prompted the complainant to seek the issuance of a non-bailable warrant.

Congress' Uttar Pradesh spokesperson and legal cell official, Advocate Pradeep Singh, stated that Rahul Gandhi "respects the judiciary and the rule of law." During the hearing, Gandhi submitted an affidavit, assuring the court of his regular appearance in subsequent proceedings.

Giriraj Singh urges Japanese textile industry leaders to invest in India

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

Union Textiles Minister Giriraj Singh commenced his official visit to Japan and held key meetings with local industry leaders, an official statement said on Tuesday.

He chaired an interactive roundtable with CEOs of major textile and apparel industries of Japan, and urged them to consider investing in India in the technical textiles, fibre production and machinery sectors, both for domestic as well as global markets.

The minister also paid floral tribute at the statue



of Mahatma Gandhi, "highlighting the enduring relevance of Gandhiji's ideals of truth, non-violence, and compassion," said Textiles Ministry in a statement.

Giriraj Singh visited the Embassy of India in Tokyo and chaired a briefing by Ambassador Sibi George on India-Japan relations and opportunities in the textile sector.

Later, a strategic meeting was held with Tadashi Yanai, Chairman, President and CEO of Fast Retailing Co Ltd., one of the world's leading apparel retail companies.

The discussion focused on expanding Fast Retailing's sourcing, manufacturing, and retail operations in India, according to the ministry.

The minister also met the leadership team of Stylem Co Ltd, a leading textile trading and OEM Company, and invited them to scale up their engagement with India through PM MITRA Parks and other government initiatives.

Defence Ministry takes steps for indigenisation of UAV, C-UAS technologies

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

India is strengthening self-reliance in Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) and Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) domain-related defence technologies, and to reduce the import dependence on critical components, the Ministry of Defence is taking major steps.

It will organise a workshop and an exhibition on July 16 at the Manekshaw Centre in the national capital, which is a step for the indigenisation of critical components currently being imported in the UAV and C-UAS domains.



Spearheaded by the Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) in collaboration with

the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies (CENJOWS), the event aims to reduce India's reliance on foreign original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) for vital components used in UAVs and C-UAS.

This initiative follows the Operation Sindoor, part of the escalating India-Pakistan tensions, where UAVs and C-UAS systems proved instrumental. These platforms were pivotal in providing real-time situa-

tional awareness, facilitating precision strikes, and safeguarding human lives, showcasing the strength and readiness of India's homegrown defence technologies in live operations.

According to the Ministry of Defence, the workshop will bring together top defence leaders, industry stakeholders, scientists, policymakers, and military strategists to formulate a comprehensive roadmap for indigenisation.

The gathering is expected to fuel innovation, promote technology-sharing, and pave the way for sustainable domestic capability in the unmanned systems sector.

Nimisha Priya case Last minute negotiations bring big relief to Kerala nurse in Yemen, execution deferred

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI/KERALA, JULY 15

It was a race against time, and after a lengthy period of multipronged negotiations, the execution of Kerala nurse Nimisha Priya, which was to happen on Wednesday, has been kept in abeyance.

Numerous efforts from several quarters, which included full support of the Indian government, besides agencies based in Saudi Arabia and religious intervention from the Grand Mufti, Kanthapuram A.P. Aboobacker Musliyar, who reportedly reached out to a friend in



Yemen's Shoora Council to help mediate, all led to the decision.

According to the fresh order that came out soon after negotiations ended on Tuesday, the execution of Priya, which was fixed for Wednesday, has been kept in abeyance until fur-

ther orders. The order has been signed by the Prison Execution officer and the local judge of the court in Yemen.

The Indian diplomatic officials, who were part of the negotiation that took place, said talks will continue, and the officials said the Indian government has stretched maximum for this relief.

Meanwhile, it has been reliably learned that the next part of the negotiation will centre around the blood money that will be given.

Expressing happiness was Priya's husband, Tomy Thomas, who said,

"We are all happy and we also know there are a lot more things to happen. Local person Sabu M. Jerome, who coordinated all the conciliation meetings, said he wishes to thank the Governments of Yemen, the Indian government and the top people who got involved from Saudi Arabia."

"All other news which is being heard in the media is not true. The role played by the Indian government is huge," said Jerome.

Priya is currently lodged in a jail in Yemen, facing the death penalty for the alleged murder of her former business partner, Talal Abdo Mehdi, in 2017.

Congress demands detailed debate on China in Parliament, says 'happened after 1962 conflict too'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 15

The Congress party on Tuesday demanded a full-fledged debate on China in the upcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament, in light of the two nations heading towards 'normalisation and resetting' of ties, as stated by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar after the SCO foreign ministers' meeting in China.

EAM Jaishankar, during his visit to China, the first in five years after the 2020 Galwan clashes, met Chinese Vice President Han Zheng on Monday and noted the improvement in bilateral relations between the two nations.



Taking note of the development, Congress General Secretary Jairam Ramesh argued that if the country's Parliament could discuss the border situation in 1962, when the Chinese invasion was at its peak, why could a

similar debate not take place now.

"We hope that the Prime Minister will finally agree to such a discussion," he wrote on X and stressed on the need for it, given China's fast ascent in the global power matrix.

"It is essential to build a national consensus on the critical security and economic challenges arising from China's rise as the world's leading manufacturing power and its position as the second-largest economy, one that may well surpass the United States within a decade," he further said.

Jairam Ramesh said that the Congress has been pushing for such a debate since 2020 and also reminded the government of China's misadventures and misdeeds in the past few months and years, despite the EAM's claims of ties between the two nations warming up after the PM Modi-President Xi Jinping meeting last year.

Punjab FC sign defender Bijoy Varghese from Inter Kashi

AGENCIES
MOHALI, JULY 15

Punjab FC has announced the signing of defender Bijoy Varghese for the upcoming season from I-League side Inter Kashi. The 25-year-old centre back has signed a contract until 2028.

Bijoy joined Kerala Blasters in the 2021-22 season and was part of the side that finished runner-up that year. He then joined Inter Kashi on loan in the 2023-24 season and made 10 appearances in the I-League before the move was made perma-



nent for the next season. Bijoy played 12 times for Inter Kashi in the 2024-25 season.

Speaking on his signing for Punjab FC, Bijoy said, "I'm really excited to be joining Punjab FC and looking forward to this new chapter in my career. There's strong competition for defensive spots here in the club, which is great for my growth and will push me to give my best every day. I'm confident that I can contribute to the team's objectives with my experience and commitment, and I can't wait to get started with the squad."

Dawson replaces Bashir as England name squad for 4th Test against India

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 15

England have added spinner Liam Dawson to the squad for the fourth Test match of the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series against India, starting on July 23 at Old Trafford in Manchester.

The slow left-armer replaced Shoaib Bashir, who sustained a broken finger during England's third Test victory over India at Lord's and was subsequently ruled out of the series.

Bashir's injury took place on Day 3 of the third Test at Lord's during the 78th over of India's first



innings, when Ravindra Jadeja struck a powerful shot straight back at Bashir, hitting his fingers as he tried to catch it.

The 21-year-old played through injury on the final

day, punched in with the final wicket of the game in the form of Mohammed Siraj and sealed the win.

"Liam Dawson deserves his call-up. He has been in outstanding form in the County Championship

and consistently puts in strong performances for Hampshire," England men's national selector Luke Wright said.

The 35-year-old Dawson last played Test cricket for England in July 2017 and will be looking to add to his three caps. He has been a consistent performer for Hampshire over several years and was named PCA Player of the Year in 2023 and 2024, respectively.

England and Wales Cricket Board said seam bowlers Sam Cook and Jamie Overton have returned to their respective counties to play in the County Championship.

WSL: Arsenal sign German goalkeeper Anneke Borbe

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 15

Arsenal Women have announced the signing of 24-year-old German goalkeeper Anneke Borbe on a permanent deal. She moves to North London following the expiration of her contract at VfL Wolfsburg, where she made 15 appearances in all competitions.

Anneke's senior career began with Werder Bremen, for whom she made her debut at the age of 16 in February 2017. She went on to make 77 appearances for the club, helping them to win promotion to Germany's top flight in the 2019/20 season, before



making the switch to Wolfsburg in 2023.

"I'm really proud to join this amazing club. It's amazing to have the opportunity to come and be a part of Arsenal at such an exciting time. I'm looking forward to getting down to work with my team-mates and of course, playing in front of

our incredible supporters at Emirates Stadium," said Anneke.

Following an initial spell with Wolfsburg's development side, Anneke made her first-team debut in a 4-1 win over Mainz in the German Cup in November 2024.

She established herself

as Wolfsburg's first-choice goalkeeper in February 2025, starting all of the team's remaining 14 games as they finished second in the league and reached the UEFA Women's Champions League quarter-finals.

Arsenal Women head coach Renee Slegers said, "We're delighted to bring Anneke to the club. We've been impressed by her composure and aerial presence and we believe she has a high ceiling for development here. We're looking forward to working with Anneke in this next chapter of her career and I know our supporters will join us in giving her a warm welcome here."

SA20: Lance Klusener reinstated as Durban's Super Giants' head coach

AGENCIES
DURBAN, JULY 15

Durban's Super Giants have announced that Lance Klusener will return as head coach for the upcoming fourth edition of the SA20, marking his fourth consecutive year leading the franchise.

Klusener, one of South Africa's most celebrated all-rounders, has been instrumental in shaping the Durban's Super Giants' identity since joining in the inaugural season. Under his guidance, the team reached the finals in Season 2.

"It's a privilege to continue this journey with the



Durban's Super Giants and the RPSG Group. The support and belief shown in me is deeply appreciated. I look forward to building something even more special this season. We've laid the foundation over the past three years.

"Now, it's time to build a team that can consistently challenge for the title and make Durban proud. Durban is my home. Coaching this franchise is more than a job—it's a mission to build something

enduring with our fans and players," Klusener shared his enthusiasm on continuing with the Super Giants.

With the SA20 fixture list now live and the auction scheduled for September 9, all eyes turn to how the Durban's Super Giants will shape their squad for the 2026 campaign.

Speaking on the player auction set for September 9, Klusener added, "We've done a deep review of our past season and have identified key areas for improvement. This auction gives us a crucial opportunity to strengthen our squad and return to our best."

Shafali returns to top 10 in T20I rankings after stellar comeback in England

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JULY 15

India opener Shafali Verma has returned to the top 10 batters in the latest ICC Women's T20I Player Rankings released on Tuesday.

Wrapping up the five-match T20I series with 176 runs at a strike rate of 158.56, Shafali was the second-highest run-getter behind fellow opener Smriti Mandhana.

The 21-year-old was the star with the bat, top-scoring with 75 off 41 in India's last-ball defeat and has jumped four spots to ninth place with 655 points.



Mandhana, who is the highest-ranked Indian batter in the shortest format, remains in third place after amassing 221 runs in five innings to finish as the highest run-getter as Harmanpreet Kaur led side won the series 3-2 to create history.

Jemimah Rodrigues dropped two places to 14th after accumulating just 108 runs across the series, including a half-century. India captain Harmanpreet, who scored 65 in four games, remained in 15th spot.

Another key contributor in India's series win,

Arundhati Reddy, who snapped six wickets during the course of the series, also made gains. Arundhati, who scalped two wickets in the final T20I, leaped four spots to 39th place in the bowling rankings and rose 26 spots to 80th among the all-rounders.

Multiple England stars also made positive strides. Spinner Charlie Dean broke into the top 10 bowling rankings after a Player of the Match winning 3-23 in the last match, making a leap of eight spots to share sixth place with Nashra Sandhu and Georgia Wareham.

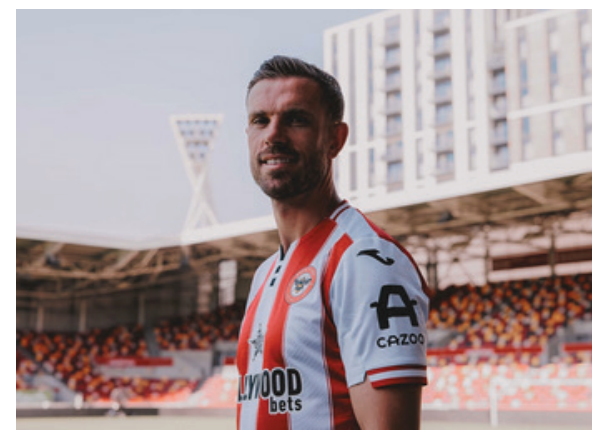
Brentford sign ex-Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 14

Brentford have confirmed the signing of Premier League and Champions League winning Liverpool captain Jordan Henderson on a two-year contract.

Henderson, an England international with 84 caps for the Three Lions, joins the Bees on a free transfer after departing Ajax this summer.

As per reports, Brentford had wrapped the deal last week but Henderson asked for the announcement to be postponed following the passing of his former teammate Diogo



Jota. The England midfielder joins the Bees as a replacement after Christian Norgaard joined Arsenal.

The midfielder returns

to the Premier League after short stints in Saudi Arabia with Al-Ettifaq and then in the Netherlands with Ajax.

Prior to that, Hender-

son was with Liverpool where he spent 12 years and won the Premier League, Champions League, FA Cup, two League Cups, Community Shield, Super Cup and Club World Cup.

Brentford head coach Keith Andrews said, "When we became aware of Jordan's availability, it was a pretty simple decision.

"We did our due diligence around his recent games to see where he is: he's still phenomenally fit and he's still phenomenally motivated to achieve things in the game, having already achieved a lot.

Starc smashes records in milestone Test, records fastest 5-fer in Test history

AGENCIES
JAMAICA, JULY 15

Australia pacer Mitchell Starc scripted history in the third Test against the West Indies as he claimed a five-wicket haul in just 15 balls, the quickest in Test history, as the visitors bundled out the West Indies for 27, which is the second-lowest Test total ever.

The total of 27 is just one more run than the lowest Test total ever, when England bowled New Zealand out for 26 in 1955.

Starc, who was playing his 100th Test, took three wickets in his first over after West Indies were set 204 to win the day-night series finale in Kingston.



His fourth scalp in the fifth over (Mikyle Louis lbw) saw him become the fourth Australian bowler to notch 400 career wickets after Shane Warne (708), Glenn McGrath (563) and great mate Nathan Lyon (562).

But the left-armer ensured they were never

in it as he dismissed Shai Hope with his 15th delivery of the innings, to set a new mark for the fastest five-for in Test cricket.

Fifteen balls taken by Starc to get his five-fer makes it the quickest in the history of Tests, beating the previous quickest of 19 balls each by Ernie

Toshack against India in Brisbane in 1947, Stuart Broad against Australia in Trent Bridge in 2015, and Scott Boland against England at the MCG in 2021.

The 35-year-old's sixth wrapped up a thumping 176-run win that saw Australia sweep West Indies in a three-match series or more for the first time in the Caribbean, with the hosts' seven ducks in their second innings a new record in a Test innings.

Starc finished with figures of 6/9, the best innings figures of any player in their 100th Test, bettering Muthiah Muralidaran's 6/54 for Sri Lanka against Bangladesh in 2006.

USMNT to meet Ecuador, Australia in October friendlies

AGENCIES
ATLANTA, JULY 15

The U.S. men's national football team will take on two World Cup-qualified sides, Ecuador and Australia, in October as anticipation builds ahead of the 2026 FIFA World Cup on home soil.

The matches against two teams ranked in the Top 25 in the world will provide the USMNT a valuable opportunity to compete against fellow World Cup-bound teams, offering a potential preview of the opponents and styles they could face next summer.

Ecuador will make its fifth World Cup appear-



ance, joining Argentina and Brazil as one of the three teams from South America already confirmed for the tournament. Australia secured its spot by finishing second in

its group during the third round of Asian Football Confederation qualifiers, marking the country's sixth consecutive World Cup appearance.

The USA will first host

Ecuador October 10 at Q2 Stadium in Austin, Texas. has an even 5W-5L-5D record against Ecuador, with the series resuming for the first time since a 1-0 USA victory on March 21.

The USA also has a balanced record against Ecuador when playing in Texas, going 1W-1L-1D in previous meetings in Houston, Fort Worth, and Frisco. One of the most notable encounters between the two sides came during the 2016 Copa America Centenario, where the USA earned a 2-1 victory in Seattle to advance to the semifinals.

Four days later, USA will play Australia in Commerce City, Colorado on October 14.

Satish Sharma reviews functioning of State Motor Garages

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 15

Minister for FCS&CA, Transport, IT, Youth Services and Sports, Satish Sharma today conducted a comprehensive review of functioning of the State Motor Garages (SMG) Department during his visit to the Directorate at Bemina here today.

Director State Motor Garages, Malik Tahir and other senior officers were present.

During his visit, the Minister inspected the workshop and office premises, interacted with the employees and took stock of the facilities and operational requirements.

Raising concern over the shortage of drivers, the Minister directed for deputing the necessary staff



from other departments to ensure uninterrupted functioning. He emphasized the need to strengthen the workforce to improve service delivery.

The Minister also inspected the workshop area, taking feedback about the repair and maintenance procedures. He instructed the officials to expedite the auctioning of obsolete parts and initiate the process for disposing

off condemned vehicles lying idle in the premises.

Satish Sharma also reviewed the status of the Car Policy 2015, which has remained pending for revision for the last two years. He called for immediate steps to update and revise the policy in line with the present requirements and departmental needs.

It was informed during the meeting that 581 vehicles have been allotted to

different government officers.

The Minister asked for a detailed audit and review of these allotments to ensure transparency and accountability.

Reaffirming the government's commitment towards institutional reforms and efficiency, the Minister assured that all necessary policy and operational bottlenecks will be addressed on priority.

Director Horticulture Jammu launches fruit plantation drive in Reasi District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 15

Director Horticulture Jammu Gul Sayed today conducted an extensive tour of Reasi district. During the tour, he formally kick-started Rainy Season Plantation Drive by planting a sapling of citrus plant at village Nomain Katra. The initiative marks a significant step toward sustainable horticultural development and aims to boost fruit cultivation in the region's rainfed and sub-tropical areas.

The Director was accompanied by Chief Horticulture Officer Rajinder Sharma; Assistant Director Sunil Gupta; MCC Dheeraj Bailam and other officials of the department. The event drew enthusiastic participation from local farmers and community members,



reflecting a growing awareness and interest in horticulture-based livelihood opportunities.

Speaking on the occasion, the Director explained in detail various government schemes run by the Department of Horticulture for the welfare of farmers. He highlighted the benefits of Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), the Mission for

Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH), and other centrally sponsored schemes.

He impressed upon farmers to purchase the fruit plants from departmental nurseries. He further highlighted the solar fencing being introduced through JKCIIP scheme for the areas affected by monkeys & other wild animals.

Later, he visited Gov-

ernment Fruit Plant Nursery Dagochibagh and inspected mother blocks of different fruit crops and protected cultivation structures equipped with micro-irrigation facilities. The Director took stock of the ongoing developmental activities in the nursery and gave on spot instructions to the nursery staff regarding the production of quality grafted planting material in the nursery.

Further, the Director Horticulture chaired a meeting of the District Officers, Horticulture Development Officers, officials & field functionaries of district Reasi. He instructed the officers to organize awareness camps, Kissan-goshtis, to ensure better implementation of departmental schemes especially HADP for the ultimate benefit of the fruit growers.

DDC reviews implementation of HADP in Doda District

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 15

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Harvinder Singh chaired a review meeting today to assess the implementation status of the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the district.

The DDC reviewed the progress of ongoing HADP projects and evaluated the district's performance against the set targets. He stressed the need for timely execution of initiatives to ensure tangible benefits reach the farming community. Calling for inter-departmental convergence and coordinated efforts, he urged all concerned departments to



work in mission mode to uplift the rural economy through sustainable agricultural practices.

Detailed presentations were made by officials highlighting key achievements, current progress, and challenges faced in the field. The DDC emphasized the importance of mass awareness campaigns to maximize farmer participation and directed officials to intensify outreach activities across rural

areas. The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Doda, Chief Planning Officer Doda, Chief Agriculture Officer Doda, Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Doda, District Sheep Husbandry Officer Doda, Chief Horticulture Officer Doda, Assistant Director Fisheries Doda, Assistant Floriculture Officer Doda, Lead District Manager Doda and other concerned officials.

3rd qtrly. UTRC meeting held at Budgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 15

As per the Under Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting schedule issued by NALSA for the year 2025, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Budgam, under the Aegis of the Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority today convened its 3rd quarterly UTRC meeting at conference hall ADR centre District Court, Budgam.

The meeting was chaired by O.P Bhagat, Principal District & Sessions Judge (Chairman, DLSA) Budgam, who brought together key stakeholders from the judiciary, police, administration, and medical fraternity to address the significant issue of ensuring fair and expedited trials for under trial prisoners. This collaborative forum underscores the importance of



a collective approach in safeguarding the rights of individuals awaiting trial.

Six cases involving under trial prisoners were meticulously reviewed. Each case underwent through discussion and deliberation to understand the specific circumstances. The committee formulated recommendations aimed at streamlining the judicial process and upholding principles of equity and justice.

Chairman DLSA emphasized the vital role of UTRC meetings in strengthening the criminal justice system

and protecting the fundamental rights of under trial prisoners (UTPs). He stressed on the importance of ongoing initiatives to ensure a fair and efficient legal process, promoting justice and transparency.

The meeting was attended by Nusrat Ali Hakak, Sub-Judge/Secretary, DLSA Budgam; Mehraj Ud Din Shah, Additional Deputy Commissioner Budgam; Sajjad Bukhari, Additional Superintendent Police, Budgam; Shahbaz Hussain, Dy SP Central Jail Srinagar; Rajeev Kumar, Public Prosecutor, Budgam; Dr Zeenat

Hussain, Senior, Medical Officer, Central Jail Srinagar; Lateef Ahmad Khan (Chief LADC; Nazir Ahmed Wagay and Javid Ahmed Mir (Deputy LADCS) and Zahoor Ahmad Malik, Assistant Legal Aid Defense Counsel, DLSA Budgam.

DLSA Budgam remains steadfast in its commitment to ensuring fair and speedy trials for under trial prisoners. The UTRC meetings serve as a crucial mechanism in this endeavor, contributing significantly to a more equitable and efficient Legal system.

JMC launches Swachhta Internship Program to foster cleanliness culture in Schools

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 15

Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in coordination with the Directorate of School Education through M/s Ladli Foundation, inaugurated the Swachhta Internship Program today at Government Girls Higher Secondary School, Shastri Nagar. The program aims to foster a culture of cleanliness and sanitation among students in 13 government schools across Jammu City.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by Commissioner, JMC Dr. Devansh Yadav and Mission Director, Swachh Bharat Mission 2.0, UT of J&K, as the Chief Guest.

Addressing the gathering, the Commissioner JMC commended the collaborative efforts and emphasized the significance of involving youth in creating 'Swachh' and healthy communities. He highlighted that the Swachhta Internship Program is designed to empower students as ambassadors for cleanliness and sustainable hygiene practices. He said



that this initiative is not just about cleaning our surroundings; it is about transforming mindsets and nurturing a sense of responsibility among the youth.

The founder and CEO of Ladli Foundation Devinder Kumar, in his presentation, explained that the Swachhta internship programme is designed to engage & empower the young students, making them aware of various aspects of cleanliness & hygiene. "The programme will span over a period of 03 months. It will not just be a theoretical learning programme, but will be full of field insights and community connection," he added.

He further informed that the students who will successfully complete this internship programme will become certified swachhta resource persons and this journey will help them in their future career aspects.

The event also witnessed the presence of Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner, Health & Sanitation, JMC; Manisha, Personnel Officer, Directorate of School Education, Jammu; Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer, JMC; Ajeet Sharma, Chief Education Officer, Jammu; Anu Bhardwaj, Principal, Girls Higher Secondary, Shastri Nagar; as well as principals, staff and enthusiastic students from participating schools.

DC Doda hands over loan disbursement letters to youth entrepreneurs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 15

A grand function-cum-meeting was held today at the Deputy Commissioner's Office, to mark "Big Login Day" under the Government's flagship Mission YUVA scheme. The event focused on empowering educated unemployed youth by supporting them in launching their own ventures.

The programme was chaired by Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and witnessed the presence of Additional District Development Commissioner Roshan Lal; Deputy Director Employment and Counselling Centre Rafiq Ahmad Jaral; Zonal Head J&K Bank Arshad Qadri; Chief Planning Officer, District Social Welfare Officer and Officials from the Employment Department, DIC, DDM NABARD, LDM, NRLM, and heads of different branches of J&K Bank.

In a significant milestone, 25 loan disbursement letters were handed over to aspiring entrepreneurs—making Doda the highest disbursing district in the Union Territory under the Mission YUVA



scheme to date. J&K Bank, the scheme's sole banking partner, was applauded for its prompt and dedicated role in sanctioning and disbursing the loans.

Addressing the gathering, DC Harvinder Singh appreciated the collective efforts of all stakeholders and shared that the District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) has approved 132 new cases today, raising the total approved cases to 241—a remarkable feat that cements Doda's position as a frontrunner in implementing Mission YUVA.

He emphasized that the initiative not only

promotes entrepreneurship but also plays a pivotal role in channeling the potential of the youth into productive self-employment avenues. He assured continued support in the form of training, mentoring, and regular follow-up.

Rafiq Ahmad Jaral briefed the chair on the critical role of Small Business Development Units (SBDUs) and lauded the tireless efforts of all members of SBDU and Employment Department officials who have worked relentlessly. He also tendered thanks to the Zonal Head of J&K Bank for taking lead in disbursement of loan to

the beneficiaries. Earlier, Bua Ditta Branch Head JK Bank Doda has given a brief of beneficiaries.

Arshad Qadri highlighted the importance of departmental synergy and credited the success to the dynamic leadership of Deputy Commissioner Doda and coordinated efforts of the Employment Department and J&K Bank.

The event concluded with a collective pledge to uphold the spirit of Mission YUVA and continue working towards building a self-reliant, entrepreneurially vibrant youth population in the district.

DAJGUA Awareness & benefit saturation camp organized at Panchound Block Latti-Marothi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 15

As part of the ongoing Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan, a public outreach-cum-awareness and benefit saturation camp was organized for Tribal community members at Panchayat Ghar Pachound, Block Latti-Marothi, today.

The camp was hosted under the overall supervision of Sub-Divisional Magistrate Dudu Dr Manmeet Kumar. The event witnessed active participation of officers and officials from multiple line departments including Agriculture, Rural Development, Health, Social Welfare and Revenue, who interacted with the local public and disseminated information regarding a wide array of government welfare schemes.

The Participants were informed about the benefits of Flagship government schemes such as PM-KISAN, MGNREGA, Kisan Credit Card, Jal Shakti Abhiyan and PM Surya Har Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana.

The Departmental representatives briefed the attendees about eligibility criteria, registration processes and the benefits offered under these schemes to ensure saturation and last-mile delivery of services in tribal and far-flung areas.

To enhance outreach and service delivery, multiple departmental stalls were set up to facilitate on-the-spot registration, grievances redressal and information dissemination.

The initiative witnessed enthusiastic participation from the local community, reflecting the growing trust in grassroots governance efforts.