

**DENGUE WARNING SIGNS**

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

**Watch out for dengue warning signs!**

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe ten pain or more, local or not, site or not
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

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## 5-YEAR IN OFFICE

# I'm fully aware of my constitutional boundaries, have cordial relations with CM: LG Sinha

- 'Statehood to be restored at an appropriate time'; Indian state's authority fully established in J&K: Sinha
- 'J&K fully integrated with India; stakeholders of peace, progress increased in UT'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 16

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Wednesday ruled out any confrontation between the Raj Bhavan and the Chief Minister's Office over the division of powers, making it clear that he was fully aware of his constitutional boundaries and would work strictly within them.

In an interview to a news magazine, Sinha while responding to a query about his equation with the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and the division of responsibilities, reiterated that the roles of both offices were clearly outlined under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act.

"My relationship with the Chief Minister is cordial. If any confusion arises regarding the division of powers, we resolve it promptly. I'm fully aware of my constitutional boundaries and work strictly within them," he said.

On the growing demand for restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir, Sinha reiterated

the Union Government's commitment, saying "it will be restored at an appropriate time".

"When the Bill to abrogate Article 370 was introduced in the Parliament, the Union Home Minister laid out a clear three-step roadmap: first delimitation, then Assembly elections, followed by statehood restoration. Delimitation is complete. Assembly elections have been conducted peacefully with a high voter turnout and an elected government is now in place. As promised, statehood will follow—at an appropriate time," he said.

While refraining from speculating on the timeline, Sinha stressed that the assurance was made on the floor of Parliament multiple times and by the Prime Minister himself. "The government of India will respect the announcement but when it takes place, I think we should wait for some time".

Reflecting on his tenure so far, Sinha said he found satisfaction in the progress made in Jammu and Kashmir. "I've used all my

abilities to bring peace, economic growth, and employment to J&K. I've worked hard, with honesty and sincerity. More importantly, the authority of the Indian State is now fully established here. Jammu and Kashmir is integrated with the rest of the country," he said, adding, "Of course, there's always more to be done."

Asked whether law and order must remain with Centre, the Lieutenant Governor said, "Jammu and Kashmir is a border state. We have a neighbour

(Pakistan) whose intentions are well known. That's why law and order and security must remain under the Ministry of Home Affairs. If the situation continues to improve, the MHA can review its stance accordingly," he said.

About the allegations of the opposition parties with regard to the dismissal of government employees, Sinha defended the

use of Article 311 to remove government employees suspected of having terror links.

"Article 311 is a safeguard for the state. Any action taken under it is based on strong evidence, backed by detailed dossiers. Those removed had a history of active involvement in terrorism. We ensure that no innocent person is harmed. That is not our policy, nor that of the Government of India. But those who pose a threat to national security will face legal consequences," he asserted.

When asked about the vision of "New Kashmir," Sinha described it as a "place marked by peace, progress, and normalcy".

"There are no more shutdown calendars, no Pakistan-backed diktats. Academic and social life continues without disruption. Cinema halls are reopening, festivals of all religions are being celebrated by all communities, and youth are gainfully employed. The economy has nearly doubled," he said.

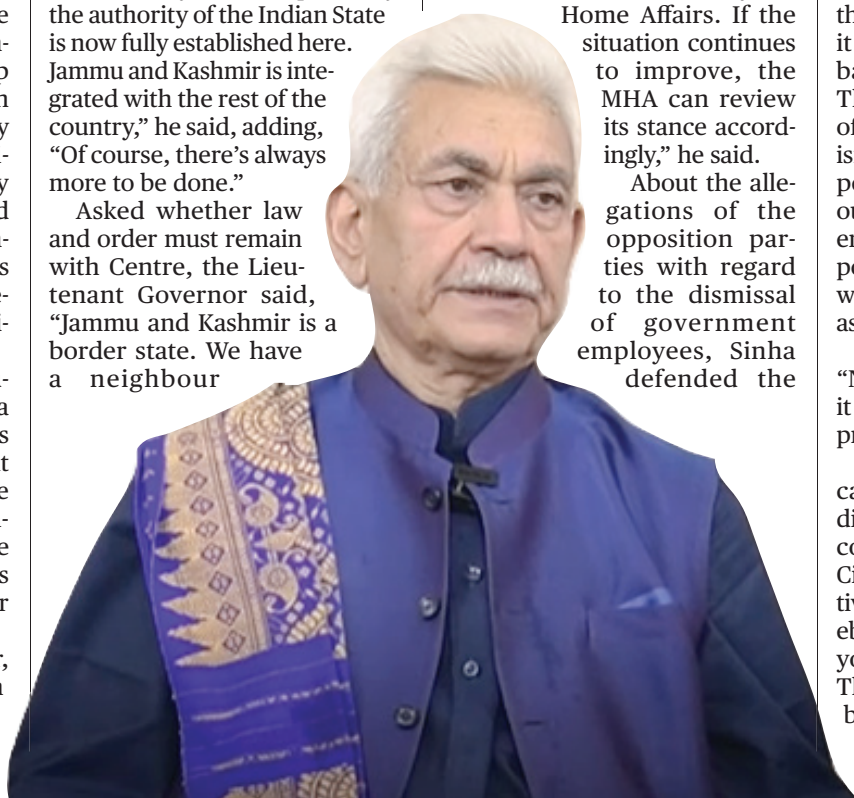
On the security front, Sinha

acknowledged a decisive policy shift under the leadership of Union Home Minister Amit Shah. "The message is clear: We will not purchase peace, we will establish it," he said.

He credited the joint efforts of J&K Police, the Indian Army, and central paramilitary forces for restoring normalcy. "Stone pelting has stopped, local recruitment into terrorism has sharply declined, and top terror commanders have been neutralized," Sinha added.

He said night life has returned to the Valley, and strikes orchestrated from across the border have virtually ceased. The figures, he said, speak volumes: while in previous years over 100-150 local youth would join terror ranks annually, this year only one such case has been reported.

"This is a reflection of growing public trust and increasing support for peace and development," said Sinha and cautioned that Pakistan continues to use terrorism as an instrument of



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## Appointing officers in revenue dept without Urdu knowledge will be useless: CM Omar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUL 16 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday said that appointing officers in the Revenue Department without knowledge of Urdu would be ineffective. He said it is important for officers to have basic Urdu language skills to effectively handle revenue records, which are historically maintained in Urdu.

"Ours is not an attempt to exclude anyone from the department. Revenue records in Jammu and Kashmir have been in Urdu since before Independence. If we appoint officers who cannot even read these records, what will they do?" Omar said during a media interaction

### CM addresses valedictory function of IIT Jammu's Summer School



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUL 16 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday presided over the valedictory function of Summer School: 2025 at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu, marking the successful conclusion of a month-long programme that brought together over a thousand students from across the nation.

Speaking at the ceremony, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah lauded IIT Jammu as a hub of talent and underscored the significance of such initiatives in providing young people, particularly from

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### CM Omar launches 'Project 13-13' women's surgical care initiative at National Hospital Jammu



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUL 16 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Wednesday inaugurated Project 13-13, a new healthcare initiative launched by National Hospital Jammu aimed at providing women's surgical care at a capped cost of Rs 13,000.

The initiative, led by Dr. Jasbir Kaur and her team, is intended to support women from financially weaker sections of society by making

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## LG addresses seminar on "J&K's March Towards Peace" at New Delhi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 16 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Wednesday addressed a seminar on "J&K's March Towards Peace" as part of lecture series organized by Gandhi Smriti, at New Delhi. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated a newly developed 'Gandhi Smriti Art Gallery'.

The event was also graced by former Union Minister and Vice-Chairman of Gandhi Smriti, Vijay Goel.

In his keynote address, the Lieutenant Governor highlighted the profound and deep bond between Mahatma Gandhi and Jammu Kashmir.

"Puja Bapu's philosophy is a source of inspiration for UT and our education system is inculcating the values of truth, non-



violence and compassion among youth. Gandhiji saw a ray of hope in Jammu and Kashmir. Gandhiji wanted to see peace and progress in Jammu and Kashmir. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is fulfilling the dream of Mahatma Gandhi. Since 2019, he has been building a fear-free, terror-free J&K, which would make its place among the developed states and UTs as a symbol of peace," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor reiterated the resolve of the Government of India, Police and the security forces to completely wipe out the entire terror ecosystem and establish a lasting peace in Jammu Kashmir.

"Our policy is peace, driven by the spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. We believe in establishing Peace and not buying Peace. India has always followed the path of

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## Strong police-public bond essential to eradicate terrorism: DGP Prabhat

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
AKHNOOR (JAMMU), JUL 16 (KNO)

Emphasizing the crucial role of public cooperation in maintaining peace, Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Wednesday said that a strong bond between the police and the public is essential to effectively eradicate terrorism from Jammu and Kashmir.

Talking to reporters here, DGP Prabhat, according to the news



agency said, "A major success was achieved recently in Dudu-Basantgarh forest of Udhampur, where a

He said, "Information about the presence of terrorists in the area was provided by the people. Police cannot be successful without public support. The bond between the public and police in Akhnoor has been instrumental in our success."

The DGP noted that operations to neutralize terrorists are ongoing and reaffirmed the police's commitment to internal security. He congratulated personnel of

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## >> Amarnath Yatra Despite downpour, over 13,000 perform darshan at cave shrine Over 2.47 lakh pilgrims pay obeisance in 2 weeks

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 16 (KNO)

Braving inclement weather conditions, as many as 13,000 pilgrims paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine of Amarnath on Wednesday, officials said.

An official informed the news agency that the pilgrims who paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine included 8,877

males, 3,798 females, 145 children, 70 sadhus, and 8 sadhis. In addition, 314 security forces personnel also performed darshan today.

The cumulative number of yatris who have performed darshan in the two weeks since the commencement of the Yatra has reached 2,47,213, officials said, adding that the Yatra continues to

proceed smoothly with a steady influx of devotees from different parts of the country.

Despite occasional weather challenges, the administration has ensured that all necessary arrangements are in place for the comfort and safety of the pilgrims.

Meanwhile, a fresh batch of 6,064

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## Lady doctor assaulted after patient's death at GMC Jammu

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JUL 16 (KNO)

In a deeply disturbing incident, a female doctor at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu was physically assaulted by the attendants of a patient following his death in the hospital's emergency ward.

The patient, identified as Rajinder Kumar, had been suffering from a massive brain haemorrhage and was

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## DC reviews progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan in District Kishtwar

JINNEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JULY 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma, who is also chairman of District Health Society Kishtwar, today chaired a review meeting to assess the progress of Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan in the District.

During the meeting, Chief Medical Officer Dr. Rajinder Kumar presented a brief on the execution of the action plan aimed at eliminating Tuberculosis in the District.

The DC emphasized the need for scaling up TB screening, especially focusing on the vulnerable populations for timely intervention.

He also issued strict directions to intensify efforts at the Panchayat level by implementing



focused strategies aligned with the six key indicators of the National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP).

Further, directions were issued to ensure timely disbursement of benefits under the Nikshay Poshan Yojana, to support the nutritional needs of TB patients during the course of their treatment.

Directions were passed to prepare comprehensive Panchayat-level action plans, besides to conduct massive IEC Campaign, including door to door awareness with the involve-

ment of religious leaders, healthcare professionals, sportspersons, prominent citizens, Self-Help Groups and Social organisations to reduce stigma associated with tuberculosis.

Stress was laid on IEC through daily SMS and phone calls to the patients to ensure they do not miss their daily dose of medicine. "Identification of cases based on the 10 common TB symptoms is imperative to achieve TB-free status," he said.

He further directed to enhance the distribution of nutritional food baskets

under the Pradhan Mantri TB Mukh Bharat Abhiyan (PMTBMA) to ensure that all eligible TB patients receive the full spectrum of care and support during their treatment.

District officers & Doctors were directed to adopt two TB patients, besides exhorting the Health Department to ensure that its field functionaries work tirelessly for the success of the programme.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment from all stakeholders to work collaboratively and decisively toward the goal of eliminating TB from District Kishtwar.

Meeting was attended by ADC Pawan Kotwal; ACD/CEO KDA Kaiser Bhanwani, SDM Chatroo, SDM Marwah, MS District Hospital besides concerned district officers/officials.

## DC reviews drainage system in Anantnag town; conducts field visit

JINNEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, JULY 16

In view of the prevailing weather conditions and forecast, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Anantnag, Dr. S.F. Hamid chaired a review meeting to assess the preparedness and working of the Drainage system in the district.

Officers from key departments including Revenue, Flood Control, PHE, Irrigation, Municipal Council, ULB, Health, SDRF, and FCS&CA were present.

DC directed concerned departments to maintain readiness of manpower and machinery, and to undertake preventive desilting at key drainage points. He emphasized timely deployment of sandbags along embankments where necessary, with improved coordination and real-time infor-



mation flow among all line departments.

The Urban Engineering department was instructed to prioritize manhole clearance and stormwater drain cleaning, while Fire & Emergency Services and SDRF were asked to stay alert for any eventuality.

ADC (CEO DDMA) was tasked with updating the evacuation plan and ensur-

ing operational readiness of Control Rooms.

DC later conducted an on-ground inspection of low-lying and vulnerable areas of Anantnag town including Laizbal and S.K. Colony. He instructed removal of obstructions in drains and stressed on public cooperation to ensure smooth response and mitigation efforts.

## BLOs imparted training for Special Intensive Revision- 2025

JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAMBAN, JULY 16

The District Administration Ramban today conducted training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) as part of the preparations for the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the Photo Electoral Rolls for 2025 in both Ramban and Banihal Assembly Constituencies.

The training session was held in Assembly Constituency (AC)-55 Banihal for 127 BLOs, while 90 BLOs were trained in two batches in AC-54 Ramban. The training sessions will continue tomorrow for the remaining BLOs to ensure complete coverage and proper understanding of the revised guidelines.

## Training for Booth Level Officers organised in Reasi

JINNEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 16

To enhance the capacity of field staff, District Election Office Reasi organised comprehensive training programmes for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) across the three Assembly Constituencies of the District. The training sessions were held from July 15 to July 16 under the overall supervision of District Election Officer Nidhi Malik.

The training aimed to strengthen the preparedness of BLOs and ensure better implementation of electoral revision at the grassroots level.

The sessions were conducted at the constituency level and facilitated by Assembly Level Master Trainers and Booth Level Officers who had recently



Reasi and 58-Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Assembly Constituency at Government Higher Secondary School, Katra.

The participating officials showed keen interest in attending the training. It is pertinent to mention that updated knowledge of the Booth Level Officers will prove fruitful during the Summary Revisions of the Electoral Rolls, as and when announced by the Election authorities.

attended the National Level Training Programme held in New Delhi.

The training programmes were held in 56-Gulabgarh (ST) Assembly Constituency at Government Degree College, Sarh Bagga, 57-Reasi Assembly Constituency at Auditorium, DC Office,

DEO Nidhi Malik emphasized the pivotal role of BLOs in ensuring free, fair and inclusive elections. She urged the officers to remain vigilant, well-informed, and proactive in discharging their duties and to maintain the highest standards of integrity and efficiency in their work.

## 3rd Under Trial Review Committee meeting held at Pulwama



JINNEWS SERVICE  
PULWAMA, JULY 16

In compliance with the directions of NALSA and JK Legal Services Authority UT of J&K, 3rd Under-Trial Review Committee (UTRC) meeting was held today in Pulwama.

The meeting was presided over by Pr. District & Sessions Judge Pulwama in his office chamber here, which was also attended by Secretary DLSA Pulwa-

ma, Sr. Superintendent of Police Pulwama, ADC Pulwama, Superintendent of District Jail Pulwama and Chief LADC Pulwama.

During the meeting, a list of under trial prisoners furnished by the concerned authorities was taken up for consideration and out of total 07 cases taken up and discussed, 06 cases were recommended for consideration by the committee as per the guidelines.

## DAJGUA concludes with appreciable achievements in Anantnag

JINNEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, JULY 16

The month-long extensive Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan (DAJGUA), launched with the aim to empower rural and tribal communities across all 16 blocks of the district concluded on Tuesday here in Anantnag.

The key aspects of the campaign were to enhance access to essential government services and schemes like Ayushman Bharat, PM Kisan and PMUY, promoting financial inclusion through PM JDY and KCC, promoting health by conducting screening for TB and Sickle Cell Anemia, and raising awareness about development programs through innovative methods like painting, hoard-

ings, posters and selfie points.

Notably the DAJGUA had appreciable achievements across all blocks of the district with active involvement of govt functionaries and large scale community participation.

With 386 camps organized, around 20,000 participants reached, DAJGUA has set a new standard for grassroots upliftment and community engagement. Significant accomplishments, among others, include issuing 830 Aadhaar cards, distributing 778 Ayushman Bharat cards and 601 PM Ujjwala connections and identifying 45 tuberculosis cases for follow-up care.

Additionally, 52 Forest Rights Act pattas were issued and 13 PVTG households were provided target-

ed benefits during the campaign. Besides 221 Kisan Credit Cards were provided, 245 PM Jan Dhan Yojana accounts were opened and 124 beneficiaries were enrolled under PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojna.

To expand and boost the employment opportunities, 182 registrations under MGNREGA and 131 PM Vishwakarma registrations were made in the district.

As a matter of top priority, district administration spearheaded the Dharti Aaba Janatiya Gram Utkarsh Abhiyan as a well planned outreach program for both urban and remote tribal communities with full coordination and collaboration among the line departments like Health, Social Welfare, Agriculture, Horticulture, Rural Development and others.

## DC Budgam reviews Education sector

JINNEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, JULY 16

In a detailed review meeting held today, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, evaluated the performance of the School Education department, emphasizing data-driven improvement, inclusive education, and effective governance.

Chief Education Officer Budgam briefed the chair regarding key highlights viz. access, enrolment & retention under which Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) for Primary is 87.15%, for Secondary it is 111.7% and for Hr. Secondary it is 195.69%.

The chair was also briefed that a remarkable 97.4% of students progressed to the next educational level while drop-out rate was maintained at a low of 2.6%, indicating effective retention strategies. CEO said there are only 255, with just 144 never enrolled in the district.

Under Equity & Inclusion, the Gender Parity Index (GPI) in Budgam records an overall GPI of 967, with girls out numbering boys in higher secondary education. Children with Special Needs (CWSN) are 82% enrolled of identified CWSN, and inclusive infrastructure is expanding.



62% of schools have (girls) toilets & 96% toilets for (boys). The drinking water facilities are available in 99.5% schools, 98% schools have electricity, 117 schools have Libraries, 122 schools have Laboratories and 328 schools have Playgrounds besides 100% distribution of textbooks stands completed for Grades 1-8th.

CEO said every school is visited twice weekly by zonal and cluster officers. There are School Management Committees (SMCs) functional in all schools.

He also briefed the chair that 94% of funds stand utilised during FY 2024-25 under Samagra Shiksha and other schemes.

Under PARAKH (NAS) 2024 Survey, emphasis is on competency-based learning under NEP 2020.

Under the NIPUN Bharat initiative, Budgam is on track to ensure grade-legal proficiency by Grade 3.

While chairing the review, DC applauded the efforts of the teaching and administrative staff in ensuring continuous academic delivery and infrastructural development.

He emphasised that education is the cornerstone of inclusive development, and reiterated that every child in Budgam regardless of location, background, or ability deserves quality education that empowers

them for life.

He stressed the importance of aligning all school-level interventions with the goals set under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, especially in achieving foundational literacy and numeracy at the primary level.

DC called for greater focus on real-time data monitoring to address learning gaps effectively, enhancing student attendance through community engagement and school-based counselling, regular academic audits and peer learning among teachers, especially in schools with low enrolment or dropout concerns.

"Budgam has the potential to become a model district for education in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir. We must now shift from access to excellence, from attendance to achievement, and from infrastructure to impact," Dr Bilal remarked.

DC assured continued administrative and financial support for all genuine educational needs and encouraged the Education department to strive for innovative, inclusive and accountable educational governance.

The meeting was attended by CEO Budgam, DEPO Budgam, all ZEOs and officers from the Chief Education Office and other stakeholders.

## Registrar BGSBU reviews development projects



JINNEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, JULY 16

Registrar Baba Ghulam Shah Badshah University (BGSBU) Abhishek Sharma conducted a detailed review of ongoing and proposed development initiatives aimed at enhancing infrastructure and student amenities within the university campus.

During the inspection, the Registrar visited the faculty quarters and the guest house, directing concerned officials to initiate renovation works to upgrade facilities. He also inspected the Day Care Centre and instructed for the provision of sports equipment for holistic development of children availing the facility.

In a significant move to boost accommodation for

female students, the Registrar gave directions for the construction of a dedicated Girls' Hostel for the Nursing College, keeping in view the growing demand and need for secure residential facilities.

Further, he emphasized on campus beautification, particularly the fountain gate area, and called for the installation of signage across the campus for better navigation. He also proposed the renaming of a prominent chowk within the campus in honour of Brigadier Mohammad Usman, recognizing his supreme sacrifice and contribution to the nation.

The Registrar also suggested exploring possibilities for creating a Children's Park and a Trekking Track to promote recreational activities among

students and families residing on the campus.

As part of safety and surveillance measures, instructions were issued for the installation of sufficient number of CCTV cameras and street lights to ensure a secure environment.

The visit also included an inspection of the proposed site for the construction of an indoor stadium, with facilities to support sports like shooting, olympic-level disciplines and archery.

Registrar Abhishek Sharma was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer Maqsood Ahmed, Dr. Pervez Alam, Dr. Shams Kamal Anjum, Dr. Titi Xavier and Joint Registrar Qasim Kohli during the visit

## Distt admin Budgam accords warm farewell to outgoing CPO Irfan Ahmad Giri

JINNEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, JULY 16

District Administration Budgam today organized a farewell function for the outgoing Chief Planning Officer, Irfan Ahmad Giri on his transfer from district Budgam.

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat; ADC Budgam, ACR, all SDMs, senior district officers, all Tehsildars and other officials of various departments were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, DC said, "Outgoing CPO served the district with great zeal and sincerity, excelling not only in his departmental responsibilities but also in the additional assignments entrusted to him by the district administration, especially during the parliamentary elections of 2024 and JK assembly elections of 2024.

He added that all the assignments given to officer were completed sincerely and well in time.

DC further said, the workmanship & dedication of the officer will be missed in the district.

District administration is wishing him the best on his transfer for his future assignments, DC added.

## Committee on Estimates reviews Jal Shakti Department's functioning, progress on WSSs in J&K

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

The House Committee on Estimates today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to review the functioning of Jal Shakti Department besides assessing progress on ongoing Water Supply Schemes (WSSs) across Jammu and Kashmir.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairperson Shamim Firdous and attended by Committee Members Abdul Majid Bhat (Larmi), Ghulam Mohi-ud-Din Mir, Pawan Kumar Gupta, Ajaz Jan, Dr. Shafi Ahmad Wani, Chander Prakash Ganga, Pyare Lal Sharma and Arjun Singh Raju.

Senior officers present included Shaleen Kabra, Financial Commissioner (Additional Chief Secre-

tary), Jal Shakti Department; Fayaz A Lone, Director General Accounts and Treasuries; Khurshid Ahmad Shah, Mission Director, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM); along with Directors of Finance and Planning and Chief Engineers of both Kashmir and Jammu divisions.

The Chairperson stressed the importance of providing safe and adequate drinking water to every household in Jammu and Kashmir. She emphasized the need for uninterrupted piped water supply in both rural and urban areas, highlighting the importance of water quality and sustainability of water resources.

She called for regular testing of water samples to ensure supply of clean and safe water, and instructed replacement of



old and defunct pipes to maintain smooth water flow. The Committee also underscored the need for improved coordination among the departments, particularly with the Public Works Department (PWD), to avoid disruptions in connectivity during execution of works.

Legislator Salman Sagar, who attended as a special invitee, highlighted the

need to identify grey areas and address water shortages through special funding approvals.

The Chairperson further emphasized strict monitoring and effective utilization of funds under the Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM). She called for timely completion of all ongoing JJM and other WSS projects to ensure public convenience and stressed for restoration of blocked or defunct springs and key water sources.

The Committee also directed the officials to respond promptly to public grievances, inspect ongoing projects regularly and ensure immediate relief to areas facing water crises.

The members of the Committee offered valuable suggestions and raised key concerns regarding the

execution and progress on various WSSs.

During the meeting, Financial Commissioner Shaleen Kabra informed the Committee that a total of 6,897 civil works have been allotted under 3,253 schemes across Jammu and Kashmir. Out of these, 6,887 works have been taken up and 3,596 works have been completed as of May 31, 2025.

The Committee resolved to continue monitoring the performance of key departments and to scrutinize budget estimates, revised allocations and actual expenditures to ensure accountability and transparency in developmental works.

Earlier, Secretary Legislative Assembly, Manoj Kumar Pandita, deliberated regarding agenda of the meeting.

## Committee on Subordinate Legislation holds meeting in Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

The Committee on Subordinate Legislation today convened a meeting at the Assembly Complex in Srinagar to examine and review the rules and regulations under the mandate of the Revenue Department.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Hasnain Masoodi and attended by members Reyaz Ahmad Khan, Shabir Ahmad Kullay, Satish Kumar Sharma, Kuldeep Raj Dubey, Rajeev Kumar, Irfan Hafiz Lone, and Dr. Rameshwar Singh.

At the outset, the Committee undertook a detailed examination of various Rules, Sub-Rules, Regulations, and Bye-laws framed by the Revenue Department. The Com-



mittee held an in-depth discussion on key legal provisions related to land laws, with a special focus on ensuring environmental safeguards during land use conversions – particularly from agricultural to non-agricultural purposes.

Other important issues deliberated upon included the Migrant and Forest Acts, provisions for compassionate appointments under SRO-43, and land compensation mechanisms for landless individuals.

Chairman Hasnain Masoodi underlined the significance of land laws in ensuring justice and equity and reaffirmed the Committee's commitment to promoting public welfare. He urged members to contribute constructively toward the betterment of all sections of society.

During the meeting, members shared their valuable suggestions and raised various issues related to the Committee's jurisdiction, reaffirming their resolve to ensure transparency and accountability in subordinate legislation.

## Continuous Skill upgradation key to lifelong success: Chief Secretary

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

A landmark two-day conference aimed at transforming the skilling ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir commenced today at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Conference Centre (SKICC), Srinagar.

The participants, among others, included representatives from the Union Ministry of Education, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE); NITI Aayog; GDI and senior Administrative Secretaries of the Government of J&K besides representatives from CII, NSDC, BISAG, SIDBI, NABARD, FICCI and industrial houses such as Maruti Suzuki Limited, TATA Strive and J&K Bank. The conference is also being attended by the Director IIT Jammu, Director IIM Jammu, Vice Chancellors of some prominent Universities along with representatives from Federation of Chambers of



Industries Kashmir (FCIK).

The conference seeks to foster a robust, demand-driven skilling framework by encouraging interactive sessions, consultations and collaborative discussions. Over the next two days, the participants will contribute valuable insights and policy suggestions to build a future-ready, inclusive and industry-aligned skill development roadmap for J&K.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Secretary underlined the significance of aligning the skill development ecosystem with the emerging needs of the industry. While highlighting the priorities, he stressed on Industry-Academia collaboration. He recommended that industries must actively

co-develop curricula with academia to ensure relevance and employability of the skilled manpower produced by the skilling institutions.

The other priority, Dulloo emphasized upon is early vocational exposure. He unequivocally maintained that the vocational education should be integrated from the school and college levels to build foundational skills early. He remarked that such an educational framework would be a precursor towards creating the skilled workforce that is in sync with the latest market requirements therefore highly employable anywhere in the country.

Moreover, the Chief Secretary impressed on the fact of nurturing entrepreneurial mindset among all the youngsters. He underscored that the youth should be nurtured not merely as job seekers but as job creators, empowered to innovate and lead from the front.

Quoting futurist Alvin Toffler, he called for adopting an earliest the adaptability and lifelong learning model in J&K. He mentioned the author saying that "The illiterate of the future will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn and relearn."

The Chief Secretary also stressed the role of convergence and coordination among various departments, institutions and private players to drive impactful and sustainable outcomes.

Pertinently, this workshop is being organised by the Labour & Employment Department and is envisioned not just as a forum to boost employment, but as a strategic effort to build an adaptable, inclusive and futuristic ecosystem. This will greatly help in equipping youth with the skills needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving job market world over.

## BBBP: Social Welfare deptt Srinagar organizes exposure visit for female students



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

Social Welfare department, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Srinagar Wednesday organized exposure visit for female students of Government Higher Secondary School Gund Hassi Bhat to Industrial Estate Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan and Women Polytechnic College Bemina under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative.

The exposure visit aimed to provide opportunities for observation, discussion and knowledge exchange among female students related to particular subjects or practice.

During the exposure visit, students first visited different departments of Women Polytechnic College Bemina where they got familiar with courses

like fashion technology, garment technology, different medical Labs for Medical Tests, besides they got an idea about repairing of different electronic items.

Later the students visited different firms located at Industrial Estate Bagh-i-Ali Mardan Khan viz-a-viz M/S Energy Bread, M/S Qadri Textiles, M/S Azmat Arts where they learned baking process, embroidery designing works on shawls and sarees and Ari work on fabrics, Export Business of different products like Scarf, Mufflers and Stoles and at M/S Taj Spices they learned spice manufacturing from raw spices.

The students were accompanied by the staff from the Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar and the teachers from GHSS Gund Hassi Bhat.

## Mission YUVA: DLIC approves 112 loan assistance cases at Udhampur



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 16

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today chaired a meeting of the District level implementation committee for the Mission YUVA scheme.

The meeting was convened to evaluate, screen and approve Start-Up proposals under Nano and MSME sectors, and to assess the overall progress of the implementation of the scheme in the district.

The meeting was attended by IAS Probationer Seerat Baji; Additional District Development Commissioner Rajinder Singh; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; Deputy Director Employment Mohinder Sharma; Assistant Director Employ-

ment Priyanka Gupta; DSWO, Kanika Gupta, representatives from the banking sector and other concerned officers.

After thorough scrutiny and discussion, the Committee approved 112 cases out of the 118 applications put up at the meeting.

The DC emphasized the need to accelerate the pace of implementation through coordinated efforts by all line departments. LDM was directed to ensure prompt processing and disbursement of sanctioned loan cases.

Highlighting the significance of Mission YUVA, the DC stressed the importance of continuous monitoring of YUVA Doots and directed that regular awareness camps be organized across the district.

## DLSA Rajouri hosts awareness-cum-orientation programme for Tribal members at Kotranka

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KOTRANKA, JULY 16

The District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Rajouri, under the aegis of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and the guidance of the Jammu and Kashmir Legal Services Authority, today organized a one-day awareness-cum-orientation programme under the SAMVAD Scheme at Kotranka, focusing on the rights, schemes and challenges faced by tribal communities.

The programme was organized in collaboration with the District Social Welfare Department, and it aimed at sensitizing the tribal population of the district about their legal entitlements and welfare schemes available for their upliftment.

Secretary DLSA (Sub Judge), Shama Sharma welcomed the Officers from participating departments and tribal beneficiaries, emphasizing the importance of spreading awareness about legal rights and schemes, especially in remote tribal



belts. Speaking on the occasion, Principal District and Sessions Judge, Rajinder Sapru highlighted the significance of the SAMVAD Scheme in empowering tribal communities and ensuring that justice reaches the last mile.

Deputy Commissioner Abhishek Sharma, in his address appreciated the initiative and stressed upon the administration's commitment to inclusive development. He called upon all stakeholders to ensure that the tribal people are not left behind in the developmental journey and in availing benefit from all government schemes.

Various departments,

including the Social Welfare Department, J&K Police, Health, PWD and PHE, presented detailed information about the schemes and initiatives meant for tribal welfare. Awareness stalls were installed by participating departments to disseminate information and provide on-the-spot assistance.

During the programme, selected tribal beneficiaries were provided with helping kits and pension sanction letters were handed over to eligible individuals.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Munsiff Kotranka Deepshikha Kakru, who acknowledged

the contributions of all departments and stakeholders in making the event successful.

This initiative marks a significant step toward bridging the information gap and ensuring access to justice for the tribal population of Rajouri.

Shivika Gupta District Mobile Magistrate (T) Rajouri, ADC Kotranka, DSWO, Additional SP Kandi Wahajat Husain, Ex En PWD Abdul Raheem, Ex En PHE, BMO Kotranka and a number of sectoral and district officers were present on the occasion.

The programme concluded as a ray of hope for the tribal community.

## Assistive Devices Distribution Camp conducted for PwDs, Senior Citizens at Kishtwar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JULY 16

The District Social Welfare Department, in collaboration with Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India (ALIMCO), organised an aid distribution camp today under the Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) scheme and Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojna (RVY).

NORTHERN RAILWAY TENDER NOTICE	
The Dy Chief Engineer/Const./Doubling/Northern Railway, Jammu Tawi for and on behalf of the President of India invites open e-tender under Single Packet system for the following work:	
1 Name of work and location:	Construction of relay rooms and relay hut in connection with provision of shunting neck at Pathankot Cantt. to facilitate shunting movement avoiding involvement of the main line
2 Completion period of the work.	6 (Six) months
3 Approx. Cost of work	Rs. 1.54 crores
4 Earnest Money to be deposited	Rs. 227000/-
5 Date & Time for submission of E-tender and opening of tender	Tenders may be uploaded upto 11:30 hrs on date 07.08.2025 on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . The bidders can participate in the e-tender, the tender will be opened at 11.30 hrs on 07.08.2025
6 Detailed Tender & Notice Document:	The detailed e-tender notice is available on Northern Railway web site i.e. <a href="http://www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in">www.nr.indianrailways.gov.in</a> and tender document is available on <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> . Above tenders document will be available for submission of offer on IREPS web site i.e. <a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a> from 24.07.2025 to 07.08.2025. All other terms and conditions in respect of above tenders are given in tender document. The detailed tender notice also can be seen on the Notice Board of the above office.
Tender Notice No. 1-WDYCECDJAT-2025-26 Dated : 15.07.2025 2145/25	
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>	

NORTHERN RAILWAY Notice Inviting Tender									
Sr.DEE/TRD/FZR acting for and on behalf of the President of India invites E-Tenders for the works as under. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date 08.08.2025 at 15.00 Hrs only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender and any such manual offer received shall not be considered.									
S. No.	Tender No.	Name of Work	App. Cost (in ₹)	Cost of Tender Form (Rs.)	Date & Time for Submission of tender	Earnest Money # (Rs.)	Completion Period	Opening of Tender	Website Particulars
1.	706-TRD-FZR-2025-26	Miscellaneous works to improve reliability of OHE assets in the electrified section over Firozpur division	Rs. 2,73,19,816.16	NIL	Upto 08.08.2025 15:00 Hrs.	Rs. 2,86,600/-	Twelve (12) Months	08.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
2.	707-TRD-FZR-2025-26	Provision of Copper along feeders at TSS/SP/SSP and 160Sq mm jumpers to improve the reliability of electrified section over Firozpur division.	Rs. 2,69,98,663.77	NIL	Upto 08.08.2025 15:00 Hrs.	Rs. 2,85,000/-	Twelve (12) Months	08.08.2025 after 15:00 Hrs.	<a href="http://www.ireps.gov.in">www.ireps.gov.in</a>
Similar Nature of work (applicable for both works): "Design, supply, erection, testing & commissioning of 50Hz, single phase 25KV AC OHE". (Ref: OHE Works S.No.1.1 of Pr. CEE/NR's Letter No. 181-Elect/TRD/189/PLII, dated 29.07.2021).									
Note: #									
Tenderer (s) may please note that offers received without Bid Security either in cash through e-payment gateway or as Bank Guarantee bond from a scheduled commercial bank of India or as mentioned in tender documents (as per Annexure-21) valid for a period of 90 days beyond the bid validity period, will be considered as incomplete & invalid offer and for which contractor shall have no claim on Railway.									
No.: 706 & 707-TRD-FZR-2025-26 Dated: 15.07.2025									
<b>SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE</b>									
2154/2025									

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## I'm fully aware of my...

state policy. "Despite efforts to disrupt our peace through cross-border infiltration, our security forces remain alert and active," he said.

Reflecting on the recent Operation Sindoor, LG Sinha said the central government's stance is unambiguous. "The Prime Minister has made it clear—terror and trade cannot go hand in hand. Every act of terror will be treated as an act of war," he said.

Sinha emphasized the Indian Army's swift and strong response during the operation. "Our armed forces demonstrated their strength by obliterating terror hotspots. When Pakistan attempted to target our military establishments, they were met with an unflinching reply. We sent a clear message: 'Whatever you possess is now ours.' We brought them to their knees," he asserted.

He dismissed Pakistan's claims during the operation, noting that there's no evidence supporting their false narrative.

Sinha said Jammu and Kashmir has witnessed "unprecedented growth" across multiple sectors. Highlighting transparency and infrastructure development as key pillars, he noted that around Rs 1.5 lakh crore worth of highway and tunnel projects are currently underway in the UT.

"Tourism witnessed a historic boom last year with over 2.38 crore visitors. This surge not only boosted the local economy but also created substantial employment opportunities," he said, adding "Private sector investment has also seen a significant upswing under the new industrial policy, growing from Rs 14,000 crore to nearly Rs 30,000 crore. The reforms, he said, have translated into job creation and economic vitality".

He added, "The administration has also implemented major central financial reforms such as the General Financial Rules (GFR), expanded governance outreach with 1,146 services now available online, and completed comprehensive digitization of land records".

Recognizing that nearly 70 percent of J&K's population depends on agriculture and allied sectors, Sinha introduced the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in 2022. With guidance from top agricultural experts, 29 specialized projects are already in motion, aiming to double agriculture's contribution to J&K's GDP within five years.

"Our guiding policy has always been peace, prosperity, progress – and people first," he said.

## Appointing officers...

regarding the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) stay on the enforcement of a key provision in the Jammu & Kashmir Revenue (Subordinate) Service Recruitment Rules. The rule mandated candidates possess a graduation degree with Urdu language knowledge as an exclusive qualification for the post of Naib Tehsildar.

As reported by news agency, Omar said that officers from JKAS and IAS who lack Urdu knowledge are being given time to learn the language. "Appointing Revenue officers without Urdu knowledge is futile. It's better to develop a policy allowing them some months or a year to acquire basic Urdu skills. If they don't have Urdu knowledge, they won't be able to read revenue records effectively," he explained.

In another development, CM welcomed the letter from Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir. He expressed gratitude and said that he had long awaited such a move.

"I appreciate Kharge and Rahul for raising the issue of statehood restoration. We haven't asked for anything that hasn't been promised to us. Promises were made in Parliament, the Supreme Court, and public meetings that statehood would be restored at the earliest. I believe the time for delay has passed, and it should be restored now," he asserted.

Meanwhile, the Chief Minister projected that the ongoing Amarnath Yatra will see over 3.5 lakh pilgrims this year. "Despite concerns that pilgrimages would decline after the Pahalgam attack, large numbers are visiting Kashmir, and the pilgrimage is proceeding smoothly. We expect the number to easily cross 3.5 lakh," he said. KNO

## CM addresses valedictory...

Jammu and Kashmir, with platforms to grow and realise their potential.

Such programmes must encourage broad-based participation and give students from J&K the opportunity to turn their ideas into action, the Chief Minister emphasised.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah revealed that the J&K Government is actively exploring collaborative opportunities with IIT Jammu across multiple domains, including water conservation, climate change adaptation, industrial growth and business incubation. IIT backing lends credibility to any project, he observed, adding that the government remains committed to fostering venture funding framework that support innovation.

The Chief Minister welcomed the institute's proposals on tourism interventions and green transport solutions, while encouraging students from outside the region to explore Jammu and Kashmir and serve as its ambassadors.

Reflecting on recent challenges, the CM struck an optimistic note, "The unfortunate incident earlier this year is behind us now. Our focus is to hand over a better, more empowered Jammu and Kashmir to this generation. May the future generations carve out opportunities through challenges".

Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani, who was also present at the function, described IIT Jammu as a landmark institution of the region and stressed the need to enhance and expand sectors such as tourism and hospitality.

Tourism is our unique strength and we must continue to build on it through innovation, training and infrastructure, Wani stated.

The initiative, organised under IIT Jammu's innovation ecosystem, witnessed remarkable participation from students representing more than 25 states and union territories. In a significant indicator of the region's growing aspirations for technical skills, nearly one-third of the participants, 319 students, came from Jammu and Kashmir itself.

Students from diverse backgrounds converged at the campus, including representatives from Delhi, Punjab,

Karnataka, Bihar, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Manipur and several northeastern and eastern states. The programme offered structured learning modules in cutting-edge technologies including Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity, Full Stack Web Development, Internet of Things (IoT), Data Science and Additive Manufacturing.

Each module comprised over 40 hours of intensive instructions, combining theoretical lectures with hands-on training, industry interactions and feedback-driven mentoring sessions.

The programme brought together faculty, researchers and education partners, including alumni-led startups, who contributed significantly to the initiative's delivery.

The ceremony was attended by senior dignitaries including Director IIT Jammu Dr Manoj Gaur, Board of Governors' Chairman Sharad Kumar Saraf, Chief Innovation Officer Prof MT Arvind and Dr Navneet, along with faculty and students. KNO

## CM Omar launches...

essential surgical treatments more affordable.

The event was also attended by Advisor to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani; Minister for Health & Medical Education, School Education, Higher Education and Social Welfare, Sakeena Itoo and MLA for Uri Assembly constituency, Sajjad Shafi. Additionally, Mahant Manjeet Singh was also present.

Speaking at the launch event, Chief Minister Abdullah described the initiative as "a meaningful step in service of the people."

He noted that while healthcare systems face complex challenges, efforts such as this contribute to easing the burden on ordinary citizens.

"This project stands for the welfare of all," the Chief Minister said. "Its foundation rests on principles of universal service to humanity, a spirit long championed by many traditions, including the Sikh faith. It's heartening to see the community step forward once again in times of need, without distinction or expectation, in the service of people."

Commending the affordability framework of the program, he added, "To make all types of surgeries for women available at a capped cost of Rs 13,000 is a commendable effort, especially for families who otherwise find treatment costs overwhelming."

The Chief Minister also underscored the importance of compassion in healthcare delivery. "Doctors must prioritise patient care above all else," he remarked. "Similarly, private hospitals must do their part in ensuring that treatment is not out of reach for the common citizen. Affordability should not be an afterthought, it must be part of the design."

He acknowledged the ongoing contributions of government hospitals, which continue to provide essential services across Jammu and Kashmir despite operational and infrastructural challenges. "Our public institutions remain pillars of healthcare delivery, and I hope more such initiatives, whether from public or private sectors, are taken up in the spirit of public service."

Dr. Jasbir Kaur, who conceptualised Project 13-13, expressed gratitude for the support extended to the program and reaffirmed its focus on community care. "This initiative is about ensuring dignity and access in women's healthcare. It's our way of giving back," she said.

The event marks the beginning of Project 13-13's implementation at National Hospital Jammu. Though limited in scope to a single institution, the initiative has been widely appreciated for its targeted approach and its potential to inspire similar models of accessible healthcare elsewhere. KNO

## LG addresses seminar...

peace. Indian State authority has been completely established in J&K. Today, the common citizens of Kashmir have understood that their future lies with India. Our youth are being guided towards building a more prosperous future for J&K and their growing involvement is instrumental in this transformative journey.

The local terrorist recruitment is at an all-time low. The decisive action against terrorism and their facilitators and thorough investigations against those trying to radicalize the youth has ensured that peace prevails.

A month-long peace march is organised in the Kashmir valley every year to commemorate Pujya Bapu's birth anniversary. Gandhi Jayanti, Teachers Day, Har Ghar Tiranga, Independence-day celebrations and numerous other national integration programmes across the UT reflect that J&K is reclaiming its legacy as a land of peace. Youth are now conscious of the fact that J&K of Bapu's dreams is J&K of unity and peace.

This wind of change has rattled the terrorist nation Pakistan and it constantly tries to hurt the soul of India and its cultural-spiritual fabric. Aim of Pahalgam terrorist attack was to stall economic progress of UT as well but we are marching ahead with renewed strength.

Terrorism is in the DNA of Pakistan and they continue to spread it. The entire global society must unite against this terrorist country Pakistan. We are determined to completely wipe out terrorism and remnants of the terror ecosystem. We will not spare anyone who speaks the language of terror outfits. Strict action will be taken against such elements. Those behind the Pahalgam terror attack have been identified. NIA is investigating and soon the perpetrators will meet the same fate as other top terror commanders," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor, in his address, also highlighted the transformation across the sectors in J&K UT under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

He said the era of Post Abrogation of Article 370 represents a defining moment in the history of Jammu and Kashmir. "The Union Territory has marked significant milestones, over the past few years, creating new paradigms for inclusive development. Our economy has doubled in the last 5 years," the Lieutenant Governor further said— (KNO)

## Strong police-public...

Police Station Akhnoor, located near the Line of Control (LoC), for being adjudged the Best Police Station in Jammu and Kashmir for 2024 by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

To mark this exceptional achievement, the Director General of Police visited Police Station Akhnoor and per-

sonally presented the Certificate of Excellence to the police personnel. "It is a very happy day for Jammu Police," the DGP said while addressing the gathering. "Instead of giving this award in a closed room, I decided to come here and personally hand it over. This recognition is the result of your relentless hard work and dedication."

The DGP was accompanied by IGP Jammu Zone B.S. Tuti, IGP CRPF Gopala K. Rao.; DIG JSK Range Shiv Kumar Sharma, DC Jammu Sachin Vaishya, IAS; and SSP Jammu Joginder Singh, JKPS. The event was also graced by Hon'ble MLA Akhnoor, Mohan Lal Bhagat, along with senior officers from the Army, BSF, CRPF, intelligence agencies, civil administration, and zonal police officers.

Akhnoor Police Station is a historic and protected site. It was among the 76 top-performing police stations short-listed out of 17,932 across India based on stringent performance criteria set by the MHA's Police Modernisation Division, with support from the TransRural research agency.

This national-level recognition is part of a flagship initiative launched in 2015 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the DGP/IGP Conference in Kutch, Gujarat.

Lauding the efforts of the Akhnoor police team, DGP Prabhath praised the former SHO Inspector Tariq Ahmed, SDPO Mohan Sharma, JKPS, and SP Rural Brijesh Sharma, for their leadership in 2024. He also extended his best wishes to the present SHO Inspector Sanjeev Chib and SDPO Varinder Gupta, encouraging them to uphold the legacy of excellence.

DGP Prabhath also commended the station's effective community policing and its remarkable performance in tackling drug peddling, bovine smuggling, gangster activity, and other crimes. KNO

## Despite downpour...

Amarnath Yatra pilgrims left from the Yatri Niwas, Bhagwati Nagar base camp in Jammu early Wednesday morning, officials said. The pilgrims, escorted by security forces, departed in a fleet of 234 vehicles, comprising both Light Motor Vehicles (LMVs) and Heavy Motor Vehicles (HMVs), under a multi-tier security arrangement.

According to officials, 3,593 pilgrims proceeded via the Pahalgam route, while 2,471 pilgrims took the Baltal route. So far, the pilgrimage has continued peacefully with robust participation despite intermittent downpours along the route.

Administration clarifies false reports

Contrary to some false reports circulating on social media regarding the suspension of the Amarnath Yatra due to rains, the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir has clarified that the Yatra is ongoing without any interruption, and pilgrims are safely having darshan of Baba Barfani.

"The Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025 is proceeding smoothly, and pilgrims are taking darshan of Baba Barfani without any interruption," said the Divisional Commissioner Kashmir.

All media outlets are advised to verify facts from official sources before publishing or circulating any information regarding the Yatra, the statement said, adding that the public is requested to rely only on official updates for accurate and timely information.

Army takes swift action for pilgrim's medical emergency Reaffirming its unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of pilgrims undertaking the sacred Amarnath Yatra, the Indian Army carried out a swift medical evacuation at Barari Marg on Monday night.

A defence spokesperson in a statement issued to KNO said that at around 8:00 PM, a 38-year-old pilgrim, Ajay Kumar from Ludhiana, began feeling unwell while descending the yatra route. "Acting promptly, the Medical Evacuation Team, led by the NCO Incharge stationed at Barari, responded immediately," he said.

The pilgrim was escorted to the nearest Medical Aid Post, where he received timely medical care and was kept under observation as per standard protocol, the Army said, adding that after being stabilised and showing improvement, Ajay Kumar reported feeling better and continued his descent without assistance, accompanied by his fellow pilgrims.

"This incident underscores the Indian Army's proactive humanitarian efforts in ensuring the health, safety, and morale of all yatri. Army medical teams remain on round-the-clock alert along the entire yatra route, committed to providing immediate assistance and facilitating a safe and smooth pilgrimage for all," the spokesperson said.

The annual Amarnath Yatra, which commenced earlier this month on July 3, is scheduled to conclude on August 9 this year. KNO

## Lady doctor assaulted...

referred to GMC Jammu from PGI with a poor prognosis. An official of GMC Jammu told the news agency that the patient was admitted to GMC Jammu five days ago, after being sent back from PGI with advice for basic medical and nursing care.

"Despite the patient's terminal condition, doctors at GMC provided the best possible treatment. However, the patient succumbed to respiratory arrest on July 16," he said.

In the aftermath of his death, the attendants turned violent, targeting the on-duty staff, including a lady doctor, who was kicked and beaten, the official said.

CCTV footage has captured the gruesome attack, clearly showing the physical assault.

The incident triggered outrage among the medical community. The GMC Jammu administration, faculty, and resident doctors have strongly condemned the violence.

The official said that an FIR has been lodged at the concerned police station against the persons involved.

"The repeated instances of violence against doctors are unacceptable. We stand in solidarity with our medical staff and demand strict legal action against the culprits," reads a statement from the GMC administration.

In response to the assault, junior doctors went on a strike, demanding safety and accountability.

To ensure uninterrupted patient care, Principal and Dean Dr. Ashutosh Gupta issued an order directing all clinical and paraclinical Heads of Departments to ensure the deployment of faculty members and consultants in the emergency ward until the junior doctors return to duty.

The medical fraternity across the region has also expressed serious concern over the increasing incidents of violence against healthcare workers and called for stronger security measures at hospitals. KNO

## ABVP protests outside JKSSB office against deferment of Naib Tehsildar Exam



## JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 16

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) today held a protest outside the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB) office against the deferment of the Naib-Tehsildar recruitment notification. As per the direction of the Central Administrative Tribunal, JKSSB was directed to allow aspirants belonging to five languages according to the Jammu Kashmir Official Languages Act 2020.

Instead of this JKSSB deferred the whole recruitment process due to this those aspirants who have filled Naib Tehsildar Form are in confusion regarding their fees they have paid to fill the form of Naib Tehsildar and JKSSB should clarify the Aspirants about their fees status whether they are going to adjust in next notification or they are going to refund. ABVP demands that the recruitment process should start at the earliest and JKSSB doesn't put the future of youth at stake.

Sannak Shrivats, State Secretary, ABVP Jammu Kashmir said, "CAT had

ordered a stay on the mandatory Urdu paper, and allow all aspirants without any discrimination to fill the form and not to defer the recruitment process. We demand that the JKSSB should proceed with the recruitment process without further delay. JKSSB should take immediate action to clear the issues of aspirants who have faced problems with payment and multiple transactions. We demand that JKSSB should provide a clear solution for these aspirants and proceed with the recruitment process."

Raman Khajuria, ABVP Jammu Mahanagar Secretary further emphasized, "The aspirants have been waiting for this recruitment process for a long time. We urge the JKSSB to find a solution and initiate the recruitment process at the earliest."

ABVP warned the authorities to take immediate action and initiate the recruitment process, ensuring that the aspirants are not further suffer and allow all the aspirants of linguistic backgrounds according to the Languages Act 2020 as directed by the CAT.

## Shiv Sena demands review of Amarnath Yatra arrangements, improvement of facilities



## JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 16

Shiv Sena (UBT) Jammu-Kashmir unit has accused Shri Amarnath Shrine Board of negligence and commercialization in the Yatra arrangements and has demanded the Chief Minister and Lieutenant Governor to review the situation and issue strict instructions to provide better facilities to the pilgrims.

During a special program organized at the party's state central office, the party state chief Manish Sahni, while talking to media, said that despite continuous questions being raised about the Yatra mismanagement, there has been no improvement in the situation. Despite the two-week halt of the Yatra passing, the period of chaos continues. The pilgrims going and returning from the Yatra are continuously expressing their unhappiness about the Yatra arrangements and commercialization. Hundreds of devotees camped near the railway station in Jammu waiting for registration are spending the night on the footpath and

in buses, the administration has completed the formality by making arrangements for only a few toilets. On the other hand, e-rickshaws and auto drivers are collecting money from the pilgrims as per their will. The pilgrims are quite angry about the conditions in the main base camp of Nunwan in Pahalgam. Videos and pictures of tents being set up in the mud and other mismanagement are going viral and uploaded on social media. Due to which, along with hurting religious faith, the image of Jammu and Kashmir is getting affected.

Sahni said that by collecting money from the annual Shri Amarnath pilgrims in the name of registration, bedding, tents, lockers for keeping luggage etc., the Shri Amarnath Shrine Board is ignoring the facilities and filling its coffers.

Sahni has appealed to the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to take stock of the situation and issue strict instructions to improve the facilities immediately.

## 21st Scientific Advisory Committee meeting held at KVK Ganderbal

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, JULY 16

The 21st Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Ganderbal, was convened today with high enthusiasm and broad stakeholder participation.

The event was notably marked by the inauguration of a series of agricultural and allied infrastructure units by Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmed Ganie, Vice Chancellor, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Shalimar.

Delivering a keynote, Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dr. Nazir Ahmed Ganie lauded the KVK Ganderbal team for their exemplary work, proudly declaring it the number one KVK in Kashmir Valley. He further emphasized its immense potential to ascend to the top position among all KVKs in India and highlighted the role of KVKs as dynamic institutions bridging the gap between scientific research and field application.

He also engaged with progressive farmers present at the event, soliciting their

feedback to better tailor future interventions and emphasized the importance of educating our youth about agricultural innovation and the value addition of agricultural products by applying scientific methods.

He stressed the need to guide youth on how to adopt innovative agricultural practices and enhance the agricultural products through proper scientific approaches.

Prof. Raihana Habib Kanth, Director Extension, SKUAST-K, addressed the gathering and emphasized the critical role of such

platforms in promoting farmer awareness, skill development, and adaptive research. She reiterated the University's commitment to uplift the farming community of Kashmir through sustainable, science-driven solutions.

Earlier, the programme began with a detailed overview by Dr. Suja Nabi Qurashi, Senior Scientist (Horticulture), outlining the day's agenda and key developments at the Kendra.

Dr. Ajaz Ahmed Malik, Senior Scientist and Head, KVK Ganderbal, presented the Action Taken Report

(ATR), Annual Progress Report (APR), and the Annual Action Plan for the forthcoming year.

In a significant milestone for the center, the Vice Chancellor inaugurated several newly established demonstration and research units at the KVK premises, including Entrance Signage, High-Density Cherry Block, First Harvest at Fish Unit, Rootstock Bank, Gul-e-Kashmir - A Bloom Lab, Vegetable Block, Goat Rearing Unit, Molecular Diagnostic Lab and Soil Testing Lab.

These units have been set

up to strengthen the practical training ecosystem of KVK Ganderbal, offering region-specific innovations and technology demonstrations aimed at empowering local farmers and entrepreneurs.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by Dr. Farooq Ahmed Ahangar, Scientist (Plant Protection), who acknowledged the contributions of all participants and reaffirmed the Kendra's dedication to agricultural innovation, farmer welfare, and collaborative growth.

## Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra- 2025 DC reviews status of Civic Amenities, condition of roads



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JULY 16

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and status of civic amenities and condition of roads ahead of the upcoming Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025.

The Deputy Commissioner instructed the Sub-Divisional Magistrates of Mendhar and Surankote to conduct joint inspections along with their respective SDPOs to identify and report vulnerable spots on the designated Yatra routes. Emphasis was laid on ensuring both the safety and comfort of pilgrims.

The Deputy Commissioner also directed the Officer Commanding (OC) GREF and Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Surankote to expedite all necessary maintenance works and

ensure the roads are Yatra-ready well in advance. He reiterated the importance of completing the works before the commencement of the pilgrimage to facilitate smooth travel and avoid disruptions.

The meeting was attended by the Additional Deputy Commissioner, Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Xen PWD (R&B), OC GREF, Tehsildar Haveli and Tehsildar Mandi, besides SDM Mendhar, SDM Surankote, SDPO Mendhar, SDPO Surankote, Executive Engineers and other concerned officers participated through virtual mode and presented the status of roads in their respective jurisdictions.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized inter-departmental coordination and proactive measures to ensure the safe and successful conduct of the Yatra.

## Sarmad Hafeez reviews functioning of Social Welfare Department

SRINAGAR, July 16

Commissioner Secretary, Social Welfare Department, Sarmad Hafeez, today chaired a review meeting at Women Development Corporation, Bemina here.

The meeting took stock of overall functioning, financial performance and key initiatives under Centrally Sponsored and UT funded schemes.

The Commissioner Secretary emphasized that the Social Welfare Department operates as a dynamic, continuous service delivery system rather than a one-time initiative. He instructed the officers were to adopt this process-driven approach while implementing the welfare programmes.

Comprehensive pre-



sentations were made on major missions such as Mission Poshan, Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya besides pension and scholarship schemes. The department's financial performance for 2024-25 was reviewed, revealing an overall fund utilization of 86 percent while budgetary provisions for 2025-26 were also discussed.

The Commissioner Secretary issued key directives focusing on strengthening the cross-departmental

convergence, particularly for Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and expediting the completion and timely operationalization of the ongoing infrastructure projects.

He asked the officers to prioritise disposal of pendencies in Marriage Assistance and Ladli Beti Schemes besides ensuring proper gender-responsive budgeting and monitoring mechanisms. He also directed them to ensure timely submission of Utilization Certificates and preparation of impact assessment reports.

Reiterating the importance of a proactive and transparent approach, the Commissioner Secretary underscored the need to ensure efficient service delivery to all eligible beneficiaries.

## AHD Udhampur holds Veterinary Camp at remote Ghar Thanua Panchayat



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 16

The Animal Husbandry Department Udhampur successfully organized a veterinary-cum-awareness camp here at Panchayat Ghar Thanua today. The special initiative, spearheaded by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer Dr. Sanjay Gupta, aimed to provide essential services and knowledge to farmers in the far-flung area.

The camp was presided over by Superintendent of the District Veterinary Hospital (DVH) Dr. Anwar Hussain and conducted in col-

laboration with the Mobile Veterinary Unit Udhampur. Approximately 150 farmers mostly women from both the poultry and dairy sectors attended the event, benefiting from a range of services.

Farmers received crucial information on various Central and UT-level employment-generating schemes, designed to enhance their livelihoods. Additionally, attendees were provided with free veterinary consultations and complimentary medicines for their livestock.

Participants expressed their deep appreciation

for the Animal Husbandry Department's efforts, recognizing its commitment to doubling farmers' incomes. The event also served as a platform for several Self-Help Groups (SHGs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) and beneficiaries of Animal Husbandry Schemes to share their inspiring success stories and experiences.

Dr. Hussain assured the community that the department plans to organize more such camps in the near future, reinforcing its dedication to supporting the region's animal husbandry sector.

## DC Poonch reviews progress of KCC & Agriculture Credit Schemes under HADP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JULY 16

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the Kisan Credit Card (KCC) scheme and other credit-linked initiatives in the agriculture and allied sectors under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP) in the financial year 2024-25.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner assessed the achievements against the previous HADP targets and emphasized the need to intensify efforts for the effective implementation of ongoing schemes.



He directed the concerned officers to expedite the issuance of KCCs, ensure maximum enrollment of farmers on the DAKSH portal and bring the pendency of eKYC to zero at the earliest.

The review also covered key schemes such as Daksh Kisan, PM-KISAN and KCC. On this, the Deputy Com-

missioner issued clear directions for their time-bound and result-oriented execution. He underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination to ensure timely delivery of benefits to the farming community and to enhance overall agricultural productivity in the district.

The Deputy Commissioner reiterated the administration's commitment to achieving the set targets under Daksh Kisan and other HADP-linked programs and called upon all stakeholders to strictly adhere to timelines and implementation guidelines.

## Pulwama joins workshop on 'Transforming Skilling Ecosystem in J&K'

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PULWAMA, JULY 16

District Pulwama today virtually joined a two-day workshop on 'Transforming the Skilling Ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir', being organised at SKICC Srinagar by the department of Skill Development.

The workshop is aimed at providing a platform for collaborative ideation, expert dialogue, and strategic planning to develop a future-ready, inclusive, and industry-aligned skilling ecosystem in the Union Territory.



Among those who attended the workshop were the Principal, Government Degree College (Boys) Pulwama; Principal, Government Degree College for Women Pulwama; Principal, Government Degree College Rajpora;

Chief Education Officer Pulwama; Assistant Director Employment Pulwama; District Nodal Officer, EDI Pulwama; Lead District Manager Pulwama, and other district and sectoral officers along with officials of various departments.

## Farmers Field School programme held at Reshipora Shopian

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, JULY 16

Central Integrated Pest Management Centre (CIPMC), Srinagar, in collaboration with the Department of Horticulture, Zone Zainapora, organised a Farmers Field School (FFS) programme today at village Reshipora, block Zainapora of Shopian.

The programme aimed to educate and empower farmers with sustainable agricultural practices through Integrated Pest Management (IPM) techniques.

Assistant Plant Protection Officer addressed the gathering and briefed the

farmers about the objectives and structure of the FFS programme. He emphasized the importance of adopting IPM practices to reduce the dependency on chemical pesticides, thereby ensuring environmental safety, improved crop health, and better yield quality.

He highlighted practical and scientific approaches to pest management, encouraging farmers to rely on eco-friendly techniques, biological control methods, and crop monitoring as key components of the IPM strategy. He also stressed the need for farmer participation and experiential learning,

which form the foundation of the FFS model.

Horticulture Development Officer, Zainapora reiterated the importance of creating awareness about the judicious and safer use of pesticides, while promoting cultural, mechanical, and biological methods of pest control. He encouraged farmers to adopt the practices discussed for long-term agricultural sustainability.

The event was well-attended by local farmers, officials, and field staff, and marked a significant step towards strengthening farmer education and sustainable horticultural development in the region.

## Aadhaar Enrolment Camp held at Bathri-Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, JULY 16

An Aadhaar Enrolment Camp was successfully conducted at village Bathri of the Poshan Project Thathri. The camp was held under the guidance of Deputy Commissioner Harvinder Singh and the supervision of District Programme Officer, Poshan Project Akther Hussain Qazi.

The event witnessed active participation from local residents, who availed themselves of the opportunity to register for Aadhaar, update their details and resolve any



discrepancies in their records. The Poshan Project staff and technical team led by CDPO Thathri Nisar Hussain were present to assist the beneficiaries and ensure smooth and efficient registration of locals.

Aadhaar enrolment plays a crucial role in

enabling citizens to access essential services and entitlements offered by the government. During the camp, officials also sensitized participants about the benefits of Aadhaar and how it strengthens their ability to benefit from public welfare programs.

## BLOs imparted training at Kishtwar



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JULY 16

The District Election Office (DEO) Kishtwar today hosted training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of 48 Interwal and 49 - Kishtwar, Assembly Constituency.

District Election Officer Pankaj Kumar Sharma presided over the session in presence of ERO 49 Kishtwar Pawan Kotwal and ERO 48 Interwal Mohammad Idrees Lone.

The training, conducted in morning and afternoon sessions at Conference Hall DC Office Complex, 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.

The training cum orientation was imparted to BLOs by National Level Master Trainers Tariq Parwaiz Tapal, Javed Ahmed Lone and Raj Kumar.

## Legislators meet Javed Rana, discuss public welfare issues



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 16

Legislators Mubarak Gul, Pawan Kumar Gupta and Payare Lal Sharma today called on Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana at the Civil Secretariat here.

They discussed various important issues of public welfare pertaining to the Forest, Tribal Affairs and Public Health Engineering (PHE) departments.

During the interaction, the legislators brought

forth key concerns and suggestions related to their constituencies, focusing on issues that impact the daily lives of the people.

Rana attentively listened to their concerns and directed the matters to the concerned authorities for prompt and effective action.

The Minister appreciated the legislators' efforts in highlighting critical public issues. He urged them to continue their endeavors in projecting the concerns of their constituents to ensure effective redress of public.

## EDITORIAL

## Sky is the new battlefield!

In the ever-evolving theatre of conflict, the enemy no longer lurks just behind hills or hides in dense forests—it now hovers in the skies. Operation Sindoor, a bold and meticulously executed strike by the Indian Forces that targeted terror infrastructure in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, has not only reaffirmed India's military resolve but also underlined a critical transformation in the nature of modern warfare: wars are no longer fought by muscle and manpower alone; they are fought – and often won – through the precision of technology. Jammu and Kashmir has, for decades, been at the epicentre of proxy war waged by Pakistan. While our security forces have consistently adapted to new challenges, a new threat is emerging – one that is faceless, fast, and often invisible until damage is done. Drones have become the latest tool in the terrorist arsenal, replacing the once-dependable human networks of Over Ground Workers (OGWs). This shift is not incidental – it is strategic, calculated, and deeply worrying. The use of drones by Pakistan-backed terror groups is not limited to surveillance. These unmanned aerial vehicles are now being used to drop weapons, drugs, dry rations, and even explosives – enabling terrorists holed up in inaccessible terrains like Rajouri, Kishtwar, and the higher reaches of Kashmir to sustain operations. Even more concerning is the fact that drones are being used for real-time surveillance to track troop movement and assess vulnerabilities along the Line of Control. This technological pivot is a response to the relentless crackdown on OGWs and infiltrators by Indian security forces. As human assets are arrested or go into hiding, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) has turned to drones to maintain its disruptive presence. Intelligence inputs suggest that Pakistani handlers and top leaders of banned outfits like Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Taiba have held meetings in recent months to push this transition aggressively, even planning to replace physical guides with local recruits to manage infiltration routes. The implications are clear – this is not just tactical innovation; this is technological terrorism. The 2021 drone attack on Jammu airport marked a chilling turning point. It was no longer just about drones crossing borders with payloads – it was about them being used for direct, destructive strikes within Indian territory. Operation Sindoor, in this context, is a timely and powerful message – that India will not hesitate to respond with strength, precision, and high-end military capability. But military action alone is not enough. What we now face is a new kind of asymmetric warfare that calls for an equally intelligent and dynamic counter-strategy. The traditional methods of surveillance, fencing, and manned patrolling must now be supplemented – if not superseded – by high-tech solutions: counter-drone systems, radar grids, AI-powered threat detection, and real-time data integration across intelligence agencies. There is also a pressing need for a comprehensive drone policy—not only to regulate civilian drone usage but to rapidly expand India's indigenous drone defense technologies. Private players must be incentivized to develop anti-drone jammers, kinetic interception systems, and AI-based tracking software. We need our skies to be as guarded as our borders. In a broader geopolitical sense, this is the beginning of a new arms race—not of nuclear warheads but of networked drones, cloud warfare, and invisible combatants. India must therefore prepare for the future—a future where threats do not always wear uniforms or carry rifles, but instead whirr silently in the air, guided by satellites, remote joysticks, and enemy intelligence. The new OGW is no longer a man with a message – it is a machine with a mission. As Operation Sindoor proved, India's technological muscle is growing. But it must be matched with foresight, policy, and urgency. In this war of wires and wings, complacency is not an option. The sky may be the new battlefield—but it must never become enemy territory.

## Essence of Himalayas: A Global Wake-Up Call for Climate and Disaster Resilience

DURGESH PANT

The enduring allure of the Himalayas, once articulated by Swami Vivekananda as a “deeper pull from within,” continues to resonate with profound urgency in our contemporary world. More than a century ago, the young monk recognised in these majestic, snow-capped peaks not just serenity and solitude, but an inherent resilience of spirit, nature, and civilisation. Today, as technology increasingly shapes human behavior and thought, and the world navigates a complex crossroads, Vivekananda's foresight underscores the Himalayas' critical role.

The Himalayas stand both as an epicenter of vulnerability and an exemplary demonstration of resilience in the face of escalating global crises. We are battling the severe consequences of climate change, a significant loss of biodiversity, and the devastating impact of both natural and human-induced disasters. Against this backdrop, Dehradun, the gateway to the Himalayas, is preparing to host the World Summit on Disaster Management (WSDM) from November 28-30, 2025. Aiming to forge a dynamic platform for critical discussions, this landmark gathering, with its overarching theme of “Strengthening International Cooperation for Building Resilient Communities,” commemorates the second anniversary of the historic Silkyara Rescue Operation. The summit will integrate international strategies with local dynamics and actions, blend scientific knowledge with policy, and unite technological advancements with conventional wisdom in the realms of climate action and disaster management. Often referred to as the “Third Pole,” the Himalayas are indispensable to our planet's health and wellbeing. They regulate global climate patterns, control the vital monsoon systems, and feed major

river systems that directly impact the lives of over 1.3 billion people across South Asia. However, these vital mountain ecosystems are under unprecedented stress from both natural processes and human activities. A 2023 study concerning this theme by ICIMOD revealed that 8,000 glaciers in the region are shrinking, with some projected to vanish entirely by 2100. This alarming rate of glacial retreat poses a severe threat to long-term water security, not just in the immediate region but across the entire Asian continent. Furthermore, the frequency and severity of extreme weather events, including floods, landslides, and avalanches, are on a worrying upward trend. The economic losses from these disasters are substantial, impacting crucial sectors like agriculture, tourism, infrastructure, and both urban and rural livelihoods. Complicating matters further, rapidly shifting geopolitical dynamics and fragmented environmental practices are hindering the development of effective cross-border solutions in the region, necessitating a serious re-alignment of international efforts and renewed diplomatic ties. The destabilisation of the Himalayan ecosystem could trigger a cascade of adverse effects across Asia, ranging from food and water insecurity to distressed migration, economic volatility, and even transboundary conflicts. Disturbances in these mountains also have significant repercussions for plains and lowland coastal areas, underscoring the critical importance of mountain ecosystems in the global climate and disaster discourse. The Uttarakhand State Council of Science and Technology (UCOST), an autonomous organisation of the Government of Uttarakhand and a state nodal agency of the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, is actively working to create a collaborative



ecosystem. This initiative brings together academia, industry, local communities, and governance on a common platform to study, analyse, and develop solutions for local challenges that could also offer insights for the global populace. UCOST is collaborating with leading national bodies like ISRO, DRDO, CSIR, ICAR, CIMAP, and numerous universities and institutions. Simultaneously, significant efforts are underway to harness the vast body of conventional knowledge passed down through generations in remote villages, a wisdom UCOST prefers to call “Himalayan Intelligence.” The ancient practices of the indigenous people of the Himalayas – their perfect synchronisation with nature, their art of balancing economy and ecology, and their transparent trade and seamless supply chains – serve as compelling examples of what we now define as resilient communities. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has repeatedly emphasised the “transformation taking place in the heart of the northern frontier” and his powerful call to the people of the hills that “this decade actually belongs to them” has fostered a mindset of growth,

courage, and adventurous innovation. In an era of rapidly shifting priorities and numerous challenges, the Himalayas offer invaluable lessons for the peace and well-being of humanity worldwide. Therefore, it is imperative that the Himalayas are brought into the mainstream of the global dialogue on climate actions and disaster risk resilience. In addition to establishing Science & Technology infrastructure in the most remote and challenging border geographies, UCOST has made focused efforts to build a comprehensive platform for Climate and Disaster Risk Resilience, specifically concentrating on mountain ecosystems. This initiative aims to draw the attention of global experts and prestigious institutions towards the Himalayas and its communities. The World Summit on Disaster Management (WSDM) 2025 in Dehradun, scheduled for November 28-30, 2025, and guided by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, will feature several key components: A Trans-Himalayan Resilience Framework: This framework seeks to unite leaders, experts, and stakeholders from Himalayan countries, establish-

ing a foundation for joint climate resilience strategies, shared early warning systems, and coordinated disaster risk reduction protocols. Such regional cooperation is crucial for fostering peace and ensuring ecological stability. Localisation of Global Commitments: WSDM 2025 aligns seamlessly with India's commitments to the Sendai Framework, the Paris Agreement, and the Sustainable Development Goals. It provides a tangible opportunity to translate ambitious international targets into concrete, community-based interventions, particularly in remote mountain zones often overlooked in policy and funding flows. Climate Finance and Green Investment Platforms: The summit will actively engage multilateral banks, global foundations, and private sector actors to explore innovative financing mechanisms for resilience. This includes exploring nature-based solutions, developing robust insurance models, and promoting green infrastructure. Media and policy circles shall keenly be taking note of groundbreaking Himalayan-specific investment instruments emerging from the summit.

Youth, Women, and Indigenous Leadership: By highlighting the vital role of young innovators, women-led community initiatives, and traditional ecological knowledge, the summit broadens the scope of resilience beyond mere infrastructure. This inclusive approach to resilience is not an optional add-on; it is the fundamental bedrock of effective disaster risk reduction.

A Convergence of Science and Spirit: The summit also aims to reintegrate spiritual ecology, an approach where intrinsic inner values born of the Himalayan experience and external sustainability harmoniously intertwine. The Himalayas have historically been a crucible of profound wisdom and restraint. In today's age, marked by climate anxiety and moral dislocation, the fusion of ethical leadership with scientific foresight holds transformative potential. Swami Vivekananda's spiritual connection to the Himalayas over a century ago was more than a personal quest; it was, in essence, prophetic. He understood that true power lies not in conquest, but in a consciousness deeply anchored in nature. As the world becomes increasingly fragmented by borders, ideologies, and economic inequalities, the Himalayas serve as a powerful reminder of something far more enduring: our fundamental interdependence. WSDM 2025 is a clarion call to transcend tokenism and perfunctory targets. It is an urgent appeal for action imbued not just with immediacy, but with humility and far-reaching foresight.

As policymakers and communicators, we stand at a critical inflection point.

The Himalayas must be more than a mere metaphor; they must become our shared global mission.

The writer is Professor and Director General of Uttarakhand State Council of Science and Technology (UCOST).

## India's Seed Sector: A Strategic Roadmap

RAM KAUNDINYA

Seed is not just an input, it is the genetic powerhouse that unlocks a plant's potential to grow, flower, and yield nutritious harvests despite biotic stresses like pests, diseases and abiotic stresses such as drought and high temperatures. India's commercial seed market is estimated at around Rs 30,000 crore, with an equally large, informal and unorganised segment. To ensure food and nutrition security for our massive population, a clear and strategic approach through robust policy support is urgently needed. Over the past four decades, the seed industry, in close partnership with public institutions, has done monumental work in research, farmer education, product testing, and promotion of modern agronomic practices. But the road ahead demands that we treat this sector as a strategic national asset, one that must operate at the cutting edge of technology to combat climate change and make Indian agricul-

ture globally competitive. A clear agriculture strategy for the coming decade, evolved through consensus among states and the Centre, must be published without delay.

Boosting Research and Protecting Intellectual Property: Developing a single seed variety or hybrid takes six to seven years of dedicated breeding, involving thousands of trial crosses and selections. Locally adapted varieties are essential to suit India's diverse agro-climatic conditions. While tools like molecular markers and speed breeding can shave two to three years off the development cycle, high-quality research demands scale and investment. Unfortunately, research in India remains fragmented and underfunded.

While ICAR-NIAEPR's recent policy paper No 44, confirms that every rupee invested in agricultural research generates a return of Rs 13.85, our public investment in this area is still just 0.54 per cent of agri-GDP, with private sector contributions at a mere 8 per cent of the

total. This must change. Both multinational and Indian firms invest in seed R&D, yet most spend less than 5 per cent of their revenue, far from adequate for meaningful breakthroughs. Government can catalyse greater private investment by recognising research-led companies under a well-structured 'Beej Ratna' scheme that incentivises increased R&D spending. Seed innovation is undermined by rampant intellectual property theft, which erodes returns on costly research. While global players can shift investments elsewhere, Indian companies have no such fallback. Unless the Government strengthens awareness, processes, and enforcement of IP protection, research investments will remain limited and the industry's technological edge will suffer.

Upgrading Seed Production Systems: More than 95 per cent of seed sown in India is produced within the country, a shining example of Make in India. Yet, private sector's vital role in ramping up production often goes

unrecognised. Producing high-quality seed is a specialised activity suited to specific geographies, and climate change and labour shortages have made it more challenging. We need to professionalise, train, and build world-class infrastructure to maintain supply and quality. Digital traceability is another imperative. Each production field and seed lot must have a Digital ID, ensuring full transparency from farm to retail sale. Nurseries should also have unique digital identifiers. Organisers, who coordinate between seed companies and growers, must be strengthened through safeguards, bank financing, and capacity building. A robust, traceable production ecosystem backed by policy will help India meet domestic and global quality standards. The long-pending new Seed Bill, which mandates variety registration, must be enacted at the earliest.

Supportive Policy: With over 400 companies and the largest player holding less than 10 per cent market share, India's seed industry is highly frag-

mented. A dozen firms have revenues above Rs 500 crore, but most are small or medium-sized businesses below Rs 100 crore. This diversity calls for a nuanced, supportive policy approach.

The current licensing system is cumbersome, every company must obtain separate licences to sell seed in each state. A 'One Nation, One License' policy would remove this barrier, saving companies precious time and money. Similarly, redundant state-level product testing, even after rigorous company and ICAR trials, delays new product launches by at least two years. Streamlining testing through ICAR certification and mutual acceptance among states will speed up farmers' access to improved seeds. Despite heavy compliance burdens, unscrupulous players in the informal market continue to thrive. Political will and administrative resolve are needed to weed out low-quality operators and build India's global image as a supplier of quality seed. Seed production is working capital intensive. MSME com-

panies, which form the backbone of this sector, often struggle due to limited access to affordable finance. Banks must recognise the unique needs of this industry. Meanwhile, it is important to distinguish between occasional performance issues, inevitable with any biological product, and deliberate fraud. Repeat offenders should face action, but painting the entire industry as spurious suppliers helps no one.

A Strategic Imperative: India's seed industry must be seen for what it truly is, a strategic pillar of national food security. Our challenges are unique and solutions must be home-grown. A robust, progressive policy environment that incentivises research, protects intellectual property, embraces technology, ensures quality production, and eases doing business will empower the seed industry to deliver on its promise.

(The writer is advisor to Federation of Seed Industry of India (FSII).

## Exposure to toxic air may raise risk of common brain tumour: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Air pollution may not only affect your heart and lungs but can also raise the possibility of developing meningioma -- a typically noncancerous brain tumour -- according to a study.

This common type of brain tumour forms in the lining of the brain and spinal cord. The findings, published in the journal *Neurology*, do not prove that air pollution causes meningioma -- they only show a link between the two.

The study analysed several air pollutants, including those commonly linked to traffic -- such as nitrogen dioxide and ultra-fine particles -- which are especially concentrated in urban environments. The researchers found that people with higher exposure to air pollutants had a greater risk of developing meningioma.



"Various types of air pollution have been shown to have negative effects on health, and ultra-fine particles are small enough to cross the blood-brain barrier and may directly affect brain tissue," said Ulla Hvidtfeldt, doctoral student at the Danish Cancer Institute in Copenhagen. "Our study suggests that long-term exposure to air pollution from traffic and other sources may play a role in the development of meningioma and adds to the growing body of evi-

dence that air pollution can affect the brain -- not just the heart and lungs," Hvidtfeldt added.

The study included nearly 4 million adults in Denmark with an average age of 35 who were followed over 21 years.

During that time, 16,596 people developed a tumour of the central nervous system, including 4,645 who developed meningioma.

The findings point to a possible link between traffic-related ultra-fine particle exposure and the development of meningioma.

The study, however, did not find strong links between the pollutants and more aggressive brain tumours, such as gliomas.

"More research is needed to confirm these results, but if cleaning up our air can help lower the risk of brain tumours, that could make a real difference for public health," Hvidtfeldt said.

## Disability services must include health screening, stress management for caregivers: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

While there are rights for people with disabilities, parents or caregivers are often faced with stress that can significantly affect their physical, mental, and financial conditions, finds a study by researchers from the National Institute of Technology (NIT) Rourkela, on Thursday.

The study suggests providing parents or caregivers raising a child with developmental disabilities like autism, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with proper support systems for their well-being.

Published in the *Asia Pacific Journal of Social Work and Development*, the team investigated how the continuous demands of caregiving impact parent's physical health, ultimately affecting their overall quality of life.

The research showed



that raising children with developmental disabilities presents unique and often lifelong challenges. It includes teaching basic self-care to manage behavioural and sensory difficulties, that can result in deep emotional exhaustion and physical symptoms such as headaches, ulcers, chronic pain, and fatigue, particularly among mothers.

Importantly, the study found that while physical health partly explains how stress affects parents' health, it does not account for challenges such as financial strain.

The researchers recommended integrating care-

giver health screening and stress management into paediatric disability services.

They also advocate for community-based "one-stop" support centres where families can access medical, mental health, and financial support in one place.

"Disability rights are rightly acknowledged, yet the invaluable contributions of caregivers often remain in the shadows. Caring for a child with developmental disabilities should not rest solely on parents, it is a shared responsibility of family, neighbours, and society," said Dr. Ramak-

rishna Biswal, Associate Professor, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, NIT Rourkela.

The team surveyed 400 parents of children with conditions like autism, ADHD, cerebral palsy, and multiple disabilities.

In India, these challenges are often intensified by social stigma, lack of awareness, and limited access to specialised care.

Many parents feel isolated from their communities and are unable to receive support from extended family. Healthcare, therapy, and respite services remain limited in many regions.

"Caregiving is a demanding journey, but with non-judgmental support and wholehearted cooperation from trusted individuals and communities, caregivers can find strength, relief, and validation. Let us recognise their rights and ensure they, too, enjoy a life of dignity and fulfillment," Biswal said.

## Study shows toxic metals in breast milk may impair growth in infants

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

High levels of toxic metals like lead and arsenic in breast milk may impair growth in infants, according to an alarming study.

Breast milk is the best source of nutrition for infants under six months of age. However, it can also be a potential route of exposure to toxic metals and other contaminants that may impair neurological development and immune function, said the researchers from the University of Arizona in the US.

The team focussed on Mayan women in Guatemala's Lake Atitlán watershed region, and found concentrations of arsenic and lead that exceeded World Health Organization safety standards in breast milk in mothers.

"Detecting toxic metals in breast milk is deeply concerning and highlights



the potential role of environmental pollution in undermining child development," said Sandra Rodríguez Quintana, a postdoctoral research associate at varsity.

"Our work calls for interventions to protect maternal and child health and understand how environmental concentrations of metals may be contributing to stunting and other health issues," Quintana added.

Guatemala has the highest rate of impaired growth, or stunting, in the Western Hemisphere. Stunting is frequently attributed to poor nutrition and infections.

Many studies have linked high levels of metals in drinking water to developmental, neurological, and learning problems in young children, but this is the first study to demonstrate an association with stunting in the Americas.

For the study, published in the journal *Environmental Pollution*, the research team studied 80 mothers and their infants from four different Lake Atitlán communities.

The scientists analysed breast milk samples from the mothers and measured the infants' lengths.

They found that higher breast milk concentrations of arsenic, barium, beryllium and lead were associated with impaired growth of infants in these communities.

The researchers also found higher concentrations of arsenic and barium in drinking water, which was identified as the major reason for toxic elements in breast milk.

"Drinking water contaminated with toxic elements such as arsenic and pathogenic microbes imposes a serious burden on public health, especially for the developing child," the team said.

## New weekly injection to offer steady Parkinson's medication, cut need for daily pills

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

A team of scientists in Australia, led by those of Indian origin, has developed a new once-a-week injectable drug that could transform the lives of more than eight million people living with Parkinson's disease, potentially replacing the need for multiple daily tablets.

Frequent dosing is a burden, especially for elderly patients or those with swallowing difficulties, leading to inconsistent medication levels, more side effects, and reduced effectiveness.

To address this, the team from the University of South Australia (UniSA) developed a long-acting injectable formulation that delivers a steady dose of levodopa and carbidopa -- two key medications for Parkinson's -- over an entire week.

The biodegradable for-



mulation is injected under the skin or into muscle tissue, where it gradually releases the medication over seven days, noted the researchers in the paper published in the journal *Drug Delivery and Translational Research*.

The newly developed injectable could significantly improve treatment outcomes and patient adherence, said lead researcher Professor Sanjay Garg, from UniSA's Center for Pharmaceutical Innovation.

"Our goal was to create a formulation that simplifies treatment, improves patient compliance, and maintains consistent ther-

apeutic levels of medication. This weekly injection could be a game-changer for Parkinson's care," Garg said.

"Levodopa is the gold-standard therapy for Parkinson's, but its short lifespan means it must be taken several times a day."

The injectable gel combines a US FDA-approved biodegradable polymer, PLGA, with Eudragit L-100, a pH-sensitive polymer, to achieve a controlled and sustained drug release.

The team noted that the release of both levodopa and carbidopa steadily over a week could help maintain consistent

plasma levels and reduce the risks associated with fluctuating drug concentrations.

Extensive lab tests confirmed the system's effectiveness and safety. More than 90 per cent of the levodopa dose and more than 81 per cent of the carbidopa dose were released over seven days.

Notably, the implant degraded by over 80 per cent within a week and showed no significant toxicity in cell viability tests.

In addition, the formulation can be easily administered through a fine 22-gauge needle, minimising discomfort and eliminating the need for surgical implantation.

Garg said the technology could also be adapted for other chronic conditions such as cancer, diabetes, neurodegenerative disorders, pain management, and chronic infections that require long-term drug delivery.

## WHO acknowledges India's efforts in integrating AI in traditional medicine, Ayush

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The World Health Organization (WHO) has acknowledged India's pioneering efforts in integrating Artificial Intelligence (AI) with traditional medicine systems, particularly Ayush systems, said the Ministry of Ayush on Saturday.

In a significant milestone for India's ancient healthcare systems, the WHO featured the country and its efforts to incorporate digital technologies into traditional medicine systems in its landmark technical brief titled "AI in Traditional Medicine".

The recognition comes after India's proposal on the subject, leading to the development of WHO's first-ever roadmap for applying AI in traditional medicine, the Ministry said.

Welcoming the recognition, the Ministry called it "a testament to India's leadership in creating a robust scientific ecosystem for tra-



ditional medicine".

The India AI-led initiatives, mentioned in WHO's technical brief, reflect the deep commitment of Indian scientists to advancing traditional medicine through cutting-edge technology, added Prataprao Jadhav, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Ayush.

The initiatives mentioned include a range of AI-driven applications in Ayurveda, Siddha, Unani, Sowa Rigpa, and Homoe-

opathy, including diagnosis support systems that integrate traditional methods like pulse reading, tongue examination, and Prakriti assessment with machine learning algorithms and deep neural networks.

"By integrating AI with Ayush systems -- and through pioneering digital platforms such as the SAHI portal, NAMASTE portal, and the Ayush Research Portal -- India is not only safeguarding its centuries-old medical wisdom but

also leading the way in shaping a future of personalised, evidence-based, and globally accessible healthcare," said Jadhav.

The WHO brief also mentions Ayurgenomics -- a scientific breakthrough that combines genomics with Ayurvedic principles. This initiative aims to identify predictive disease markers and personalise health recommendations using AI-based analysis of Ayurvedic constitution types.

Further, the document highlighted efforts to decode the genomic and molecular basis of herbal formulations for repurposing in modern disease conditions.

"Together, these AI-enabled platforms are not only preserving and validating India's traditional knowledge systems of medicine but are also advancing their global integration within evidence-based, digital healthcare frameworks," said Vaidya Rajesh Kotecha, Secretary, Ministry of Ayush.

## Sugar & oil boards in govt offices, schools 'excellent step' for healthy India: Experts

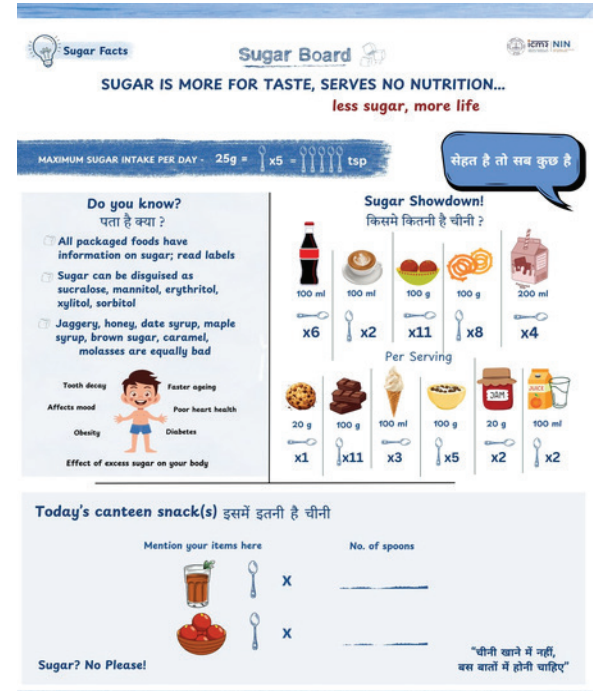
AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The recent move by the Ministry of Health to install sugar and oil boards in government offices as well as schools is an excellent step towards developing healthier workplaces and building a healthy India, said experts on Saturday. Best online courses

Taking to social media platform X, ICMR - National Institute of Nutrition informed that the Ministry of Health "has urged all govt offices to prominently display Sugar Boards" in the push for building healthier workplaces.

The boards consist of informative posters and digital boards highlighting the harmful impacts of the amount of sugar and oil present in popular food items, including samosas, kachori, pizza, pakoras, banana chips, burgers, soft drinks, and chocolate pastries.

It also displays the



effects of these foods on the human body as well as shares the recommended amounts of fat and sugar for individual intake.

"Excellent step to create awareness about hidden fat and sugar in foods. Clear, front-of-pack label-

ling of ultra-processed foods and diversifying diets through Public Distribution System (PDS), school meals will also support this move for healthy India," said Soumya Swaminathan, former Chief Scientist of the World Health

Organisation (WHO). The FSSAI noted that the move is inspired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision for a healthier India!

It added that the "innovative behavioural change strategy" will help tackle the "widespread promotion of sugar and oil boards".

"These boards are vital in helping everyone make informed choices and stop obesity," said FSSAI on X, adding that it will also help boost its Eat Right India (ERI) movement. Best restaurants near me

The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a reduced intake of added sugar throughout one's life. In both adults and children, WHO recommends reducing the intake of free sugars to less than 10 per cent of total energy intake.

The UN health body suggests a further reduction of the intake of free sugars to below 5 per cent of total energy intake.

## India's Tricolor Shines in Space: A Stellar Leap Fueled by Science and Modi Ji's Bold Vision: Gaurav

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 16

Gaurav Gupta, BJP Spokesperson for Jammu & Kashmir Union Territory, said that India has etched a golden chapter in its space history with the safe and successful return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from his trailblazing mission to the International Space Station (ISS). As the first Indian astronaut to visit the ISS, Captain Shukla's journey is not just a personal triumph but a proud national milestone that showcases the rise of New India under the transformative leadership and vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji.

Gupta said that this historic space mission, which witnessed India's direct involvement in

advanced microgravity experiments aboard the ISS, is a testimony to Modi Ji's foresight in nurturing indigenous scientific capabilities, promoting global collaborations, and inspiring the youth of the nation to dream beyond boundaries. The success of this mission reflects India's emergence as a Vishwaguru in science and technology, driven by the Prime Minister's unwavering commitment to making India self-reliant and future-ready in frontier domains.

During his two-week stay aboard the ISS, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla conducted seven sophisticated space experiments, involving Indian strains of tardigrades, cyanobacteria, methi and moong seed germination, microalgae, and bio-



logical display systems. These groundbreaking experiments, conducted in microgravity, have opened new frontiers in space biology and will contribute significantly to future long-duration space missions. Gupta emphasized that such achieve-

ments would not have been possible without the clear direction, strategic investment, and encouragement provided by PM Modi Ji, whose governance model places science, innovation, and youth empowerment at the heart of national progress.

Gupta further added that this moment is historically significant as it marks India's return to human spaceflight after four decades, following the iconic 1984 mission of Wing Commander Rakesh Sharma. The successful splashdown of the SpaceX Dragon capsule, carrying the Axiom-4 crew including Captain Shukla, symbolizes India's growing stature in global space exploration and its readiness to play a leadership

role in future international missions.

He said, this mission is more than just a scientific milestone—it is the realization of the dreams of 1.4 billion Indians, who now see themselves as active participants in shaping humanity's future in space. Under the visionary leadership of Modi Ji, India is boldly stepping forward into the space age with confidence, clarity, and commitment.

Looking ahead to the Gaganyaan mission in 2027, Gupta remarked that India's space journey is on a remarkable trajectory. With PM Modi Ji's support and the expertise of institutions like ISRO, India is poised to not only build on its past achievements but to lead global efforts in peaceful and productive space exploration.

## Indian Army conducts Lecture on Cyber Crime Among Youth, Locals at Haribudha, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, 16 JUL 2025

The Indian Army conducted a lecture on Cyber Crime on 16 July 2025 at Government High School, Haribudha, Poonch, with the aim of raising awareness about cyber threats among the youth and local populace. Recognizing that the youth are the highest consumers of internet and digital platforms in the country, the lecture focused on educating them about the misuse of cyber platforms, the potential threats posed by cybercrime and preventive measures to counter such issues. Special emphasis was laid on the importance of cyber hygiene, including the reg-



ular sanitization of mobile devices to avoid malware attacks and data breaches. Participants were also sensitized about the risks of using banned applications, as listed by the Government of India and were advised to stay alert while navigating digital platforms. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students and staff, who appreci-

ated the Indian Army's initiative in guiding and educating the younger generation. Several queries regarding cyber safety were addressed during the interactive session. The initiative further strengthened the bond between the Indian Army and the local community, reinforcing the Army's commitment to public welfare and awareness.

## Parvinder Singh Happy visits Gobind Nagar, assures resolution of civic issues

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 16

Gobind Nagar, Ward No. 58 witnessed a visit from Parvinder Singh Happy yesterday, as he interacted with local residents and listened to their concerns regarding various civic issues affecting the area. During his visit, the residents brought several important matters to his attention, including inadequate water pressure, non-functional street lights, and challenges in garbage collection.

The issue of low water pressure during distribution hours was raised prominently, with residents urging immediate technical inspection and rectification. They also expressed concern over poor street lighting, stating that many lights stop functioning after 8 PM,



leading to unsafe conditions during nighttime movement. In addition, the absence of a dedicated JMC garbage van has led to the accumulation of waste and dry litter, while a specific dump in the area is causing an unbearable foul smell, demanding urgent clearance.

Parvinder Singh Happy assured the residents that these problems would be taken up with the concerned departments and resolved in a timely manner. He reiterated his

commitment to improving civic infrastructure and services in the mohalla and promised continued engagement with the community to monitor progress.

Residents appreciated his proactive approach and praised his consistent efforts in addressing local issues. They extended their support and gratitude for his dedication to public welfare.

In his address, Parvinder Singh Happy appealed to residents to cooperate

in maintaining civic services by ensuring timely payment of the JMC garbage collection fee, as well as regular settlement of electricity and water bills to avoid disruptions in service.

He also announced plans to organize a Social Welfare Camp in Ward No. 58 in the coming days. The camp will provide assistance for widow pension applications, disability and handicapped pension schemes, senior citizen pensions, and other government-sponsored social welfare programs.

The visit concluded with residents thanking Parvinder Singh Happy for his steadfast efforts in improving the quality of life in Ward No. 58 and for his commitment to addressing their concerns with urgency and sincerity.

## Clean and Green Environment Society organizes plantation drive at several places in Dehradun

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
DEHRADUN (UK), JULY 16

On the occasion of Harela festival today, the Clean and Green Environment Society organized a large-scale tree plantation drive at the Government Hospital in Prem Nagar, Prem Nagar Police Station, and the Government Primary School in Thakurpur. A total of 50 saplings of various species were planted during this event. The planted trees included mango, lychee, pomegranate, and lemon.

Harela, the state festival of Uttarakhand, is celebrated every year on 16th July, and it marks the beginning of the tree planting season. Continuing this tradition,



the society carried out extensive plantation at three different locations this year as well.

Station House Officer of Prem Nagar Police Station, Mr. Kundan Ram, Chief Medical Superintendent of Prem Nagar Government Hospital,

Mr. Parmarth Joshi, and Emergency Head Dr. Major Naresh Gupta also actively participated in the plantation drive.

Other notable attendees included: Society President Ram Kapoor, Vice President Randeep Ahluwalia, Secretary J.P. Kimothi, Amar Nath Kumar, Rajesh Bali, Gagan Chawla, Rajesh Bhatia, Harshvardhan Jamaloki, Manjula Rawat, Sonia, Deepak Kumar, Sumit Khanna, Ravinder Junior, Sunny Kumar, Ravinder Khalsa, Karthik Birla, Diwakar Naithani, Gurbaksh, and Ravi Kumar.

## Mission Shakti Jammu organises awareness session on Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 16

Mission Shakti District Hub for Empowerment of Women Jammu, in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihood Mission (JKRLM), organised an awareness session under the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan aimed at addressing the rising concerns of substance abuse and promoting women-centric welfare schemes. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from Self-Help Group (SHG) members and the youth.

## Day 3 of IIM Jammu Orientation 2025: A Confluence of Leadership, Alumni Wisdom, and Industry Excellence

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 16

The third day of the ongoing Holistic Orientation Programme at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu unfolded with a powerful blend of leadership guidance, alumni engagement, corporate insights, and interactive learning experiences, marking yet another dynamic step in the induction of the new cohorts.

The day began with an energizing session titled Maximize Happiness and Mindfulness, conducted by renowned yoga guru Shri Sahil Mehra under the aegis of Anandam - The Center of Happiness. The session focused on cultivating inner peace and emotional well-being among students. Prof. Shyam Narayan Lal, Chairperson, Anandam and Media & Publication Division, along with Brigadier Neeraj Soni (Retd.), Co-Chairperson, Anandam welcomed participants and set the tone for the day's engagements.

Addressing the incoming cohorts at IIM Jammu's Holistic Orientation Programme 2025, Maj. Gen. Mukesh Bhanwala, General Officer Commanding, 26 Division, drew from his distinguished military



career to highlight the universal values of leadership—discipline, strategic thinking, resilience, and service. Drawing parallels between military and corporate leadership, he emphasized that both require adaptability, clarity under pressure, and the ability to inspire teams. He remarked, "You cannot be great if you cannot operate in chaos," urging students to lead with integrity, embrace uncertainty, and cultivate strength through adversity.

As part of the ongoing Orientation Programme 2025, IIM Jammu organized parallel sessions for Group A and Group B. While Group A participated in outbound experiential learning, Group B engaged in an insightful Alumni Panel Discussion conducted by the Alumni Relations Committee.

The session featured

distinguished alumni Ms. Manisha Srivastava, Associate Practice Director, Birlasoft, and Mr. Jeevan Arepally, Senior Product Manager, Nielsen. The panelists shared real-world perspectives on deriving maximum value from the MBA journey, covering themes such as aligning academics with industry demands, the strategic importance of networking, securing PPOs, and maintaining a balanced, purpose-driven approach to career and personal development. The session inspired the incoming cohort to approach their IIM journey with clarity, intent, and confidence.

As part of its ongoing Holistic Orientation Programme 2025, IIM Jammu hosted Shri Dhooop Mittal, CFO of Hero Housing Finance, for an engaging session with the incoming cohorts. Sharing his

vast experience in financial strategy and leadership, he emphasized that "how you behave is more important than what you know," underscoring the importance of integrity, adaptability, and values-driven leadership. Shri Mittal offered valuable insights into navigating financial challenges in a global context, urging students to align their decisions with India's evolving growth story over the next decade.

Shri Shafat Ahmed, Chief General Manager, POWERGRID Corporation of India Limited, emphasized the critical role of technology in driving transformation across the energy sector. He noted that "Technology doesn't give us a chance; there is no chance. You need to take up technology," underscoring the urgency for proactive technology adoption to ensure operational excellence and sustainable growth. He highlighted the strategic importance of innovation, governance, and forward-thinking leadership in shaping India's evolving energy infrastructure.

Prof. Jabir Ali, Dean (Faculty and Research), IIM Jammu, conducted a session on 'Teaching through Case Study', intro-

ducing students to case-based learning—a core pedagogy at IIMs. Drawing from his experience at Harvard Business School, he emphasized experiential learning, real-time case analysis, and tools like SWOT and the Lancaster Characteristics Model. Encouraging students to view classrooms as "decision rooms," he stressed active participation and contextual thinking. A thought-provoking Mahakumbh video sparked reflections, followed by an interactive Q&A, reinforcing the importance of learning by doing.

Mr. Abhishek Gupta, Chief Marketing Officer, Edelweiss Life Insurance, highlighted the profound role of life insurance in nation-building and its personal impact on families. Sharing his "10 Rules for Success," he emphasized the importance of staying with the problem, embracing setbacks, unlearning, and nurturing curiosity. He noted that when one's work brings purpose to others, it brings purpose to oneself. His session served as a powerful reminder of leadership rooted in empathy, resilience, and responsibility.

## Sahil Gupta extends Support to Protesting Safai Karamcharis of Bishnah Municipality

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BISHNAH, JULY 16:

Former Councillor of Bishnah Municipality, Sahil Gupta, has come forward in support of the ongoing strike by the Chairman Safai Union Bishnah Sh Vikas Matoo urging the concerned authorities to seriously consider and address their long-pending demands. The sanitation workers of Bishnah Municipal Committee are on protest, demanding regularization of their services and a just hike in their salaries.

Sahil Gupta, while interacting with the protesting workers, said that the Safai Karamcharis are the backbone of the urban hygiene system and have been rendering selfless service for years. "These sanitation workers work day and night to ensure cleanliness in our locality. Their job is not only physically demanding but also essential to public health and the overall well-being of our community," he said.

Highlighting the plight of these workers, Gupta stressed that despite their tireless service, they continue to work under contractual or temporary



arrangements with meagre salaries and little job security. He called it unjust and inhumane, especially when the workers are fulfilling critical responsibilities that directly impact public welfare.

Gupta appealed to the Jammu and Kashmir administration and the Municipal authorities to immediately address the demands of the Safai Karamcharis. "Their demand for regularization is genuine and should not be ignored. The government must take proactive steps to provide them with the dignity and financial stability they rightfully deserve," he asserted.

The former councillor also emphasized the need for a salary hike, pointing out that inflation and rising living costs have

made it extremely difficult for low-paid workers to survive. "They deserve a respectable wage that matches the importance of the services they provide. Their patience should not be taken for granted," he added.

Gupta urged the administration to initiate dialogue with the striking workers at the earliest and resolve the issue amicably. He also assured the protesting Safai Karamcharis of his full support in their struggle and said that he will raise the matter at every possible platform until justice is delivered.

Chairman Vikas Matoo, Sanitation Worker Akash Kumar and others also appreciated role of Sahil Gupta in highlighting the issues faced by them

## RC Infra Projects launches State-of-the-Art Underground Precast Bunkers and structure manufacturing unit at IGC PHASE III Samba

JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 16

RC Infra Projects proudly announced the launch of its state-of-the-art underground precast bunkers and building infrastructure, a pioneering step in strengthening Civil Defence and disaster preparedness infrastructure in the region. The landmark event took place at IGC Phase III Samba, drawing the presence of several distinguished dignitaries and public representatives.

The launch was ceremoniously inaugurated by three Hon'ble Members of the Legislative Assembly – Surjit Singh Slathia MLA Samba, Chander Prakash Ganga, MLA Vijaypur, Devinder Kumar Manyal MLA Ramgarh who



together unveiled the new bunker model and lauded the innovation and indigenous capabilities being developed by RC Infra Projects.

Also present on the occasion were Pawan Sethi, GM Sidco, Anil Suri, Bhagat, Smt Asha Rani, Gopal Mahajan, Rakesh Singh, Rashpal Verma, Panch & Sarpanchs of Samba.

Prominent industrialists, technocrats, and

members from the media and civil society

The newly developed underground precast bunkers are designed for rapid deployment, enhanced durability, and maximum protection during conflict or natural disasters. Manufactured using advanced precast technology, the bunkers offer modular construction, superior load resistance, and minimal maintenance—making

them ideal for both civilian and defence applications. Speaking on the occasion, Surjit Singh Slathia stated, "This is not just a launch but a leap forward in ensuring the safety and resilience of our people, especially those living in border and disaster-prone areas. We commend RC Infra Projects for their vision and commitment."

RC Infra Projects, known for its commitment to quality and innovation in the infrastructure sector, reiterated its mission to support national safety through engineered solutions that meet international standards.

The event concluded with a tour of the facility and live demonstration of the installation process of the bunker unit.

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## BJP felicitates Kavinder Gupta on appointment as LG of Ladakh

JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, 16 JULY 2025

In a grand and emotionally charged function held at the BJP headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, hundreds of leaders and activists of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir, gathered to felicitate senior leader Kavinder Gupta on his appointment as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Union Territory.

The auditorium was packed with enthusiastic party workers and supporters who came together to celebrate the elevation of one of the party's



most dedicated leaders. Among the prominent leaders present were J&K BJP President Sat Sharma, Leader of Opposition Sunil Sharma, BJP General Secretary (Organization) Ashok Koul, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma, former Dy CM Dr. Nirmal Singh, General Secretary

& MLA Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, General Secretary Adv. Vibodh Gupta, former MLA Ashok Khajuria, and MLA Ch. Vikram Randhawa, among others.

Kavinder Gupta, who earlier served as Deputy Chief Minister and Speaker in the erst-

while BJP-PDP coalition government, has had an illustrious political journey. He also served thrice as Mayor of Jammu, has remained a committed RSS Swayamsevak from his student days, served the jail term during emergency and played his part on key party positions.

## Dogri Sansthan playing vital role in nurturing local talent, language: Yudhvir

MLA felicitates artists at Kuppar Bajalta

JINNEWSERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 16

Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today felicitated several local artists during a vibrant cultural programme organized by Dogri Sansthan at Kuppar Bajalta. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation of the local community, celebrating the rich cultural heritage of the Dogra region.

Yudhvir Sethi, who was the Chief Guest on the occasion, lauded the contribution of Dogri Sansthan in preserving and promoting the Dogri language, art, and culture. A series of captivating performances by talented artists added colour and charm to the function, drawing loud appreciation from the audience.

Addressing the gathering, Sethi praised the relentless efforts of Dogri Sansthan in



nurturing Dogra identity and emphasized the importance of passing on cultural values to the younger generations. He said, "Dogri Sansthan has been a torchbearer in safeguarding our linguistic and artistic traditions. Their commitment deserves not only recognition but also all possible support."

The MLA assured the members of Dogri Sansthan that their develop-

ment-related concerns raised during the programme would be taken up with the concerned authorities on a priority basis. "As your elected representative, I stand committed to resolving the issues highlighted today, including infrastructure upgrades and better support for cultural activities," he added.

Prominent personalities present on the occasion included Ashok

Sharma (Chairman), Subash Ji (President), and the programme was held under the overall supervision of Randheer Singh Raipuria.

Those who were present during the event included Mandal President Shiv Ji, General Secretary Bishan Ji, Swami Narayan Ji, Ravi Pal, Sheikh Fayaz, Mohan (Ex-Sarpanch), Madan, Anuradha, Rakesh, and Rampal.

Website: [www.sheepjammu.jk.gov.in](http://www.sheepjammu.jk.gov.in)  
Email ID: [directorshdjammu@gmail.com](mailto:directorshdjammu@gmail.com)

Phone No. 0191-2470075  
Fax No. 0191-2470754

### GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR DIRECTORATE OF SHEEP HUSBANDRY JAMMU Rail Head Complex, Jammu-180012

**Subject:** Operating of Waiting List of Stock Assistant (District Cadre Kathua) in J&K Sheep Husbandry (Subordinate) Service Appointment thereof.

**Reference:** i. No. JKSSB-Scry/L4/2024-03(E-7508166) dated 17-04-2025 of J&K Services Selection Board.  
ii. No. JKSSB-Scry/L4/2024-03(E-7508166) dated 30-04-2025 of J&K Services Selection Board.  
ii. Letter No. ASHF-SHONGAZ/49/2024(7538639) dated 30-05-2025 of Agriculture Production Department J&K.

#### ORDER NO. 311-SHDJ of 2025 DATED 15-07-2025

In continuation to this Directorate's Order No. 285-SHDJ of 2025 dated 30-06-2025 and Order No. 293-SHDJ of 2025 dated 08-07-2025 and pursuant to the selection made by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board duly recommended by the Administrative Department of Agriculture Production Department J&K and consequent upon receipt of satisfactory Character & Antecedents report from the Criminal Investigation Department J&K, sanction is hereby accorded to the temporary appointment of below mentioned candidate as Stock Assistant in District Cadre Kathua, in Jammu and Kashmir Sheep Husbandry (Subordinate) Service in the Pay Level-4 (25500-81100), notionally with effect from 30-06-2025 and on regular basis, prospectively: -

S. No.	Candidate Name of the	Father's Name	Address	Selection Category	District Cadre	CID Verification Form No.
1	Mohit Raina	Tarsem Lal Raina	565/044, 8. Sujana, 0, 0, Rajpura, Samba, 184145	OM/ALC/1B	Kathua	130448

The notional appointment shall be for the purpose of determination of seniority only and shall not confer any monetary benefit to the candidate.

The appointees shall report in the Directorate of Sheep Husbandry, Rail Head Complex, Jammu within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance of this order, failing which he shall forego his right of appointment and the same shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio without any further notice in terms of Circular No. 08-JK(GAD) of 2019 dated 04-12-2019 issued by the General Administration Department.

The appointee shall be allowed to join only on production of the following documents/certificates, in original, to be verified subsequently: -

1. Academic/Qualification Certificates.
2. Matriculation/Date of Birth Certificate.
3. Health Certificate from the concerned Chief Medical Officer of the District.
4. Domicile Certificate issued by the Competent Authority.
5. Valid relevant Category Certificate.

The appointment of the candidate shall further be subject to the following conditions: -

- a. That the appointee shall give an undertaking in the shape of an Affidavit duly attested by the Judicial Magistrate 1 Class to the effect that if on verification, genuineness of the qualification and date of birth certificates produced by the appointee are found fake/forged, the appointment of the appointee shall be deemed to have been cancelled ab-initio and legal action as warranted under rules shall be initiated against the candidate.
- b. That if the candidate has taken loan for self-employment from DIC/Employment Department, to be ascertained from the District Industries Center (DIC) and District Employment & Counseling Center of the domicile District, he shall relinquish the proprietorship of unit/enterprises and also stakes, if any, in such self-employment unit/enterprise before joining the Government service. He shall be required to repay the entire loan liability in suitable EMIs to be worked out by the DDO concerned from his salary. DDO concerned shall obtain an affidavit from the concerned appointee regarding both relinquishments of proprietorship and stakes, if any, in such a self-employment unit/enterprise and recovery to be made and also personally monitor its recovery.
- c. The salary of the appointee shall not be drawn and disbursed to him unless satisfactory reports in respect of genuineness of Qualification/Date of Birth/Relevant Category Certificate, is received from the concerned Authorities/Agency.
- d. The appointee shall be on probation for a period of two years.
- e. The appointment of the candidate shall be governed by the "New Pension Scheme" as notified vide SRO-400 of 2009 dated 24-12-2009.
- f. The inter-se-seniority of the appointee in the J&K Sheep Husbandry (Subordinate) Service shall be determined as per the J&K Civil Services (Classification, Control and Appeal) Rules, 1956.
- g. The appointment of the candidate shall be subject to outcome of writ petition(s), if any, pending adjudication before any Competent Court of Law.

Sd/-  
(Dr. Syed Moin-ul-Haq),  
Director.

No. DSHJ-ESTTONG/5/2022/5804-12  
Dated: 15-07-2025

DIP/J-3539/25  
Date: 16-7-25

### GOVT. OF UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD (R&B) DIVISION MARWAH E-Mail: [xenpwdmarwah@gmail.com](mailto:xenpwdmarwah@gmail.com)

Mr. Shabir Ahmed Kamal,  
S/o Late Abdul Latief Kamal  
R/o Kishtwar, District Kishtwar.

No: EE/PWD/M/846-53  
Dated: 15-07-2025

#### FINAL NOTICE

**Subject:** Final Notice for Construction of KGBV at Yourdoo Marwah.

**Ref:** (1). This office Letter No: EE/PWD/M/251-54 Dated: 30/04/2025 (Notice-II)

(2). AEE Sub-Division MARWAW NO. AEE/PWD/SD/M/89-Dated: 02.06.2025. (Notice)

The above noted work is allotted to you for an amount of Rs.97,44,144.70/- by the office of Executive Engineer, RUSA vide No: Edu/Xen-III-J/SMS/EL/20/8388-96 dated: 03-02-2020 to be reckoned w.e.f. 18-02-2020 for Construction of KGBV at Yourdoo Marwah, with completion period of one year in which you have utterly failed since more than four years have passed but the building remains incomplete with the finishing work still pending which is clear breach of contract on your part. In light of this, you have been repeatedly reminded, both telephonically and through formal notices of the limited working season in this region and were specifically instructed to resume work promptly upon the improvement of weather conditions. You were also instructed to ensure timely mobilization of adequate manpower, machinery, materials, and equipment to the site. However, it is deeply disappointing that even as of June 2024 work remains suspended and you have failed to comply with these directions reflecting a serious lapse on your part. Despite your repeated assurances to resume the pending work within a week's time no affirmative action has been taken from your end towards the completion of the said building. This continued inaction and undue delay stalled last year's planned handover which has placed the Department in an embarrassing and difficult position before the Higher Authorities entirely as a result of your persistent non-performance and lack of accountability.

In the backdrop of above facts now therefore through the medium of print media by final notice with reference to earlier correspondence you are once again given an opportunity to mobilize your resources of manpower, material, machinery and equipments to start the work within five days from the date of issue of this notice for completion of the work at the earliest. In case you fail to start the work within five days we will be forced to terminate your contract at your complete risk and cost with imposition of all the liquidate damages and penalties. To be quite clear on this issue, not only the cost of hiring of another contractor be applied to your account we will also hold you liable for any other costs we incur as a direct result of delay and problems that your performance caused. No other correspondence shall be made to you in future and this may be treated as last and final notice.

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Marwah

DIP/J-3526/25  
Date: 16-7-25

## Shubhanshu Shukla's mission energises resolve to build Viksit Bharat by 2047: Cabinet

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Shubhanshu Shukla's mission energises the nation's resolve to build Viksit Bharat by 2047, said the Cabinet on Wednesday, while adopting a resolution hailing his space odyssey.

IAF Group Captain Shukla, who on June 26 became the first Indian to reach the International Space Station (ISS), landed back safely on Earth on Tuesday.

"The Cabinet joins the nation in celebrating the return of Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla to Earth, following the suc-



cessful completion of his historic 18-day mission aboard the International Space Station," a Cabinet Communique said.

"It will ignite the scientific temper, fuel curiosity, and inspire countless youth to pursue careers

in science and embrace innovation.

"The Cabinet reaffirms its firm conviction that this mission will energise the national resolve to build Viksit Bharat -- a developed India -- by 2047, as envisioned by the Prime

Minister," the Communique added.

Shukla, part of Axiom Space mission 4, returned to Earth on Tuesday along with fellow astronauts from the US, Poland, and Hungary aboard SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft "Grace".

The IAF officer is also the youngest astronaut-designate under India's Gaganyaan mission -- the country's first human spaceflight mission.

And his space journey and experiments conducted onboard the ISS are expected to be a key stepping-stone for India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight mission, slated for 2027.

## BJP berates LoP Gandhi for 'photo-op' during bail hearing in court

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, appeared before the MP/MLA court in a defamation case on Tuesday and was subsequently granted bail. However, a controversy broke out over his alleged photo-op session as lawyers made a beeline to take a picture with the Congress MP apparently inside the court premises.

The BJP took strong exception to the incident and spokesperson Ajay Alok lashed out at the Congress MP and said that this shows his utter disregard



for the judiciary.

"This man has no shame. He is a habitual offender and will continue to do so. After getting bail, he was posing for photo ops, that's how little shame he has left,"

the BJP spokesperson said in a terse reply, responding to viral pictures of LoP Gandhi's photo with lawyers on social media.

He also sought to counter the narrative of LoP Gandhi getting relief in the

defamation case, saying, "He was first arrested and then given conditional bail. He is the same person who said that Chinese soldiers were beating up Indian soldiers. The case was filed against him for insulting the Indian Army."

The controversy over LoP Gandhi's photo-op erupted after many social handles shared pictures of lawyers making a beeline to click a selfie with the Gandhi scion.

One picture that took centerstage and has also been shared by many handles, showed a man in black robes, clicking a selfie with the Congress leader, from the podium.

## India strengthens maritime ties during BIMSTEC Ports Conclave

AGENCIES  
VISAKHAPATNAM, JULY 16

India on Wednesday said that the Second BIMSTEC Ports Conclave, held in Vizag this week, is a testament to the shared commitment to foster deeper cooperation and harness the full potential of the vital economic corridor.

During the two-day conclave, held with the aim to strengthen and develop maritime cooperation in the Bay of Bengal region in line with India's 'Neighbourhood First' policy, discussions were held among the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooper-



ation (BIMSTEC) member countries on strengthening maritime cooperation in the region.

The event discussed diverse issues such as harmonising customs procedures and enhancing logistical links to boost intra-regional trade, port-linked

industrial zones, cruise tourism, digital integration, upskilling maritime workforce, industry-academia ties, green shipping, etc.

The theme of the conclave was 'Navigating the Future: Blue Economy, Innovation and Sustainable

Partnerships'.

Inaugurated by Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sarbananda Sonowal, the conclave saw the participation of delegations of the BIMSTEC member states, comprising officials, maritime experts, port authorities, private sector leaders, and regional development partners.

The first BIMSTEC Ports Conclave was also held in Visakhapatnam in 2019 where three Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed between Ranong Port (Port Authority of Thailand) and the Port Trusts of Chennai, Visakhapatnam and Kolkata.

## Golden Temple gets third bomb threat; security stepped up

AGENCIES  
AMRITSAR, JULY 16

The holiest of Sikh shrines, Harmandir Sahib, popularly known as Golden Temple here, received bomb threat for the third consecutive day on Wednesday, stepping up security and a search operation by deploying Border Security Force's bomb squad and the state police.

An email to the Shromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC) warned of blasts using RDX-filled pipes.

According to the email, explosives like RDX would be placed inside pipes to



trigger blasts within the Golden Temple complex.

After the message, security agencies were put on high alert and scanned the entire complex. For the past two days police has been deployed in strength for intensive checking and surveillance being carried

out.

Hundreds of devotees arrive every day to offer prayers at the Golden Temple. SGPC President Harjinder Singh Dhama said Darbar Sahib "is a sacred place and has faced attacks in the past, yet always remained in high

spirits".

"Since July 14, repeated bomb threats and emails have been sent to the SGPC. It appears it is just to spread panic among the people who are coming to pay obeisance here."

Dhama also warned of a possible conspiracy and demanded a probe into the bomb threat calls.

"The SGPC has heightened security by deploying its additional task force. I want to emphasize that everyone who comes here bows before the Guru Granth Sahib and no one is asked about their caste or background. Anyone can come here and offer respects."

## Indigo Delhi-Patna Flight Aborts Landing Seconds After Touchdown, Triggers Panic

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

As many as 173 passengers on board an Indigo flight from Delhi to Patna had a narrow escape on Tuesday after the aircraft was forced to abort its initial landing and take off again seconds after touching down at Jay Prakash Narayan International Airport.

According to reports, Indigo flight 6E 2482, operated by an Airbus A320, initiated a go-around maneuver due to an unstable approach detected by the pilot. The aircraft circled the airport for three to four rounds before successfully land-



ing, much to the relief of the passengers. All passengers safely deboarded the flight.

A go-around is a stan-

dard safety procedure in aviation and is typically performed when weather conditions or operational factors make a landing

unsafe. Aviation experts have emphasized that such maneuvers, while unsettling for passengers, are routine and underscore the pilot's caution and training.

This incident comes shortly after another Indigo flight (6E 5009), flying from Patna to Delhi, had to return mid-air following a bird strike on July 9.

The aviation sector is currently under heightened scrutiny following the tragic Air India crash in Ahmedabad, where flight AI-171 crashed seconds after takeoff, resulting in the death of 270 people.

## Lok Sabha panel adopts report on Income Tax Bill, to be tabled in Monsoon session

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

The Select Committee of the Lok Sabha to examine the Income Tax Bill-2025, chaired by BJP leader Bajjayant Jay Panda, adopted the draft report on the Bill along with the proposed amendments, which will be presented to Parliament on Monday, the first day of the monsoon session.

The report of the Select Committee will be presented to the Lok Sabha on Monday, while the bill is likely to be passed in the Monsoon session, according to a member.

After the submission of the report by the Commit-



tee, the government will consider its recommendations. The government aims to implement the new Income Tax law from April 1, 2026.

The Income-tax Bill, 2025, which will replace the six-decade-old Income Tax Act of 1961, will make direct tax laws simple to understand, remove ambi-

guities and reduce tax disputes.

The simplification exercise was guided by three core principles, which include textual and structural simplification for improved clarity and coherence, ensuring continuity and certainty with no major tax policy changes and no modifications of

tax rates to preserve predictability for taxpayers, the finance ministry said.

The Bill, based on global best practices, aims to enhance the ease of doing business by providing a tax framework that is simple and clear. It has led to a substantial reduction in the Act's volume, making it more streamlined and navigable. The total number of words in the new Income Tax Bill has been reduced to 259,676 from a massive 512,535 words in the existing Income Tax Act, 1961. This close to 50 per cent cut has resulted in a reduction of 252,859 words, according to an official statement.

## 'Urja Varta 2025' to boost energy sector, focus on green hydrogen: Hardeep Puri

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Union Petroleum and Natural Gas Minister Hardeep Singh Puri on Wednesday said that 'Urja Varta 2025' will play a key role in accelerating India's exploration and production (E&P) sector.

He said the second edition of the energy dialogue, which will be held here on July 17, will not only focus on India's energy self-reliance and transition goals, but also present a clear picture of the emerging new India in the fields of clean and green energy, including the 'Fuel of the Future' -- green hydrogen.



In a post on social media platform X, the minister expressed excitement about the event and said that the stage is set for a vibrant exchange of ideas and strategies on innovation, policy reforms, and energy security.

"Urja Varta will give momentum to our E&P

sector. It will not only feature discussions on India's energy self-reliance, energy transition, clean and green energy, and fuel of the future green hydrogen, but will also showcase the vision of a new and emerging India in these sectors," the Union Minister posted.

He also added that the event will bring together energy ministers from various states, top government officials, and industry leaders from the oil and gas sector.

"Key issues to be discussed include policy support for E&P activities, energy transition pathways, green hydrogen development, and strategies to enhance India's long-term energy security," Puri mentioned.

Urja Varta 2025 aims to become a critical platform for shaping the future of India's energy landscape and reinforcing the country's commitment to sustainability and innovation in the energy domain.

## CRPF likely to raise 20,000 additional troops following Operation Sindoor

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

As the security challenges in Jammu and Kashmir heighten following Operation Sindoor, there are speculations that the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) is likely to play a bigger role with the deployment of new battalions.

Top sources said, "Around 20 new battalions (20,000 troops) will be raised in a phased manner. However, their deployment will not be limited to J&K."

The proposal to raise new battalions was raised last October, but it did not yield any results. Although



the proposal to raise 20 new battalions is less than the original demand by the CRPF, given the evolving situation in J&K, especially after the deadly Pahalgam attack in which 26 innocent people were killed by Pakistan-based terrorists, followed by Operation Sindoor by the Indian armed forces, the raising of

20,000 additional troops becomes significant.

Over the years, the CRPF has evolved into a vast and complex paramilitary force which comes under the domain of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The CRPF includes a Directorate, four Zonal Headquarters, 21 Administrative Sectors, two

Operational Sectors, 39 Administrative Ranges, 17 Operational Ranges, 43 Group Centres, 22 Training Institutions, 4 Composite Hospitals (with 100-bed facilities), 18 Composite Hospitals (with 50-bed capacities), six Field Hospitals, three Central Weapon Stores (CWS), seven Ammunition Workshops (AWS) and 201 General Duty Battalions (GD Bns).

These include- six VIP Security Battalions, six Mahila Battalions, 16 Rapid Action Force (RAF) Battalions, 10 CoBRA Battalions, seven Signal Battalions, one Parliament Duty Group (PDG) and one Special Duty Group (SDG).

## Vaughan puzzled as to why only England were penalised for poor over rate at Lord's

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Former England captain Michael Vaughan questioned why England were penalised for a slow over-rate, claiming that both India and England maintained similarly slow over rates during the Lord's Test.

England have been fined 10 per cent of their match fee and penalised two ICC World Test Championship points for maintaining a slow over-rate against India in the third Test at Lord's. The hosts were ruled to be two overs short of the target after time allowances were



taken into consideration. "Let's be honest both teams over rates at Lords were very very poor .. How only 1 team has been reprimanded is beyond me..." Vaughan posted on X.

In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of

Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

In addition, as per Article 16.11.2 of the ICC

World Test Championship playing conditions, a side is penalised one point for each over short. Consequently, two World Test Championship points have been deducted from England's points total.

As a result, England has slipped from second to third position in the WTC points table, with Sri Lanka now overtaking them to claim the second spot, and be just behind table toppers Australia.

However, former India head coach Ravi Shastri said the Ben Stokes-led side can make up for their points deduction if their focus remains on winning matches.

## Jitesh Sharma to represent Baroda in 2025/26 domestic season after leaving Vidarbha

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

In a huge development, wicketkeeper-batter Jitesh Sharma will represent Baroda in the upcoming 2025/26 domestic season after leaving Vidarbha. Jitesh, who played nine T20Is for India, had been in the process of making a move to Baroda for the last couple of weeks.

Farokh Dastoor, CEO of the Vidarbha Cricket Association (VCA), confirmed to news agency on Wednesday that they have issued the NOC to Jitesh, who was an integral member of the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)



team winning IPL 2025. "Jitesh has enjoyed a close friendship with Krunal Pandya, his RCB teammate during the

side's first IPL win in June. With him not having played Ranji Trophy last season and Pandya aiming to make a Baroda team

which can win a domestic title in the upcoming season, it all came together for Jitesh to leave Vidarbha," said sources aware of the development to news agency.

The first murmurs of Jitesh leaving Vidarbha ahead of the domestic season came to light when he touched the pitch at VCA Stadium Nagpur and signalled 'it's over' with his hands in a post-match gesture caught by broadcasters DD Sports after leading his team Neco Master Blaster to winning the Vidarbha Pro T20 League final with a seven-wicket victory over Pagariya Strikers.

## Test cricket's future and T20 WC expansion set to dominate ICC AGM in Singapore

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Discussions on the future of Test cricket and further expansion of the T20 World Cup are set to dominate the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the International Cricket Council (ICC), which begins in Singapore on Thursday.

This will also be the first AGM of the ICC under new chairman Jay Shah and CEO Sanjog Gupta. One of the most pressing topics in the AGM will be a discussion on the two-tier system for Test cricket, which has generated mixed views amongst the cricketing



community.

Another thing which could be ratified will be the future editions of the World Test Championship (WTC) Final to be hosted in England. Though a decision on ODI World Cup's

expansion may not come, the Men's T20 World Cup, which has 20 teams in 2024 and for the 2026 edition, could expand to having 24 teams in future editions.

The move to expand T20 WC teams aligns with crick-

et's return for the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics and the sport's growing interest in emerging nations like Italy, who recently qualified for 2026 edition of the tournament to be played in India and Sri Lanka.

Also, a word on financial audit for the USA leg of 2024 T20 World Cup may come from the working committee led by deputy director Imran Khawaja. The making of pop-up Nassau County International stadium, which hosted eight matches, including the big-ticket India-Pakistan clash, got criticism for its drop-in pitches and taking excessive money than its usual allocation.

## Root reclaims number one spot in ICC Test Batting Rankings after century in Lord's

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

England's premier batter Joe Root has reclaimed the top position in the ICC Men's Test Batting Rankings after his 37th Test century helped the hosts' claim a thrilling 22-run win at Lord's.

Root, with 888 points, regains the top spot just a week after losing it to his England team-mate Harry Brook, who is now at third place with 862 rating points. Root's scores of 104 and 40 in the third Test win and helping England take a 2-1 lead in the five-match series, see him start his eighth stint at the



top of the rankings.

At 34, Root is now the oldest top-ranked Test batter since Kumar Sangakkara in December 2014, when the Sri

Lankan keeper-batter was 37. With Brook slipping to third spot, New Zealand batter Kane Williamson is number two on the rankings while Australia's Steve

Smith (816 rating points) has overtaken India opener Yashasvi Jaiswal to be at fourth place.

Smith made 48 in Australia's victory over the West Indies in Jamaica sealing their 3-0 series win, with his teammate Cameron Green jumping 16 places to be at joint 29th (619 rating points) thanks to scores of 46 and 42.

India's veteran all-rounder Ravindra Jadeja's scores of 72 and 61 not out at Lord's has lifted him five places to 34th place while opener KL Rahul is one spot behind him in 35th position, after gaining five positions with scores of 100 and 39.

## Archer keen to play remaining Tests against India to prove his place for the Ashes

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

After making a successful return to Test cricket through England's 22-run win at Lord's, England fast bowler Jofra Archer said he is keen on playing the remaining Tests against India so that he can prove he deserves a place in the squad for the Ashes trip in Australia.

Archer made his Test comeback at Lord's after four years and claimed five wickets as England clinched a tight victory over India to go 2-1 up in the five-match series being played for the Anderson-Tendulkar



Trophy.

But England will still be careful about Archer's workload because of elbow and back injuries previously hampering his

availability in the longer format.

"I can play the other two if they let me. I don't want to lose this series. I told Keysy (ECB man-

aging director Rob Key) that I wanted to play the Test summer and I wanted to play the Ashes. I think one tick is already there and I will do everything possible in my power to be on the plane in November, or just before," said Archer.

He also expressed happiness over his return to the Test squad under captain Ben Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum has been handled. "Test cricket is the format which would have taken the most time to come back to. I played 50 over and T20 for the last year, year and a half, two years.

## Hockey: Deepika becomes first Indian to win Poligras Magic Skill Award

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Indian women's hockey forward Deepika created history by becoming the first-ever Indian player to win the prestigious Poligras Magic Skill Award as hockey fans from across the globe voted for her sensational solo field goal against the Netherlands during the Bhubaneswar leg of the 2024-25 FIH Hockey Pro League season.

The 21-year-old attacker earned global recognition for her breathtaking run and finish in the 35th minute during India's



match against world No. 1 the Netherlands, which they won in a shootout after a 2-2 draw.

With India trailing 0-2,

Deepika cut through the Dutch defence down the left flank, dribbled along the baseline, dinked the ball over a defender's

stick, and finished it past the goalkeeper to open the scoring for India.

Upon winning the award, an elated Deepika said, "I am truly honoured to have won this award. Scoring that goal against a challenging opponent like The Netherlands was truly a special moment for me and now receiving this recognition means a lot."

"I thank my teammates, coaches, family and friends who continue to support and inspire me everyday. This award isn't just mine, it's belong to Indian hockey. Let's keep pushing forward together," she added.

## India faces monumental Old Trafford challenge ahead of crucial fourth Test against England

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

With England leading 2-1 in the five-match Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy series, Shubman Gill-led India are under pressure to deliver a series-leveling performance when the fourth Test begins at Old Trafford, Manchester on July 23.

India's agonising 22-run defeat in a thrilling Test at Lord's handed England both momentum and a crucial advantage in the closely contested five-match series. Now, as the action shifts to Manchester, India must not only overcome a determined Ben Stokes-led England,



but also a dismal historical record at Old Trafford.

India first played a Test match at the iconic ground in 1936, and have played nine Tests in Manchester

without securing a single victory. The last time India featured at the venue was during their tour of England in 2014. It also means that playing a Test match

in Manchester will be a fresh experience for most members of the current Indian squad.

Meanwhile, Old Trafford remains one of England's most formidable home venues and they return here with a 2-1 lead. England have played 84 Tests at Old Trafford, winning 33 games, while losing 15, and drawing 36 matches.

With the series equation now dramatically shifting in their favour following the thrilling win at Lord's, England are poised to make the most of familiar conditions to win the series and make the final game of the series at The Oval a dead rubber.

## Slow over-rate costs England two WTC points and 10 pc match fee

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 16

Maintaining a slow over-rate during their pulsating 22-run win over India in the Lord's Test has cost England two points from their World Test Championship (WTC) tally and 10 per cent fine of their match fee.

A statement from the International Cricket Council (ICC) said as per Article 16.11.2 of the World Test Championship playing conditions, a side is penalised one point for each over short, and after time allowances were taken into consideration.

Now, after being found guilty of the slow over-



rate offence at Lord's, England's tally in the WTC standings has dropped from 24 to 22 out of 36 points, consequently reducing their point per-

centage from 66.67 per cent to 61.11 per cent.

As a result, England has slipped from second to third position in the WTC points table, with

Sri Lanka now overtaking them to claim the second spot, sitting just behind table toppers Australia.

ICC also said the 10 per cent match fee fine on England is as per Article 2.22 of the Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences. As per this, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

England captain Ben Stokes pled guilty to the offence and accepted the proposed sanction imposed by Richie Richardson of the ICC Elite Panel of Match Referees.

## DC Kishtwar discusses arrangements for Independence Day-2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JULY 16

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma on Wednesday chaired a meeting of line departments here in the Conference Hall of DC Office Complex to discuss the arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day-2025.

The meeting was informed that the main function would be held at district headquarter Kishtwar, while local administration would hold celebrations at Sub-Division, Block and Tehsil levels.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the district heads of different departments to ensure their presence as well as the subordinate officers and officials in the Independence Day



function both at the district headquarter as well as Dub Division, Tehsil and Block levels. The meeting decided that the venue for the main Independence Day function shall be Historic Chowgan Ground.

The arrangements for flag hoisting, march past, cultural items, sitting arrangements, stage setting and Venue preparation and refreshment for the I-Day celebration were discussed in detail.

Directions were given to concerned officers to make foolproof security arrange-

ments and adequate provision of drinking water, power supply, Medicare facility, sanitation, transport, traffic regulation for the national event. The illumination of government buildings, deployment of fire tenders, besides distribution of invitations etc were also discussed.

The Deputy Commissioner assigned the responsibilities for different arrangements to each department and already constituted Committees to monitor the process.

The CEO and District

officers were directed to furnish the list of meritorious students and officials/employees with exemplary works with brief description/notes from their departments, who will be felicitated on the eve of I-Day celebration.

The meeting was attended by SSP Naresh Singh; ADC Pawan Kotwal; PO ICDS, Dr. Rishi Sharma; ACD/CEO Kaiser Bhawani; ACR Mohammad Idrees Lone, besides other District officers and representatives of different departments.

## Distt-level function held to celebrate 'International Year of Cooperatives 2025' at Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
ANANTNAG, JULY 16

As part of the celebrations for the International Year of Cooperatives 2025, a district-level function was organized by the Cooperative Department, District Anantnag, at Town Hall Achabal.

The event was attended by Deputy Registrar Cooperatives, Anantnag, Muzaffar Ahmad Beigh, District Development Manager (DDM) of NABARD, Rouf Zargar; Assistant Registrars, Chairmen of Cooperative Societies, and a large number of basic members.

Speakers at the event highlighted the importance of the cooperative movement and its crucial role in promoting financial stability and the socio-economic development of its members.



As part of the programme, saplings were planted within the premises of the Kuthar Cooperative Marketing Society Ltd., Achabal, under the theme Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam.

In his address, Deputy Registrar urged members to adopt a collective approach rather than working individually to achieve financial growth and sustainability.

DDM NABARD spoke about the ongoing initiatives aimed at registering Primary Agricultural

Credit Societies (PACS) in rural areas to expand the reach of the cooperative movement and bring more people under its fold.

As part of the programme, saplings were planted within the premises of the Kuthar Cooperative Marketing Society Ltd., Achabal, under the theme Ek Pedh Maa Ke Naam.

ADDC Poonch reviews relief claims under SDRF  
J1 NEWS SERVICE  
POONCH, JULY 16

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Pankaj Magotra today chaired a meeting to review and verify relief claims submitted under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF).

During the meeting, comprehensive discussions were held on 36 relief cases received from various Tehsils. After detailed deliberation, the Committee approved 24 cases, including two involving fatalities – one due to a landslide in Mendhar and another by cloud-burst in Tehsil Mandi.

Of the remaining cases, 10 were found ineligible and hence rejected, while 2 cases were deferred for further verification.

7th DCDC Meeting held at Samba

## 4 new Food Processing Units Approved; Cooperative Mandap inaugurated at Chichi Mata

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, JULY 16

The 7th District Level Cooperative Development Committee (DCDC) meeting was held today to review the progress of cooperative sector initiatives and approve new interventions for rural development in District Samba. District Development Commissioner Rajesh Sharma chaired the meeting convened by the Deputy Registrar Cooperative Societies and attended by Assistant Registrars and other staff of the Cooperative Department, reflecting the department's strong commitment to grassroots cooperative development.

A major decision of the meeting was the approval of four new food processing units under the JK Cooperative Flagship Scheme. These units will be established by Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (PACS) and other cooperative bodies to promote value addition, self-employment, and rural enterprise development, focusing on processing cereals, pulses, fruits, vegetables and herbal products.



The Committee also reviewed the implementation of two existing food processing units engaged in bakery production. Operated by PACS, these units have demonstrated strong community engagement and financial viability resulting in employment generation, especially for rural youth and women.

Their performance was acknowledged as a model initiative, encouraging replication by other cooperative societies in the district. Another significant highlight of the meeting was the inauguration of a Cooperative Mandap at Chichi Mata, aimed at promoting cooperative-based rural tourism, cultural activities and services delivery in the religious tourism hub. The initiative is expected to boost local cooperative visibility and economic engagement.

Other major agenda items discussed included, Computerization of PACS, progress of the Grain Storage Project, activities under the International Year of Cooperatives, besides review of PACS functioning as Common Service Centres (CSCs) and Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner Champa Thakur; Assistant Commissioner (Revenue) Ajay Bharti and the functionaries from the departments of Agriculture, Horticulture, Animal Husbandry, Sheep Husbandry, Fisheries, FCS&CA and representatives from NABARD, DCCB and other key institutions.

Speaking at the meeting, DC Rajesh Sharma emphasized the importance of timely implementation, inter-departmental coordination and ease of technical support to ensure the sustainability of both new and existing cooperative ventures. He particularly appreciated the success of the bakery units as an inspiring path for rural cooperative entrepreneurship in the district.

## Distt admin B'la bids farewell to ADDC & CPO; welcomes new CPO & AO

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
BARAMULLA, JULY 16

In a warm and heartfelt gesture, district administration Baramulla today organized a grand farewell-cum-welcome function at Dak bungalow Baramulla to bid farewell to outgoing Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC), Ghulam Rasool Mir and Chief Planning Officer (CPO), Javid Ahmad Najar, while also welcoming the newly appointed Chief Planning Officer and Accounts Officer.

Deputy Commissioner Baramulla, Minga Sherpa, presided over the function and praised the outgoing officers for their sincere and dedicated service to the district. He highlighted their valuable contributions in planning, development, and administrative affairs, and wished them



success in their future assignments.

Several senior officers from various departments also spoke on the occasion, appreciating the professionalism, commitment, and coordination displayed by the outgoing officers during their tenure.

As a mark of respect and affection, tokens of love and appreciation were presented to both officers by DC and other officers from different

departments. The event also served as a platform to formally welcome the newly posted Chief Planning Officer and Accounts Officer. DC and other speakers extended their best wishes to the new officers, assuring full cooperation and support in carrying forward the district's developmental vision.

The ceremony concluded with a vote of thanks and a warm interaction session among all present.

## Div Com Jammu reviews Shrawan Mahotsav arrangements at Shri Shiv Khori Shrine

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
REASI, JULY 16

Divisional Commissioner Jammu and Chairman of Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board, Ramesh Kumar visited the holy town of Ransoo today to review the ongoing Shrawan Mahotsav arrangements and inspect the progress of the development works around the shrine.

The primary objective of the visit was to ensure all the necessary arrangements for devotees are put in place by the concerned departments for smooth conduct of the annual Mahotsav organized at the revered Shrine and in view of increased footfall during the holy month of Sharawan.

Chairing the review meeting with concerned HoDs and officials of line departments, the Divisional Commissioner emphasized on ensuring smooth road connectivity, regular cleanliness, sanitation, provision of uninterrupted power and water supply and other essential services like medical assistance, fire and emergency readiness and issued related directions.



The Divisional Commissioner directed the concerned departments for timely removal of debris at roads on a daily basis, given the onset of the monsoon season which may cause obstructions. He directed concerned departments to remain vigilant and proactive in dealing with such challenges to avoid any inconvenience to pilgrims.

Focusing on the cleanliness and hygiene, the Div Com directed municipal and shrine board authorities to ensure proper sanitation in the shrine area and town and to adopt biodegradable methods for garbage disposal in order to promote environmental sustainability during the festivities.

In terms of health services for devotees, the Health Department was

instructed to keep round-the-clock availability of doctors and ambulances at both the shrine and in town. The PHE Department was asked to maintain adequate and clean drinking water supply, with daily quality checks to ensure the safety of the pilgrims.

To safeguard against fire hazards, the Fire and Emergency Services Department was directed to deploy fire tenders, conduct fire audits of all langars, and ensure adequate availability of fire extinguishers. The Transport Department was directed to monitor for overloading and overcharging by transporters and take strict measures if necessary.

The Power development department was instructed to ensure uninterrupted power supply

and maintain alternate power backup systems.

The Div Com also instructed the Police Department to deploy adequate personnel and ensure 24x7 functioning of CCTV surveillance systems. He stressed the importance of strict ID verification and stated that no one should be allowed entry without a proper registration card.

In addition to reviewing arrangements for the Sharawan Mahotsav, the Divisional Commissioner also assessed the progress of the development projects initiated by the Tourism Department and Shri Shiv Khori Shrine Board to upgrade infrastructure around the pilgrimage. He instructed officials to fast-track the execution of these projects and timely submission of proposals

for further action.

Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the importance of Shrawan Mahotsav in promoting religious tourism and preserving the rich cultural heritage of the district. He directed the administration to work closely for ensuring a safe, clean and spiritually enriching experience for all devotees visiting Shivkhori shrine during the auspicious period.

It was informed that a number of religious and cultural events are scheduled during the Mahotsav including Kavad Yatras on every Monday of the month, the Shiv Puran Katha to be conducted from July 27 to August 4.

The celebrations will culminate in a grand Bhajan Sandhya on August 4, expected to draw large gatherings and create a spiritually uplifting environment.

Deputy Commissioner Reasi Nidhi Malik, Director Tourism Vikas Gupta, SSP Reasi Paramvir Singh, ADC Rakesh Kumar and other concerned officials from key departments were present.

## I-Day arrangements discussed at Udhampur



J1 NEWS SERVICE  
UDHAMPUR, JULY 16

To discuss the arrangements for the smooth celebration of Independence Day 2025 at District headquarter, Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today convened a meeting of district officers here at Conference Hall, DC Complex.

Senior Superintendent of Police, Amod Ashok Nagpure; Additional District Development Commissioner, Rajinder Singh; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Prem Singh; PO Poshan Subash Dogra; Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh; Assistant Commissioner Revenue, Dr Umesh Shan; GM DIC Kishore Singh Katoch; District Information Officer, Neeraj Bhargava and other District Officers attended the meeting.

Detailed discussions were held on seating arrangement, barricading, security, traffic regulation, drinking water and power

supply, sanitation, first-aid, PAS and fire-tenders, magisterial duties, refreshment, illumination, transport etc.

It was decided in the meeting that the main function would be held in Government PG Degree College Boys, where the VIP would unfurl the National flag. The function would start with the Shehna Vadan programme in the morning by the Information department.

While addressing the meeting, the DC stressed upon the officers of various departments to participate in the function with great zeal and enthusiasm and work in close coordination with full dedication to make the National function a grand success. The DC directed the concerned officers to put in place all the necessary arrangements well in time for the smooth and enthusiastic celebration of the National function. She called upon the officers and employees of all departments

to remain present at the venue, on the day of function.

Executive Engineers PWD, PHE and PDD were directed to ensure seating, barricading and drinking water arrangements, besides uninterrupted power supply at the function site. The Chief Executive Officer, Municipality was asked to maintain cleanliness in the town as well as at the venue.

Regarding First aid arrangements, the Chief Medical Officer was directed to ensure the deployment of one ambulance along with a team of Doctors and necessary medicine till the conclusion of function. District and Traffic Police would ensure security and traffic management, the DC added.

Different committees like Reception Committee, Illumination Committee, etc were also constituted for the successful celebration of the national function.