

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
- Severe stomach pain
- Persistent vomiting
- A skin rash
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit
- Redness in eyes

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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DGP Prabhat calls for synergy, real-time intelligence sharing to secure sensitive zones

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 17 (KNO)

Director General of Police (DGP) Nalin Prabhat on Thursday called for inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing, and technology-enabled surveillance to secure sensitive zones near the borders.

According to the details available with the news agency DGP Prabhat visited forward areas along the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and asked the officers to secure areas like Akhnoor, which have historically been prone to cross-border attempts by terrorist groups and smuggling networks.

An official said the DGP visited the Buchohemandi area, a strategically important

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MP man covers 3200 kms on foot to perform darshan at holy cave shrine

JI NEWS SERVICE
QAZIGUND (BADRAGUND), JUL 17 (KNO)

A devotee from Madhya Pradesh has covered nearly 3,200 kilometers on foot to reach the sacred Amarnath Cave in South Kashmir.

Carrying a religious flag and a 25-kg backpack, Yashwant, a pilgrim, said he began his journey from Madhya Pradesh and has walked through holy cities including Ayodhya, Haridwar and Jyotirling temples.

Talking to the news agency at Badragund in Qazigund, Yashwant said, "I have been walking for the last four months, and now I am finally about to reach the holy cave. I will proceed through Baltal. My wish is to see my

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

Kavinder Gupta to take oath as Ladakh's new LG today

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17 (KNO)

Kavinder Gupta, former deputy chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir and veteran BJP leader, is set to be sworn in as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on Friday morning at Leh.

Official sources told news agency that Gupta would be administered the oath of office by chief Justice of High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, Justice Arun Palli, tomorrow morning at Leh.

His warrant of appointment is likely to be read out by chief secretary Pawan Kotwal. The oath ceremony, scheduled to take place at Raj Niwas at 9:30 am, would be attended by Chief Executive Councilors and Executive Councilors of Leh and Kargil Hill Councils, representatives of Leh Apex Body and Kargil Democratic Alliance, as well as senior officers from civil administration and police.

The LG-designate arrived in Ladakh today and received a warm welcome at Leh's Kushok Bakula Rinpoche airport.

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PM secured the country: Amit Shah

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17 (KNO)

Stating that during Congress rule, the country had to face terror attacks almost every day, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Thursday said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his tenure has done the biggest job of securing the country.

Addressing a function in Jaipur Shah, while referring to the actions taken against terrorism by PM Modi led regime, said, "When the Uri attack occurred, PM Modi took a decisive action and a surgical strike was carried out. Following the Pulwama attack, an airstrike was done, and when an attack took place in Pahalgam, Operation Sindoor was



launched, targeting terrorists within Pakistan and eliminating them."

The Union Home Minister, according to the news agency, said, "A strong message has gone out to the world that no one should mess with India's

veyed a powerful message to the world that India's citizens, armed forces, and borders should not be messed with. Anyone who dares to do so has to face consequences."

Shah said that PM Modi has turned the vision of a prosperous, secure and developed India into reality.

"Under PM Modi's leadership, the country has become the fourth largest economy in the world and 22 crore people were lifted above the poverty line," he said.

"We are working to ensure that the benefits of cooperatives reach our people. Under PM Modi's leadership, we have a plan that every beneficiary, whether it is the Centre or the State, should get its benefits," he said. KNO

LG Sinha calls on PM Modi in New Delhi



JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 17 (KNO)

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday called on Prime Minister Narendra Modi

in the national capital. In a post on X, PMO India, according to the news agency said, "Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir,

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Several delegations call on CM Omar at Raabita in Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 17 (KNO)

Several deputations and individuals Thursday called on Chief Minister Omar Abdullah at the Public Outreach Office, Raabita, Jammu, and apprised him of various issues, grievances and sector-specific demands.

The visiting delegations and individuals expressed gratitude for the government's open-door policy and brought forth important concerns from diverse sectors including infrastructure, automobile, education, industry, sports, adventure tourism, and welfare of specially-abled children.



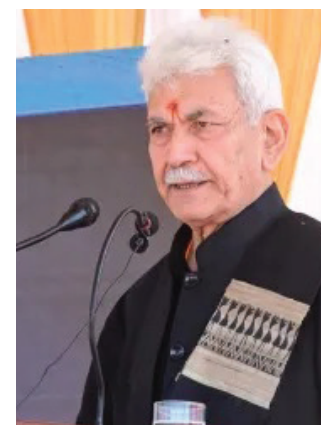
Kavita Shirvaikar, Managing Director of Patel Engineering Ltd., along Deputy General Manager and Project In-charge of the Parnai Hydro Electric Project, discussed key issues pertaining to the implementation and progress of the hydro-electric project in Jammu

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 4

LG Sinha launches first-ever Sainik Sahayta Kendra in J&K for redressal of civilian grievances of soldiers

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17 (KNO)

In a landmark initiative, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Thursday ordered the establishment of the Sainik Sahayta Kendra to facilitate the redressal of civilian grievances faced by soldiers of the Indian Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces posted in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, as well as those who belong to J&K but are currently serving in other parts of the country. This marks the first such institutional mechanism in J&K



dedicated to addressing the civilian grievances of soldiers. As per the news agency, the

administration today launched the LG's Sainik Sahayta Kendra—also known as the Soldiers Assistance and Liaison Cell—which will operate from the premises of the Civil Secretariat with immediate effect.

The Kendra will function as a single-window platform for receiving, assessing, and facilitating the redressal of grievances submitted by serving soldiers.

It will also coordinate appointments for soldiers (or their representatives) with the relevant civil or police officials in the concerned districts.

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LAND FRAUD CASE CBK raids 7 locations, registers FIR against Tehsildar, 6 others

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17 (KNO)

The Economic Offences Wing of Crime Branch Kashmir on Thursday said to have conducted searches at multiple locations in Srinagar and Budgam districts and registered an FIR against seven individuals in a land fraud case.

They said that among the accused persons, one is a former Tehsildar, who is 'allegedly involved in a land fraud case' related

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Amarnath Yatra suspended today amid heavy rain, over 9,000 pilgrims still visit holy cave

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 17 (KNO)

The Amarnath Yatra was suspended on Thursday from Jammu and the twin routes of Baltal and Pahalgam due to heavy rainfall and adverse weather conditions. Despite this, over 9,000 pilgrims performed darshan at the holy cave today.

An official, speaking to the news agency, said no fresh batch of pilgrims was allowed to proceed from Jammu towards the two base camps. The Border Roads Organisa-

tion (BRO) has deployed additional personnel and machinery to carry out urgent repair and maintenance on the damaged tracks.

"Due to continuous rainfall over the last couple of days, critical repairs are needed on both routes. Therefore, no movement has been allowed towards the Holy Cave today. However, pilgrims who stayed at the Panjtarni camp overnight are being allowed to descend towards Baltal under the supervision of BRO and Mountain Rescue Teams. The Yatra is likely to resume

tomorrow, subject to weather conditions," said Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Vijay Kumar Bidhuri.

This marks the first suspension of the Yatra this year from both Jammu and the twin base camps simultaneously.

As the weather improved, 9,020 pilgrims managed to perform darshan at the holy cave today. These included 6,345 male pilgrims, 2,232 females, 132 children, 112 sadhus, 12 sadhvis, and two transgender devotees. Additionally, 185 security

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CM Omar lauds progress at AIIMS Jammu



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 17 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday visited AIIMS Jammu to review its function-

ing and expressed satisfaction over the remarkable progress made by the institution in a short span of time. He was accompanied by Advisor

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Chief Minister Omar inspects Mubarak Mandi restoration

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 17 (KNO)

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Thursday reviewed the ongoing restoration and development of the historic Mubarak Mandi Complex in Jammu.

Accompanied by Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani and MLA Yudhvir Sethi, the Chief Minister visited the site and received a detailed briefing on the multi-phase project aimed at reviving the architectural grandeur of the former Dogra royal palace.

Principal Secretary Culture, Brij Mohan Sharma, provided an overview of the

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Patient care suffer in Jammu as Doctors' strike enters day 2 at GMC

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 17 (KNO)

The ongoing strike by the resident doctors at Government Medical College (GMC) Jammu entered its second day on Thursday to protest against an assault of a female resident doctor.

The strike, initiated by the Resident Doctors' Association (RDA) of GMC Jammu, has led to the shutdown of all emergency and outpatient department (OPD) services, significantly impacting the patient care.

While faculty members have been deployed to maintain emergency services, the

absence of resident doctors has led to delays and disruptions.

The protest stems from demands for justice and enhanced security measures for healthcare professionals after the assault, which occurred following the death of a patient on July 16.

The strike was triggered by an altercation at GMC Jammu on July 16, after the death of 60-year-old patient Rajinder Kumar, who succumbed to respiratory arrest due to a severe brain haemorrhage.

The patient's family accused the hospital staff of negligence, leading to a violent confrontation where a female resident

doctor was allegedly kicked and assaulted by a relative of the deceased.

In response, junior doctors launched a flash strike, demanding immediate arrest of perpetrators and improved security protocols to protect medical professionals.

As of July 17, the RDA announced the complete closure of emergency and OPD services, citing the lack of action in connection with the assault.

The move has garnered support from doctors across India, with posts on X reflecting nationwide solidarity with the GMC Jammu doctors'

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DC Budgam reviews progress of estimation under District Capex Budget 2025-26

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 17

To review the progress of estimation preparation under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat, today chaired a comprehensive meeting at the DC office, here.

The meeting was aimed at ensuring timely execution of the works and streamlining administrative processes related to the Rural Development Department (RDD).

During the meeting, Assistant Commissioner Development (ACD) Budgam and Executive Engineer, REW Budgam, briefed the chair on the status of estimations block-wise and sector-wise.

They presented an overview of the physical and



financial targets and updated the DC on the ongoing compilation of estimates for works proposed under PRI, BDC, DDC, APDP, and ABDS grants.

ACD apprised the chair that a total of 2,704 new RDD works have been approved across 17 blocks under the District Capex Budget 2025-26, which includes 2,048 works under PRI grants, 517 works under DDC grants, 76 under BDC grants, 34 under APDP and 29 under

ABDS DC emphasised the importance of expediting estimation preparation so that execution of works can commence at the earliest.

He directed all field functionaries to ensure accuracy, completeness, and timely uploading of estimates on the designated portals.

Dr Bilal further stressed the need for transparency, quality control, and adherence to timelines in the execution phase once estimates are approved.

He further called for coordination between planning and engineering wings to avoid duplication, cost overruns, or delays in implementation.

DC reiterated that the Capex Budget is a key instrument for grassroots development and participatory planning, and every

effort must be made to meet public expectations by achieving 100% estimation and execution targets in a time-bound manner in the District.

He underlined that delays in estimation directly impact project execution timelines and public service delivery.

DC directed all engineering and planning wings to adopt a mission-mode approach and ensure that all estimations are technically sound, financially viable, and uploaded without delay.

Besides, ACD Budgam, Exen REW Budgam, all Block Development Officers (BDOs), Assistant Executive Engineers (AEEs), Assistant Engineers (AEs), and Junior Engineers (JEs) of the RDD department attended the meeting.

District level RSETI Advisory Committee meeting held at Kulgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 17

A district level RSETI Advisory Committee (DLRAC) meeting for the 4th Quarter of financial year 2024-25 and overall performance for the financial 24-25 was today held at Mini-Secretariat Kulgam, to review the performance of the J&K Bank Rural Self Employment Training Institute Kulgam.

At the outset, Director, RSETI, through a Power-Point presentation presented the progress of RSETI Kulgam during the 1st quarter of FY 2025-26. He informed the meeting that RSETI Kulgam has imparted training to 1028 candidates during the last FY, 2024-25 and the settlement ratio is 67% percent and credit linkage 56%.

Addressing the occa-



sion, District Development Commissioner (DDC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan, who is also Chairman DLRAC stressed upon banks as well as sponsoring agencies to play an active role for achieving the set targets and ensure proper follow up and settlement of trained candidates. Directions for ensuring convergence with Mission Yuva were given.

Khan on the occasion impressed upon the Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) to introduce and diversify the courses which are in consonance with recently done Mission Yuva baseline survey and district skill development plan.

He also stressed the officers to conduct a survey of the district for a unified skill development plan and hold more and more awareness programmes to motivate the unemployed youth to generate employment for themselves and others too.

Discussions were held regarding the review of performance, an Annual Action Plan of 510 candidates in 19 different programmes and trades for

FY, 2025-26 for imparting training to unemployed youth of the district for setting up self-employment ventures.

The chair was informed by Director RSETI that during the current financial year the institution is going to introduce a Rural Mason course/trade under PMAY-G where 150 masons would be professionally trained.

Chairman also reviewed the status of land allotment to RSETI at Lirow which is in the final stage of approval.

The meeting was attended by ACR, Reyaz Ah Shah; CPO, Malik Suheel; district heads of allied departments; Lead District Manager, Chief Agriculture Officer, Cluster Head J&K Bank, KVK Pombai, EDI, KVIC and other members of the committee.

AHD Jammu conducts awareness campaign in far-flung areas of Rajouri, Poonch districts

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Extension and Publicity Wing of Animal Husbandry Department Jammu concluded a three-day extensive awareness campaign launched in the hilly and far-flung areas of Rajouri and Poonch districts. The campaign was undertaken in coordination with officials from the department of Animal Husbandry in the twin districts.

On July 15, a team from Extension and Publicity Wing conducted an awareness programme at Village Planger, Tehsil Thana Mandi in district Rajouri followed by programmes at Savjijan and Loran villages of district Poonch on July 16 and 17 respectively. Free of cost medicines and veterinary



supplements were also provided to the attendee farmers. The campaign witnessed direct participation of around four hundred farmers from the twin districts.

Information was provided on various Schemes and Programmes of the department of Animal Husbandry, especially on entrepreneurship development, vaccinations and other beneficiary-oriented schemes such as Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP),

National Animal Disease Control Programme (NADCP), Integrated Dairy Development Scheme (IDDS), Integrated Poultry Development Programme (IPDP) etc. The officials explained the benefits of the schemes in detail, besides providing publicity literature in local languages on schemes and latest technologies in the animal husbandry sector.

The campaign, led by Extension Officer, Dr. Mohammad Sajjad, also focused on knowledge

enhancement of farmers to enable them to adopt advanced practices and techniques in production and marketing of milk and milk products to improve their income levels. In addition, the farmers were also apprised about use of improved cattle breeds, feeding, disease and pest management to make dairy farming a profitable venture. Valuable insights about modern poultry farming were also provided during the camps with the help of videos.

DC Ramban convenes Public Outreach camp at Rajgarh



JI NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 17

To resolve the concerns of the people at their doorsteps, Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, along with a team of officers, convened a public outreach programme at tehsil Rajgarh. The event was aimed to directly engage with the public, listen to their grievances and to ensure time-bound redressal of the same.

Locals raised several key issues seeking improvement of power supply scenario, timely installation of transformers and posting of sanctioned strength of doctors and paramedical staff at PHC Rajgarh. They further demanded provision of an ambulance and

dental chair in the hospital to improve healthcare services.

The Beopar Mandal of Rajgarh demanded a vehicle for lifting solid waste to improve sanitation in the locality. People also expressed concern over the slow progress of work and alignment of road projects, especially the Rajgarh-Shushetra road.

Responding to the demand, the DC directed Executive Engineer PMGSY to expedite the construction work to complete it without further delay.

The locals also demanded bringing Bibroto, Chakka Bartund, Chakka-A and Chakka-B Panchayats falling in Block Assar (Doda), under the

administrative control of Tehsil Rajgarh (Ramban) for public convenience. The DC assured to take up the matter with the higher authorities.

Responding to other demands, the Deputy Commissioner directed the stakeholder departments to take immediate steps to resolve the genuine issues at the earliest. He assured the people of responsive and accountable governance.

Later, the DC inspected the functioning of PHC Rajgarh and directed the CMO to ensure punctuality and attendance of medical staff. He also instructed the Tehsildar to conduct inspection of the health facility on regular intervals.

BLOs imparted training at Kishtwar for Special Intensive Revision-2025

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 17

The District Election Office (DEO) Kishtwar today hosted training sessions for Booth Level Officers (BLOs) of 50 Paddarnagseni Constituency

ERO Dr Amit Kumar presided over the training, conducted in morning and afternoon sessions in the Conference Hall DC Office Complex.

The field-level election functionaries were equipped 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 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 by National Level Master Trainers Tariq Parwaiz Tapal, Javed Ahmed Lone & Raj Kumar.

Rs 1.07 Cr revenue generated, deposited in Govt Treasuries from sale of trainee products by Handicrafts & Handloom Dept

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

Demonstrating its sustained efforts in skill development and artisan empowerment, Department of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has recorded a cumulative revenue generation of more than Rs 1.07 crore over the last three financial years through sale of products crafted by trainees at departmental training centres across the valley.

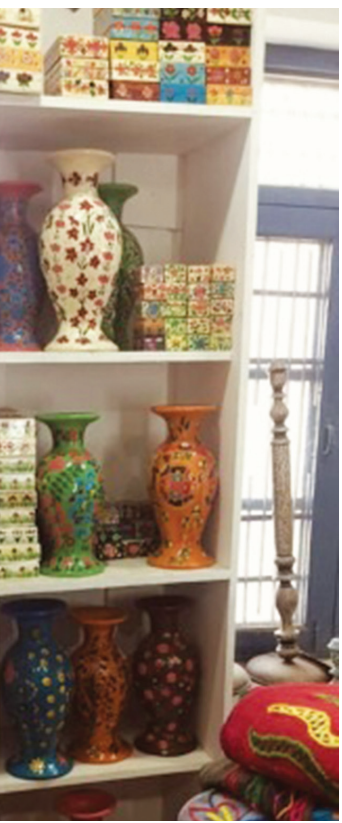
In a press statement issued here today, spokesman from the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, stated that this revenue, fully deposited in the Government Treasuries, has been realized from the sale of a wide range of handicraft and handloom products produced by trainees enrolled in over 400 departmental training centres which include Pashmina products, Sozni, Crewel, Chain Stitch, Kani Shawl, carpets and a variety of handloom fabrics, reflecting the region's rich craft heritage. "This also reflects a perfect example of how funds released by the Government are recycled back into the system and utilized for develop-



ment activities related to promotion of craft sector," he added.

Department views this achievement as a testament to its ongoing efforts in nurturing traditional skills and enhancing the earning potential of local artisans. By integrating practical, market-oriented production into training modules, Department ensures that trainees gain not just technical proficiency but also a real-time understanding of commercial aspects of the craft sector.

Efforts are



underway to further modernize training infrastructure, introduce contemporary design elements and forge stronger market linkages through departmental sale outlets and participation in national-level exhibitions. These steps aim to ensure that products crafted by trainees find broader markets while helping preserve the unique handicraft and handloom traditions of Kashmir.

The Department remains committed to expanding these initiatives, thereby creating sustainable livelihood opportunities for the youth and artisan community of the Union Territory.

DC Poonch reviews arrangements for Independence Day celebration



JI NEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 17

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today chaired a comprehensive meeting here at Dak Bungalow to review the preparations for the Independence Day Celebrations 2025. The meeting was attended by the district-level officers and stakeholders to ensure meticulous planning and timely execution of all arrangements.

SSP Shafkat Hussain; ADDC Pankaj Magotra; ADC Tahir Mustafa Malik; ACR Mohammad Sayeed and other district and sectoral officers were present at the meeting.

The Additional Deputy Commissioner gave a

detailed PowerPoint presentation about the tasks assigned to different departments and the progress of preparations.

The Deputy Commissioner reviewed each aspect of the event, including security arrangements, venue decoration, public address system, cultural programmes, media coverage, Shanai Vadan, parade readiness, fire safety, seating plans, refreshments, illumination of government buildings, plantation drive, vehicle parking, barricading, uninterrupted water and power supply.

The Deputy Commissioner asked all departments to complete respective arrangements well in time to ensure a grand

and seamless celebration of the national event.

The grand Independence Day function is set to take place at the Sports Stadium Poonch, where the Chief Guest will unfurl the National Flag and take the salute at the march-past. The schedule leading up to the main event includes a Full-dress rehearsal on August 13, 2025, screening of cultural items at Sheesh Mahal on August 12, and daily parade rehearsals commencing from August 1, 2025.

The Deputy Commissioner urged all departments to work in full coordination to ensure a grand, dignified, and inclusive Independence Day celebration 2025.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

According to the Chief Engineer, JKPTCL Kashmir, in order to carry out the work of increasing ground clearance of the bottom conductor of both circuits on 132 KV D/C Amargarh-Kupwara Transmission line between the location no. 09 & 10 at Badambagh Sopore and to tighten the loose earth wire between tower location no. 103-104 Nutnussa Kupwara, the power supply to Handwara, Zachaldara, Magam, Dolipora, Kralpora, Tangdhar, Keran, Machil, Lolab, Khumeriyal, Chogal, Panzgam, Karihama, Trehgama, Hyhama, Tarathpora, Vilgam, Sogam, Divar, Krusen, DC Residence/office, Drugmulla, and Phuropeth will remain affected from 09:00 AM to 01:00 PM and 12:00 Noon to 06:00 PM on 19 July, 2025.

DDC reviews performance of SW department Budgam

JI NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JULY 17

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Budgam, Dr. Bilal Mohi-Ud-Din Bhat today chaired a detailed review meeting of the Social Welfare department at the New Conference Hall, DC office Budgam.

The meeting was convened to assess the performance, implementation status, and impact of key welfare schemes being run across the district.

The meeting was attended by the District Social Welfare Officer (DSWO) Budgam, Tehsil Social Welfare Officers, and the District Women Welfare Officer (Mission Shakti).

A comprehensive presentation was delivered by the DSWO, highlighting the district's performance under various centrally sponsored and UT-level welfare schemes.

The key schemes

and initiatives reviewed included Integrated Social Security Scheme (ISSS), National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) with increased digitization and online processing, Marriage Assistance Scheme, which has processed 6,644 applications online and 1,519 offline, support for persons with disabilities, including distribution of 22 crutches, 3 smartphones for the visually impaired, and 21 walking sticks.

DC was also briefed on sponsorship of children and supporting 289 cases, Government-run Child Care Institutions (CCIs), including Palaash, Paresha, and Phulwari offering classrooms, boarding and lodging, computer labs, libraries, open gyms, and recreational facilities. Adoption Services through State Adoption Agency, with Palaash and Paresha homes maintaining healthy enrolments,



Child Protection Services, including Child Help Line (1098) and Child Help Desk at Ompora Railway Station.

Besides the support by One Stop Centre (OSC) which has provided shelter to 63 beneficiaries, counseling to 398 women, legal aid to 32, and medical assistance to 5, Mission Shakti Initiatives including Beti Bachao Beti Padhao

(BBBBP) and upcoming institutions like Shakti Sadan, Observation Home and Vatsalya Sadan.

During the review, DC stressed the need to move beyond access and infrastructure towards measurable impact, transparent service delivery, and data-driven monitoring. He emphasized inter-departmental convergence, particularly with health, education, and legal aid sectors.

To ensure equitable and inclusive outreach, DC issued various directions such as analysis of data across all 21 benchmark special abilities ensuring complete saturation of all eligible beneficiaries under welfare schemes, regular inspections of Child Care Institutions (CCIs) and strengthening institutional care for orphans through existing government orphanages like Palaash (Boys) and Paresha (Girls).

He directed the formation of a proposal for establishing a school for special needs in Budgam district for children with hearing, visual, intellectual, and developmental issues, including those with autism and cerebral palsy.

DC called for framing a detailed proposal for the establishment of a Drug De-addiction Centre in Budgam to provide counseling, rehabilitation, and recovery support services for individuals battling substance use.

He said, for Implementation of the SMILE Scheme (Support for Marginalized Individuals for Livelihood and Enterprise), focus should be laid on rehabilitation of homeless individuals and those engaged in begging, by offering shelter, dignity, and sustainable livelihood opportunities.

DC directed the Social Welfare department to

prepare a roadmap for 100% Aadhaar seeding of all scheme beneficiaries, address pendency in pension disbursement and ensure prompt grievance redressal, enhance grassroots awareness through community outreach camps, focused IEC (Information, Education and Communication), and door-to-door sensitization campaigns, digitise and monitor all welfare schemes using real-time dashboards, with citizen feedback loops for improved transparency.

DC also directed the department to adopt proactive approach in digitizing welfare delivery and ensuring grassroots outreach.

He said district administration is committed towards making Budgam a model district in terms of inclusive growth, social protection, and dignity for all marginalized populations of the district.

Drug Control Authorities conduct extensive inspections of various Kulgam areas



JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 17

Continuing its efforts to streamline digital record maintenance alongside good pharmacy practices, a team of Drug Control Authorities in Kulgam today conducted extensive inspections of various Kulgam areas viz. Khudwani, Yaripora, Budroo and Kulgam.

During the inspection, two shops were closed down on spot u/s 22(d) one each at Budroo and Yaripora near SDH for vio-

lating different conditions of licenses and non compliance to Govt. directive with respect to computerized billing systems.

It has time and again been reiterated to all the chemists and distributors of the area to maintain sale and purchase records by digital means so as to have an effective and transparent mechanism to ascertain the supply chains of medicine.

Drug samples of several companies were also lifted for analysis purposes to ascertain their quality.

Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament Kho-Kho, Volleyball final matches held at Doda on Day 6

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 17

The 6th day of the second phase of the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament witnessed high-octane action at Government Degree College Grounds and City Middle School Grounds Doda.

The ongoing tournament is being organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports, Doda to promote athletic excellence and team spirit among school children.

The day featured intense competitions in Kho-Kho and Volleyball, drawing participation from over 240 enthusiastic students and players representing 10 different



zones of District Doda. In the Under-14 Girls Kho-Kho final, an exciting match unfolded between Zone Gundna and Zone Thathri. With swift reflexes and coordinated teamwork, Zone Gundna triumphed over Thathri by a margin of 7 points.

In the Under-14 Boys Volleyball final, teams from Zone Bhallessa and Zone Bhagwah battled it

out in a gripping contest. Both teams demonstrated excellent form, but Zone Bhallessa emerged victorious with a 2-1 set win, thanks to their strategic game play and resilience.

The matches were marked by spirited competition, commendable discipline and enthusiastic support from fellow participants and spectators.

DC Reasi reviews arrangements for Kounsar Nag Yatra 2025



JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 17

Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik today chaired a meeting to finalise the arrangements for the smooth and safe conduct of the Kounsar Nag Yatra, scheduled to commence from July 27, 2025.

The meeting was attended by Senior Superintendent of Police Paramvir Singh; Commandant 126 CRP Manoj Verma; ADC Rakesh Kumar; ASP Ifkhar; ACD Vijay Kumar; DFO Mahore and other officers. President and Members of Kounsar Nag Yatra Management Committee were also present.

The meeting discussed security arrangements, track clearance, drinking water facilities, toilet infrastructure, medical support and transportation logistics.

The DC directed the CMO to establish medical

check-up camps at Sungari and Sari and deploy dedicated medical teams along the entire yatra route. She emphasized the availability of essential medicines, first aid kits, oxygen cylinders and ambulances to handle any medical emergencies. She stressed on thorough screening and said only those pilgrims found medically fit will be authorized to undertake the yatra.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized on following the designated yatra route. She instructed the Forest and Rural Development Departments to ensure thorough clearance of the path and renovation of existing and installation of new toilets and sheds at night halt points.

The Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Department was asked to make adequate arrangements for drinking water at langar sites

and halting points. Transport Department was tasked with coordinating transportation for the pilgrims, while SDM Mahore was directed to monitor the overall progress on a daily basis.

To enhance safety, State Disaster Response Force and mountain rescue teams will be deployed all along the yatra track. The Tehsildar Chassana informed that the registration process will begin one week before the yatra, and pony-walla rates will be notified shortly.

The Deputy Commissioner also instructed the BRO and PMGSY departments to deploy machinery for road clearance in case of any natural disaster. She further directed the Executive Engineer, PDD Mahore, to ensure uninterrupted power supply and make arrangements for backup generators at critical points.

84 JU, College students complete Summer Internship at JKEDI



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

A fresh batch of 84 students from Jammu University (Bhaderwah Campus), Government Sri Pratap Memorial Rajput (SPMR) College, Jammu, Government Degree College (GDC), Marh, Jammu and Government College for Women (GCW), Parade, Jammu completed their mandatory summer internship at Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI), the other day.

The students underwent 10-day (60 hours) Summer Internship at the Bari-Brahmana campus of the institute and JKEDI District Centre Jammu.

As per the New Education Policy (NEP) 2020, all undergraduate students have to complete 60 hours of internship program for completion of their degree

program. The students were introduced to the role and functioning of the JKEDI. They gained exposure to the program verticals of the institute, all aimed at promoting entrepreneurship as a viable career choice in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir.

A series of sessions related to core principles of entrepreneurship, decision making, time management and leadership were held for the interns, offering real-time exposure to running a successful business venture. These activities helped the interns to gain insight into the challenges faced by an entrepreneur and the ways to overcome them.

At the valediction ceremony held at Bari Brahmana Campus, Joint Director JKEDI Chand Kishore Sharma discussed the importance of innovation and emphasized on entre-

preneurship as a career choice in today's competitive environment.

Meanwhile, two Internship programmes commenced at Bari Brahmana campus of the institute and JKEDI District Centre Udhampur where 71 students of Government SPMR College of Commerce and 23 students from Bhaskar Degree College Udhampur are undergoing the mandatory internship of 60 hours/10 days.

The internship programs are being conducted by a team of expert faculty of the JKEDI under the overall supervision of the Director, JKEDI.

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) is dedicated to foster entrepreneurship and self-employment in the region through training, research and development activities.

J&K Bank sanctions 40 cases under Mission YUVA Udan in Samba District



JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 17

In a significant move to foster youth entrepreneurship and self-employment, the J&K Bank, in collaboration with District Administration Samba today sanctioned 40 loan cases under the Mission YUVA Udan initiative.

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma handed over the loan sanction letters to the beneficiaries

in the presence of Divisional Head and General Manager, J&K Bank Sunit Kumar; Zonal Head Sanjeev Kumar; Cluster Head Sanjay Belowo and Assistant Director Employment Naresh Kumar among other bank officials and branch managers.

The Deputy Commissioner handed over the sanction letters to the beneficiaries and lauded J&K Bank for facilitating speedy loan disbursement

under the scheme. He emphasized the transformative role the Mission YUVA Scheme is playing in empowering the youth of the district.

Speaking on the occasion, the Divisional Head of J&K Bank encouraged the Beneficiaries to utilize the loan amount judiciously and ensure timely repayment.

The Zonal Head J&K Bank proposed the vote of thanks, appreciating the proactive efforts of the District Administration and Employment Department. He reaffirmed J&K Bank's commitment to sustaining its leadership position in youth-oriented financial inclusion.

The event concluded with an interactive session between the dignitaries and the beneficiaries.

Mental Health awareness and counseling held for jail inmates at Central Jail Srinagar



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

In a dedicated effort to support the mental well-being of incarcerated individuals, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Srinagar, in collaboration with trained counselors from the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (IMHANS), conducted a mental health counseling session for jail inmates at Central Jail Srinagar.

The programme was held under the chairmanship and guidance of Tasleem Arief, Chairman DLSA (Principal District and Sessions Judge), Srinagar, and under the supervision of Sajad Ur Rehman, Sub-Judge/ Secretary, DLSA Srinagar.

The session aimed to address the psychological issues faced by inmates and provide therapeutic interventions through structured counseling.

A team of trained mental health professionals namely Dr. Aijaz Ahmad Suhaff, Assistant Professor (Psychiatry), and Dr.

Zahoor Ahmad Wagay from IMHANS, along with Para Legal volunteers and DLSA's LSUM unit members and Legal Aid Defence Counsels interacted with the inmates and provided one-on-one and group counseling sessions.

During the session, inmates were encouraged to express their thoughts, emotions, and challenges. The counselors also educated them on coping mechanisms, stress management techniques, and the importance of mental health in rehabilitation and reintegration into society.

Speaking on the occasion, an official of DLSA Srinagar emphasized the importance of such initiatives in ensuring the holistic development and human rights of prisoners. "Mental health support is a crucial part of the reform process. This collaboration with IMHANS is a step forward in making rehabilitation more meaningful for the inmates," she said. The initiative was well-received by the prison authorities and inmates

NORTHERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No.: 433-Sig-T-17-25-26 Date: 17.07.2025			
Closing Date/Time: 11.08.2025, 15:00 Hrs.			
Sr. DSTE/EZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on https://www.ireps.gov.in against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-17-25-26			
Closing Date/Time: 13.08.2025, 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids up to closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored. Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money only through online payment modes available on IREPS portal like Net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work	(i) Provision of IBS between MOW-ASR & HMR-DIW on SNL-ASR section. (ii) Interlocking of 4 nos. manned L-xing gates in c/w raising of sectional speed up to 130 KMPH of JUC-ASR section over Firozpur division. (iii) Interlocking of 5 No's Non-interlocked L-Xing gates having TVUS> 50000 over Firozpur Division.	Date, Time of Uploading Tender	(i) 16.07.2025 12:51 Hrs. (ii) 17.07.2025, 14:03 Hrs.
Tender Closing Date, Time	(i) 11.08.2025 15:00 Hrs. (ii) 12.08.2025, 12:30 Hrs.	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	(i) 28.07.2025 (ii) 29.07.2025
Advertised Value (Rs.)	(i) 5,34,62,913.90 (ii) 2,59,74,461.96	Period of Completion	(i) 12 Months (ii) 09 Months
Earnest Money (Rs.)	(i) 4,17,300.00 (ii) 2,79,900.00		
Note: Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the Website.			

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

LG Sinha calls on...

Shri @manojnsinha, met Prime Minister @narendramodi."

The meeting came amidst heightened administrative and security focus in the Union Territory.

Though details about what transpired during the meeting remained undisclosed, the interaction hinted at ongoing coordination between the Centre and the UT's top leadership.

Pertinently, LG Sinha met PM Modi a day after he stated that J&K's statehood would be restored at an appropriate time as promised by the Prime Minister and Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

The meeting assumes significance in backdrop of the recent developments that have taken place after the April 22, Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

Soon after the attack India launched "Operation Sindoor" on May 7, 2025 and destroyed nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and PoK. It led to breaking out skirmishes between India and Pakistan that continued till May 10. Both the countries announced ceasefire after Pakistan DGMO approached his counterpart in India and sought the end to hostilities.

As the dust has settled tourists have returned to Kashmir and within 14 days of ongoing annual Amarnath pilgrimage, more than 2.5 lakh devotees have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine, nestled in Himalayas. KNO

Several delegations call...

and Kashmir.

Sanjay Aggarwal, Chairperson of the Federation of Automobile Dealers Association (FADA), Jammu, led a delegation conveyed sector-specific recommendations aimed at strengthening the automobile industry in the region.

In recognition of outstanding sports achievements, Satwik Luthra, who secured silver medals in both the Khelo India Games held in Patna (May 2025) and the National Games in Himachal Pradesh (December 2024), was warmly acknowledged for bringing laurels to Jammu and Kashmir in the field of weightlifting.

Dr. Harpreet Singh, Principal of Jammu Sanskriti School, met the Chief Minister to felicitate the Children with Special Needs (CWSN) achievers who excelled in Volleyball and Badminton at the Special Olympics Bharat's National Unified Sports Meet held at IIT Gandhinagar.

Rakesh Sharma, President, Confederation of Industries & Commerce J&K, and Member of the National Council of CPI, called on the Chief Minister along with other representatives to raise pressing issues being faced by entrepreneurs and the industrial sector in the region.

Dr. Surinder Kumar Atri, Principal of Government Medical College, Kathua, apprised the Chief Minister about various academic and infrastructural challenges at the college and sought government intervention for redressal.

Kamal Gupta, Chairman of the J&K Private School Association, along with senior representatives, discussed challenges confronting unaided private schools and emphasized the need for policy support to sustain quality education.

A delegation of the Pashmina Goat Project, met the Chief Minister to discuss further developmental opportunities under the initiative.

A delegation of Xtreme Adventures briefed the Chief Minister on the potential and revival strategies for adventure tourism in Jammu region, stressing its role in employment generation and youth engagement.

A group of NSS Volunteers who represented Jammu and Kashmir at the prestigious NSS Republic Day Parade Camp in New Delhi on the occasion of the 76th Republic Day also called on the Chief Minister to share their experiences and achievements.

Former Minister Ajay Sadhotra also met the Chief Minister and held a brief interaction.

The Chief Minister appreciated contributions of the visiting delegations in their respective fields and assured appropriate follow-up on each matter raised during the interactions. KNO

LG Sinha launches...

The Kendra will also pursue unresolved matters to ensure their timely resolution. It will maintain a performance dashboard for easy tracking and follow-up, and submit quarterly performance reports to the Lieutenant Governor in prescribed formats.

The operational protocol for the Kendra has been unveiled, and the government has nominated officials to oversee its implementation.

According to the order issued by the General Administration Department, Prasana Ramaswamy (Secretary, Tribal Affairs Department), Aflaq Ahmed (Under Secretary, Revenue Department), and Abhinay Singh (Manager-cum-Protocol Officer, Resident Commission, J&K Government, New Delhi) have been nominated for its operationalization. KNO

Land Fraud Case: CBK raids...

to cheating, corruption and tampering with revenue records.

In a press conference held today at Crime Branch headquarters in Srinagar, Senior Superintendent of Police (SSP) Crime Branch Abdul Wahid Shah, as per the news agency said that the agency has booked the accused in connection with fraudulent land deals in Balhama area.

He said the complaint was filed by a woman, who alleged she was deceived by the accused, who manipulated khasra numbers in the sale deeds and carried out false mutations in connivance with revenue officials.

The SSP said the complainant stated she had purchased 5 kanals and 4 marlas of land from one Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shafi Cheeni for Rs 88.4 lakh and also exchanged 2 kanals of land in Gooripora Rawalpora.

"After the accused took back the original sale deeds

for 'record updation,' they returned them with forged khasra numbers," he said, adding that later, part of the land was forcibly occupied by another individual claiming it had been sold to him.

The SSP added that during the preliminary investigation, Crime Branch Kashmir found that the sale deeds had been tampered with to reflect incorrect survey numbers.

He added the then Tehsildar and Patwari of Balhama had allegedly facilitated these changes to confer illegal ownership to one of the accused, Riyaz Ahmad Bhat. "The accused named in FIR No. 14/2025 registered at Police Station Crime Branch Kashmir include: Nusrat Aziz, the then Tehsildar Balhama; Ashiq Ali, the then Patwari Balhama; Riyaz Ahmad Bhat, resident of Nowgam Srinagar; Mohammad Shafi Lone alias Shafi Cheeni, resident of Peerbagh; Shamima Akhter, wife of Shafi Lone; Shah Nawaz Ahmad Rather, resident of Padshahi Bagh; and Shabir Ahmad Wani, resident of Bagander Lasjan," said the SSP.

He added the case has been registered under sections 167, 120-B RPC read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption Act. SSP Shah also said that searches were underway at seven locations in both Srinagar and Budgam following search warrants issued by the competent court.

He further added that Tehsildar Nusrat Aziz is already facing trial in another case (FIR No. 08/2021) for similar charges including forgery, cheating and corruption.

"This indicates that the individuals involved may be part of an organized network deceiving innocent land buyers in Srinagar and adjoining areas," the SSP said. Meanwhile, authorities said more arrests and legal action could follow as investigations progress. KNO

Amarnath Yatra suspended...

personnel also paid obeisance. Since the Yatra began on July 3, a total of 2,56,233 pilgrims have visited the holy cave, officials said.

Meanwhile, the Indian Army today rescued about 500 Amarnath pilgrims who were stranded because of landslides triggered by heavy rains, and shifted them to safer places.

"Yesterday around 7:25 pm, persistent rain triggered a landslide at Z Morh, between Rayalpathri and Brarimarg, resulting in the halting of Yatra movement and stranding a large number of pilgrims," said Jammu-based defence spokesperson Lt Col Suneel Bartwal.

"Responding to the situation, the Army detachment deployed at Brarimarg swung into action," he added.

Around 500 yatrists stranded in the area were accommodated in tents and provided with tea and drinking water, adding, "Another 3,000 pilgrims found refuge in langars located between Brarimarg and Z Morh, which offered essential shelter and sustenance."

The Indian Army Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) rescued a critically ill stranded yatri by undertaking a manual stretcher evacuation under adverse weather conditions and safely transported the patient to Rayalpathri, from where an ambulance moved the individual for further medical care, he added.

The defence spokesperson said the camp director at Brarimarg and the company commander of the Indian Army are present at the site and have assessed the situation as stable and under control, adding that efforts continue to ensure the safety and well-being of all yatrists in the area."

As per weather prediction, light rains at both Rayalpathri and Brarimarg are likely, and the Army remains on high alert to respond to any evolving situation, he said.

"These prompt actions are yet another testament to the Indian Army's professionalism, dedication, and humanitarian commitment during Amarnath Yatra 2025, standing shoulder-to-shoulder with every pilgrim through every challenge", the spokesperson said. KNO

CM Omar lauds...

to the Chief Minister, Nasir Aslam Wani.

The Chief Minister was received by Executive Director and CEO of AIIMS Jammu, Prof. Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta.

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar and Deputy Commissioner Samba, Rajesh Sharma were also present.

Also present on the occasion were Director IIM Jammu, Prof. B.S. Sahay; Dean Research and Head of Hospital Management, Lt. Gen. Dr. Sunil Kant, SM, VSM.

While addressing a gathering of AIIMS management, students and medical staff, the Chief Minister lauded the efforts that have shaped AIIMS Jammu into a state-of-the-art healthcare and academic institution.

"The successful establishment and functioning of AIIMS is a testament to the power of will and vision. The dream of the Hon'ble Prime Minister has truly taken shape here," the Chief Minister said, adding, "World-class efforts and endeavour seem to have come together to create this exceptional facility."

Highlighting the growing importance of the institution, the CM noted, "It is heartening to see AIIMS already serving patients from across the country. The completion of the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway will further facilitate access for patients." He expressed hope that other healthcare institutions across Jammu and Kashmir would emulate this model of excellence.

The Chief Minister assured full government support to the institution and its vision of growth and expansion. He praised the ambitions of the AIIMS management and hoped that AIIMS Kashmir would be completed soon and become operational.

While releasing the Manual of Disaster Management prepared by AIIMS Jammu, the Chief Minister underscored the need for readiness. "We sincerely hope never to face a situation that requires the use of this manual. Yet, in the interest of preparedness, it is better to have and not need than to need and not have. Such forward thinking initiatives by institutions like AIIMS are commendable," he said.

Addressing the recent incident of assault on a doctor in a government hospital, the CM asserted, "Doctors must never bear the brunt of violence. They dedicate themselves selflessly, often beyond duty hours. Their intentions and efforts are unwavering and they must never be blamed for outcomes beyond their control." He added that strict action had been directed in the recent case. "I have asked for a case to be filed and justice to be delivered. Our doctors must work free from fear and intimidation," he emphasized.

Advisor to the CM, Nasir Aslam Wani, also addressed the gathering and congratulated AIIMS Jammu for its impressive infrastructure, lush green campus and emergence as a hub of medical excellence. He appreciated the hospital's patient friendly registration process and the quality of treatment facilities.

Prof. Dr. Shakti Kumar Gupta presented a comprehensive overview of the institution's progress, sharing vision of AIIMS Jammu to become a global centre of healthcare, research and education. He revealed that patient feedback indicates that 82 percent of discharged patients are "highly satisfied", with another 17 percent "satisfied" with the services provided. He also outlined several key statistics demonstrating the hospital's growing capabilities.

Earlier, the Chief Minister toured various sections of the campus, including diagnostic labs, testing facilities, in-patient wards and high-tech academic classrooms, taking stock of infrastructure and operational readiness. KNO

Chief Minister Omar...

project's implementation, while Executive Director of the Mubarak Mandi Heritage Society, Deepika Sharma, gave a presentation outlining its various components.

The briefing gave details of how each zone will depict a distinct cultural theme. Under the Jammu Smart City Mission, some innovative initiatives such as a library-cum-café in the complex would be available for the public within a historic setting.

It was informed that the master plan divides the complex into six zones, including public spaces, knowledge centres, experiential areas and a crafts bazaar.

Key infrastructure proposals, including a span bridge and lift installations, were also discussed to improve accessibility and to augment visitors' experience. Officers informed the Chief Minister that most structures are recoverable and are being systematically restored to their original splendour.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah emphasised key priorities for the project's vision. He said the central courtyard area should be developed as a priority for public attraction and must look welcoming for visitors, highlighting the need for an entrance reflecting its true heritage character. He urged the timely completion of ongoing works, stating that pending projects must be completed as early as possible to give meaningful purpose to the project. In a call for cultural revival, he added that Dogra crafts must be promoted through events and planned activities in the complex.

Advisor Nasir Aslam Wani echoed the Chief Minister's sentiments, stating that it is important that Mubarak Mandi is attractive to visitors and becomes a vibrant heritage site that balances historical authenticity with modern expectations.

The Mubarak Mandi Complex is one of Jammu's most significant architectural heritage sites and is envisioned as a comprehensive cultural centre, housing museums, conference venues and heritage hospitality services.

During the interaction, the Chief Minister also reviewed operational challenges and future requirements to ensure the project addresses both immediate restoration goals and long-term sustainability.

Senior officers, including the Joint Commissioner JMC (also Additional CEO Jammu Smart City), Subah Mehta, Superintending Engineer Public Works Department Ashwani Kangotra and others concerned, were also present during the meeting. KNO

Patient care suffer...

call for justice.

Dr. Ashutosh Gupta, Principal and Dean of GMC Jammu, addressed the media, condemning the violence and outlining measures to manage the crisis.

"In a gruesome incident on July 16, attendants of a terminally ill patient resorted to physical and verbal violence against our doctors on emergency duty. The patient had been referred back from PGI Chandigarh with a poor prognosis, clearly mentioned in the discharge summary. Despite being advised to seek basic care at a local hospital, the family brought the patient to GMC, where he received the best possible treatment. CCTV footage shows the family members kicking and beating the lady doctor. Such attacks are unacceptable."

Dr. Gupta emphasized that emergency services would continue to be supported by faculty members and consultants to mitigate disruptions. He directed all Clinical and Para clinical Heads to ensure adequate staffing in the emergency department until normalcy is restored.

The Jammu and Kashmir Medical Students' Association also issued a statement on X: "We strongly condemn this incident at GMC Jammu where a doctor was assaulted. Doctors are humans too, any grievance must be addressed through proper channels, not violence. We urge the Government to ensure strict action and provide immediate protection to healthcare workers across J&K."

Meanwhile, the family of the deceased patient, Rajinder Kumar accused the hospital staff of negligence, which they claim led to the patient's death.

The family's allegations of negligence sparked the altercation, escalating into physical violence against the female doctor. No arrests have been reported as of the latest updates, fuelling the doctors' decision to intensify the strike.

Moreover, the RDA at GMC Jammu has demanded

Several join Congress



JI NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 17

JKPCC Chief Shri Tariq Hameed Karra today chaired an important meeting of senior leaders and party functionaries and DCC Presidents, contesting candidates of Jammu Province for the intensification of statehood movement and party's Delhi Chalo programme and Protest March in Jammu and Srinagar to Raj Bhawan.

Mr. Karra emphatically said that statehood is our right and will continue the fight for it till we get the same. He lashed the BJP and its leadership and said that they are not committed to the statehood of Jammu and Kashmir and other important issues.. He also said that the way a selected authority has put the elected as hostage is the worst example of dual control system and vindicated the congress stand against it and for restoration of complete state.

He said congress leaders and workers will gather at Shaheedi Chowk and march towards Raj Bhawan in Srinagar on July 19th and in Jammu on July 20th . He gave slogans "Chalo Srinagar to Kashmir Congress workers and "Chalo Jammu" to Jammu congress workers.

He further said , Congress leaders and workers will go to protest at Jantarmanter in Delhi on 21st July, it will also be recorded in history that a demonstration was held in Delhi to get statehood to the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

Prominent among those attended the meeting include Shri Raman Bhalla-Working President; Ch. Lal Singh-Ex-MP, Shri Mula Ram-Ex-Minister, Thakur Balwan Singh-Ex-MLA, Shri Ravinder Sharma-Chief Spokesperson, Shri Yogesh Sawhney-Ex-Minister, Th. Balbir Singh-Ex-MLA, Shri Ved Mahajan-Ex-MLC, Indu Pawa (EX-MLA), Bhushan Dogra, Hari Singh Chib (I/C Jammu Rural, Th. Manmohan Singh (DCC President Jammu Urban), Satish Sharma, Shashi Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Suresh Dogra, Kapil Singh, Neeraj Gupta, Sanjeev Panda, Vijay Shastri, Sanjeev Sharma(Samba), Rajiv Saraf, Dwarka Choudhary, Rajinder Singh Nathu, Bharat Priye, Latish Sharma, Rakesh Sharma, Sohith Sharma, Bhavishya Sudan and others.

Two time Sarpanch Vijay Choudhary joined Congress along with his supporters. Nirmal Singh, Vipan Choudhary, Gurjeet Singh, Vishal Singh, Kuldeep Singh, Ranjit Singh Romesh Lal others.

the immediate arrest of the individuals involved in the assault, enhanced security measures in hospitals, and stronger legal protections for medical professionals.

The doctors have vowed to continue the strike until their demands are met, with the possibility of further escalation if no action is taken. KNO

DGP Prabhat calls for...

area along the LoC.

DGP Prabhat was accompanied by IGP Jammu Zone Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP CRPF Jammu Sector, Gopala K. Rao, DIG JSK Range, Shiv Kumar Sharma, SSP Jammu, Joginder Singh, and senior officers of the Indian Army deployed in the sector.

The DGP, according to the officials, was briefed comprehensively by the Army authorities on the border security grid, with specific focus on vulnerabilities, surveillance infrastructure, JKP-Army coordination, and preparedness of ground units to respond to any cross-border threat.

The visit also aimed at assessing the terrain, visibility advantage, and layout of defensive positions in the forward area.

The presence of senior leadership from the J&K Police, CRPF, and Indian Army underlined the strategic focus on joint operational readiness in the border zones, the official added. KNO

MP man covers 3200...

religion and my country progress."

Asked why he chose to travel on foot despite modern conveniences, he said, "You can explore the world by car or horse, but you can't truly understand people and cultures without walking among them."

He expressed gratitude for the warm hospitality received along the route and said he faced no major issues during the journey. "I will pray for peace and development in the country once I reach the cave," Yashwant said.

The Amarnath Yatra, which leads devotees to the 3,880-metre-high shrine, continues to witness stories of extraordinary devotion. KNO

Kavinder Gupta...

Pillai also reached Leh today to administer the oath to Gupta.

Gupta, was deputy CM in Mehooba Mufti-led PDP-BJP government, which collapsed in June 2018 following withdrawal of support to it by BJP, citing deteriorating security situation in the erstwhile state.

Gupta has become the first politician to hold the position of LG Ladakh. Until now, Ladakh UT has been administered by non-political appointees-Radha Krishna Mathur (a retired IAS officer) and Brigadier (Dr.) B. D. Mishra (an Army veteran). KNO

Sakeena Itoo reviews performance, functioning of J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, today directed the J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) to ensure zero stock-outs of life-saving drugs and injections, particularly in emergency and trauma care units of all district hospitals across Jammu and Kashmir.

The Minister passed on these directions while conducting a comprehensive review of functioning and performance of the J&K Medical Supplies Corporation Limited (JKMSCL) in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today.

The meeting was attended by Secretary Health and Medical Education, Dr. Syed Abid Rasheed Shah; CEO State Health Agency, Ananth Dwivedi; MD JKMSCL, Kapil Mishra; Director Health Services Kashmir/Jammu, Director Family Welfare and Immunization, Director Finance, Health and Medical Education department, Principals of various GMCs and other senior officers, either in person or through video

conferencing. Addressing the officers, the Minister underlined the pivotal role of JKMSCL in ensuring seamless procurement and distribution of essential medicines, surgical equipments and other necessary medical supplies to the government health institutions across Jammu and Kashmir.

While having detailed appraisal of the corporation's procurement processes, inventory management systems, logistics networks and district-wise supply status, the Minister stressed on the urgent need to plug any gaps in real-time supply of critical and life saving medicines.

She directed the JKMSCL to ensure zero stock-outs of life-saving drugs and injections, particularly for cancer patients as well as cardiac patients in all district hospitals of J&K. "Health and well-being of the people is non-negotiable. We must ensure that no hospital, regardless of its location, faces a shortage of essential or emergency medicines", asserted the Minister.

Highlighting that a robust, transparent and



responsive supply chain is the backbone of any public healthcare system, she instructed the JKMSCL management to adopt tech-enabled inventory tracking systems, ensure real-time coordination with GMC Principals, Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) and conduct monthly audits to monitor availability of essential healthcare supplies and utilization of stock.

She directed both the Directors of health department to give advance requisition for healthcare equipment and accessories to the JKMSCL in order to avoid any delay in healthcare service delivery to people. "The effectiveness of our health system is closely tied to the efficiency of medical supply chains, any delay or lapse directly affects patient care", the Minister

stated.

Calling for maintaining quality standards, especially in procurement of antibiotics, cardiovascular and other critical drugs, Sakeena Itoo emphasized upon the management of JKMSCL to maintain stringent quality control benchmarks for procurement process for enhanced transparency and competitiveness. She also asked them to avoid any kind of delay in procurement process as these equipments and medical supplies are very critical for improving the healthcare facilities across Jammu and Kashmir.

She also directed the officers to monitor the shelf-life, storage conditions and distribution equity of medicines at all health institutions at their own level. She further stressed on the need

to build greater synergy between the Corporation and various healthcare institutions, especially in remote and underserved areas.

While reviewing the procurement of high-end equipments like Tesla MRI machine, Cardia Cath Lab, 128 Slice CT Scan machine, 3D 4K visualization tower for Kidney transplant, microsurgery and open surgery, CT Simulator, Microarray system and other related equipment, the Minister directed both the management of JKMSCL and health department to check sites in advance at required health facilities where they are being set up so as to avoid any last minute delay.

During the meeting, a detailed presentation was given by the MD JKMSCL, highlighting key achievements, procurement timelines, vendor performance metrics and other issues of the corporation.

Meanwhile, the Minister also reviewed the saturation of Ayushman Bharat-PMJAY/SEHAT scheme across Jammu and Kashmir.

During the meeting, the Minister emphasized

on the critical role of universal health coverage, underlining the need to ensure equitable and timely access to healthcare services for every household in the region, especially in remote and underserved areas. "The objective of Ayushman Bharat and SEHAT is inclusivity and access. We must ensure that no family is denied their right to quality healthcare because of procedural bottlenecks or geographic barriers", she said.

The Minister reiterated Government's commitment to accessible, equitable and efficient healthcare for all. She directed the concerned authorities to intensify door-to-door awareness campaigns, simplify enrolment procedures and ensure that vulnerable sections like nomadic populations, elderly citizens and persons with disabilities is not left out of the health safety net.

During the meeting, the CEO State Health Agency gave a detailed presentation on number of golden cards issued, beneficiaries enrolled and the quantum of claims settled under the scheme.

Rana emphasises collaborative initiatives to promote eco-tourism, tribal welfare



J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today called for introduction of new trekking trails to promote eco-friendly tourism in Jammu & Kashmir.

The motive behind the initiative is to offer the tourists a closer experience of wilderness and virgin trekking routes of the Union Territory.

During a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here, the Minister emphasised upon collaborative efforts between Forest department and Tribal Affairs Department for promotion of eco-tourism, aimed at diversification of trekking routes.

The meeting was attended by the officials, including the Secretary Tribal Affairs, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Director Tribal Affairs

and MD J&KFDC.

Rana called for taking proactive measures for skill development training programmes for the tribal youth aimed at empowering them as eco-tourism and trekking guides. He said that the initiative will promote self-reliance among the young individuals by creating income-generating opportunities and opening up new career paths.

"The initiative has multiple benefits, including enhancing the employability of tribal youth, creating sustainable livelihood opportunities, promoting cultural heritage and fostering inclusive growth and social justice," he said.

To achieve these objectives, the initiative will be driven by capacity building programs, research initiatives and inter-departmental coordination between the Forest, Tribal Affairs and other concerned departments.

Rs. 7 lakh penalty imposed on erring Food Business Operators in Anantnag

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 17

In a significant move to uphold food safety standards and safeguard the health of consumers, Additional Deputy Commissioner (ADC) Anantnag, Sandeep Singh Bali, who is also the Adjudicating Officer, Food Safety Anantnag, has imposed cumulative penalties amounting to Rs.7 lakhs on various Food Business Operators (FBOs) found guilty of violating multiple provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

These cases were filed by Food Safety Officers of the district against several FBOs for a range of violations, including the manufacturing and sale of sub-standard or misbranded



food products, operating businesses without the mandatory license or registration, non-compliance with Schedule IV of the FSS Act, 2006 which pertains to Good Hygienic Practices (GHP) and Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) and failure to comply with the directions issued by Food

Safety Officers. The penalties were imposed under Section 68 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. During the adjudication proceedings, ADC underscored the importance of strict compliance with the provisions of the FSS Act. He emphasized that any

lapse in maintaining food safety standards will not be tolerated and warned FBOs to refrain from such violations in the future.

He further cautioned that failure to pay the imposed penalties within the stipulated time frame would lead to the cancellation of food licenses. This move reinforces the zero-tolerance policy of the district administration towards food safety violations and reflects the unwavering commitment of the Food Safety department Anantnag to protect public health.

The department urges all stakeholders in the food business to adhere strictly to food safety norms and cooperate with regulatory authorities in ensuring safe and hygienic food for all.

Mission Shakti hosts awareness camp on Govt schemes, services at Garhi Kot Bhalwal



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Mission Shakti District Hub for empowerment of Women (Social Welfare Department), in collaboration with the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM), organized an awareness camp at Garhi Kot Bhalwal to empower local women through awareness on various government wel-

fare initiatives. The session, organized under the supervision of District Mission Coordinator Mission Shakti Shagun Manchanda, focused on enhancing awareness, ensuring access to entitlements, and promoting the active participation of women in economic and social development.

Gender Specialist Mission Shakti Sonali Rana shared detailed insights about several women-cen-

tric schemes, encouraging Self-Help Group (SHG) members and local women to take advantage of the opportunities available to them. Officials of Mission Shakti & NRLM appreciated the participation of local women and SHG members. The collaborative effort aimed to strengthen grassroots outreach and create a more inclusive support system for women in the region.

AMGDC Kilam organises seminar on 'Drug free J&K'

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 17

NSS wing of AMGDC Kilam today organized a students' seminar on 'Drug Free J&K' under the banner of Nasha Mukta Abhiyan.

Vice Principal of the college, Prof. Shabir Ahmad Padder in his keynote address spoke about the different measures being taken by the college from time to time to curb growing drug-addiction menace. Students of different semesters actively participated in the seminar.

Each Student was provided 5 minutes time to speak on Drug addiction or substance abuse and its ill effects.

SWD organises Assistive Devices distribution camp at Paddar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 17

District Social Welfare Department, in Collaboration with Artificial Limbs Corporation of India (ALIMCO), a public sector enterprise functioning under the control of the Ministry of Social Justice and empowerment Govt of India, today organised a Distribution camp under Assistance to Disabled Persons (ADIP) scheme and Rashtriya Vayushri Yojna (RVY) here at BDO office Paddar.

Tehsildar Paddar, Vijay Kumar Gupta graced the occasion.

The programme was organised under the Guidance of Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma and Sub Divisional Magistrate Dr. Amit Kumar and overall supervision of District Social Welfare Officer Zubair Ahmed Lone.

Different aids and appliances were distrib-



uted among 67 beneficiaries identified during the assessment camps organised earlier in the area.

The devices provided to beneficiaries included prosthetic aids, Wheelchairs Adult and small, CP Chairs, Hearing Aids, MSIED kits, Smart Canes, Daisy Players, Braille Kits, Crutches, Walking Sticks, Rollator Callipers Artificial Limbs, knee braces, lumbo sacral belts, silicon foam cushions and smart phones for visually impaired persons etc.

The main objective of

the scheme is to assist the needy disabled persons and senior citizens by providing durable, sophisticated and scientifically manufactured modern standard prosthetic aids and appliances to promote physical social, psychological rehabilitation of persons with disabilities and senior citizens.

Assistive devices were given to persons with Disabilities (PwDs) to reduce the effects of disabilities and enhance their economic potential.

Passing out parade held at Fire Training Centre Bari Brahmana

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

The Passing Out Parade of the 2nd Batch of the Basic Firemanship Course was held today at the Fire & Emergency Services Training Centre Bari-Brahmana.

(Additional Director General of Police) Director, Fire & Emergency Services, J&K, Alok Kumar was the Chief Guest on the occasion. He reviewed the parade and congratulated the trainees for completing the intensive and physically demanding course.

In his address, Alok Kumar highlighted the importance of continuous professional training for fire service personnel to ensure effective and timely response to emergencies.

He praised the high standard of training imparted at the Fire Training Centre and urged the personnel to carry forward the values of courage, discipline,



and public service in their respective postings. He also acknowledged the trainers and instructors for their commitment to building a technically sound and operationally ready firefighting force.

The Director, while addressing the trainees, emphasized the need to perform their duties with enthusiasm, dedication, and courage. He encouraged them to uphold the

highest standards of professionalism while serving the people of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Director also distributed awards among outstanding trainees who excelled in various modules of the training.

The event was attended by senior officers of the department and training staff and concluded with ceremonial honours.

R&R Plan for Project Affected Families DC inaugurates 1 yr Computer Course at ITI Kishtwar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 17

A one-year Computer Operator and Programming Assistant (COPA) course was today inaugurated at Government ITI Kishtwar by the District Development Commissioner (DDC) Pankaj Kumar Sharma under the Resettlement and Rehabilitation (R&R) Plan for the Project Affected Families (PAFs).

The initiative will benefit the affected families of Kwar, Kiru, Ratle, and Pakal Dul Hydroelectric Projects.

As many as 13 individuals of project affected families have been enrolled in the self-financed COPA course, aiming to enhance their digital literacy and employability in the growing IT sector.

After the inauguration,

an expert team of the Institute gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation, highlighting the institute's functioning, past practices, key achievements, and success stories of its trained candidates.

In his address, the Deputy Commissioner lauded the work culture and dedication of the team of the Institute. He emphasized the crucial role being played by the Institute in transforming the lives of youth, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The DDC assured full cooperation and said, "We will work together for the betterment of Project Affected Families."

This inauguration marked a progressive step towards inclusive growth and livelihood generation through vocational training in the district.

EDITORIAL

Political claim on statehood battlefield

In a decisive turn of political activism, the Congress party has shifted gears in Jammu and Kashmir, transforming the demand for statehood into a central rallying point. With a multi-pronged campaign—ranging from the Delhi Chalo programme to protest marches outside Raj Bhavans in Jammu and Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) is seeking to assert its relevance in a competitive political landscape. This resurgence is not without context. Since the abrogation of Article 370 and the subsequent downgrading of Jammu and Kashmir into a Union Territory in August 2019, the issue of statehood has remained a sensitive nerve. Public sentiment, especially in Jammu, has increasingly gravitated toward the restoration of full-fledged statehood—a demand that transcends party lines and finds echoes even among Valley-based leaders like Omar Abdullah and others who have also upped the ante in recent weeks. The Congress's latest move is both political and symbolic. By mobilizing its cadre—from senior leaders to District Development Council (DDC) members and contesting candidates—the party is attempting to tap into this widespread aspiration. The letter jointly penned by Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of Opposition Rahul Gandhi to Prime Minister Narendra Modi signals a diplomatic escalation. Yet, it is the proposed gherao of Parliament during the monsoon session that carries confrontational weight. Through these dual strategies, the Congress aims to position itself as a credible advocate for J&K's democratic restoration. This aggressive posture is not simply about the constitutional question of statehood. It is, at its core, an attempt by the Congress to reclaim lost ground in a region where its presence has significantly diminished over the past decade. Once a dominant force in Jammu and Kashmir's political affairs, the Congress has ceded space to both national rivals like the BJP and regional players. Now, by aligning itself with the statehood demand, the party is betting on an issue that resonates across demographic and regional divides. Political analysts rightly point out that this is a high-stakes gambit. The BJP-led Centre continues to maintain a vague stance, reiterating that statehood will be restored at an "appropriate time." But the absence of a timeline has only sharpened public frustration—something the Congress is keen to channel to its advantage. The challenge, however, lies in sustaining this momentum beyond performative protests. Whether the party can truly build grassroots support and translate agitation into electoral gain remains to be seen. Still, the significance of the moment cannot be understated. The Congress's effort marks a rare instance of a national party converging political urgency with regional sentiment in Jammu and Kashmir. If handled with sincerity and consistency, it may help bridge the trust deficit the party faces in the region. If reduced to optics, it risks reinforcing cynicism. As the monsoon session of Parliament nears, the coming weeks will test not only the Congress's commitment to the cause but also the Centre's willingness to re-engage with Jammu and Kashmir on its constitutional and democratic terms. For the people of J&K, weary of political neglect and ambiguous promises, the restoration of statehood is not just a demand—it's a matter of dignity. The question is, who will deliver?

Model Rules for Tree Felling: A Retrograde Step in the Guise of Reform

RAJ KUMAR SRIVASTAVA

India's ambitious goals for doubling farmers' incomes, expanding tree cover outside forests, and fulfilling global climate commitments have long hinged on one central idea: empowering farmers to grow, harvest, and market trees on their land with minimal interference. The recently notified 'Model Rules for Tree Felling on Agricultural Land' were introduced with much fanfare as a policy breakthrough to simplify procedures and boost agro forestry. However, beneath the promises and the digital gloss, the reality is sobering. Instead of dismantling outdated regulatory mindsets, the new rules effectively reinforce them, only this time via an app-based platform. Far from ushering in a truly market-driven era of farm forestry, they entrench the same old culture of controls, permissions, and suspicion.

Digitisation without True Deregulation At the heart of the policy is the National Timber Management System (NTMS) portal. This online system requires farmers to register every plantation in detail: geolocated photographs, species information, planting dates, and ownership proofs. Before any felling takes place, farmers must file an application, upload pre-felling images, and indicate intended harvest dates. After felling, they are required to submit "stamp

images" as evidence. A verifying agency or designated officer will then conduct an inspection and issue a transit permit.

While this workflow is pitched as a simplification, it is essentially the same licensing raj, repackaged as digital compliance.

The burdens that once involved files and signatures in forest offices are now transferred to online forms and verification visits.

This is not deregulation; it is digitisation of regulation. For the average smallholder, the net effect is unchanged: planting trees continues to carry hidden transaction costs, procedural delays, and the fear of harassment.

Persistent Presumption of Guilt

The model rules are underpinned by a deeply entrenched presumption: farmers are not to be trusted to manage trees on their own land without oversight. This is an archaic mindset dating back to colonial forest laws when timber was seen as a strategic state resource.

Even today, no one asks a farmer to register a field of paddy or seek permission to harvest sugarcane or mustard. Yet when it comes to trees, the State insists on retaining a supervisory hand.

This presumption of guilt has been a primary reason why farmers across India hesitate to invest in long-gestation timber crops.

The fear is real: any minor paperwork error

can result in seizure of produce, imposition of penalties, or worse.

By failing to remove the requirement for permissions and inspections, the new rules have missed the opportunity to build trust and signal a clean break with the past.

Species Liberalisation Still Out of Reach

One of the biggest deterrents to agroforestry has been uncertainty around species regulations. Different states have different lists of trees that require permits, creating confusion and inhibiting investment.

A truly market-driven approach would have established a clear national negative list—that is, only those rare, ecologically sensitive, or protected species requiring permissions, with all other species deemed free for harvest.

Instead, the model rules preserve a complicated process of permissions for most high-value species, leaving it to each State Committee to prescribe lists. This effectively continues the same patchwork of restrictions that farmers have grappled with for decades.

The result: smallholders will think twice before planting commercially valuable species like teak, rosewood, or sandalwood, fearing entanglement in red tape.

Markets Not Addressed

Even as the policy focuses on controlling felling and transport, it says little about supporting

the market side. There is no mechanism to enable tripartite agreements between farmers, wood processors, and banks.

Recognise standing trees as collateral for credit.

Facilitate insurance for timber crops against natural calamities.

Create transparent e-marketplaces for price discovery and forward contracts.

This is a significant missed opportunity. A successful agroforestry model requires both freedom to harvest and support to monetise. Instead, the policy concentrates on regulatory compliance while leaving market facilitation entirely unaddressed.

Discretion Without Accountability

The rules also place considerable powers in the hands of State Committees, which are free to decide verification mechanisms, empanel agencies, and define species lists.

While flexibility is important, the experience across states suggests that such discretion often results in inconsistent implementation and increased bureaucratic opacity.

In practice, farmers will continue to face unpredictable interpretations and arbitrary delays, defeating the promise of "ease of doing business."

Superficial Transparency

Much has been made of the NTMS portal's potential to create traceable

supply chains compliant with international norms such as the EU's deforestation-free regulations.

But here, too, the design is fundamentally flawed. Instead of making traceability optional—something that progressive farmers and buyers can choose for premium markets—the system forces all farmers to participate, regardless of whether they are targeting export buyers or selling locally.

This one-size-fits-all approach imposes compliance costs on the smallest farmers while doing little to incentivise genuine market differentiation.

The Road Not Taken

India's agroforestry aspirations have always been built on the principle that farmers should be empowered to plant trees as they plant crops: free from excessive interference, with the state playing a facilitating rather than policing role.

A genuinely transformative policy would have included:

Presumption of freedom: Farmers can harvest and sell any tree grown on their land, unless it falls under a narrow, notified list of protected species.

Time-bound approvals: If any permissions are needed, they must be granted within a fixed window (e.g. 15 days) or deemed approved.

Optional certification: Farmers targeting premium or export markets could opt in to traceability mechanisms without imposing mandatory bur-

dens on everyone.

Credit and insurance facilitation: Recognising standing trees as collateral and promoting insurance products for long-cycle crops.

Market development: Creating e-marketplaces, price information systems, and procurement linkages with industries.

Conclusion

India has committed to significant increases in tree cover outside forests, with agroforestry playing a central role in climate action, rural employment, and livelihood diversification. But aspirations must be matched by policy that genuinely empowers rather than controls. By retaining the same architecture of permissions and replacing paper files with portals, the new model rules do little to build trust, unlock investment, or treat farmers as partners in sustainable development.

Until we abandon the presumption that private timber must be policed, agroforestry will remain an underperforming sector weighed down by outdated instincts of control. In that sense, these rules are a retrograde step, masquerading as reform, and risk squandering a historic opportunity to make Indian farm forestry an engine of prosperity.

(The writer is former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and presently heads NBS and Strategy at IORA Ecological Solutions)

Turning Mining Waste into Climate Hope

ARUN KUMAR TYAGI

Climate change is driven mainly by the greenhouse gas emissions, especially CO2 produced from burning fossil fuel. One of the ways to address the same is to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels to meet energy needs. The other may be to utilise means to trap the CO2 by utilising the existing format of increasing plantation, protecting the forest as plants are the best to trap CO2 for photosynthesis.

Imagine a world where the waste from mining—a process often criticised for harming the environment—could help fight climate change and make our farms thrive and become more productive. That's the exciting promise of cobalt road powder, a dusty by-product from cobalt mines that might just hold the key to capturing carbon dioxide (CO2) while giving farmers a boost in enhancing soil fertility and providing a sustainable solution for dealing with emerging challenges of climate change including aspects of pollution.

Why Cobalt Matters to Our Planet

Cobalt is a superstar in the world of clean energy. It's a key ingredient in the batteries that power electric cars, smartphones, and even the systems storing energy from solar panels and wind turbines. With the world racing toward a cleaner future, demand for cobalt is skyrocketing—experts say we might need twice as much as is available today in just a few years. But there's a catch: cobalt mining, especially in places like the Democratic Republic of Congo (where over 66 per cent of the world's

supply comes from), can leave behind a messy environmental footprint, from polluted rivers to scarred landscapes.

That's where cobalt road powder comes in. This fine, chalky material, left over from cobalt mining, isn't just waste—it's a potential gamechanger. By spreading it on farmland, we can trap CO2, improve soil health, and turn a problem into an opportunity.

Cobalt is one of the rare minerals mainly used in making lithium-ion batteries for electric vehicles. Recently rare minerals have been in news mainly due to China imposing restrictions in their supply to India and the US. Presently Congo supplies 66 per cent of cobalt requirements in the world—the raw material. However, it is China who dominates in being the largest in cobalt refining in the world though it gets the raw material—cobalt rock—from Congo.

India has significant estimated cobalt deposits of about 45 million tons in the state of Odisha, Jharkhand and Nagaland but the country requirement is entirely met through imports. These deposits have not been exploited so far. Vedanta group is the first to get the cobalt block in auction in year 2024 but exploration and extraction is yet to begin.

Not only from the perspective of criticality which cobalt occupies in view of the fact that our country is making effort to transition to electric mobility, cobalt mining waste (cobalt road powder) can also support in addressing another emerging challenge of pollution and soil fertility.

How Cobalt Road Powder

Captures Carbon

Sprinkling a layer of cobalt road powder, which comes from the rocky leftovers of cobalt mines, across an agriculture field initiates the process of trapping of the atmospheric CO2. When it rains, this powder reacts with CO2 in the air, locking it away into stable compounds called carbonates. This process, called enhanced rock weathering (ERW), speeds up a natural reaction that normally takes centuries. The result—carbon is stored safely in the soil for hundreds or even thousands of years, helping to slow down climate change.

What makes cobalt road powder special is its makeup. It's packed with minerals like magnesium and calcium silicates, which are like magnets for CO2. When they get wet, they capture CO2 from the atmosphere and turn it into something solid, like a natural carbon vault. This trapped CO2 besides enhancing the fertility, enhances the productivity. Also, in places near the coast, some of these compounds can wash into the ocean, helping to fight ocean acidification—a win-win for the environment.

A Boost for Farmers

Using cobalt road powder isn't just about saving the planet—it's also a gift to farmers. Here's why:

Happier Soil: Many farms, especially in places like Uttarakhand where I've seen fields firsthand, struggle with acidic soils that make it hard for crops to grow. Cobalt road powder is naturally alkaline, so it can neutralise that acidity, making nutrients more available to plants. Healthier soil often means better

harvests.

Carbon Storage: By locking CO2 into the ground, farmers can play a direct role in fighting climate change. Globally, processes like this already store about 0.3 billion metric tons of CO2 each year—roughly as much as a whole country like Poland emits.

Turning Waste into Wealth: Cobalt mines produce heaps of tailings that can pollute rivers if not handled properly. Using this powder on farms gives it a new purpose, cutting down on waste and creating a more sustainable mining industry.

Bonus Minerals: Some cobalt road powder might even contain tiny amounts of valuable minerals like nickel or cobalt itself. With the right techniques, these could be extracted, adding an economic perk for farmers or local communities.

The Challenges We Need to Tackle

I won't sugar-coat it—there are hurdles to making this idea work on a large scale. Cobalt mining, especially in the Congo, often comes with serious issues, like water pollution, deforestation, and even reports of child labour.

If we're going to use cobalt road powder, we have to make sure it's safe for soils and doesn't carry harmful metals. That means strict testing and clear rules.

There's also the energy question. Grinding rocks into fine powder takes a lot of power, and if we're using coal or gas to do it, we might cancel out the carbon-saving benefits. Switching to renewable energy, like the hydropower we're lucky to have in Uttarakhand, could solve this.

Then there's the human

side. In places like the Congo, mining communities need support—fair wages, safe working conditions, and a say in how their resources are used.

Any plan to use cobalt road powder must put people first, ensuring it benefits local farmers and communities, not just big companies.

Finally, we need more research. How much powder should we use? How does it affect different crops and soils? Pilot projects, perhaps in the fertile fields of India or Africa, could help us figure this out and make the idea practical for farmers everywhere.

A Roadmap for a Greener Future

To we make this dream a reality we need to do:

Set Clear Rules: Governments, including here in India, should create standards to ensure cobalt road powder is safe and responsibly sourced. Policies like the EU's Battery Regulation could be a model, pushing for sustainable practices in mining.

Team Up: Farmers, mining companies, and clean energy industries need to work together. Imagine carmakers like Tesla or battery producers partnering with farmers to use this powder—it could be a win for everyone.

Support Communities: In places like the Congo or even rural India, using cobalt road powder should create jobs and improve lives. Local farmers could lead the way, showing how to blend climate action with better farming.

Innovate: New technologies, like solar-powered grinding machines or smart ways to monitor soil health, could make this process

cheaper and more effective.

A Vision Worth Pursuing

As I walk through the fields of Uttarakhand, I see the potential for cobalt road powder to do more than just capture carbon—it could breathe new life into our soils and our fight against climate change.

By turning mining waste into a tool for sustainability, we're not just cleaning up the mess; we're building a future where farming and the environment go hand in hand.

It won't be easy, but with careful planning, collaboration, and a commitment to doing things right, cobalt road powder could help us grow a greener, healthier world.

We need to expedite the exploration and exploitation of cobalt reserve in India. Keeping in view that it is a rare mineral and essential to meet the country requirements to support efforts in promoting electric mobility as a substitute to diesel and petrol. In case it is not able to attract the private sector, the state mineral corporation should pursue this while for refining private companies should be encouraged. Even a consortium of the electric vehicle manufacturing companies can set up such a unit. Let us provide the desired focus to this critical and rare mineral which may also support in climate resilience through CO2 capture.

(The writer is Emeritus Scientist at the Uttarakhand State Council of Science and Technology, Dehradun. He researches sustainable solutions for agriculture and environmental conservation)

Movement Kalki organizes campaign regarding Environment Protection

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Today, Movement Kalki organized a special campaign at Aghor Ashram to raise awareness about environmental protection. The movement launched a meaningful slogan:

“Breathing is becoming difficult, let’s plant a tree,” encouraging every citizen to contribute by planting trees.

The initiative has been launched during the monsoon season, as this is the best time for planting saplings, ensuring maximum survival rates. On this occasion, Yog Guru Shri Shri 1008 Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji Maharaj, Movement Kalki Advisor Pritam Sharma Ji, and Environmental In-charge Anil Arora Ji were present along with other members of the organization, who all planted trees and shared a collective message to protect nature.

Yog Guru Vijay Krishna Parashar Ji said:



“People today are running blindly behind money, forgetting that our bodies are made up of five elements—earth, water, fire, air, and space. If these elements are destroyed, life itself will cease to exist. The increasing destruction of forests and killing of animals has pushed our environment into imbalance, leading to disasters like earthquakes, landslides, and floods.”

Advisor Pritam Sharma Ji stated:

“Trees planted during the rainy season rarely dry out. This is the most effective

time for tree plantation and yields 100% results. Every individual should take the responsibility to plant at least one tree.”

Anil Arora (Environmental In-charge, Movement Kalki) emphasized:

“If there is environment, there is life. We must plant trees and protect animals. This slogan - ‘Breathing is becoming difficult, let’s plant a tree’ - is not just a phrase, it is a call to action. I will sincerely fulfill the responsibility entrusted to me by Movement Kalki.”

Workshop on ‘Transforming the Skilling Landscape in J&K’ concludes successfully

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

The Department of Skill Development, Government of Jammu & Kashmir, successfully concluded a two-day National Conference on “Transforming the Skilling Ecosystem in Jammu & Kashmir” held on July 16-17, 2025 in Srinagar.

The conference brought together over 100 key stakeholders from across India—including senior government officials, industry leaders, academic experts, civil society representatives, and skilling professionals—to chart a unified and outcome-driven roadmap for skilling in J&K.

Delivering the keynote address, the Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, reaffirmed the government’s commitment to creating sustainable skilling pathways aligned with the national vision of Viksit Bharat.

He calls it a moment to align skilling with the aspirations of our youth and the demands of a dynamic economy. He termed this workshop a deliberating form where all national level stakeholders put their heads together to give their inputs about framing a robust ‘Skill Vision Plan’ for J&K to implement over the next several years.

Key messages from the Chief Secretary’s address included the active involvement of industries in co-developing curricula. He also called for the introduction of vocational education at the school and college level.

Emphasizing adaptability through the quote: “The illiterate of the future will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn.”

Secretary, Department of Skill Development, Shri



Rajeev Ranjan, echoed these sentiments, stating that “The real challenge today is not unemployment, but unemployability.”

He underscored the need for aligning workforce skills with evolving market requirements and stressed that curriculum design must be integrated with delivery mechanisms for tangible outcomes.

Shahzad Alam, Director, Skill Development Department, played a key leadership role in steering the conference, ensuring cross-sectoral participation and driving forward the vision of a holistic skilling ecosystem.

The Conference Highlights constituted the strategic panels on Systemic Gaps and Market Alignment, Market Needs vs. Skill Gaps, Systemic Skilling Reform through Coordination, Apprenticeship to Placement, Innovation, Infrastructure, Curriculum for Future-Readiness, Human Resource Management in Skilling, Strengthening the role of Education Institutions, Tech Tools & Data Systems in

Skilling, Skilling for Entrepreneurship

Key Themes Across the Conference includes current state of skilling infrastructure in J&K, Sector-wise skill-gap analysis, Alignment of curriculum with industry needs, Best practices in public-private partnership (PPP) model besides others.

One of the central outcomes of the conference was a structured consultation on a visionary skilling roadmap for Jammu & Kashmir. This roadmap envisions “Skills for All”—including students, women, and youth in rural areas. Building a supportive and collaborative ecosystem for the same in the times to come.

The roadmap aspires to position J&K as a national model for outcome-oriented, inclusive, and innovation-driven skilling. Key components include the proposed Skills University, digital integration of platforms, focus on green and emerging jobs, and synergy with MSMEs and entrepreneurship networks across the country.

MLA Yudhvir holds public grievances redressal camp



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Senior BJP leader and MLA East Constituency, Yudhvir Sethi today reaffirmed the party’s unwavering commitment to public welfare, asserting that the BJP remains steadfast in addressing the people’s concerns at the grassroots level.

He was addressing during a grievances redressal camp held at the Pt Prem Nath Dogra Bhawan Kacchi Chawni Jammu.

The camp witnessed a huge rush of people from across Jammu city who came to the party office to discuss their issues with senior BJP leaders.

Various deputations, including individual persons—most of whom were women—visited the camp to present their grievances on issues such as ration, education, pension, PHE, PDD, revenue, power, water scarcity, roads and other development-related topics, as

well as personal issues.

Yudhvir Sethi patiently heard the grievances and assured the people of prompt action by coordinating with the concerned departments and officials.

Speaking on the occasion, Yudhvir Sethi said, “The BJP, under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is dedicated to ensuring inclusive development and resolving public issues in a time-bound manner. Our doors are always open for the people. These grievance camps are an important medium to connect directly with the citizens and understand their real problems.”

The MLA urged party workers to continue serving the people with dedication and be proactive in resolving public issues. He further emphasized that the BJP is not merely a political organization but a people’s movement focused on nation-building.

Col Mahan Singh reviews ongoing PWD Projects in Billawar, Basohli Sub Divisions

Parnalla (Billawar), July 17: Col Mahan Singh (Retd), Chairman District Development Council (DDC) Kathua, today conducted an extensive tour of various Panchayats including Parnalla, Damra East, Palial, and Karanwada to review the ongoing works under the Public Works Department (PWD) Division, Billawar.



Col Mahan Singh was received and accompanied by Executive Engineer PWD, Er Qasim Choudhary, along with the Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE) of Billawar Sub Division and a team of Assistant Engineers (AEs) and Junior Engineers (JEs).

During the visit, the DDC Chairman inspected several important road projects, including the Banhore-Raipur NABARD Road, Lohar Khokha NABARD Road in Plial Panchayat, Mara Patti-Danni Link Road, and Dhamlad-Hottar Link Roads being executed under the UT Road Plan. He reviewed the on-ground progress of these works and issued necessary directions for expediting their completion while maintaining

quality standards.

Public grievances were also addressed at various locations. Prominent among them were issues related to the blacktopping of the Shamshan Ghat Link Road, SC Mohalla Link Roads, and the improvement of the Banhore-Plial Road in Damra East Panchayat. The Chairman took note of these concerns and directed the officers to prioritize their resolution.

At Banhore, Col Mahan Singh held a public meeting where he listened to the residents’ issues and assured them that he would take up their concerns with the concerned district-level departments for early redressal.

While visiting Karan-

wada in Sabar Panchayat, he discussed the delay in renovation work of the Primary Health Centre and urged the concerned officials to remove the bottlenecks causing the delay.

The tour concluded with a visit to Parnalla where the Chairman inspected the proposed site for the Khajuria Mohalla Link Road, participated in a public function, and paid obeisance at the historic Narsing Bhawan Mandir at Parnalla Bazar.

Before concluding the day-long visit, Col Mahan Singh emphasized on timely completion of all ongoing projects and stressed that quality must not be compromised at any cost.

DGP J&K reviews Border Security at Buchohemandi View Point, Akhnoor Sector



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

In a significant move aimed at strengthening border management and inter-agency coordination, Director General of Police, J&K, Sh. Nalin Prabhat, IPS, visited the Buchohemandi View Point in the Akhnoor Sector, a strategically important area along the Line of Control.

The DGP was accompanied by IGP Jammu Zone, Sh. Bhim Sen Tuti, IPS; IGP CRPF Jammu Sector, Sh. Gopala K. Rao, IPS; DIG JSK Range, Sh. Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS; SSP Jammu, Sh. Joginder Singh, JKPS and senior officers of the Indian Army deployed in the sector.

The DGP was briefed comprehensively by the Army authorities on the border security grid, with specific focus on

vulnerabilities, surveillance infrastructure, JKP-Army coordination, and preparedness of ground units to respond to any cross-border threat. The visit also aimed at assessing the terrain, visibility advantage, and layout of defensive positions in the forward area.

During the field inspection, the DGP emphasized upon the importance of inter-agency synergy, real-time intelligence sharing, and technology-enabled surveillance to secure sensitive zones like Akhnoor, which have historically been prone to cross-border attempts by terrorist groups and smuggling networks.

The presence of senior leadership from the J&K Police, CRPF, and Indian Army underlines the strategic focus on joint operational readiness on the border zones.

Bali Bhagat slams NC, PDP for playing divisive politics over Urdu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Senior BJP leader and former Minister Bali Bhagat today strongly criticized the statement of National Conference and PDP alleging that Urdu was being unfairly communalised in the wake of the Central Administrative Tribunal’s (CAT) order staying the mandatory Urdu requirement for Naib Tehsildar posts.

In a press statement issued here today, the former minister said that Valley based political leaders’ remarks were nothing but an attempt to distort facts and divert attention from the legitimate concerns of Jammu’s youth. “It is unfortunate that these political parties are communalising a purely administrative and merit-based issue. The CAT order was a significant relief for thousands of deserving candidates who were being unfairly barred from applying simply because they did not possess knowledge of Urdu,” he asserted.

Arvind emphasizes multi-pronged approach to combat rising drug menace and theft



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 17 JULY 2025:

Arvind Gupta expressed concern for the rising drug menace and theft in Jammu city, and emphasized a multi-pronged approach to combat the menace.

Arvind Gupta, Secretary, Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Jammu & Kashmir and sitting MLA from Jammu West Assembly Constituency, held a Public Darbar at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

The Public Darbar witnessed an overwhelming turnout of people from diverse areas and backgrounds, who came forward to voice their civic and administrative issues.

A wide cross-section of citizens, including senior citizens, youth, women, and representatives from various localities, approached the MLA with issues ranging from water and electricity supply, lane and road repairs, sanitation, pension, ration, police, and other public welfare matters.

Arvind Gupta gave a patient hearing to each individual and deputa-tion. He personally took note of every concern raised and immediately communicated several

issues to the concerned departments, both verbally and through written directives, while pressing for the immediate remedial measures.

Speaking on the occasion, Arvind Gupta reiterated the commitment of the BJP to address the public issues at the grass root level. He said that while the public faces routine issues related to their daily chores, they also come across various other issues that require the intervention of specific government departments for the prompt resolution of the issues. He said that for the diverse range of public issues, they need to get connected to a medium, which is provided by the BJP through these Public Darbars, which are held on routine basis at party headquarters in Jammu to facilitate the masses on an open basis.

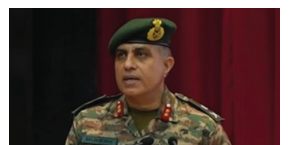
“The BJP believes in proactive governance and direct engagement with the people. Public Darbars are a crucial platform where citizens can freely voice their concerns and receive on-the-spot responses. I am committed to ensuring that no genuine grievance goes unheard or unattended”, he said.

GOC Tiger Division inspires Young Minds at IIM, Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 17 JUL 2025

General Officer Commanding Tiger Division recently addressed the freshers’ batch of MBA and PhD students, as well as faculty members, at the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu. During his speech, the GOC highlighted the achievements of the Indian Armed Forces, particularly during Operation Sindoor and their decisive actions in response to the terrorist attack in Pahalgam.

The GOC’s speech was not only a tribute to the bravery and resilience of the Indian Armed Forces but also a valuable lesson



for the young students. GOC inspired the students on the topic “Leadership Lessons: Battlefield to Corporate Boardroom” wherein he drew parallels between the leadership skills required on the battlefield and those needed in the corporate world. By sharing his experiences and insights, the GOC inspired the students to develop their own leadership skills, emphasizing the importance of strategic thinking, quick decision-making, and effective communication.

The event was a unique opportunity for the students and faculty members of IIM Jammu to learn from the GOC’s experiences and gain valuable insights into leadership and management. The GOC’s speech was a testament to the Indian Armed Forces’ commitment to excellence and their ability to inspire and motivate others. As the students of IIM Jammu embark on their academic journey, they will undoubtedly carry the GOC’s words of wisdom with them, applying the leadership lessons they learned to achieve success in their future endeavors.

Saroori Conducts Extensive Tour of Bunjwah, Urges Ground-Level Public Service and Slams BJP for Developmental Neglect

J1 NEWS SERVICE

BUNJWAH, (KISHTWAR), JULY 17

Senior Congress leader and former minister Ghulam Mohammad Saroori undertook a detailed one-day tour of Bunjwah block in Kishtwar district, during which he interacted with locals, listened to their grievances, and reviewed the development challenges of the region. The visit was part of his broader mission to strengthen the Congress party in the Chenab Valley through direct engagement with the people.

During his tour, Saroori expressed gratitude to the central Congress leadership for consistently raising the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood. He emphasized the impor-

ance of ground-level political engagement and public service over virtual activism. Saroori appealed to Congress workers to step out of the "reel world" of social media and remain physically present among the people, particularly in difficult times.

He cautioned party members against the use of abusive or derogatory language on any platform and called for maintaining decorum in political discourse. "Constructive criticism based on facts is healthy, but personal attacks for petty gains are a drama the public no longer entertains, Saroori remarked. He urged workers to stay alert to vested interests spreading misinformation and engaging in mudslinging for political mileage.



Speaking to the media, Saroori said that ever since rejoining the Congress party, he has been touring various parts of the Chenab region to reconnect with the grassroots cadre, listen to people's problems, and raise their concerns with the appropriate authorities.

Reflecting on his tenure from 2014 to 2018, Saroori highlighted that numerous road projects were sanctioned and completed during that period due

to his efforts. However, he lamented that all such development came to a standstill after 2018. "The roads are in such poor condition today that even patients cannot be transported to hospitals due to the lack of proper connectivity and transport," he said. He further noted that many approved projects are delayed due to the negligence and failure of contractors.

Saroori expressed concern over the non-initia-

tion of work on several vital roads, particularly the Patnazi to Surngana road and the Tanta to Devidol road, despite having received formal approvals. He also pointed out that while tourism has seen some growth in Chatroo, many potential tourist spots are still being ignored by the administration.

Strongly criticizing the BJP, Saroori accused the ruling party of making hollow promises and delivering nothing on the ground. "Bunjwah is close to my heart. The people of this region have always supported me in elections. I won three times with a clear majority. Even in the last election, I lost by just 270 votes – that's not a defeat; it's a sign that people are still with me," he asserted. He questioned

what the current MLA has accomplished in his one-year tenure, claiming that the incumbent has failed to deliver anything substantial. Saroori demanded that all essential government departments establish offices at the Tehsil Headquarters in Bunjwah to make services easily accessible to the local population.

In conclusion, Saroori reminded the public of the extensive developmental works carried out during his tenure as a Cabinet Minister and MLA from Inderwal. In contrast, he said, the BJP has done nothing since 2014. He reiterated his call for party workers to engage actively on the ground and work selflessly for the welfare of the people, rather than remaining confined to social media platforms.

Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana' is a big gift for farmers: Balbir Ram

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 17

The approval of "Pradhan Mantri Dhan Dhanya Krishi Yojana" by the Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is a big gift for the farmers of the country. This scheme will help in fulfilling the objective of strengthening the agricultural sector of the country and increasing the income of farmers.

Balbir Ram Rattan, Spokesperson, Jammu Kashmir BJP, termed this recently approved scheme as an important step and said that it reflects the sensitivity of the Modi government towards farmers.

Balbir Ram Rattan said that under this scheme, the central government will invest Rs 24,000



crore every year for the next six years, and this scheme will be implemented in 100 districts in a phased manner and about 1.7 crore farmers are expected to get direct benefits from it.

Balbir said that this scheme will especially benefit small and marginal farmers, who are the backbone of India's agricultural economy.

SOTTO J&K launches Organ Donation activities in Indian Organ Donation Month 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 17

Jammu and Kashmir Organ and Tissue Transplant Organization (SOTTO J&K) launched Organ Donation Campaign: "Angdaan-Jeevan Sanjeevani Abhiyan" in J&K.

A Rangoli Competition between the Nursing students was organised today at Super Specialty Hospital Jammu.

Participating Nursing Colleges were Bee Enn College of Nursing Chak Bhalwal, Stephen's College of Nursing, Miran Sahib, Government Nursing College Gangyal, IPHH College of Nursing and Allied Health Sciences Kot Bhalwal and Rajiv Gandhi College of Nursing Chak Bhalwal represented by 20 students, 4 from each college. Students expressed the mes-



sage of organ donation through their art in Rangoli.

The month of July is observed as Organ Donation Month every year in India to commemorate the implementation of The Human Organ and Tissue Act (THOTA), 1994 and 3rd August is observed

as Indian Organ Donation Day to commemorate the first successful heart transplant in India.

Dr Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director SOTTO J&K provided insights into the National Organ Transplant Programme (NOTP) under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of

India to promote organ donation and transplantation in India.

Dr Sanjogita Soodan, Dy MS, Superspecialty hospital inspired students for spreading the message of organ donation.

Ms. Anshu Sharma Consultant (IEC/Media) SOTTO J&K and Mr. Irfan Ahmad Lone, Transplant Coordinator SOTTO J&K encouraged the audience to actively participate in the organ donation pledge drive under Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission.

Government Nursing College Gangyal secured first position with students, namely Shilpa Kumari, Samridhi, Zahida Tabas-

sum and Sonia; Stephens College of Nursing Miran Sahib secured second position with students, namely Harpreet Singh, Prabhjot Kaur, Maneesha Rani and Sukhbir Kour; and Bee Enn College of Nursing, Chak Bhalwal secured third position with students namely Ekta Kotwal, Anchal Devi, Manvi Kotwal, Anchal Parihar.

Judges for the event were Dr Sanjeev Puri, Joint Director SOTTO J&K, Dr. Sanjogita Soodan, Dy. MS, SSH and Ms. Jyoti Rokri, AAO SSH Jammu.

Event was coordinated by Ms. Anshu Sharma, Consultant (Media/IEC), Irfan Ahmad Lone, Transplant Coordinator Ms. Nisha Kumari (Programme Assistant), Mr Ashwini Kumar and Mr Ashok Singh (Drivers).

Indian Army pays Tribute to Late Hony Lt Santan Singh, Vir Chakra

J1 NEWS SERVICE

RAJOURI: 17 JUL 2025

The Indian Army solemnly paid tribute to the late Hony Lt Santan Singh, Vir Chakra, who passed away on 14th July 2025. Hony Lt Santan Singh was a decorated war veteran and a proud symbol of unparalleled bravery. His courage and exceptional dedication to the nation earned him the prestigious Vir Chakra, a testament to his extraordinary service. A wreath-laying ceremony was conducted with full military honours, reflecting the deep respect and gratitude of the Indian Army for his selfless service to the nation. A Guard of Honour was presented



and wreaths were laid on behalf of the Indian Army as a mark of deep reverence for his contributions. Hony Lt Santan Singh, Vir Chakra, served the nation with unwavering commitment, demonstrating exemplary gallantry in the face of adversity. His actions in service to India remain a lasting source of inspiration for future generations of soldiers and

civilians alike. His courage under fire and undying patriotism exemplify the highest ideals of the Indian Army. The Indian Army stands in solidarity with the family of the late Hony Lt Santan Singh during this time of grief. The legacy of his bravery, honour, and patriotism will continue to inspire and guide generations to come.

MLA Sham Sharma conducts developmental tour of Janipur and Barnai areas

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 17 JULY 2025:

To take first-hand account of developmental works and civic conditions, MLA Jammu North Sham Lal Sharma conducted a detailed tour of Ward No. 37 (Janipur Colony) and Ward No. 65 (Barnai) today. The visit covered key locations including Janipur Colony, Shivalik Puram, Government Girls Middle School Janipur, Ram Leela Ground, Barnai Talab, and areas adjoining Shiv Mandir.

During the inspection, the MLA was briefed by the concerned departments about the ongoing sewerage work in Janipur, with approximately 40% completion reported. Updates were also provided regarding the status of drainage cleaning, road repairs, public sanitation, and water supply systems. In Barnai, issues like leaking PHE valves, water shortages, and pollution of the pond due to open drains were raised, while in Janipur and Shivalik Puram, problems such as blocked drains, wild vegetation, damaged roads, and uncovered Nallahs were highlighted.

Taking serious note of these issues, Sham



Lal Sharma issued on-spot directions to the concerned departments. He instructed for immediate cleaning of drains, removal of wild growth, concrete covering of open Nallahs, and repair of the steep, pothole-ridden lane near Shiv Mandir. Directions were also given for the repair of water leakage in Barnai and ensuring regular water supply to affected areas. The departments were asked to either divert or treat the wastewater entering the Barnai pond to preserve its hygiene and religious significance. Additionally, the MLA asked the concerned agencies to realign tilted electric poles, address wire entanglement, and carry out structural repairs

around the Shiv Mandir premises, including raising land levels and black-topping.

At Government Girls Middle School Janipur, the MLA stressed on maintaining proper hygiene and assured the staff of a follow-up visit. He also took note of overgrown vegetation and general mismanagement around the Water Supply Station in Janipur, instructing the concerned departments to ensure cleanliness and strict compliance with duty rosters.

During his tour, Sham Lal Sharma interacted with residents and local stakeholders, listened to their concerns, and assured them of swift redressal. He reiterated his commitment to transparent and result-

oriented governance and emphasized that field inspections are essential to ensure the timely delivery of services. He also urged departments to maintain close coordination for better and lasting civic improvements.

Sector officers from the concerned departments, including PHE, UEED, PDD, JMC, and R&B, were present during the visit and assured compliance with the instructions issued by the MLA. Also accompanying him were BJP District General Secretary Ravish Mengi, Former Councillor Ward 37 Sunita Gupta, Janipur Mandal President Sahil Gupta, Muthi-Paloura Mandal President Pankaj Pada, and Former Mandal President Suresh Khajuria

Across Jammu, Kolkata and North East: Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Sparks Innovation Drive in Youth

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 17

New ideas continue to rise, as Samsung Solve for Tomorrow roadshows reach their final stretch. From the classrooms of Kolkata and the foothills of Jammu to the pine-covered landscapes of Shillong, each stop brought forward stories of determination, empathy and innovation.

The latest phase of the roadshow touched Army Public School in Kolkata, Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST) in Jammu, and North Eastern Hill University (NEHU) in Shillong – each campus buzzing with youthful energy and a shared purpose: to solve real-world problems with real solutions.

Launched on April 29, 2025, Samsung Solve for Tomorrow is a national innovation programme that gives students across India the opportunity to build tech-based solutions using design thinking. The programme offers expert mentorship from Samsung leaders and IIT Delhi faculty, investor connects, prototyping support, and a chance to win INR 1 crore for the top four teams.

Army Public School Damana organizes Collaborative Plantation Drive



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU: 17 JUL 2025

"The Earth does not belong to us; we belong to the Earth."

In a laudable stride towards fostering ecological equilibrium and sustainable living, Chenab Brigade along with Deputy Director Forest Protection Force, J-2, Sidhra, Jammu organized a successful Plantation Drive at Army Public School Damana on 17 July 2025. Under the theme "Ek Ped Maa ke Naam", the initiative was envisioned to heighten students' awareness about the critical importance of nurturing nature and taking concrete steps towards a greener, healthier planet. The drive commenced under the sagacious leadership of the Brig Kumar Anand, Chairman APS Damana who warmly welcomed Sh. Anwar Aftab Shah, Deputy Director, Forest Protection Force, J-2, Sidhra, Jammu and Smt. Nasreen Shah. The special guests pres-

ent on the occasion were Mrs Surbhi Anand, FWO Chenab Brigade, Mrs Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana, Col Bhavy Kulshreshatha, Mrs Shalini Mathur and Akshita Anand.

The dignitaries along with enthusiastic students of classes I to VI -Syed Anwar Shah (IVA), Mihika Singh (IV B), Lakshaya (V B), Gurvansh Kumar (V C), Lavanaya (VI C), Atharva Sharma (VI D) and Sushma Parihar, PRT planted various saplings of indigenous species such as Peepal, Rudraksh, Amla, Arjun, Bel thereby contributing to the augmentation of the green cover. The saplings were planted along with the engraved name plates of the guests and students with a thought that when the students grow, so will the trees. This verdant initiative not only embellished the school premises with lush foliage but also imbued the students with an enduring sense of accountability towards Mother Nature.

In his eloquent address, Chairman APS Damana insisted that the plantation drive is not just about planting trees; it's about nurturing a culture of environmental responsibility among students. We want students to understand that every sapling planted is a commitment to the future. Sh. Anwar Aftab Shah, Deputy Director, Forest Protection Force signified the indispensable role of trees in mitigating climate change and preserving ecological equilibrium.

Mrs Pushpinder Kaur, Principal APS Damana holds that this plantation stands with its focus on sustaining the plants; to foster a culture of responsibility towards nature among students. She ensured that these saplings will surely be taken care of thereafter. The event culminated with an expression of gratitude extended to all participants and a collective resolve to perpetuate such eco-conscious undertakings in the times to come.

Gujjar-Bakerwal Conferences in Kupwara, Bandipora demand Forest Rights Act, basic amenities

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA/BANDIPORA, JULY 17

In a strong show of unity and determination, the All Jammu and Kashmir Gujjar-Bakerwal Conference held two significant gatherings on July 16th in Kupwara and 17th on Bandipora. The conferences were held under the chairmanship of Sh. Ajaz Ahmed Khan, former Minister and Chief Patron of the Conference. Hundreds of Gujjar-Bakerwal community members participated, raising their collective voice against the non-implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA) in Jammu and Kashmir and the continued neglect of their basic rights and development needs.



The participants expressed deep resentment over the delay in the implementation of the Forest Rights Act on the ground, despite its enactment for the welfare of forest-dwelling Scheduled Tribes. They urged the Union Territory administration to ensure immediate enforcement of FRA provisions to protect the land and livelihood rights of tribal communities. Speakers highlighted the deplorable condition of roads in Gujjar-Baker-

wal-dominated areas and demanded urgent attention to improve road connectivity in hilly and remote tribal belts, which remain cut off from mainstream development. Another major demand raised was the opening of Ration Depots in far-flung Gujjar-Bakerwal localities to ensure timely and accessible supply of essential commodities. The community also called for establishing schools in remote

areas and the immediate deployment of qualified teachers in already existing institutions, which suffer from chronic staff shortages. Addressing the pressing issue of rising unemployment among educated tribal youth, the speakers strongly advocated for the introduction of unemployment allowances and targeted job schemes to support the youth of the community.

Prominent voices at the conferences included Conference President Haji Mohd Yousaf Majnu, Mohd Yasin Pisswal, Mohd Sadiq, DDC Member kapwara Gulam Mustafa, Khalid badhana, yar Mohd poswal Sharafat Ali khatana; Molvi Gulam Mohi ud din Ab rehman Thekari Anwar ex SarpanchAbdulla poswal DDC member Mustfa bandipor, and several others, who passionately echoed the community's demands and reaffirmed their commitment to continue the struggle for justice and equal rights.

The conferences concluded with a unanimous resolution to intensify the movement across Jammu and Kashmir until the constitutional and developmental rights of the Gujjar-Bakerwal community are realized on the ground.

MI&FCEF mourns demise of mother of I&FC employee Shabir Ahmad Kuloo

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

The Chairman of the Mechanical Irrigation & Flood Control Employees Federation (MI&FCEF), Farooq Ahmad Khan, has expressed deep sorrow and heartfelt condolences on the sad demise of Zoonah Rehman, mother of Shabir Ahmad Kuloo, a sincere and devoted employee of the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, who passed away on 14th July 2025 at her residence in Wanabal, Rawalpora, Srinagar.

On the directions of EJAC Vice President Farooq Khan, a delegation of the Federation, led by Chief Spokesperson Farooq

Ahmad Malik, visited the bereaved family at Wanabal, Rawalpora to express solidarity and offer condolences. The delegation included Mohammad Lateef Wani, Muzaffar Hamad Bhat, Shabir Ahmad Khanday, Ghulam Ahmad Baba, Mohammad Shafi Rah, Tariq Ahmad Bhat, Manzoor Ahmad Sofi and Mohammad Ramzan Sheikh, among others, who were present on the occasion.

Zildar Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, along with Assistant Executive Engineer (AEE), City Sub-Division I&FC Sonwar, also visited the family and offered heartfelt sympathies and special prayers (dua) for the departed soul.

Among others from the Irrigation & Flood Control Department, Srinagar, who participated in the condolence visit were Aijaz Ahmad, Nisaar Ahmad Sheikh, Ghulam Hassan, Mohammad Yousuf, Insha, Saba, Fayaz Ahmad Hadpoora, Abdul Majeed Bhat and many other staff members.

The Mechanical Irrigation & Flood Control Employees Federation (MI&FCEF) stands united with Shabir Ahmad Kuloo and his family in this hour of grief. May Almighty Allah (SWT) grant the departed soul the highest place in Jannat-ul-Firdous and give the family the strength and patience to bear this irreparable loss.

Indian Army organizes Motivational Lecture on Joining Armed Forces

JI NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI: 17 JULY 2025

A motivational lecture on how to join the Armed Forces was organized by the Indian Army at Government Higher Secondary School, Samote, on 17th July 2025, aimed at encouraging the youth to consider a career in the Armed Forces. The primary objective of the talk was to inspire talented and potential students to explore opportunities within the Indian Armed Forces and to guide them in planning their careers based on their individual interests and inclinations. During the lecture, students were briefed on the selection procedures for both Officer and Other Rank positions in the Armed Forces. This initiative marks a unique step by the Army in winning



the hearts and minds of the local population, helping them understand the diverse career pathways within the military. A total of 39 staff members and students attended the motivational session. The Army's ongoing efforts to change the perception of underprivileged populations in the region are geared toward fostering sustained peace and prosperity. The local youth expressed their profound gratitude to the Indian

Army for organizing this motivational talk. They recognized the importance of the initiative in guiding them toward a brighter future and developing the skills necessary for service to the nation. This program will go a long way in the overall development of the students, providing them with valuable insights into career opportunities and instilling a sense of pride in serving the country.

Tarun Chugh slams Congress's political drama over J&K

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 17 JULY 2025:

BJP National General Secretary Tarun Chugh hit out at the Congress party for its sudden concern over Jammu & Kashmir's statehood, calling it a case of "boiling stale curry for political heat." He said, "Congress is once again trying to cook its political bread over a border state, after decades of keeping J&K trapped in boycott politics, dynastic rule, and separatist appeasement."

Chugh asserted that "only Prime Minister Narendra Modi has delivered true justice, development, and faith to the people of J&K and Ladakh. From panchayat to Lok Sabha, democratic processes have been fully restored."

Referring to the Congress letter to the Prime



Minister, Chugh said it was nothing but "a shallow stunt." He added, "The same leaders who opposed the abrogation of Article 370 are now pretending to care about statehood. PM Modi's word is not mere assurance, it is a resolute promise. At the appropriate time, full statehood will be restored."

He also slammed the Congress-NC-PDP alliance, saying, "The same parties

that turned J&K into a laboratory of corruption and separatism are now lecturing us on the Constitution. The people of India are watching, and they remember everything."

On the encounter of Jaish commander Haider, Chugh said, "This is a decisive victory for our security forces. Haider was not just a terrorist, he was a ruthless killer and a top commander of Jaish. Neutralizing him proves the Modi government's unwavering zero-tolerance policy on terrorism."

He added, "Pakistan-sponsored terror is being routed out, and every terrorist will be brought to justice. This operation sends a clear message, India doesn't show white flags, it strikes hard. This is New India, it doesn't stay silent."

Ashok Koul emphasizes grassroots mobilization in BJP Udhampur meeting



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, 17 JULY 2025:

Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir, addressed an organizational meeting of District Udhampur BJP at the party office here today.

The meeting was organized under the leadership of District President Arun Gupta and witnessed participation from prominent party leaders and grassroots workers alike.

Prominent attendees at the meeting included DDC Chairman Lal Chand, MLA R.S. Pathania, MLA Dr. Sunil Bhardwaj, DDC Vice Chairperson Juhi Manhas, district office bearers, DDC members, Mandal Presidents, Mandal General Secretaries, and Morcha Presidents, among others.

In his address, Ashok Koul emphasized the importance of internal organizational discipline and coordinated efforts to reach every household with the message of the BJP and the

achievements of the Narendra Modi-led central government. He urged party functionaries to remain active in their respective areas, maintain regular contact with the people, and gear up for upcoming organizational programs and electoral challenges.

Ashok Koul gave a briefing on the upcoming party programmes and also prompted the party leaders to share the details of the various programmes conducted in the district to commemorate the decisive 11 years of good governance under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Koul focused on the increased Pravas of party leaders in their respective areas to boost the party activities on the ground level. He lauded the efforts of the Udhampur District team for maintaining active outreach and organizational coherence during the programme. He added that the outreach activities increase the connect of masses with the party ideology.

Congress calls for Delhi Chalo, to Gherao Parliament on July 22nd



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Congress today announced a massive intensification of its struggle for statehood movement by declaring to hold protest march to Raj Bhawan in Srinagar on July 19th and to Rajbhawan Jammu on 20th July followed by Delhi Chalo Call on 21st for Parliament Gherao / March on 22nd July in New Delhi.

Addressing a crowded Press conference here today, JKPC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra, announced the schedule of protests to intensify the statehood movement of the party in the wake of letter of the Congress President and LOP in Rajya Sabha Shri Malikaarjun Kharge and LOP Lok Sabha Shri Rahul Gandhi to the Prime Minister seeking presentation of bill for restoration of statehood in the Monsoon session itself for the restoration of complete statehood.

Expressing gratitude to the Congress President and LOP Lok Sabha for raising the demand of the people of J&K with the Prime Minister for fulfilling the overdue promise with the people, Shri Karra said that party shall organize a march to Raj Bhawan at Srinagar on July 19th and another march in Jammu to Rajbhawan on July 20th and undertake a journey through buses to Delhi on 21st to hold a protest Dharna and March to Parliament on July 22nd.

Flanked by Senior congress leaders Shri Raman Bhalla, Ch. Lal Singh, Mula Ram, Th. Balwan Singh, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Th. Balbir Singh and others Shri Karra said that for nine months past Assembly elections, congress party is carrying on the mission "Hamari Riyasat, Hamar Haq" as it is the basic right of our people as dual control system is worst, as reflected in the incident of manhandling of Chief Minister on July 14. He said that our

state was disbanded and downgraded into UT arbitrarily and undemocratically on August 5, 2019 and it is almost six years now but the people are deprived of this right and identity

He said that we shall press for the presentation & passing of the bill in this session of Parliament for the restoration of complete statehood and sought the cooperation of all walks of people for the most important and legitimate demand of people of Jammu and Kashmir.

PCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra shall himself lead the Delhi Chalo programme in the buses to move from Jammu on July 21st afternoon. The senior leaders, former Ministers/MLAs/Ex-Legislators, DFCC Presidents and other important leaders shall take part in this Yatra. He said that Congress movement for statehood has the full backing & support of entire INDIA Block MPs numbering 233 MPs.

CBC organizes Orientation Programme for Empanelled Cultural Troupes and Artists in Srinagar

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

The Central Bureau of Communication, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Regional Office J&K, today organised a day-long orientation programme for empanelled cultural troupes and individual artists. The event was held at the Conference Hall of the Chief Commissioner of Income Tax Office, Rajbagh, Srinagar.

The objective of the orientation was to familiarise artists with various aspects of public communication and to strengthen their role in CBC's outreach initiatives aimed at promoting central government schemes and welfare programmes across Jammu and Kashmir.

Shri Vikram Sahay, Chief Commissioner of Income Tax for UTs of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, graced the occasion as Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasised the power of traditional communication tools, saying "traditional communication remains one of the most powerful tools to connect with the masses. Local artists and their art forms carry a natural resonance with the community, making messaging



more impactful."

Shri Sahay, who previously served as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, lauded the Ministry's consistent efforts to enhance outreach in the region. He further suggested that other than raising awareness about government schemes, CBC, through its empanelled Cultural Troupes, should also raise awareness about various social evils such as drug abuse, adding these art forms have a significant positive impact on the ground.

Shri Ghulam Abbas, Director, CBC J&K said the orientation was part of a broader strategy to equip artists with the necessary knowledge to create impactful, meaningful content that resonates with local audiences. He said that CBC will organise a large number of outreach programmes across J&K to

raise awareness about various government schemes and other welfare initiatives.

Senior Programme Executive at Doordarshan Srinagar, Talha Jehangir, conducted a technical session as the programme's resource person. Stressing that "content is king," he underscored the importance of a strong script and authenticity in performance. He praised CBC for organising such programmes, noting their vital role in helping artists understand the finer nuances of infotainment and public messaging.

Field Publicity Officers Shahid Mohammad Lone and Naseer Rather also addressed the gathering, shedding light on the contributions of cultural troupes and traditional art forms in spreading awareness about government schemes and combating social evils.

PWD promotes 20 AEEs as Incharge Executive Engineers

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

In a significant administrative development, the Public Works (R&B) Department today ordered placement of 20 Assistant Executive Engineers and Incharge Assistant Executive Engineers (Mechanical) as Incharge Executive Engineers.

This long-pending placement has been made after considerable delay and was expedited due to the personal intervention of Deputy Chief Minister, Surinder Choudhary, who has been consistently advocating for timely career progression and addressing stagnation in the department.

Congratulating the promotees, the Deputy Chief Minister said that

this move is expected to streamline the departmental functioning and bring greater efficiency and accountability in the mechanical engineering wing of the PWD (R&B).

He expressed confidence that the elevated officers will contribute effectively in their new roles and uphold the spirit of service delivery and infrastructure development in Jammu and Kashmir.

The Jammu and Kashmir Engineering fraternity extends heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and special thanks to Deputy Chief Minister, who is also PWD (R&B) Minister for their continued efforts in strengthening the engineering cadre.

ASCOMS Jammu doctor recommends booster doses for children aged 4-6 before school admissions

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

As India advances in childhood immunization, experts urge parents and healthcare providers not to overlook a critical window in child's vaccine schedule, the booster dose of Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis & Polio at school entry age.

While primary vaccination during infancy provides early protection, scientific evidence shows that immunity to diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and polio diminishes over time. If children don't get timely booster shots, they could be at risk of serious diseases, especially when they start going to school and interacting with more people.

The Indian National Immunization Program (NIP) recommends a DTP vaccination at 6, 10, and 14 weeks of age, followed by a booster at 16-24 months, and 2 fractional doses of polio at 6 and 14 weeks of age. However, by the time a child reaches 4-6 years of age, protective antibody levels decline, making them susceptible to infection and potential outbreaks.

"School age is an ideal time to strengthen a child's immune protection through booster doses," says Dr Vikas Mahajan, Associate Professor, Dept. of Pediatrics ASCOMS, Jammu. "At this stage,

children begin participating in group learning, physical activities, and shared environments, which makes timely vaccination an important part of their overall readiness."

The IAP recommends the use of modern combination vaccines, which offer protection against multiple infections with a single dose. These are especially beneficial during school years, where the risk of transmission is higher, and are essential in upholding major public health achievements such as India's polio-free certification.

"Administering boosters between 4 and 6 years helps ensure that children stay healthy and active during their early school years. It supports continuous development, fewer disruptions in learning, and greater confidence for both children and their families," adds Dr. Vikas Mahajan.

As more people learn about the importance of vaccines, many schools are helping by asking for updated health and vaccination records. Vaccination isn't just a one-time task—it's something we need to keep up with to stay healthy. Make sure your child is fully protected before starting school. It's one of the best ways to keep them safe and build a healthier future for everyone.

Rangyug's SIP- 2025 concludes with vibrant performances



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

The Second Edition of the Summer Internship Programme (SIP 2025), organised by Rangyug Performing Arts Foundation, came to a meaningful conclusion today after 60 hours of intensive creative engagement.

The programme, specially designed for the students of GCW Parade Ground and PSPS GCW Gandhi Nagar, aimed to empower young women through the performing arts. It offered a wide array of sessions that nurtured expression, confidence, and artistic skills.

At the concluding ceremony, the students showcased a vibrant array of performances, including solo acts, group songs, and a specially devised theatrical performance, "Meri Awaaz"—all created during the internship. Their presentations mesmerised the audience and beautifully reflected their learning, creativity, and growth throughout the programme.

The Chief Guest on the occasion, Dr. Ravender Kumar Tickoo, Nodal Principal, All Colleges of Jammu Division, applauded the initiative and said that the enriching internship programme, initiated by Rangyug, has added a

new dimension to student development. Facilitating this meaningful experience reflects our commitment to NEP 2020's vision of holistic and multidisciplinary education. Rangyug's creative leadership, professionalism, and dedication to empowering young minds through the arts have made a lasting impact. Such collaborations foster creativity, confidence, and practical exposure while enhancing real-world readiness among young women learners.

In his remarks, Deepak Kumar, Director, Rangyug, said, "This internship was about unlocking creative potential and nurturing discipline. Rangyug has always believed in the transformative power of the arts—not just for skill-building, but for self-realisation and social change. Our aim is to foster creativity, critical thinking, and leadership through theatre, music, dance, and cultural expression. The confidence and growth shown by these young learners is truly inspiring."

Over the course of the internship, students engaged in a range of disciplines including theatre, music, dance, yoga, competing, lyrics, and studio production. From theatre games, diction and voice training to Kathak basics

and hands-on music recording, the curriculum fostered self-expression, creativity, and collaborative learning.

Mentors who guided the participants through this journey included eminent names like Deepak Kumar, Ashutosh Sharma, Pankaj Pradhan, Vicky Gill, Parshottam Kumar, Madhvi Sharma, Mohit Sharma & party, S. Amarjeet Singh, Narinder Sharma, Dr. Priya Dutta, and Shivan Gupta, among others. The SIP programme was coordinated by Ashish Sharma.

The participants themselves expressed their heartfelt appreciation. One student shared, "This internship helped me discover a new side of myself. I now feel more confident on stage and in life." Another added, "Learning directly from professionals in real studio setups and performance spaces was a dream come true."

As a mark of their successful completion, certificates were distributed to all the students who participated in SIP 2025.

Strengthening party crucial for nation and its people: Sat Sharma



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 17 JULY 2025:

Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP emphasized the importance of robust coordination among all wings of the party, stating that the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir has grown up very fast and the credit for its popularity in the entire length and breadth of the UT goes to the united efforts of its cadre.

Sat Sharma was interacting with the party activists from different districts of the J&K at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu.

BJP headquarter Incharge & former Minister Priya Sethi, former MLA Ashwani Sharma, Rashpal Verma, Prabhat Singh Jamwal, Tilak Raj Gupta, Rakesh Mahajan, Balbir Ram Rattan, Dr. Pardeep Mahotra, Sanjita Dogra, Kulbhushan Mohtra, Ankit Gupta, Updesh Andotra, Parduman Singh, HR Loria, Vikrant Gupta, Sanjay

Sharma, Jaideep Sambyal, Ishant Mahajan, Gulshan Bhagat, and others were present on the occasion.

During this interaction, the discussions upon the current organizational activities, future strategies, and strengthening of the party structure at the grassroots level were made.

Sat Sharma emphasized the importance of robust coordination among all wings of the party to ensure the smooth functioning of organizational activities. He stated that the BJP stands committed to reaching out to every section of society and called upon the cadre to work with greater dedication in view of the upcoming organizational and electoral challenges.

"Strengthening our party structure is crucial for the nation and its people also because it serves as a bridge between the people and the government, enabling better

understanding of the welfare and development schemes. It also enhances democratic representation and accountability", said Sat Sharma.

During the interaction, Sharma reviewed the progress of ongoing party campaigns and outreach programmes across different districts of Jammu & Kashmir. He laid particular stress on booth-level management and the need to activate all party units to strengthen the BJP's presence at every polling booth.

Highlighting the achievements of the Modi government, Sat Sharma urged the leaders to communicate the central government's welfare schemes and developmental milestones to the common people. He said the party's strength lies in its disciplined cadre and its connection with the masses, and both must be continuously reinforced.

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

e-mail : xenpwwdivgandhinagar@gmail.com

SHORT NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Short e-NIT No. DGN/38of 2025-26 Dated 15-07-2025

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

S. No	Name of Work	Name of Division	Advertised Cost (' in Lacs)	Cost of document (in `)	Earnest Money (in `)	Time Allowed for complete-on	Time and date of opening of tender	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1	Road marking using Hot Thermoplastic Paint for Zebra Crossing and Stop Line on various roads Gandhi Nagar, Jammu (Under Road Safety Measures)	PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar	1.48	600	2960 (2% of the Advertised Cost)	01 Month	(1200 Hrs) on or after 23-07-2025	"A", "B", "C" & "D" Class

Position of AAA :- Accorded by District Development Commissioner Jammu vide order No. 104-DDC.J of 2025 dated 23-05-2025 amounting to `3.00 Lacs.

Position of TS :- Sanctioned by this office vide order No. 46/PWD Div. Gandhi Nagar/2025-26 dated 15-07-2025.

Project Authority :- District Development Commissioner Jammu.

Major Head of Account :- Under Road Safety Measures.

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	15-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 15-07-2025 to 22-07-2025, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting	18-07-2025 at 1300 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
4	Bid submission Start Date	15-07-2025
5	Bid Submission End Date	22-07-2025 upto 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	23-07-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed

1. Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, e-NIT No. and name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu and upload the same i.e treasury challan/receipt, Earnest money/Bid security in shape of CDR/FDR/BG pledged to Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu. The CDR/FDR/BG shall be valid for 45 Days beyond the bid validity period. The original instruments in respect of cost of documents, EMD and relevant documents of L1 be submitted to the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division Gandhi Nagar Jammu at the time of allotment.

Sd ..
(Er. Rahat Gupta)
Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Gandhi Nagar

DIP/J-3569/25
Date: 17-7-25

UNION TERRITORY OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER JAL SHAKTI (M) GROUND WATER DRILLING DIVISION JAMMU

e-NIT NO. GWD/39 of 2025-26 DATED 16.07.2025

On behalf of the Lt. Governor, UT of J&K, the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu invites tenders by e-tendering mode from reputed and registered firms who have sufficient experience in the field of below mentioned repair / replacement works:-

Name of the Work	Name of the Division	Cost of Tender Document/Tender Fee (In Rs)	Earnest Money	Validity of Tender
Annual Rate Contract for Repair / replacement of worn out parts / components of India Mark-II Hand Pumps in Doda, Ramban and Kishtwar District	Jal Shakti (M) Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu	1000.00 in the shape of Demand Draft in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. GWD Div. Jammu (Non-Refundable) or treasury challan deposited in Govt. Treasury in MH-PHE215	Rs.25000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR pledged to Executive Engineer Mech. GWD Division Jammu	31st March 2026 (or till maturing of the next e-NIT)

- Tenders documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 16.07.2025 to 29.07.2025.
- The pre bid meeting if desired, shall be held in the office of the Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Rural Circle Jammu on 17.07.2025.
- The Bids shall be uploaded on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 18.07.2025 to 29.07.2025.
- The complete bidding process shall be online and scanned copies of the following documents will have to be uploaded before due date:-
 - Copy of treasury e-Challan / receipt for Rs.1000.00 against the cost of tender document under the receipt Head 0215 in favour of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Ground Water Drilling Division Jammu indicating name of work to be executed.
 - Copies of tender documents, terms and conditions duly signed and stamped (each page) by bidder.
 - Self attested photocopy of GST Registration from competent authority
 - Self attested photocopy of PAN Card.
 - Registration certificate with D.I.C if registered.
 - EMD documents (CDR)
 - Last three years ITR.
 - The firms/bidders/contractors should have sufficient experience in repair and maintenance / installation, testing and commissioning of pumping machinery such as hand pump, HC Pumps, Submersible Pumps, lowering and extraction of submersible pump sets of any capacity or any mechanical nature of govt. work.
- The cover - I i.e. Technical Bids of the tenders shall be opened online in the office Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Rural Circle Jammu on 31.07.2025 or any other working day convenient to tender opening authority.
- The Cover - II i.e. Financial Bids of the firms who qualify in Cover - I shall also be opened online in the office of the Superintending Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Rural Circle Jammu during office hours or some other working day convenient to tender opening authority.
- Other details can be seen in the detailed tender document.
- AAA Nos JSPHE/MC(R)/J/09 of 2025-26 Dated 03.05.2025.

No GWD/2012-14
Dated: 16.07.2025

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Jal Shakti (M) GWD Division
Jammu

DIP/J-3589/25
Date: 17-7-25

Bhalla lambasts authorities for failing to provide basic amenities, accuses BJP of betraying people of Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Working President of Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee and former Minister Raman Bhalla came down heavily on the authorities on Wednesday, accusing them of gross negligence and failure to provide even the most basic civic amenities to the people, particularly those living in economically weaker sections of society.

During an extensive tour of Kalika Colony, Qasim Nagar, and Rajeev Nagar, Bhalla met with distressed residents and listened to their long-pending grievances, including issues related to the ongoing demolition drive against poor people, irregular water supply, frequent electricity outages, broken roads, clogged drains, and lack of access to proper healthcare and sanitation.

He lambasted the inhuman attitude of the authorities for launching the demolition drive in the

areas inhabited by the poor and marginalized section of society. The former Minister reminded the authorities that the residents of these areas were rehabilitated in this belt from the Prem Nagar area during the widening of the road.

"Before demolishing the houses of the poor people, authorities must realize these helpless people have been living in Jammu for decades", he said.

Expressing anguish over their plight, Bhalla said it was deeply unfortunate that citizens continue to suffer while those in power remain apathetic and unresponsive.

"The day-to-day lives of people have become a struggle for survival. There's no drinking water, no proper drainage system, and no consistent electricity. Roads are broken, garbage is piling up, and healthcare services are virtually non-existent in these areas. This speaks volumes about the government's failure on all fronts," Bhalla said while interacting with



locals.

Bhalla asserted that instead of providing relief to the poor, the administration was compounding their miseries through inaction and indifference.

"It seems the people of Jammu have been left to fend for themselves. The tall promises made by the

ruling BJP have proven to be nothing more than hollow slogans," he added.

He expressed dismay over the rising public frustration and said that the situation was worsening with each passing day.

"What is most painful is the non-serious attitude of the government.

Despite repeated pleas, protests, and delegations, the authorities have failed to take concrete steps to improve the living conditions of the common people. This is administrative failure of the highest order," he said.

Turning his ire towards the BJP's elected representatives from Jammu, Bhalla accused them of betraying the trust of the people. "The BJP has completely abandoned the people of Jammu after securing votes. Their leaders have gone missing from the ground and have done nothing to redress public grievances. They are more interested in serving their political masters in Delhi than the people who elected them," he charged.

Bhalla said the BJP's indifference has created a deep sense of disillusionment and alienation among the people. "The very regions that stood behind BJP during elections are now being ignored and neglected. This is nothing short of a betrayal," he said.

He also criticized the administration for its "bureaucratic arrogance" and the widening disconnect between officials and the people. "The bureaucratic machinery has become unaccountable. There is no transparency, no coordination, and no responsiveness. Files move at a snail's pace, if at all. The poor are being pushed to the margins," Bhalla remarked.

He reiterated that the Congress Party will continue to raise the voice of the voiceless and stand shoulder to shoulder with the people. "Our fight is not for power, but for justice, dignity, and the basic rights of our people. The Congress will expose every lie, every betrayal, and every act of neglect by this government," he concluded.

Mr Raman Bhalla was accompanied by Satish Sharma former general secretary of the JKPC, Latish Sharma, block president, Dewan Chand, Mangat Ram, Paras Ram, Sanjeev Katal and others.

Airtel partners with Perplexity, powers every single of its 360mn customers with Perplexity Pro

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Bharti Airtel has partnered with Perplexity, to offer 12-month Perplexity Pro subscription free of cost to all its 360mn customers.

Perplexity is an AI-powered search and answer engine that offers real-time, accurate and deeply researched responses to users in a conversational language. It elevates a customer's search from listing of web pages to an easy-to-read answer, which can be iterated with the self-learning AI-tool for the precise outcome the user needs.

Perplexity has a free offering, which offers powerful search functions, while the Pro version provides enhanced capabilities for professionals and heavy users. Perplexity Pro includes more daily Pro searches per user, access to advanced AI models (e.g., GPT 4.1, Claude) and the ability to select specific models, deep research, image generation, file uploads and analysis, as well as Perplexity Labs, a unique tool that brings ideas to life. Perplexity Pro is priced globally at *INR 17000 for a year.

This Pro subscription, worth *Rs. 17000, is now available for free, for all Airtel customers (Mobile, Wi-Fi and DTH) for one year. This marks Perplexity's first partnership with an Indian telecom company. All Airtel users can avail this offer by logging on to the Airtel Thanks App.

Commenting on the partnership, Gopal Vittal, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Bharti Airtel said, "We're thrilled to announce a game-changing partnership with Perplexity, bringing their cutting-edge AI capabilities

exclusively for Airtel customers. This collaboration will bring the powerful and real-time knowledge tool for millions of users at their fingertips, at no extra cost. This first of its kind Gen-AI partnership in India is focused on helping our customers navigate the emerging trends in the digital world with confidence and ease."

Aravind Srinivas - Cofounder, CEO - Perplexity said "This partnership is an exciting way to make accurate, trustworthy, and professional-grade AI accessible to more people in India—whether a student, working professional, or managing a household. With Perplexity Pro, users get a smarter, easier way to find information, learn, and get more done."

To illustrate the power of this game-changing partnership, take for instance a student from Rajkot. Perplexity Pro can provide processes of legitimate research on the web, learning and collaboration and help organize content logically and easy-to-understand manner, thereby helping him uphold academic standards of excellence. For a homemaker residing in Kanyakumari, Perplexity can serve as an assistant delivering quick and precise responses for daily activities, foster creativity and informed decision-making; all through a user-friendly interface. For a busy professional, planning a family vacation to a new destination, Perplexity Pro can build the itinerary based on time, specified budgets and must-cover activities given by the user in a matter of few seconds. The boost in productivity, and elimination of stress for its users is a benefit one can only realize after trying this tool.

Jasrotia lays foundation stone for Block Public Health Unit at PHC Dinga Amb

JI NEWS SERVICE
JASROTA, JULY 17

In a significant development for the healthcare sector in the region, MLA Jasrotia Rajiv Jasrotia today laid the foundation stone for a Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) worth Rs 40 lakh, an extension of PHC Dinga Amb. The ceremony was attended by CMO Kathua, BMO Hiranagar, and Tehsildar Dinga Amb. Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia said the BPHU will provide essential healthcare services to the local community, enhancing access to quality medical care. He said recently, 4.8 kanal revenue land was identified and officially transferred to PHC Dinga Amb for this health infrastructure project. Commitment to Public Health: The initiative is a significant step towards improving public health services in the region, demonstrating the government's commitment to enhancing healthcare facilities.

"I am pleased to lay the



foundation stone for the Block Public Health Unit (BPHU) at PHC Dinga Amb. This initiative is a significant step towards improving public health services in our region. I commend the efforts of CMO Kathua, BMO Hiranagar, and Tehsildar Dinga Amb for their tireless efforts in making this project a reality. This BPHU is a testament to our government's commitment to enhancing healthcare facilities and improving the health and well-being of our citizens. I am confident that this facility will make a positive impact on the lives of our people, and I look forward to its successful completion, said Jasrotia."

Unit (BPHU) at PHC Dinga Amb will provide essential healthcare services to our community, and I am committed to ensuring its successful implementation. He also thanked CMO Kathua, BMO Hiranagar, and Tehsildar Dinga Amb for their tireless efforts in making this project a reality. This BPHU is a testament to our government's commitment to enhancing healthcare facilities and improving the health and well-being of our citizens. I am confident that this facility will make a positive impact on the lives of our people, and I look forward to its successful completion, said Jasrotia."

Shrine Board, CGPWA collaborative green effort at Vaishnavi Vatika Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATRA, JULY 17

In a significant step towards environmental conservation, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB) and the Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association (CGPWA), Jammu had joined hands in 2024 to foster eco-protection and sustainable practices in the local community.

With the onset of the monsoon season this year, SMVDSB and CGPWA have once again come together to offer various plant species to public through the 'Vaishnavi Vatika' Plant Sale Counter at Vaishnavi Dham, Rail Head Complex, Jammu, inaugurated last year by the Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB. This initiative exemplifies a successful institutional partnership and community engagement in environmental conservation.

The Plant Sale Counter offers a diverse selection of around 28 indigenous plant species, meticulously nurtured and cultivated in the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board's high-tech nursery situated in village Kunia, Panthal near Katra. These native plant species, well-suited to the local climate, ecosystem



and are available for purchase, enabling individuals to contribute to environmental conservation and sustainability efforts.

The Chief Executive Officer, SMVDSB, Anshul Garg highlighted the Shrine Board's pioneering eco-friendly initiatives under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Lt. Governor JK-UT including encompassing greening efforts, waste and water management and solar power generation. He exhorted that the Board has leveraged drone technology for seed dispersal to preserve the Shrine's natural grandeur and planted over 1.7 million saplings under the Annual Green Plan. Furthermore, the collaboration with CGPWA has amplified awareness on eco-protection and promotes sustainable practices in the local community, leveraging their extensive

network and outreach capabilities, he added.

Dr. Ashok Bhan, Member, SMVDSB and CGPWA, underscored the significance of environmental conservation, affirming the organization's commitment to supporting SMVDSB's eco-friendly initiatives.

At the event, Additional CEO, SMVDSB, Alok Kumar Maurya, joined by prominent CGPWA members, including BR Sharma, Kuldeep Khoda, KB Jandyal, Dr CM Seth, Ashwani Gupta, Opinder Pachnanda, Subash Chander Sharma alongwith ACF and other Shrine Board officials, ceremoniously planted diverse saplings at Vaishnavi Dham. The event also featured the distribution of various plant species to participants, encouraging community participation in sustainability initiatives.

Mahant Piyush Ji appointed as Vice-President of Sadhu Dharam Sathan Surakshani

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Today, a significant meeting of the Sadhu dharam Sathan Surakshani Samiti President was held in Jammu under the leadership of Mahant Shri Datt Giri Ji Maharaj. The meeting was attended by several prominent spiritual leaders, including the committee's Shri Ramashwar Giri Ji Maharaj, Mahant Swami Harish Anand Giri Ji Maharaj, Mahant Shri Subhash Shah Ji, and Mahant Rahul Giri Ji.

The gathering focused on discussing the challenges and issues faced by various mathas and temples in the region. It was resolved that the Samiti would actively



visit different religious sites to assess their security, interact with resident saints, and address their problems by bringing them to light.

In a key decision, Mahant Piyush Ji Maharaj of Akhand Parm Dham Navnath Ashram was appointed as the Vice President of the Samiti. His appointment was welcomed with enthusiasm

by the attending members.

Expressing his gratitude, Mahant Piyush Ji Maharaj thanked Mahant Datt Giri Ji Maharaj for the trust placed in him. He assured the gathering that he would wholeheartedly support and contribute to the mission of the Samiti in collaboration with all associated religious leaders.

Indian Army responds Swiftly to Assist Amarnath Yatris Stranded due to Landslide, Heavy Rains

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, 17 JUL 2025

Amidst continuing inclement weather in the higher reaches of Jammu & Kashmir, the Indian Army has once again displayed its unwavering commitment to safeguarding the lives of Amarnath Yatris. On the evening of 16 July 2025, at approximately 1915 hrs, persistent rainfall triggered a landslide at Z Morh, between Rayalpathri and Brarimarg, resulting in the halting of Yatra movement and stranding a large number of pilgrims. In immediate response,



the Army detachment deployed at Brarimarg swung into action. Around 500 Yatris stranded in the area were accommodated in tents and provided with tea and drinking water.

Additionally, another 3000 pilgrims found refuge in langars located between Brarimarg and Z Morh, which offered essential shelter and sustenance.

SMVDU achieves NPTEL "A" Ranking, Recognized Among Top 100 Technical Institutions in India



JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Under the visionary leadership of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and in alignment with the National Education Policy (NEP) implementation at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), the university has earned an "A" ranking from NPTEL, placing it among the top 80-100 technical institutions across the country. This prestigious recognition reflects the academic excellence and collaborative efforts of SMVDU's faculty and students.

The award was received by Prof. Amit Kant Pandit, Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for NPTEL at SMVDU, during the NPTEL North Zone SPOC Felicitation Workshop held on July 12, 2025, at IIT Kanpur. Prof. Pandit lauded the consistent dedication of SMVDU's students and faculty, which led to this commendable achievement. He also

announced that SMVDU has once again secured an "A" grade for the January-May 2025 session in the NPTEL Local Chapter evaluations. In recognition of his sustained contributions and active engagement as SPOC, Prof. Pandit was felicitated during the workshop with a certificate of appreciation.

Looking ahead, Prof. Pandit outlined new initiatives aimed at deepening the integration of NEP through Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs). Expressing optimism about SMVDU's future trajectory, he stated his aspiration for the university to enter the elite group of top 20 institutions (A+++) with distinguished performance in upcoming sessions. He extended his sincere gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for unwavering support in promoting NEP-aligned educational strategies and fostering a culture of digital and lifelong learning at SMVDU.

DC Samba reviews arrangements for celebration of Independence Day-2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 17

Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma today chaired a meeting of line departments here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review and finalize the necessary arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day-2025.

The meeting was informed that the main district-level function will be organized at Rani Suchet Singh Stadium, while similar commemorative functions shall be held at the Sub-Division, Tehsil, and Block levels under the supervision of the respective local administrations.

Speaking at the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner impressed upon all district and sectoral officers to ensure their



personal presence along with subordinate staff at their respective venues on Independence Day. He further laid emphasis on meticulous planning and inter-departmental coordination to ensure a smooth and dignified conduct of the celebrations.

A comprehensive discussion was held on all logistical aspects of the event including flag hoisting, ceremonial parade, cultural presentations, stage and seating arrangements, venue decoration,

and refreshment logistics. The Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of foolproof security arrangements and directed the concerned departments to ensure the provision of drinking water, uninterrupted power supply, sanitation, first aid, and adequate transport and traffic regulation.

The illumination of prominent government buildings, deployment of fire tenders, and distribution of invitation cards

also came under review during the meeting. Responsibilities for specific arrangements were duly allocated to respective departments, while the already notified committees were instructed to monitor and expedite the execution of assigned tasks under their domains.

The meeting was attended by SSP Virender Singh Manhas; ADDC Champa Devi Thakur and other officers of the district administration.

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Responsibilities for specific arrangements were duly allocated to respective departments, while the already notified committees were instructed to monitor and expedite the execution of assigned tasks under their domains.

The meeting was attended by SSP Virender Singh Manhas; ADDC Champa Devi Thakur and other officers of the district administration.

Satish Sharma reaffirms government's commitment to public welfare

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

In a series of public outreach interactions, Minister for Food, Civil Supplies & Consumer Affairs, Transport Youth Services & Sports, IT, Science and Technology, Satish Sharma, today met with multiple delegations from across Jammu and Kashmir.

These included retired employees of JKRTC, National Youth Corps (NYC) volunteers and several public deputations from various districts.

The meetings highlighted the government's responsive approach towards the concerns of various segments of society.

A delegation from the Retired Works Union of JKRTC called upon the Minister and submitted a



memorandum requesting release of long-pending Cost of Living Allowance (COLA) and 6th Pay Commission arrears. The representatives highlighted that although Order No. GMC/PS/81 dated 16.06.2021 had been issued by the department to facilitate identification and fund allotment, no action or fund release has been taken, so far.

The delegation expressed distress over the prolonged delay,

citing that most affected retirees were non-pensionable employees of the erstwhile Government Transport Undertaking (GTU) and are facing serious financial hardships.

Satish Sharma, while assuring full support, stated "the government stands committed to the welfare and dignity of our retired workforce. We acknowledge their years of dedicated service and will take up their case with the concerned on priority."

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Channi Himmat and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 19 from 6 am to 10 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Bari Brahmana, EPIP Kartholi, Industrial Area Bari Brahmana and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 20 from 6 am to 12 noon.

Meanwhile, the Superintending Engineer (Distribution), JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Sarore and its adjoining areas will remain affected on July 18 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Vijaypur 2nd and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 18 and 21 from 7 am to 11 am.

One day sensitization programme held at J&K Judicial Academy Srinagar

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

A one day special training programme on 'Civil Services Regulations (CSR); Execution of Warrants, Carrying Out Attachments, Sale & Other Official Duties for Executing Orders of the Execution Court' was organized today at J&K Judicial Academy, Mominabad, Srinagar, for Accounts Officers and Nazirs of various courts of Kashmir Province and the Union Territory of Ladakh and of the High Court.

The training was organized under the patronage of Justice Arun Kumar Pali, Hon'ble the Chief Justice, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh (Patron-in-Chief, J&K Judicial Academy),



and under the guidance of the Chairperson and members of the Governing Committee of the J&K Judicial Academy.

The programme was designed to enhance the understanding of procedural and regulatory responsibilities among court and administrative staff involved in executing court orders and handling service-related matters under CSR.

Director, J&K Judicial Academy, Sonia Gupta

introduced the objectives of the training.

The technical session was conducted by Rajiv Gupta, Registrar Vigilance, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh and Khem Raj Sharma, Registrar Rules, High Court of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.

They explained the processes involved in the execution of warrants, attachment and sale procedures, and other duties associated with the execu-

tion of court orders. They also outlined practical scenarios and responded to participant queries to ensure operational clarity.

The session encompassed a detailed overview of the relevant legal provisions under the Code of Civil Procedure (CPC) that govern execution proceedings. Sharma highlighted the importance of adhering strictly to procedural requirements to avoid legal challenges and ensure the enforceability of execution actions.

The second session was conducted by G. M. Wani, Accounts Officer, who focused on key CSR provisions including Leave Rules, Pension Rules, and regulations around Joining Time. He also delved into TA Rules, Pay Fixation procedures, and the

correct maintenance of Service Books.

Participants were briefed on common lapses and best practices in handling service records and entitlements.

The day concluded with an interactive session, during which attendees shared feedback, raised queries, and engaged in a discussion on challenges they face in implementation of the covered topics. The resource persons responded to all questions and guided staff on compliance and updates in rules.

The programme was marked by active participation and a practical, hands-on learning atmosphere, reinforcing the role of administrative training in efficient judicial functioning.

One-day seminar on procurement & marketing support scheme for Artisans/Weavers held at Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 17

In a significant initiative aimed at empowering local artisans and weavers, the Ministry of Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises, Development and Facilitation Office, Jammu, in collaboration with the District Administration Udhampur and the Directorate of Handicrafts & Handloom, Jammu, organized a one-day seminar-cum-awareness programme on the procurement and marketing support scheme.

The event was held in the Conference Hall, DC Office Complex.

The programme was attended by Chief Planning Officer Uttam Singh, General Manager DIC Kishore Singh Katoch, Assistant Directors (IEDS)



Rajesh Kumar Tyagi, Assistant Director (Handloom) Ujwal Sambyal, and Assistant Director (Handicrafts) Subash Chander Sharma.

The MSME-DFO team delivered an informative PowerPoint presentation outlining various government schemes available to artisans and micro-entrepreneurs.

Assistant Directors emphasized that the pri-

mary goal of the seminar was to educate and empower artisans by connecting them with key welfare programmes and support mechanisms.

Officers from MSME, DIC, Handicrafts and Handloom departments shared valuable insights on modern production techniques, marketing strategies, and business development opportunities.

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for celebration of Independence Day-2025 in Jammu Division

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 17

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti today chaired a high-level meeting to review the preparations for the Independence Day celebrations across the Jammu Division.

The meeting was attended by senior officers from the Police, CRPF, BSF, Deputy Commissioners, SSPs, Managing Director JPDCL, Heads of different Departments and representatives from executing agencies.

At the outset, the Divisional Commissioner highlighted the significance of celebrating the national festival with active public participation and administration at Division, Districts, Sub-divisions and Tehsils levels, while ensuring comprehensive security and logistical arrangements.

The meeting focused on the Divisional level event to be held at M A Stadium, Jammu. Detailed discussions were held on key aspects including barricading, seating arrangements, parking, traffic regulation, illumination of offices and key locations, uninter-



rupted power and water supply, security deployment, sanitation, health-care facilities, participation of contingents and cultural performances.

The Sports Council and Public Works Department was directed to start the repair and renovation works inside the M A Stadium, while the Hospital-ity department was asked to install waterproof tents and an adequate number of chairs for seating.

The MD JPDCL was asked to take measures for the illumination of identified buildings and rotaries around the City, besides ensuring uninterrupted power supply at the main venue.

The Director Health Services was directed to ensure availability of ALS ambulances and medical

staff.

The Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) was directed to maintain cleanliness in and around the stadium. The SRTC will provide buses for ferrying participants and the public to the venue.

To ensure smooth execution of arrangements, the Divisional Commissioner directed all departments to nominate nodal officers for coordination. He further asked for establishing a dedicated control room at the venue with representatives from concerned departments.

The Deputy Commissioner Jammu was asked to oversee timely publication of invitation cards and constitute a selection committee to finalize the cultural activities to be presented on the Day.

It was informed that this year's Parade will include contingents from BSF, CRPF, SSB, JKP, JKAP, IRP, SDRF, JKPFPE, JKPFES, NCC and school students along with pipe and brass bands of BSF, JKP and Schools.

The Information Department will install the Public Address System, while the Floriculture Department will provide floral decorations. The Jal Shakti Department will ensure adequate drinking water supply.

Discussions were also held on preparing a meticulous Traffic regulation plan, designating routes and buses at identified spots for the public to reach the venue without any hassle.

The Divisional Commissioner further directed the District Administrations to make foolproof arrangements in their respective districts for celebrations of Independence Day 2025. The HoDs of all Government departments were asked to hoist the Tricolour at their respective buildings.

The IGP Jammu directed for the deployment of adequate security personnel at all venues and to ensure smooth traffic flow during the celebrations.

DC Srinagar inspects progress of restoration/ renovation works on Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA), Aali Masjid Eidgah

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Srinagar, Akshay Labroo conducted an on-site inspection of the ongoing restoration/renovation works on the Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA) at Khawaja Bazar and historic Aali Masjid at Eidgah being executed under the Preservation of Heritage Scheme of the Government to preserve the rich cultural and architectural heritage in the district.

At Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA) at Khawaja Bazar Nowhatta in Shahr-e-Khaas area of the district, DC took on spot review of the Rs 3.37 crore project for renovation, restoration and development of Khanqah on heritage pattern.

On the occasion, DC said that the project is of significant heritage importance, aiming to preserve and restore historical architectural aesthetics of centuries old Khanqah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA), a spiritual and architectural landmark in the Shahr-e-Khaas area of Srinagar district.

The DC was given a



detailed appraisal of the works taken up as per approved DPR for restoration, revival, preservation and maintenance of heritage architecture of the 600 years old historic Khankah-e-Naqshband Sahib (RA). He was informed that the project includes structural conservation, retaining the original exterior appearance of wooden architecture & ornamentation, restoration of wooden elements on the exterior façade, installation of khatamband ceiling with papier mache work in the central hall.

Similarly, DC visited the

historical Aali Masjid in the Eidgah area and took on the site review of the Rs 3.28 crore project being executed for its preservation and conservation on heritage pattern.

While taking stock of the ongoing works under the heritage conservation project, DC stressed that conservation efforts must retain original aesthetic & heritage.

It was informed that the project include works of water proofing solution to prevent the water seepage in the floor, waterproofing painting on the rooftop, khatamband on the outer open area of the Masjid

with paper machie, aslar stone work on the outer side of the plinth and other works.

He directed the concerned executing agency to accelerate the pace of work on the prestigious project with quality and strictly adhere to the set timelines.

During the visit, DC was accompanied by Chief Planning Officer, Fayaz Ahmad Dar, Executive Engineers of R&B, SMC, PHE, PDD, Tehsildar, Khanyar, Tehsildar Eidgah, Officers of Archives & Archeology and other concerned departments.