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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 abdominal pain
- Disorientation
- Present vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe pain in joints, muscles or bone
- Redness

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Eight Amarnath pilgrims injured as truck rams into Car in Udhampur

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18 (KINS)

Eight pilgrims en route to the Amarnath Yatra were injured on Friday morning when a speeding truck rammed into their car in Udhampur district of Jammu and Kashmir, officials said.

The incident took place around 6:13 AM in the Battal Ballian area, when the truck broke through a security barricade and hit a car carrying pilgrims to the Pahalgam base camp, a security officer confirmed. The car was part of the 16th batch of over 7,900 yatis who had departed from Jammu earlier in the day for the twin base camps of Pahalgam and Baltal.

According to officials, CISF personnel were deployed at the barricade when the

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JK Congress to hold march in Sgr today

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

The Jammu and Kashmir Pradesh Congress Committee (JKPCC) President, Tariq Hameed Karra on Friday said that the party will be holding a march in Srinagar on Saturday to press for the restoration of full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Karra, while speaking to the news agency, said the march will be led by him and will start from the party headquarters in Srinagar.

He said that the party has sought permission for the march, which is scheduled to begin in the morning. "We will submit a memorandum to the Divisional Commissioner of Kashmir that has to be forwarded to the honourable Prime Minister," Karra said, adding that the memorandum reiterates the party's demand for complete

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ACB arrests Junior official of JDA for accepting bribe of Rs 10,000

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

Jammu and Kashmir Anti-Corruption Bureau (ACB) on Friday said to have trapped and arrested Junior official of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) for demanding and accepting bribe of Rs 10,000.

In a statement issued to the news agency, ACB received a complaint alleging therein that public servant namely Kewal Krishan, Junior official of Jammu Development Authority (JDA) demanded illegal gratification from the complainant for allowing further construction of the double storey building at Bal-lain Domana, Jammu.

"The accused had demanded a bribe of Rs 20,000 from the complainant for allowing further construction of the double storey building at Bal-lain Domana, Jammu and has agreed to receive 1st installment amounting Rs 10,000 out of the demanded bribe," the statement said, adding that since, the complainant didn't want to pay the bribe and he approached Anti-Corruption Bureau for taking legal action against

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US enforces Trump's call for justice to Pahalgam terror attack victims, designates LeT proxy TRF as foreign terrorist organisation

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

Enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, United States, Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Friday said that the US has designated "The Resistance Front", (TRF) a proxy of Pakistan-based terror group Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) that was behind the carnage that left 26 people, mostly tourists dead, as a foreign terrorist organisation.

Rubio, according to the news agency, said the Depart-

ment of State is designating the TRF as a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (FTO) and Specially Designated Global Terrorist (SDGT).

"TRF and other associated aliases have been added to LeT's designation as a FTO and SDGT pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and Executive Order 13224, respectively. The Department of State has also reviewed and maintained the FTO designation of LeT," he said.

Rubio further said that this action against the TRF "dem-

onstrates the Trump administration's commitment to protecting our national security interests, countering terrorism, and enforcing President Trump's call for justice for the Pahalgam attack".

"This (Pahalgam attack) was the deadliest attack on civilians in India since the 2008 Mumbai attacks conducted by LeT. TRF has also claimed responsibility for several attacks against Indian security forces, including most recently in 2024," the secretary of state said.

Reacting to the develop-

ment, the Indian Embassy in Washington said this shows how strong the India-US counter-terrorism cooperation is.

The Resistance Front (TRF) claimed responsibility for the Pahalgam terror attack, but later backtracked as tensions soared between India and Pakistan.

Pertinently, National Investigation Agency (NIA) has identified TRF head Sheikh Sajjad Gul as the mastermind of the attack.

In a post on X, the Indian Embassy underlined

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Ahead of 'Monsoon Session,' Rajnath, Shah discuss 'Operation Sindoor' with NSA, tri-service chiefs

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 18



Ahead of Parliament's Monsoon Session slated to commence from July 21, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Union Home Minister Amit Shah chaired a high level meet here on Friday.

According to the details available with the news agency the meeting held at Rajnath Singh's Delhi residence was attended by National Security Advisor (NSA), Ajit Doval, Chief of Defence Staff, Tri-Services Chiefs and other top officers.

The top officers, according to the sources, briefed the ministers about the suc-

cess of "Operation Sindoor" and other proactive steps that were taken after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that left 26 civilians dead.

The Defence Minister is likely to give a statement on "Operation Sindoor" in the upcoming monsoon session of the Parliament.

Sources said that the Singh and Shah took feedback

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Dressed in traditional Ladakhi Goncha, Gupta sworn in as LG Ladakh

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

Kavinder Gupta, former deputy chief minister of Jammu & Kashmir, was sworn in as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh on Friday morning.

At an impressive function held at Raj Niwas, Leh, Gupta was administered oath of office and secrecy by Justice Arun Palli, chief justice of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh High Court.

Dressed in traditional Ladakhi attire, known as Goncha, Gupta was administered the oath by the CJ after Chief Secretary Pawan Kotwal read out his warrant of appointment.



As per news agency, the swearing-in ceremony of the LG was attended by Member Parliament Ladakh, Haneefa Jan, Chief Executive Councillors of Leh and Kargil Hill Councils, Tashi Namgayal and Dr Jaffer Akhoun, respectively,

BJP J&K unit president Sat Pal Sharma and top bureaucrats and police officials.

Talking to reporters after taking oath, the LG said that he will work collectively for development of Ladakh.

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LG addresses valedictory session of orientation programme at IIM Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 18

Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha Friday addressed the Valedictory session of 5-day Orientation Programme at Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu. On the occasion, the Lieutenant Governor also inaugurated Tejas Sports Complex within the campus.

In his address, the Lieutenant Governor congratulated and extended his best wishes to all the students on the beginning of their new journey.

He called upon the management students to focus on changing the lives of people, push for inclusive growth



and make sure no one is left behind.

"I wish to see the young and bright minds as business leaders and thinkers of tomorrow who will shape the economic progress of society and the future of this great country. As we seek to make

India a developed country by 2047, we must ensure greater prosperity for all. Future of India's business innovation and resource management rests on the shoulders of business leaders and thinkers of tomorrow. It will be business

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Statehood our right, must be restored forthwith: Dr Farooq

JJ NEWS SERVICE
BUDGAM, JUL 18

Stating that the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood is democratic right of the people, National Conference (NC) President Dr Farooq Abdullah on Friday said that it must be granted without further delay.

Talking to reporters here, Dr Farooq, according to the news agency said, "I am thankful to Congress leaders including Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul

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CM Omar interacts with citizens at Raabita office Srinagar, listens to public concerns

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

CM Omar Abdullah after his interaction on Thursday with public at his Jammu Raabita office, today listened to public grievances at Srinagar Raabita office. Several deputations and individuals today called on the Chief Minister at the weekly public outreach programme and apprised him of various issues, demands and challenges faced by different sections of society.

Prof. Iqbal S. Hasnain, Padma Shri awardee and Member of the Board of Trustees at the National University of Science and Technology, Muscat, Oman presented his



book "Fault Lines in the Faith" to the Chief Minister. Prof. Hasnain also serves on the Executive Committee of Hamdard University and the Indian Mountaineering Foundation, and is the former Pro-Chancellor of Jamia Hamdard,

Javid Ahmad Tenga, President of the Kashmir Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), met the Chief Minister to discuss various trade-related matters and shared insights into the challenges faced

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Amarnath Yatra resumes after daylong suspension

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

The annual Amarnath Yatra resumed on Friday after remaining suspended for a day due to bad weather, while over 16,000 pilgrims had darshan at the holy cave today, officials said.

An official informed the news agency that the Yatra had been halted on Thursday following relentless rains, which triggered landslides along the routes, posing a threat to the safety of pilgrims. However, with improved weather conditions, authorities gave the green light for pilgrims to proceed. Amid religious fervour and passion, 16,858 pilgrims

paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine on Friday, he said.

The pilgrims who paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine included 11,357 males, 4,816 females, 220 children, 125 sadhus, 18 sadhvis, and 322 security personnel. The cumulative number of pilgrims who have performed darshan so far has reached 2,73,091.

The official said the 16th batch comprising 7,908 pilgrims left from the Jammu base camp early on Friday morning under tight security.

The convoy departed in 261 vehicles, with 92 on the Baltal route and 169 on the Pahalgam axis. The batch comprised 5,957 males, 1,613 females,

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Doctors call off strike at GMC Jammu, medical services resume

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 18

After two days of disruption, the doctors at Government Medical College (GMC) and Hospital (GMC&H) Jammu have officially called off their indefinite strike, bringing much-needed relief to the patients and restoring regular medical services across the hospital.

The strike, which began following an alleged physical assault on two female doctors by attendants of a deceased patient on Wednesday, had severely affected healthcare delivery, including Out-Patient Department (OPD), in-patient

care, and several critical services.

Emergency services were only partially operational, managed by senior doctors and limited medical staff.

According to the news agency, the decision to end the protest came after successful negotiations between the hospital administration and representatives of the protesting doctors.

According to officials, the woman accused of assaulting the doctors has been taken into custody and a formal case has been registered against those involved.

"We deeply respect our duty to serve patients and

regret the inconvenience caused. However, our protest was essential to demand accountability and protection for healthcare professionals," said a spokesperson from the doctors' association. "Following firm assurances from the administration and the government, we have decided to end the strike."

The doctors had demanded immediate arrest of the culprits, registration of an FIR, and stronger security arrangements to prevent such incidents in the future. Their primary concern was ensuring a safe and secure working environment within the

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Every disaster a lesson to learn from: Chief Secretary

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 18

In a significant step towards enhancing the disaster resilience and preparedness, the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir conducted a high-level workshop on the Incident Response System (IRS) today.

The workshop was attended by Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, Principal Secretary Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, senior Administrative Secretaries, Divisional Commissioners, Heads of Departments and National Disaster Management experts including Brigadier Kuldip Singh (Retd), Former Senior Consultant, Ministry of



Home Affairs.

In his opening remarks, the Chief Secretary underlined the critical importance of building a culture of disaster preparedness among the citizens and institutions. "Disasters often arrive without warning and in every such instance, citizens

are the first responders," he said. "Each capable individual has a moral responsibility to contribute to disaster resilience by being aware, prepared and proactive."

Highlighting Jammu and Kashmir's unique

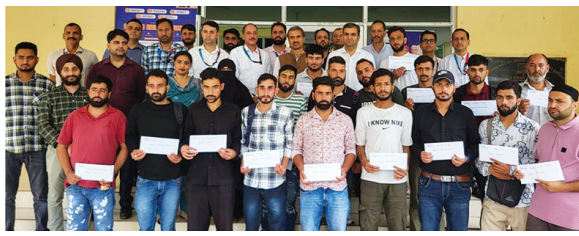
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41 loan cases sanctioned under Mission YUVA in Ramban

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 18

In a significant step towards promoting youth-led entrepreneurship and fostering self-reliance, the District Administration Ramban, in collaboration with J&K Bank sanctioned and handed over 41 loan cases under the Mission YUVA initiative.

The sanction letters were handed over to the beneficiaries by Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan at a brief ceremony. The event witnessed the presence of General Manager DIC Ravinder Anand; Cluster Head J&K Bank, Ravi Kumar; Lead Bank Manager, District Nodal Officer JKEDI, Counselling Officer, Employment Department Ramban, along with other stakeholders from the Employment



Department and J&K Bank. Addressing the gathering, the Deputy Commissioner underscored the importance of Mission YUVA in promoting self-employment by enabling youth to engage in sustainable and gainful economic activities. He encouraged the beneficiaries to utilize the financial assistance diligently and build successful entrepreneurial ventures that contribute to the district's economy.

The DC said that Mission YUVA forms part of a larger vision to empower the youth through access to

finance, capacity building, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, thereby nurturing a self-reliant and progressive Ramban.

Meanwhile, Officials from J&K Bank reiterated the institution's commitment to supporting youth through smooth implementation of government-sponsored schemes. They assured continued cooperation in the timely processing and disbursement of loans while emphasizing the importance of repayment discipline to ensure the long-term success of such initiatives.

JKB RSETI Rajouri hosts ASARE meet to encourage, empower Women Entrepreneurs

J1 NEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 18

Jammu & Kashmir Bank's Rural Self Employment Training Institute (RSETI) Rajouri organized an impactful ASARE (Awareness, Skill Acquisition, and Rural Entrepreneurship) meet, aimed at empowering women through inspiration, knowledge sharing and financial literacy.

The event brought together successful women entrepreneurs and current trainees of the Women Tailoring Batch at RSETI, fostering a spirit of motivation and self-reliance among the participants.

The highlight of the event was the participation of four accomplished women entrepreneurs who shared their journeys from trainees to

successful business owners including

Sapna Bhardwaj, owner of a flourishing salon near 36 Galli Main Market, Rajouri, Farzana Kouser, who runs a combined cosmetic and tailoring shop at Muradpur, Sayeeda Kossier, proprietor of a tailoring shop at Ujjan, Darhal & Anita Devi, proud owner of boutique at Malik Market.

Their real-life success stories and candid discussions on overcoming challenges and achieving financial independence served as a powerful source of encouragement for the current batch of trainees.

To enhance the trainees' understanding of social security measures, a field coordinator delivered a session on key government-backed insurance schemes, includ-

ing Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY), Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY) & Atal Pension Yojana (APY).

The session aimed at promoting financial stability and risk coverage for rural women and their families.

The ASARE meet reaffirmed JKB RSETI Rajouri's dedication to empowering women through a combination of skill training, mentorship and awareness. The institute continues to play a pivotal role in building a vibrant ecosystem of rural entrepreneurship and financial inclusion.

Such initiatives not only equip women with vocational skills but also inspire them to pursue independent livelihoods, thereby contributing to the socio-economic upliftment of the region.

Power shutdown

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Chief Engineer (Distribution) JPDCL Jammu has informed that the power supply to Transport Nagar, Narwal, Railway Colony, Part of Channi Himmat Station and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 19 from 6 am to 9 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Dogra Hall, Rehari, Resham Garh Colony, Bus Stand, Jewel, Hari Market, Raghunath Bazaar, Kaleeth Mohalla, Kanak Mandi, Manda, New Plot, Sarwal, Part of Karan Nagar, Bohri, Udheywala, New Udheywala and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 20 from 6 am to 9 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Reasi Town, Mahadev, Bidda, Katra Back, Rural Reasi and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 20 from 7 am to 11 am.

Likewise, the power supply to Pouni, Shiv Khouri, Dadua, Laiter, Bharakh, Ransoo, Talwara and adjoining areas will remain affected on July 23 from 7 am to 11 am.

Meanwhile, Superintending Engineer, (Distribution), JPDCL, O&M Circle Kathua has informed that the power supply to Rajpura, Old Mawa and its adjoining areas will remain affected on July 19, 20 and 21 from 7 am to 11 am.

Similarly, the power supply to Purmandal and its adjoining areas will remain affected on July 19, 20 and 22 from 7 am to 11 am.

DLIC approves 63 cases under Mission Yuva Scheme in Ganderbal

J1 NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 18

To examine and approve cases received under the Mission YUVA (Yuva Udyamita Vikas Abhiyan) scheme for financial assistance and entrepreneurial support, the Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore today chaired District Level Implementation Committee (DLIC) meeting here in the V.C room of DC Ganderbal.

At the outset, a detailed discussion was held regarding the applications received under the scheme. The committee deliberated upon the cases submitted through the Skill and Business Development Unit (SBDU) and, after thorough scrutiny and evaluation, approved 63 cases unanimously for financial and institutional support under the Mission



to ensure the sustainable success of the approved units.

The DC also directed the concerned departments to expedite the process of sanctioning, disbursing benefits, and extending all necessary handholding support to the

beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, GM DIC, Assistant Director Employment Ganderbal, Lead District Manager; DSWO, Nodal Officer JKEDI and other concerned.

beneficiaries in a time-bound manner.

The meeting was attended by Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Chief Planning Officer, GM DIC, Assistant Director Employment Ganderbal, Lead District Manager; DSWO, Nodal Officer JKEDI and other concerned.

>> SAY NO TO DRUGS, SAVE LIFE

Police organises awareness programme on "Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan" in Kulgam

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 18

Police in Kulgam under the aegis of Civic Action Programme (CAP) 2024-2025, conducted an awareness programme on "NASHA Mukht Bharat Abhiyaan" at Government Higher secondary school Devsar.

The programme was attended by Principal, faculty members of GHSS Devsar, Senior Police Officers of Kulgam Police including DySP DAR Kulgam Shri Mohd Ayub Rather, SHO PS Devsar, students and other respectable citizens.

Officers emphasized the need to protect the young generation from the menace of drug abuse, highlighting its devastating



impact on individuals and society. Also stressed the importance of youths staying drug free and propagating the ill effects of drugs to the society thereby ensuring a Nasha Mukht Bharat.

Debate competition was held wherein the participants shared their perspectives, views, assumptions

and exploring concrete solutions to the complex, challenging and pressing issue of drug abuse that threatens the very fabric of our society.

This initiative demonstrates J&K Police's commitment to eradicating drug abuse and promoting a safer, healthier commu-

nity. Participants thanked Police for conducting such awareness programmes, thus building a bridge of trust between police and the youth.

At the conclusion, first three position holders were awarded with mementos & cash prize to boost their morale.

Orientation program hosted for AWWs, Aadhar operators at Udhampur

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 18

A one day orientation cum training program for Anganwadi workers and Aadhar Operators was held today in the office of DPO Poshan Udhampur to train them in the enrolment of 0-5 year children. The training was held in collaboration with the UIDAI.

Assistant Project Manager UIDAI Pardeep Singh imparted training to 60 Aadhar operators regarding the enrolment of the children through Tablets.

The training was organized under the Supervision of DPO Poshan Subhash Chander Dogra. He directed the Aadhar operators to organize Panchayat wise camps and encourage the public for the registration of birth through BDOs, EOs concerned.

Govt intends to make J&K 365- days destination beyond seasons: Dy CM

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

Deputy Chief Minister Surinder Choudhary, today chaired the maiden meeting of Confederation of Indian Industry Northern Regional Committee on tourism and hospitality held in Srinagar to discuss the strategic interventions on revival of tourism and position J&K as global tourism hub.

Advisor to CM Nasir Aslam Aslam Wani and MLA Gulmarg Farooq Ahmed Shah were present in the meeting.

While addressing the meeting, the Dy CM highlighted several key points on boosting tourism growth through collaboration and value-added verticals in Jammu and Kashmir. He maintained that the government intended to position J&K as a premier 365-Day destination beyond seasons. He urged the CII to support the government in shifting focus from summer/winter peaks to year-round tourism through curated experiences.

"Tourism and Kashmir are inter-related in such a way that one can't be described in absence of other. It is not like that tourism in Kashmir is for



a particular season but round the year. Every season has its own significance" he added.

The Dy CM said that the CII has been working closely with government on policy issues, enhancing efficiency, competitiveness and expanding business opportunities for the industry through a range of specialised services and global linkages. He urged the CII to come forward with a special focus on tourism, handloom and handicrafts, adventure sports and skill development to explore more possibilities of campaigning and awareness about high scope in J&K.

The Dy CM stated that our partnership with CII

will unlock sustainable growth, generate employment and showcase our cultural heritage to the world. He reiterated that the government is taking all steps to boost tourism in J&K with special focus on enhancing the infrastructure, diversifying tourism offerings, promoting safety and security besides engaging the local communities.

While speaking on the occasion, the Advisor to CM said that CII with its National and International connects should help government in targeting niche markets for sustainable growth and higher tourist spending. He invited the CII members and industry at large to promote J&K on

MICE Tourism map and suggest ways to further strengthen the tourism infrastructure in J&K.

Highlighting the importance of handlooms and handicrafts, the Dy CM suggested showcasing them through live demonstrations, craft village tours, and immersive shopping experiences to captivate audiences." He asserted that J&K is famous for its rich culture and heritage and one of our endeavours should be reviving folk festivals, sufi music circuits, heritage walks in Srinagar/Jammu.

MLA Gulmarg, Farooq Ahmed Shah, emphasized that adventure sports can be a key driver for tourism promotion, suggesting that Gulmarg and Pahalgam be leveraged to host national and international adventure sports competitions.

He further said that Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) is also one area where government and CII could jointly work and develop specialized infrastructure like adventure parks, wellness centers, heritage hotels via transparent PPP models. He also suggested to

explore possibility of joint marketing campaigns with airlines, hotel chains and travel aggregators and empower the local cooperatives for homestay, guided tours and artisans markets.

Earlier, Chairman CII Northern Regional Committee on Tourism & Hospitality, K.B Kachru, highlighted the agenda of the meeting which mainly included police interventions, yearly action plan, tourism review of northern states, skill development, capacity building and flagship schemes.

He said that CII took a conscious decision to hold its first regional committee on tourism meeting in Srinagar to send a message to larger industry that we must promote J&K at this juncture. He reiterated that CII and its members would like to contribute in overall tourism development of this region. "Our priority is to drive policy reforms, sustainable practices, and public-private synergies" he added.

Lastly, Chairman CII J&K, Dr. M.A Alim, while presenting the vote of thanks, said that J&K government and CII will soon roll out certain initiatives to further boost growth in this sector.

JKEDI hosts orientation program for SKUAST-K students



J1 NEWS SERVICE
PULWAMA, JULY 18

Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) on Friday organized a one-day Entrepreneurship Orientation Program (EOP) for the students of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST-K) here at its Sempora campus.

The program was specifically designed for B.Sc. Forestry students, who were accompanied by faculty from the Department of Forestry, SKUAST-K.

The primary objective of the program was to develop an entrepreneurial intention among the students besides awareness about the vast opportunities and institutional support mechanisms available for aspiring entrepreneurs.

The orientation session placed a strong emphasis on educating students about the critical role that entrepreneurship and innovation play in shaping modern careers. Participants were encouraged to view entrepreneurship not only as a viable career path but also as a means to contribute to economic growth and societal transformation.

Around 83 students participated in the orientation programme who interacted with the faculty and were briefed about the evolving entrepreneurship culture in the U.T of Jammu and Kashmir along with business plan modelling, Detailed Project Report (DPR) formulation, capacity building and providing financial and market linkage including handholding and mentorship support to the aspiring entrepre-

neers. The students were also briefed about the J&K Startup Policy 2024-27.

A key focus of the interaction was to encourage students to explore entrepreneurship as a viable career option. They engaged in brainstorming sessions on innovative startup ideas and discussed their potential to be developed into successful business ventures. The event also included a Q&A session where students shared their perspectives on entrepreneurship and clarified their doubts with the experts.

This EOP-cum-interaction session is part of JKEDI's ongoing initiative to introduce students to the world of entrepreneurship and enhance their understanding of startups as key drivers of innovation and economic development.

SKUAST-K organises Agri-Leadership program to 'Compete, Connect and Command Market Power'

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

Institute of Business and Policy Research (IBPR), SKUAST-Kashmir under the aegis of the HADP project O4 'Strengthening Agriculture Marketing in UT of J&K', successfully organised a transformative three-day training program titled "Catalysing Agri Transformation: Leadership, Branding, and Market Power", held from 16th to 18th July, 2025.

Designed as a strategic knowledge intervention, the program convened a diverse and dynamic cohort comprising officers of development departments, FPO leaders, agri-startups, and institutional stakeholders, with the shared objective of accelerating agricultural transformation in the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.

The sessions were enriched by the presence of international trainers and domain experts, who engaged in deep-dive deliberations and solution-oriented discussions

with participants across the three days.

Inaugurating the event, Prof. Haroon R. Naik, Director Research, SKUAST-K, delivered a visionary keynote, emphasizing the urgent imperative for a shift from traditional production models to market-responsive and innovation-driven agriculture.

"Agriculture today cannot thrive on production alone. Our farmers and agri-entrepreneurs must be equipped with the tools of branding, digital integration, and strategic thinking to unlock the full market potential of their produce. Initiatives like these are not just timely, they are transformative," Prof. Naik remarked.

Prof. Farhet A. Shaheen, Course Director, elaborated on the structure, objectives, and broader vision of the training program. He described the initiative as a first-of-its-kind convergence of leadership development, branding acumen, and market strategy, aimed at bridging critical gaps in conventional agri-capacity building.

"True transformation begins with a transformed mindset, leaders who can think strategically, act entrepreneurially, and communicate their product stories with clarity and confidence in competitive markets," Prof. Shaheen stated. He highlighted the program's emphasis on practical learning, case-based sessions, hands on toolkits for market navigation that empowered participants to craft business models, design product identities, and explore real-world commercialization pathways.

Programs like this are not standalone events, they are strategic investments in building a resilient, market-ready, and innovation-driven agricultural ecosystem, he remarked.

Prof. S. H. Baba, Head, Institute of Business and Policy Research (IBPR), spoke about the critical intersection of knowledge, leadership, and market empowerment in redefining the future of agriculture in the region.

"The future of Indian agriculture lies not just in

increasing yields, but in expanding value, visibility, and voice for our grassroots producers. Through this training, we sought to catalyze a mindset shift, from cultivation to commercialization, from production to positioning, and from isolation to integrated market engagement," he asserted. Prof. Baba applauded the high level of engagement from participants and reiterated IBPR's commitment to converting academic insights into actionable field-level change.

Dr. Abid Sultan, Coordinator of the training program, described the event as a pivotal step in reshaping the agricultural narrative of Jammu & Kashmir, a shift from viewing farmers as mere cultivators to recognizing them as leaders, brand creators, and market strategists.

"In regions like J&K, agri-economies will no longer be defined solely by what we grow, but by how we lead, how we tell our stories, and how we claim our rightful place in the market economy, he asserted.

DC Ganderbal reviews arrangements for Independence Day Celebrations



JI NEWS SERVICE
GANDERBAL, JULY 18

Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal, Jatin Kishore, convened a meeting today to review the arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day celebrations in the Conference Hall of the Mini Secretariat.

At the outset, the DC conducted a comprehensive review of all necessary arrangements for the smooth and dignified conduct of the celebration. The preparations reviewed included the readiness of the main venue, podium arrangements, security measures, seating, transportation, power, electricity, parking, refreshment, medical care, deployment of fire tenders, decoration of major buildings and sanitation.

The meeting was informed that the main function will be held at Qamaria Stadium, Ganderbal, where the National Flag will be unfurled by the chief guest, followed by a march past featuring contingents from the District Police, CRPF, Armed Police, SSB, PTS Manigam, Forest Protection Force, and students from various educational institutions. Students will also present patriotic cultural programmes during the event.

The DC underscored the importance of cleanliness, the illumination of government offices and flag hoisting at iconic locations, tourist destinations, and government establishments to honor the day with appropriate enthusiasm and respect.

Responsibilities for

various arrangements were assigned to respective departments, and the committees were constituted to monitor implementation on the ground to ensure smooth conduct of the function.

Additionally, the DC directed all Tehsildars to ensure timely arrangements for the celebration of Independence Day at the Subdivision and tehsil levels.

The meeting was attended by SSP Ganderbal Khalil Ahmad Poswal; Additional District Development Commissioner, Manzoor Ahmad Bhat; Additional Deputy Commissioner, Syed Fahim Bihagi; CEO SDA, ACR, Executive Engineers of various wings; EO Municipality; ARTO; Tehsildars, and other concerned officers and officials.

Power Shutdown

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDC, in order to carry out Branch cutting and preventive maintenance works, shutdown of 33KV Kanipora-Keller line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Shadimarg, Keller and Kanipora shall remain off while power supply to Drabgam, Qasbayar, Kalampora, Dompura, Keller, Moshward, Nadpora and Kanipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 07:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 20 July, 2025.

In this connection, shutdown of 33KV Lassipora-Keegam line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Keegam, Gulshanabad, Mitrigam and Chararipora shall remain off while power supply to Murran, Rahmoo, Mirgund, Mitrigam, Hawal, Keegam, Rajpora, Gulshanabad, Akhaal, Chararipora, Pakherpora, Kamrazipora and adjoining areas will be affected from 07:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 21 July, 2025.

Also, in order to carry out the Stabilization and augmentation of 33 KV line, shutdown of 33KV Pampore-SIDCO line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at IE Khrew, Dedicated installations and Cement Plants shall remain off while power supply to IE Khrew and Cement Plants will be affected from 06:00 AM to 11:00 PM on 20 & 23 July, 2025.

In this connection, shutdown of 33KV Pampore-Pampore line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Pampore-I, Pampore-II shall remain off while power supply to Pampore, Khadermoh, Zewan, Tengan, EDI-Pampore and adjoining areas will be affected from 06:00 AM to 11:00 PM on 20 & 23 July, 2025.

DC Kulgam visits Dardagund Devsar to condole with accident victims' families

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 18

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan, today visited Dardagund Devsar to express condolences with the families who lost their three members in a tragic road accident on NH-44 near Awantipora last Tuesday.

DC handed over immediate relief assistance from the Red Cross to the bereaved families.

He was accompanied by ACR, SDM D.H. Pora, ACD and Tehsildar Devsar.

Meeting on 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign held at Anantnag

JI NEWS SERVICE
ANANTNAG, JULY 18

A meeting on 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign (90 days' Mediation drive to settle pending cases in all the Taluka Courts, District Courts and High Courts of India) was today convened at Bar Room, District Bar Association Anantnag.

The meeting, presided over by the Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District and Sessions Judge) Anantnag, Tahir Khurshid Raina, aimed to apprise that the National Legal Services Authority in association with the Mediation & Conciliation Project Committee, Supreme Court of India has conceptualized the Special Mediation Drive- 'Mediation for the Nation.'

The 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign is being launched across the length



and breadth of India. It is a 90 days' intensive drive to settle pending cases in all the Taluka Courts, District Courts and High Courts of India through mediation.

Principal District and Sessions Judge/ Chairman DLSA Anantnag in the meeting highlighted the importance of the mediation in the administration of the justice and called it win-win situation for both the parties as none of the parties to the litigation loses on the mediation process but both the parties win in the mediation.

Raina also highlighted

the role of the advocates for the mediation and termed the process of mediation impossible without the active support of the advocates. The advantages of the mediation were also communicated in the meeting that in the nation where more than 05 crore cases are pending for adjudication before the courts throughout the country and in Anantnag about 30,000 cases are pending adjudication before various courts of the district.

The meeting was bilateral in which the senior members of District Bar

Association Anantnag and the trained mediators of District Bar Association Anantnag expressed their valuable thoughts and ideas to make this 'Mediation for the Nation' campaign a successful and fruitful.

The meeting was attended by, Masarat Rohi, Additional District and Sessions Judge Anantnag; Feroz Ahmad Khan, Chief Judicial Magistrate Anantnag; Arshad Aziz Qureshi, Munsiff Anantnag; Anurag Khajuria, District Mobile Magistrate Anantnag; Fazul Haq, Munsiff Shangus; Aarizoo Javaid, Munsiff Dooru; Himanshu Atri, Additional Principal Mobile Magistrate Pahalgam, senior members of District Bar Association Anantnag, executive members of District Bar Association Anantnag and members of District Bar Association Anantnag.

JMC Shines in Swachh Survekshan 2024: Citizens urged to join hands for a cleaner, greener City

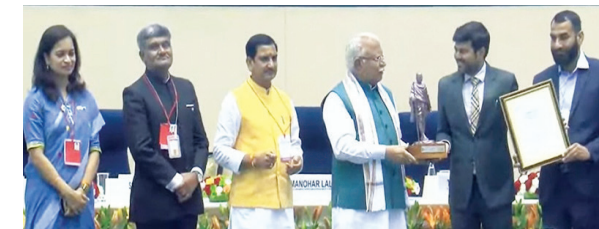
JI NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

Marking a moment of pride for Jammu City every residents, the Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) has achieved a significant milestone by winning the Promising Swachh Sheher Award, and earning the prestigious Garbage Free City (GFC) 3-Star Rating, securing ODF++ certification and ranking 42nd among the top 100 cities in India (3-10 lakh population category) in the Swachh Survekshan 2024, conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India.

These achievements were announced at the Swachh Survekshan Award Ceremony held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, where the awards were presented by Union Minister for Housing and Urban Affairs, Manohar Lal, in presence of senior dignitaries including Minister of State (MoHUA) Tokun Sahu, Secretary MoHUA Srinivas R. Katikithala and Joint Secretary MoHUA Roopa Mishra.

On behalf of JMC, the award was received by Dr. Devansh Yadav, Mission Director, SBM (J&K), Abdul Star, Joint Commissioner (Health & Sanitation) and Dr. Vinod Sharma, Health Officer, JMC.

JMC has made remarkable progress by improv-



ing its rank from 248 in 2023 to 42 in 2024, which reflects the dedication of the corporation, the hard work of sanitation workers and above all, the cooperation of the people of Jammu.

Across Jammu & Kashmir, other urban local bodies also performed well. Srinagar Municipal Corporation secured 32nd rank in the Million Plus Cities category, Beerwah Municipal Committee earned a 1-Star Rating in the Small Cities category and all other Urban Local Bodies in J&K were awarded ODF+ certification, highlighting improved sanitation and open defecation-free status.

This success has been made possible by sustained efforts of the Housing & Urban Development Department (HUDD), J&K and JMC, which focused on regular door-to-door garbage collection and scientific disposal of waste, establishment of Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) in all urban local bodies, scientific bioremediation of legacy waste at dumpsites and development of Construction and Demolition Waste Process-

ing Plants that will soon become operational in both Jammu and Srinagar. Special attention has also been given to the maintenance and cleanliness of public and community toilets, and new aspirational toilets are being constructed to make sanitation more accessible and hygienic.

While these awards bring honour to the city, maintaining and improving cleanliness is a shared responsibility. Citizens are urged to segregate their waste at home, cooperate with sanitation workers and follow collection schedules, avoid littering in public places, use public and community toilets responsibly and actively participate in cleanliness and plantation campaigns.

This recognition is proof that when citizens and the administration work together, even the most ambitious goals can be achieved. Everyone is encouraged to take this achievement as inspiration to make Jammu a model clean and green city of India. Together, we can build a city we are all proud to call our home.

Relief for Road Mishap victims: Jammu admin disburses Rs 24.60 lakh compensation in 1 month

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Reflecting a compassionate and responsive approach, the District Administration Jammu, in collaboration with the Regional Transport Officer (RTO) Jammu, Senior Superintendent of Police (Traffic) Jammu and Chief Medical Officer Jammu, has provided swift and effective relief to road accident victims under the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund Rules, 2022.

In the past one month, a total of Rs 24,60,000 has been credited directly into the bank accounts of the legal heirs of deceased victims and injured per-

sons involved in road accidents across the Jammu district. During the month, 19 death cases have been settled, with Rs 1,00,000 disbursed to each legal heir, totalling Rs 19,00,000 and 12 injured persons received compensation based on injury severity i.e Rs 75,000 for severe injuries, Rs 50,000 for moderate injuries and Rs 10,000 for minor injuries.

In addition, 47 death cases and 19 injury cases were compensated in the past three months, underlining the administration's commitment to victim support and timely aid.

The Deputy Commissioner Jammu com-

mended the exceptional inter-departmental coordination that led to this achievement and reaffirmed the District's dedication to upholding the rights and dignity of road accident victims.

"This initiative not only ensures immediate financial aid but also reflects the Government's resolve to stand by its citizens during moments of distress," the Deputy Commissioner said.

A significant share of credit goes to Vishesh Paul Mahajan, Transport Commissioner, J&K, Jammu whose leadership, foresight and prompt sanctioning of funds made this initiative a reality. His

personal commitment to the humane cause of accident relief has been instrumental in ensuring that victims and their families receive much-needed financial support without delay.

"The Transport Commissioner's proactive approach and prioritization of victim assistance have reaffirmed the department's people-first approach," stated the RTO Jammu.

The initiative showcases how coordinated governance, empowered by legal frameworks like the J&K Road Accident Victim Fund Rules, 2022, can transform the lives of affected families, bringing hope and stability in the wake of tragedy.

DC Kishtwar reviews formulation of CAPEX Budget 2025-26

JI NEWS SERVICE
KISHTWAR, JULY 18

Deputy Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a comprehensive meeting today to assess the preparation of the District CAPEX Budget 2025-26.

The DC reviewed the formulation of the CAPEX plan and set a four-day deadline for finalization, emphasizing the timely uploading of the plan on

the BEAMS portal for subsequent submission to the Finance Department.

The Deputy Commissioner directed the concerned officers and Executive Engineers to revisit their respective plans to ensure the inclusion of works that are genuinely beneficial to the community, avoiding ambiguous works or those that cater to individual benefits.

He stressed the impor-

tance of grassroots involvement, instructing that all developmental projects be taken up in consultation with the Gram Sabhas, with a special focus on essential public infrastructure.

The DC also directed the concerned heads of Departments to ensure overall development and saturation of the development indicators in aspirational blocks of Marwah & Warwan on priority.

The meeting also stressed speedy completion of the ongoing public welfare projects.

Reiterating the administration's commitment to transparent, accountable, and result-driven governance, DC Kishtwar directed all Officers to adopt a proactive and mission-oriented approach to ensure timely completion of the set targets and effective utilization of resources.

FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

US enforces Trump's...

New Delhi's firm stance against terrorism. "Another demonstration of strong India-USA counter-terrorism cooperation. Appreciate the Department of State for listing The Resistance Front (TRF) as a designated Foreign Terrorist Organization and Specially Designated Global Terrorist. TRF is a proxy of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and claimed responsibility for the April 22 terror attack on civilians in Pahalgam. ZERO TOLERANCE for terrorism!" it said.

In retaliation for the Pahalgam attack, India launched Operation Sindoor early on May 7, targeting nine terror infrastructure sites in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The attack on terrorist camps led to breaking out of skirmishes between India and Pakistan that continued till May 10. Hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) approached his counterpart in India and requested for a ceasefire (KNO)

Ahead of 'Monsoon'...

from the security top brass on the host of issues that are likely to come up during the customary all-party meeting scheduled to be held on Sunday and during the "Monsoon Session."

Later another meeting of the Group of Ministers chaired by the Defence Minister and the Union Home Minister discussed government's stand over a host of matters amid the opposition raising heat on issues, including the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the electoral rolls in Bihar, the Pahalgam attack and "Operation Sindoor," sources said.

They said the meeting was attended by Union Ministers J P Nadda, Kiren Rijju, Piyush Goyal and G Kishan Reddy.

Pertinently, the opposition has been pushing for debate in Parliament on issues like "Operation Sindoor" and the claims of US President Donald Trump that he brokered the "ceasefire" between India and Pakistan.

The government has rejected Trump's claim, but the opposition has been insisting on a debate and has even demanded a special session of Parliament over the issue. The government has termed Operation Sindoor a big success, which inflicted massive damage on terror sites and military facilities in Pakistan.

It may be recalled that a few days after the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, armed forces on May 6, 2025, launched "Operation Sindoor" and destroyed nine terrorist camps deep inside Pakistan and Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK).

The attack on terrorist camps led to breaking out of skirmishes between India and Pakistan that continued till May 10. Hostilities ended after Pakistan Director General of Military Operations (DGMO) approached his counterpart in India and requested for a ceasefire. KNO

Dressed in traditional...

"I want to assure the people of Ladakh that we will rise above religion, caste, and party politics and work together for the development of Ladakh. We have to do much more for Ladakh. There is no doubt that Ladakh has faced discrimination in the past. We want to make Ladakh one of the best tourist destinations in the world," he said

Gupta also expressed gratitude to President Droupadi Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi for appointing him as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. KNO

LG addresses valedictory...

leaders and thinkers' responsibility to accelerate industrial growth, secure private investment, promote economic activity and build a private sector that supports the country's economic stability," the Lieutenant Governor said.

The Lieutenant Governor highlighted that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Jammu Kashmir has emerged as a major hub of education and innovation.

He lauded the IIM Jammu for its significant contribution in J&K's education sector. He said the Tejas Sports Complex inaugurated today symbolizes IIM Jammu's commitment to students' holistic growth.

The Lieutenant Governor observed that the students' new journey at IIM Jammu will forge a powerful connection between the academic world and the real world, ensuring that through a blend of skills and values, they emerge competent professionals ready to contribute to nation-building.

He emphasised that 5Cs: Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication, Creativity and Curiosity will equip business leaders of tomorrow with essential life skills, empowering them to effectively navigate challenges of the rapidly evolving world.

"Technology is rapidly reshaping our world, especially the business landscape. Your role will be to utilise management practices and technological innovation for ease of doing business and enhancing ease of living for all. Your leadership and problem-solving skills will provide fresh impetus to social development, fostering local entrepreneurship culture through sustainable business models," the Lieutenant Governor further said. The new batch of students at IIM Jammu brings together a diverse group across its various academic programs, with a total enrolment of 474 students for the academic year. This includes participants in the MBA, MBA (Healthcare & Hospital Management), Ph.D. & Ph.D. (Working Professionals), and EMBA programs.

Prof. B.S. Sahay, Director, IIM Jammu; Sudhir Langer, CEO & MD, RPSG FMCG, senior officials, HoDs, faculty members, and incoming batches of students were present on the occasion. KNO

Statehood our...

Gandhi and Rajya Sabha LoP & party president Mallikarjun Kharge for raising the issue of statehood restoration with the Prime Minister Narendra Modi and urging the government to restore statehood to the region."

"They have taken a stand for the people of J&K. Their letter to the Prime Minister is a welcome step. Statehood is our constitutional right. Why wouldn't we get it?

We will raise this demand strongly in the INDIA alliance meeting on Saturday (July 19)," he said.

Pertinently, the Congress leaders had written to the Prime Minister Narendra Modi, seeking the immediate restoration of statehood. The letter sent to the PM was also hailed by the Chief Minister Omar Abdullah earlier, stating that they were waiting for the opposition's response in this regard.

He further added "If they don't give us what's ours, we will see how to deal with it," he remarked.

Asked about the United States designating The Resistance Front (TRF), suspected to be behind the recent Pahalgam terror attack, as a foreign terrorist organization, Dr. Abdullah said, "The matter is under investigation. It is better to comment once the probe is completed."

Earlier, the National Conference President visited the residence of the deceased poet and social activist Shahid Budgami and also visited the family of the late Aga Syed Mohammad Baqir to pay his respects.

He was accompanied by National Conference MP Aga Ruhullah Mehdi and Advisor to the Chief Minister Nasir Aslam Wani. KNO

CM Omar interacts with...

by the business community in Kashmir.

A delegation of international martial arts players also called on the Chief Minister to deliberate on the emerging challenges concerning international-level sports persons from Jammu and Kashmir, and sought the government's continued support for developing their talent and giving them ample opportunities.

President and Secretary of the Kashmir Labour Union's Federation, brought to the Chief Minister's attention the pressing concerns regarding the Jammu and Kashmir Building & Other Construction Workers Welfare Board (JKBOCWWB). He urged the government to expedite the appointment of the Board's Chairman and to facilitate prompt approval of welfare funds for lakhs of construction workers across J&K.

In addition, deputations from Beerwah, Inderwal, Baramulla, and other regions also met the Chief Minister to highlight issues specific to their constituencies and local population.

Representatives from minority communities too called on the Chief Minister and flagged various issues and demands for his attention.

The Chief Minister gave a patient hearing with all visiting delegations and individuals and assured them that their genuine concerns will be addressed on priority, reaffirming his government's commitment to inclusive and responsive governance.

Amarnath Yatra resumes...

26 children, 290 sadhus, and 22 sadhvis.

The pilgrimage to the 3,880-metre-high cave shrine of Lord Shiva in the south Kashmir Himalayas commenced on July 3 and will conclude on August 9. KNO

Doctors call off strike...

hospital premises.

The hospital administration, in a statement, acknowledged the doctors' concerns and assured that strict legal action will be taken against those responsible for the assault. Officials also committed to enhancing the hospital's internal security system to safeguard medical staff.

"Patient care is our top priority, and any threat to our healthcare workers will not be tolerated. We will strengthen surveillance and ensure more security personnel are deployed within the hospital premises," an official said.

As the strike ends, normalcy is gradually returning to GMC Jammu. OPD and in-patient services have resumed and patients who had been waiting for consultations and treatment have begun receiving care again.

Patients and their attendants expressed relief at the resumption of services. "We understand the doctors' concerns, but we are glad that things are finally getting back to normal. Healthcare must not suffer," said Ramesh Kumar, an attendant at the hospital.

The incident was widely condemned especially by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and various doctor bodies across India. KNO

Every disaster a lesson...

geopolitical and environmental vulnerabilities, the Chief Secretary emphasized the UT's susceptibility to earthquakes, glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), landslides, cross-border tensions and climate-induced challenges. "Given our exposure to multiple hazards, our preparedness must be all-encompassing, institutionally sound and technologically enabled," he stated.

Dulloo stressed that disaster readiness is not measured by paperwork but by the number of lives saved and the responsiveness of the system during crisis. He noted that increasing urbanization and climate change have escalated the intensity and frequency of disasters, placing greater responsibility on governments, institutions and citizens to act decisively.

He advocated for clear institutional frameworks with defined roles and responsibilities. He emphasised the need of optimising use of advanced technologies such as GIS mapping, real-time weather forecasting and drone-based surveillance besides active community engagement, capacity building of NGOs, civil society and local volunteers. He also asked for integration of mid-career training for the officers and regular mock drills to ensure readiness.

The Chief Secretary called for customisation of IRS protocols based on local risk profiles at the district and block level. He proposed development of a Disaster Dashboard to map available resources, machinery, manpower and vulnerable zones across the UT.

In his inaugural address, Principal Secretary, Home and DMRR&R, Chandraker Bharti, described the IRS as a newly notified system in J&K aimed at establishing a well-coordinated command structure during disasters. He explained that the IRS, modeled on international best practices and customized by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), defines precise roles for each officer to eliminate confusion during emergencies.

DC Poonch reviews land identification process for Panchayat Ghars, SBM Projects

JJ NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, JULY 18

Deputy Commissioner Vikas Kundal today chaired a meeting here in the conference hall of the DC Office to review the status of land identification for the construction of Panchayat Ghars and SBM projects in the district.

During the meeting, the Deputy Commissioner was briefed by the Block Development Officers (BDOs) and concerned officers regarding the current status of land availability and project progress under the twin schemes. The officers shared detailed updates on the hurdles and development of Panchayat Ghars and execution of SBM

initiatives in their respective blocks.

Stressing the importance of swift implementation, the Deputy Commissioner directed the BDOs to promptly resolve land-related issues in coordination with the respective Tehsildars. He further instructed the concerned officers to expedite the tendering process for SBM infrastructure to avoid unnecessary delays.

The meeting was attended by the Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Executive Engineer REW, Tehsildar Haveli, while Tehsildars from Mandi, Mendhar, Surankote, Mankote and Balakote joined the meeting virtually along with all BDOs of the district.

Bharti highlighted the ongoing initiatives under the Disaster Management Department including the Mitigation plans for GLOFs and landslides, Integration of the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN), Deployment of Decision Support Systems and Establishment of Emergency Operation Center (EOC).

He expressed optimism about significantly strengthening the disaster management mechanisms through these efforts and urged the officials to institutionalize the disaster response protocols across all levels.

Delivering a detailed presentation, Brigadier Kuldip Singh (Retd), a distinguished disaster management expert, shared his insights on disaster typologies, standard operating procedures (SOPs) and the defined responsibilities of various stakeholders during emergencies. Drawing from real-life disaster incidents across India, he emphasized that "no region is immune to disasters", and increased development must go hand-in-hand with increased vigilance and responsibility.

Brigadier Singh stressed the critical roles of central and UT governments, NDMA, SDMA, DDMA and block-level institutions in developing a seamless and scalable disaster response framework. He reiterated the need for integrated planning, resource allocation, and community-based preparedness to make India one of the most disaster-resilient nations in the world.

Later, a comprehensive Handbook on the Incident Response System (IRS) was unveiled, clearly delineating the roles and responsibilities of each officer and department involved in disaster response.

At the Union Territory level, the IRS is being headed by the Chief Secretary, who functions as the Response Officer. The handbook also outlines the hierarchical structure, including designated roles for the Incident Commander, Nodal Officer, Liaison Officer, Planning and the Media Communication System, thereby institutionalizing a well-coordinated and structured mechanism for disaster preparedness and response in the UT.

Eight Amarnath pilgrims...

truck, after colliding with the car, crossed the road divider and crashed into the wall of a nearby house. Fortunately, there were no casualties.

The injured pilgrims were promptly evacuated by CRPF personnel and shifted to a local hospital. Most of the injuries were minor, and the condition of all eight is reported to be stable, with only a few sustaining superficial wounds.

Police have registered a case, and further investigation is underway. The truck has been seized as part of the probe. (KINS)

JK Congress to...

statehood.

Karra said that the march in Srinagar is part of a series of programmes planned by the Congress to intensify its outreach and advocacy for statehood.

JKPCC Chief added that similar programmes will be held in Jammu on July 20, followed by a move to Delhi on July 21, coinciding with the start of the Parliament session.

"We had already announced that we will step up our efforts once the Parliament session is convened," Karra said. "The next phase will be in Delhi, where we will try to submit the memorandum to the Prime Minister as well."

Karra said their party has given assurances that today's march will be peaceful and will involve participation from senior leaders and workers. KNO

ACB arrests Junior...

the accused public servant under law.

"On receipt of the complaint, a discreet verification was conducted, which corroborates the demand of bribe by the public servant concerned and accordingly, a case FIR number 14/2025 U/S 7 of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 was registered in Police Station ACB Jammu and investigation taken up," the ACB said.

During the course of investigation, a trap team headed by Gazetted rank officer was constituted, it reads, adding that the team laid a successful trap and the accused public servant was caught red-handed while demanding and accepting a bribe amount of Rs 10,000 from the complainant in the presence of independent witnesses.

"The accused was arrested on the spot by the ACB team after following the due process of law. The bribe money was also recovered from his possession in the presence of independent witnesses associated with the trap team. Moreover, search is being conducted in the residential house of the accused situated in Flore Haramkund Gajansoo, Tehsil Marh, District Jammu in presence of independent witness and Magistrate," it reads, adding that further investigation of the instant case is going on. KNO

Balbir congratulates Baldev Billawaria on being appointed BJP General Secretary

JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 18

Balbir Ram Rattan, National General Secretary of Guru Ravidass Vishwa Mahapeeth, Indian Branch General Secretary of the British Ravidasia Heritage Foundation, and member of the Begampura Vishwa Mahasabha, extended heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to senior BJP leader and former Deputy Mayor Baldev Singh Billawaria on being appointed the new General Secretary of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Jammu & Kashmir. He also presented Baldev with a portrait of Guru Ravidass.

Balbir Ram Rattan stated that Baldev Singh Billawaria is a dedicated, hardworking leader with deep grassroots connections and extensive experience in public service. He has worked for a party for many years. In recognition of his contribution to both the party and society, he has been entrusted with this important responsibility, which



will certainly strengthen the organization further.

Balbir Ram Rattan expressed hope that Billawaria's new role will help make BJP's organizational activities more effective. He said that Billawaria's working style, public relations abilities, and leadership skills will benefit the party in the times to come.

He further added that this appointment is a positive step for the BJP in Jammu & Kashmir.

Balbir Ram Rattan, once again, congratulated Baldev Singh Billawaria and wished him a bright future, expressing hope that he will work with even greater dedication for the benefit of the party and society through his experience.

MLA Marh serves Langar to Sadhus at Purani Mandi



JJ NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 18

In a heartwarming gesture of devotion and community service, MLA Marh Surinder Kumar served langar to sadhus and saints at Purani Mandi Temple. The sadhus and saints were on their way to offer prayers and seek blessings at the revered shrine of Baba Barfani. Mahant Shri Rameshwar Das Ji and Prant Pracharak Shri Mukesh Ji (Jammu-Kashmir) were also present on the occasion, adding to the significance of the event. The langar service reflects the spirit of seva and community service that is deeply ingrained in the region's cultural heritage.

MLA Surinder Kumar had the privilege of serving langar to the sadhus and saints, showcasing his commitment to community service and seva. "It is a matter of great privilege to serve langar to the sadhus and saints who are on a spiritual journey to seek blessings at the revered shrine of Baba Barfani. This gesture of community service is a reflection of our commitment to serving humanity and promoting the values of compassion and kindness, said MLA. "The event was a testament to the MLA's dedication to community service and his connection with the local community.

MLA said The Amarnath yatra, a revered pilgrimage to the cave shrine of Lord Shiva in Jammu and Kashmir, attracts millions of devotees from across the country. These yatries, along with sadhus and saints, play a critical role in preserving the rich cultural and traditional heritage of India. The Amarnath yatra is an integral part of India's spiritual heritage, and the yatries and sadhus help promote this tradition by undertaking the arduous journey to the cave shrine, added MLA. MLA maintained that the yatra provides a platform for cultural exchange between people from different parts of the country, fostering a sense of unity and shared cultural values. Sadhus and saints, with their deep understanding of ancient traditions and scriptures, help preserve and promote India's rich cultural heritage. Sadhus and saints provide spiritual guidance to the yatries, helping them navigate the challenges of the pilgrimage and deepening their spiritual experience, said MLA. MLA said Sadhus as cultural ambassadors promote the values of compassion, kindness, and selflessness, inspiring others to follow in their footsteps. By preserving and promoting India's spiritual heritage, sadhus and saints help maintain the country's unique cultural identity. The Amarnath yatra and the role of sadhus and saints in preserving India's cultural traditions are a testament to the country's rich spiritual heritage. As cultural ambassadors, they inspire others to follow the path of spirituality and cultural preservation, said MLA.

DC Kulgam reviews progress of Jal Shakti Abhiyan- Catch the Rain campaign

JI NEWS SERVICE
KULGAM, JULY 18

To review the implementation and progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain (JSA-CTR) campaign in the district, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Amir Khan, today chaired a meeting of concerned officers, here.

The meeting featured detailed discussions on ongoing initiatives, future strategies, and departmental roles to ensure effective water conservation and rainwater harvesting.

During the meeting, officers from the Rural Development, Forest, Agriculture, Irrigation, Jal Shakti, and other line departments briefed the chair on the status of



ongoing water conservation initiatives.

Emphasizing the importance of sustainable water management, DC urged all departments to minimize runoff and maximize water harvesting efforts.

He stressed the need for greater inter-departmental coordination to fast-track the execution of JSA-CTR projects.

To enhance impact on the ground, DC instructed

departments to ensure construction of a minimum of five rainwater harvesting structures per panchayat to improve groundwater recharge and rainwater storage.

He also instructed for regular cleaning, rejuvenation, and maintenance of water bodies to ensure their long-term sustainability.

DC directed all concerned departments to ensure proper data uploading on the portal.

The meeting was attended by the District Programme Officer, Joint Director Planning, Assistant Commissioner Revenue (ACR), Executive Engineers, Divisional Forest Officer (DFO), Chief Agriculture Officer and other concerned officers.

CS inspires new batch at IIM Jammu

Emphasizes ethical leadership, nation-building

JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

In an insightful address to the newly admitted batch of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu, Chief Secretary, Atal Dulloo, today exhorted students to embrace their journey with purpose, passion and a deep commitment to public good.

The event marked the commencement of the academic year for one of India's youngest and most dynamic IIMs.

Congratulating the students for securing admission to a premier national institution, the Chief Secretary emphasized that IIM Jammu is not merely an academic campus, but a crucible of transformation. "You have crossed a significant milestone and now stand at the threshold of an experience that will transform your lives," he said, calling upon the students to not only become professionals but also leaders of values and vision.

Quoting Malcolm X, he remarked, "Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today," setting the tone for an address that combined wisdom, pragmatism and inspiration.



Describing IIM Jammu as a symbol of aspiration and excellence in New India, the Chief Secretary said the institution carries the energy and potential to shape the future leaders who can contribute to the region and the nation. "You are not just students you are ambassadors of this institution," he told the gathering, underlining the mutual responsibility between the individuals and institutions.

Dulloo highlighted that an MBA is more than a degree, it is a holistic journey that shapes decision-making, leadership character and ethical thinking. "You will learn the language of markets and innovation, but more importantly, you will learn collaboration, humility and empathy," he said, quoting Martin Luther King Jr., "Intelligence plus character—that is the goal of true education."

Speaking on India's evolving economic and developmental landscape, the Chief Secretary observed that the country is witnessing a historic transformation through rapid digitalization, infrastructure growth, start-up momentum and global positioning. However, he stressed that along with these opportunities come challenges like climate change, social equity and sustainable development.

Emphasizing on developing the leadership traits, he maintained that the nation doesn't need managers who maintain the status quo but it needs leaders who think boldly, act ethically and lead with courage.

Touching upon the region's rapid development, the Chief Secretary noted that Jammu & Kashmir is emerging as a hub for innovation, entrepre-

neurship and governance reforms. He encouraged the students to engage with the region meaningfully. He urged them not to be just passive observers but be catalysts to bring the necessary change.

Drawing from his experience in public life, Dulloo offered five principles for personal and professional success. He asked for staying curious, being resilient, acting ethically with full integrity, be inclusive showing respect to diversity and leading with compassion saying that kindness is a powerful leadership characteristic.

The Chief Secretary encouraged the students to see the next two years as the foundation of a meaningful life. "Don't just aim for a good life only aim for a good life too," he said, urging them to build a legacy of purpose and service.

DIPR artists present Nukkad Natak to raise awareness among Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra Pilgrims

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

A Nukkad Natak (street play) was presented today by the Cultural Unit, Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) Jammu to raise swatchtha awareness among the pilgrims of the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra, highlighting the importance of maintaining cleanliness and following safety protocols for a safe and smooth pilgrimage.

The street play effectively communicated the message of maintaining cleanliness along the Yatra route, using biodegradable materials, proper waste disposal and following safety guidelines issued by the administration.

The programme was conducted under the directions of Joint Director Information Jammu, Deepak Dubey and under the supervision of Cultural Officer Jammu, Mukesh Kumar Sharma.

ADDC Kupwara reviews status of Kisan Khidmat Ghars, progress of HADP

JI NEWS SERVICE
KUPWARA, JULY 17

In order to assess the current status of Kisan Khidmat Ghars (KKGs) and the implementation of schemes under the Holistic Agriculture Development Programme (HADP), a meeting of concerned officers was held under the chairmanship of Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Kupwara, Mufti Fareed-ud-Din at meeting hall of D.C office Kupwara today.

During the meeting, ADCD emphasized the critical role of KKGs as one-stop centers for farmers to access agriculture-related services and information. He directed officers to ensure that all KKGs across the district are fully functional, adequately staffed, and equipped with necessary infrastructure to serve the farming community effectively.

ADDC also reviewed progress on various components of the HADP, including farmer registration under the DAKSH Kisan portal, dissemination of scheme benefits, and outreach activities being conducted by Krishi Udyamis and field extension staff.

AIFOF office bearers call on Forest Minister



JI NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

The office bearers of the All India Forest Officers Federation (AIFOF) today called on Minister for Forest, Ecology & Environment, Javed Ahmed Rana, at the Civil Secretariat, here.

Led by Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Suresh Kumar Gupta, the delegation apprised the Minister that the main function of the Forest Martyrs Day, 2025, will be observed in Srinagar on September 11, 2025.

The purpose of this observance is to commemorate the sacrifices of the foresters who have laid down their lives in the line of duty to protect India's precious forests and wildlife.

The Minister appreciated the decision of the Federation to hold the national level function in Srinagar. He acknowledged the crucial role that forest officials, guards and environmentalists play in preserving the country's natural resources.

The Minister instructed the Forest authorities to

extend all possible assistance to the Federation in collectively organising the national level event. This celebration will ensure that the sacrifices of those who have given their lives in the service of the environment are duly honored.

The Minister stated that the government is committed to support the initiatives that recognize and celebrate the bravery and dedication of individuals working towards environmental conservation.

"The commemoration of Forest Martyrs Day is a tribute to the selfless service and ultimate sacrifices made by forest officials and others who have worked tirelessly to protect India's forests and wildlife," he said.

The event serves as a reminder of the importance of conservation efforts and the need to continue protecting the country's natural heritage for future generations, the Forest Minister said while highlighting the need of honouring and celebrating selfless public service.

MP Jugal Kishore chairs DISHA meet at Reasi

JI NEWS SERVICE
REASI, JULY 18

Member of Parliament Jugal Kishore Sharma today chaired the District Development Coordination & Monitoring Committee (DISHA) meeting here to review the implementation and progress of Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSSs) and ongoing development works in the District. The meeting was held in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex Reasi and attended by DDC Chairperson Saraf Singh Nag; MLA Reasi Kuldeep Raj Dubey; MLA Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Baldev Raj Sharma; Vice Chairperson DDC Sajra Qadir; Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik; SSP Paramvir Singh; ADCD Sukhdev Singh Samyal and other district and sectoral officers from the development departments.

At the outset, Deputy Commissioner Nidhi Malik, who also serves



as the Member Secretary of DISHA, gave a comprehensive PowerPoint presentation highlighting the physical and financial progress made under flagship schemes and major developmental initiatives across the district.

MP Jugal Kishore reviewed the progress of key infrastructure projects, including the Delhi-Amritsar-Katra Expressway, BMG Road, RAM Road and other centrally sponsored initiatives. He directed officials to complete the targets within the stipulated time frame to ensure timely delivery of services to the beneficiaries.

The MP emphasised the need to fast-track the execution of all projects and

ensure proper utilisation of allocated finances. He directed officials to take prompt action on all suggestions discussed during the meeting and to address the issues raised effectively. He advocated for a collaborative interdepartmental approach to ensure the timely completion of development projects.

MP further instructed officials to prioritise resolving the issues raised by the DDC Chairperson, MLAs, and other members during the meeting. He underscored the importance of collective field visits by officials and public representatives to enhance service delivery.

MP Jugal Kishore also appreciated the commendable efforts of the District

Administration for their continuous work under the Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan and their sustained crackdown on drug trafficking. He termed it a significant step toward building a drug-free and secure society.

MP laid Special emphasis on schemes such as PM SHRI, PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana, integrated watershed and Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan, with instructions to fast-track their implementation while maintaining high quality standards.

The MP further emphasised that with the recent visit of the Prime Minister and the inauguration of the Vande Bharat train connecting the Kashmir Valley, this region is now

poised for rapid growth and development. This landmark connectivity is expected to boost tourism, create new economic opportunities, and significantly improve access to the region.

MP Jugal Kishore praised the Reasi District Administration, led by DC Nidhi Malik, for taking timely action on issues raised during the last DISHA meeting and for successfully organizing the present meeting at short notice.

Reiterating the vision of Government of India, MP Jugal Kishore Sharma stressed the importance of interdepartmental synergy and coordination with public representatives to eliminate bottlenecks and accelerate development, particularly in border and rural areas.

The meeting concluded with a Vote of Thanks delivered by the Deputy Commissioner.

DC presents sanction letters to Mission YUVA beneficiaries at Udhampur



JI NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 18

Deputy Commissioner Saloni Rai today gave away sanction letters to 12 beneficiaries under the Mission YUVA scheme here at an impressive event organised by the District Employment Department.

Deputy Director Employment Mohinder Kumar Sharma and representatives from J&K Bank were also present at the event.

Speaking on the occasion, the DC congratulated

the aspiring entrepreneurs on availing benefits under the Mission YUVA scheme. She urged them to establish their business units at the earliest and become a source of inspiration for other unemployed youth of the district.

"Your journey towards self-reliance not only holds the promise of personal growth but also has the potential to motivate others to step forward and take advantage of this self-employment initiative" she said.

Women Bike Expedition flagged off to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

The MY Bharat Bikers Expedition to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas was today flagged off to Kargil here from Balidan Stambh Jammu.

A group of 26 Female bikers from Shakti Udgosh Foundation are participating in the Bike Rally to celebrate the valour of Indian Army during Operation Vijay in 1999 at Kargil and the Op Sindoor launched in May this year.

Among the dignitaries present at the flag off ceremony were Member Legislative Assembly (MLA) Kishtwar Shagun Parihar, State Director MY Bharat J&K Nisar Ahmed and Col M S Maan Dy Cdr.

Nisar Ahmed Butt, State Director MY Bharat J&K appreciated the Shakti Udgosh Foundation and said that programs like



these play a very important role in mobilizing youth in Nation Building activities. He assured full support of MY Bharat to the Bikers during the entire route. He further informed that a Mega Padyatra is being held on July 26 on the eve of Kargil Vijay Diwas in Drass Kargil, with the participation of thousands of Youth.

Group Leader of the Bikers, Preeti Choudhary, while speaking on the occasion stated that the Bike Rally is a unique Tribute to the Sacrifices of

the Gallant Soldiers of the Op Vijay. She further said that MY Bharat under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Govt of India has played a very important role in mobilizing the Youth along the entire route.

DYO MY Bharat Jammu Nitin Hangloo said that the event is an ode to the sacrifices of our valiant soldiers. He further said these types of programs are a unique way to engage the youth in Nation Building.

A painting competition

District Level Committee reviews progress under PMAY-Urban 2.0

JI NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JULY 18

A meeting of the District Level Committee for the implementation of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban 2.0 (PMAY-U 2.0) was today chaired by Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas here in the Conference Hall of the DC Office Complex to review the status and progress under the flagship Housing Scheme for the Urban Poor.

The meeting was attended by Chief Planning Officer, Ranjit Thakur; District Social Welfare Officer, Varun Chaudhary; Lead Bank Manager, CEO Municipal Council Kathua and Executive Officers of Municipal Committees Nagri, Lakhampur, Basohli and Billawar.

The DC took a detailed review of the applications



submitted by the eligible households under the scheme and sought the updates from the concerned municipal authorities.

The Executive Officer Municipal Council Kathua informed that out of 47 cases received, 2 have been approved while the rest are under process. The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Billawar reported that out of 52 cases, 3 have been approved and the rest were rejected for not meeting the set norms.

The meeting was further

informed that in Municipal Committee Hiranagar, a total of 72 applications were received, of which 12 were rejected, 39 verified and 21 approved. The Executive Officer Municipal Committee Nagri informed that out of 192 applications received, 18 have been rejected, 3 approved and the remaining are under process, while in Municipal Committee Basohli, 45 applications were received, of which 6 were approved and equal number are under process and the rest have been rejected.

EDITORIAL

Statehood demand deserves more than silence

The frustration voiced by Ladakh leaders over the Congress leadership's failure to include their demand for statehood in a recent communication to Prime Minister Narendra Modi is not only understandable but also deeply justified. Their concern, as described by Kargil Democratic Alliance (KDA) leader Sajjad Kargili, stems not from partisanship but from years of marginalization, promises unfulfilled, and an overwhelming sense of political invisibility. A day after Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge and Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi demanded the restoration of statehood for Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh leaders expressed dismay that the same principle was not extended to Ladakh. The omission is not just political oversight; it is a stark reminder of how Ladakh—despite being carved out as a separate Union Territory in 2019—remains absent from the national dialogue on democratic restoration. Their disappointment is amplified by the fact that Rahul Gandhi, during his 2023 visit to Leh and Kargil, had pledged to champion all four core demands of Ladakh: statehood, inclusion under the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution, safeguards for land and jobs, and protection of the region's fragile ecology. Yet, the recent letter from the Congress high command only touched on the Sixth Schedule, ignoring the demand for full-fledged statehood. This selective advocacy is being seen as a betrayal by the people of Ladakh. It reinforces the perception that the region's democratic aspirations are being selectively acknowledged—amplified only when politically expedient. And this is not the first time Ladakh has been kept on the margins of discourse. Despite being rich in strategic significance and cultural diversity, Ladakh has consistently found itself denied the democratic institutions and protections enjoyed by other Indian states and Union Territories with legislative assemblies. What makes this omission even more glaring is Rahul Gandhi's own record. In 2021, he had moved an adjournment motion in the Lok Sabha demanding statehood for Ladakh, explicitly calling for inclusion of Leh and Kargil's representatives in a committee to deliberate on regional demands. He also raised concerns about restricted access to traditional pasture lands along the border—an issue of vital importance to Ladakh's rural economy. That commitment now seems to have faded into political amnesia. Ladakhi leaders are not asking for favours—they are asking for constitutional rights and democratic justice. The demand for statehood is rooted in the desire for self-governance, protection of identity, and representation in a manner befitting the region's unique demographic and geopolitical character. Their demand for inclusion under the Sixth Schedule, while important, cannot be seen as a substitute for statehood. Constitutional inclusion alone cannot meet the region's democratic aspirations. Lieutenant Governor Kavinder Gupta's admission that Ladakh has faced discrimination in development only lends weight to what Ladakhi leaders have long been articulating. The region's political voice must not be muffled in the pursuit of symbolic gestures. The Congress party, if it truly aspires to be seen as a national voice for justice and inclusion, must revise its stance and advocate unequivocally for Ladakh's full political rights. Rahul Gandhi, in particular, must clarify his position and reaffirm his commitment to the promises made in Leh and Kargil. Ladakh may be geographically remote, but its concerns are central to the idea of an inclusive, representative India. Silence on such legitimate demands is not just disappointing—it is undemocratic.



DR. MANSUKH MANDAVIYA
(UNION MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS & SPORTS AND LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT)

Today, India has one of the largest youth populations in the world and it is often said that if a nation aspires to progress and become developed, its youth must be empowered. Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has consistently emphasised that if India is to become a Viksit Bharat by 2047, our Yuva Shakti must be empowered and actively engaged in the process of nation-building. Their energy, innovation, and determination will shape the country's growth story in the decades to come.

However, one of the most pressing challenges facing the nation today is

Drug-Free Youth, Driving Force of Viksit Bharat

keeping our youth away from the grip of substance abuse. An increasing number of young individuals are falling into addiction, which not only affects their health but also threatens their future, and the strength of the nation. According to a study, 1 in every 5 Indians aged between 10 and 24 has used drugs at some point. A report by the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) further reveals that over 8.5 lakh children in India are struggling with drug addiction. These figures are deeply alarming and call for urgent, collective action.

Over the past 11 years, Modi Government has taken several decisive steps to combat this issue. In 2020, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment launched the Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan. To support prevention and rehabilitation, the government established Integrated Rehabilitation Centres for Addicts (IRCA) and Outreach-cum-Drop-In Centres (ODICs). Schools and colleges have seen



intensified awareness campaigns, while the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) has launched strong operations against drug mafias. Additionally, Health and Wellness Centres across the country are providing critical counselling and support. These national efforts have been complemented by grassroots campaigns led by state governments, NGOs, and local communities.

Taking this mission forward, MY Bharat has taken a significant initiative, the "Yuva Spiritual

Summit", to be held from 19 to 20 July on the sacred ghats of Kashi, the land of Baba Vishwanath. Themed "Drug-Free Youth for a Viksit Bharat," the summit seeks to lay the foundation for a youth-led national movement against substance abuse.

The summit will bring together youth representatives from over 100 spiritual organisations across India. Key government bodies, including the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Ministry of Social Justice and Empower-

ment, Ministry of Culture, Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB), and others will actively participate. This unique platform will enable young people to share their voices, perspectives, and solutions directly with policymakers, contributing meaningfully to a national strategy.

The summit will feature sessions on the nature and patterns of addiction, its demographic impact, international dimensions, and the roles of government, civil society, and youth volunteers. Personal stories of young individuals who have successfully overcome addiction will also be shared to inspire others.

The summit will conclude with the release of the Kashi Declaration, which will serve as a five-year roadmap for the drug-free India campaign.

This declaration will outline strategies to prevent youth from falling into substance abuse, provide support mechanisms for those already affected, and accelerate awareness campaigns across the country to build a stronger, more

resilient movement against addiction.

Prime Minister Modi has always envisioned an India that reflects the dreams and aspirations of the Amrit Peedhi. In alignment with that vision, this initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports stands as a powerful step toward not only protecting young lives from addiction but also empowering them to lead the nation-building journey.

The responsibility of transforming India into a developed nation rests with its youth. The Yuva Spiritual Summit is not just an event—it marks the beginning of a new national awakening. It will ignite a spirit of discipline, moral integrity, and social responsibility among young citizens, enriching their lives and strengthening the country's future.

From the sacred soil of Kashi will rise a call that will light a flame of awareness, patriotism, and purpose in every young heart. This collective resolve will serve as the cornerstone of a strong, self-reliant, and Viksit Bharat by 2047.

"Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines"



AJAY TAMTA
MINISTER OF STATE ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS

The promise of flexibility, independence, and technological ease attracted millions of drivers to app-based ride-hailing platforms in recent years. However, rising commissions, unclear policies, arbitrary suspensions, and lack of protections turned that promise into frustration for many. These challenges, experienced by over three million gig drivers across India, highlighted the urgent need for comprehensive and enforceable regulation.

In response, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and guidance of Sh. Nitin Gadkari, the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH) had earlier released the "Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2020" under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. These offered a regulatory framework empowering State Governments to license and oversee aggregators fuelling the growth of the ride-hailing industry. Yet, with growing concerns over safety, fairness, and accountability for both drivers and passengers, MoRTH has now introduced the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025: a major policy update to bring structure, safeguards, and inclusivity to India's digital mobility ecosystem.

These guidelines, built on the legal foundations of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 aim to regulate the operations of app-based cab aggregators such as Ola, Uber, Rapido, and others. More importantly, the guidelines seek to provide balanced benefits to both drivers and passengers, while aligning with constitutional mandates and judicial directives.

One of the most notable aspects of the 2025 guidelines is protection

of drivers' interests. Until now, drivers associated with aggregator platforms often found themselves in precarious situations with low earnings, arbitrary off-boarding, lack of insurance, and insufficient legal recourse. The new rules guidelines seek to address these systemic gaps.

The guidelines require aggregators to ensure a minimum guaranteed earning per hour or day based on base fares notified by the States. It also mandates that fare settlement between aggregator and driver must be done on a daily, weekly, or fortnightly basis, depending on mutual agreement. This move is expected to eliminate the earnings volatility faced by thousands of drivers, especially during lean periods. In addition, the government now requires every aggregator to provide health insurance of at least Rs 5 lakh and term insurance of Rs 10 lakh. These protections bring gig workers into the fold of formal labour structures.

Further, the new guidelines introduce transparency in commissions, capping the aggregator's share at 20% of each fare in most cases. This ensures drivers retain a fair portion of their earnings. Aggregators must also provide clear and itemized information regarding payment deductions, fare splits, and penalties.

The guidelines also require each aggregator to establish a formal grievance redressal system, where issues like ride cancellations, payment disputes, or suspensions can be addressed in a time-bound and transparent manner. Drivers will also receive periodic training including a 40-hour induction programme covering app usage, emergency response, road safety, traffic rules, gender sensitization, Divyangjan awareness, customer interaction, digital literacy, and more., making them better equipped for future mobility challenges.

For passengers, the guidelines are equally transformative. With rising concerns around

ride safety, data privacy, and fare manipulation, the new guidelines bring in much-needed safeguards.

All drivers on aggregator platforms must undergo mandatory police verification, health check-ups, and behavioural training. Furthermore, every vehicle must be equipped with in-app emergency buttons, GPS-based tracking, and trip-sharing features, all of which enhance the safety of riders, particularly women and children. A 24x7 control room and helpline system must be established by aggregators under state supervision.

Another major passenger benefit is the regulation of fares and surge pricing. The guidelines set clear limits: surge fares are capped at 1.5 to 2 times the base fare depending on State policy, ensuring that passengers are not exploited during high-demand periods. In addition, the platforms are required to display fare breakdowns transparently, including base fare, dynamic charges, aggregator share, and government taxes.

Crucially, the guidelines also take into account the privacy of users. Aggregators are instructed to store user data on servers located within India and to abide by data protection frameworks, including Digital Personal Data Protection Act, ensuring data is not misused or leaked and is retained according to India's sovereign data policies.

Aligned with Prime Minister Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, which emphasizes inclusive and sustainable growth, and his unwavering commitment to upholding the honour and self-respect of Divyangjan, the guidelines mandate that a portion of aggregator fleets be made Divyangjan-friendly and an appropriate representation of Divyangjan as drivers in the workforce is to be ensured. The exact number of such vehicles will be determined by individual States based on local needs and requirements.

In a major push for

sustainability, aggregators are required to transition towards electric mobility, alternate fuel or zero emission vehicles in their fleet. Concerned air regulatory bodies will set state-wise EV targets for ride-hailing platforms, and the same aligns with India's climate and clean air goals. Public transport systems such as Delhi's DEVI buses are already examples of EV integration.

The guidelines also align with Directive Principles of State Policy, particularly Article 39, which directs the State to ensure that citizens, including gig workers, have the right to an adequate means of livelihood. Additionally, Article 21 of the Constitution guaranteeing the Right to Life and Personal Liberty has been interpreted by courts to include the right to a safe working environment and the right to mobility with dignity.

Several judicial decisions have reinforced the need for proper regulation in the ride-hailing sector. In People's Union for Democratic Rights v. Union of India (1982) and Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985), the Supreme Court emphasised the right to livelihood as an integral component of Article 21. In the case of Uber India Systems Pvt. Ltd. v. Union of India (2020), the Delhi High Court upheld the right of State Governments to regulate aggregator pricing and licensing, establishing that consumer interest must prevail over purely market-driven pricing models.

These judgments form the legal basis for many of the protections extended to gig workers under the 2025 guidelines which is an attempt to balance the passengers' interest with profitability for motor vehicle aggregators yet prioritising the rights of often-neglected gig workers.

On lines of the Hon'ble PM's approach of Minimum Government Maximum Governance, the new guidelines provide a light touch regulatory system. Now the aggregators can take single license for all types of

motor vehicles applicable pan state within 60 days. It does away with the requirement for Ride-hailing companies to have arrangement for a driving test facility. Rather they are now encouraged to take benefit of the Ministry's Scheme for Institutes of Driving Training and Research (IDTR), Regional Driving Training Centres (RDTC), and Driving Training Centres (DTC). These centres, funded by the Central Government, aim to make scientific training accessible even in remote areas with grants up to Rs 17.25 crore for IDTRs, Rs 5.5 crore for RDTCs, and Rs 2.5 crore for DTCs based on population and geography.

These institutes are not only equipping individuals with high-quality driving skills but are also contributing to the creation of a pool of professionally trained drivers across the country. This initiative is expected to contribute significantly to enhancing road safety and reducing the incidence of traffic accidents on Indian roads. The Government has set an ambitious target of reducing road accident fatalities by 50% by the year 2030, acknowledging that road accidents currently result in an estimated economic loss of 3% of the national GDP.

The issuance of these guidelines reflects India's robust federal structure and constitutional provisions. As per the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India, transport falls under this Concurrent List and empowers States to create rules for the licensing and functioning of aggregators. Section 93 of the Act is particularly significant, as it enables the Central Government to issue such guidelines or licensing frameworks for this purpose.

Although issued by the Central Government, the Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 may be followed by State Governments and Union Territories, ensuring local adaptability. States have inter-alia been given the authority to: issue licenses to aggregators; monitor fare structures and surge pricing; enforce driver

training and verification; penalise non-compliant platforms, authorize use of non-transport motorcycles for passenger journeys under shared mobility models, set and enforce electric vehicle targets for aggregator fleets.

This division of responsibilities reflects India's model of cooperative federalism, where policy formulation is centralised, but implementation is context-sensitive and state-specific.

The Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 represent a progressive and timely step towards reforming India's digital mobility ecosystem. The success of this initiative will hinge on effective enforcement, public awareness, and platform compliance. If followed by States, it has the potential to transform ride-hailing services into a safer, more accountable, and more inclusive mode of urban transportation, creating a win-win scenario for both drivers and riders across the nation.

In a country where informal workers often remain invisible in policymaking, these guidelines mark a pivotal shift. They treat the app-based driver not just as a service provider, but as a worker with rights, dignity, and aspirations. They recognize the passenger not merely as a consumer, but as a citizen entitled to safe, affordable, and transparent services.

The Motor Vehicle Aggregator Guidelines, 2025 represent a significant milestone for the digital mobility sector in India. By setting clear standards and responsibilities for aggregators, the guidelines emphasize fair earnings and social security for drivers, improved safety and convenience for passengers, and environmentally sustainable practices. This balanced and inclusive framework not only reinforces the foundation of India's growing gig economy but also aligns seamlessly with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat@2047.

The Author is Shri Ajay Tamta, Hon'ble Minister of State Road Transport and Highways, Govt. of India.

Religious Tourism: the Backbone of Jammu's Economy

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Under the dynamic leadership of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Sanjeev Jain, the Centre for Comparative Religions and Civilizations (CCRC) at the Central University of Jammu (CUJ) organized its weekly "Thursday Mind Meet" on the thought-provoking theme: "The Relevance of Pilgrimage Centres of Jammu and Kashmir."

The session was graced by esteemed academician Prof. Lalit Gupta from the University of Jammu as the expert speaker. He was warmly welcomed by Prof. Vandana Sharma, Dean of Languages; Prof. A. K.



Nanda, Dean of Social Sciences; and Prof. Niranjna Bhandari, Director, CCRC. In her introductory remarks, Prof. Vandana Sharma introduced the concept of the Thursday Mind Meet to the audience and the guest speaker, highlighting it as a vibrant weekly platform curated by students of various departments of the University to engage in intellectual exchange and contempo-

rary discourse. Delivering his keynote address, Prof. Lalit Gupta provided an in-depth overview of the pilgrimage sites in Jammu and Kashmir. He shed light on their historical origins, cultural significance, preservation efforts, and their evolving role in the future landscape of tourism and spiritual heritage in the region. The panel discussion, moderated by Dr. Ajay

Kumar Singh, featured insightful presentations by MA student Aman, and Ph.D. scholars Deewanshu and Narrottam. They collectively emphasized the vital role of religious tourism in the socio-economic development of the region. The speakers asserted that pilgrimage tourism not only strengthens the economy of Jammu and Kashmir but also generates extensive employment opportunities for local communities.

The session concluded with an engaging question-and-answer segment, reflecting the deep interest of the attendees in the topic. Dr. G. V. Snigdha Raj,

Assistant Professor, CCRC, efficiently convened the programme. The event witnessed the participation of several faculty members, including Dr. Arvind Rituraj, Dr. Vikas Singh, Dr. Amita Gupta, Dr. Ashwani Kumar (CCRC), and Dr. Anooj Bhadu and Dr. Vishal from the Department of Economics.

Students and research scholars including Rohit, Naresh, Sunil, Progti, Manish Bharti, Dr. Narendra, and Prabhakar, along with a large number of attendees from different departments, enthusiastically participated in the academic meet, making it a grand success.

APS Akhnoor celebrates excellence, culture & community empowerment

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Academic brilliance, cultural pride and community empowerment came together at Army Public School Akhnoor as the school hosted a vibrant event to felicitate its CBSE Board Exam toppers, Summer Camp achievers, and women beneficiaries of its flagship initiative, "Skill to Serve."

The program was graced by Mrs Rupali Brar, Chairperson, Family Welfare Organisation, Cross Sword Division, as the Chief Guest, along with Mrs Pooja Shandil Banga and Brig Ankur Banga, Chairman Army Public School Akhnoor, whose presence added immense value to the occasion.

"Skill to Serve", a distinctive initiative launched by the school's Art and Craft Department, has empow-



ered local women by engaging them in skill development activities – a bold and inclusive step to uplift the community through creativity and training.

The event began with a warm welcome by the Mrs Geeta Sharma, Principal, who outlined the school's recent milestones and highlighted its continued focus on academic excellence, innovation and social responsibility. A colourful cultural segment followed, showcasing Dogri folk dance, reflecting the school's commitment to pre-

serving local heritage. In her address, Mrs. Rupali praised the school for its well-rounded approach to education and social impact. She encouraged teachers, students and staff to continue striving for excellence, calling the efforts "truly inspiring and worthy of emulation."

The felicitation ceremony stood as a testament to Army Public School Akhnoor's evolving vision – one that blends scholarship, tradition and empowerment into a single, powerful narrative.

MLA Jasrota convenes mega Public Darbar, grievance redressal camp at village Juthana

J I NEWS SERVICE
JASROTA, JULY 18

With an aim to redress the problems of the people living in far-flung areas, MLA Jasrota Rajiv Jasrotia along with officers/officials of different govt departments today convened a mega public Darbar, grievance redressal camp at village Juthana of Jasrota constituency. 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.

The concerns raised also included problems related to pension schemes, financial assistance and other welfare programs. Many individuals expressed difficulties in receiving their pensions on time, citing delays and bureaucratic



hurdles. Some people sought assistance with financial aid programs, highlighting the need for more effective implementation and awareness about these schemes. Locals also raised concerns about the effectiveness of various welfare programs, suggesting improvements to better serve the community.

Speaking on the occasion, Jasrotia conveyed his strong commitment to ensuring that the Social Welfare Department addresses the concerns raised by our citizens. He instructed the officials to look into these issues and work towards resolving them in a timely manner. We will strive to improve the implementation of welfare programs and ensure that our citizens receive the benefits they are entitled

to, said Jasrotia. "The MLA's commitment to addressing these issues has brought relief to the citizens of Jasrota constituency, who are hopeful for a better future."

Jasrotia gave a patient hearing to each individual and deputation. 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. He 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 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", Jasrotia said.

Jasrotia maintained that "The Janta Darbar is an opportunity for us to listen to the concerns of our people and work towards resolving their issues. I have instructed the officials to take immediate action on the grievances put forth by the locals, and ensure that they are resolved in a time-bound manner. We are committed to serving the people of Jasrota constituency and improving their quality of life." The Janta Darbar was a successful event that pro-

vided a platform for the locals to voice their concerns and for the government to respond to their needs. The MLA's commitment to addressing public issues in a timely manner is a testament to his dedication to serving the people of Jasrota constituency.

Later addressing Media persons present on the occasion, Jasrotia said: I am pleased to convene this Jana Darbar, which provides a platform for us to listen to your concerns and work towards resolving your issues. I am committed to ensuring that your voices are heard and your problems are addressed in a timely and efficient manner. I would like to assure you that the officials present here today have been instructed to take immediate action on your grievances and ensure that they are resolved in a time-bound manner. We are committed to serving the people of Jasrota constituency and improving their quality of life. I urge you all to utilize this opportunity to share your concerns and suggestions with us. Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to better serve our community, added Jasrotia.

Bharatiya Kala Sangam holds Folk Music Program

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Bharatiya Kala Sangam held Folk Music Program under Repertory Grant, Ministry of Culture, Govt of India, New Delhi in the premises of Writer's Club, Abhinav Theatre, Jammu in which large numbers of art lovers and distinguish citizens participated to witness the show for enhancing their vision about traditional Dogra Culture.

In this program, Romesh Kotwal, KPS, SSP JK Police was the Chief Guest whereas Kulbir Handa, former Sr Superintendent of JK Police was Guest of Honour and program was presided over by Arti Thakur, SHO, Women Police Station, Jammu. Besides Sohail Kazmi, Patron, T. R. Sharma, JKAS (Retd) Chairman, Ramesh Singh Chib, Director of Bharatiya Kala Sangam were also present.

Speaking on the occasion, T.R Sharma apprised the gathering about the efforts of Ministry of Culture, Govt of India for supporting under Repertory Grant to widely disseminate the knowledge about the traditional Dogra Culture and its various aspects through the medium of organising Folk Music Program so that new generation remains well connected with the roots of Folk Culture of Jammu region.

Expressing gratitude on behalf of Bharatiya Kala Sangam to the Min-



istry of Culture, Govt of India, New Delhi, Sharma said that under this project, the main thrust is to create awareness amongst people, especially the young generation to respect and evince deep interest towards waning and dying Folk Culture of the region, particularly Dogra culture, so that the youth could carry forward and spread the importance of understanding and following their culture in day to day life, he added.

While addressing the audience, Romesh Kotwal appreciated the efforts of Bharatiya Kala Sangam for organizing such a vibrant Show highlighting the importance of Dogra Culture and other allied folk songs of this region which is an age old culture traditionally connected with people of Dogra land.

He urged the BKS to continue organizing such shows so that the young generation spontaneously get a sense of belonging with their traditional Dogra Culture. Aarti Thakur, SHO Women

Police Station, Jammu also spoke and lauded the BKS for presenting captivating show to entertain the audience.

In this program, the eminent persons belonging to different walks of life were honoured with trophies for their significant contribution in their fields as a token of love and recognition of their work.

The program was planned and directed by renowned young Singer Ravi Raghuvanshi under the overall supervision of Ramesh Singh Chib, Director BKS, who also participated in singing program alongwith Tilak Raj Tagotra, Marina Jamwal, Rakesh Jamwal, Aditya Kumar, Tansain Group led by Sonia Sharma

Program was ably anchored by Rajni Anubhav and vote of thanks presented by Ramesh Singh Chib Director of Bharatiya Kala Sangam. Ramesh who also expressed his thanks to Ministry of Culture GOI for financial support to BKS for holding this event under Repertory Grant.

World backs Bharat, strong rebuke to Pakistan-supported terrorism: Gaurav

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18:

BJP Spokesperson Gaurav Gupta strongly welcomed the United States Government's decision to designate The Resistance Front (TRF) – a Pakistan-sponsored proxy of Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) – as a Foreign Terrorist Organization (FTO). Calling it a "global acknowledgement of India's long-standing position against cross-border terrorism," Gupta said this move vindicates what India has consistently raised at international forums: that terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir is not indigenous, but systematically exported, funded, and facilitated by Pakistan. He said, "The barbaric attack in Pahalgam which took the lives of innocent civilians and brave security personnel was not an isolated act, but part of a larger agenda driven by Pakistan's terror ecosystem. The TRF is merely a rebranded arm of Lashkar-e-Taiba, operating under a new name to mislead the global com-



munity." He lauded the decisive leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji and the strategic vision of Home Minister Amit Shah Ji, under whom India has proactively exposed Pakistan's terror designs at the UN, FATF, and in high-level bilateral engagements.

Gupta said, This designation by the U.S. will freeze TRF's financial channels, restrict their international operations, and send a clear signal that the global community will no longer turn a blind eye to Pakistan's terror proxies. He further added, "No amount of deceit – whether disguised as resistance, revolution, or religion – can cover up the reality of terror. Today, the world has

called it out." Reaffirming India's unwavering resolve, Gupta emphasized that the Government is fully committed to ensuring lasting peace, stability, and development in Jammu & Kashmir. "Every citizen deserves a life of dignity, security, and opportunity. We are working relentlessly to make that a reality, free from the shadows of fear and violence," he said. He added, "This latest step by the United States shows that India's stand against terrorism is now a shared global conviction. Together with the international community, we move forward – united in purpose, resolute in action – for a safer and stronger Bharat."

Phagetra Biradri celebrates appointment of Kavinder Gupta as LG of Ladakh



J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

The Akhil Bharatiya Mahajan Phagetra Biradri has expressed immense joy and pride over the appointment of Shri Kavinder Gupta as the new Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. In a joint media interaction, Biradri President Bharat Chaudhary, General Secretary Pawan Gupta, along with senior members Sudesh Gupta, Raman Gupta, Ashwani Gupta, Suresh Gupta, Ravi Bhushan Gupta, and Joginder Gupta extended heartfelt thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Droupadi Murmu for choosing a distinguished leader from their community for such an esteemed position.

Speaking to the media, Bharat Chaudhary said, "It is a moment of great honor that a respected member of our Biradri, who has

previously served as Mayor of Jammu, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, and Deputy Chief Minister, has now been appointed as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. This is a source of immense pride for both our community and society."

He further added that when Shri Kavinder Gupta was taking the oath of office, the entire Biradri watched with pride and reverence. "We felt as if every one of us was being recognized," he stated.

Chaudhary also announced that the Biradri plans to invite the newly appointed LG to Dati Temple to seek blessings. "Even before becoming LG, Kavinder Ji visited the temple and has always maintained strong ties with our community," he noted. "He has uplifted the status of our Biradri and will continue to do so in the future."

Indian Army organizes Painting Competition at Surankote, Poonch

J I NEWS SERVICE
POONCH: 18 JUL 2025

The Indian Army organized a vibrant painting competition at Army Goodwill School (AGS) Potha, Surankote on 18 July 2025. The event saw enthusiastic participation from students of classes 5 to 8, who skillfully transformed blank canvases into powerful expressions of peace, nature, patriotism, and community spirit. A total of 35 students showcased their artistic talents, with each painting reflecting creativity, thoughtfulness and the



values instilled at AGS, Potha. The artworks were evaluated by a panel of teachers who commended the students' innovative use of color, storytelling and originality. The com-

petition not only highlighted the students' artistic abilities but also fostered a spirit of expression and imagination, encouraging young minds to explore their creativity.

Sham Lal Sharma, Mohan Lal Bhagat listen to public grievances at BJP headquarters

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

BJP senior leader, and MLA, Sham Lal Sharma and MLA Mohan Lal Bhagat listened to the grievance of the people in a public darbar held at party headquarters, Trikuta Nagar, Jammu

A large number of people from various areas, including Mawa Brahmana, Janipur Colony, Chinore, Raja Bazar (Akhnoor), Ambphalla, Barnai, Roop Nagar, Keran, Nanak Nagar, Karwanda, Sarwal, Domana, Purkhoo, Ban Talab, and Jagti (Nagrot), attended the "public darbar" to voice their concerns.

Attendees, representing diverse backgrounds, presented a wide array of civic and service-related issues. Prominent among



the grievances were calls for the regularization of daily wagers employed under the Jal Jeevan Mission. Citizens also highlighted the urgent need for repair of dilapidated lanes and drains, resolution of land ownership disputes, and restoration of damaged roads. Issues related to public infrastructure were frequently raised, including the installation and repair of street lights, provision of Mark-II hand pumps, and the fixing of drain gratings and elec-

tric poles. Furthermore, residents emphasized the necessity of upgrading power transformers and addressing the persistent scarcity of drinking water. Sham Lal Sharma specifically addressed the issue of frequent power outages, particularly in metered areas. He strongly urged the concerned department to ensure an uninterrupted power supply, stating, "In this oppressive heat and humidity, power cuts even in metered areas are un-

ceptable. Regular power should also be ensured on special feeders supplying PHE stations."

Mohan Lal Bhagat underscored the critical importance of accountability within departments responsible for essential services. He remarked, "The departments must be monitored consistently. People cannot be allowed to suffer due to negligence or inefficiency."

During the darbar, both leaders patiently listened to all submissions. Several pressing matters were immediately taken up with senior officials over the phone, and in certain instances, formal letters were issued to expedite the resolution process.

The proceedings of the public darbar were coordinated by Er. Dil Bahadur Singh Jamwal.

Expert Talk on "Vision Transformer and Its Applications" by Prof. Deepak Mishra (IIST, Trivandrum) at CU Jammu

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

The Department of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Central University of Jammu, hosted a distinguished expert lecture on the cutting-edge topic "Vision Transformer and its Applications", delivered by Prof. Deepak Mishra from the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST), Thiruvananthapuram. The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, research scholars, and students of ECE department. Prof. Mishra, an academician and researcher in the domains of computer vision, elaborated on the emerging role of Vision Transformers (ViTs) in image classification, object detection, and computer vision tasks.



He provided an in-depth overview of the underlying architecture, advantages over convolutional neural networks (CNNs), and real-world applications in remote sensing, medical imaging, and autonomous systems. The session was highly engaging and intellectually enriching, offering participants valuable insights into state-of-the-art deep learning models and their interdisciplinary

applications. Attendees had the opportunity to interact directly with Prof. Mishra during the Q&A session, which sparked stimulating discussions around AI-driven research frontiers. The expert talk was coordinated by Dr. Hanee Kour under the supervision of Prof. Rakesh Kumar Jha, HoD, ECE, who is known for promoting high-impact research initiatives in space technology at the univer-

sity.

As a mark of honor and appreciation, Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Central University of Jammu, presented a memento to Prof. Deepak Mishra and expressed his gratitude for sharing his expertise with the university community. Prof. Jain also emphasized the importance of such expert talks in fostering a research-oriented culture and motivating students to explore advanced topics in science and technology. The event concluded with a vote of thanks and group interaction, leaving the participants inspired and intellectually empowered. The session marked a significant step towards enhancing academic collaborations and promoting innovation-driven learning at CU Jammu.

Omar Abdullah's Statement on Urdu in Revenue Records - A Misleading and Politically Motivated Move: Pawan Sharma

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Pawan Sharma, Senior BJP Leader and State Secretary J&K, strongly condemn the statement made by Omar Abdullah regarding the use of Urdu in revenue records. This move is a clear example of political opportunism, aimed at polarizing the masses rather than addressing the real issues affecting Jammu and Kashmir.

Omar Abdullah had stated, "Even before Independence, our revenue records were in Urdu. How will a staff member in the revenue department work if he/she doesn't know Urdu? Earlier, when officers of Jammu and Kashmir Administrative Service (JKAS) and Indian Administrative Service (IAS) used to get appointed, if they

didn't know Urdu, then they were given time to learn basics. I don't think staff members of the revenue department who don't know Urdu can be efficient."

Pawan Sharma responded by saying that Omar Abdullah is deliberately misleading the public. "It is true that before independence, revenue records across Northern India—including Jammu and Kashmir—were maintained in Persian or Urdu. However, with time and administrative reforms, most states transitioned to Hindi, English, or local languages. Even in Jammu and Kashmir, the medium of instruction in government schools has shifted entirely to English," he said.

Sharma emphasized that Omar Abdullah's focus

on Urdu in revenue records constitutes a selective approach, disregarding the linguistic diversity of Jammu and Kashmir. The BJP has consistently advocated for the promotion of all official languages, including Hindi, Sanskrit, and Dogri, integral to the region's cultural and linguistic heritage.

Pawan Sharma stated that Omar Abdullah's prioritization of Urdu over other languages is hypocritical. This biased approach raises concerns about his commitment to linguistic inclusivity and equality. The people of Jammu and Kashmir deserve better representation and recognition of their linguistic



identities.

He further criticized Omar Abdullah for failing to focus on real issues facing the Revenue Department. "Instead of encouraging the digitisation and modernisation of revenue

records, Omar Abdullah is resorting to outdated language debates to divert attention. He has not convened a single review meeting of the Revenue Department since assuming charge. Now, shedding crocodile tears for the department is nothing but a political gimmick," Sharma added.

Sharma stated that Omar Abdullah's emphasis on language politics is diverting attention away from pressing concerns such as unemployment, infrastructure development, and social welfare. The BJP urges him to prioritize the needs of the people rather than engaging in divisive politics.

Sharma emphasized the BJP's unwavering commitment to advancing linguis-

tic inclusivity and equality in Jammu and Kashmir, empowering all communities to thrive and ensuring every citizen has equal access to opportunities and resources.

Sharma stated that Omar Abdullah's remarks on Urdu in revenue records represent a desperate attempt to revive his party's dwindling relevance in Jammu and Kashmir. We urge the public to recognize this tactic and support the BJP's commitment to their development and welfare.

Sharma emphasized that language should not be used as a tool to hinder progress or create administrative confusion. "The need of the hour is digitisation, transparency, and accessibility of land records—not regressive politics," he concluded.

Mahant Datt Giri ji Maharaj President SDSSS demands resolution of daily wazer employees issues in J&K

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Mahant Datt Giri Ji Maharaj, President of the Sadhu Dharam Sthan Surakshani Samiti, And Swami Harishanand giri ji maharaj addressed a press conference in Jammu and raised serious concerns over the unresolved issues of Daily Wazer Employees across Jammu and Kashmir. He stated that whether the matters relate to JMC, PHE, PDD, or any other department, the government must act swiftly to regularize and resolve their problems.

He warned the government and local administration that if the issues of Daily Wazer are not addressed immediately, the Samiti will extend full



support to the vendors and launch a protest movement.

Mahant Datt Giri Ji criticized previous governments led by the National Conference and Congress, claiming they only offered false promises to the Daily Wazer without delivering any real solutions. He demanded the current administration stop offering "lollipops" and instead take concrete steps to ensure the rights and regulation of Daily Wazer Employees in Jammu Kashmir.

REACHA Foundation Organizes 'Smartpur Impact and Insight' Workshop in Samba, J&K: CSR Initiative Supported by Nokia

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

The REACHA Foundation, under the CSR support of Nokia, successfully organized a significant event-workshop titled "Smartpur Impact and Insight: Annual Showcasing and Capacity Building Workshop" in Samba. The event brought together around 61 participants, including key stakeholders, government officials, NGO representatives, academicians, digital entrepreneurs, and beneficiaries associated with Smartpur Centres across the region.

The workshop aimed to highlight the transformative journey of Smartpur Centres in empowering rural communities through digital inclusion, skill development, and capacity building. Participants shared their on-ground experiences, emphasizing how Smartpur has enhanced access to digital literacy, vocational training, and essential services, thereby improving individual livelihoods and enabling holistic community development.

Prominent dignitaries who attended the workshop included Mr. Shajad Nagra (Project Head, REACHA Foundation),



Ms. Isha Bali (State Lead, REACHA Foundation), Dr. Vinay Kumar (Assistant Professor, Social Work, Central University of Jammu), Mr. Sushil Singh Charak (Social Activist and Chief Functionary, Nations Development Association, Life Member of the Red Cross Society, and Former Secretary, International Human Rights Organisation J&K), Mr. Naresh Kumar (Assistant Director, Department of Employment), Mr. Sourav Gupta (Senior Scientist, KVK), Ms. Ruchi Thakur (District Coordinator, Sankalp HEW, Mission Shakti), and Ms. Kritika Choudhary (Cluster Head, CRISIL Foundation).

Also present at the event were Mr. Ravi Sharma (Project Supervisor), Mr. Dushyant Kumar (Guidance and Counselling Expert), and Gender Specialists Ms. Ritika Banotra and Ms. Mansi Abrol. The dignitaries appreciated the collaborative and grassroots efforts of the REACHA Foundation and shared meaningful suggestions for replicating and scaling the Smartpur model across other districts of Jammu province.

Mr. Shajad Nagra, in his address, outlined REACHA's long-term vision and strategic roadmap for the sustainability and expansion of the Smartpur initiative. He empha-

sized the importance of a community-driven and participatory approach for advancing digital empowerment and strengthening rural infrastructure.

Mr. Sushil Singh Charak, Chief Functionary Nations Development Association, lauded the impact of Smartpur Centres in the critical domains of education, health, livelihood, governance, and financial literacy in Jammu & Kashmir. He appreciated REACHA's inclusive model and suggested further strengthening partnerships with grassroots NGOs and youth-led groups to enhance outreach and sustainability.

Adding to the discus-

sion, Dr. Vinay Kumar, Assistant Professor of Social Work at the Central University of Jammu, highlighted the strong linkage between social work and CSR-driven development. He emphasized the need to integrate social work professionals more deeply into Smartpur like models to ensure culturally relevant, people-centric solutions.

A highlight of the workshop was the experience-sharing session by Smartpur Centre beneficiaries. Their powerful testimonials spoke volumes about how digital access and capacity building had improved their daily lives from better job opportunities to easier access to government schemes and support systems.

The event concluded with a renewed commitment by all stakeholders to collectively work towards inclusive growth, digital empowerment, and rural transformation in Jammu and beyond. The REACHA Foundation reaffirmed its dedication to building resilient, self-reliant communities through the Smartpur initiative, in continued partnership with Nokia under its Corporate Social Responsibility framework.

ADGP Armed felicitates DySP (Retd) Surjeet Choudhary for his outstanding achievements in masters athletics



JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed J&K, today felicitated retired Dy. SP Surjeet Choudhary in a felicitation ceremony held at Armed Police Headquarters Srinagar, for his exceptional achievements in Masters Athletics at both National and International platforms.

2. Recently, Sh. Choudhary clinched three gold medals at the Open Masters Athletic Meet held at Colombo, Sri Lanka,

securing top positions in the 100-meter race, Long Jump, and Triple Jump.

3. His athletic journey continues to inspire, with a remarkable record that includes: Gold, 1 Silver, and 1 Bronze at national-level events in the year -2023.

4. 03 Gold Medals in India-Bangladesh Masters Athletics Meet 2018 and 03 Gold Medals in Khelo Masters Games 2023 (Delhi).

5. Gold in 100m, Silver in Long Jump and Triple Jump in Khelo Masters Games 2025. He aims to represent India in the

upcoming Olympic Masters Games.

6. A former member of the J&K Police Central Sports Team, Sh. Choudhary served the force with distinction for decades, particularly in the field of athletics. His dedication to fitness and sports post-retirement continues to serve as an inspiration for youth and fellow officers.

Sh. Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed commended his contributions in policing and sports arena and extended best wishes for his future competitions.

Rang Tarang Festival culminates with Record Breaking Performances at IIM Jammu

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18, 2025

Breaking all records and by creating a new history 'Rang Tarang' a festival of theatre and dance concluded here today at Mandpam, IIM Jammu. Featuring 16 plays and 4 dance events all under the direction of Balwant Thakur offered a vast variety of plays and dances covering different genres, periods, approaches and forms of theatre. From world classics to Indian classics, from classical to traditional and contemporary, the festival will be remembered for this amazing diversity. 'Rang Tarang' was inaugurated on 15th of July, 2025 by the Director IIM Jammu Prof. B.S. Sahay who appreciated the efforts of all the participants, faculty



members and the festival director for making this historic event happen at IIM Jammu. Over four vibrant days, from July 15 to July 18, the festival witnessed an extraordinary display of talent, setting a record with the highest number of performances by a group of 128 brilliant artists.

The festival opened with a spectacular blend of theatre and dance, captivating audiences with powerful stage performances and energetic

cultural displays. A wide array of plays, both contemporary and classic, were showcased during the event. These included Rehearsal by Lakshmi Kant Vaishnav, Aaj Ki Aurat by Balwant Thakur, Gadda, based on a story by Kishen Chander, and The Dear Departed by Stanley Houghton. The audience was also treated to Sabse Bada Aadmi by Bhagwati Charan Verma, Koi Aur Raasta and Antral Ke Baad, both written by Pratap Sehgal, and Budhi

Kaaki, based on a story by Munshi Premchand. Other notable performances included Ander Nagri by Bhartendu Harishchandra, Coffee House Wali Ladki by Dr. Satya Parkash, Girgit, based on a short story by Anton Chekhov, as well as Janta Pagal Hogayi Hai by Shiv Ram, Jangi Ram Ki Haveli written by Gurusharan Singh, Miss World Undeclared written by Satyendra Shrivastava, Refund by Fritz Karinthy and Jonk written by Upender Nath Ashk.

In addition to theatre, the festival highlighted the cultural richness of the region through mesmerizing dance performances. Students of IIM Jammu presented traditional regional dances including Gojri, Pahadi, and Dogri Jagarana, which drew loud

applause and admiration from the audience.

Speaking on the occasion Director Natrang Padmashree Balwant Thakur who was also the festival director of 'Rang Tarang' shares that, with its dynamic blend of drama and dance, Rang Tarang 2025 not only showcased the immense talent of the students but also celebrated the vibrant cultural heritage of India. The event has truly set a new benchmark for artistic expression and youth engagement in academic institutions.

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

Congress delegation led by Saroori Visits GMC Doda, Demands Relief and Urgent Road Repairs

JI NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 18

A Congress delegation led by Senior Congress leader and former minister Ghulam Mohammad Saroori visited Government Medical College (GMC) Doda today to meet the victims of the recent Bharat-Doda road accident. He interacted with the injured and their families and assured them of full support from the Congress party.

Saroori demanded an ex-gratia relief of Rs 10 lakh for the families of those who lost their lives and a government job for one member of each affected family. He said the victims should not be left alone in their suffering and emphasized that the party would raise their concerns at the highest level.

Speaking to reporters after the hospital visit, Saroori expressed deep concern over the alarming rise in road accidents in the Chenab Valley. He blamed the deteriorating condition of roads and narrow stretches as the primary causes of repeated tragedies in the region. "The roads in Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban are in extremely poor condition. Immediate action is needed to repair and widen them before more lives are lost," he said.

He appealed to Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha and Chief Minister Omar Abdullah to expedite road restoration and macadamization works, especially in



accident-prone zones. "It's the poor and working-class people who suffer the most due to government inaction," he added.

Saroori also recalled that during the 2008-2013 term of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly, a dedicated committee chaired by Mohammad Yousuf Tarigami, of which he was a member, conducted a detailed study of the road safety situation across the erstwhile Doda district. The committee submitted a comprehensive report recommending safety measures to prevent such accidents. "Unfortunately, the report has been gathering dust. Not a single recommendation has been implemented," he lamented.

Turning to another issue, Saroori criticized the police administration for preventing Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and other political leaders from offering tributes at Mazar-e-Shohda on July 13. "The martyrs of July 13 sacrificed their lives for democracy and justice. Denying political leaders the right to pay homage is a disservice to their legacy," he said.

He also thanked Congress national president Mallikarjun Kharge and

senior leader Rahul Gandhi for consistently advocating the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. He urged the Modi government to end the delay and restore full statehood without any further excuses.

Later in the day, Saroori chaired a Congress workers' meeting at the Dak Bungalow in Thathri. He called upon party workers to prepare actively for the upcoming Urban Local Body (ULB) elections, scheduled to be held in October-November this year. He urged them to strengthen ground-level connections with the public and to highlight local issues with full commitment.

Saroori's visit and statements have once again brought attention to the critical infrastructure challenges and political aspirations of the people in Chenab Valley, underlining the need for urgent government intervention and responsive leadership.

Saroori was accompanied by a senior Congress delegation comprising Altaf Hussain, Asgar Hussain Khangi, Mudassar Ahmed, Mohd Iqbal Teli, Mohd Iqbal Keen, Mashkooor Ahmed, and other party leaders.

Public Outreach Programme held at Border Village Jerda- Ramgarh

JI NEWS SERVICE
SAMBA, JULY 18

In a major public outreach initiative, the District Administration Samba, in collaboration with Action India NGO organised a community programme at the border village of Jerda, Ramgarh, to address public grievances and promote youth engagement.

During the event, Deputy Commissioner Rajesh Sharma distributed books and sports kits among local children and youth, encouraging them to channelize their energy for achieving excellence in academics and sports. The outreach programme was held with the larger goal of instilling a sense of unity and motivating the youth to stay away from drugs.

The DC underlined the administration's commitment to the welfare of Displaced Persons (DPs) of 1947, 1965, 1971 and urged eligible individuals to submit the requisite documents to claim ownership rights under the ongoing schemes.

75th Anniversary of NSSO celebrated in Jammu; quiz competition, cultural show mark celebrations

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

National Statistics Office, under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation, Government of India organized an event here on Friday to celebrate the 75th anniversary of NSSO. The Regional Office Jammu organised a quiz competition Anwesha (2.0) for postgraduate and under-graduate students pursuing courses in Statistics and Economics in various Colleges/Universities across the UT of J&K. Apart from the students, the event was attended by the officers and the field staff of NSO (Field Operations Division) Jammu; Regional Office, Srinagar; Sub-Regional Office, Udhampur and Baramulla.

Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel, Head of the Department (Statistics), University of Jammu was the chief guest of the event which was also attended by Shri Kishore Kumar, Additional Director-General, Ministry of



Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI), and Shri Rajesh Kumar, Regional Passport Officer, Jammu.

In his inaugural address, Prof. J. P. Singh Joorel, Head of Department (Statistics), University of Jammu, highlighted the role of National Statistics Office in developing a sound Statistical database for the use by planners and policy makers, researchers and various other agencies at the National and International level.

The keynote address was presented by Shri Kishore Kumar, Additional Director General, CQCD, MoSPI, who was also a Special Guest. In his keynote address, Shri Kumar highlighted the role of

NSSO in the past 75 years. He also spoke about NSO surveys currently carried out by the field officials of the NSO field staff. Shri Kumar also highlighted the coming road map of MoSPI for conducting new surveys and their importance in the Indian economy.

Shri Rajesh Kumar, Regional Passport Officer, Jammu highlighted the role of MoSPI in the policy formulation and nation building. Vote of thanks was presented by Shri R. K. Sharma, Assistant Director, NSO (FOD) RO Jammu. The welcome address was presented by Shri P. Palanivel Deputy Director General, NSO (FOD), Regional Office Jammu.

DGP J&K visits Doda, reviews multi-agency security grid ahead of upcoming events

JI NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Director General of Police, J&K, Shri Nalin Prabhat, IPS, visited Doda district to conduct a comprehensive review of the security arrangements in view of ongoing counter-terror operations and the upcoming events scheduled across the region. The visit was part of a broader effort to recalibrate field-level preparedness in the mountainous districts of the DKR Range, especially in light of evolving threat perceptions.

A strategic security review meeting was convened at Baderwah and was attended by key officers from civil, police, and military establishments. The meeting was attended by DIG DKR Range, SSP Doda, SSP Kishtwar, Commander 9 Sector RR, Commanding Officer 4 RR, and Commanding Officer CRPF. The deliberations focused on multi-agency coordination, domination of vulnerable areas, and integrated intelligence flow to pre-empt and neutralise any security threats in the twin districts of



Doda and Kishtwar.

The DGP conducted a detailed briefing with field commanders on deployment patterns, current operational challenges, and area-specific threat assessments. Special focus was laid on enhancing grid saturation in higher reaches, securing transit routes, and hardening soft targets. He also reviewed the integration of real-time intelligence inputs with area domination plans, stressing the need for proactive policing and early-warning systems through community contact and covert

surveillance.

Shri Nalin Prabhat emphasized the importance of joint operational synergy between the J&K Police, Army, and CAPFs. He called for sustained high-altitude area patrols, layered checkpoints, and night-time area domination, particularly in infiltration-prone and previously disturbed regions. He appreciated the work being done by the Doda and Kishtwar police in ensuring peace and law and order despite the rugged terrain and recent attempts by terror ele-

ments to revive activities in the Chenab Valley.

Underscoring the importance of both tactical readiness and public confidence, the DGP directed officers to maintain a visible security presence in urban centers while remaining agile and unpredictable in rural and forested belts. He also reviewed logistical preparedness, including mobility, communications, and emergency response plans to ensure readiness for any exigency during the forthcoming festivals and events.

GOVERNMENT OF JAMMU AND KASHMIR PUBLIC WORKS (R&B) DEPARTMENT CIVIL SECRETARIAT, J&K

Subject: Acceptance of the Degree certificate of Er. Zakir Hussain Mir, Junior Engineer (Civil) and inclusion of his name in the seniority list thereof.

NOTICE INVITING OBJECTIONS

WHEREAS, the Chief Engineer, PW(R&B) Department Kashmir vide his letter No. CE/RBK/ADM/36491-93 dated 11.03.2023 forwarded the case of Er. Zakir Hussain Mir, Junior Engineer (Civil) for acceptance of his Degree and inclusion of his name in the relevant seniority list of Degree Holders Junior Engineers (Civil), with the following details:

Name with Designation	Date of confirmation/ Appointment	Date of enrollment	Mode of Degree	Name of the University	Date of Passing Degree	Permission status
Er. Zakir Hussain Mir, Junior Engineer	09.12.2021	Dec-2013	Regular	Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra	14.01.2016	Not required

AND WHEREAS, the case was examined in the Department and the Degree/Marks Certificates of above official were forwarded to the concerned University vide this Department's letter dated 28.07.2023 for verification/authentication. In response, the concerned University vide letter No. AR(CS)/CS-V/23/007OIP dated 21.08.2023, has verified the Degree Certificate and Marks Sheets of the Official;

AND WHEREAS, the above mentioned Junior Engineer has also produced undertakings in the shape of Affidavit affirming therein that if his information proves fake at any point of time he shall be held responsible for all consequences thereof;

AND WHEREAS, on further examination of the case, it has been observed that the case of Mr Zakir Hussain Mir, Junior Engineer (Civil) relates to acceptance of his Degree from the date of appointment in the service and inclusion of his name at appropriate place in the relevant seniority list of Degree Holders Junior Engineers (Civil) as and when the same is notified afresh and also exclusion of his name from the relevant seniority list of Junior Engineers Diploma Holders (Civil).

NOW THEREFORE, before acceptance of the Degree acquired by Er. Zakir Hussain Mir, Junior Engineer (Civil) and also inclusion of his name at appropriate place in the relevant seniority list of Degree Holders Junior Engineers (Civil), objections are invited from the members of the cadre who are likely to be affected due to the decision of the Department. The objection(s) should reach this Department within a period of 21 days from the date of issuance/publication of this notice through CRU, Civil Secretariat Jammu/Srinagar. No claim, whatsoever, shall be entertained after expiry of stipulated time period.

Sd/-
(Hamid Hameed)
Under Secretary to the Government

Dated: 17/07/2025
No: PWD-HRM1/24/2023-05 [7153019]
DIP/J-3614/25
Date: 18-7-25

PM Modi targets Congress-RJD, accuses INDIA Bloc of hindering Bihar's growth

AGENCIES
MOTIHARI, JULY 18

In a high-pitched campaign push ahead of Assembly elections due later this year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi today launched a scathing attack on the opposition INDIA bloc, particularly the Congress and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD), accusing of halting growth of Bihar for decades.

Addressing a massive public rally in Motihari, a BJP stronghold in East Champaran district, Modi accused them of "betraying" Bihar for political gains in the name of the poor, Dalits, backward classes, and tribals.

"They have done politics over these communities for decades, but delivered nothing. When in power, they misused funds meant for their welfare and left Bihar lagging behind," he said.

PM Modi, while addressing a public meeting here



after launching and laying foundation stones of various projects relating to roads, railways and others worth Rs 7,200 crores, said that his government was extending "full support to Bihar for accelerated pace of development, since coming to power in the year 2014".

"On the contrary, Bihar was given a step motherly treatment by the previous UPA government of Congress and RJD, hampering its growth in all sectors," he added.

He noted that since coming to power in 2014,

the Centre had extended unprecedented financial support to the state.

"Between 2004 and 2014, during the ten years tenure of UPA government at the Centre, Bihar received around Rs 2 lakh crore for development and welfare projects. But since 2014, our government has provided close to Rs 14 lakh crore, a clear reflection of our commitment to Bihar's future," Modi stated.

PM Modi's visit is a part of his ongoing efforts to galvanize support for the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) ahead of the upcoming state Assembly elections.

Highlighting the rise of eastern nations on the global stage, the Prime Minister said it was time for India's eastern states, including Bihar, to move forward with renewed urgency.

"Motihari should grow like Mumbai, Patna must progress like Pune, and Gaya should develop like Gurugram," he envisioned.

He praised the Nitish Kumar-led NDA government in Bihar for implementing schemes that directly benefit the poor. "Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, over four crore pucca houses have been built across the country, 60 lakh of them in Bihar alone," he said.

Reiterating his vision of transforming Bihar into a "developed state," PM Modi urged voters to continue supporting the NDA for stability, transparency, and growth.

NHs network is now second-largest road network in the world: Harsh Malhotra

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

Minister of State for Transport & Highways Harsh Malhotra today said that India's national highways network has expanded significantly from 91,000 km in 2014 to over 1.46 lakh km today, making it the second-largest road network in the world.

Addressing the Road and Highways Summit here, Malhotra emphasised that these modern highways are not just roads they are lifelines of progress, connecting people, industries and opportunities, an official statement said.

"By expanding the network, the government has redefined the very experience of travel -- making it faster, safer and significantly more comfortable for every citizen," he said.

He said that the government's spending on road infrastructure has increased 6.4 times between 2013-14 and 2024-25, with a 57 per cent rise in the budget allocation for the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. This, he said reflects the government's unwavering commitment to connectivity, mobility and economic growth.



The Minister also stated that in recent years road infrastructure has created 45 crore man-days of direct employment, 57 crore man-days of indirect employment and 532 crore man-days of induced employment which demonstrates the substantial impact of infrastructure projects on job creation across various sectors.

Malhotra also stated that more than 10,000 km of National Highways constructed in North Eastern Region during the past decade, which demonstrates the government's commitment to the region.

He also highlighted the Delhi Decongestion Plan, which aims to reduce the traffic congestion and pollution in the city and would improve connectivity in the city.

The plan includes extension of Delhi-Amritsar-

samaritan scheme and the cashless golden hour scheme".

The Minister further stated that with initiatives like the Green Highways Policy and 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam', the Ministry has planted over 4.78 crore trees and transplanted around 70,000 trees along national highways.

He said that the Ministry has also adopted sustainable construction practices including the use of over 80 lakh tonnes of plastic waste in major projects such as UER-II and the Ahmedabad-Dholera Expressway. Additionally, fly ash from thermal power plants is being incorporated into highway construction, reducing the need for raw materials and lowering emissions.

"The construction of more highways is pivotal to achieving the vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Every rupee invested in highway development yields a threefold return to the GDP, unlocks vast employment opportunities and opens multiple channels for revenue generation and the government is not just building roads— it is laying the foundation for a prosperous, peaceful, and resilient Bharat," he added.

India offers prayers, condolences after Iraq shopping centre fire kills 61

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

India has expressed deep sorrow over the devastating fire at a shopping centre in Al-Kut, Iraq, which claimed at least 61 lives.

Conveying condolences to the government and people of Iraq, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) affirmed India's solidarity with them during this tragic time and offered prayers for the victims' families as well as wishing a swift recovery to those injured.

"We express our profound grief at the tragic loss of innocent lives and for those who sustained injuries in the devastat-



ing fire incident in the city of Al-Kut, Iraq, on 16 July 2025," MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said in a post on X.

"We offer our sincere condolences to the government and people of Iraq and pray for the families of the victims and for the early recovery of those injured. In this difficult hour, the people of India stand in solidarity with the people of Iraq,"

the MEA stated in an official message posted on X. A massive fire tore through the five-storey Al-Kornish Hypermarket in Iraq's eastern city of Kut on Wednesday, killing dozens and devastating the local community.

According to Iraq's Ministry of Interior, at least 61 people, including men, women, and children, died in the blaze, and dozens were rescued

from the burning building. "This heartbreaking fire claimed the lives of 61 innocent citizens, most of whom died from suffocation in the bathrooms due to heavy smoke," the ministry said, calling it "a deeply tragic incident that has shaken Iraq's collective conscience." The bodies of 14 victims remain unidentified.

Despite the severity of the fire, civil Defence teams "heroically managed to rescue more than 45 people trapped inside the building, with remarkable dedication and courage," the ministry added.

Rahul condemns ED action against Robert Vadra, calls it 'politically motivated'

Rahul condemns ED action against Robert Vadra, calls it 'politically motivated'

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today strongly condemned the latest chargesheet filed against his brother-in-law and businessman Robert Vadra, calling it part of a decade-long campaign of political harassment by the Central government.

In a statement on X, Gandhi said, "My brother-in-law has been hounded by this government for the last ten years. This latest chargesheet is a continuation of that witch hunt."

Expressing solidarity with his family, Gandhi added, "I stand with Robert, Priyanka, and their children as they face



yet another onslaught of malicious, politically motivated slander and harassment."

"I know that they are all brave enough to withstand any kind of persecution, and they will continue to do so with dignity," he stated.

"The truth will eventually prevail," the Raebareilly MP added.

Moreover, Congress general secretary KC Venugopal too described the Enforcement Directorate (ED) action as a clear case of "political vendetta".

On X, Venugopal said,

"It seems the Modi-Shah duo has given the ED a monthly assignment to go after the Congress senior leadership and their family. The latest ED action against Mr Robert Vadra is pure political vendetta - yet another futile attempt at intimidation."

The ED has filed a chargesheet against Robert Vadra in connection with a high-profile land scam in Gurugram, Haryana. The charges pertain to allegations of corruption, forgery, cheating, and money laundering. Several other individuals and entities have also been named in the chargesheet, including real estate giant DLF and former Haryana Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda.

Trump diagnosed with vein condition, says White House

AGENCIES
WASHINGTON, JULY 18

Ending days of speculation regarding photographs showing bruising on the US president's hand, the White House announced that Donald Trump is suffering from a chronic vein condition.

After recently experiencing swelling in his legs, Trump underwent a "comprehensive exam" including vascular testing, according to White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt yesterday.

Leavitt further said Trump's bruised hand was consistent with "tissue damage from frequent handshaking" while taking aspirin, which she said is "part of a standard cardio-vascular prevention regimen". Trump, 79, has regularly touted his good health and once described himself as "the healthiest president that's ever lived", reported BBC.

Golden Temple threat email: Suspect detained from Faridabad

AGENCIES
AMRITSAR, JULY 18

Acting on a recent series of threat emails targeting the Golden Temple, Amritsar Police have intensified security arrangements around the revered Sikh shrine.

Enhanced deployments, in coordination with the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), have been made both within and around the complex, with DCP-level officers monitoring the situation on the ground.

Police Commissioner Gurpreet Singh Bhullar, in a press briefing, confirmed that cyber investigations are underway in collaboration with state cyber crime units and central agencies. The probe has also extended to multiple states, including Tamil Nadu, where similar emails were reportedly received. Authorities are currently exploring potential connections with fringe political elements from the region.

As part of the investi-



gation, a man identified as Subham Dubey was detained from Faridabad. Police say he is a B.Tech graduate who has worked with various firms. His electronic devices, including a laptop and phone, have been seized for forensic examination. However, officials clarified that he has not been formally charged and is being questioned based on technical leads.

Commissioner Bhullar further stated that VPNs and advanced technology were used to mask the origin of the emails, indicating a deliberate attempt to mislead investigators. Despite the challenges, police remain confident

about a breakthrough soon.

The police reassured devotees that there is no cause for panic and that all security protocols are being implemented respectfully, in line with religious decorum. Authorities have contacted cybersecurity experts and international service providers to trace digital footprints.

While the investigation is still ongoing, officials stressed that significant progress has been made. "With Guru Maharaj's blessings, all devotees are safe. We are hopeful of achieving a full breakthrough very soon," said Bhullar.

Stalin slams Modi government as 'National Dictatorship Arrangement' fomenting communalism

AGENCIES
CHENNAI, JULY 18

Giving a new nomenclature to the BJP-led NDA at the helm at the centre as 'National Dictatorship Arrangement', Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and DMK president MK Stalin today charged the Modi government with fomenting communalism in the past 11 years it is in office.

"Crushing the democratic rights of the people, stripping the States of their legitimate rights, imposing Sanskrit and Hindi everywhere, fostering communalism and especially discriminating Tamil Nadu marks the 11-years of the Union government under the BJP, which is a #National Dictatorship Arrangement," he wrote on 'X'.

"I have suitably advised the DMK MPs to be the voice of democracy in opposing the National Dic-



tatorship Arrangement," he added.

In another post, marking the anniversary of DMK founder and late Chief Minister CN Annadurai

re-christening the Madras State as 'Tamil Nadu' in 1967, Stalin said "Realising a dream that generations have kept dear in their hearts, it was a historic moment. On June 18, 1967, the Tamil Nadu got its new nomenclature - Tamil Nadu. Anna (on the passage of the Bill), declared 'Tamil Nadu' thrice to the

thumping of the desks in the Assembly.

In the 1967 Assembly election, the DMK had dethroned the Congress and since then no national party could come to power in the Dravidian heartland, being ruled alternately by either the DMK

or the AIADMK. Many congress leaders were defeated, including the stalwart K Kamaraj, who had been AICC President as well, had to bite the dust in his native Virudhunagar. He lost to a greenhorn.

ED raids Baghel's residence in Chhattisgarh

AGENCIES
DURG (CHHATTISGARH), JULY 18

The Enforcement Directorate today conducted searches at the residence of former Chhattisgarh chief minister Bhupesh Baghel in an alleged liquor scam involving his son Chaitanya.

Baghel's office confirmed the development through a post on social media, stating, "The ED came. Today is the final day of the Assembly session. The issue of logging in Tamnar for Adani was to be taken up. 'Saheb' has sent the ED to the Bhalai residence."

ED officials said that after obtaining fresh evidence in the case, the Prevention of Money Laundering Act was invoked against Chaitanya who resides with his father.

Similar raids were conducted in March.

Gayle, Pollard to don most expensive jersey in cricket history for West Indies Champions

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 18

Boasting of legends like Chris Gayle, DJ Bravo and Kieron Pollard, the West Indies Champions are ready to roar in the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025.

Scheduled from July 18 to August 2 across Birmingham, Northampton, Leicester, and Leeds, WCL 2025 brings together the heroes of yesteryears in a grand summer spectacle sanctioned by the England and Wales



Cricket Board (ECB).

The iconic jersey, designed exclusively for the West Indies Champions, is embellished with real 18K gold, available in 30g, 20g, and 10g editions. This landmark

release is a tribute to the rich heritage and legendary spirit of West Indies cricket greats – from Sir Clive Lloyd to Chris Gayle and the modern generation of icons. "This landmark release

is a tribute to the rich heritage and legendary spirit of West Indies cricket greats – from Sir Clive Lloyd to Chris Gayle and the modern generation of icons. This isn't just sportswear – it's wearable history. A seamless fusion of royal craftsmanship, cultural pride, and sporting excellence, the Lorenze jersey stands as a collector's item and global statement of luxury in sport," commented Raj Karan Duggal, Founder of Lorenze.

Amidst complaints, Dukes ball used in England-India Tests to be examined by manufacturers

AGENCIES
LONDON, JULY 18

Amidst criticism over the balls going soft a bit too early, the manufacturer of Dukes ball has said that they would be examining the balls used in the first three Tests between England and India, in a bid to solve the issues surrounding it.

The Dukes balls, which have been in production since 1760, have been regarded as high-quality cricket balls, but in the ongoing Test series between England



and India, it has been going soft long before the second new ball comes into the picture.

"We will take it away, inspect and then start talking to the tanner, talk-

ing about all of the raw materials – everything. Everything we do will be reviewed and then if we think some changes need to be made or tightened up, we will," said Dilip

Jajodia, owner of British Cricket Balls Ltd, who make the Dukes ball, to BBC Sport on Friday.

With the ball going too soft and losing its shape, especially after the first 30 overs, taking wickets has become harder for bowlers' from both teams. The issue of Dukes ball quality made buzz again when there were five ball changes during England's first innings in the third Test at Lord's, while one ball change happened only 10.2 overs into day two's play.

Badminton Asia Junior C'ships: India begin campaign with 110-69 win over SL in mixed team Group D opener

AGENCIES
SOLO (INDONESIA), JULY 18

India kicked off their Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team championships campaign in style as they thrashed Sri Lanka 110-69 in their Group D clash in Indonesia on Friday.

The mixed doubles combination of Vishnu Kode and Reshika U began India's march with a 11-5 win over Keneth Aruggoda and Isuri Attanayake in the relay point system where a team had to bag 110 points to win the match.

Sisters Gayatri and Mansa Rawat then extend-



ed India's lead to 22-14 against Attanayake and Sithumi De Silva before junior world no. 1 Tanvi Sharma stamped her class against Sithuli Ranasinghe to make it 33-21 for India. Not one India singles player or pair lost any 11-point relay and by the time the match reached the half way mark the win-

ners had taken a 55-31 lead. India will now face United Arab Emirates in their second group game on Saturday before taking on Hong Kong China on Sunday which could decide who tops the group standings.

The team event is scheduled from July 18 to 22 and individual events from July 23 to 27.

India has so far secured nine medals at the U-19 Asian Junior Championships, with stars like PV Sindhu and Lakshya Sen clinching gold in past editions. The current batch will look to carry that

legacy forward and mount a serious title challenge in Solo.

The team event will adopt a relay format, with the first side to reach 110 points declared the winner. It will begin with a group stage, followed by knockout rounds, with the top two teams from each group advancing.

The championships are also viewed as a key stepping stone toward the BWF Junior World Championships, which will be held at the state-of-the-art National Centre of Excellence in Guwahati later this year.

Inter Kashi crowned I-League champions after CAS rules in their favour

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

Inter Kashi have been officially declared I-League 2024-25 champions by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) ruled in their favour on Friday, resolving a long-standing dispute which has left the domestic league in confusion. CAS has also directed the All India Football Federation (AIFF) to pay 55% of total arbitration costs.

The decision overturns the AIFF Appeal Committee's earlier ruling and hands Kashi a decisive three points, taking their final tally to 42 and edging Churchill Brothers on goal difference.



"The costs of the arbitration, to be served to the Parties by the CAS Court Office separately, shall be borne for 55% by the All-India Football Federation, 15% by Churchill Brothers FC Goa, 15% by Namdhari FC and 15% by Real Kashmir FC The All-India Football Federation shall pay an amount of CHF 3,000 (three thousand Swiss

francs) and Churchill Brothers FC Goa, Namdhari FC and Real Kashmir FC shall each pay an amount of CHF 1,000 (one thousand Swiss francs) to Inter Kashi FC as legal contribution towards its legal costs and other expenses incurred during these arbitral proceedings," CAS's order read.

The controversy stemmed from Barco's re-registration by Kashi late in the season. Initially registered before the campaign began, Barco suffered an injury in December, prompting the club to bring in Matija Babovic as a replacement.

However, when Juan Perez del Pino mutually

terminated his contract two months later, Kashi opted to re-register Barco as his replacement – a move questioned by the AIFF Competitions Committee for potentially violating Clause 6.5.7 of the I-League regulations.

The regulation allows clubs to make up to three foreign-player replacements per season in case of long-term injuries or mutual contract terminations, but the re-registration of an already replaced player had not been tested in practice. The AIFF deemed the move invalid and initially awarded the title to Churchill Brothers. Kashi, however, challenged the decision at CAS.

NZ allrounder Phillips ruled out of Zimbabwe tour with groin injury

AGENCIES
HARARE, JULY 18

Batting all-rounder Glenn Phillips has been withdrawn from New Zealand's squad for the ongoing men's T20I tri-series in Zimbabwe after injuring his right groin.

New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said on Friday that Phillips suffered the injury during the Major League Cricket (MLC) final held between MI New York and Washington Freedom and was assessed on arrival in Zimbabwe, where it was determined he would require a number of weeks to rehabilitate.

Batter Tim Robinson, who joined the squad as



cover for players involved in the MLC final, will now stay with the squad for the remainder of the T20I tri-series. Robinson had hit 75 not out for New Zealand in their 21-run win over South Africa in the tri-series game held on July 16.

"It's obviously disappointing to lose someone of Glenn's calibre. Much like Finn, we really feel for Glenn and that he misses out on this series. We know he was eager to get out on the field for the BLACKCAPS and unfortunately, he won't be able to

do that for this series. We know he'll work hard to get himself back onto the park, and I look forward to when that happens," said head coach Rob Walter in the statement.

NZC further said Phillips' replacement in the Test squad for the series against Zimbabwe will be named in due course. For now, Phillips will return to New Zealand with Mitch Hay and Jimmy Neesham, who were also called in as cover alongside Robinson.

Earlier this year, a right groin injury sustained while coming in as a substitute fielder had previously ruled out Phillips from his stint with the Gujarat Titans' in IPL 2025.

All eyes on next steps as Roger Binny to vacate BCCI president's post after turning 70

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

From Saturday, all focus shifts to the next steps following Roger Binny's departure as president of the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) due to him turning 70.

Binny, a member of India's 1983 ODI World Cup-winning team, was elected as the BCCI President in 2022, where he succeeded former Indian captain Sourav Ganguly in the top role. But according to the board's constitution, no person can hold any post after 'he/she has attained the age of 70 years'.

The rules also say that



'the vice-president shall officiate in the president's absence when the president is unavailable', which means vice-president Rajeev Shukla can take over as the interim

BCCI president after Binny's departure.

"The vice-president shall also exercise such functions and duties as he may be empowered by the General Body

of the Apex Council," further say the Board's rules.

If indeed Shukla takes over as the acting BCCI president, as per what sources told IANS, he is likely to continue till September, when the elections for the next set of office-bearers are scheduled to take place in the board's Annual General Meeting (AGM).

In his playing career, Binny featured in 27 Tests and 72 ODIs from 1979 to 1987. He also served on the senior men's selection committee and was the head coach when India won the 2000 U19 Men's Cricket World Cup in Sri Lanka.

Pratika fined 10 pc match fee, England penalised for slow over-rate

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JULY 18

Following India's four-wicket win over England in the ODI series opener at Southampton, opener Pratika Rawal has been fined 10 percent of her match fee for a level one offence. At the same time, England have also been docked five percent of their match fee for maintaining a slow over rate.

The International Cricket Council (ICC) said Pratika was penalised for two separate incidents that took place within a short period of time.

In the 18th over of India's chase, Pratika made avoidable physical



contact with fast bowler Lauren Filer while taking a single. Then, after being dismissed in the next over, she made similar avoidable contact with left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone on her way back to the

dressing room. Apart from the fine, one demerit point has been added to Pratika's disciplinary record, for whom it was the first offence in a 24-month period. Meanwhile, England's

slow over rate fine came after they were found one over short of the target after time allowances were taken into consideration.

"In accordance with Article 2.22 of the ICC Code of Conduct for Players and Player Support Personnel, which relates to minimum over-rate offences, players are fined five per cent of their match fee for every over their side fails to bowl in the allotted time.

"Rawal and England captain Nat Sciver-Brunt accepted their respective sanctions imposed by match referee Sarah Bartlett, so there was no need for a formal hearing," said the ICC in its statement on Friday.

Pakistan to host South Africa for three-match women's ODI series ahead of WC

AGENCIES
LAHORE, JULY 18

In preparation for the 2025 Women's ODI World Cup, Pakistan will host South Africa in a three-match 50-over series, with the games to be played on September 16, 19 and 22.

The Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) also said the side will play a three-match T20I series against Ireland in Dublin in early August. Following the home ODI series against South Africa, Pakistan will travel to Sri Lanka to participate in ODI World Cup, where they are set to play their seven league-stage matches from October 2 to 24 in Colombo.



Should Pakistan qualify for the knockouts of ODI World Cup, their semi-final on October 29 and the final on November 2 will be held in Colombo. After this, Pakistan women's international schedule will be majorly

focused on preparing for the 2026 T20 World Cup in England, set to take place from June 12 to July 5.

Pakistan will tour South Africa for three ODIs (which begins their campaign in the ICC Women's

Championship 2025-29), and as many T20Is from February 7 to March 2, 2026. In April, Pakistan will host Zimbabwe for three ODIs, as part of the ICC Women's Championship 2025-29, and three T20Is, scheduled to take place from April 24 to May 11.

Before travelling to England for the T20 World Cup, Pakistan team will play in a T20I tri-series in Ireland involving the hosts and the West Indies as the third team. "The upcoming season is significant, with major events such as the ICC Women's Cricket World Cup and ICC Women's T20 World Cup on the horizon."

DDC Kathua approves Rs 74.52 Cr District Capex Budget for FY 2025-26

J1 NEWS SERVICE
KATHUA, JULY 18

District Development Council Kathua in its meeting held today, approved Rs 7452.53 lakh District Capital Expenditure Budget for the financial year 2025-26.

The approved budget includes Rs 913.62 lakh for ongoing works and Rs 6538.91 lakh for new development proposals. The Capex plan aims to strengthen infrastructure, improve service delivery and push forward district-wide growth through focused investments across key sectors.

Deputy Commissioner Dr Rakesh Minhas, while addressing the Council meeting, emphasized the need to complete all development works in a



time-bound manner with strict adherence to quality standards. He informed that the Capex Plan has been formulated after duly incorporating the works proposed at Gram Sabhas, thus ensuring grassroots inclusion. He appreciated the active role played by the members of the Council and officers of various departments in advancing the development agenda over the last four years.

Chairman District Development Council Col (Retd.) Mahan Singh also appreciated the sustained

efforts of the members and departmental teams in implementing projects across the district. He stressed that DDC members must be consulted at the DPR preparation stage to ensure that the plans reflect the actual local needs. He further urged the members to monitor the execution of works and ensure their timely and quality completion.

Vice Chairman DDC Raghunandan Singh commended the cooperation and dedication shown by both elected members

and officials in delivering visible development outcomes.

The meeting also witnessed several suggestions and demands from Council members reflecting local aspirations. DDC Marheen demanded the construction of washrooms at the community hall, while DDC Bani called for immediate replacement of damaged transformers in his area. DDC Keerian Gandyal appreciated the progress made by PMGSY in road connectivity. DDC Nagri sought recruitment of labourers for ECH facility. DDC Lohai Malhar sought augmentation of Power infrastructure, road connectivity and redressal of public grievances.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the current development scenario of the district.

ADDC Surinder Mohan, other District and Sectoral Officers were also present. The Council resolved to utilize the allocated funds

for capital projects in key sectors such as education, groundwater, health, ICDS, PDD, RDD and other departments. It was further resolved that priority shall be given to projects aligned with the district's strategic development goals. The District Administration will be submitting quarterly progress reports to the Council for review and the District Treasurer has been authorized to disburse funds in accordance with the approved budget and applicable financial rules.

Earlier, Chief Planning Officer Ranjit Thakur gave a detailed PowerPoint presentation outlining the current development scenario of the district.

ADDC Surinder Mohan, other District and Sectoral Officers were also present.

DLSA Udhampur gears up for 90 day Mediation drive 'For the Nation'



J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 18

District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Udhampur convened a meeting in the Conference Hall of the District Court Complex today, focusing on the "For the Nation" 90 day Mediation drive Campaign. The initiative is a 90-day mediation drive aimed at settling pending cases in all Taluka Courts and District Courts.

The meeting was chaired by Additional District & Sessions Judge Kamlesh Pandit, who emphasized

the importance of disposing of cases within the prescribed timeline.

Secretary DLSA Dr. Smriti Sharma, along with all Judicial Officers/Judges of the District Court, the Bar President and office bearers and all mediators of the DLSA, attended the meeting.

During the session, the Presiding Officer stressed that mediators play a vital role in ensuring cases are resolved efficiently and effectively. He urged the mediators to work diligently to dispose of cases within

the given timeframe, highlighting the significance of timely justice delivery in reducing the burden on the judicial system.

The Addl. District & Sessions Judge sensitized the stakeholders about the importance of mediation in achieving speedy justice and reducing case backlogs. The meeting served as a platform for Judicial Officers, mediators and Bar representatives to discuss strategies and best practices for the successful implementation of the mediation drive.

SKUAST-K kick-starts outreach programme for Agri. start-ups under JKCIP

J1 NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 18

The Incubation and Start-up Cell of Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), under the aegis of Jammu and Kashmir Competitive Innovation Programme (JKCIP), organized a one-day outreach programme titled 'Igniting Young Minds: Bridging Innovation and Opportunity.'

The event aimed to inspire, educate, and engage budding agri-preneurs across the region, facilitating dialogue between stakeholders in innovation, research, and agriculture.

The programme was attended by Prof. Nazir Ahmad Ganai, Vice Chancellor of SKUAST-K, who emphasized the need for



cultivating an entrepreneurial mindset among the youth.

Earlier, Dr. Ashaq Pandit, Coordinator JKCIP, SKUAST-K, in his introductory remarks provided an overview of the objectives of JKCIP.

Dr. Sartaj Ahmad Shah, Director of Agriculture, Kashmir, brought attention to critical challenges faced by farmers and entrepre-

neurs in the region, including climate vulnerability, market access, and lack of technological integration. He encouraged young minds to develop need-based, scalable solutions tailored to the unique agro-climatic conditions of the valley.

Prof. Haroon Naik, Director Research and Nodal Officer JKCIP at SKUAST-K, spoke about

the various components of the JKCIP and its strategic vision to create an enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship in Jammu and Kashmir's agricultural sector.

Officers of the University, including Director planning and Monitoring, Prof. S. A. Wani, Registrar Azmat Alam Khan, several HoDs and students from across the valley attended the workshop.

The outreach programme witnessed active participation from students, researchers, young entrepreneurs, and agri-startup aspirants. It served as a platform for knowledge exchange, mentorship, and ideation, reinforcing SKUAST-K's vision to be a hub for agricultural innovation in the region.

DDC Chairman lays foundation stone for school boundary wall at GHS Gandala

J1 NEWS SERVICE
UDHAMPUR, JULY 18

Chairman District Development Council Udhampur Lal Chand laid the foundation stone for the construction of school boundary wall at Government High School Gandala, today. The project

being undertaken under the SAMAGRA scheme is estimated to cost Rs. 9.5 lakh.

The DDC Chairman was accompanied by prominent citizens and the staff members of the school.

Addressing the gathering, the Chairman congratulated the school staff,

students their parents and the local residents for the fulfillment of this long-pending demand.

The DDC Chairman emphasized the importance of quality educational institutions in shaping the future of the society. He reiterated that the DDC is fully dedicated to bring

governance and development initiatives to the grassroots level, ensuring that benefits reach every corner of the district. He issued strict instructions to the contractor to maintain the quality of the work and complete the same within the stipulated time period.

Div Com, IGP review arrangements for Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025



J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 18

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, and Inspector General of Police, Bhim Sen Tuti reviewed the arrangements for the forthcoming Shri Budha Amarnathji Yatra 2025 to ensure smooth and secure conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

The review meeting, held here the other day was attended by senior officials including the DIG CRPF, DIG JSK Range, DIG Rajouri-Poonch, Deputy

Commissioners and SSPs of Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, and Reasi, along with heads of key departments such as JPDCL, Tourism, Health, PWD, Jal Shakti, BRO and Traffic Police. Representatives from civil society also participated and shared suggestions.

The Yatra's first batch will depart from Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu, on July 28, 2025, moving towards Tehsil Mandi in Poonch in a regulated convoy amid full security arrangements.

The Divisional Commis-

sioner directed officials to establish a help desk and registration counter at Bhagwati Nagar and Jammu Railway Station to facilitate the pilgrim Deputy Commissioners of Rajouri and Poonch were instructed to ensure adequate accommodation with essential facilities including power supply, drinking water, langars, parking, waterproof tents and mobile toilets along the route.

The Tourism Department was tasked with promoting the Yatra through newspapers and hoard-

ings from Lakhanpur to Poonch to ensure wide publicity.

Emphasizing safety, the IGP Jammu stressed strict adherence to convoy timings and urged public awareness for travelling only with the official convoy.

The BRO was directed to maintain road conditions and clear any debris promptly on the Jammu-Poonch highway. JPDCL was asked to ensure uninterrupted power supply with backup generators, while the PHE Department will provide drinking water at halt points, night stays, and at the Budha Amarnathji Temple.

PWD officials were instructed to repair the Poonch-Mandi road and the SSP Traffic Rural will arrange parking spots for convoy vehicles. The Deputy Commissioner Reasi also apprised the arrangements for devotees visiting Shri Shiv Khori shrine during the Yatra period. The meeting concluded with valuable inputs from civil society members for the peaceful and successful conduct of the annual pilgrimage.

PROTECT PREVENT STOP DENGUE

DENGUE, ITS SYMPTOMS & CARE

Dengue is a flu-like illness spread by the bite of an Aedes mosquito infected with dengue virus

Aedes mosquitoes can breed even in a small amount of water accumulated in any container-like object

DENGUE SYMPTOMS

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE DENGUE SYMPTOMS

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