

DENGUE WARNING SIGNS

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

Watch out for dengue warning signs!

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

- Severe and continuous headache
- Joint and muscle pain
- Severe vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Bleeding from gums or nose, blood in stool, urine or vomit

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

JINDRAH IMAGES

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Govt committed to destroying entire network radicalising youth: LG Sinha

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 20

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Sunday asked the people of the union territory to wage a war against terrorism unitedly, while underlining his resolve to eliminate the ecosystem fuelling terror.

"We must unite and wage a war against terrorism, its eco-system and drug addiction. It is my firm resolve to eliminate the ecosystem fuelling terrorism, and destroy the entire network responsible for radicalising youth, supplying weapons, funding, targeting, and assisting terrorists," Sinha said.

He was addressing the flag-in ceremony of cycle race 'Pedal Through Paradise' organised by J-K Police.

He said 'Pedal Through Paradise' is not just a sporting event, but a symbol of new Jammu and Kashmir.

"It sends a powerful message to youth to choose the path of progress over violence and drug addiction. I urge them to contribute towards building a terrorism-free, drug-free and fit J&K," the LG said.

He said J-K Police stands as a testament to selfless service, duty and sacrifice.

"Its legacy is written by blood of its brave personnel, whose ultimate sacrifices have strengthened national unity, established peace, inspired new hope and propelled J-K towards an era of peace and prosperity," he added.

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Amarnath Yatra crosses 3 lakh mark; LG Sinha welcomes devotees with 'Har Har Mahadev'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 20

Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha announced on Sunday that the ongoing Amarnath Yatra has surpassed the 3-lakh mark, with devotees continuing to throng the holy cave shrine.

In a post on X, LG Sinha expressed his joy, stating, "By the grace of Baba Amarnath Ji, the holy pilgrimage has surpassed the 3 lakh mark today. This sacred journey is a deeply enriching experience. May Baba's blessings bring peace, strength and fulfilment to all. Har Har Mahadev!"

The Lieutenant Governor on Sunday conducted

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CM Omar blames Pak for continued terror in J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 20

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has unequivocally stated that Pakistan's "inimical intentions" remain the most formidable challenge to achieving a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir, cautioning Islamabad that India now views any terror attack as an act of war.

In an interview with news agency, Abdullah dismissed the narrative that the abrogation of Article 370 was the solution to terrorism in the region, asserting that the recent Pahalgam attack, which claimed 26 lives, had starkly proven this false.

"No matter what we do, if Pakistan's intent is inimical, then we will never fully achieve a terror-free Jammu and Kashmir. And I think Pahalgam has proven that," Abdullah said.

"The BJP tried very hard to sell this narrative that terror in Jammu and Kashmir was the result of Article 370. We know that's not true. Terror in Jammu and Kashmir is the result of Pakistan's intentions. And therefore, that's why the removal of Article 370 did not stop terror in Jammu and Kashmir," he said.

The chief minister emphasised that the onus is now on Pakistan to reassess its strategy and highlighted a critical shift in New Delhi's posture, warning that the Indian government has set a "very low bar" for what constitutes an act of aggression.

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Statehood is our right, says CM Omar; rules out 'Hybrid System'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JUL 20

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday made a forceful plea for restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir without further delay, and indicated that all avenues, including legal options, were being explored by the ruling National Conference in this regard.

Nearly ten months after the National Conference swept to power in the Union territory, Abdullah asserted that statehood was a fundamental right of the people.

"The Centre had promised it in Parliament and before the Supreme Court," he said.

Abdullah dismissed talk of a "hybrid system" of gov-

ernment under which law and order would continue to be with the Centre even after statehood is restored and said such talk was emanating from those who had cast doubts about the holding of last year's Assembly elections in which over 64 per cent of voters participated.

"Well, obviously, it's not an ideal situation. In spite of repeated promises, commitments in Parliament, commitments to the Supreme Court, the matter has still not sort of been resolved. And we're not asking for something that is not our due. Statehood is the right, it was promised to the people.

"So, we're not asking for it. It's not something that

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Kishtwar Encounter: Army anti-terror operation leads to gunfight, reinforcements on the way

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

An Indian Army anti-terrorist operation on Sunday led to an encounter with terrorists at the Hadal Gal area of Kishtwar Sector.

The brief gunfight occurred when the Jammu and Kashmir Police—assisted by the Indian Army—launched a cordon and search operation in the Khankoo forest located between Dachhan and Nageni, following specific inputs about the suspected movement of terrorists, officials explained. They added that the terrorists in hiding opened



fire when they spotted the search parties, who retaliated.

This is the second such encounter with terrorists this month, following an Indian

Army operation conducted with help from the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) at Kishtwar's Kanzal

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Peace no longer bought through appeasement in J&K: Jitendra

JJ NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JUL 20

Ahead of the sixth anniversary of the abrogation of Article 370, which removed the special status granted to Jammu and Kashmir, Union Minister Jitendra Singh said peace was no longer bought through appeasement in the region.

In an exclusive video interview with news agency, Singh said since the removal of Article 370 from Jammu and Kashmir, there has been greater integration of the people of the region with the rest of the country.

"What is not often discussed is that there is a lot of mental union happening. For exam-



ple, a citizen from Jammu and Kashmir looked at himself as someone different because he had been conditioned like that in his grooming. Now there is a sense of belonging," said Singh, a three-term Lok Sabha member from Udhampur and Minister of State in the Prime

Minister's Office.

He said several laws that were not applicable to Jammu and Kashmir because of Article 370, have been implemented over the last six years.

On August 5, 2019, the Centre abrogated Article 370, which accorded a special status to the erstwhile state of Jammu and Kashmir. The government also divided Jammu and Kashmir into two union territories – Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh.

Singh said previous governments used to indulge in talks with Pakistan and try to woo them and would also reach out to the separatists and finally end up nowhere.

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Niraj Kumar gets Addl charge of Resident Commissioner J&K

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20



The Jammu and Kashmir Government has assigned additional charge of Resident Commissioner, J&K

Government, New Delhi to Niraj Kumar, the 2010 batch AGMUT Cadre IAS officer, who is presently serving as Administrative Secretary, Public Grievances Department. As per a Government order issued on July 18,

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Two criminals detained under PSA in Jammu, Doda

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 20

Two alleged criminals were detained under the stringent Public Safety Act (PSA) in Jammu and Doda districts, police said on Sunday.

Mohd Tahir, a native of Achralla village in Reasi's Mahore area, was detained under PSA on the orders of district Magistrate, Jammu and lodged in district jail Kathua, a police spokesperson said.

Tahir was presently living in Jammu's Bhatindi area and has a long criminal history, being involved in multiple FIRs, the spokesman said.

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He said despite several FIRs, arrests and pending cases in courts, Tahir did not mend ways and continued to engage in unlawful activities, posing a serious threat to public peace. "As routine legal measures failed to deter him, authorities invoked PSA to prevent any further criminal acts," the spokesperson said.

Another criminal Hafizullah, resident of Nilote-Assar village, was detained under PSA and lodged in Baderwah jail, he said.

He said his detention order has been issued by the District Magistrate Doda on the

Indian abducted by terrorists in Niger hails from Ramban; wife pleads for his release



JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 20

The Indian national allegedly abducted by terrorists in the West African country Niger is

a resident of Ramban district, said his wife on Saturday, requesting the Central government's intervention for his safe release.

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Omar seeks Centre's intervention in securing release of abducted Indian in Niger

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JUL 20

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Sunday sought the Centre's intervention in seeking release of a resident of Ramban district, who was allegedly abducted by terrorists in the West African country of Niger a few days ago. Abdullah's request to External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar comes a day after Rankeet Singh's wife made a fervent appeal for his release. "Chief Minister has expressed concern over the abduction of Ranjeet Singh, a

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CM Omar attempting to provoke regional divisions: J&K LoP Sharma

JJ NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 20

Senior BJP leader and Leader of the Opposition in the J&K Assembly, Sunil Sharma, today praised Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha for his efforts in rehabilitating victims of terrorism, while simultaneously criticising Chief Minister Omar Abdullah for attempting to "provoke regional divisions".

Sharma expressed satisfaction over the

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Karra, Mir, Bhalla all senior leaders alongwith over 200 arrested, released

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

JKPC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra, AICC General Secretary G A Mir, Working President Raman Bhalla and all senior leaders alongwith over 200 leaders and workers were taken into preventive detention during a massive protest by Congress party here today from Shaeedi Chowk Jammu towards Rajbhawan.

As the large number of senior Congress leaders and workers led by PCC Chief and others took out protest from Congress HQ Jammu, the police tried to stop their march at Shaeedi Chowk leading to scuffle with the police as the protestors tried to broke the police barricade and marched towards Residency road and Raghunath Bazar.

Large number of workers and leaders pushed their way towards Residency road and were boarded in the waiting police buses and taken to DPL Jammu while PCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra and few others succeeded in going ahead to Raghunath Bazar Chowk and later taken into detention.

AICC General Secretary & CLP Leader G A Mir, Working President Raman Bhalla, Ch Lal Singh, AICC Secretaries Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, Neeraj kundani Th Balwan Singh, Mula Ram, Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, MLA Iftikhar Ahmed, Naresh Gupta, Th Balbir Singh, Smt. Indu Pawar, Th Manmohan Singh, Th Hari Singh Chib, T S Tony, Ex MLAs ,Ex MLC, DCC Presidents Pankaj Dogra, Sanjeev Sharma, Bhupender Singh, Vinod Khajuria, Frontal heads ,Ex Corporators ,Mahila Congress leaders alongwith Other senior leaders were taken into custody by the police and taken to DPL .

Hundreds of Congress



workers had assembled from all over province as the party had already announced the scheduled march today to Rajbhawan from Shaeedi Chowk Jammu as part of intensification of its struggle for restoration of statehood ' Hamari Riyasat Hamara Haq ' but the police had deployed heavy contingent and erected barbed barricade to stop the protestors from marching ahead of Shaeedi Chowk, near the congress HQ.

Talking to reporters, Shri Karra lashed out at the Modi government for delaying and denying legitimate demand of full statehood ,promised to the people of Jammu and Kashmir by the centre on multiple occasions and directed by the Supreme Court.

He said Congress party is determined to fight for the rights and aspirations of the people and for the identity and status & to safeguard the rights to land, jobs and natural resources.

As the workers raised strong slogans of restoration of statehood, our land our right, our jobs our rights, our jobs our right etc, Shri Karra said that Congress party is on the forefront both in J&K UT and at national level. Our leaders Shri Malika-

jun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi have reminded the Prime Minister of the promise of the centre Govt. to grant full statehood and it has the backing of INDIA block.

He also expressed gratitude to the leadership for discussing the issue with other constituents of the INDIA block for raising our demand in the house.

Karra announced to go ahead with the scheduled chalo Delhi Chalo call of the party tomorrow afternoon by buses to launch a peaceful protest in Delhi as per of parliamentary 'Gherao' in support of the demand.

AICC General Secretary & CLP Leader criticized the police administration for stopping the peaceful march in Srinagar and Jammu today. He also took strong notice of the placing of barbed wire before barricade which posed great danger to peaceful protestors.

Mir said that centre government promised statehood on number of occasions last six years but now it is silent causing unrest amongst people. He expressed gratitude to the Congress leadership for taking up the demand at this crucial time when monsoon session of Parliament is starting tomorrow. The party forwarded

the memorandum to the Prime Minister through LG containing the demand of the party.

Prominent leaders who took part including Ex MLA Mumtaz Ahmed Khan, Dina Nath Bhagat, KC Bhagat, Shashi Sharma, Satish Sharma, Amrit Bali, Shakeel Shah, Suresh Dogra, Rajesh Sadotra, Shakeel Mir, Ryaz Chaudhary, Zaffarullah, K D Singh, Ashok Bhagat, Zahida Khan Kanta Bhan, Rakesh Choudhary, Shameema Raina, Vijay Sharma, Ajay Lakhotra, Dwarika Choudhary, Babbal Gupta, Anirudh Sawhney, Hussain Ali Waffa, Bharat Priye, Madan Lal Chalotra, Ashok Sharma, Rajinder Jamwal, Inderjeet Kour, Neeraj Gupta, Jatin Raina, Sanjeev Panda, Kapil Singh, Tirth Bhagat, Iqbal Dar, Sohail Sharma, Rakesh Choudhary, Riyaz Choudhary, Zaffarullah, Shakeel Mir, Ashok Bhagat, K.D.Singh, Jatinder Singh, Gurmeet Singh, Ashok Sharma, Bilal Rashid, Sanjeev Sharma, Jatinder Chib, Rajiv Saraf, Bhavishya Sudan, Latish Sharma, Sonu Dogra, Sanjeev Kalal, Parveen Akhtar, Anuradha Sharma, Parveen Sharma, Santosh Magotra, Deewan Chand, Jatinder Bhagat, Ravinder Chouhan, Mandeep Choudhary and others.

'Panthers India protests against installation of Malpur Toll Plaza amid rains'

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

Strongly condemning the BJP led Union govt for installing Malpur Toll Plaza at Jammu-Akhnoor road in Jammu, a strong battalion of Panthers India activists spearheaded by Mr. Harsh Dev Singh State President and former Minister held a thunderous protest demonstration at the Toll Plaza site in Malpur amid torrential rains. The infuriated protesters while seeking the revocation of Malpur Toll Plaza raised slogans ' BJP Hatao, Jammu Bachao', 'BJP Dogron ko lutna band karo', 'Loot Khasoot ki rajneeti nahi chalegi' besides others.

Addressing the media, Mr. Harsh Dev Singh said that the move was fraught with dangerous portends. He said that people of Jammu were wary of even the existing Toll Plazas at Lakhampur, Ban and Chenani which were taxing them heavily amid inflation. "The people were seeking disbanding these Toll Plazas with BJP leadership cheating them by false assurances. It was however disturbing to note that rather than shutting them down, the Gov-



had embarked upon the construction of one more additional Toll Plaza at Malpur in Jammu which had sparked massive outrage", lamented Harsh. Mr. Singh lambasted the BJP regime over its misplaced priorities and for conversion of city of temples into city of Bar Plazas and Toll Plazas. He said that hundreds of liquor vends are operational in Jammu which appeared to be a conspiracy against the Dogra land. He said that the silence of BJP leaders over the issues of Toll Plazas and liquor vends was highly intriguing and deserved condemnation from one and all.

Singh revealed that Jammu region accounts for around 76% of the total tax collection in J&K. "Such tax collections are raised in the form of GST, Excise duty, VAT, Motor spirit tax, stamp duty, passenger tax, road tax, reg-

istration fee, toll tax etc. And while the major part of revenue is realized from Jammu region, its share in the development and allied sectors is minimal. Even today when BJP has 28 MLAs and 2 MPs from Jammu region, the focus of the govt has remained on Kashmir. With all developmental projects worth Rs 10,637 crores having been announced recently for the valley with none falling in the kitty of Jammu region has unveiled the treacherous character of the BJP", rued Mr. Singh.

Describing the operations of several Toll Plazas in close proximity of Jammu as an act of organized and institutionalized loot, Mr. Singh cautioned to launch an agitation in case the decision to install new Malpur Toll Plaza was not revoked at the earliest. He said that such huge taxation in the form of multiple Toll Plazas was

simply unaffordable for the common masses and particularly posed a menacing threat to the pockets of labourers, farmers and other economically weaker sections of society. "With pilgrims and tourists also having to pay toll at different locations in the vicinity of Jammu alone, the business and tourism of the region was also likely to be adversely impacted. The traders, transporters and other private operators had also expressed their concern over the issue which had the potential to explode in a big way. Moreover, the situation in J&K was already very sensitive and the govt. move of imposing such 'Jazia' would have the effect of adding fuel to fire", said Harsh.

Lambasting the BJP for its criminal silence towards the grave issues of public importance, Mr. Singh said that it would have to account for such anti-people policies in the form of increased toll, taxation, ever increasing petrol and diesel prices. "Panthers India shall not relent unless the treacherous and dual faced BJP is decimated from the Dogra soil", Harsh roared.

GDC Thathri Organises Online Essay Competition in Collaboration with Chenab Times Foundation

JJ NEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 20

The Chenabi Essay Writing Competition, jointly organised by Government Degree College (GDC) Thathri and the Chenab Times Foundation (CTF), concluded this week with the announcement of the top three winners and eight shortlisted essays selected for publication. The competition invited students to reflect on the concept of "Chenabi identity" – a neological term that encapsulates the shared cultural, linguistic, and historical consciousness of the Chenab Valley, comprising the districts of Doda, Kishtwar, and Ramban.

Various students had submitted their essays, out of which eight were shortlisted for final evaluation and publication. The entries were judged based on five key criteria: thematic relevance, originality and depth, cultural insight, emotional impact, and writing style. The evaluation process was carried out by the editorial team of the Chenab Times Foundation.

Suneha Kumari, a student of B.A. 3rd Semester, was declared the winner for her essay titled "Chenabi Valley: A Culture Worth Remembering", which scored 9.6 out of 10. Her work was praised for its deeply personal voice and poignant reflection

on cultural invisibility and belonging. Mubashershari Pathan, also from B.A. 3rd Semester, secured the second position with a score of 9.4 for his analytical yet heartfelt essay that highlighted both the cultural richness and infrastructural neglect of the region. Rahila Tasleem, a student of B.A. 2nd Semester, stood third with a score of 9.2; her essay was distinguished by its emphasis on language, folk rituals, and the lived traditions of the Chenab Valley.

Other finalists included Neha Kumari, Saqib Umar Wani, Sneha Gupta, Palvi Manhas, and Rakesh Kumar. While not in the top three, each of these essays brought forward a unique narrative voice and perspective, covering aspects of Chenabi life such as oral traditions, ecological concerns, local dialects, and collective memory.

President of the Chenab Times Foundation, Mr. Anzer Ayoob, said that the



competition was a deliberate attempt to bring the region's lesser-known identity into public focus. "We initiated this contest not just as a literary exercise but as a cultural intervention. The Chenab Valley is a repository of traditions and voices that are rarely heard in mainstream platforms. The students have responded with depth, emotion, and intellect," he said.

Mr. Tahir Bilal, Secretary of CTF, underscored the significance of such events in bridging academia and community. "This was not merely about writing essays. It was about recognizing a regional identity, sparking conversation, and giving youth a stage to articulate their understanding of who they are as Chenabis," he added.

Dr. Javid Iqbal Zargar, Principal of GDC Thathri, praised the Chenab Times Foundation for taking this initiative forward. "We truly appreciate the role

played by the Chenab Times Foundation in creating this platform for our students. Such initiatives deepen cultural awareness and inspire critical thinking. Our students have found an opportunity to connect with their roots while also improving their expression," he said.

Dr. Muzaffar A. Kichloo, Head of the Department of Environmental Sciences and faculty coordinator for the event, said the competition revealed the intellectual and emotional depth of students when it comes to local identity. "This event has reaffirmed how culturally conscious our students are. Their essays reflect lived experiences, linguistic diversity, and collective pride. We look forward to organising similar efforts in future," he remarked.

All eight shortlisted essays will be published on the official website of The Chenab Times (www.thechenabtimes.com) and circulated to various media houses to bring wider visibility to the participants' voices. Certificates of participation and appreciation will be presented to all finalists in an upcoming ceremony at GDC Thathri.

The organisers have expressed their intent to continue such collaborations that uplift regional voices and foster youth engagement through writing, culture, and critical reflection.

Cycling Association of J&K to host Asmita Khelo India Women League Cycling event

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

The Cycling Association of Jammu & Kashmir is proud to announce the Asmita Khelo India Women League - Cycling Event, scheduled to take place on July 27, 2025, at 6:00 AM at M.A. Stadium, Jammu. This event is part of the Khelo India initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, aimed at promoting and empowering women through sports. The event aligns with the Khelo India initiative's objective of promoting women's participation in sports and fostering a culture of athleticism.

The cycling competition will feature two age categories: Junior Girls, Elite Women. Women cyclists from across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir are invited to participate and showcase their talent. Mandatory online registration is available on the official Khelo India portal: (link unavailable). For further information and coordination, participants can contact: Balvinder Singh Vice President, Cycling Association of J&K - 94191 58921, Om Prakash Sharma: General Secretary, Cycling Association of J&K - 94191 00980. The Cycling Association of Jammu & Kashmir invites media, spectators, and cycling enthusiasts to

attend the event and support the participation of women in sports.

The Asmita Khelo India Women League - Cycling Event, organized by the Cycling Association of Jammu & Kashmir is a testament to our commitment to promoting women's participation in sports and fostering a culture of athleticism in our region. The Khelo India initiative by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has been instrumental in inspiring young athletes and providing them with opportunities to excel in various sports disciplines. We are proud to be part of this initiative and look forward to witnessing the talent and

dedication of our participants. Cycling Association of Jammu & Kashmir extends gratitude to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, for their support and guidance and also appreciate the efforts of dedicated team, who have worked tirelessly to make this event a success. Let us work together to promote cycling and sports in our region and empower women through athleticism. The Cycling Association of Jammu & Kashmir's commitment to promoting women's participation in sports, acknowledges the support of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, and encourages participants to excel in the event.

NISD Beauty & Designing Institute honours 35 students at achiever award 2025 ceremony held at Jammu

JJ NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

The prestigious Achiever Award 2025 ceremony of NISD Beauty & Designing Institute was held with great pride and grandeur at the Amar Singh Club, Bikram Chowk, Jammu, celebrating the entrepreneurial and professional success of its former students.

The event was graced by Dr. Manmeet Singh (Chairman Ranjit College of Education) as the Chief Guest, whose presence brought inspiration and motivation to the young achievers. Mr. Nonu Khera (Advocate Supreme Court of India), a respected name in the industry, joined the celebration as the Guest of Honour, acknowledging the students' remarkable

journey from learners to leaders.

During the ceremony, 35 achiever awards were presented to students of NISD who have successfully launched their own startups or are excelling in their careers across the beauty, fashion, and design sectors.

On the occasion Director of NISD Beauty & Designing Institute Mrs Manju



Bala said that NISD plays a vital role for upgrading

skills education in Jammu for its young generation.

At NISD we provide state-of-art infrastructure with professional and industrial demanding course syllabus, so our students can start their venture like today's awardees or get job in the professional salon's. Today we have six branches in J&K, Jammu | Bari Brahmana | Kathua | Udhampur | Gandhi Nagar | R. S. Pura & now NISD is also spread its wings

to outside J&K and open its branch at MOHALI, CHANDIGARH for reaching more students and those students who are not able to come at our Jammu branch

The event reflected the vision of NISD to not only provide world-class training but also empower students to become independent professionals and entrepreneurs. The

atmosphere was filled with celebration, pride, and encouragement as awardees shared their journeys and dreams. All NISD branch heads are present in this prestigious award ceremony.

NISD continues to set a benchmark in skill-based education, nurturing talent that contributes positively to the local and national economy.

BSF Senior Secondary School Jammu excels in Indian talent olympiad

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

BSF Senior Secondary School Jammu has once again brought laurels to the institution by earning the prestigious Golden School Trophy in the Indian Talent Olympiad (ITO), affirming its commitment to academic excellence and holistic development. The school continues to set benchmarks in scholastic endeavors, nurturing young minds to shine not only within classrooms but also on national platforms.

The Indian Talent Olympiad, a nationally recognized platform, conducts various Olympiads such as General Knowledge International Olympiad (GKIO), English International Olympiad (EIO), International Science Olympiad (ISO), International Maths Olympiad (IMO) and Drawing Olympiad.

BSF Senior Secondary School students achieved



notable rankings in various Olympiads.

Kritika of Class 6th and Yuvraj Salotra of class 9th got 23 state rank and 20 State Rank respectively and Excellence Medal Award in GKIO (General Knowledge International Olympiad) whereas Sampreity Sood of class 6th and Guneet Kour of class 8th achieved State Rank 21 and State Rank 19 respectively and Excellence Medal Award in EIO (English International Olympiad) while Eshan Magotra of Class 7th got State Rank 20

and Shubham Bhat of class 9th got State Rank 19 and Excellence Medal Award in ISO (International Science Olympiad). Rishu Jaral of class 9th, State Topper was awarded a cash prize of Rs 700, Piyush Raj of class 6th, State Topper received a cash prize of Rs 1000 and Pratyush Juyal of class 8th, State Topper was honored with Rs 1200 for their brilliant performance in IMO (International Maths Olympiad). The stellar achievements of these students serve as an inspiration for their

peers and underscore the school's unwavering dedication to academic distinction.

A Certificate of Appreciation was awarded to Mrs. Sonu Sharma (GKIO Incharge), Mrs. Sunita Soni (EIO Incharge), and Mr. Arjan Kumar Sharma (IMO & ISO Incharge) for their commendable efforts in guiding and mentoring the students throughout the Olympiad journey.

The Principal of the school, Dr. S.K. Shukla, under whose able guidance these Olympiads were conducted, received the Golden School Trophy and the Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of the institution. Addressing the students and staff, Dr. Shukla applauded the dedication of the incharges and encouraged students to actively participate in future Olympiads, stating that such platforms not only recognize academic brilliance but also foster a spirit of healthy competition.

Trikuta Nagar Development Council donates marriage essentials to needy girl

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

In a heartwarming gesture, the Trikuta Nagar Development Council today donated blankets, clothes, jewellery, and other essential items to support the marriage of a needy girl from Jammu.

All the items were handed over to the parents of the girl during a brief function organized by the Council. This initiative is part of the Council's ongoing efforts to assist underprivileged families during important life events.

Rekha Mahajan, Vice President of BJP Jammu & Kashmir, was present on



the occasion. She appreciated the noble initiative taken by the members of the Trikuta Nagar Development Council and said such acts of kindness strengthen the social

fabric and reflect the spirit of community support.

She also appealed to other social and religious organizations, as well as individuals, to come forward and extend a help-

ing hand to economically weaker families in times of need, especially during events like marriages, which often carry a financial burden.

Shubchander Verma, President of the Trikuta Nagar Development Council, assured that the Council will continue to identify and support needy families through various social outreach programs, ensuring that no deserving individual is left behind in times of need.

Among those who were present included K.S Samyal, T.C Taggar, Narinder Gupta, Krishan Lal Gupta, Ramesh Gupta and Surjit Choudhary.

Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta meets former LG Brig Mishra in Delhi

J1 NEWS SERVICE
NEW DELHI, JULY 20

The Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh UT, Shri Kavinder Gupta, today met with former LG of Ladakh, Brigadier (Dr.) B.D. Mishra (Retd.) at his residence in New Delhi.

During the cordial meeting, Lt Governor Kavinder Gupta greeted the former LG for his birthday and extended his warm wishes for his good health and long life. He also acknowledged the commendable efforts and dedicated



service of Brig Mishra during his tenure as the Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh. He appreciated

the groundwork laid by the former LG in strengthening governance, promoting development, and upholding the unique cultural and environmental ethos of the region.

Both leaders shared insights on key administrative priorities and the way forward for Ladakh's progress. The Lt Governor expressed his gratitude for the valuable contributions of Brigadier Mishra and sought his continued guidance and support in the service of the Union Territory.

Shiv Sena Hindustan frames new Unit in Dalhad village, Arnia Block

J1 NEWS SERVICE
ARNIA, JULY 21

Shiv Sena Hindustan, under the leadership of Jammu and Kashmir President Pt Rajesh Kesri Sunday framed a new unit in Dalhad village of Arnia Block. Hansraj was appointed as the President, along with other members, who were entrusted with the responsibility of working towards the welfare of the community. The occasion was marked by a warm welcome ceremony, where State Deputy Chief Balvir Kumar and Arnia President Balwant Rai presented floral garlands to the new office-bearers. The new unit in Dalhad village was framed, expanding Shiv Sena Hindustan's presence in the region. Prominent among those present on the occasion include Rajesh Kumar, Vijay Luthra, Sanjeev Sharma, Raj Kumar, Om Prakash Baba, Brahm Singh, Satpal, Darshan Devi, Rajni Devi, Vijay Devi.

Pt Kesri speaking on the occasion emphasized the importance of saving the youth from drug abuse and addiction. He urged the new members to organize small meetings with the youth and their parents to educate them about the dangers of drug abuse. The impor-



ance of preventing drug abuse among the youth was highlighted, and the need for collective efforts to combat this issue was emphasized. The role of Pakistan in promoting narcotics terrorism was condemned, and the need for a united effort to defeat this menace was stressed, said Kesri.

Kesri further said that the importance of community participation in preventing drug abuse and promoting youth welfare was emphasized. The role of Sarpanch, Panch, and social workers in supporting the administration and police was highlighted. The youth were urged to work towards the nation's interest and their family's well-being, and to reject the evil of drug abuse, said Kesri.

Kesri claimed that framing new unit marks a significant step towards promoting community welfare and combating

social evils in the region. Shiv Sena Hindustan's efforts are expected to make a positive impact on the lives of the people in Dalhad village and beyond. This marks a significant milestone in our journey to serve the community and promote the values of our organization. Kesri emphasized the importance of collective efforts in building a strong and prosperous community. Our organization is committed to working towards the welfare of the people, and we believe that every individual has a crucial role to play in this endeavor, added Kesri.

Kesri expressed confidence that the new unit, led by Hansraj, will work tirelessly to address the needs and concerns of the local community. He urged all members to work together, with dedication and commitment, to achieve our goals. He said in today's world, our

youth face many challenges, including the menace of drug abuse. It is our responsibility to guide and support them, to ensure that they grow into responsible and productive citizens. He called upon all members to organize awareness programs and workshops to educate our youth about the dangers of drug abuse and the importance of a healthy lifestyle.

Let us work together to build a strong and vibrant community, where every individual can thrive and reach their full potential. I wish the new unit all the best in their endeavors, and I am confident that they will make a positive impact in the lives of the people, said Kesri. These words highlight Pt Kesri's commitment to community service, youth welfare, and the importance of collective efforts in achieving organizational goals.

Early start of direct Bus Service from Jammu to Kakryal demanded : PHDCCI, HRAK

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

PHD Chamber of Commerce & Industry Jammu Region Chapter (PHDCCIJR) & Hotel & Restaurant Association, Katra (HRAK) in a joint meeting held here today demanded that a direct Bus Service from Jammu to Kakryal is the need of hour because daily commuters are forced to switch two to three vehicles to reach Narayana Hospital and Shrine Board University.

Rakesh Wazir Chairman PHDCCIJR & President HRAK while speaking on the occasion said that while the government continues to promote slogans like "Healthcare for All" and "Education at Every Doorstep," whereas the ground reality tells a different story just 45 kilometers away from Jammu, Kakryal, home to two of the region's most

important institutions – Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Superspeciality Hospital and SMVD University are still not connected to Jammu by any direct public bus service and as a result Commuters, including poor patients and university students, are compelled to change at least two to three different vehicles daily to reach their destination – a situation that has remained unchanged for years.

Shyam Lal Kesar Chairman HRAK while speaking on the occasion said that every day, hundreds of patients, many of them from underprivileged backgrounds using the Ayushman Bharat health scheme, travel to Narayana Hospital for treatment. Ironically, their struggle begins not at the hospital gate, but on the road to it. First, they take a local bus or matador from Jammu to Domel, followed by a mini-

bus toward Katra, and then finally another mini-bus to Kakryal. This inconvenient and tiring journey becomes even more painful when a patient is elderly, disabled, or in critical condition.

He said that currently, this entire route is operated by only 3-4 minibuses, with irregular timing and excessive crowding. Many patients are forced to stand throughout the journey.

He questioned that "Can a heart patient stand through three bumpy mini-bus rides just to reach the hospital?"

He further said that students studying at SMVD University are also facing severe transport challenges. Those coming from Jammu, Samba, and Kathua, Katra, Suketar have no choice but to take multiple connecting vehicles every day. Students report that this exhausting commute saps their energy

before classes even begin, and ultimately hampers their academic performance. Even university staff and faculty are not spared from this logistical hardship.

Virender Kesar Sr. Vice President HRAK while speaking on the occasion said that keeping in view the difficulties of people an immediate launch of a dedicated daily bus service from Jammu to Kakryal with route like like Ambphalla → Panjirthi → Sidhra Bypass → Domel → Kakryal (SMVDU and Narayana Hospital) with departure at 7.30 AM, 3.30 PM etc. and return from Kakryal to Jammu at 9.15 AM, 5.30 PM respectively be started and likewise from Katra to Kakryal too be started.

The meeting among others was attended by Ajay Kotwal, Vivek Sharma, Sudeeshan Sharma, Ramneek Nawada etc.

ABRSM Ramban organizes Grand 'Guru Vandana' programme to Honour Teachers

J1 NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

The Akhil Bharatiya Rashtriya Shaikshik Mahasangh (ABRSM), District Ramban Unit, organized a grand 'Guru Vandana' programme today at BVM High School, Ramban, to honour and celebrate the contributions of teachers in nation-building and value-based education.

The event was graced by Dr. Jaspal Singh Warwal, Professor at the Centre for Distance and Online Learning, University of Jammu, as the Chief Guest, and Sh. Dev Raj Thakur, National Joint Secretary,

ABRSM, as the Guest of Honour.

The programme commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp, followed by a devotional Saraswati Vandana, invoking blessings for wisdom and learning.

In his address, Dr. Jaspal Singh Warwal spoke on the essential attributes of an ideal teacher and their critical role in shaping society.

"Teachers who excel in values and dedication not only shape the future of generations but also earn deep social prestige," he emphasized.

Sh. Dev Raj Thakur

highlighted the ongoing efforts of ABRSM to uplift the teaching community and acknowledged the significant role of teachers in the formulation and implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.

"Teachers are the true pillars of society," he affirmed.

Dr. Ramparshad Singh Manhas, District President, ABRSM Ramban, delivered the introductory note, emphasizing the Guru's role in Indian cultural and national ethos. He remarked:

"A teacher is not only a guide but a Mahamaanav

one who tirelessly shapes the character and future of students to build a responsible society."

He also quoted a meaningful couplet: "Bhali Bahi Jo Guru

Mile, Nahi Ter Hoti Haani, Deepak Nar Patang, Padta Poori Jaani."

(A worthy Guru dispels darkness and leads to wisdom; like a lamp to the moth, he reveals the

truth of life.)

The audience was deeply inspired by motivational speeches that emphasized the need to embed Bharatiya cultural values in modern educa-

tion and reaffirmed the noble responsibilities of educators.

A large number of teachers, students, dignitaries, and local citizens attended the event, making it a heartfelt and meaningful celebration of teacherhood.

In his concluding remarks, Dr. Manhas reiterated:

"A Guru is not just a teacher, but a torchbearer of wisdom and moral strength. Only a consecrated Guru can build an enlightened society infused with scientific temper and national values. ABRSM remains

committed to this mission."

The vote concluded with the event of thanks by Dr. Manhas, who expressed deep gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, participating educators, volunteers, students, and the organizing team for their enthusiastic participation.

Other prominent attendees included:

Pawan Kishore (General Secretary), Rakesh Kumar (Media Prabhari), Sandeep Singh (Joint Secretary), Sanjay Katoch (UT Treasurer), Vipin Sharma Palak, and Paramjeet Singh.



Govt committed...

He commended the police for the initiative, saying it aims to nurture new dreams, instil new strength and create new aspirations in the lives of our youth.

Sinha said in the last five-six years, J-K Police has contributed a lot in establishing peace, strengthening national unity, and in creating new dreams for the people.

“We do not believe in buying peace, but in establishing peace,” he said, adding a vow has been taken in the last few years that innocents will not be touched, but guilty will not be spared.

The LG said the police have a crucial role in destroying the support system of terrorists be it financial or logistical.

“It is not just the terrorist who needs to be dealt with, but also the entire machinery that facilitates terror,” he said.

Referring to transformation in Jammu and Kashmir over the last few years, the LG said the vision of ‘Naya’ (new) Jammu and Kashmir is not just a slogan as some people criticise.

“I want to remind them the picture before five-six years, they will understand the difference between the old and new J-K. In the new J-K, pens have replaced stones in the hands of youth. Schools and colleges remain open year-round in the new J-K.

“In the new J-K, hartal and bandh calendars have been replaced by the calendars of national and international events,” he said.

“In the new J-K, our youth are achieving new milestones in innovation and research. Our youth are focussing on start ups in new J-K and starting their business ventures. In the new J-K, slogans of separatism are not raised, they have been replaced by the fusion of factories and new vibes of life,” Sinha added.

He said the people are now living life on their own terms without any fear or pressure.

“There is night life like Delhi and Mumbai, and families spend time till late night in places like Lal Chowk, and Jhelum River Front. In the new J-K, the citizens now do not have to go to Jammu, Chandigarh or Delhi to watch cinema. These are not small changes, it is the dawn of a new era for J-K,” he said.

Pointing to the violence in Kashmir in the last few decades, the LG said Pakistani terrorists have spilled blood of innocent citizens of J-K, and many families lost their loved ones to terrorism.

“In some homes, only elderly parents remain after their sons were brutally killed. Thousands were killed at the behest of Pakistan. But in most cases, not even FIRs were registered,” he said.

Sinha said thousands remained silent because of the fear of terror ecosystem.

“We have started a process to change that situation. The civil and police administration have started an initiative to provide justice to those families. On July 13, 40 terror victim families in Baramulla were provided with government job appointment letters.

“It is an irony for J-K that jobs were provided to terrorists or those linked to terror, but those youth or families who were victims of Pakistani terrorism were left to fend for themselves. But, now their empowerment is being ensured. This process of delivering justice will continue in the coming days,” he added.

Amarnath Yatra crosses...

a detailed review of the ongoing arrangements for the Amarnath Yatra during his visit to the Baltal base camp.

The Lt Governor chaired a high-level meeting with senior officials from the civil administration, police, security forces, and other key departments overseeing the yatra operations.

He reviewed critical aspects including accommodation, healthcare services, sanitation, and security measures for pilgrims.

Stressing the importance of seamless inter-departmental coordination, LG Sinha directed officials to ensure a safe, smooth, and hassle-free pilgrimage experience for devotees undertaking the sacred journey.

During the visit, the Lt Governor also interacted with service providers, volunteers, and representatives of various organisations engaged in yatra management. He lauded their commitment and tireless efforts in supporting one of India’s most revered spiritual events.

Meanwhile, the 20th batch of 4,388 pilgrims, including 900 women, left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp here on Sunday to offer prayers at the 3,880 metre high holy cave shrine of Amarnath in south Kashmir Himalayas, officials said.

The 38-day annual yatra commenced on July 3 from the twin routes of Nunwan-Pahalgam in Anantnag and Baltal in Ganderbal. So far, more than 2.90 lakh pilgrims have paid their obeisance at the shrine, housing the naturally formed ice-shivlingam, they said. The fresh batch of pilgrims, which included 130 sadhus and sadhvis, left the base camp in separate convoys for Pahalgam and Baltal under tight security arrangements, they said.

While 2,815 pilgrims left for Pahalgam in a convoy of 115 vehicles, 1,573 pilgrims onboard 95 vehicles preferred the Baltal route, officials said.

The pilgrimage is scheduled to end on August 9, coinciding with the Raksha Bandhan festival.

CM Omar blames Pak...

“The biggest challenge will be to convince Pakistan that its support for these sorts of activities is bad for us, but it’s bad for Pakistan,” Abdullah stressed.

“And given now the sort of very low bar that the Government of India has set, that any attack will be seen as an act of war, Pakistan needs to seriously think about whether it wants to plunge the neighbourhood into a war.” On the Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 people, mainly tourists, Abdullah acknowledged Lt Governor Manoj Sinha’s admission of a “security and intelligence failure” and termed it as a positive first step.

However, he asserted that it was “not good enough.” He said, “26 people died. 26 innocent people were brutally murdered. Where were the lapses? This Pahalgam incident brought two nations, two nuclear powers to war.” “As a first step, it is appreciable that the Lt Governor (Manoj Sinha) has said that he is responsible. But down the chain of command, accountability has to be fixed, since we know now that it was a security and intelligence lapse. The next step would be to fix responsibility. And then heads must roll,” he said.

Post Pahalgam, the chief minister expressed optimism to a question whether his government could balance the fragile peace with the vital need to revive tourism saying,

“We have to trust our forces to do what is right and to ensure that any gaps that have been identified as a result of Pahalgam are plugged.” He stressed about his government’s push to restart tourism, saying “tourism is an important part of JK’s economy” and said a vast number of jobs and its appeal as a destination people genuinely want to visit.

The recent, gradual return of tourists was a heartening sign, a testament to the active efforts of his government to participate in events across the country to bring them back.

About the security audit of tourist spots, he said, “Not that it should be done, it was being done... and those have gradually started to be reopened, and I am hopeful that after Amarnath Yatra, most of the other ones that are closed will also be reopened.” The closures, he noted, were an anomaly. “We have never had tourist destinations closed,” he said, a hint of disbelief in his voice. “Even in the worst of days, tourist destinations were not closed.” He presented a stark choice. Either the situation was now far worse than it had been 10 or 15 years ago, which he believed was not the case, or a considered decision needed to be made.

“If that’s not the case, then we need to sort of take a considered decision, and post-Amarnath Yatra, start reopening all the closed areas,” he concluded, making it clear that a return to a full sense of normalcy was both necessary and long overdue.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah has voiced concern over the “undue delay” in filling Rajya Sabha seats and conducting bye-elections to two assembly seats in the Union territory.

The Union territory, with four seats in Rajya Sabha, has been unrepresented in the Upper House of Parliament since February 15, 2021, the day when Ghulam Nabi Azad and Nazir Ahmed Laway finished their term.

Two other members, Fayaz Ahmed Mir and Shamsheer Singh Manhas, had completed their term on February 10, the same year.

Abdullah called on the Election Commission (EC) to clarify the reasons for the delay, stating, “We don’t understand... I don’t understand why these elections are being put on the back burner.” He was replying to questions about by-elections to two assembly seats – Nagrota in Jammu and Budgam in Kashmir – as well as the four vacant seats of Rajya Sabha.

The Nagrota seat fell vacant after BJP leader Davinder Rana passed away imminently after the results were announced, while the seat in the Kashmir region was vacated by the chief minister, who was also contesting from Ganderbal.

The chief minister said that the Jammu and Kashmir assembly has had two sessions since the last election, and yet, no polls have been conducted for the Rajya Sabha seats.

“Why has there been no Rajya Sabha election? It takes one day,” he added.

Abdullah contrasted sharply with a previous experience in 2014, when his government sought to postpone state elections because of massive floods but was informed that polling could not be postponed “under any circumstances”.

“Today, we are not asking for postponement. We have had two sessions of the Assembly. Why has there been no Rajya Sabha election? It takes one day,” Abdullah said.

He stressed the need for representation in the Upper House, no matter the political affiliation.

“Today, Jammu and Kashmir has no representation in the Rajya Sabha,” he said, lamenting the absence of four key voices from the state in Parliament.

Statehood is our right...

is out of the ordinary or was not part of the public discourse. But, for reasons best known to the powers that be in the Union government, it hasn’t happened so far. But, we’re pushing,” Abdullah told a national news agency in an interview.

Abdullah, who maintains a “cordial” relationship with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, refrained from disclosing specifics of their private discussions on the matter, affirming only that the issue of statehood has been raised “multiple times at multiple levels”.

“Conversations that have been individually had between myself, the Prime Minister, Home Minister, etc. are not conversations that are meant to be shared. Rest assured, this issue of statehood and other issues concerning J&K have been taken up multiple times at multiple levels. And we continue to do so,” he said.

He defended his pragmatic approach to engaging with the central government, emphasising that public appreciation for cooperation does not preclude him from speaking out when warranted.

“As far as enjoying a good relationship is concerned, I don’t see why that is something that should invite so much commentary. At the end of the day, there are political equations that exist between political parties.

“Those remain in terms of whatever the National Conference has with regard to the BJP’s policies or vice versa. But then there are government-to-government relations.

“You tell me, barring maybe one or two examples, generally in the country, relationships between the Union government and the Prime Minister’s office, I mean, normally both sides make an attempt to keep the relations cordial.

“In J-K’s case, the onus is again more on both the individuals who occupy the office of the chief minister and the prime minister to keep things cordial,” he said.

Abdullah drew a contrast with past political dynamics, particularly the Peoples Democratic Party’s (PDP) alliance with the BJP under Mufti Mohammad Sayeed and Mehbooba Mufti.

“What was the compulsion for Mufti Sayeed to have an alliance with the BJP? And what all Mehbooba used to say about the Prime Minister and his person. That they have forgotten,” he remarked, hinting at perceived political expediency.

He clarified his own stance: “Confrontation happens when confrontation is due. If up until now, the Government of India has been helpful, should I not be sort of at least publicly appreciative of that? But where things are not good or where things are wrong, I am not silent on that.”

To a question whether his party was planning to move the Supreme Court for statehood, the chief minister said, “We are looking at various options. There have been a few conversations both within the party as well as with some experts to see what we should do.”

The chief minister dismissed any suggestions of a “hybrid system” where law and order would remain with the Union government even after statehood is restored.

“There is no such model in this country. And why are people speculating? The people who are planting this are the same people who were planting that elections will not happen. Or elections should not happen.

“Yet these very same people are silent about the failures

of Pahalgam or the spread of militancy.”

He challenged those proposing such a system to explain the “dramatic spread” of terror infrastructure in J-K since January 2015, when he demitted office, which included the recent Pahalgam attack in which 26 people, mainly tourists, were gunned down by terrorists.

“In my time, we had reduced it virtually to two to two-and-a-half districts. Today, there is hardly a district in the Valley and a large part of Jammu that is not affected,” Abdullah asserted.

He argued that this expansion of militancy occurred while J-K was a Union territory, under central control, not an elected government.

“Elected governments seem to have done a better job,” he stated, dismissing the notion that an elected government is incapable of managing the security situation.

“We have managed perfectly well in the past and we will manage well in the future also. This hybrid system is not acceptable,” Abdullah said.

He underscored the inherent flaws of the Union territory model, questioning why such a system, if “ideal,” is confined to only a few small areas.

“If this is the best form of governance... Please do it in UP. Do it in Maharashtra. Do it in Chhattisgarh. Do it in all the Northeast states. Do it in Madhya Pradesh,” he challenged.

Abdullah pointed out that while J-K’s area has shrunk since 2019, its population remains largely the same, making the current model of governance unsuitable for its scale and needs. “This model of governance does not work,” he said.

He further criticised the current dual power structure, describing it as “not an ideal form of government”.

While acknowledging that a complete “disaster” has been averted so far, he pointed out the inherent inefficiencies and lack of accountability when there isn’t a single chain of command, but expressed the hope for a swift resolution to the ongoing conversations with the Union government regarding these operational challenges and the pending business rules.

Kishtwar Encounter: Army...

Mandu on July 2.

Despite attempts to neutralise the terrorists—who were believed to be affiliated with Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM)—they evaded the anti-terrorist operation.

“The exchange of fire continued for some time, but there have been no reports of any casualties,” the officials said about Sunday’s encounter, adding that reinforcements have been rushed to the area.

The Indian Army’s intensified operations at the mountainous region come amid a broader set of operations aimed at tracking down 40-50 terrorists said to be active in the hinterlands and along the borders in the Jammu region—particularly in remote areas south of the Pir Panjal range—explained official sources.

The report claimed that nearly 80 per cent of them were Pakistani nationals, citing intelligence assessments and ongoing ground reports.

Anti-drone strategies and intensified night operations together add to the anti-terror deployments put in place to “tighten the noose” around terrorism in the areas under focus. “They are finding it increasingly difficult to move and we will hunt them down, sooner or later,” a source said in the report.

Peace no longer bought...

“I think Prime Minister Modi’s government made a huge departure from this. The result is that even the erstwhile separatists have fallen in line. Now, we are in a position where peace is no longer bought through appeasement. It is no longer a peace bought at the conditions of the others,” he said.

“It is a peace by the preference of the government in India or the people of India,” Singh said.

In August 2019, the Union government scrapped the special status accorded to Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 of the Constitution and carved two union territories from the state.

Singh said the daughters of Jammu and Kashmir were discriminated against as they did not have rights to property of their parents if they married outside the state.

“This is no longer the case now,” he said, adding that the abrogation of Article 370 made sure that laws applicable in the rest of the country were effective in Jammu and Kashmir as well.

He said refugees from Pakistan too were deprived of citizenship despite the same section of population giving India two prime ministers and one deputy prime minister – Inder Kumar Gujral and Manmohan Singh, and L V Advani, respectively.

“This is a huge, huge unravelling happening, not only vis-a-vis the Constitution, democracy, but also by the norms of human dignity. So, all that stands corrected,” Singh said.

The minister said even among common citizens of Jammu and Kashmir, there is a sense of belonging with the rest of the country.

“That is the reason you see most of the youth from Jammu and Kashmir are doing very well for themselves across the sectors, across the country,” Singh said.

He said terrorism had disrupted development in Jammu and Kashmir.

“Many of the projects, particularly in Kashmir valley, got stalled because of the conditions that were there. For the first time, rail arrived in J&K way back in 1972. But then we have to wait for more than five decades. Again, Prime Minister Modi came in, took a firm resolve to take the train to Kashmir valley,” Singh said.

Niraj Kumar gets Addl...

Niraj Kumar will also look after the Hospitality and Protocol Department during the deputation period of Bhupinder Kumar, IAS (AGMUT:2011), who has been deputed to the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration, Mussoorie, from July 21 to August 16, 2025.

Two criminals detained...

basis of dossier from police, stating there in that the individual’s act of slaughtering an animal considered sacred and wilfully placing its remains in public place had led to public order situation in the area.

The detention order under PSA aimed at maintaining public order and communal harmony in the district, the spokesman said, requesting public to respect religious sentiments of all communities.

Indian abducted by terrorists...

Sheela Devi said that her husband Ranjeet Singh was working as a senior safety officer at Transrail Lighting Limited, an integrated power transmission and distribution company. She said the family lost contact with him on July 15.

According to the Indian embassy, two Indians were killed and one abducted following a terrorist attack in southwest Niger.

“In a heinous terror attack on July 15 in Niger’s Dosso region, two Indian nationals tragically lost their lives and one was abducted,” the embassy said in a social media post on Friday.

Niger media had reported that unidentified gunmen attacked an Army unit guarding a construction site in Dosso, about 130 kilometres from capital Niamey.

Sheela Devi said on Saturday, “We talked on WhatsApp on July 15 and since then, I have not been able to contact him. I called his management and was initially told that there is no network at the work site.” She said she learned about her husband’s abduction the next day through his friend, even as the management maintained that he had fled deep into the forest following the terror attack.

“It has been four days since then. I believe that there is no effort to secure my husband’s release from his captors,” a visibly upset Devi, a mother of three children, said.

She alleged that her repeated attempts to reach out to the company were being met with cold response.

“I do not know what kind of situation my husband is in. I do not have any idea about the efforts of the local government,” Devi said, making a fervent appeal to the Government of India, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and External Affairs minister S Jaishankar to seek Ranjeet Singh’s release.

Devi said she met Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan, who gave her a positive response.

“The deputy commissioner said he will do everything in his capacity, but I know the main work is that of our external affairs ministry. If they want, my husband will come home safely,” she said.

Omar seeks Centre’s...

resident of Ramban, in Niger. He urges the Hon’ble EAM @DrSJaishankar and @MEAIndia to urgently intervene to secure Ranjeet’s safe and swift return,” Abdullah’s office posted on X.

Sheela Devi, Rankeet’s wife, on Saturday said that her husband works as a senior safety officer at Transrail Lighting Limited, an integrated power transmission and distribution company, in Niger and the family lost contact with him on July 15.

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“I do not know what kind of situation my husband is in. I do not have any idea about the efforts of the local government,” Sheela Devi said.

She said she has also met Ramban Deputy Commissioner Mohammad Alyas Khan.

“The deputy commissioner said he will do everything in his capacity, but I know the main work is that of our external affairs ministry. If they want, my husband will come home safely,” she said.

CM Omar attempting...

administration’s efforts in rehabilitating families affected by terrorism since the 1990s.

“For over three decades, these families suffered in silence. No one stood by them. But under the leadership of Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha, a ray of hope has finally emerged for such families,” Sharma said while addressing a press conference.

He lauded the recent government initiative under which hundreds of terror victim families have been documented and provided employment. “In the last two weeks alone, appointments have been handed over to many families. A timeline has also been set for the remaining eligible families to receive jobs within a month. This is a commendable move,” Sharma said,

The LoP, however, did not hold back in his criticism of the CM, accusing him of attempting to “provoke regional and communal sentiments”. Referring to the July 14 incident Sharma questioned Omar’s actions and intent. “Why was there an altercation with the police when the gate was open? If it was closed, how did his father, advisor, and ministers enter?” he asked, alleging that the incident was staged for political mileage.

He further accused Omar of insulting the sentiments of the Jammu region, especially the Dogra community, by glorifying those who, according to Sharma, revolted against Maharaja Hari Singh. “Omar Abdullah is projecting himself as the Chief Minister of only one region - Kashmir - while completely ignoring the aspirations of Jammu,” he said.

Referring to the period between 2009 and 2014 when Abdullah served as Chief Minister, Sharma labelled the tenure as “unsuccessful and deceptive,” citing alleged failures in addressing unemployment.

He also took aim at the National Conference’s demand for the restoration of Article 370. “Omar Abdullah has been misleading the people by claiming that 370 will return. But even the Congress, in a joint letter with INDIA bloc leaders to the Prime Minister, has accepted the reality of its abrogation. They now only demand statehood, which is already part of the BJP’s agenda,” he claimed.

Kalakote-Sunderbani AC on Path of Transformation: Jugal Kishore MP

JINNEWS SERVICE
KALAKOTE-SUNDERBANI, JULY 20

Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Sh Jugal Kishore Sharma along with MLA Kalakote Sunderbani Assembly Constituency Thakur Randhir Singh today successfully concluded his two-day tour of the Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency, also accompanied by senior leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) Kalakote Sunderbani Unit.

During the visit, Shri Jugal Kishore held a series of public and worker meetings across various locations Bakhar Siot, Sunderbani, Teryath, Moghla, Sial Sui and others in the constituency. He actively listened to the concerns, grievances, and suggestions of local residents and party workers, assuring them of appropriate redressal and follow-up action.

Member of Parliament



also took the opportunity to raise awareness about various centrally sponsored schemes launched under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Sh Narendra Modi Ji. He emphasized how these schemes are transforming the lives of the people, especially in rural and remote areas, by improving infrastructure, healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities.

Shri Jugal Kishore praised the dynamic governance of Prime Minister

Modi and reiterated the government's commitment to equitable development across all regions. He highlighted several key development projects undertaken in District Rajouri and within the Kalakote-Sunderbani Assembly Constituency, including road connectivity, infrastructure and other public welfare initiatives.

MLA Kalakote Sunderbani AC Thakur Randhir Singh also addressed the gatherings, reaffirming BJP's commitment to the

welfare of the people and continued development of the region.

The tour concluded with enthusiastic participation from the public and party workers, reflecting strong grassroots support for the BJP and its leadership.

DDC Rajinder Sharma, Sangeeta Raina, Ex Chairman MC Sunderbani Rajinder Sharma, District President BJP Pritam Sharma, Ex-Presint Capt. Ramesh, Balkrishan, Vikran Sharma General Secretary, Rajat Chib, Madan Pal, Chaman Lal Raina, Vice-president, City President Raju Gupta, Mandal Presidents Sukhdev Singh, Rampaul, Vikas Sharma, Vijay Sharma, Senior BJP Leaders Naseeb Singh chib, Babu Gian, Sanjay Sharma, Ajay Gupta, Rakesh Kumar, Jagdish Lal, Mahila Morcha Renu Sharma, Anita Sharma, Ex-Councillors, Ex-Sarpanches Panches and others also present at the occasion.

Crime Branch booked top fraudsters for Job scams involving huge amount of Rs 1.47 Crore, registered 3 separate FIRs

11th FIR Registered Against Jailed Govt Teacher, Jameel Anjum

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

Crime Branch has booked top fraudsters, including jailed govt school teacher Jameel Anjum, for job scams involving huge amount of Rs 1.47 crore, by registering three separate FIRs.

An FIR has been registered against one Ajay Kumar S/o Pankaj Kumar R/o Sungli Doda on two written complaints submitted by six (6) complainants who alleged therein that Ajay duped them of rupees 1.06 crore on the

false promise of providing government jobs. Ajay Kumar impersonated himself as a Secretariat official to win confidence of job seekers. Ajay is a notorious fraudster and more complaints against him are pouring in.

Another FIR has been registered against history-sheeter government school teacher Jameel Anjum, S/o Nasir Ahmad R/o Ustad Mohalla Jammu, on the joint complaint lodged by nine (9) complainants from Lower Gadi Garh Jammu, wherein they alleged that Jameel

Anjum duped them of rupees 39.00 lakh on the pretext of providing Govt jobs and also provided fake appointment order. Suspended teacher Jameel Anjum, is a top fraudster currently held in jail on judicial custody in another case and it is eleventh FIR registered against him. He used to pose himself as PA of high dignitary and more complaints against him are being received from the victims of job scams.

Yet another FIR has been registered against two individuals namely

Iftikhar Ali S/o Nazir Ali and Nazir Ali S/o Qurban Ali, both R/o Chanderkote Ramban, on the written complaint of one Mohd Taki R/o Kunfer Chanderkote for duping on the pretext of providing government jobs.

SSP Crime Jammu, Benam Tosh said that stringent possible action under law is being taken against notorious elements involved in job scams, but job seekers, their parents & guardians are also required to be beware of such fraudsters.

Kashmiri Pandit Organizations welcome commencing renovation of ancient Vichar Nag Temple

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj, Zaara Foundation and prominent members of the Kashmiri Pandit community have warmly welcomed the beginning of restoration and rebuilding work at the historically revered Vicharnag Temple in Srinagar. In this regard, the foundation stone laid formally by Chief Secretary Atal Dullu and Akshay Labroo, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar. This restoration marks an important milestone in the preservation of Kashmir's rich religious and cultural heritage, and the community looks forward to the completion of the project with great reverence. Kiran Wattal Convenor of Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj and Amit Raina of Zaara Foundation expressed their gratitude to the UT Government for taking this significant step to revive an important spiritual and cultural landmark.

Wattal recalled that on April 9 last year Vishwa Kashmiri Samaj (VKS) organised a function at the



shrine in connection with celebration of Navreh the new year day of Kashmiri Pandits in which Haryana Governor, Bandaru Dattatreya was the chief guest. Highly impressed by improvement of the ground situation in the Valley, the Haryana Governor had assured the VKS representatives and community members on the occasion that he would take up the issue of renovation and restoration of this ancient shrine with Lt Governor, J&K, Manoj Sinha and Home Minister, Amit Shah.

Wattal expressed heartfelt gratitude of LG Manoj Sinha for making earnest efforts to bring back glory of Vicharnag temple once a hub of religio-cultural activities, famous shrine of Vich-

arnag in Nowshera Srinagar of Central Kashmir. He said Lt Governor; Manoj Sinha has brought this famous religious shrine under ambitious programme of restoration/conservation and development of famous shrines in Kashmir. The Government has earmarked about Rs five crore for the development and conservation of this ancient shrine which has suffered a heavy damage due to over three-decade long turmoil in Kashmir. The same was communicated to Governor Haryana through Secretary to Haryana Governor vide letter No.LGS-1/GR/2024/4661 dated 8-10-2024 under subject: Development and restoration of Vichar Nag temple, Srinagar intimating that restoration project has been

approved at the cost of Rs 401.34 lacs.

Wattal emphasized the importance of involving Kashmiri Pandit organizations and community engineers in the renovation process to ensure that valuable suggestions are incorporated to restore the temple's pristine glory. The Vichar Nag temple is an ancient Shiva temple, estimated to be around 5100 years old, holding significant cultural and spiritual importance. The temple has historical significance, with records of its existence dating back to the time of Kalhan Pandit's Rajtarangni. The temple is believed to be the site of the 4th Buddhist council and is a revered spot for Kashmiri Pandits, said Wattal.

Wattal meantime demanded that the ancient temple should be rebuilt in its pristine glory and heritage, maintaining its original architecture and cultural significance. Modern construction is unacceptable to Kashmiri Pandits, as it would compromise the heritage and cultural value of the temple, betraying present and future generations.

Grand Guru Parv celebrated at Valmiki Ashram, Saints and Leaders Gather in Nehru Park

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

While talking to journalists, Mahant Guruji Raju Chandel, the propagator of All India Maharishi Valmiki Sadhu Akhara Parishad, said that today the Akhara Parishad has welcomed all the Mandaleshwars Mahamandaleshwars of Valmiki community of the country to the ancient historical Maharishi Valmiki Ashram Nehru Park of the country. On the occasion of Guru Parv, a scene like Manav Mahakumbh was seen here.

National Mahamandaleshwar Mashrikh Shah Parmarthi Rishi, Swami Arunanand Ji Maharaj, Swami Parmeshwar Nath Maharaj, Swami Babla Dash Ji Maharaj, Swami Janm Shah Ji Maharaj, Mandaleshwar Swami Roshan Shah Ji Maharaj, Swami Sukhwinder Nath Ji Maharaj, Swami Baleshwar, Swami Ratan Das, Sadhvi Ananta Devi Maharaj, Sadhvi Sudesh Ji Nath, Swami Sadhu Das Ji Maharaj, Swami Rishi Raj Ji Maharaj, Swami Hans Das Ji Maharaj, Swami Suresh Shahsavadari, Swami Premgiri Maharaj, Swami Matu Ji Maharaj, Swami Chandrapal Anaraj, Swami Rajiv Ramdas Ji Maharaj, Swami Virat Nath Ji Maharaj, Swami Ravi-



nath Ji Maharaj, Swami Bal Yogi Ji, Bal Yogi Alsal Nath Ji Maharaj, Bal Yogi Swami Karma Nath Ji Maharaj, Saint Shri Girdhari Nath Ji Maharaj, etc. were prominently present.

Guruji Chandel said that this grand program was organized by Mahamandaleshwar Swami Vivek Nath Maharaj of All India Maharishi Valmiki Sadhu Akhara Parishad Valmiki Ashram Nehru Park with great beauty and according to Sanatan culture. On this occasion, National President of Scheduled Caste Front Lal Singh Arya, Delhi MP Bansuri Swaraj BJP leader Vishnu Mittal, State General Secretary of Scheduled Caste Front Rupesh Mera, Office Minister Umesh Lilothia, BJP Delhi State General Secretary Vishnu Mittal Advocate Rajkumar Direc-

tor Anil Kumar Advocate Tarun Advocate Rajesh Udit Singh Mahant Goldy, Chandrapal Chandel, Dr. Sanjeev Suresh Ram and other dignitaries were present

Prachari Mahant Guruji Chandel said that on this occasion, National President of Scheduled Caste Front Lal Singh Arya, MP Bansuri Swaraj, Vishnu Mittal, President of Vishwa Hindu Parishad and many people together inaugurated the counseling career for the children of the newly constructed building society located in the ashram

On this occasion, National President of BJP Scheduled Caste Front Lal Singh Arya said that the history of Bhagwan Valmiki Ashram is very ancient, Lord Valmiki appeared here in Dwapar

Yuga located in Nehru Park, he did meditation, that is why the importance of this Valmiki Ashram increases a lot, all the Sanatani people should come to this ashram and learn education in knowledge and visit such a historical Sikh ancient temple where there is Tapobhoomi of Bhagwan Valmiki

On this occasion, BJP MP Bansuri Swaraj said that our late mother and former Union External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj came from Bhagwan Valmiki Ashram Ji has a great affection for this and she always came here. Whenever I come to this ashram, I get a different supernatural power and get inspiration to do something good and big for the country and society.

She said that today is the month of Sawan. The arrival of great saints and Mahamandaleshwars in our Nehru Ashram Park Valmiki Ashram will establish happiness, prosperity and peace in Delhi and I give my best wishes to all the devotees of Shiva.

On this occasion, MP Bansuri Swaraj Lal Singh Arya Vishnu Mittal along with many political and social religious people fed the saints who came from different corners of the country with their own hands and took their blessings.

Civil Society of Kathua/Samba honours Sarabjeet Singh for JKCA Appointment as Chairman Senior Selection Committee Men's Cricket Team

JINNEWS SERVICE
HIRANAGAR, JULY 20

The Civil Society of District Kathua today organized a grand felicitation ceremony at Royal Palace, Chadwal to honour Sh. Sarabjeet Singh, former Ranji Trophy player of Jammu & Kashmir and Services, on his recent appointment as Chairman Senior Selection Committee Men's Cricket 2025-26 of Jammu & Kashmir Cricket Association (JKCA).

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from civil society members, sportspersons, and



cricket lovers from Kathua, Samba, and nearby areas, who expressed immense joy and pride over Sarabjeet Singh's well-deserved achievement.

MLA Hiranagar, Sh. Vijay Sharma, graced the occasion as Chief Guest, while former Indian cricketer and current U-19 Uttarakhand Chief Selector, Sh.

Surinder Singh Bagal, was present as the Guest of Honour. The event also acknowledged and honoured DDC Mahreen Karan Attri and DDC Hiranagar Abhinandan Sharma for their continued contributions to the region.

In his address, MLA Vijay Sharma lauded Sarabjeet Singh for bringing pride to the region and for his dedication to the sport both as a player and now as a selector. He expressed hope that Singh's inclusion in the JKCA setup will further uplift cricketing standards in the Union Territory.

Janipur Police, Jammu nabs drug peddler, seizes 2 Kg 316 gms of Ganja-like substance

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

In a breakthrough, the Janipur Police has apprehended a 23-year-old individual, Aakash S/o Kavi Raj, resident of Orissa, Nayagarh Police Station, Nayagarh District, Khandapara, currently residing at H No. 156, Upper Roop Nagar, Sector 4, Janipur, Jammu.

The accused was caught red-handed by a patrolling party led by PSI Sheetal Rajput, comprising Sgct Zameer Singh, Sgct Lokesh, and Spo Rahul Sharma, near Lakkar Mandi Depot. The operation resulted in the seizure of 2 kg 316 gms of Ganja-like substance from the accused's possession.

The successful operation was conducted under the supervision of SDPO City West, demonstrating the Janipur Police's commitment to tackling drug trafficking and ensuring public safety.

CREMATION

With profound grief and sorrow we inform the sad demise of our beloved
Sh. Davinder Kumar Bindra
S/o Late Sh. Mohinder Singh Left for heavenly abode on 20/07/2025
Cremation will take place on 21/07/2025 (Monday) 11:30 AM at JOGI Gate Cremation Ground
Grief Stricken
Smt Kailash Devi (Mother)
Smt Neelam Bindra (Wife)
Harsh Kumar Bindra & Pallavi Bindra (Son & Daughter-in-law)
Aniali Bindra & Aman Sharma (Daughter & Son In Law)
Mob. No. - 7006211131

EDITORIAL

A promise that must be kept!

As the Monsoon session of Parliament begins, the demand for the restoration of Jammu and Kashmir's statehood has returned to the national spotlight—this time with renewed vigour and a sense of justified urgency. Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's forceful articulation of this demand underscores what has become increasingly evident to many across the political spectrum: the continuation of Union Territory status is neither sustainable nor justifiable in a democratic framework. Omar has left little ambiguity in his stance. Nearly ten months after the National Conference was voted into power in the Union Territory, he has reiterated—firmly and repeatedly—that statehood is not a privilege to be granted at the Centre's discretion, but a constitutional and political right that was promised and must be honoured. His assertion resonates deeply with the people of Jammu and Kashmir who, after years of political upheaval and administrative transitions, seek nothing more radical than what was already theirs: a full-fledged state within the Indian Union. The National Conference's clear opposition to any "hybrid model" of governance, where the Centre would retain control over law and order even after restoring statehood, is a direct challenge to any diluted version of autonomy. Such halfway measures would only deepen public disillusionment and erode trust in the democratic processes that have, in recent months, seen a resurgence—demonstrated by the high voter turnout in the last Assembly elections. Notably, even Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha has acknowledged that statehood will be restored, stating it will happen at an "appropriate time." But therein lies the problem—what is "appropriate," and who decides? Promises made in Parliament and in the Supreme Court are not contingent upon political convenience. Justice delayed in this context is justice denied. Omar's diplomatic but determined engagement with the Centre—through multiple meetings with the Prime Minister and the Home Minister—is a reflection of both political maturity and pragmatic leadership. His remarks make it clear that cordial relationships between elected governments and the Union are not incompatible with firm advocacy for regional rights. His approach contrasts sharply with the cynical belief that pushing too hard for autonomy might upset central relationships. Instead, Omar has shown that cooperation need not come at the cost of silence. The time for ambiguity and deferral has passed. The Centre must heed the rising chorus—not just from Abdullah or his party, but from the people of Jammu and Kashmir—who have waited patiently for the restoration of their democratic and constitutional rights. Statehood is not a political favour; it is a constitutional necessity. Its restoration will not only fulfil a solemn promise but will also reaffirm the Union's commitment to democratic federalism. Any further delay will only fuel frustration and suspicion, eroding the fragile gains made in recent years. The Parliament session offers the Centre an opportunity—to demonstrate its seriousness and restore the statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. It must not be missed.

Innovation is the key to a healthier nation: A new paradigm for public health

DR DIKSHA TIWARI

For decades, public health in India and across the globe has largely been the domain of the state – driven by policies, programmes, and top-down interventions. While this approach has enabled major breakthroughs in disease control and population health, taking India's life expectancy from just 35.21 years in 1950 to over 70 years in 2025, the causes of mortality and barriers to good health in New India are very different from those that our public health systems were designed to address.

As the domain of public health expands from addressing communicable diseases and infections through vaccination drives to tackling the problems of lifestyle disorders and taking health-care services to the last mile, a new public health paradigm is emerging – one that is deeply rooted in innovation. This new public health ecosystem, anchored by startups, is bringing together Government bodies, NGOs, research institutions, and communities to co-create solutions that are context-specific and scalable.

In this new paradigm, public health challenges are increasingly being met with entrepreneurial energy and scalable tech-driven solutions, not just by trying to scale state capacity by increasing manpower at the grassroots level. Startups across India are stepping in to bridge gaps and make public health service delivery more efficient in key

sectors like improving maternal health outcomes, enabling low-cost diagnostics, or deploying AI-powered screening tools for diseases like cancer and tuberculosis. This transformation is being actively supported by platforms like Startup India, India Accelerator, BIRAC, and other venture capital firms that are acting as ecosystem enablers that not only fund but also mentor and scale health innovations tailored to India's unique needs. Technology is proving to be a powerful enabler for improving India's health outcomes. Telemedicine and mobile health platforms are expanding access to care in underserved regions. AI and machine learning are revolutionising early detection and decision support. IoT and wearable devices are enhancing real-time community-level health monitoring. Drones, cold chain tech, and supply-chain innovations are improving last-mile medicine and vaccine delivery. This innovation-driven model doesn't replace Government efforts – it complements and strengthens them to make sure the healthcare needs of over 140 crore citizens of India can be met.

In many facets of public health, India has made remarkable strides over the years. It has brought down maternal mortality from 560 in 1990 to 97 per 100,000 live births today. However, the population and geographical spread of India combined with the unique and transforming healthcare needs of individuals necessitates that technology and innovation



form the core of India's public health going forward if the rate of progress is to be maintained. Today, the leading causes of death are no longer communicable diseases, they're instead disorders like obesity, diabetes, heart disease, cancers and Alzheimer's. Technological innovations by startups are revolutionising treatments and preventative care in all these areas where disease burden now predominantly lies. A startup called Sunfox Technologies has developed Spandan, a portable ECG device that facilitates early detection of cardiac issues at home or in clinics – and it has already helped over 30,000 users and prevented more than 10,000 heart attacks. Another startup, Fitterfly, focuses on diabetes, obesity, and metabolic health, having managed over 50,000 patients with clinically proven HbA1c reduction of up to 1.8 per cent. BeatO, a digital diabetes management platform, boasts over 1 million users and has processed more than 6 million blood glucose readings, reducing hypoglycaemic events by

52 per cent. Twin Health works on diabetes reversal and metabolic disease management, claiming over 90 per cent success among enrolled users, with deployments in both India and the US. Wellthy Therapeutics addresses diabetes, hypertension, and cardiac health, supporting over 70,000 patients while improving medication adherence by 87 per cent and halving hospitalisation risk.

Aindra Systems offers point-of-care diagnostic devices for early detection of cardiac and cancer conditions, performing 5,000+ tests monthly and operating in 100+ healthcare centres in tier-2 and 3 cities.

As some startups work on developing technological solutions for these new health challenges of the 21st century, others are working to solve timely diagnostics and skilled care that still continues to be a major challenge in large parts of the country, especially in rural and underserved areas. Startups like Janitri Innovations are piloting AI-powered, wearable maternal and foetal monitoring devices

in primary health centres (PHCs), enabling frontline workers to detect complications in real-time, reduce delays in care, and lower out-of-pocket costs for mothers. Another startup, SpotSense, offers ReadX and ViewDx, compact diagnostic tools that deliver lab-quality results in minutes using just a drop of saliva or blood.

These tools screen for neonatal conditions like jaundice, sepsis, and congenital hypothyroidism, as well as maternal health issues such as anaemia, diabetes, and thyroid disorders. Such real-world deployments of technologies to address pressing public health issues demonstrate how innovation can enable informed, timely decisions at the last mile – where conventional systems often fall short.

While it is clear that a new paradigm for public health is already taking shape in the country, it isn't without its challenges. The success of this new paradigm requires that startups go beyond innovation for its own sake and become ethical, embedded partners in systemic change.

This starts with startups understanding in depth where the challenges of public health delivery lie, and building solutions to address those challenges rather than trying to integrate technology into areas not in need of a solution. As technology becomes more critical for public health, startups would also require radical transparency in algorithms, ensuring AI tools are explainable and unbiased, particularly for

vulnerable populations. Equity must also be built in from the start, with user interfaces designed for low-literacy populations, gender-sensitive features, and offline-first modes for low-resource settings.

Innovation in this sector would often mean forgoing the most technologically advanced solution in favour of a combination of low-tech tools with deep-tech backends to augment, not replace, frontline workers. Startups must also build contextual intelligence, recognising that health data means different things across regions and communities – something best achieved by co-designing with local health workers and social scientists. Participatory business models that empower ASHAs or enable community ownership can increase engagement and trust.

Innovations should align with existing public systems, integrating with Government processes and local community practices instead of aiming for radical disruptions that might never materialise. Finally, startups must also plan for ethical exit strategies, ensuring continuity of service and costs by integrations into existing systems once pilots end. This depth of integrity and alignment is what new public health truly needs from entrepreneurs.

(The writer is public health expert leading healthcare investments at the Gurugram based venture capital firm India Accelerator)

Rethinking What It Means to Be Truly Clean

ACHARYA PRASHANT

When we talk about cleanliness, what usually comes to our minds are spotless homes and litter-free streets. We feel good when the floors shine and the dustbins are empty. But have we ever asked ourselves what cleanliness really means? Is it just about what's visible to the eye, or is there something far more harmful than dust or litter? Most of us equate cleanliness with what's visible: what we can see, touch, or smell. In doing so, we may be ignoring a far more crucial aspect.

It is often asked why people from South Asia become more conscious about cleanliness when they are abroad. The answer isn't really about nationality; it has to do with human nature, our tendency to modify our actions in response to external stimuli rather than from an internal understanding.

When someone's conduct is based on outer factors, it reveals that the change is not arising from an inner understanding but an external pressure. A person living in India may litter carelessly. When living overseas, the same person may suddenly become very strict about following rules, not because they have grown genuinely responsible, but because they are afraid of penalties, being watched, or being judged by others. This type of behaviour is unconscious and reactive. As soon as the external pressures go away, the old habits return.

It is clear that the problem is not merely cultural or location-based. The real issue lies deeper in the human mind.

Cleanliness through an economic lens

We must also view cleanliness through an economic lens. It is unrealistic to expect people to put appearance first when they are fighting for basic necessities like food, shelter, or safety. When survival is at stake, environmental cleanliness isn't crucial.

We rarely see wealthy nations that are visibly unclean or poor nations that look spotless from the outside. This is just an illustration of how economic conditions change priorities.

When survival is the top priority, cleanliness becomes a thing of luxury. Only when families achieve economic stability do issues like waste management and community health become real priorities. Economic stability lets people look beyond basic needs and care for communal well-being.

Even in India, well-off communities often manage to keep their surroundings as clean as those in developed countries. This proves that the issue is more situational than cultural. What leads to development and cleanliness in one country may not apply to another. A variety of elements, including geography, history, leadership, and external influence, combine to generate material prosperity. Economic wealth makes it easier to focus on keeping the environment clean; poverty makes it difficult to focus on anything beyond day-to-day survival.

Reducing the question of cleanliness to race or nationality is unfair. It overlooks the deeper, structural factors.

The covert violence of progress

In today's world, cleanliness is often reduced to appearance. But what happens when

appearance hides harm? A modern, high-tech slaughterhouse might look clean, with shiny floors, polished tools, and no blood in sight. But the violence and cruelty inside that slaughterhouse cannot be denied. On the other hand, imagine a small Indian rural hospital. Despite cracked tiles and peeling walls, it fulfils its purpose of healing and care.

In this context, cleanliness isn't just about appearance; it's also about the impact that an action has on others.

Now picture an electric SUV: shiny, quiet, and labelled eco-friendly. But if it's charging off electricity generated by coal and consuming resources just to carry one person comfortably, is it really any better than what it replaced? In contrast, an old diesel train puffing black smoke, yet transporting 1,000 people efficiently, has a much smaller impact per person. Cleanliness isn't about shine and glitter, but about how our decisions affect society, nature, and the mind. We must weigh the psychological, social, and environmental costs of our actions.

The hidden footprint of modern progress

When societies obsess over a shiny, surface-level version of cleanliness – polished skyscrapers, manicured lawns, sparkling cars – while ignoring massive carbon footprints, water waste, and resource exploitation, they create a much deeper kind of filth. Imagine someone taking four showers a day in a desert country where water is scarce or a lush garden kept alive by thousands of gallons of precious water.

All this, while millions of people still lack access to clean drinking water. This

superficial version of cleanliness comes at a huge cost. It is essentially violence, not just against nature, but against people, and eventually oneself. And it comes from over-consumption and putting appearance before real sustainability.

The World Resources Institute says that if every country consumed like the US, we would need the equivalent of five Earths to sustain that level of consumption. Just because something looks spotless doesn't make it clean. Cleanliness, in a real sense, means living in a way that is truly sensitive to oneself and the planet.

Beyond what meets the eye

It is time we understand and redefine cleanliness. Is a glittering street in a fuel-hungry city cleaner than a dusty road in a carbon-neutral village? Can a society be clean if it runs on fossil fuels and emits heavily? These questions challenge us to look beyond the surface, and should be asked more frequently.

Here is the contradiction: the very countries we praise for their "cleanliness" often rank among the worst offenders in harming the environment. For example, according to the Global Carbon Project, the United States, despite its clean streets and strict hygiene standards, accounts for nearly 15 per cent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Meanwhile, a small, messy village may have little to no carbon footprint. Is it the trash scattered on the streets or the invisible fumes that are slowly suffocating our planet? Litter is ugly, no doubt, but it's the emissions we don't see that are far more dangerous. If carbon dioxide had a colour,

we'd see it swirling everywhere, covering so-called clean cities in a choking haze, as a constant reminder of the damage we cause. Cleanliness can't just be about how things look. It must reflect how responsibly we walk on the planet. Only then can we honestly claim to be clean.

Inner cleanliness is true cleanliness

When our actions come only from fear, the hope for rewards, or social pressure, they lack inner honesty. True cleanliness starts inside us. You're truly clean only when you have clarity within – when you're no longer driven by borrowed identities or compulsions picked up from the world.

Spirituality, in essence, is just this: to live with inner clarity. Not for show, not to gain favour with some higher power, but to live a truthful life based on self-knowledge.

When someone lives with inner understanding, they naturally bring cleanliness externally as well. They leave no clutter – neither in the world nor in the minds they touch. This is what real cleanliness looks like.

We need to put aside our preoccupation with appearances and reaffirm our dedication to truth and sensitivity towards the environment.

Real cleanliness should guide our lives and relationships. In that light, it is alright to be a little messy on the outside than to appear spotless outside while carrying inner grime.

(The writer is philosopher, teacher of global wisdom literature; is the founder of the PrashantAdvait Foundation and a bestselling author)

Neelam Langeh pays obeisance at Shri Kudmat Devta Temple during Annual Yatra 2025

JINNEWS SERVICE
BATOTE, JULY 20

Neelam Langeh, former MLA and District President of BJP Ramban, today paid reverential obeisance at the historic Shri Kudmat Devta Temple in Mandal, Batote as part of the Annual Yatra 2025. The spiritual event drew large participation from devotees across the Ramban constituency and nearby areas.

Accompanied by local BJP leaders and supporters, Langeh undertook the sacred pilgrimage and actively participated in the rituals, reflecting deep cultural and spiritual connect with the people and traditions of the region.

While addressing the gathering of devotees, Neelam Langeh empha-



sized the importance of preserving age-old traditions and upholding the values enshrined in Sanatan Dharma. He lauded the efforts of the temple com-

mittee and local administration for making elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the Yatra. He further reiterated the commitment of the

Bharatiya Janata Party to promote religious tourism, preserve cultural heritage, and strengthen the spiritual fabric of Jammu & Kashmir. "Such pilgrimages are not just journeys of faith, but also reinforce our unity, identity, and rootedness in centuries-old customs," Langeh said.

The annual Kudmat Devta Yatra is a significant cultural and religious event in the Ramban region, witnessing participation from devotees across different communities and age groups.

Langeh assured the devotees that BJP is continuously striving for the development of pilgrimage sites and ensuring better road connectivity, facilities, and promotion of local traditions.

Khatana Urges Muslims to Join National Mainstream, Calls for Introspection and Participation in Nation-Building

JINNEWS SERVICE
MUMBAI, JULY 20:

Rajya Sabha MP Gulam Ali Khatana on Sunday called upon the Muslim community to join the national mainstream and actively contribute to India's developmental journey, describing the present era as the country's Amrit Kaal.

Speaking at a seminar titled "Viksit Bharat and the Future of Muslims in India" organised by the Positive Thought Foundation at Islam Gymkhana, Mumbai, Khatana said Muslims must reassert their legacy as contributors to India's growth and knowledge traditions.

"Muslims have his-



torically been problem-solvers and contributors to society. But today, we must ask ourselves: who associated us with backwardness and stereotypes over the last seventy years?" he said, urging the community to shed narratives of victimhood and embrace participation, progress, and purpose.

Highlighting Prime Minister Narendra Modi's

vision of inclusive development, Khatana said the government is committed to "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, aur Sabka Prayas."

Referring to the values practiced during the time of Prophet Muhammad, he said, "The spirit of justice, compassion, and civic responsibility must once again be part of our everyday lives. These are the values that shaped

civilisations." The seminar witnessed participation from scholars, youth, and civil society members. Discussions centred on the role of Indian Muslims in building a modern, progressive, and united Bharat.

Khatana also encouraged Muslim youth to focus on education, entrepreneurship, and civic engagement. "India's strength lies in its diversity. Our future requires the active involvement of every community," he said.

The event concluded with a pledge to promote communal harmony, value-based leadership, and collective national progress.

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar visits village Bure Chak, Panchayat Saharan

JINNEWS SERVICE
MARI, JULY 21

MLA Marh Surinder Kumar Saturday visited Village Bure Chak in Panchayat Saharan, where he closely inspected and understood the issues related to streets and drainage raised by the villagers. The visit was attended by officials from the relevant departments, who were given immediate directions to ensure prompt resolution of the issues. A prominent BJP worker, Raju Sharma, was present on the occasion, highlighting the party's commitment to addressing local issues. Another key BJP figure, Kala Ram Chaudhary, was also present, underscoring the party's dedication to serving the community.

MLA Surinder Kumar thoroughly inspected the street and drainage issues, demonstrating his commitment to addressing the concerns of the villagers. Officials from the concerned departments were present on the occasion



and were given necessary instructions to resolve the issues at the earliest. Directions were given to ensure that the issues are resolved promptly, providing relief to the villagers.

The visit reflects MLA Surinder Kumar's commitment to addressing local issues and improving the lives of villagers in Panchayat Saharan. The prompt action taken by the authorities is expected to bring relief to the residents of Village Bure Chak. By engaging with the villagers and taking immediate action, MLA Surinder

Kumar has demonstrated his dedication to serving the community and addressing their concerns.

Speaking on the occasion, MLA said: "As a representative of the people, I am committed to ensuring that rural areas receive the attention and resources they deserve. The development of rural areas is crucial for promoting economic growth, improving living standards, and providing access to essential facilities. Improving roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure to enhance connectivity and accessi-

bility. Ensuring that rural areas have access to basic amenities such as clean water, sanitation, healthcare, and education. Promoting economic opportunities and supporting local businesses to stimulate growth and development. Engaging with local communities to understand their needs and priorities, and involving them in the decision-making process," said MLA.

MLA further said that as a public servant, my top priority is to work tirelessly to ensure that rural areas receive the attention and resources they need to thrive. I am committed to listening to the concerns of rural residents, addressing their issues, and working towards creating a more prosperous and equitable society. By prioritizing the development of rural areas and ensuring access to essential facilities, we can create a brighter future for our communities and promote overall growth and development," added MLA.

Ashok Maharaj pay sacred visit to Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 21

On the auspicious occasion of "Shravan Krishan Navmi", Smt and Shri Ashok Maharaj (Raj Guru) paid a sacred visit to the revered Panchmukhi Sankat Mochan Shree Hanuman Mandir Bhawan of the Jammu Yatri Bhawan Trust situated at B.C Road Jammu. The visit was marked by spiritual fervor and devotion, as the holy couple offered Puja-Archana to Lord Hanuman ji, seeking divine blessings.

The couple offered prayers to Lord Hanuman ji and distributed Bhog Prasad among the devotees and visiting yatries, spreading joy and spirituality.



The visit was particularly significant as it marked the Punya Tithi of their late parents, Smt Soma Devi and Krishan Sharma ji (Raj Jotshi), adding a personal and emotional dimension to the occasion. As a mark of respect and devotion, the couple offered a "Chatter with Navratna Yukt" to the revered deity Shree

Hanuman Ji, exemplifying their deep-rooted faith and commitment to their spiritual heritage.

Mrs. Ritika Trehan, BJP Chief Spokesperson, Mahila Morcha J&K UT, and ICC Women Wing Board Member, was the Chief Guest on the occasion, highlighting the significance of the event.

Smt. Anita Sharma*, Smt. Anita Sharma, Senior Superintendent of Police, Distt Reasi, was the Guest of Honor, adding to the prestige and importance of the occasion. Shri Gurdas Sharma, General Secretary/Treasurer of the Trust, expressed his sincere thanks to the visiting dignitaries for their kind visit, appreciating their support and participation in the sacred occasion. The visit was witnessed by a large gathering of devotees, who were inspired by the couple's devotion and faith. The event was a testament to the enduring significance of spiritual heritage and the importance of community participation in religious observances.

'Gatte-ch-Maanu' Staged at Natrang: A Satirical Take on Apathy and Decay of Values

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 21

Balwant Thakur's Dogri play 'Gatte-ch-Maanu' (Man in the ditch) directed by Neeraj Kant staged here today at Natrang studio theatre under its weekly theatre series 'Sunday Theatre'. Based on Krishna Chander's famous Urdu classic short story 'Khadda', the play is a hard hitting satire on the decay of human values. Balwant Thakur has adapted it in such a contemporary manner that the audience is put to a situation in feel it as the happening of the day and much closer to their surroundings and life sufferings.

Dogri play "Gatte-ch-Maanu" shows that one and all tend to shrink their own responsibilities and work and pass it on to others. Instead they indulge in high sloganism, claiming to be the redeemers of suffering masses. This is symbolized by a person falling into a ditch whose pleas to help him come out unanswered by one and all. Different people pass by him like surveyors, youngmen,



religious leaders, cops, leader in power and a foreigner. The person in distress is given different excuses for their inability in rendering help to him. The unemployed youth are unable to find out of their fixed schedule of hunting for girls. The 'Sadhu' showers blessings and prays for his peace in as and where condition. The police cop lodges an FIR and asks him to report to the police station. The foreigner lady enquires about his choice

between India and Pakistan, which side he would like to take? The situation becomes more dramatic when a minister after a complaint from the public about the worsening of the road condition, makes a round of the area. The workers of the public works department instead of taking out the man from the ditch put wooden planks over the ditch and create a stage for minister's public speech. Here the minister lists his development revolution and

lashes at his opponents for cursing their government for political gains. The public meeting is over, the wooden planks are removed but no one pays any heed to the fallen-man in the ditch. The slogans of the upliftment of the poor fade away with the flowing dusty wind. Finally a man from the audience appears and appeals everyone to ender a helping hand to this common man who is still in the ditch despite having celebrated seventy eight years of India's Independence. The play reflects the plight of the poor masses who continue to suffer for want of help from those at the helm of affairs.

Natrang actors who acted in the play included Neeraj Kant as Neta, Pawan Vema as Aadmi, Mohd. Yaseen as Karamchaari-1, Kartik Kumar as Karamchari-2, Aadesh Dhar as Sadhu, Aryan Sharma as Ashiq-1 and Policeman, Kananpreet Kaur as Foreigner, Kushal Bhat as Ashiq-2 and Chela. The lights were designed and executed by Neeraj Kant and the presentations were done by Adaksh Bagal.

NSF tribute of 60th Death anniversary of freedom fighter Batukeshwar Dutt

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 21

National Secular Forum University Unit paid tributes to Batukeshwar Dutta on his 60th Death Anniversary at University Campus. Amid slogans "Batukeshwar Dutt Zindabad" "Inqilaab Zindabad" "Bharat Mata ki jai" and garlanded the portraits of the son of soil.

Ankush Abrol, Jammu Provincial Joint Secretary, JKNC was the chief guest and Dr Vikas Sharma, Secretary Central Zone and Coordinator Jammu District JKNC Presided over the function, whereas Dr Sukhdev Singh State President of NSF was guest of honour. Vikshay Vashist, Secretary of NSF was a Special guest.

Speaking on the occasion, Ankush Abrol threw light on the life and supreme sacrifices of Batukeshwar Dutta.

He appreciated the initiative taken by the NSF members to remember the death anniversary of Batukeshwar Dutta. He also said that the right tribute to Batukeshwar Dutta would be to launch the struggle for restoration of full status of Jammu and Kashmir State.

On this occasion, Dr Vikas Sharma said that we all should take oath not to sit silent and continue our endeavor to regain Jammu and Kashmir State. He said that J&K suffered immensely due to misadventures of the Centre. Post abrogation of statehood people here were suffering due to rising unemployment, inflation and discrimination.

He further said that on 8th April 1929, the central legislative Assembly in Delhi, shook with the slogan Inqilab Zindabad raised by a 19 year old boy, a fearless companion of Shahid Bhagat Singh. The

bomb blast was not aimed to harm anyone but to mark a powerful protest against the repressive bills aiming to curb freedom of speech, curtail civil liberties and rights of the workers. In their own words if the deaf are to hear, the sound has to be very loud. The iconic duo was arrested on the same day. Dutta continued his fight for human rights even in prison. He joined Bhagat Singh in one of the longest hunger strikes, running up to 114 days, to support their demands for better living standards for the prisoners. Dutts was sentenced to life imprisonment and was sent to jail. After his release from prison, Dutt contracted tuberculosis. He nonetheless participated in the Quit India Movement of Mahatma Gandhi and was again jailed for four years.

Speaking on the occasion Dr Sukhdev Singh said that the real tributes to the martyrs would be eradicating evils prevailing in the society like drug addiction. He also said that dutt was a close associate of freedom fighters such as Chandra Shekhar Azad and Bhagat Singh, the latter of whom he met in Cawnpore in 1924. Dutts was sentenced to life imprisonment and was sent to jail. After his release from prison, Dutt contracted tuberculosis. He nonetheless participated in the Quit India Movement of Mahatma Gandhi and was again jailed for four years.

Abhishek Uppal, Chairman Jammu District unit delivered the welcome address, Vineet Gupta ex-Chairman University Unit, was delivering the vote of thanks.

Dr Shazad Cries Foul Over Latest Bunker Survey in Balakote, Mendhar

JINNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

The Jammu and Kashmir Border Area Development Conference (JK-BADC), a registered organisation working for the welfare of border and tribal communities, has raised strong objections over alleged irregularities in the recent bunker survey conducted

in Balakote block of Sub-Division Mendhar, District Poonch.

In a letter to the Chief Secretary of J&K, Dr. Shazad Ahmad Malik, Chairman JK-BADC and former Vice Chancellor, stated that several poor and deserving families were unjustly excluded from the list of beneficiaries. Local residents allege that the survey

was done without proper field visits, and that the final list was influenced by political pressure.

Disturbing reports have also surfaced claiming that some field officials demanded bribes from villagers in exchange for including their names. Many residents say they are afraid to file formal complaints due to fear of retri-

sal, though they have verbally reported the matter to senior officers—without any visible action.

Dr. Shazad acknowledged the Government of India and UT administration's good intent behind the bunker initiative, but warned that the goal is being lost due to mismanagement and corruption at the grassroots.

Ban on organizations is insufficient, declare Pakistan a terrorist country: Shiv Sena

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

Pakistan, the master of terrorism, should be declared a terrorist country at the global level. The Indian government should put a full stop on all relations with Pakistan, including sports, stated by Manish Sahni, President Sena UBT Jammu and Kashmir unit.

Expressing his reaction on the US declaring Pakistan-backed TRF as a terrorist organization, Shiv Sena (UBT) state chief Manish Sahni said that "The Resistance Front" is a front organization of Pakistan-



based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiba. Ban on organizations is insufficient, organizations continue their nefarious and cowardly acts by changing their names after the ban. TRF was brought into existence

after the ban on Lashkar-e-Taiba in 2019. TRF had also taken responsibility for the terrorist attack in Pahalgam's Baisaran Valley, in which 26 tourists were shot dead by Pakistan-backed terrorists.

Sahni has welcomed the decision of Indian players to refuse to play with Pakistan and withdraw their names from the World Championship of Legends being held in England. Sahni demanded that Pakistan team should not be allowed to participate in the Hockey Asia Cup to be held in India from 29 August to 7 September.

Sahni said that any kind of relations with Pakistan, which encourages and nurtures terrorism, cannot be tolerated. Until Pakistan stops all terrorist activities, it should be completely boycotted.

NMC demand an early appointment of Chairman and other members of 8th pay commission

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

National Mazdoor Conference (NMC) president, Subash Shastri has urged upon the Prime Minister to immediately appoint Chairman and other members of 8th Pay Commission, constitution of which was approved by the Union Cabinet Six months ago and announcement in this regard should be made in the upcoming mansoon session of parliament starting from tomorrow, so that uncertainty among the employees and pen-

sioners on this vital issue could come to an end.

"Since the due date for implementation of 8th Pay Commission is 1st January 2026, it is hoped that the Commission will complete its report within the given time frame, so that the benefits of 8th Pay Commission could reach the beneficiaries from January 2026," Shastri added.

In a memorandum sent to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Shastri said that notification for the appointment of Chairman and other member of the 8th Pay Commission is

need of the hour.

Referring to the 7th Central Pay Commission recommendations implemented in 2016, Shastri highlighted the provision to merge 50 per cent DA into basic pay or pension once DA crosses 50 per cent. "With DA now at 55 per cent, we request the Central Government to merge 50 per cent DA into basic pay or pension," he added.

Immediately Restore Old Pension Scheme (OPS) as a confidence building measure because many States have done this. Release of 18 months'

pending DA arrears, setting up of National Wage commission to evolve national Wage policy through out the country, declare Jammu & Srinagar cities as B-1 city, like UT Ladakh the amount should be increased to Rs.1000 per month in favour of JKUT pensioners w.e.f 1-4-2020, commutation period should be reduced to 12 years and pension should be increased @ 5,10 and 15 percent after completion of 65,70 and 75 years of age of pensioners were others demands highlighted in the memorandum.

Grand free medical camp organized in Bhalwal; 466 patients avail health services, distribution of Ayurvedic saplings also held

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

Shri Kailakh Jyotish avim Vedic Sansthan Trust, Raipur (Thather), Jammu, which has been consistently working for the promotion of Sanskrit language and culture, social service, and environmental protection, organized a one-day grand free medical camp under the auspices of "Sanskrit Month." The camp was successfully held at S.D. Memorial High School premises, Karwanda Bhalwal, in the Jammu North Assembly constituency.

A total of 466 patients benefitted from health check-ups, consultations, and free distribution of medicines. Special focus was given to patients from rural areas, who underwent thorough health examinations and received necessary medical advice. Additionally, Ayurvedic saplings were distributed to raise awareness among people about environmental protection, the importance of medicinal plants, and greenery.

The service initiative was inaugurated by DIG Jammu-Kathua-Samba Range Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, IPS, and BJP Yuva Morcha J&K Vice President Devyani Rana. On this occasion, Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji, a large number of local citi-



zens, social workers, trust members, and devotees were present.

In his address, Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma said, "It is our collective responsibility to ensure that health facilities reach every section of society. In today's time, health awareness is extremely crucial, as even a small negligence can lead to serious illnesses. Free health camps like this prove to be highly beneficial for society. Here, experienced doctors are not only providing free treatment but also creating health awareness among the people. The efforts of Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri in promoting Devvani Sanskrit in the region are commendable."

BJP Yuva Morcha J&K Vice President Devyani Rana said that "Shri Kailakh Jyotish and Vedic Sansthan Trust is not only promoting Devvani Sanskrit but is also making a remarkable contribution towards medical services, environmental conservation, and the eradication of social evils like drug

addiction. Young Sanskrit promoters like Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji are an inspiration for society, and it is a matter of pride for all of us that he is advancing this triple mission of service, Sanskrit, and culture."

A team of experienced doctors rendered their services at the camp. They examined patients, provided necessary consultations, and distributed required medicines free of cost. The main doctors who contributed to this camp were Dr. Vishav Gupta, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dr. Yograj, Dr. Vinod Khajuria, and Dr. Vidyut Gupta. All doctors served with utmost dedication and encouraged rural people towards health awareness.

At the conclusion of the camp, Ayurvedic and medicinal saplings were distributed, marking a unique initiative for environmental conservation. On this occasion, Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji said, "Sanskrit and nature are the pillars of our culture. Until we preserve nature and

protect our linguistic heritage, our cultural legacy will remain incomplete. This camp is an effort to unite service, Sanskrit, and nature."

During the event, Surinder Sagar, Pradesh Singh, Sunil Sharma, and Tarun Ji were felicitated.

The presence of eminent personalities from various sections of society made the event even more dignified. The prominent attendees included: R.K. Chhibber (Board of Directors, J&K Bank), Kuldeep Kumar (Former BDC Chairman), Rajdev Singh (Former Sarpanch), Naresh Raina, Pratap Singh (Former Sarpanch), Rakesh Gandotra, Pramod Sharma, Bhushan Singh, Sunil Singh Raipuria, Lucky Sharma, Uttam Chand Sharma, Dr. J.P. Singh, Vijay Singh, Fakir Singh, and others.

The program concluded with a vote of thanks by Trust President Mahant Rohit Shastri Ji. He said, "This free medical camp is an important part of our 'Sanskrit Month' celebrations. I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Shiv Kumar Sharma, all the doctors, police officers, dedicated trust volunteers, and the rural public. Our trust will continue to carry forward the work of social service, promotion of Sanskrit, and environmental conservation."

Social, political activists urge Govt to name 'Road/Building/School' after martyrs: L/Naik Mohan Lal (VC), Hav. Chuni Lal Sandhu

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

Large number of social and political activists who met here today, said the Government of Jammu and Kashmir Union Territory has named schools, colleges, bridges and buildings after the "great heroes and sons of the soil" who laid down their lives for the protection of country's integrity, peace and prosperity in Jammu and Kashmir, but no action has so far been taken to name anything after martyrs: Lance Naik Mohan Lal Lakhotra and Havildar Chuni



Lance Naik Mohan Lal Lakhotra

Social and BJP's activist R.L.Kaith said, As per the gazette, On the intervening night of December 7, 1971 when Lance Naik Mohan Lal was manning the Medium Machine Gun (MMG), the enemy attacked with heavy artillery fire. Undeterred, he kept on firing at enemy halting its advance there-

by enabling own troops to reorganise for a counter attack as a result of which the enemy was forced to retreat. Eventually, his dead body was found at his MMG post but in front of the bunker there were bodies of as many as nineteen enemies including a company commander thereof. For this brave act, he was posthumously conferred with Vir Chakra by the then President of India.

While Havildar Chuni Lal Sandhu was martyred in a militant flush out operation in Kashmir's Pulwama Sector in December, 2007.

Later on, he had Sena Medal (Posthumously) and under the orders of President of India, the mention of his name in a dispatch by the Chief of Army Staff, was published in the Gazette of India 2008 for displaying most conspicuous bravery, demonstrating battle field leadership and laying down his life, added Kaith.

All present therefore, urged the government to name some 'Road/Building/School' after them near their home places at Village Pouni Chack, Jammu and Village Tacharwan, Akhnoor even though belatedly.

"Collective" conclave unites educators to drive change in J&K education

J I NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

A landmark event for the educational fraternity of the region, "Collective - An Educators/Principals Conclave" was successfully organized on 19th July at Hotel Radisson, Jammu. The event witnessed the participation of 90+ eminent education leaders, making it one of the most comprehensive and diverse gatherings of its kind.

The conclave was spearheaded by Radha Foundation, a charitable organization working extensively in the field of career awareness and educational upliftment, especially in remote and far-flung areas. The Foundation's Founder Mr. S.S. Nathyal and Head of Management Committee, Mr. Rajesh Mishra addressed the gathering, sharing the Foundation's ongoing initiatives and future roadmap aimed at empowering students and



educators alike.

Two significant panel discussions were held during the conclave.

The first focused on CUET (Common University Entrance Test), examining both its advantages and limitations in the current educational context. The second panel delved into the National Education Policy (NEP), particularly the challenges of implementation in remote regions.

Each panel was preceded by insightful keynote addresses by domain

experts, setting the stage for impactful dialogue.

The conclave was uniquely inclusive, with participation from all segments of schools—Private, Public, International, Government, Army and Sainik Schools, Christian Missionaries, Kendriya Vidyalayas, and State Board schools—represented by their Chairperson or Principal.

This rich diversity of institutions and the depth of discussions ensured that the event stood out as one of the finest Princi-

pals' Conclaves ever held in the region, creating a vibrant space for co-laboration, awareness, and policy dialogue.

AMAR UJALA was the Main Media Sponsor for the event, playing a pivotal role in amplifying the message of educational transformation. The conclave also received academic partnership support from Panipat Institute of Engineering and Technology (PIET) & MIT-World Peace University (MIT-WPU), two leading universities committed to promoting quality education. The collective efforts to promote Prime Minister's Scholarship Schemes for students (PMSSS) for the students of Jammu and Kashmir was appreciated by one and all.

This remarkable gathering reaffirmed the collective commitment of educational leaders to bring progressive change in the learning ecosystem across all tiers of society.

Kargil Vijay Diwas Bike expedition receives grand welcome by MY Bharat Officials, Guests, and Youth Leaders in Hokersar HMT Srinagar

J I NEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 20

The Pad Yatra and Bike Rally, which was flagged off yesterday from Jammu to commemorate Kargil Vijay Diwas, reached Srinagar today, where the participants received a grand and heartfelt welcome at Hokersar, HMT.

A group of 26 female bikers from Shakti Udgosh Foundation are participating in this inspiring rally to honour the valour of the Indian Army during Operation Vijay (1999) and to raise awareness about Operation Sindoor, launched in May this year. The rally was welcomed with flower showers, a symbolic plantation drive (where each tree was planted in the name ek ped maan ke naam), and a Swachh Bharat cleanliness campaign, reinforcing



messages of environmental responsibility and respect for motherhood.

The event witnessed the presence of several dignitaries and youth leaders, including:

Pradeep Kumar, Deputy Director, MY Bharat Srinagar

Dr. Syed Tariq, I/C, J&K Biodiversity Council-Kashmir and Forest Research Station Haran, Jammu and

Kashmir Forest Research Institute

Rahil Riyaz Ahmed, TOT, MY Bharat J&K
Dr. Muntazir Mehdi Inam Hussain, Chairman, Khelo Kashmir
Muntazir Owais, Chairman, Graceful Star Trust

Notable speeches were delivered by DD Srinagar Pradeep Kumar Dr. Syed Tariq, Ms. Preeti Choudhary and Rahi Reyaz

prominent youth leaders including Nazakat Ahmad, Zubair Choudhary, Zahid Hussain, Muzamil Hussain, and Mohammad Yaseen, who ensured active community involvement and local support.

The rally continues to spread messages of patriotism, peace, and progress as it moves forward in remembrance of the brave hearts of Kargil.

Public sector is people's Sector: Bank Employees in J&K reaffirm commitment against privatization

JNEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 20

On the occasion of Bank Nationalization Day, the Punjab National Bank Officers' Association - J&K and Punjab National Bank Staff Union (J&K) jointly organized a seminar at Gurjar Desh Charitable Trust Hall, Channi Himmat, Jammu, voicing strong opposition to the privatization of public sector banks. The event was held under the theme "Public Sector is People's Sector - Oppose Bank Privatization" and saw the participation of senior trade union leaders and a large number of bank employees from across the region.

Participants reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to people-centric banking and resolved to continue their struggle against what they termed as a systematic attempt to dismantle public banking institutions. Recalling the historical significance of July 19, speakers highlighted how, under the visionary leadership of then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, 14 major commercial banks were nationalized in 1969, followed by another six in 1980 - a move that transformed the banking sector into a driver of inclusive economic growth and social justice.

Speakers noted that today, India's 12 Public Sector Banks operate more than 70,000 branches, reaching every corner of



the country—from urban centers to remote villages and tribal belts. These institutions form the backbone of the Indian economy and play a pivotal role in implementing crucial government schemes such as Jan Dhan Yojana, MUDRA Loans, Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT), Kisan Credit Cards, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and MSME financing. During the COVID-19 pandemic, it was the public sector banks that stood by the people, ensuring uninterrupted banking services when private sector players scaled down operations.

The seminar raised serious concerns over the government's continued push for privatization, disinvestment, and increased foreign equity in PSBs. Leaders from the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA) and All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA) described these measures as a "loot of public wealth." They cited

that over Rs 16.35 lakh crore in bad loans were written off in the past decade, and massive haircuts under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) - in some cases up to 95% - have converted public savings into private profits. Cases such as the takeover of Lakshmi Vilas Bank by DBS Bank, disinvestment in IDBI Bank, and growing foreign ownership in Yes Bank were cited as alarming signs that India's sovereign financial control is under threat.

AIBEA and AIBOA made a strong appeal for an immediate halt to all privatization plans and demanded concrete steps to strengthen PSBs. Their demands included full recovery from wilful defaulters, boosting rural and priority sector lending, and a complete ban on foreign ownership of public banking institutions. They also urged political parties, trade unions, farmer bodies, civil society organizations,

and concerned citizens to join hands in this struggle to protect public assets.

The keynote address at the seminar was delivered by Com. Riyaz Ahmed Bhat, Joint Secretary of AIBOA and President of the AIBOA - Jammu Kashmir Ladakh Committee. He was joined by several other prominent speakers including Com. Ashwani Pradhan, Vice President AIBOA and General Secretary AIBOA - JKLC; Com. Tara Singh; Com. Rakesh Sharma; Com. A. B. Khajuria; Com. Parshottam Kumar; Com. Yogesh Kumar; Com. Sachin Hans and others. The program was coordinated by Com. Samandeep Singh, who also delivered the vote of thanks.

Reiterating their commitment to public banking, the participants resolved, "Our Banks are built by the People, for the People. We shall not let them be sold to corporates. We shall fight. We shall resist. We shall win."

Army organised a motivational talk on how to join armed forces at Mastandhara, Poonch

JNEWS SERVICE
POONCH, JULY 20

As part of its ongoing outreach efforts and commitment to fostering strong bonds with local communities, the Indian Army organised a Motivational Talk on 'How to Join the Armed Forces' on 20 July 2025 at Mastandhara, Poonch. The event aimed to inspire and guide school children the future of the nation towards a career in the Armed Forces, while instilling a sense of patriotism and national pride. The primary objective of the event was to spread awareness among students about the various avenues available to join the Armed Forces and to highlight government initiatives in this regard. During the session, a representative of the Indian Army delivered a motivational lecture to



students, teachers and members of the local populace, outlining the procedures and opportunities through Sainik Schools, military education institutions and pre-commission training academies. The Indian Army representative emphasized the immense talent and academic potential present in the region. However, due to limited guidance and awareness, many students are unable to realise their full capabilities. The talk

was therefore designed to bridge this gap by offering direction and motivation to the youth of Mastandhara. A total of 52 individuals attended the event. The interactive session also underscored the significance of education in personal growth and societal development. Students were encouraged to pursue their ambitions with dedication and to contribute meaningfully to the environment, society and the nation as

responsible citizens. The Indian Army assured the participants of its full support and guidance in their future endeavours. The initiative forms part of the Army's broader outreach programme aimed at building awareness, fostering confidence and encouraging young minds in remote areas to consider careers in the defence services.

The event was well received by the students and local residents, who appreciated the Indian Army's sustained efforts for the welfare and development of the region. This initiative, especially in areas where civil administration has limited accessibility is a testament to the Indian Army's commitment to national service and to strengthening the enduring bond between Jawan and Awam.

Indian Army delivers prompt medical assistance to injured local at Panch Gabbar, Rajouri

JNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 20

In a swift and compassionate response, the Indian Army extended immediate medical assistance to Mohd Farooq, a 28-year-old resident of Zamola, Kha, who sustained a

toe injury while carrying out daily activities in the remote region of Panch Gabbar, situated at an altitude of 12,000 feet. At approximately 7:30 PM, Mohd Farooq was brought to a nearby Army post by local villagers. Upon arrival, an Indian Army medi-

cal representative promptly administered first aid, cleaned and dressed the wound and ensured he was kept under continuous observation. This timely intervention prevented further complications and helped stabilize his condition until addi-

tional treatment could be arranged. This act of care and urgency underscores the Indian Army's unwavering commitment to the well-being of the people residing in remote and inaccessible areas, where basic healthcare facilities are often out of reach.

Government of Jammu & Kashmir Department of Animal Husbandry, Jammu

E-mail: director-ahdj@jk.gov.in Ph.0191-2505552, 2502252(Fax) Gole Pully, Talab Tilloo, Jammu-180002

Subject:- Change of name from "Jyoti Mahajan" to "Jyoti Saraf"

NOTIFICATION

Whereas, Ms. Jyoti Mahajan R/o 461-A Gandhi Nagar, Jammu, Senior Veterinary Pharmacist, was appointed as Veterinary Pharmacist (Stock Assistant) in Animal Husbandry Department, District Cadre - Kathua vide Order No:- 248-DAHJ of 2011 dated:- 04.05.2011; and

Whereas, Ms. Jyoti Mahajan has requested that her name may be considered as "Jyoti Saraf" in the service records duly recommended by Chief Animal Husbandry Officer, Jammu vide letter No:- CAHOJ/Estt/2024-25/125 dated:- 02.05.2024 and No:- CAHOJ/Estt./2025-26/395 dated:- 16.06.2025; and

Whereas, Ms. Jyoti Mahajan has furnished her credentials viz; Domicile Certificate and Aadhar Card, in which name "Jyoti Saraf" is reflected, in support of her request; and

Whereas, the Finance Department vide Circular No:- FD-Code/154/2022-03 dated:- 10.05.2023 has notified the procedure for change of name by Government employees. The clause I of the ibid Circular reads as under:-

- A Government employee wishing to adopt a new name or to effect any modification in his/her existing name may do so, formally by a deed changing his/her name. The sample deed form is enclosed.
- The execution of the deed should be followed by publication of the change in a prominent local newspaper at the Government employee's own expense.
- The change in the name shall be made with Aadhaar authentication and complete verification of record of e-HRMS."

Whereas, Ms. Jyoti Mahajan has got notice about change in name published in the Himalayan Mail dated:- 22nd of December, 2023, Jammu; and

Whereas, the request of the aforesaid official was examined and it has been decided to invite objections from the general public including members of Jammu and Kashmir Animal Husbandry (Subordinate) Services before acceding to request of Ms. Jyoti Mahajan.

Now, therefore, through the medium of this notice, objection(s) are hereby invited from the general public including members of Jammu and Kashmir Animal Husbandry (Subordinate) Services regarding request of the official for changing her name from "Jyoti Mahajan" to "Jyoti Saraf" in her service records. The objection(s) must reach the Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Talab Tilloo, Jammu with in a period of 14 days from the date of publication of this notification. No representation/objection shall be entertained after expiry of the stipulated time-period.

--SD--

(Dr. Parvinder Singh)
Director,
Animal Husbandry Deptt.,
Jammu.

No:- DAHJ/Adm-24/2024-05/2744-2748
DIP/J-3646/25
Date: 19-7-25

Dated:- 17/07/2025.

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

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

e-NIT No. 46 of 2025-26 Dated 18.07.2025

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

S. No.	Name of Work	Advertised Cost (Rs. in lacs)	Cost of document (in Rs)	Earnest Money	Time Allowed for completion	Class of Contractor	Head of Account
1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
1.	Const. of concrete drainage and erosion check/ protection wall at playground at Govt. Degree College Boys Udhampur (4202 Hr. Education).	19.21	600/-	@2% of advertised cost	02 Months	"B/C-Class"	"MH-4202 Hr. Education"

Position of AAA:- Accorded
Position of T.S:- Accorded
Position of Funds:- Partially available

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

1	Date of Issue of Tender Notice	18-07-2025
2	Period of downloading of bidding documents	From 18-07-2025 to 01-08-2025, 1800 Hrs
3	Date, Time and place of pre-bid meeting.	25-07-2025 at 1200 Hrs. in the Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
4	Bid submission Start Date	19-07-2025 from 900 Hrs
5	Bid Submission End Date	01-08-2025 up to 1800 Hrs
6	Date & time of opening of Technical Bids (Online)	02-08-2025 on or after 1200 Hrs in the Office of Executive Engineer, PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur.
7	Date & time of opening of Financial Bids (Online)	To be notified after technical bid evaluation is completed.

- Bids must be accompanied with cost of Tender document in shape of **e-challan through Treasury indicating Treasury Voucher No. & date, name of work duly crediting to 0059 (Revenue) favoring Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur uploading a copy of treasury challan and EMD/Bid Security in the shape of CDR/FDR (The date of Treasury Challan/ Bid Security/Affidavits between date of start of bid submission and bid submission end date) duly pledged to Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur** as mentioned in the bid documents. The earnest money of the unsuccessful bidder shall be released only after submission of Treasury Challan.
- The electronic bidding system would not allow any late submission of bids after due date and time as per server time. Bidders may modify their bids by uploading their request for modification before the deadline for submission of bids. For this, the bidder need not make any additional payment towards the cost of tender document. For bid modification and consequential re-submission, the bidder is not required to withdraw his bid submitted earlier. The last modified bid submitted by the bidder within the bid submission time shall be considered as the bid. For this purpose, modification/withdrawal by other means will not be accepted. In online system of bid submission, the modification and consequential- submission of bids is allowed any number of times. The bidders may withdraw his bid by uploading their request before the deadline for submission of bids; however, if the bid is withdrawn, the re-submission of the bid is not allowed. No bid shall be modified or withdrawn after the deadline of submission of bids.
- The date and time of opening of Financial-Bids shall be notified on Web Site www.jktenders.gov.in and conveyed to the bidders automatically through an e-mail message on their e-mail address. The **Financial-bids of Responsive bidders** shall be opened online in the **Office of Executive Engineer PWD (R&B) Division, Udhampur**. The date for same shall be intimated separately.
- The bids for the work shall remain **valid for a period of 120 days from the date of opening of Technical bids**.

No:- 4859-64
Dated:- 18-07-2025

Executive Engineer
PWD (R&B) Division
Udhampur

DIP/J-3655/25
Date: 19-7-25

'Mission Asmita': UP Police busts nationwide Conversion, Radicalisation racket

AGENCIES
LUCKNOW, JULY 20

In a major breakthrough under its "zero tolerance" policy against organised crime, the Uttar Pradesh Police on Saturday claimed to have dismantled a sprawling inter-state network allegedly involved in illegal religious conversions, radicalisation, and terror-linked financial activities. The crackdown, carried out as part of Mission Asmita, led to the arrest of 10 suspects from six different states.

The investigation was triggered by the mysterious disappearance of two adult sisters—aged 33 and 18—from Agra in March this year. An FIR was initially registered at the Sadar Bazar police station and later handed over to the cyber cell for technical analysis. The case was pursued under Sections

87, 111(3), and 111(4) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), and Sections 3/5 of the Uttar Pradesh Prohibition of Unlawful Conversion of Religion Act, 2021.

Preliminary investigations revealed a deeply embedded and coordinated network operating across state borders, allegedly using deceitful means for religious conversion and radicalising vulnerable individuals through online platforms.

Director General of Police Rajeev Krishna stated, "This operation under Mission Asmita is aimed at dismantling growing threats related to forced conversions, digital radicalisation, and financial pipelines supporting subversive activities. The suspects were found to be exploiting emotional and digital tools to propagate a radical agenda."

The arrests were made

from Goa, West Bengal, Delhi, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, and Uttar Pradesh. The arrested individuals include Aisha (alias S.B. Krishna) from Goa; Ali Hasan (alias Shekhar...) and Osama from Kolkata, West Bengal; Rehman Qureshi from Agra, Uttar Pradesh; Abbu Tariq from Muzaffarnagar, Uttar Pradesh; Abdur Rehman from Dehradun, Uttarakhand; Mohammad Ali and Junaid Qureshi from Jaipur, Rajasthan; and Mustafa (alias Manoj) from Delhi. Notably, Mohammad Ali's name appears twice in the list, which is currently under police verification.

The DGP further revealed that the network was allegedly using dark web platforms for transferring funds to support extremist activities, including suspected "love jihad" operations. The

modus operandi bore alarming resemblance to the tactics used by global terror outfits such as ISIS. Agra was identified as a key operational hub where radicalisation modules were being nurtured and finances were being routed.

According to intelligence inputs, the network is believed to have links with banned organisations like the Popular Front of India (PFI) and Social Democratic Party of India (SDPI), with suspected handlers operating from across the border in Pakistan.

The investigation is ongoing, and further arrests and disclosures are expected in the coming days. Authorities have termed it a significant step in combating the convergence of radical ideologies and cyber-driven religious extremism in India.

PM Modi to visit Britain, Maldives; inking India-UK FTA top focus

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will pay a four-day visit to the United Kingdom and the Maldives from Wednesday to shore up overall bilateral ties and ink the landmark India-UK free trade deal.

Modi will first travel to the UK on a two-day trip and then will visit the Maldives to grace the island nation's Independence Day celebrations as "guest of honour", according to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

The prime minister's visit to the Maldives from July 25 to 26 is seen as significant as it marks a reset of bilateral ties that had come under severe strain after Mohamed Muizzu, known for his pro-China leanings, came to power in November 2023.

In the first leg of his trip, Modi will visit the UK from July 23 to 24 to hold wide-ranging talks with British Prime Minister Keir



Starmer, the MEA said on Sunday.

India and the UK are expected to formally sign the free trade deal during PM Modi's visit to London, people familiar with the matter said.

In May, India and the UK sealed the free trade agreement that is expected to benefit 99 per cent Indian exports from tariff and will make it easier for British firms to export whisky, cars and other products to India besides boosting the overall trade basket.

The trade deal, firmed

up after three years of negotiations, is expected to ensure comprehensive market access for Indian goods across all sectors and India will gain from tariff elimination on about 99 per cent of tariff lines (product categories) covering almost 100 per cent of the trade values, according to officials.

A British readout had said Indian tariffs will be slashed, locking in reductions on 90 per cent of tariff lines, with 85 per cent of these becoming fully tariff-free within a decade.

PM Modi will hold wide ranging discussions with PM Starmer on the entire gamut of India-UK bilateral relations besides exchanging views on issues of regional and global importance, the MEA said on Sunday, announcing the two-nation trip.

It will be PM Modi's fourth visit to the UK.

The MEA said he is also expected to call on King Charles III.

"During the visit, the two sides will also review the progress of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) with a specific focus on trade and economy, technology and innovation, defence and security, climate, health, education and people-to-people ties," the MEA said in a statement.

From London, Modi will travel to the Maldives primarily to grace the island nation's 60th anniversary of its Independence on July 26.

It will be Modi's third visit to the Maldives, and the first visit by an Indian head of state or government since President Muizzu assumed office in November 2023.

PM Modi and President Muizzu will hold discussions on issues of mutual interest and take stock of the progress in the implementation of the India-Maldives joint vision for a 'Comprehensive Economic and Maritime Security Partnership'.

UIDAI to start biometric update of children through schools soon

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 20

The UIDAI is working on a project to start biometric updates of children through schools after two months in a phased manner, a top official of the Aadhaar custodian body said.

The Unique Identification Authority of India CEO, Bhuvnesh Kumar said that over 7 crore children have not updated their biometrics for Aadhaar which is mandatory after attaining the age of 5 years.

"UIDAI is working on a project to start updating

the biometrics of children with parental consent through schools. We are at present testing the technology and it should be ready in 45-60 days," Kumar said.

Timely completion of Mandatory Biometric Update (MBU) is an essential requirement for maintaining the accuracy and reliability of biometric data of children. If the MBU is not completed even after 7 years of age, the Aadhaar number may be deactivated, as per the existing rules.

If the MBU is done

and seven years, it is free of cost but after seven years of age, there is a prescribed fee of Rs 100 for the update.

Aadhaar with updated biometric facilitates ease of living and ensures seamless usage of Aadhaar in availing services such as school admissions, registering for entrance examinations, availing benefits of scholarships, DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer) schemes, etc wherever applicable.

"We are planning to extend the same process of going through schools and colleges for a second MBU which is done after

children attain the age of 15 years," Kumar said.

At present, Aadhaar of new born and children under age of 5 years is done without capturing their biometrics.

"Aadhaar is crucial for delivering benefits under several government schemes. We want children to get all the benefits at the right time. Through schools, we are trying to reach as many children in a convenient manner," Kumar said.

Under the project, UIDAI will send biometric machines to each district which will be rotated from school to school.

18 Muslim Women made it to Lok Sabha since Independence; 13 of them Dynasts: Book

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 20

That women were always under-represented in the Lok Sabha is a known fact, but Muslim women members have been a greater rarity with only 18 making it to the Lower House since independence, according to a new book.

And while dynastic politics may not be conducive for democracy to deepen its roots, it has played a positive part in giving chances to Muslim women, with 13 out of the 18 being from political families.

From royalty to a tea vendor-turned-politician's wife and from a first lady to a Bengali actress, the 18 Muslim women who treaded the hallowed corridors of power in the Lok Sabha are an eclectic mix, with each of them having an interesting backstory, but one common thread — their path to power was always strewn with struggle and hurdles.

The story of these 18 Muslim women has been

chronicled in an upcoming book- 'Missing from the House - Muslim women in the Lok Sabha' by Rasheed Kidwai and Ambar Kumar Ghosh.

Kidwai says he wanted to document the profile of 20 Muslim women who made it to the Lower House, but two of them — Subhasini Ali and Afrin Ali — had openly proclaimed that they did not follow Islam.

"Only eighteen Muslim women have made it to the Lok Sabha since the first parliamentary polls in 1951-52. It is a shockingly abysmal figure, considering Muslim women are about 7.1 per cent of India's 146 crore population. Out of the 18 Lok Sabhas constituted till 2025, five times the Lok Sabha did not have a single Muslim woman member," Kidwai and Ghosh write in their book, published by Juggernaut and will be released next month.

Equally shocking is the fact that the number of Muslim women elected to

Parliament in one tenure never crossed the mark of four in the 543-seat lower house of Parliament, the book points out.

The book also notes that none of the five southern states — Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana — otherwise known for better political representation than the North and with better literary levels and other socio-economic indicators, have not yet sent a single Muslim woman MP to the Lok Sabha.

The 18 Muslim women who made it to the Lok Sabha include Mofida Ahmed (1957, Congress);

Zohrabai Akbarbhai Chavda (Congress, 1962-67); Maimoona Sultan (Congress, 1957-67); Begum Akbar Jehan Abdullah (National Conference, 1977-79, 1984-89); Rashida Haque (Congress 1977-79); Mohsina Kidwai (Congress, 1977-89); Abida Ahmed (Congress, 1981-89); Noor Bano (Congress, 1996, 1999-2004); Rubab Sayda (Sama-

jwadi Party, 2004-09); and Mehbooba Mufti (People's Democratic Party, 2004-09, 2014-19).

The other Muslim women who entered the Lower House are Tabassum Hasan (Samajwadi Party, Lok Dal, Bahujan Samaj Party 2009-14); Mausam Noor (Trinamool Congress 2009-19); Kaiser Jahan (Bahujan Samaj Party, 2009-14); Mamtaz Sanghamita (Trinamool Congress 2014-19); Sajda Ahmed (Trinamool Congress 2014-24); Raneer Narah (Congress, 1998-2004, 2009-14); Nusrat Jahan Ruhi (Trinamool Congress, 2019-24); and Iqra Hasan (Samajwadi Party, 2024-present).

A dominant political figure who made an indelible mark on Indian politics was Mohsina Kidwai.

She not only entered the Lok Sabha but also went on to join the council of ministers and hold several portfolios, including labour, health and family welfare, rural development, transport and urban development.

GST officers detect Rs 15,851 Crore fraudulent ITC claims in April-June

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 20

GST officers have uncovered fake input tax credit (ITC) claims of Rs 15,851 crore in the April-June quarter of current fiscal, a 29 per cent jump over the year-ago period, even though the number of fake firms detection was less Y-o-Y, officials said.

The total number of fake firms detected by central and state GST officers during the first quarter of FY26 stood at 3,558, less than 3,840 such entities detected in the same quarter of FY25. Panel of state finance ministers, chaired by Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant, is currently studying tax evasion in specific sectors and looking at ways to check input tax credit (ITC) fraud.

"On an average, about 1,200 fake firms are getting detected every month. The number of fake firm detection in the April-June period is less compared to last year, which shows that the drive against fake GST registration has worked," an official said.

As per the data of the fake firms and ITC frauds detected by central and state GST officers during the June quarter of FY26,



Rs 15,851 crore worth ITC was found to have been fraudulently passed involving 3,558 fake firms. During the period, 53 persons have been arrested by GST officers and Rs 659 crore recovered.

In the Q1 of FY25, GST officers had detected Rs 12,304 crore fake ITC involving 3,840 fake firms. Rs 549 crore was recovered and 26 persons were arrested.

Under the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime, ITC refers to the taxes paid by businesses on purchases from suppliers. This tax can be claimed as a credit or deduction at the time of paying the final output tax.

Dealing with fake ITC

has been a major challenge for the GST administration as unscrupulous elements were creating fake firms just to claim ITC and defraud the exchequer.

During 2024-25, GST officers have detected 25,009 fake firms involved in fraudulently passing input tax credit (ITC) worth Rs 61,545 crore.

GST officers have carried out two pan-India drive against fake registration under Goods and Services Tax (GST).

In the first drive against fake registration between May 16, 2023, and July 15, 2023, a total of 21,791 entities having GST registration were discovered to be non-existent. An amount of Rs 24,010 crore of sus-

pected tax evasion was detected during the first special drive last year.

In the second drive between April 16 and October 30, 2024, GST officers have detected about 18,000 fake companies registered under GST, which have been involved in tax evasion of about Rs 25,000 crore. To deal with this, the GST registration process has been made stringent with checks on risky applicants.

While non-risky businesses are to be granted GST registration within 7 days, physical verification and Aadhaar authentication are mandatory for those whose applicants who are flagged as risky by data analytics.

Par Panel Report on New I-Tax Bill, 2025 to be tabled in LS today

AGENCIES
NEW DELHI, JUL 20

A report of the parliamentary committee set up to scrutinise the new Income Tax Bill, 2025, which would replace the six-decade old Income Tax Act, is scheduled to be tabled in the Lok Sabha on Monday.

The 31-member Select Committee, chaired by BJP leader Bajajant Panda, was appointed by Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla to scrutinise The new Income Tax Bill, 2025, which was introduced by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on February 13 in the Lok Sabha.

The Committee has made 285 suggestions and at its meeting on July

16 adopted the report on new I-T Bill, 2025, which will now be tabled in the House for further action.

The simplified Income Tax Bill, which is half the size of the 1961 Income Tax Act, seeks to achieve tax certainty by minimising the scope of litigation and fresh interpretation.

The new bill, introduced in the Lok Sabha, has a word count of 2.6 lakh, lower than 5.12 lakh in the I-T Act. The number of sections is 536, as against 819 effective sections in the existing law.

The number of chapters has also been halved to 23 from 47, according to the FAQs (frequently asked questions) issued by the I-T department.

The Income Tax Bill

2025 has 57 tables, compared to 18 in the existing Act and removed 1,200 provisos and 900 explanations.

Provisions relating to exemptions and TDS/TCS have been made crisp in the Bill by putting them in a tabular format, while the chapter for not-for-profit organisations has been made comprehensive with use of plain language. As a result of this, the word count has come down by 34,547.

In a taxpayer-friendly move, the Bill replaces the term 'previous year' as mentioned in the Income Tax Act, 1961 with 'tax year'. Also, the concept of assessment year has been done away with.

Currently, for income

earned in the previous year (say 2023-24), tax is paid in assessment year (say 2024-25). This previous year and assessment year (AY) concept has been removed and only tax year under the simplified bill has been brought in.

While introducing the Bill in the Lok Sabha, Sitharaman had said that "substantial changes" have been made in the Bill. The number of words have been halved from 5.12 lakh, and sections reduced from 819 to 236. Following introduction, the Bill was referred to the select committee of the Lok Sabha and the committee was mandated to submit its report by the first day of next session.

T20 Friendly: Samba Police Beat MCC in Style; SP Bhardwaj Urges Youth to Choose Sports, Not Drugs

JNEWS SERVICE
VIJAYPUR, JUL 20

A thrilling display of cricketering talent and community engagement unfolded at the Shubham Khajuria Cricket Academy Ground as Reformer Jammu organized a friendly T20 match between Media Cricket Club (MCC) and Samba Police. The event carried a powerful social message—"Say No To Drugs, Yes To Life"—using the spirit of sports to steer youth towards healthy living.



Samba Police, batting first after winning the toss, posted a formidable 218/9 in 20 overs. Uday Slathia emerged as the star of the match with a breathtaking 99 off 56 balls, decorated with seven fours and seven sixes. Support came from Arjun (30 off 16) and Vishal Sharma (31

off 12). Rajeshwar Slathia impressed with the ball, taking 2 wickets for just 10 runs in 3 overs.

MCC responded with resilience as Sunil Sharma (37 off 18) and Shakur (46 off 27) kept hopes alive. However, disciplined bowling, particularly by

Tony who claimed 2 wickets for 10 runs, restricted MCC to 181/6, handing Samba Police a 37-run victory.

Additional SP Samba, Gharu Bhardwaj, who attended as the special guest, applauded the initiative and stressed the importance of sports in shaping the future of the youth. He reiterated J&K Police's commitment under the Civic Action Programme to foster community bonds and combat drug abuse through proactive outreach.

ADGP Armed Felicitates Dy SP (Retd) Surjeet Choudhary for His Outstanding Achievements in Masters Athletics

JNEWS SERVICE
SRINAGAR, JULY 17

Sh. Anand Jain, IPS, ADGP Armed J&K, today felicitated retired DySP 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.

Recently, Sh. Choudhary clinched three gold medals at the Open Masters Athletic Meet held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, securing top positions in the 100-meter race, long



jump, and triple jump.

His athletic journey continues to inspire, with a remarkable record that includes one gold, one silver, and one bronze at national-level events in 2023.

He also secured three gold medals in the India-

Bangladesh Masters Athletics Meet 2018 and another three gold medals in the Khelo Masters Games 2023 (Delhi).

In the Khelo Masters Games 2025, he won gold in the 100m, silver in long jump, and silver in triple jump. He now aims

to represent India in the upcoming Olympic Masters Games.

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 both policing and the sports arena and extended his best wishes for future competitions.

Asian Junior Mixed Team C'ships: India beat Hong Kong 110-100 to top Group D; to face Japan in QFs

AGENCIES
SOLO (INDONESIA), JUL 20

Team India maintained its all-win record in the group stage of the Badminton Asia Junior Mixed Team Championships in Indonesia by beating Hong Kong China 110-100 in the last Group D clash on Sunday to top the group standings.

India and Hong Kong China have already qualified for the knock-out stage before they faced off on Sunday, but it was important to maintain the winning momentum, and India understandably



fielded a strong squad against Hong Kong China.

Rujula Ramu once again gave India a winning start, beating IP Sum Yau 11-8, and the world No.6 junior boys doubles combination

of Bhargav Ram Arigela and Viswa Tej Gobburu then extended the lead to 22-13 against Cheung Sai Shing and Deng Chi Fai.

Hong Kong's Lam Ka To helped his team close the

gap as he scored 13 points before Rounak Chouhan could take India's tally to 33.

With just six points separating the two teams at 55-49 after five matches, junior World No. 1 Tanvi Sharma dominated Liu Hoi Kiu Anna in the second girls' singles to once again put India in the driver's seat by extending the lead 66-54. Though the next four matches were close, India kept their nose ahead and ensured that they topped the group and will now face Japan in the quarterfinals on Monday.

Freestyle Chess Grand Slam: Carlsen beats Pragg & Arjun, sets third-place showdown with Nakamura

AGENCIES
LAS VEGAS, JUL 20

World no. 1 Magnus Carlsen avenged his previous defeat to India's Grandmaster Praggnanandhaa, clinching a 3-1 victory in a closely contested four-game match on Sunday (IST).

After a chaotic first-round loss to Praggnanandhaa, the world number one ground down the Indian star to force tiebreaks and then reeled off five consecutive wins - including those over Arjun Erigaisi.

The clash between



Carlsen and Praggnanandhaa started with an absolutely wild game. Praggnanandhaa built up a big advantage and when Carlsen missed a simple

pawn push, he felt obliged to give up his queen for just two minor pieces. That shouldn't have been enough, but when the young Indian blundered

a full piece, it was quite unclear again, Freestyle chess reports.

Praggnanandhaa, however, recovered well from his mishap and gradually outplayed his opponent after all in a highly complex position with a strong material imbalance.

Carlsen then won his must-win game smoothly in an endgame, in fact in similar style as how Praggnanandhaa had beaten Keymer the other day. The five-time world champion then won both 5+2 games, twice outwitting his opponent tactically in time pressure.

Iran head coach happy after team secures Women's Asia Cup berth

AGENCIES
AMMAN, JUL 20

Iran head coach Marziyeh Jafari expressed elation after her team overcame the odds to secure qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup Australia 2026 on Saturday.

Following a 3-1 defeat to Lebanon on Matchday Four, Iran needed nothing less than a win against Jordan to advance - and they delivered, earning a hard-fought 2-1 victory to book their spot in the continental tournament for the second time in a row.

"I am really happy that we were able to make the hearts of the Iranian people happy. Qualifying



for the AFC Asian Cup was not easy.

"We entered the competition with difficult conditions, intensive camps, logistical restrictions and a lot of psychological pressure, but my players fought with all their might and performed beyond expectations.

"The players not only

showed high technical quality, but also showed that they are mentally strong and motivated at the level of a great team. This team deserves to be seen," said Jafari.

Despite the euphoria of reaching the finals, the experienced head coach said even more work must be put in to ensure that

Iran - at the very least - better the group stage showing of 2022.

"This qualification is not the end of the road; it is the beginning of a new season. We must have a more detailed plan to have a strong presence in the final stage.

"This team has the capacity to be seen, grow, and compete with Asian powers. I hope the support continues so that we can be a worthy representative of Iranian women's football in Asia," Jafari added.

Jordan head coach David Nascimento made no attempt to hide his disappointment, with his team needing only a draw to advance.

Nepal, Bhutan, Indonesia among winners of ICC Development Awards 2024

AGENCIES
DUBAI, JUL 20

The International Cricket Council has announced the global winners of the 2024 ICC Development Awards across seven categories.

Launched in 2002, the Development Awards celebrate the innovation and initiative of the game's Associate Members, "leading the growth of the sport around the world".

The 2024 awards will comprise seven categories after the introduction of the ICC X Festival of the Year award. Bhutan, Indonesia, Namibia, Nepal, Scotland, Tanza-

nia, the USA and Vanuatu are the eight Members receiving top honours.

The African nation wins the award for their Ashburton Kwata Mini-Cricket Programme.

The flagship grassroots development initiative remains an integral part of growing the game in the country, and has been integrated into the physical education periods of public schools across the country, making cricket accessible to tens of thousands of students across 14 local regions.

ICC Female Cricket Initiative of the Year Winner: Bhutan Cricket Council Board and Vanuatu Cricket Association

For the time, two winners were crowned for ICC Female Cricket Initiative of the Year. The Bhutan Cricket Council Board is recognised for its Inter-School Girls' Competition, an initiative aimed at boosting female participation by introducing school-level contests using modified formats, starting with tennis ball cricket and progressing to hardball.

Since its inception, the programme has engaged thousands of girls, including many first-time players.

The Vanuatu Cricket Association is honoured for its "Picking Wickets" programme, a hybrid

model of remote and in-person coaching, taking place while team members also took part in seasonal fruit-picking jobs in Australia.

ICC Associate Member Men's Performance of the Year Winner: USA Cricket USA received the award for their outstanding on-field performance during the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2024 last year.

The tournament co-hosts stunned Pakistan and reached the Super Eight stage, with their cricketers bringing cricket and the Men's T20 World Cup in front of thousands through mainstream American television and news.

Priya wins silver, Manisha bronze as Indian women wrestlers continue to shine in Budapest

AGENCIES
BUDAPEST (HUNGARY), JULY 19

Indian women continue to assert their dominance on the global wrestling stage at the ongoing 4th Ranking Series - 'Polyak Imre & Varga Janos Memorial' being held in Budapest, Hungary, winning a silver and bronze medal on Saturday.

In a commendable display of strength and resilience, three Indian women wrestlers made it to the podium, adding more medals to India's tally. While the gold medal remained elusive this time, the performances of the athletes reflected the growing power of Indian



women in the sport.

Young wrestler Priya Malik demonstrated her exceptional skill and determination in the 76 kg weight category, winning a silver medal. After receiving a bye in the qualifica-

tion round, she defeated Almira Syzdykova of Kazakhstan by 7-2 points.

Continuing her momentum, the former World U20 Champion overpowered Valeriia (UWW) in the semifinal with technical

superiority (11-1) to enter the gold medal bout. However, in the final, facing Brazil's Martins Machado, Priya seemed a bit overconfident. Despite a close contest, she narrowly lost the bout 4-3, settling for a well-earned Silver Medal.

Asian Champion Manisha added a bronze medal to the tally, emerging from the repechage. India had high expectations from Manisha. After receiving a bye in the qualification round, she was surprisingly defeated in the quarterfinals by Amina Tandelova by technical superiority. However, as Amina progressed to the final, Manisha earned a spot in the repechage rounds.

Indian players refuse to play against Shahid Afridi in World Championship of Legends clash

AGENCIES
BIRMINGHAM, JUL 20

The highly anticipated India vs Pakistan match in the second edition of the World Championship of Legends (WCL) is in jeopardy, as five Indian players have reportedly refused to play against a Pakistan team featuring Shahid Afridi.

Afridi, a former Pakistan captain, has previously made controversial remarks about India and visited military sites in Pakistan in a show of solidarity, which has not sat well with Indian fans or former players. He has also engaged in heated exchanges on social media



with several Indian cricketers.

According to a report by TelecomAsia.net, Irfan Pathan, Yusuf Pathan, Yuvraj Singh, Suresh Raina, and Harbhajan

Singh have informed the organisers of their unwillingness to play if Afridi is part of the opposition lineup.

The six-nation WCL tournament, which

includes teams from India, Pakistan, Australia, West Indies, South Africa, and England, faced backlash on social media after announcing the India-Pakistan fixture. Fans from both nations questioned the timing of the match amid recent tensions.

The India-Pakistan match, scheduled for Sunday in Birmingham, would have marked the first cricket encounter between the two sides since the Pahalgal terror attack in April, which killed 26 people. India responded with Operation Sindoor, launching missile and drone strikes on terror infrastructure in Pakistan.

Doda: Maiden Bhal Padri Forest & Tourism Festival attract huge footfall of nature lovers, cultural enthusiasts

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 20

The serene meadows of Bhal Padri in Doda district witnessed a historic moment as the first-ever Bhal Padri Forest & Tourism Festival was celebrated with great enthusiasm and grandeur.

Organized by the Educational, Environmental, Social, Sports & Cultural Society Bhallesa (EESS&CS) in collaboration with the District Administration Doda, J&K Tourism Department, Forest Department (Bhaderwah Division), J&K Academy of Art, Culture & Languages, Mera Yuva Bharat Doda, and Civil Society Bhallesa, the festival showcased the region's spectacular natural beauty, rich cultural heritage and immense tourism potential.

The initiative aimed to promote environmental awareness, sustainable tourism, and community participation while bringing Bhallesa's hidden gems to the forefront of Jammu & Kashmir's tourism map.

The festival drew a large gathering of locals, tourists, officials, and cultural enthusiasts. Among the distinguished dignitaries who graced the occasion were the Chairman, Dis-



trict Development Council (DDC) Doda, Dhananter Singh Kotwal; MLA Bhaderwah, Daleep Singh Parihar; Deputy Commissioner Doda, Harvinder Singh; Senior Superintendent of Police Doda, Sandeep Kumar; CEO Bhaderwah Development Authority Joginder Jasrotia and Additional Deputy Commissioner Bhaderwah, Sunil Bhutyal. They were joined by the SDM Gandoh, the Commanding Officer of 4 Rashtriya Rifles and several other officers, all of

whom lent their presence and support to the grand celebration.

The vibrant programme featured traditional music, Tarana-e-Bhallesa, folk dances, a unique joint Naat and Bhajan performance symbolizing unity, and an emotional tribute to ancestors. Distinguished guests were felicitated with mementos, while students from CSAM-HSS Kilhotran performed the National Anthem and other cultural items that captivated the audience.

Several competitions and activities infused adventure and community spirit into the day, including a 2 km Run for Bhallesa, an 8 km Eco Walk, Dekhlo folk dance, Tug of War, horse race and the tree plantation drive "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam."

The evening concluded with a soulful Mushaira - "Shaam-e-Sukhan: Bhallesa Ke Naam" - where renowned poets and artists recited their verses, celebrating the literary heritage of the region.

Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra: Food Safety Officer inspects langers at Lamber Ground Banihal

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAMBAN, JULY 20

On the direction of Deputy Commissioner Mohamad Alyas Khan, Food Safety Officer Balbeer Singh conducted extensive inspections of all langers established at Lamber Ground, Banihal to ensure the health and safety of Shri Amarnath Ji Yatis.

During the inspection, expired food items, including rotten and sprouted potatoes, were identified and destroyed. The langer



sewadars and pradhans were directed to reduce oil usage in food preparation by 10% and minimize the quantity of salt and sugar to serve healthier meals to pilgrims.

A total of 35 food samples

were tested using the Food Safety on Wheels mobile lab and all were found to conform to the standards prescribed under the Food Safety and Standards Regulations (FSSR).

Awareness sessions were

also conducted for langer volunteers on key topics such as food safety, personal hygiene, preservation techniques and good hygiene practices.

The sewadars were directed to ensure the provision of fresh, wholesome, safe and nutritious food to all Yatis.

This proactive inspection forms part of the ongoing efforts by the district administration to uphold the highest standards of public health and safety during the Yatra.

Inter-Zonal U/19 Boys Volleyball & Kho-Kho Tournament concludes at Doda

JINNEWS SERVICE
DODA, JULY 20

The Inter-Zonal District Level Volleyball and Kho-Kho Tournament for Under-19 Boys concluded today at Doda, offering a vibrant platform for budding athletes to showcase their talents, engage in healthy competition and celebrate the true spirit of sportsmanship.

Organized under the guidance of the Department of Youth Services & Sports (DYSS), the event witnessed enthusiastic



participation from various zones of the district. The tournament served not only as a competitive

sporting event but also as a celebration of fitness, teamwork and youth empowerment.

District Youth Services & Sports Officer (DYSSO) Jaffar Haider Sheikh interacted warmly with all the participants and extended his best wishes for their future sports journeys. His encouraging words uplifted the morale of the young athletes and motivated them to strive for excellence.

At the closing ceremony, medals, trophies and certificates were awarded to the winners and runners-up, recognizing their outstanding performances and commitment to sports.

Precautionary Restrictions Imposed in Tehsil Singhpora to ensure peace and public safety

JINNEWS SERVICE
BARAMULLA, JULY 20

In view of the prevailing circumstances and to maintain law and order, the Additional District Magistrate Baramulla, Syed Altaf Hussain has imposed restrictions under Section 163 of the Bharatiya Nagrik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023.

These restrictions will be in force from 8:30 PM on 20th July 2025 to 9:30 PM on 21st July 2025 in certain areas of tehsil Singhpora, sub division Pattan.

The order has been issued as a preventive measure to ensure peace, safeguard public life and property, and to avoid any untoward incidents.

The assessment of the current ground situation, recent developments, and reports of potential disturbances have necessitated this step to maintain law and order in the area.

During the said period, no assembly or gathering of four or more persons shall be permitted in the designated areas. This restriction aims to

ensure that the atmosphere remains calm and conducive to communal harmony.

Meanwhile, General public has been appealed to extend full cooperation and strictly abide by the restrictions. These measures have been enforced purely in the interest of public safety and overall well-being.

Rana visits Balakote to assess damages caused by heavy rains, landslides

JINNEWS SERVICE
MENDHAR, JULY 20

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today visited Balakote area of Mendhar Sub-Division to assess the damages caused by recent heavy rains.

The torrential downpour had triggered landslides, washed away portions of land and damaged several houses in the area.

Accompanied by Deputy Commissioner Poonch, Vikas Kundal, SDM Mendhar, Imran Kataria and other senior officers from the district administration, as well as officials from the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)/General Reserve Engineer Force (GREF), the Minister conducted



a detailed site visit to all affected locations.

During the visit, he interacted with the local residents and took on-spot feedback regarding the extent of the damages.

Following the site visit, the Minister was briefed by the Deputy Commissioner that a preliminary assessment of losses has already been completed. Besides, the process of disburse-

ment of compensation to affected families is being initiated.

The Minister assured the public that the government, under the leadership of Chief Minister Omar Abdullah, is committed towards extending all possible assistance to the families impacted by the natural calamity.

Rana emphasized that restoration and construc-

tion activities in the affected areas will be undertaken in a planned and sustainable manner, ensuring that the local landscape and ecological balance are preserved. He directed the concerned departments to remain vigilant and continue to provide necessary support, including shelter, medical assistance and other essential services to those impacted.

The Minister also directed Forest and Irrigation & Flood Control Departments to take the lead for soil conservation and protection.

The Minister underlined proactive approach of the government in responding to natural disasters, ensuring timely relief and rehabilitation for affected citizen.

Army conduct of medical patrol & health awareness lecture at Chapta, Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 20

In a continued effort to provide basic healthcare services to the residents of remote areas, the Indian Army organized a Medical Patrol on 20 July 2025 in the village of Chharung, located in the Chapta region of Rajouri District, Jammu and Kashmir. The initiative aimed to raise awareness among the villagers about common diseases, their symptoms and preventive measures. As part of the medical outreach, the Army's medical team interacted with the villagers, including the Sarpanch, Panches and members of the local community. Free health checkups were conducted and essential medicines were distributed to the beneficiaries. A total of 79 villagers availed the medical facilities and received consultations along with the prescribed medication. A health awareness lecture was also conducted during the patrol, highlighting the importance of good eating habits, a balanced diet, personal



hygiene and sanitation. The session aimed to encourage the community to adopt healthier lifestyles and improve their overall well-being. The initiative was received with great enthusiasm by the local population. The efforts of the Indian Army in providing healthcare support in such remote and inaccessible terrain

were deeply appreciated by the villagers. The attendees also engaged in meaningful discussions, seeking suggestions to enhance the quality of life in the area. This outreach reflects the Indian Army's enduring commitment to the welfare of people in remote regions where access to civil healthcare services remains limited.

Such efforts play a vital role in strengthening the bond of trust and cooperation between Jawan and Awam. The medical patrol not only addressed immediate healthcare needs but also reinforced the Indian Army's dedication to nation-building through service, compassion and meaningful engagement with local communities.

Army conduct of motivational talk on how to join Armed Forces at Hasplot, Rajouri

JINNEWS SERVICE
RAJOURI, JULY 20

The Indian Army organized a "Motivational Talk on How to Join Armed Forces" at Hasplot, Rajouri District, on 18th July 2025. The event aimed to inspire school children and the local community to consider careers in the Armed Forces, instilling a sense of patriotism. The session focused on raising awareness about the numerous opportunities available within the Armed Forces and government-supported initiatives for aspiring recruits. An Army representative emphasized the region's potential in academically bright students, urging them to harness their talent through



proper guidance.

The representative highlighted institutions like Sainik Schools and pre-commissioning training academies as paths to a successful career in defense services. A total of 35 participants attended the event, which also underscored the importance of

education in personal and community development.

The Army representative assured full support and guidance for students in pursuing their goals and contributing to society's welfare. This initiative is part of the Army's outreach efforts to bridge gaps in remote areas, where

civil administration has limited reach. It fostered trust between the Army and the local community, reinforcing the Army's commitment to serving both the nation and its people. The event served as a vital platform for strengthening the bond between the Army and the residents of Hasplot.