

**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
- Orchitis
- Profound vomiting
- A sharp rise in temperature
- Disorientation
- Severe ten pain or more, local or not
- Redness

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

# JINDRAH IMAGES

DAILY | JAMMU | VOL NO: 12 | ISSUE NO: 174 | PAGES: 12 | PRICE: Rs 2/- | RNI NO: JKENG/2013/49471 | POSTAL REGD. NO. L-29/JK-497/25-27 | dailyjindrahimages.com/Epaper.php | jindrahimages123@gmail.com

## Amarnath Yatra: 3,35,000 yatris have paid obeisance at holy cave shrine in 19 days: LG

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
PAHALGAM, JUL 22

Asserting that Amarnath pilgrims are satisfied with the arrangements made by the administration, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday said that 3,35,000 yatris have paid obeisance at the holy cave shrine in 19 days.

Talking to the reporters after visiting the Nun-Wan and Chandanwari base camps here in south Kashmir, LG Sinha, according to the news agency said, "Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra has crossed 3,35,000 mark. The success of the yatra will give a significant boost to the

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**Around 11,000 perform darshan today**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 22

The annual Amarnath Yatra continued on Tuesday with around 11,000 pilgrims paying obeisance at the holy cave shrine nestled in the Himalayas of South Kashmir.

With this, the cumulative figure of devotees, who have undertaken the pilgrimage since its commencement

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## Amit Shah to unveil National Cooperative Policy 2025 on Thursday

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUL 22

Union Home Minister and Minister of Cooperative Amit Shah will unveil the National Cooperative Policy 2025 on Thursday (July 24).

According to the details available with the news agency, the event will be organized at Atal Akshay Urja Bhawan, officials said.

Members of the drafting committee of the National Cooperative Policy, Chair-



poration (NCDC), National Council of Cooperative Training (NCCT) and Vaidunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management (VAMNI-COM) will be present on the occasion, officials said.

They said the new cooperative policy will prove to be a milestone in the cooperative movement of India for the next two decades from 2025-45. "Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the able guidance

of Union Home Minister and Cooperative Minister Amit Shah, the new cooperative policy 2025 aims to revive and modernize the cooperative sector as well as realize the vision of prosperity through cooperation by creating a roadmap at the grassroots level," they added.

"Earlier in the year 2002, the country's first National Cooperative Policy was issued, which gave a basic

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## Unseasonal rains damage 1,239 hectares of crops in J&K, Centre reports 2.7 Cr payout

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
NEW DELHI, JUL 22

Jammu and Kashmir suffered significant crop damage due to unseasonal rains and extreme weather conditions during the 2025 Monsoon season with 1,239 hectares of Agricultural land affected, according to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

The information was tabled in response to a question in the Lok Sabha. Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that the losses were reported between April 1 and July 14, 2025.

According to the news agency, major crops impacted in the region include wheat, maize, paddy, barley and various horticultural produce, though district-level specifics were not detailed in the statement.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

**India's doctor-population ratio improves to 1:811: GoI**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 22

The Union Government announced on Tuesday that India has made significant progress in improving its doctor-population ratio, now estimated at 1 doctor per 811 people. This figure reflects an 80% availability of both allopathic and AYUSH medical practitioners, marking a positive development in the country's healthcare landscape.

As reported by the news agency, responding to a question from Biju Janata Dal MP, Shubhashish Khuntia, the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare said that currently, there are 1,386,150 registered allopathic doctors across the country. He said the Ministry of AYUSH has 751,768 registered practitioners. Assuming 80% of these professionals are actively available, the overall doctor-population ratio stands at approximately 1:811.

The minister said the government has undertaken various measures to address the shortage of medical professionals. These include the establishment of 131 new medical colleges through a centrally sponsored scheme, which involves upgrading district and referral hospitals.

"Out of 157 approved medical colleges,

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(PMFBY), over 9,500 farmer applications were insured in J&K, covering an area of 5,500 hectares. As of June 30, the government disbursed Rs 2.7 crore in claims, benefiting insured farmers who faced yield loss due to extreme weather.

In contrast, Ladakh recorded zero crop damage during the same period, and no compensation or claims were reported. However, 14 hectares were insured under the crop insurance schemes, suggesting a growing awareness and participation by Ladakhi farmers in risk mitigation measures.

The government said that disaster relief responsibilities lie primarily with State governments.

However, in cases of severe calamity, Central assistance is extended through the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) based on

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## Institutionalizing support to terror victim families will expedite process of providing relief: LG Sinha

**Launches dedicated web portal for terror victim families**

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 22

Stating that institutionalizing support to terror victim families will streamline and expedite the process of providing relief, Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha on Tuesday launched a dedicated portal for the NOKs of victims in Jammu Kashmir.

Talking to reporters after dedicating the portal, LG Sinha, according to the news agency said, "The initiative will streamline



and expedite the process of providing relief, compassionate appointments, and other forms of assistance to those who have suffered from terrorism in the UT."

The web portal, developed by the Home Department in collaboration with NIC, according to the officials will serve as a centralized platform to capture and maintain comprehensive district-wise data on Terrorism-affected families. The details of any encroachments on the

property of the victims or their NOKs are also being captured.

"It will ensure that no legitimate case is left unaddressed and timely support is extended to eligible families in terms of financial relief, ex-gratia compensation and compassionate employment while ensuring elimination of any bogus or multiple claims," said an official.

He said the Lieutenant Governor is personally monitoring and

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## ICMR study finds COVID-19 vaccination not linked to sudden deaths in young adults: Govt informs Parliament

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 22

The Indian Council of Medical Research - National Institute of Epidemiology (ICMR-NIE) has released a study concluding that COVID-19 vaccination is not associated with unexplained sudden deaths among young adults in India, the government informed Parliament on Tuesday.

According to the news agency, replying to a question by Congress Member of Parliament, Imran Pratapgarhi, the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare said the study, titled "Factors associated with unexplained sudden deaths among adults aged 18-45 years in India: A multicentric matched case-control study", was conducted across 47 tertiary care hospitals in 19 states and Union Territories between May and August 2023.

The study focused on apparently healthy individuals aged 18-45 who died suddenly (within 24

hours of hospitalisation or appearing healthy 24 hours prior to death) from October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2023, with no known co-morbidities. Data collected included COVID-19 vaccination and infection history, post-COVID conditions, family history of sudden death, lifestyle factors such as smoking, recreational drug use, alcohol consumption, binge drinking, and vigorous physical activity.

The findings showed that COVID-19 vaccination did not increase the risk of unexplained sudden death among young adults. However, factors such as prior COVID-19 hospitalisation, family history of sudden death, and certain lifestyle behaviours were associated with higher risk.

The government highlighted ongoing efforts under the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Non-Communicable Diseases (NPCD), supported

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## Carry independent verification of rural waste management infra: CS



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 22

Chief Secretary, Atal Duloo Tuesday reviewed the progress of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen)-II (SBM-G Phase-II), highlighting significant achievements in rural sanitation and outlining ambitious plans for the future.

The review meeting besides Commissioner Secretary, RDD was attended by MD, Rural Sanitation; COO, Himayat and others to take appraisal of the Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and enhancing Solid and Liquid Waste Management

(SLWM) in rural areas. During the review meeting, the Chief Secretary laid strong emphasis on furnishing a detailed report on the door-to-door waste collection status in rural areas. He directed that a sample survey be conducted through the Economics & Statistics (E&S) offices in each district to assess the actual implementation and progress of this initiative at the village level.

Duloo further called for a comprehensive audit of assets created by the Department. He underscored the importance of verifying the dashboard data with the ground

realities, ensuring both are aligned. Highlighting the purpose behind these infrastructural investments, he stated that the ultimate goal is to enhance cleanliness, and to make villages more liveable and environmentally ambient.

The MD, Rural Sanitation, Anoo Malhotra while speaking of the progress and achievements made out that since its initiation in February 2020, SBM-G Phase-II has made substantial strides in J&K. She elaborated that 18,29,495 Individual Household Latrines (IHHL) have been constructed including 8,450

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## "They never sought our support": CM Omar on Congress' statehood push

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
GANDERBAL, JUL 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Tuesday said that the Congress never sought support for their campaign, demanding statehood restoration to Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters in Safapora, Ganderbal, CM Omar, per news agency, said they come across such statements through media reports.

"They (Congress) didn't even raise the issue during the INDIA bloc meeting recently. We are the first who raised this demand and brought a resolution in this regard. If they need our support, let them talk to us," he said.

Responding to a query about Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, he said this is the first time that the resignation has come in such a way.

Notably, CM Omar visited the residence of the woman, who was allegedly raped and murdered in Safapora last week. "Police have already registered a case.

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## CM Omar advocates holistic implementation of NEP



**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JUL 22

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah Tuesday underscored the need for comprehensive, inclusive and locally adaptable implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, calling it a visionary document whose success depends entirely on its understanding and execution at the grassroots level.

The Chief Minister was speaking at a One-Day Conference on NEP-2020 held at Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre (SKICC),

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## I&C Directorate Jammu organizes e-commerce awareness for PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 22

To strengthen the implementation of PM Vishwakarma Scheme, Directorate of Industries & Commerce, Jammu organized an impactful awareness session for PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries here at Udyog Bhawan.

The session aimed to enhance the digital presence and market visibility of local craftsmen registered under the PM Vishwakarma scheme. This initiative represents a significant advancement in creating new opportunities for the PM Vishwakarma beneficiaries, with a strong focus on promoting growth and development among local craftsmen. The meeting was attended by about 100 craftsmen from various trades who are registered under the PM Vishwakarma scheme in J&K (UT).

The session commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas,



Director Industries & Commerce Jammu. He emphasized the significance of PM Vishwakarma Scheme in ensuring hassle free benefits to eligible beneficiaries. The Director Industries & Commerce Jammu also interacted with beneficiaries to understand the on-ground challenges faced by them regarding toolkit delivery, credit support. He assured them that issues will be taken up with the Ministry of MSME, GoI for timely resolution.

Further, Dr. Arun Kumar Manhas stressed on organizing similar sessions with prominent national e-commerce platforms & lead banks for disseminating information regarding

credit facility amongst local craftsmen across all districts of Jammu and Kashmir to promote self-reliance and increase the market footprint of local craftsmen.

Director J&K Skill Development Mission Leena Padha also attended the session as special guest. During an interaction with the beneficiaries, she highlighted the critical importance of the Skill upgradation component incorporated in the scheme. Besides, Joint Director (M&P) Naser Ali and Joint Director Planning Shiwali from Directorate of Industries & Commerce Jammu and other officers were also present at the event.

A detailed presentation was given by Team Leader PM Vishwakarma State Level Project Management Unit (SLPMU) Kanav Kapahi, highlighting the J&K Progress status in terms of the implementation of the scheme.

Besides, representative from Government e-Marketplace (Gem) & Open Network Digital Commerce (ONDC) conducted detailed awareness session on e-marketing through GeM & ONDC and encouraged the participants to explore the ways to enter in e-marketing space for which the Directorate of Industries & Commerce Jammu will provide all necessary support and assistance.

This event also witnessed active participation from J&K Skill Development Mission (JKSDM), National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC), Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) & Polytechnic Institutes.

## DC Doda reviews progress of Health Sector programmes

JI NEWS SERVICE  
DODA, JULY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Doda Harvinder Singh today convened a comprehensive district-level review meeting of the health sector here in the Conference Hall, DC Office complex.

The meeting was attended by the Chief Planning Officer Manesh Kumar; Chief Medical Officer Dr. Om Kumar; Medical Superintendent AH GMC Dr. Tanveer Ahmed; District Health Officer Dr. Raj Kumar Sharma; Deputy CMO Dr. S.L. Manhas, Block Medical Officers and Programme Management Staff from the District and Block levels, including Government Medical College Doda.

At the outset, CMO Dr. Om Kumar delivered a



detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting the progress made under different health indicators, including work done, targets achieved and progress across key programmes.

The Deputy Commissioner assessed indicator-wise progress achieved under the flagship health initiatives including the National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP), Reproductive and Child Health (RCH),

Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Tele-consultation services, Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD) Screening, JK Sehat and Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM) including ABHA ID generation

While reviewing the TB programme, the Deputy Commissioner emphasized robust monitoring and efficient follow-up mechanism.

Underlining the impor-

tance of RCH initiative, he directed the health authorities to provide timely and quality services to pregnant women, with special focus on institutional deliveries and effective engagement of ASHA workers for timely tracking and support. He also stressed on effective Tele-consultation, NCD Screening and ABDM, urging the management staff to enhance performance in these critical areas.

## District Development Council Samba approves District capex budget 2025-26

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SAMBA, JULY 22

A crucial meeting to finalise the District Capex Budget Plan for the financial year 2025-26 was today chaired by District Development Council Chairman Keshav Dutt Sharma, alongside MLA Samba Surjeet Singh Slathia and MLA Ramgarh Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal. The meeting was held today in the Conference Hall of the District Administrative Complex.

District Development Commissioner Rajesh



Sharma, members of the District Development Council, Administrators of Urban Local Bodies, sectoral and district officers and all Block Development Officers of Samba district attended the meeting.

The proceedings began with a welcome address by Additional District Development Commissioner

Champa Devi Thakur. Chief Planning Officer Kasturi Lal presented a comprehensive overview of the proposed District Plan, outlining sector-wise developmental works proposed under the District Capex Budget 2025-26.

Extensive deliberations were held on proposed works across key sectors,

including Area Development Funds (DDC, BDC, PRIs), ABDP, SSY, APDP, TWID, PWD, Elementary and Secondary Education, Youth Services & Sports, PHE, Health and Urban Local Bodies.

The DDC Chairman, MLAs and DDC Members expressed satisfaction with the proposed developmental roadmap. With a unanimous consensus, the District Capex Budget Plan for 2025-26 was formally approved, marking a significant step towards the holistic development of the district.

## Div Com Jammu takes stock of damages, restoration works post torrential rains

JI NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 22

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar chaired a meeting today to take stock of the damages due to torrential rain and restoration works initiated by the district administrations and executing agencies across the Division.

The Deputy Commissioners from across Jammu Division, Heads of Departments and concerned officials from executing agencies apprised the Divisional Commissioner of the situation of their respective districts after the recent torrential rain.

The Deputy Commissioners briefed about the situation in terms of road connectivity, Power,



water supply, functioning of other essential services like health and medical services, precautionary measures and advisories for public safety. They also informed about the damage to property and loss of lives.

The Divisional Commissioner directed for establishing 24X7 control rooms in all districts for reporting and responding

to emergency calls. He further asked for issuing public safety and Traffic advisories and wide publicity of the same.

The officials from Public Works Department and Border Roads Organization were asked to keep their men and machinery ready for restoration of the road connectivity in the minimum possible time. Chief Engineer Jal

Shakti was asked to ensure adequate supply of clean drinking water, especially in the areas which are dependent on dug wells.

The Power Development department was asked to ensure sufficient stock of transformers for speedy restoration of power supply. Directions were also issued to focus on prevention of water borne diseases.

The Divisional Commissioner directed the Deputy Commissioners to provide ex-gratia relief to the affected people under SDRF and Red Cross.

The Deputy Commissioners were directed to submit a detailed report of the damages suffered and the repair and restoration works undertaken in their respective districts by the evening.

## DIPR Announces Online Competitions to Celebrate Independence Day 2025

JI NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

In connection with the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations, the Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, has launched three online competitions to encourage citizens—particularly students and youth—to participate in creative and patriotic expressions.

Participants are encouraged to take part in the National Anthem Singing

Competition, where they can showcase their love for the nation by submitting their renditions of the National Anthem. The best entries will be awarded cash prizes. Entries can be submitted through the link: <https://forms.gle/qrn6auoUu9tNHrzR7>.

To inspire thought leadership and visionary thinking, an Online Essay Writing Competition has been announced on the theme "Viksit Bharat @2047". Participants are invited to pen down their aspirations and

innovative ideas for a developed India as we approach 2047, marking 100 years of independence. Entries can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/ebK8Fe2hQWx2zMWv8>.

In addition, DIPR has also initiated an Online Painting Competition on the theme "Draw Your Favourite Freedom Fighter". Budding artists are encouraged to honour and depict the legacy of India's freedom fighters through colours and creativity. Entries for this

competition can be submitted at: <https://forms.gle/PH4GXXKvDqK6ADPLf9>.

All competitions are open to the general public and aim to instill patriotic spirit, nurture talent, and celebrate the idea of India. Attractive prizes and certificates await the winners.

DIPR urges citizens across Jammu & Kashmir to participate enthusiastically and make this Independence Day truly memorable by contributing their voice, vision, and creativity.

## DC Kulgam reviews arrangements for Independence-Day celebrations

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KULGAM, JULY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan today convened a meeting of officers from the civil administration, Army, and Police to review and finalize arrangements for the upcoming Independence Day 2025 celebrations in the district.

During the meeting, District Police Lines (DPL) Kulgam was finalized as the main venue, where the Tricolour will be hoisted by the chief guest. The ceremony will be followed by a march past featuring contingents from District Police, CRPF, IRP, Women's Contingent, Police Band, NCC, students, and other participants.

A detailed discussion



was held regarding security arrangements, traffic regulation, seating, Full Dress Rehearsal, decoration, cultural events, public address

system, power and water supply, transport, sanitation, medical care, invitation cards, barricading and other logistics.

DC fixed responsibilities to concerned officers and departments and directed them to ensure foolproof and elaborate arrangements for the smooth conduct of the event.

He emphasized that all preparations must be completed well in advance, with close coordination among departments to make the celebration a grand success.

KPDCL and Jal Shakti departments were directed to ensure uninterrupted electricity and water supply, including provision of water tankers at the venue.

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) was instructed to arrange proper medical facilities, including staff and ambulances.

Executive Officer of Municipal Council Kulgam was asked to ensure cleanliness and sanitation of the venue and town, while KPDCL was also tasked with illuminating the Mini-Secretariat and other key office complexes and other locations.

The meeting was attended by ADDC, Altaf Ahmad; ADC, Viqar Ahmad Giri; SDM Noorabad, Bashir Ul Hassan; ACR, Riyaz Ahmad Shah; ACD, Bilal Ahmad Kamgar; Tehsildars, Executive Engineers of R&B and Jal Shakti, ARTO and other district and sectoral officers.

## Awareness Programme on POCSO Act held at GDC Kishtwar

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KISHTWAR, JULY 22

The District Legal services Authority (DLSA) Kishtwar under the able supervision and guidance of Learned Secretary Slahuddin Ahmad and in compliance with the calendar of activities issued by the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) and Jammu & Kashmir Legal Services Authority (JKLSA) for July 2025, organised an awareness programme on the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, 2012 at Gov-



ernment Degree College, the other day.

The Programme, conducted in collaboration

with the host College, saw enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, NCC cadets and Para

Legal Volunteers (PLVS).

Professor Sonika Sen anchored the event, while Professor Asma Javed set an encouraging and inclusive tone with her warm welcome address.

Legal experts and the resource persons for the programme were Assistant Legal Aid Defence Counsels Sanveer Singh, Sandep Kumar and Vinay Kumar Shan.

Their insightful talk on the Act highlighted its substantial value in bridging theoretical knowledge with practical concerns.

## Wildlife Division Kathua conducts plantation drive

JI NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JULY 22

Wildlife Division Kathua has launched a massive plantation drive to celebrate Van Mahotsav.

Themed Voluntarily Plantation Drive, the Department conducted awareness programmes

in Surinsar Mansar Wildlife Sanctuary where more than 1500 saplings of different fruit & fodder plants were planted in the presence of ex-Panchayat members, local people as well as field staff of Surinsar-Mansar Range.

Similarly, a mega plantation was conducted in

Jasrota Wildlife Sanctuary. More than 1000 fruit saplings were planted in the participation of locals. The aim of the drive is to create awareness among locals about environmental education & conservation of Wildlife. Till now the Wildlife Division Kathua

has planted more than 3000 saplings on a voluntary basis, without putting burden on the Govt. exchequer.

The events were organized by Wildlife Warden Zuhab Chowdhary under the overall guidance of the Regional Wildlife Warden Jyotsana.

## DDC Doda reviews progress of 'Catch the Rain 2025' campaign under Jal Shakti Abhiyan

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, JULY 22

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Doda Harvinder Singh today chaired a review meeting in the Conference Hall DC office complex to assess the progress under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2025 campaign.

The meeting aimed to evaluate key initiatives being implemented across the district in alignment with the campaign's theme, "Catch the Rain - Where it Falls, When it Falls." The review centered on evaluating the district's preparedness and progress in implementing rainwater



harvesting systems, promoting sustainable water use, and ensuring active community participation in line with the national water conservation mandate.

The DDC Doda reviewed the functionality of rainwater harvesting structures, the status of water conservation measures in both rural and urban areas, and the level of departmental convergence among Forest,

Agriculture, Education, and Rural Development sectors.

The meeting also took stock of awareness and sensitization campaigns conducted in schools and local communities, along with progress made under related schemes such as IWMP, Poshan Abhiyaan, and other integrated programs.

Emphasizing the need for collective responsibility and time-bound

implementation, DDC Doda called for stronger inter-departmental coordination and proactive community engagement to ensure the successful realization of campaign objectives at the grassroots level.

The meeting was attended by the ADDC, SE Jal Shakti (Hydraulics), Chief Planning Officer, ACD, ACP, CAO, CEO, Principal GDC Doda, Executive Officers of the Municipal Committees of Doda, Bhaderwah and Thathri, XENs from Jal Shakti, I&FC Bhaderwah and Hydraulic Doda, along with concerned BDOs, AEs, JEs and officials from various stakeholder departments.

## DHS Jammu inspects healthcare services at CHC Ramgarh-Samba

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 22

Director Health Services Jammu Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar today visited Community Health Centre (CHC) Ramgarh in District Samba and took a comprehensive appraisal of the Health Programmes at Block-Level Review Meeting of. To assess and streamline the functioning of health care services, the DHSJ had a threadbare discussion with all present in the meeting. Block Medical Officer Dr. Lakhwinder Singh presented a detailed PowerPoint presentation highlighting key health indicators, achievements and the overall work done.

Dr. Abdul Hamid Zargar took an in-depth review of several critical health ser-



vices including, functioning of the Drug and Vaccine Distribution Management System (DVDMS) Portal, implementation and utilization of e Sahaj, Ambulance Services and timely referrals, progress under the National TB Elimination Programme, status of e Sanjeevani Telemedicine Services, Non-Communicable Disease (NCD) screening and management, C-section service availability at delivery points, performance of Rashtriya

Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), implementation of the National Programme for Control of Blindness, activities under the ASHA programme, progress of other flagship National Health Programmes besides monitoring and reporting under Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) through the Integrated Health Information Platform (IHIP).

The DHSJ emphasized the importance of efficient service delivery, timely

reporting, and collaborative efforts to meet the set health targets. He also gave on-spot directions to BMO Ramgarh to ensure effective execution and monitoring for better implementation of every programme. He encouraged all stakeholders to work in synergy for the betterment of public health services. DHS urged all programme officers to focus on community engagement, digital reporting and cross-departmental coordination to achieve the desired outcomes under various health initiatives.

DHSJ also took round of all sections of the hospital and interacted with staff, patients and attendants. DHS emphasized the importance of patient satisfaction and efficient service delivery.

## Sakeena Itoo reviews functioning of Cluster University Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo, conducted comprehensive review of functioning of Cluster University Srinagar (CUS) and its constituent colleges in a meeting held at Civil Secretariat here today.

Vice Chancellor CUS, Professor Mohammad Mobin; Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education department, Shantamanu; Director Colleges J&K, Special Secretary Higher Education department, Principals of constituent colleges and other concerned officers attended the meeting.

During the meeting, the Minister held detailed assessment of academic performance, infrastructure development, faculty



strength, student services, admissions and progress of ongoing projects in the University.

Addressing the officers, the Minister emphasized the urgent need to align the academic activities with current market demands. She directed the university administration and affiliated colleges

to introduce skill-based, job-oriented courses in emerging fields such as Artificial Intelligence, Hospitality Management, Data Science, Cybersecurity, Tourism Management and other job oriented fields.

She also asked the officers to maintain coordination with different stake-

holders and ensure that the courses are industry-linked and designed in consultation with experts from the respective sector. She also called for strengthening the existing vocational and add-on courses.

"Academic excellence must go hand in hand with employability. Students don't need just degrees, but skills that make them competitive and employable in today's dynamic job market", the Minister stated.

The Minister further reiterated Government's commitment towards transforming the higher education in Jammu & Kashmir into a dynamic, skill-driven and inclusive system. She assured continued support to the University from the government to implement transformative reforms.

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## Over 200 students participate in U-19 Table Tennis and Chess Competitions in Doda

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
DODA, JULY 22

The 11th day of the second phase of the Inter-Zonal District Level Tournament witnessed enthusiastic participation from across the district, as over 200 students competed in the Under-19 Table Tennis and Chess events for both boys and girls in Doda today.



Organized by the Department of Youth Services & Sports Doda, the tournament is part of the

Annual Activity Calendar 2025. The event aims to scout and select the most talented players from each

zone for their future participation in the Divisional-Level Inter-District Competitions.

With the spirit of discipline, strategy and healthy competition on full display, the tournament continues to provide a dynamic platform for young athletes to showcase their skills and prepare for higher levels of sporting excellence.

## Sakeena Itoo reviews progress of works on Brazloo bridge Kulgam

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

Minister for Health and Medical Education, Social Welfare and Education, Sakeena Itoo chaired a meeting at Civil Secretariat here today to review the progress of works on under-construction Brazloo Bridge.

During the meeting, the Minister impressed upon the officers of executing agency to expedite the ongoing works so that the bridge is completed within the stipulated timeframe.



She delved upon the officers to maintain high-quality standards of works while executing this vital project.

The Minister stressed on

the officers to mobilize men and machinery and ensure that no further delay occurs in completion of the project. She further stressed

on the officers to maintain regular coordination with other concerned departments like Revenue and others in order to remove any bottlenecks hindering the smooth execution of the project.

During the meeting, the officers informed the Minister that this bridge is a vital component of the NH-444 highway infrastructure.

It was informed that the 378-meter-long bridge, after completion, will improve connectivity between Kulgam and Srinagar districts.

## Committee on Public Undertakings convenes meet at Srinagar, reviews Audit paras of JKPC

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

The Committee on Public Undertakings of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly today convened a meeting at Assembly Complex here, to review audit paras contained in CAG's Audit report pertaining to the J&K Projects Construction Corporation (JKPCC) Limited.

The meeting was chaired by Committee Chairman Ali Mohammad Sagar and attended by members Saifullah Mir,



Ali Mohammad Dar, Mir Mohammad Fayaz, Shakti Raj Parihar, Ranbir Singh Pathania, Bashir Ahmad Veeri, Showkat Hussain Ganai, Saif Ud Din Bhat and Tanvir Sadiq.

Principal Accountant General, Principal Secretary PWD(R&B), Direc-

tor General Expenditure, Director General Accounts and Treasuries, Director Finance PWD(R&B), Chief Engineer PWD(R&B), senior officers of JKPC and other concerned officers were also present in the meeting.

The Committee held detailed deliberations on Audit Paras 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 contained in the CAG's Audit report for the year 2018-19.

Speaking during the meeting, the Chairman underlined the importance of proactive participation of all members in

strengthening the operations and efficiency of Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).

He directed the officers of PWD to take concrete steps for completion of all ongoing projects. He also stressed on the importance of audit and evaluation of PSU's to ensure transparency and accountability in their operations.

The Members, during the meeting, also raised various issues regarding the works executed by JKPC in their respective constituencies.

## DC Kishtwar reviews functioning of Revenue Department

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KISHTWAR, JULY 22

To streamline revenue administration and improve public services delivery, Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kishtwar Pankaj Kumar Sharma chaired a meeting of revenue officers at the VC Room DC Office Complex here today.

The meeting focused on key revenue matters, including disposal of court cases, digitization of revenue records, progress under the SVAMITVA scheme, inheritance attestation of mutations, online services, and removal of encroachments on state, Kacharie, Common & Roshni land, besides disposal of complaints/grievances on J&K Grievance redressal portal.

A detailed PowerPoint presentation was given, providing an overview and status of ongoing ini-



tiatives. The DC directed the Tehsildars to ensure timely redressal of complaints and public grievances, particularly those registered on the J&K Grievance Redressal Portal.

He stressed the importance of completing assigned tasks on time and directed SDMs to regularly monitor revenue-related works. The DC also instructed officers to dispose of online revenue services as per the Public Services Guarantee Act (PSGA) and ensure timely disposal of court cases.

The meeting was attended by ADDC

Pawan Kotwal; ACR Mohd Idrees Lone, besides SDM Paddar, SDM Marwah,

SDM Chatroo and other concerned revenue officials including Tehsildars.

## Arrangements for Independence Day celebration reviewed at Shopian

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SHOPIAN, JULY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today chaired a meeting of officers to discuss arrangements for the upcoming celebrations of Independence Day in the district.

In the meeting, various facilities to be put in place at the District Police Line Shopian, finalized as the main function venue, were discussed threadbare and responsibilities were fixed among the concerned



departments to ensure the impactful celebration of the national festival.

Adequate and proper arrangements including

PAS, uninterrupted power supply with back up, potable water facility, refreshments, sanitation, traffic, seating, healthcare, fire

services, decoration, illumination, logistical and security services arrangements were deliberated upon and fixed among concerned departments.

DC instructed officers of all concerned departments to ensure fool proof and advance arrangements for the celebrations at the district level venue and other prominent places across the district.

Flag hoisting functions shall be held across the district at subdivision, tehsil levels and other offices of the government.

NORTHERN RAILWAY E-TENDER NOTICE			
Tender Notice No. : 433-Sig-T-19-25-26		Closing Date/Time: 13-08-2025 15:00	
Date:- 22/07/2025. Sr.DS/TE/FZR acting for and on behalf of The President of India invites E-Tenders on <a href="https://www.ireps.gov.in">https://www.ireps.gov.in</a> against Tender Notice no. 433-Sig-T-19-25-26 Closing Date/Time 13-08-2025 15:00 Hrs. Bidders will be able to submit their original/revised bids upto closing date and time only. Manual offers are not allowed against this tender, and any such manual offer received shall be ignored.			
Contractors are allowed to make payments against this tender towards tender document cost and earnest money <b>only through online payment modes available</b> on IREPS portal LIKE net banking, debit card, credit card etc. Manual payments through Demand draft, Banker cheque, Deposit receipts, FDR etc. are not allowed.			
NIT HEADER			
Contract Type	Works		
Name of Work: Conversion of BH-01 from IBH to IBS on Jalandhar-Sahnewal Jn. section.			
Tender Closing Date Time	13/08/2025 15:00	Date Time of Uploading Tender	22/07/2025 16:25
Advertised Value Rs.	22153539.48	Bidding Start Date as per IREPS	30/07/2025
Earnest Money (Rs.)	260800.00	Period of Completion	12 Months
NOTE:	Tenderer should keep himself updated about the Tender amendments, Corrigendum, etc. by remaining in touch regularly with the website. 2220/2025		
SERVING CUSTOMERS WITH A SMILE			

## FROM THE FRONT PAGE...

## Amarnath Yatra: 3,35,000...

tourism sector in the Union Territory. 97 percent positive feedback received from Pilgrims. The Yatra is going on smoothly, meeting all the expectations. We are witnessing an overwhelming atmosphere of spiritual fervor and festivity throughout the base camps."

The Lieutenant Governor lauded the dedication, passion and commitment of Camp directors, officials of Shrine Board, Civil and police administration, security forces, service providers, volunteers and every-one involved in the holy yatra for ensuring a pleasant and memorable pilgrimage for the devotees.

The Lieutenant Governor interacted with the pilgrims, service providers, langer sevadars, sanitation workers, medical staff, and administrative, Police and security officials deputed for the ongoing Amarnath Yatra.

He took stock of department-wise arrangements, logistics, lodging, disaster management, healthcare and other facilities that have been put in place on travel route and Yatra base camps at Pahalgam axis.

The Lieutenant Governor directed health officials to conduct an in-depth analysis of patterns and causes for the health-related incidents among pilgrims, and take precautionary measures to improve overall health outcomes for the devotees.

He also reviewed the Yatra feedback system and directed for incorporating traffic feedback option for better traffic management and to facilitate the smooth movement of the pilgrims. KNO

## Around 11,000 perform...

on July 3, has reached 3.31 lakh, officials said.

Officials told the news agency that a total of 10,829 pilgrims performed darshan at the sacred cave on Tuesday. Among them were 7646 men, 2,660 women, 97 children, 76 sadhus, 2 sadhvis, 3 transgender persons and 345 security personnel.

While the footfall at the shrine remained good, the number of pilgrims departing from Jammu—the starting point for most yatis—has shown a consistent downward trend over the past few days.

From 7,908 pilgrims on July 18, the number dropped to 6,365 on July 19, 4,388 on July 20, 3,791 on July 21 and 3536 on July 22—the lowest daily departure figure recorded so far during this year's yatra.

Despite the decline, officials said that the pilgrimage is progressing smoothly and peacefully, with robust security and logistical arrangements in place across all transit and base locations.

Escorted by Central Reserve Police Force and police personnel, the 20th batch of 3,536 pilgrims — 2,601 men, 822 women, 11 children and 102 sadhus and sadhvis — left the Bhagwati Nagar base camp Jammu this morning.

The first pilgrim convoy, carrying 1,250 pilgrims in 48 vehicles, left for the shorter but steeper 14-km Baltal route in Ganderbal district. The second convoy of 2,286 pilgrims in 84 vehicles undertook the yatra via the traditional 48-km Pahalgam route in Anantnag district.

"Even though there is a slight decline in pilgrim turnout from Jammu, the overall yatra is proceeding without disruptions. All necessary facilities including shelter, food, medical assistance, and route security are fully operational," an official said.

This year's Amarnath Yatra, scheduled to conclude on August 9, is being conducted amid unprecedented security measures, including drone surveillance, RFID tracking for pilgrims and a multi-layered deployment of forces. KNO

## Amit Shah to unveil...

framework for better management of the economic activities of cooperative institutions. In the last 20 years, many major changes have taken place in the society, country and the world due to globalization and technological advancement. Keeping these changes in mind, it became necessary to formulate a new policy, so that cooperative institutions can be made more active and useful in the current economic scenario and the role of the cooperative sector can be strengthened in achieving the goal of Viksit Bharat 2047," they said.

"The objective of the National Cooperative Policy is to make cooperative institutions inclusive, manage them professionally, prepare them for the future and be able to create large scale employment and livelihood opportunities especially in rural India."

Pertinently, a 48-member national level committee headed by former Union Minister Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu has prepared the new National Cooperative Policy. This committee included members from national/state cooperative federations, cooperative societies of all levels and sectors, representatives of the concerned Central and State Government Ministry/Department and academicians. To ensure a participatory and inclusive approach, the Committee held 17 meetings and 4 regional workshops in Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Gurugram and Patna. 648 valuable suggestions received from stakeholders were carefully evaluated and incorporated in the new cooperative policy. KNO

## Unseasonal rains damage...

assessments by Inter-Ministerial Central Teams (IMCTs). Jammu & Kashmir, like other states, can tap into the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) for immediate relief. KNO

## India's doctor-population...

these are now operational. Efforts are also underway to strengthen and upgrade existing state and central government medical colleges to increase MBBS and postgraduate seats," he said.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), 75 projects for upgrading government medical colleges—particularly constructing super specialty blocks—have been approved, with 71 of these projects now complete, the government said, adding that 22 new AIIMS have been approved, with

undergraduate courses already started in 19 of them. "To help mitigate faculty shortages, the recognition of DNB qualifications for faculty appointments has been implemented, and the age limit for appointments, extensions, or re-employment of teachers, deans, principals, and directors in medical colleges has been increased to 70 years," he said.

While the central government is actively working to improve healthcare infrastructure, the primary responsibility for filling vacancies and strengthening the public health system lies with the respective state governments, the minister said. He said that through the National Health Mission (NHM), the central government provides financial and technical support to states and union territories, enabling them to augment their healthcare workforce, often through contractual appointments based on their specific needs.

"To encourage doctors and paramedics to serve in rural and remote areas, various incentives are offered under NHM. These include hard area allowances for specialist doctors working in difficult regions and for their residential quarters, as well as honorariums for gynecologists, pediatricians, anesthetists, and doctors trained in emergency obstetric care, aimed at increasing the availability of specialists for procedures like Cesarean sections," the reply stated.

The minister further said that incentives are provided for staff involved in antenatal and reproductive health activities, and non-monetary benefits such as preferential admission to postgraduate courses for staff serving in challenging areas and improved rural housing are also in place. "The NHM supports multi-skilling and continuous skill upgradation of healthcare professionals to address the shortage of specialists and improve health outcomes across the country," he said. KNO

## Institutionalizing support...

overseeing the redressal of all cases across the UT of J&K.

A toll-free helpline numbers have also been established at the offices of the Divisional Commissioners in both Jammu (0191-2478995) and Kashmir (0194-2487777) divisions, to facilitate the registration of any overlooked or pending claims.

These helplines are being attended through dedicated control rooms as citizen interfaces for receiving grievances or queries related to pending government support to terror affected families viz. compensation, Ex-gratia relief and Compassionate appointments.

The helplines have been staffed with trained personnel and will be integrated with the centralized application to ensure that every claim is formally recorded and acted upon.

In order to ensure regular oversight, coordination, and follow-up on the grievances and pending claims, Special Monitoring Cells have been constituted in the offices of Chief Secretary and Director General of Police.

These Special Cells will periodically review the status of pending and resolved cases, analyze delays or bottlenecks in processing, and coordinate with relevant departments to ensure timely and just resolution of claims.

The inaugural ceremony of the web portal was attended by Atal Dulloo, Chief Secretary; Nalin Prabhat, DGP; Chandraker Bharti, Principal Secretary, Home Department; Dr Mandeep K. Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; M Raju, Commissioner Secretary, GAD; Vijay Kumar Bidhuri, Divisional Commissioner Kashmir; Ramesh Kumar, Divisional Commissioner Jammu; VK Rishi, IGP Kashmir; Bhim Sen Tuti, IGP Jammu and S. Jaskaran Singh Modi, SIO, NIC were present, in person and through virtual mode. KNO

## ICMR study finds COVID-19...

by the Department of Health & Family Welfare, including the setup of NCD clinics and cardiac care units across the country.

It said the screening initiatives targeting individuals over 30 aim to prevent and manage common NCDs like diabetes and hypertension, which are risk factors for cardiovascular diseases.

The community-based activities include promotion of healthy lifestyles through the Ayushman Arogya Mandir, awareness campaigns during health observances, and digital media outreach.

The Food Safety & Standards Authority of India's Fit India movement and Yoga initiatives by the Ministry of AYUSH also contribute to public health promotion, the government said. KNO

## Carry independent...

Community Compost Pits, 1,69,158 Individual Compost Pits for waste management in rural areas.

For Grey Water Management she mentioned that 7,334 Community Soak Pits, 3,56,458 Individual Soak Pits 4,89,250 Individual Kitchen Gardens have been developed by the Department.

Moreover about the Annual Implementation Plan (AIP) 2024-25 it was said that significant achievements were noted against planned targets, including the construction of 43,280 IHHLs against a target of 36,000, and 740 CSCs against a target of 1,000.

With respect to 2025-26 the meeting was informed that an AIP of Rs 405 Cr has been approved for SBM(G) in J&K out of which Rs 61.25 Cr as 1st instalment of Central share for 2025-26 was sanctioned on June 27, 2025. Similarly, the corresponding UT share of approximately Rs 700.00 lakhs has been released, the meeting was informed.

Regarding the functionality of Assets an online platform called mWaterdash Board gives insights about each asset created by the Department. It was revealed that as per the report generated on this dashboard 7,317 out of 7,562 CSCs stands verified and reported functional (100% verified).

Similarly, 2,585 out of 2,900 Segregation Sheds had been said to be verified and found functional (45% verified). About Plastic Waste Management Units 96 out of 131 verified assets are functional (100% verified). 560 dysfunctional/defunct units are currently

## ICAI - J&amp;K Branch (NIRC) hosts seminar on professional opportunities in UAE and IPO Pathway in India

J I NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 22, 2025:

The J&K Branch of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI), under the aegis of the Committee for Members in Industry and Business (CMI&B), successfully organized a seminar on "Professional Opportunities in UAE and IPO Pathway in India" at ICAI Bhawan, Canal Road, Jammu.

The seminar focused on equipping members with insights into emerging international career prospects and the evolving fundraising and IPO ecosystem in India. It drew a large number of members keen to explore cross-border professional avenues and capital market expertise.

Delivering the welcome address, CA Sourav Pargal, Chairman of the J&K Branch, emphasized the ICAI's continued efforts in enhancing interna-



tional career avenues for members. He underlined the growing relevance of Indian Chartered Accountants in global financial hubs and capital markets.

The seminar featured technical sessions by eminent speakers:

CA Kapil Talreja: Spoke on practice opportunities and professional scope for Indian CAs in Dubai/UAE, including current business dynamics and compliance requirements.

CA Pitam Goel: Delivered insights on IPO

advisory and fundraising opportunities for Chartered Accountants during SME and Mainboard listings.

Key themes included UAE's new corporate tax regime, global job markets, IPO preparation, and capital market roles for CAs.

The sessions were coordinated and conducted by CA Jatin Malhotra, Secretary of the Branch, who ensured effective member engagement throughout the day.

Concluding the event, CA Amit Gupta, Vice Chairman, extended a formal vote of thanks, appreciating the speakers, members, and the organizing team for making the seminar a rich learning experience.

The seminar underscored ICAI's commitment to professional excellence and global readiness—especially for members from regions like Jammu & Kashmir seeking to broaden their professional horizons.

being retrofitted for functionality.

It was given out that out of the total of 6,650 villages, 4,585 villages (69%) are covered by door-to-door garbage collection. User charges collected until December 2024 amounted to Rs 141.40 Lacs, with an additional Rs 32.14 Lacs collected in the first quarter of FY 2025-26. The UT has 874 procured and 84 hired collection vehicles.

The meeting was also apprised that extensive preparations had been made to ensure a clean, green, and sustainable Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra (SANJY) 2025, with a focus on robust sanitation measures including the deployment of 7,404 sanitation workers, installation of 5,613 toilets/baths, 15 waste management facilities, and 80 soak pits.

A dedicated IEC campaign using visuals, signage, and social media is being conducted along the yatra routes, complemented by a tech-enabled waste monitoring system via a web-cum-mobile application. As of July 2025, a total of 192.61 metric tonnes of waste has been collected which includes 125.75 MT from the Baltal Axis and 66.86 MT from the Pahalgam Axis.

Some of the SBM-G best practices showcasing innovative initiatives taken up by the Department includes ECO-KARIGARI (Waste to Wealth initiative), Sandesh-e-Swachta, PWMU facilitated under PMEGP, Public Park on Community Soak Pit, DEWAT System, a community-led greywater management unit and organic waste composting machine within the Central Jail Srinagar, run by trained inmates, converts 500 kg of solid waste into organic fertilizers daily.

Later on the Chief Secretary also took note of the functioning of Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushalya Yojana (DDU-GKY) scheme here. The scheme focuses on skill training and placement for rural poor youth in the age group of 18-35 years. The scheme provides placement-led skilling, with a focus on post-placement support, career progression, and sustainable employment.

The Chief Secretary impressed on the concerned to enhance the pace of implementation of this scheme here for the funds are available and the expenditure stands on the lower side. He also underscored the need for evaluation of both the quality and quantity of placements made under this programme.

The COO, Himayat, Rajneesh Gupta threw light on the implementation and success of this scheme here. He gave out that 17,000 placements had been made till date under this scheme. He assured that the expenditure would show an upward trend as the implementation has started gaining pace after initial phase of its operation in the UT—(KNO)

## "They never sought..."

The government will provide every possible assistance to the bereaved family," he said while responding to query about government support to the victim family. KNO

## "They never sought..."

themed "Empowering Education Leaders for Holistic Education."

Emphasizing the importance of reflection and course correction, the Chief Minister said, "The New Education Policy is now five years old. This is the time to evaluate where we have succeeded, where we have fallen short, and what more can be done to implement it better. A policy is only as effective as its application and understanding."

Terming the NEP-2020 a "magnificent and far-reaching" framework, Omar Abdullah stressed that real change will come only when the policy is understood in its true spirit and implemented with sensitivity to local needs and realities.

He said the future of Jammu and Kashmir will be shaped significantly by the educators, policymakers, and institutional leaders who guide the younger generation. "You will decide how capable our children will be in contributing to the development of J&K and the country at large. You will shape their competitiveness, confidence, and capacity," he added.

Pointing to persistent gaps in subject availability and staffing, the Chief Minister noted that many government schools and colleges are unable to offer a wide range of subjects due to faculty shortages. "In Jammu, only a few schools offer Urdu; in Kashmir, few offer Hindi. Even regional languages like Kashmiri, Dogri, or Punjabi are taught in very limited number of institutions. These gaps need to be filled gradually, within our available resources," he said.

He also addressed frequent comparisons between government and private schools, highlighting that government institutions operate in areas where private schools often do not venture. "Setting up a school in Srinagar is easy. Try opening one in Gurez, Tangdhar, or Machil. Our teachers work in extreme conditions, away from the spotlight, and deserve recognition," he stated.

Commending the spirit of innovation among students, the Chief Minister appreciated the exhibition held at the venue where students showcased practical solutions to real-life problems—ranging from water conservation, low-plastic alternatives, climate change awareness, to winter-specific water pipe systems.

"Our children don't lack talent; they lack exposure and opportunities. Their creativity, thinking, and innovation give us hope that we are moving in the right direction," he said.

Omar Abdullah also emphasized the importance of inclusivity in education. "Every child—regardless of physical or learning challenges—deserves a chance to learn. Are our schools truly inclusive and accessible to all? This workshop is a good step in that direction," he said.

Speaking about the dynamic nature of education discourse, the Chief Minister observed that decisions regarding school holidays, exam schedules, and even online learning often spark debates in every household, reflecting the deep connection society has with the education system.

He acknowledged the challenges posed by the digital divide and affirmed that as the government's financial capacity improves, efforts to bridge that divide will be intensified.

The Chief Minister said, "The future of Jammu and Kashmir is in the hands of our educators. You are not just teaching curriculum—you are shaping citizens, instilling values, and building futures. Let us work together to make our education system more resilient, inclusive, and transformative."

The Chief Minister congratulated the organizers for holding the conference and expressed hope that such engagements will continue to inspire positive change across the education landscape of Jammu and Kashmir.

Earlier, Chief Minister Omar Abdullah visited the exhibition stalls set up by various government schools, showcasing innovative models and live demonstrations prepared by students and teachers.

Minister for Education, Sakina Itoo, also spoke on the occasion and said that one of the foremost priorities of the government, soon after its formation, was to reform the education system to make it more equitable, inclusive, and future-ready.

Vice Chancellor of the Islamic University of Science & Technology (IUST), Prof. Shakeel Romshoo, and Secretary, School Education, Ram Niwas Sharma also addressed the conference, sharing insights on the implementation and impact of NEP-2020.

The event was attended by Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Dheeraj Gupta, Managing Director & CEO of J&K Bank, Amitava Chatterjee, Director of The Times of India Group, Rohit Sharma, Director School Education Kashmir, Dr. G.N. Itoo, along with senior officers, senior officials of the Education Department, Chief Education Officers, school principals, masters, teachers, NEP experts, students, and other stakeholders.

On the occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also signed between IUST and the Directorate of School Education, Kashmir, to foster academic collaboration and strengthen school-university linkages. KNO

## Javed Rana reviews implementation of RDSS in Poonch

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 22

Minister for Jal Shakti, Forest, Ecology & Environment and Tribal Affairs, Javed Ahmed Rana, today conducted a comprehensive review of implementation of Revamped Distribution Sector Scheme (RDSS) in Poonch district.

The meeting, held at Civil Secretariat, Jammu was specifically aimed at assessing the progress and quality of work being executed under RDSS. This is a critical initiative strategically designed to transform the power distribution sector in J&K especially in the hilly district Poonch, which is vulnerable to flash floods and landslides.

The meeting was attended by key officials, including Shrikant Balasaheb Suse Managing Director, Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Limited (JPDCL), Mumtaz Ahmed, Chief Engineer (Projects) & Secretary (Technical) and K K Thapa, Chief Engineer, JPDCL besides other concerned officers.



The discussions were focused on identifying and addressing the existing issues, as well as chalking out a proactive way forward to ensure successful implementation of RDSS in Poonch.

During the review, the Minister explicitly directed the Managing Director to ensure that there is absolutely no compromise with the quality of work, mandating that all projects must meticulously meet the stipulated standards.

Specific areas of concern that were thoroughly identified and deliberated upon during the review encompassed the alleged improper installation of critical infrastructure, including poles, transformers and service lines.

approvals, to ensure strict adherence to established protocols.

The Minister placed particular emphasis on ensuring safe work practices by the contractors and workers, mandating the installation of proper earthing and protective devices to pre-empt any public safety risks associated with exposed or improperly installed wires.

Additionally, the Minister expressed significant concern over delays in the conduct of surveys and the progress of ongoing projects, which are pivotal to the timely completion and ultimate success of the RDSS initiatives in Poonch.

The Minister reaffirmed the imperative necessity for immediate corrective action to address the identified shortcomings. This will ensure that all RDSS projects are executed with the highest possible quality standards, unwavering transparency and strict adherence to safety protocols, ultimately aiming to benefit the people, he added.

The Minister directed the Managing Director to rigorously ensure that all construction materials strictly conform to the approved Bill of Materials (BOM) and specifications, thereby safeguarding the durability and reliability of the infrastructure being constructed.

Furthermore, the Minister explicitly instructed that all equipment installations must be conducted with proper quality assurance testing and thorough inspection to ensure utmost safety and efficacy of the systems. He also underscored the critical importance of preventing deviations from the Detailed Project Report (DPR) scope without obtaining proper

## Awareness prog. on 'Tips for online safety/ safety sessions' under BBBP held at A.S College Srinagar

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

Department of Social Welfare, SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women-Mission Shakti Srinagar today organized an awareness programme on 'Tips for online safety/safety sessions' at Amar Singh College Srinagar under Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

The programme was organized to raise technology awareness among students as they use it more extensively and are thus more prone to various online risks such as cyberbullying, online harassment, identity theft, and exposure to inappropriate content.



It aimed to promote online safety among students, which involves educating them on how to stay safe and secure online and how to protect their personal information. By promoting online safety, it can help students develop responsible digital citizen-

ship skills and reduce the risks of online harm.

The event witnessed the presence of the Resource Persons (Experts) from Cyber Police Srinagar and the experts from District Legal Services Authority Srinagar, students, faculty of the Amar Singh College

Srinagar and the staff from SANKALP- Hub for Empowerment of Women Srinagar.

The experts interacted with the students and shared different tips for staying safe online, and legal perspective of Cybercrimes was also discussed. They emphasized the precautions which need to be taken to protect oneself and others from online threats and risks such as cyberbullying, identity theft, and online predators.

As students spend more time online, it becomes essential to teach them how to protect their personal information, use social media responsibly, and recognize and respond to online dangers.

## D&FCO suspends Licenses of 2 Pharma stores for unethical trade practices

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
JAMMU, JULY 22

In continuation to its efforts to curb the unlawful distribution and misuse of habit-forming drugs, Drugs & Food Control Organisation (D&FCO) J&K has taken stringent action against pharmaceutical establishments found violating the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Surprise inspections of the Pharma establishments

were conducted & during the inspections, two pharma establishments were found indulging in clandestine purchase & sale of habit-forming pharmaceutical preparations, mainly comprising of Tapentadol & Pregabalin from neighbouring states without maintaining mandatory sale/purchase records.

Accordingly, Drug sale licences of M/s Aatir Enterprises, Ganjwara, Anantnag & M/s Pharma Plus

Medicare, Kheora, Rajouri have been cancelled for indulging in unethical trade practices after issuing Show Cause Notices to them.

State Drugs Controller Lotika Khajuria has reiterated that the Government of Jammu & Kashmir is committed to regulate the sale of scheduled drugs and strict compliance by all retail and wholesale drug license holders shall be ensured. Surprise inspection, digital tracking of medicine

inventories and inter-agency coordination are being intensified. Strict penal action, including license cancellation and prosecution, will be ensured against those who endanger lives for profit.

The Public at large is requested to report any incidence of unethical practices involving sale or misuse of prescription drugs to the department's helpline at controllerdrugsfoodjk@gmail.com.

## Handicrafts & Handloom deptt Kashmir organizes CBP on Branding and Packaging under RAMP

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, being the Implementing Agency under the World Bank-supported Raising and Accelerating MSME Performance (RAMP) programme, successfully conducted one-day Capacity Building Programme (CBP) on Branding and Packaging at the Conference Hall, Exhibition Ground, Srinagar.

This workshop is fourth

in the series of Capacity Building Programmes under RAMP.

The session was designed to equip artisans and weavers with practical insights and strategies for effective product branding and modern packaging—critical components in enhancing market reach and competitiveness in both domestic and international markets.

Training was conducted by experts and faculty from the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIIFT), who shared hands-on guid-

ance, case studies, and design approaches.

Over 100 artisans and producers, particularly those engaged in G.I./ODOP/DEH products enthusiastically participated in the event.

Programme aimed to empower grassroots craft producers by introducing them to evolving consumer preferences, branding tools, and value-added packaging techniques.

This initiative is part of a broader series of capacity-building efforts under

the RAMP scheme aimed at strengthening MSMEs and the artisan community of Kashmir by improving product positioning and market access.

Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir remains committed to providing ongoing support to artisan clusters, cooperatives, and entrepreneurs through training, infrastructure, and market linkages to ensure sustainable livelihoods and the global recognition of the region's rich craft heritage.

## DC Poonch reviews pending Change of Land Use cases

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
POONCH, JULY 22

Deputy Commissioner Poonch Vikas Kundal today reviewed the pending applications related to Change of Land Use (CLU) permissions here at a meeting of District Level Committee.

The meeting was convened to assess the performance of the stakeholder departments involved in processing these cases and



to ensure a streamlined mechanism for the timely issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs).

A total of 23 CLU cases were placed before the Committee. Out of these, 2 cases were approved, 9

cases were rejected on various grounds, 3 were reverted for further clarification, and 9 cases were deferred for next meeting.

The Deputy Commissioner emphasized the importance of transparency and efficiency in dealing with land-related applications and directed all departments to expedite the processing of genuine cases while maintaining due diligence.

## District Capex 2025-26 plan proposals reviewed at Reasi

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
REASI, JULY 22

District Development Commissioner (DDC) Reasi Nidhi Malik chaired a meeting today to review the Draft District Capex Plan 2025-26. The meeting involved a detailed discussion on department-wise proposals under UT Component, ABDP, APDP and Area Development Fund. Key sectors like education, health, municipality and others were covered, with a focus on strengthening grassroots-level infrastructure.

During the review, DDC Nidhi Malik conducted a thorough scrutiny of the proposed works and emphasized that the plan



must prioritize community-oriented development over individual-centric benefits. She directed all officials to submit proposals with clear justifications, site photographs and the expected outcomes of each project.

The DDC instructed Block Development Officers (BDOs) to ensure all proposals are vetted and approved through the Gram Sabha before finalization of the Capex

Plan. She also stressed the importance of timely execution and regular monitoring of the works post-approval, urging departments to prioritize projects under the Capex Plan 2025-26.

Furthermore, DDC Malik directed all departments to verify that the proposed works are free from land disputes and forest clearance issues, to avoid delays in execution. She underscored

the need for departments to align with key performance indicators under ABDP, APDP and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through realistic and inclusive planning.

The meeting was attended by ADDC Sukhdev Singh Samyal, CPO Narinder Kumar, ACD Vijay Kumar, CMO, CEO, Executive Engineers of PWD and Jal Shakti, all BDOs and other concerned officers.

## DC Kulgam chairs meeting of Bharat Scouts and Guides

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
KULGAM, JULY 22

A district-level meeting on Bharat Scouts and Guides (BSG) was held today under the Chairmanship of Deputy Commissioner (DC) Kulgam, Athar Aamir Khan in his office chamber, here.

During the meeting, Secretary BSG gave a brief about the activities of the Bharat Scouts and Guides in Kulgam.

DC, who is also the ex-officio President of the Bharat Scouts and Guides in the district spoke about the importance and the key



role that scouts and guides can play, and passed on directions to increase the participation and involvement of Scouts and Guides in the district. He also instructed to launch membership drives, and to encourage more and more students and youth to become Scouts and Guides. It was further directed

that regular meetings will be conducted on a quarterly basis to ensure the smooth functioning and expansion of scouting activities in the district. Kulgam district will also organize a district-level Scouts and Guides camp next month to promote discipline, leadership, and youth engagement.

The meeting held a threadbare discussion regarding the calendar activities and strengthening the BSG at district level.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kulgam, ASP Kulgam, Dy CEO, and a representative from DYSSO, along with members of Bharat Scouts and Guides Kulgam.

## ARTO Bandipora organises free Health camps for drivers, transporters

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
BANDIPORA, JULY 22

In a bid to promote the health and well-being of the transport community, Assistant Regional Transport Office (ARTO) Bandipora, in collaboration with the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora, organised free health checkup camps in the Sumbal and Gurez sub-divisions of the district.

The camps were well-attended, with over 200 drivers receiving free medical checkups and health screenings conducted by trained medical staff.

On the occasion, representatives of the transporters and drivers' associations expressed gratitude



to the CMO and ARTO Bandipora for organising the much-needed medical outreach.

Speaking on the occasion, ARTO Bandipora, underscored the impor-

tance of regular health checkups for drivers. He emphasised that ensuring the physical fitness of drivers not only safeguards their personal health but also contributes to overall

road safety.

He added that these camps are part of a broader effort to strengthen welfare measures and support services for the district's transport community.

## Power Shutdown

**JI NEWS SERVICE**  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

According to the Chief Engineer, Distribution, KPDCCL, in order to facilitate shifting of electrical utilities, shut-

down of 33 KV Kupwara Old line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving Stations at Krusen, Sogam, Khumriyal, Diver, Machil shall remain off while power supply to Krusen, Sogam,

Khumriyal, Diver, Machil and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 26 & 28 July, 2025. Similarly, shutdown of 33KV MES line shall be observed due to which 33/11KV Receiving

Station at MES shall remain off while power supply to Krusen, Sogam, Khumriyal, Diver, Machil and adjoining areas will be affected from 08:00 AM to 01:00 PM on 24 & 26 July, 2025.

## EDITORIAL

## Rare praise for govt schools

At a time when glossy private school advertisements often shape public perception, it takes grounded leadership and lived experience to shift the narrative—and that is exactly what Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah did during the Educational Summit at SKICC. In his candid and impassioned remarks, the CM shed overdue light on a truth often neglected in mainstream discourse: the unmatched dedication and resilience of teachers in government schools, especially those working in the most remote and difficult terrains of the region. It is easy to sit in urban comfort and compare government-run schools with elite private institutions boasting air-conditioned classrooms and state-of-the-art infrastructure. But the comparison, as rightly pointed out by Omar Abdullah, is not only unfair—it is fundamentally flawed. Private schools operate where business allows—dense populations, affluent neighbourhoods, and guaranteed returns. Government schools, however, shoulder the responsibility of inclusion, reaching the last child in the last village, often at a steep cost and in conditions that test the limits of human perseverance. Who will open a private school in Karnah, Gurez, Machhill, or Tangdhar? It is the government alone that extends the promise of education to these untouched corners of the map. And behind every classroom that opens its doors in these forgotten regions, there stands a teacher who has braved isolation, unpredictable weather, lack of infrastructure, and personal hardship—not for profit, not for prestige, but for the fundamental belief that education can change lives. The seasonal schools in the highlands, where educators travel and live with nomadic communities to ensure continuity in learning, are a testimony to the deep commitment of these silent warriors. In a country often obsessed with numbers, rankings, and board results, these efforts seldom find their due appreciation. But as the CM rightly noted, these teachers are not just educators—they are social architects working against the odds to build a future for children who would otherwise be forgotten. Furthermore, what was especially heartening during the summit was the emphasis on environmental consciousness among government school students—rainwater harvesting, reducing plastic usage, and sustainable practices. These are not just textbook concepts; they are life skills that reflect a changing consciousness, fostered by dedicated teachers who are going beyond syllabus and blackboards to prepare environmentally responsible citizens. Yes, there are challenges within the government school system. Yes, reforms are needed. But blanket criticism, often based on selective comparisons, serves no one. What we need is recognition, investment, and encouragement—so that these schools not only survive but thrive, even in the remotest corners. Let us not wait for the day when a child from a far-off village cracks a national exam to celebrate the government school system. Let us celebrate it now—for its presence where no one else goes, for its teachers who serve without applause, and for its children who dream despite every limitation. It's time we replaced condescension with gratitude and criticism with constructive support. In the heart of the Himalayas, in forgotten valleys and rugged mountains, education is not just a right—it is a triumph. And that triumph is carried on the shoulders of our government school teachers.

## India's Space journey enlivens Common Man's horizon



DR. JITENDRA SINGH

It began with a crack—barely visible, tucked away in the weld joint of a pressure feedline on a Falcon-9 booster. A minor flaw, perhaps, in the grand machinery of spaceflight. But for India, it was a moment of reckoning. Our scientists at ISRO, vigilant and uncompromising, demanded answers. They insisted on repairs, not workarounds. And in doing so, they didn't just protect a mission—they safeguarded a dream.

That dream took flight on June 25, 2025, when Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, an Indian Air Force officer and ISRO-trained astronaut, soared into orbit aboard the Axiom-4 mission. Docking with the International

Space Station (ISS) a day later, he became the face of India's next great leap—not just into space, but into the future of human-centric science, medicine, and technology.

This wasn't a ceremonial voyage. It was a scientific crusade. Shukla carried with him seven microgravity experiments, each meticulously designed by Indian researchers to answer questions that matter—not just to astronauts, but to farmers, doctors, engineers, and students across our nation.

Consider the sprouting of methi and moong seeds in space. It sounds simple, almost poetic. But its implications are profound. In the confined quarters of a spacecraft, where every gram of nutrition counts, understanding how Indian crops behave in microgravity could redefine crew diets for long-duration missions. More importantly, it could inspire innovations in vertical farming and hydroponics back on Earth, especially in regions

battling soil degradation and water scarcity.

Then there's the study of Indian tardigrades—microscopic creatures known for their resilience. Revived from dormancy, these tiny organisms were observed for survival, reproduction, and genetic expression in space. Their behavior could unlock secrets of biological endurance, informing everything from vaccine development to climate-resilient agriculture.

Shukla also conducted a myogenesis experiment, examining how human muscle cells respond to space conditions and nutritional supplements. The findings could revolutionize treatments for muscular degeneration, benefiting not just astronauts but elderly patients and those recovering from trauma.

Other ongoing experiments include the growth of cyanobacteria—organisms that could one day support life-support systems in space—and

the passive exposure of Indian crop seeds like rice, cowpea, sesame, brinjal, and tomato to microgravity. These seeds will be cultivated across generations to study inherited changes, potentially leading to new crop varieties adapted to extreme environments.

Even human-machine interaction was put to the test. Shukla performed web-based assessments to understand how microgravity affects our ability to interact with electronic displays—a crucial insight for designing intuitive interfaces for future space stations and spacecraft.

These are not abstract pursuits. They are deeply rooted in the Indian ethos of science for society. Every experiment aboard Axiom-4 carries the potential to touch lives on Earth—whether it's a tribal farmer in Odisha, a schoolchild in Shillong, or a frontline doctor in Ladakh.

The mission also showcased India's growing

stature in global space diplomacy. Our insistence on safety protocols led SpaceX to identify and repair a potentially catastrophic flaw. Our collaboration with NASA, ESA, and Axiom Space reflects a new era of equal partnership, where India is not just participating but leading.

Throughout the mission, ISRO's flight surgeons monitored Shukla's health, ensuring his physical and psychological well-being. He remained in high spirits, interacting with students across India—from Lucknow to Trivandrum, Bangalore to Shillong—igniting young minds with the possibilities of science and space.

Shukla has since returned, and he brings back with him the rich wealth of data, samples, and insights he brings back will fuel India's upcoming Gaganyaan mission and the Bharat Space Station.

This is not just about one astronaut. It's about a nation rising. It's about

transforming space science into public service. It's about ensuring that the benefits of microgravity research reach every corner of India—from satellite internet in remote villages to regenerative medicine in urban hospitals.

In the words of our Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Gaganyaan is about placing an Indian in space by Indian means. Axiom-4 is the rehearsal, the proof of concept, the bridge between aspiration and achievement.

And as we look up at the stars, we do so not with awe alone, but with intent. Because for India, the sky is not the limit—it is the laboratory.

**Dr. Jitendra Singh is a Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology; Earth Sciences and Minister of State for PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions**

## India must resist US pressure on trade

JAGDISH RATTANANI

India is in the midst of negotiations for a trade deal with the United States under an environment of unpredictability laced with unabashed and overt arm-twisting that has become the signature call of that nation under the leadership of President Donald Trump. These are understandably difficult negotiations, and a lot is at stake given that the US remains one of the most significant trade partners of India, reflected in the trade numbers but also in deep ties seen through the lens of the large and vibrant Indian community in the US and the number of Indians who still flock to the US for work, tourism or to study.

The US has extended the deadline for a trade deal from July 9 to August 1 under the threat of punitive tariffs of 26% if an agreement is not reached by then. The extension signals hope and optimism that a deal is possible and workable, but it equally signals that the US side is pushing hard to see if India will bend under pressure.

Another explanation is that the extension in itself is

a case of 'TACO', or 'Trump Always Chickens Out', given that blanket tariffs on the rest of the world as envisaged by the US are not sustainable. But this is less likely with the dominant mood in Washington being to push hard, unmindful of the consequences, and India not being in a very strong position to dictate terms. Further, the US has extracted significant concessions from others, including the UK, and would demand that India, too, fall in line.

Of course, the people of India would expect the country not to bend to anything unreasonable, even though making such demands has become the currency of the US. In this context, it is good to delink the success or failure of a trade deal with the performance or the influence of the government under Narendra Modi. In other words, this government should ignore image management within the nation vis a vis the trade deal and take tough calls that protect Indian interests even if this runs the risk of not having a trade deal. We may have a deal and be worse off as a nation if India allows concessions and gives in

where it should not; we may equally not have a trade deal and be worse off in different ways since tariffs will impact trade and hurt India and its exports.

The latter will create disruption in the immediate, but it has chances of some mitigation with the US in a trade war against all that will likely bring some reversals over time since its own economy will not be able to take the hit of tariffs beyond a point. Besides, this will be a signal to the world that India will not and should not be pushed.

Having a trade deal by granting undue concessions to the US can be far worse since it may open Indian markets in ways and to products and services that will have deep and long-lasting impacts on the nation. The risks are many, but they will take their toll long after the deal is signed, so this is the space to be more watchful. Powerful US lobbies sitting close to if not right within the White House are at work pushing for what India will see as undue concessions.

In this context, two hot button items that appear to have emerged are the US push for exports of GM crops and exports of cow

milk to India. None of these are new demands. Both are red lines that cannot be crossed and should not be crossed. They cannot be part of discussions if the Indian side makes it clear that no negotiations on these are possible.

For example, India requires that dairy products used as food must be from animals that are not given blood meals or given feeds containing internal organs or tissues of ruminant or porcine origin. This is a perfectly fair and reasonable requirement - cows and buffaloes used for milk production are herbivores and must not be given any animal products as food.

Further, milk in the Indian context is culturally sensitive given that it is used for religious offerings and in sweets for auspicious occasions. Which Indian would like milk that comes from a source that is fed organs or blood? Yet, the US position as articulated in the US '2025 National Trade Estimate Report on Foreign Trade Barriers (FTB)' is that Indian requirements "lack a discernible animal health or human health justification".

This is one small part of a larger problem, one that

the US wants to dump its excess produce which itself is achieved through intensive methods and a growing chemicalisation of the industry. Such a sectoral opening will kill the Indian dairy sector. It will mix up imported US milk that contains recombinant bovine growth hormone (rBGH), which is approved in the US since 1993 to increase milk production in cows but is banned in the European Union and Canada.

Milk and meat from these sources have higher levels of IGF-1, a growth hormone which at high levels is said to be linked to prostate, breast, colorectal and other cancers though the linkage is not definitive, according to the American Cancer Society.

On GM crops, the Alliance for Sustainable and Holistic Agriculture or ASHA-Kisan Swaraj network which brings together farmers and agriculturists has written to the government appealing against any concessions to the US. In a letter, the alliance said: "We write to you with grave concern over reports that the government ... is under pressure to allow the import of GM crops and

US milk and dairy products into India. We strongly urge you to stand firm and unequivocally reject any such move, which would have serious and irreparable implications for India's agriculture, biosafety, public health, rural livelihoods, and seed and food sovereignty." These are real concerns and the government must assure the nation that it will not give in.

The US wants much more than this. Take the example of stent prices, which were capped in India when the regulators found that price inflation was as high as 200%. Everyone made merry while patients suffered, till the caps came in. The US in the 2025 FTB report has argued that "price controls (on coronary stents and knee implants) have not been increased in line with inflation and do not differentiate on the basis of the cost of production or technological innovation, which dissuades U.S. companies from serving the market."

The drift is clear. The US wants to extract if not extort. India must resist.

SOURCE: THE BILLION PRESS

## Unsafe at work: Break the silence and improve competitiveness

AJIT RANADE

Let's look at three recent events which symbolise workers' plight due to lack of safety at the workplace. On June 30, in Telangana's worst industrial mishap, 46 people died, eight are still in hospital and another eight are still missing, some possibly charred beyond recognition. This human tragedy in an industrial area, was caused by the explosion of a reactor in a chemical plant, heard several kilometres away. To call it an accident absolves the management of the neglect of proper maintenance, or not adhering to safety protocols. In the same Sangareddy district alone, 25 workers died within a four month period in 2024. The cases of injuries or near fatal cases, which have not been reported can only be guessed. But Sangareddy is just an illustrative case, not an isolated one, across the country.

Now consider another "accident". On June 7, In the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation (MIDC) area near Pirangut on the outskirts of Pune city, 18 workers were charred to death, 15 being women, in a deadly fire in a chemical factory. As per the investigation by some intrepid labour activists, it was revealed that the workers were not even aware they were handling hazardous chemicals. They were marked by codes masking the true name of the chemicals. It was revealed that the women workers were paid less than minimum wage.

The vulnerable are exploited, have job insecurity and face the most unsafe and risky conditions. This company was in operation since 2012, but got registered only in 2020. It also managed to obtain an ISO 9001 certification for quality management. No inspector ever visited the factory till this "accident" happened.

This cannot be attributed to ease of doing business.

While EODB has shifted the onus to self-certification on the owners and managers of factories, it surely does not mean complete abdication of inspection, especially of worker safety in hazardous industries. It is made worse by the management's greed and corner-cutting, like disabling safety sensors, or running the presses at higher speeds to achieve sales targets.

The third event is the launch of a report called "Crushed". This is India's only long running evidence based report published by Safe in India (SII), an NGO dedicated to improving worker safety in India's manufacturing sector, particularly the automotive and auto-component industry, which accounts for one third of the manufacturing sector GDP. SII founded in 2016 by Sandeep Sachdeva and his colleagues, works for workers' rights, putting

pressure on auto brands to improve safety for over 10 million workers in that industry. SII's work has increased worker awareness about the Employees State Insurance scheme and the ESIC role. Their work is data driven, painstaking and based on authentic testimonies of workers.

Over the past seven years SII has helped 10,000 workers access ESIC benefits, but this still represents only 40 percent of the victims. In the last few years the vendors to top ten auto brands accounted for the crushed fingers of 2333 workers. This work breaks the silence around injuries showing its true scale with official statistics. It also throws up laughable anomalies. For instance the source of data could be from two arms of the government, the labour ministry and the insurance corporation.

In Haryana routinely the ministry reports the number of injuries around

40 to 50 per year for several years. But the ESIC claims benefits are going to nearly a thousand workers. And this is with only 40 percent awareness among workers. It is clear that thousands of workers are getting killed or maimed across the automotive sector, and the official silence must be broken.

Thankfully the Economic Survey of this year has highlighted the issue of workplace safety. It says that Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) regulations are not to be seen as burdensome expenses but as strategic investment. The SII estimates that the country loses up to 4 percent of GDP due to neglect of safety. India ranks a low 133 in global labour productivity, and this rank is directly correlated with inadequate OSH standards and poor working conditions.

India's rank is significantly below China, Vietnam and Mexico. Invest-

ment in safety and OSH protocols not only improve the life of the worker and her family, but raise productivity, morale and improve the trust between workers and management. For the factories it reduces absenteeism, medical expenses and penalties for non-compliance. Frequent shutdowns due to crushed fingers can disrupt supply schedules and reduce competitiveness.

The lesson from neighbouring Bangladesh is telling. In 2013 an eight story building housing garment factories collapsed in the Rana Plaza, and 1134 people died. This shocking incident led to drastic changes, including the putting in place the Accord on Fire and Building Safety, which led to the training of 1.4 million workers. It was certainly a factor which increased Bangladesh's garment sector competitiveness and its exports outpaced even India and Vietnam.

Even Chile and Costa

Rica experienced strong labour productivity growth due to improved OSH standards and reduced occupational injuries. Economic theory also suggests that investing in worker safety and occupational health leads to reaping benefits of higher productivity, motivation, loyalty and possibly lower absenteeism. Management's demonstrated and visible commitment is important.

The most ironic thing about the provision of workplace injury and death benefits or compensation is this. The Employee State Insurance scheme was established by the ESIC Act of 1948, the same year as the setting up of the National Health Scheme of the United Kingdom. Both aim to provide universal social security and healthcare (in case of India to workers, and in UK to all citizens). The present reality is that almost all citizens have access and get benefits from the NHS whereas for the ESIC,

many workers are not even aware of their rights and benefits. In design the ESIC is one of the finest schemes in the world, but in implementation it falls very short.

The way forward is clear. There should be complete transparency in data reporting on accidents and fatalities, making it consistent across ESIC and labour department. Compliance of safety and OSH protocols must be incentive based. There should be public private partnership (through NGO's if necessary) to increase worker awareness about rights and safety. The top brands must be made accountable for practices in their vendors, across the supply chain.

Finally let us note that worker safety does not merely have an instrumental value but is ultimately a moral and ethical commitment too.

SOURCE: THE BILLION PRESS

## Why early menopause raises risk of depression in some women

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Severity of menopause symptoms and lack of emotional support are likely reasons why some women experience depression during early menopause, finds a study on Wednesday.

Premature menopause, medically known as premature or primary ovarian insufficiency (POI), is a condition in which the ovaries cease to function normally before the age of 40. It has been linked to an elevated lifetime risk for depression and anxiety.

Affected women not only experience the effects of oestrogen deficiency, but they also experience the unanticipated loss of reproductive function. However, some women are more adversely affected by depression and anxiety by these changes than others.

The study, published online in the journal Meno-



pause, suggests that risk factors include younger age at diagnosis, severity of menopause symptoms, lack of emotional support, and fertility-related grief.

"The high prevalence of depressive symptoms in those with POI highlights the importance of routine screening in this vulnerable population," said Dr. Monica Christmas, associ-

ate medical director for The Menopause Society.

"Addressing behavioural-health concerns with evidence-based interventions should be part of any comprehensive POI care plan," Christmas added.

The study based on 345 women with POI found that the prevalence of depressive symptoms was

29.9 per cent. No significant difference was found in depressive symptoms between women using oestrogen plus progestogen therapy and those not using the therapy.

The use of hormone therapy or levels of oestradiol were not associated with depressive symptoms.

"Although hormone therapy is recognised as the standard of care for those with POI for management of some menopause-related symptoms and preventive care, it is not a first-line treatment for mood disorders," said Christmas.

"This was evident in this study in which there was no difference in depressive symptoms between those using hormones and those not using hormone therapy. Addressing behavioural-health concerns with evidence-based interventions should be part of any comprehensive POI care plan," she added.

## India pharma market sees 11.5pc growth in June over surge in acute therapy: Report

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The India pharma market (IPM) grew at a strong rate of 11.5 per cent year-on-year (YoY) in June, due to a surge in acute therapies, according to a new report on Wednesday.

In comparison, in June last year, the IPM recorded 7 per cent growth. In May 2025, the pharma market grew 6.9 per cent, revealed the monthly report by Motilal Oswal Financial Services.

It noted that the latest growth was driven by a strong show in segments such as respiratory, cardiac, central nervous system (CNS), and pain therapies, which outperformed IPM in June.

Acute therapy growth stood at 11 per cent in June (vs. 7 per cent in June 2024 and 5 per cent in May 2025) owing to seasonality. Notably, anti-infectives showed considerable recovery in YoY



growth in June vs prior months.

Price (4.2 per cent), followed by new launches (2.3 per cent) and volume growth (1.5 per cent) drove the growth of IPM in the last 12 months, the report said.

Further, the industry also reported 8 per cent YoY growth on a moving annual turnover (MAT) basis.

Chronic therapies witnessed 10 per cent YoY growth, while acute thera-

pies posted 6.8 per cent YoY growth. While cardiac therapies grew the most YOY (11.8 per cent), it was followed by CNS (9.1 per cent), and derma (8.6 per cent).

Anti-infectives and respiratory segment underperformed IPM by 290basis points/250bp on a YoY basis.

The acute segment's share in overall IPM stood at 60.8 per cent for MAT June, with YoY growth of 6.8 per cent, the report

said. Moreover, the report noted that domestic companies outperformed multi-national pharma companies (MNCs) in June.

As of June, Indian pharma companies hold a majority share of 84 per cent in IPM, while the remaining is held by MNCs. While Indian companies grew 11.6 per cent in Jun'25, MNCs grew 11.2 per cent YoY, the report said.

## Hearing loss, loneliness accelerates dementia risk in elderly: Study

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Hearing loss combined with the feelings of loneliness accelerates cognitive decline, leading to dementia in older adults, according to a study.

Researchers from the University of Geneva (UNIGE) in Switzerland showed that isolation, communication difficulties, reduced alertness, and hearing impairment or loss are a real challenge in daily life.

The findings, published in the journal Communications Psychology, showed that hearing loss accelerates cognitive decline, particularly among individuals who feel lonely, regardless of whether they are socially isolated.

"We found that people who were not socially isolated but who felt lonely saw their cognitive decline accelerate when they were deaf," said Matthias Klieg-



el, professor in the Cognitive Ageing Laboratory in UNIGE.

The team analysed data from 33,000 older adults across 12 countries in Europe to examine the combined impact of hearing loss and loneliness on memory.

They found three distinct profiles based on the degree of social isolation and perceived loneliness: individuals who are socially isolated and feel lonely; individuals who are not

socially isolated but still feel lonely; and individuals who are socially isolated but do not feel lonely.

The study supports the importance of addressing both hearing loss and the social and emotional dimensions of individuals in efforts to prevent cognitive decline.

This is particularly crucial for people who are not socially isolated but still feel lonely -- in such cases, simple hearing interventions, like using a hearing

aid, may be enough to help them engage more fully in social life, the researchers said.

"These individuals are already socially integrated, so it's a matter of removing a sensory barrier in order to reinforce their engagement and protect their cognitive health," said Charikleia Lampraki, postdoctoral researcher in the Lifespan Lab at UNIGE.

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), nearly 2.5 billion people will experience hearing loss or impairment by 2050.

More than 25 per cent of people over the age of 60 experience a disabling hearing impairment. In addition to the social challenges, this loss -- or reduction -- can increase the risk of cognitive decline by two to three times, said the team, stressing the need for early and preventive hearing care.

## Salt consumption among Indians exceed WHO limit, raises stroke, kidney disease risk: ICMR

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

Indians consume salt 2.2 times more than the amount recommended by the World Health Organization (WHO), posing severe health risks such as hypertension, strokes, and kidney disease, among others, according to ICMR's National Institute of Epidemiology.

WHO recommends less than 5 grams per day of salt (roughly under a teaspoon) or below 2g of sodium per day.

However, "the mean salt consumption per day by an Indian is 11 grams per day, which is 2.2 times more than the WHO recommendation", the ICMR-NIE said.

According to the apex research body, regular iodised salt contains 40 per cent of sodium, much higher than the WHO limit. The WHO also suggests the use of low-sodi-



um salt to ward off the risk.

"Major salt source is hidden in Indian diet and the hidden salt is fuelling a real risk," said the scientists at the ICMR-NIE. They pointed out common eatables such as pickles, pappad, namkeen, biscuits and cookies, bread, vada pav, chips, instant noodles, and canned and packaged foods as potential sources for excess salt.

"Excess levels of sodium are dangerous, as an estimated 1.89 million deaths each year worldwide are associated with consuming too much sodium," the research body said.

"Too much salt in diet raises blood sodium, triggers water retention, increases blood volume, raises blood pressure (hypertension), leading to stroke, cardiovascular disease, kidney disease, osteoporosis, and obesity," it explained.

To address the issue, the ICMR-NIE has initiated Project Namak (salt) -- a community-led salt reduction study. The three-year intervention project, launched in Punjab and Telangana, will evaluate the effectiveness of structured salt reduction counselling, delivered by health workers at Health

and Wellness Centres (HWCs), in reducing blood pressure and sodium intake among individuals with hypertension.

The project suggests the use of low-sodium salt (LSS) -- dietary salts where Sodium (Na) is replaced with Potassium (K) or Magnesium (Mg). "Switching to LSS can lower blood pressure by an average of 7/4 mmHg (millimeters of mercury)," the scientists noted.

"However, LSS is not recommended for people with kidney disease or those on potassium-restricted diets," they added.

Sodium intake can also be reduced by eating mostly fresh, minimally processed foods, cooking with little or no added sodium/salt, limiting the use of commercial sauces, dressings, and instant products, and limiting the consumption of processed foods.

## Study decodes eye contact for human-robot communication

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI

The timing of eye contact is key to how we communicate with both humans and robots, revealed a study led by Australian researchers on Wednesday.

Researchers from Flinders University found that not just making eye contact, but when and how it's done, fundamentally shapes how we understand others, including robots, according to a statement from the HAVIC Lab (Human, Artificial + Virtual Interactive Cognition), Xinhua news agency reported.

"Our findings have helped to decode one of our most instinctive behaviours and how it can be used to build better connections, whether you're talking to a teammate, a robot, or someone who communicates differently," said cognitive neuroscientist Nathan Caruana, who led the HAVIC



Lab. In a study with 137 participants, researchers found that a specific gaze sequence -- looking at an object, making eye contact, then returning to the object -- was the most effective non-verbal way to signal a request for help.

Caruana said it's the context and sequence of eye movements, not just how often they occur, that make them meaningful, with participants respond-

ing similarly to humans and robots alike.

He said humans naturally respond to social cues, even from machines, and that understanding these signals can strengthen connections with both people and technology.

The study, published in the London-based Royal Society Open Science, suggests that adding human-like gaze to robots and virtual assistants could make them more intuitive and effective communicators.

Beyond robotics, the findings could enhance communication in high-stakes settings such as sports, defense, and noisy workplaces, and support those who rely on visual cues, including autistic or hearing-impaired individuals.

The HAVIC Lab is now exploring how factors like gaze duration, repetition, and beliefs about a partner's identity (human or AI-driven) affect eye contact perception, according to the team.

## New AI tool more accurate than cardiologists to spot hidden heart disease

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A newly developed artificial intelligence (AI) tool, that uses data from the low-cost electrocardiogram (ECG), may be more accurate in identifying hidden heart disease than cardiologists, according to US researchers.

Structural heart disease, including valve disease, congenital heart disease, and other issues that impair heart function, affects millions of people worldwide. These often remain undetected due to lack of a routine and affordable screening test.

To address the gap, a team from Columbia University in the US has developed an AI-powered screening tool, EchoNext, that detects structural heart diseases using ordinary ECG data.

EchoNext identifies patients who should have an ultrasound (echocardiogram) -- a non-invasive test that is used to diag-



nose structural heart problems. In the study, published in the journal Nature, the tool was found to be more accurate than cardiologists.

"We have colonoscopies, we have mammograms, but we have no equivalents for most forms of heart disease," said Pierre Elias, Assistant Professor of Medicine and biomedical informatics at Columbia University Vagelos College of Physicians and Surgeons.

EchoNext was designed to analyse ordinary ECG data to determine when

follow-up with cardiac ultrasound is warranted.

"EchoNext basically uses the cheaper test to figure out who needs the more expensive ultrasound," said Elias.

"It detects diseases cardiologists can't detect from an ECG. We think that ECG plus AI has the potential to create an entirely new screening paradigm," the researcher added.

The deep learning model was trained on more than 1.2 million ECG-echocardiogram pairs from 230,000 patients.

In a validation study across four hospital systems, including several New York-Presbyterian campuses in the US, the screening tool demonstrated high accuracy in identifying structural heart problems, including heart failure due to cardiomyopathy, valve disease, pulmonary hypertension, and severe thickening of the heart.

In a comparison with 13 cardiologists on 3,200 ECGs, EchoNext accurately identified 77 per cent of structural heart problems. In contrast, cardiologists making a diagnosis with the ECG data had an accuracy of 64 per cent.

"Using our technology, we may be able to turn the estimated 400 million ECGs that will be performed worldwide this year into 400 million chances to screen for structural heart disease and potentially deliver life-saving treatment at the most opportune time," Elias said.

## Indian Army organizes Medical Camp at Marhote & Surankote, Poonch

J1 NEWS SERVICE

POONCH, 22 JUL 2025

In its continued efforts to foster goodwill and provide humanitarian assistance, the Indian Army conducted a comprehensive Medical Outreach Camp in the remote and underserved areas of Marhote & Surankote. This initiative is part of the Army's ongoing commitment to nation building and civil-military cooperation under the banner of Operation SADBHAVANA. The camp saw enthusiastic participation from 550 local residents, including elderly citizens, women and children. A dedicated team of Army medical officers, the Medical Officer of PHC Marhote, paramedics and sup-



port staff provided free medical consultations, diagnostic services and essential medicines. Specialized care was offered in general medicine, Pediatrics, Orthopedics and Gynecology, addressing critical health concerns in these isolated communities. This proactive

initiative aims to bridge the healthcare gap in far-flung regions where access to medical infrastructure is limited due to challenging terrain and climatic conditions. The camp not only reinforced the Indian Army's image as a people-centric and mission-ready force but

also enhanced the trust and cooperation between the local populace and the armed forces. Local residents expressed deep gratitude for the Indian Army's efforts in ensuring their well-being, especially in areas where civil health infrastructure is sparse. Such outreach programs play a pivotal role in strengthening the bond between the Indian Army and the citizens it serves, fostering a climate of peace, development and mutual respect. The Indian Army reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the welfare of the people of Marhote & Surankote and will continue to undertake such initiatives to uplift and empower the region's remote communities.

## Munish calls on Dr. Jitendra, discussed ways to empower youth for Viksit Bharat

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 22

Jammu and Kashmir BJP senior leader and former State General secretary, Munish Sharma, today called on Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, MoS (Independent Charge) for Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, Department of Atomic Energy, Department of Space, Personal, Public Grievances and Pensions, Dr. Jitendra Singh and discussed developmental issues of Youth and public importance requiring priority attention to the promoting scientific temper among youth for Viksit Bharat, encouraging start-ups, and under developed private sector in Jammu.

During the discussion Munish Sharma emphasized on the need for our educational institution to empower students in science and innovation, Opening entrepreneur workshop, start-up incubation across sectors to enhance their employability opportunities. Munish Sharma stressed to facilitate the youth especially students for developing a scientific temper and skills. Need of the hour is updated them about



the latest technological advancements in the different field of science bringing the new scientific advancements to the classroom and labs and empower them for Viksit Bharat. Along with this, Promote AI literacy by incorporating Artificial intelligence in various aspects of life including education and the workforce. A skilled workforce will benefit every industry and smart young professionals plays a pivotal role in realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat.

While praising Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Munish Sharma said that our PM has done tremendous for J&K in terms of investment infrastructure, education, and healthcare

but despite its strategic location as a gateway to the Kashmir Valley Our Jammu suffers from limited industrial zones. It has not reached the level of IT development seen in cities like Bengaluru or Hyderabad, it has the potential to grow into an important hub for development, digital services, and innovation.

Determined to address the pressing issues, Munish Sharma made a scathing attack on present NC govt accusing it of failing to deliver on its pre-election promises & the basic needs of the people. He further noted that tourism, a vital sector of the J&K economy, has come to a standstill, MGNREGA has hundreds of crores in

unpaid bills, setting back the rural economy small traders are unable to service their debts.

Dr Jitendra Singh asserted that role of young professionals in building a Vibrat India under Viksit Bharat is paramount. Dr. Jitendra Singh said the Department of Personnel & Training (DoPT) is committed to enhance for the welfare of the youth with the resources, opportunities and support they need to thrive. Through their dynamism entrepreneurial spirit we can build a future where India stands as a beacon of progress at the global stage. Youth of J&K have immense potential and they should come forward and tap into the benefits provided by the start-ups scheme. By harnessing their entrepreneurial spirit the young population can transform themselves into job creators rather than job seekers. He highlighted the ongoing efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's vision to make J&K youth at the forefront of Viksit Bharat ensuring every youth regardless of geography or background has an equal opportunity to contribute and develop Jammu and Kashmir to new heights.

## Sat Sharma asks BJP Cells to intensify outreach across both Jammu and Kashmir regions



J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, 22 JULY 2025

Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), Jammu & Kashmir held a meeting of party's All Cells at the party headquarters in Trikuta Nagar, Jammu,

The meeting was addressed by Sat Sharma, President, J&K BJP, Ashok Koul, General Secretary (Organization), Bharat Bhushan, Vice-President and DDC Chairperson, Rakesh Mahajan, Vice-President, Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal, MLA, and Ved Sharma, All Cells Incharge.

Convenors and Co-convenors of all the Cells of BJP participated in the meeting which witnessed the resolve to further strengthen the party's structure and outreach across Jammu & Kashmir, through the effective func-

tioning of party's Cells. Sat Sharma, in his address, emphasized the pivotal role that the Cells play in fortifying the organization at the grassroots. "BJP Cells are not just organizational units, they are the nerve centres of our political working," he stated. He further said that Cells are the bridge between the party and various sections of society and are instrumental in policy feedback, public mobilization, and dissemination of the party's ideology.

"Every Cell plays a unique role in connecting the BJP to the people. These Cells help us stay rooted in ground realities and shape our political strategies accordingly," he added. He stressed that the activities of BJP Cells will now be intensified in both the Jammu and Kash-

mir regions, strengthening the party's presence and outreach. Ashok Koul appreciated the party's growing influence in the Kashmir region and expressed confidence that the All Cells would work rigorously to further deepen BJP's presence through targeted outreach and community-based programs.

Bharat Bhushan highlighted the importance of Cells in connecting people with the party, noting that such structures act as vital links between the public and the BJP's ideology and initiatives.

Rakesh Mahajan, who previously served as the All Cells Incharge, shared insights into the Cells' performance during his tenure. He reflected on past initiatives and expressed hope that under the new leadership, the Cells would

achieve greater outreach and effectiveness. Dr. Devinder Kumar Manyal praised the role of BJP Cells in both rural and urban settings, stating that their proactive engagement has benefitted both the people and the organization significantly.

Ved Sharma, who conducted the meeting proceedings, expressed gratitude to the senior leadership for entrusting him with the responsibility of All Cells Incharge. He assured the gathering of his commitment to expanding the Cells' activities and taking their performance to new heights.

The convenors and the co-convenors of all cells of BJP resolved to enhance grassroots engagement and strengthen the BJP's organizational base through the dynamic functioning of its Cells.

## DM Jammu reviews preparedness for Independence Day celebrations at MA Stadium

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 22

District Magistrate Jammu Sachin Kumar Vaishya today chaired a meeting of senior officers to review the arrangements being made for the smooth and successful conduct of the Independence Day celebration function at MA Stadium.

The meeting was also attended by SSP Joginder Singh, ADC Ansuya Jamwal, Chief Planning Officer Ajaypal Singh, Joint Director Information Deepak Dubey, besides Sub Divisional Magistrates and other senior officers from police and other departments as well.

Threadbare discussions were held regarding seating arrangements, stage



preparation, decoration, security, traffic regulation, cultural programmes, power and water supply, sanitation, health care and other allied services. The concerned departments were directed to make all necessary arrangements well in advance to ensure the event is conducted in a dignified and coordinated manner.

The DM emphasised inter-departmental coordination and timely execution of responsibilities.

Police and allied security agencies were instructed to ensure foolproof security and manage traffic diversions. JPDCI and Jal Shakti departments were directed to provide their services as per their mandate.

Health Department was asked to deploy medical teams and station ambulances at the venue, while JMC was directed to undertake sanitation drives and ensure cleanliness in and around the stadium. The Department of Floriculture

was entrusted with floral decoration and the Information Department with installation of the public address system and other communication facilities.

The DM directed all departments to depute nodal officers and submit detailed action taken reports. He called for collective and coordinated efforts to ensure the event is celebrated with patriotic fervor and grandeur.

## Div Com pitches for comprehensive, robust Traffic Management System in Jammu City

J1 NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, JULY 22

Divisional Commissioner Jammu, Ramesh Kumar, today discussed the actionable points for a comprehensive and robust Traffic Management System in Jammu City, while chairing a meeting of Multi-Disciplinary Committee.

The meeting was attended by IGP Traffic J&K, Deputy Commission-



er Jammu, Commissioner

JMC, Vice Chairman JDA

and Transport Commissioner Jammu, Chief Engi-

neer PWD(R&B), SSP Traffic Jammu City.

The meeting held threadbare discussion on traffic planning and management system, decongestion measures, increasing road capacity and infrastructure, encroachment control and relocation of street vendors, identification of one-way routes and traffic flow adjustment, safety and accident reduction measures.

### Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir Office of the Executive Engineer Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu

e-mail: [xennorth@gmail.com](mailto:xennorth@gmail.com)

#### NOTICE INVITING TENDER e-NIT No. 18 of 2025-26

For and on behalf of Commissioner, Municipal Corporation, Jammu, Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu, invites tenders by e-tendering mode from the reputed/registered firms/Sole Prop. for the below mentioned work:-

S. No.	Name of work	Estimated cost (in ₹)	Cost of document/ tender fee (in ₹)	Earnest money (in ₹)	Validity of Rates	Bid validity
1.	Revival of Lohar Pumping unit No. 7 at CPS Sitlee and providing, fitting of Protection Sensors to HT Motors (04 Nos.) to 500 KW/670HP and allied works at HT Pumping Station Sitlee and under JMC Capex Budget.	16,00,000/-	500/-	48,000/- in the shape of CDR / FDR	180 days	180 days

Position of AAA: Accorded

Position of TS: Sanctioned

Date of Publishing : 21-07-2025 ( 02.00 pm).

1. Bid documents can be seen at and downloaded from the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 21-07-2025 (02.00 pm).

2. The Bids shall be deposited in electronic format on the website <http://jktenders.gov.in> from 26-07-2025 (02.00 pm) to 06-08-2025 (02.00 pm).

3. The complete bidding process will be online <http://jktenders.gov.in>. A pre-bid meeting shall be held in the office of Executive Engineer, Jal Shakti Mech. Division North Jammu on 24-07-2025 (1:00 pm) for any clarification and other information required by the bidders who intend to participate in the tender.

4. The Technical bids received shall be opened online on 07-08-2025 (02.00 pm) or any other subsequent date in the office of Executive Engineer Jal Shakti PHE Mech. Division North Jammu.

No. JSMDNJ/1747-49

Dated: 19-07-2025

DIP/J-3752/25

Date: 22-7-25

Sd/-  
Executive Engineer  
Jal Shakti Mech. Division North  
Jammu

## Traffic Arrangements Reviewed for Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra 2025

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 22

In order to review the traffic related arrangements/ management during Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Yatra-2025 which is going to commence with effect from 28th of July, 2025 as the first batch leaving from Base camp Bhagwati Nagar, Jammu for the yatra, Sh. G.L. Sharma, SSP Traffic Rural Jammu alongwith executive police officers concerned and Traffic police officers visited Sunderbani Army ground where yatra would halt for the breakfast and then proceed for Rajouri - Poonch. Thereafter, he visited Yatra ground Rajouri and then to Shri Budha Amarnath Ji Asthan, Mandi Poonch. He also visited Dashnami Akhara and college ground



in the Poonch town where Yatra halts after reaching from the Jammu. Traffic regulation related matters like parking of yatra vehicles at different locations mentioned above and the road condition of the yatra route was also reviewed/discussed with other stakeholders.

Briefings to the officers/

officials of traffic police deployed from Sunderbani to Poonch with the emphasis to make coordinated efforts involving district Police and civil administration and the organizers for better management of traffic during yatra period enroute as well as at the venue/halting points. Through this communica-

tion, general public and the yatris are advised to follow the prescribed yatra route i.e. NHW-144-A from Bhambla upto Poonch and then Poonch to Mandi via Kalai Bridge. The road is under construction and it is a rainy season and it is expected to cause disruption due to landslides and therefore weather advisory and the traffic police advisory need to be followed religiously. There would be cut off timing for Yatra from Jammu to Poonch and the downward movement which should also be followed properly to avoid any untoward incident. Moreover, traffic police will always remain available for the services of yatris for better traffic regulation particularly during the yatra period.

## Massive protest by Congress at Janatar Mantir for statehood, march to Parliament foiled

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A massive protest dharna at Jantar Mantir road here was followed by a march towards Parliament marked the Congress party's Delhi Chalo & Parliament gherao programme today with several senior AICC leaders including KC Venugopal, Digvijay Singh, Dr Sayeed Naseer Hussain, Rajni Patil, Imran Masood and Imran Prata-pgarhi addressing the gathering and joining the protest march to Parliament house amidst heavy downpour.

The large number of senior Congress leaders, all six sitting MLAs, Ex ministers/ Legislators, Frontal organization leaders including large number of youth Congress workers and Mahila workers reached Delhi today and starightway reached Jantar Mantir led by PCC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra, AICC General Secretary & CLP Leader G A Mir, Working President Raman Bhalla, Ex MP Ch Lal Singh, Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, Neeraj kundan, Mula Ram, Balwan Singh Ravinder Sharma, Yogesh Sawhney, Ved Mahajan, DCC Presidents and frontal heads. They were joined by large numbers of youths led by IYC President Udey Bhanu Chib.



They held a strong protest demonstration against Modi government for downgrading the historical Dogra state and then denying statehood despite promise on multiple occasions in six years.

There was heavy downpour amidst raising of strong slogans for the restoration of complete statehood. Senior AICC leaders joined the protest dharna and march on the directions of Congress President Shri Malikarjun Kharge and and LOP Rahul Gandhi ji.

Addressing the gathering AICC General Secretary K C Venugopal MP hit hard the Modi government for doing injustice to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. He said it was the only example in country where a State is converted and downgraded into UT. We have seen UTs upgraded to states in independent India. He questioned why

Modi government is not restoring the statehood to J&K people who have stood against Pehalgam attack and shower their patriotic commitment but BJP is not fulfilling its commitment.

He appreciated the J&K unit of congress party under the leadership of Shri Tariq Hameed Karra alongwith G A Mir besides all senior leaders who have organised the such a massive struggle for their legitimate demand for statehood. Modi government is using its force to crush the voice of Congress in Kashmir and Jammu to weaken its struggle for statehood.

He extended full support of the party to the people of J&K in their just demand.

Senior AICC leaders Shri Digvijay Singh and all others extended their whole hearted support to the cause of people of J&K and appreciated the leadership of JKPC and cadres for such a extensive

struggle for a most genuine cause which is their's right

Earlier JKPC President Shri Tariq Hameed Karra expressed gratitude to the national leadership of Shri Malikarjun Kharge and LOP in lok sabha Rahul Gandhi for their whole hearted support to the cause of J&K people by writing letter to the Prime Minister reminding him of his commitments while deputing several senior leaders to join our protest today.

G A Mir in his address lashed out at the Modi government for befooling the people of J&K by making false promises for six years. The AICC has fully supported the legitimate cause of people of J&K and thanked the Congress President Shri Malikarjun Kharge and Shri Rahul Gandhi for their support. He appreciated the struggle of Congress party in Jammu and Kashmir for fighting the rights of people.

Several senior leaders addressed the gathering and strongly raised the demand of statehood. They included Raman Bhalla, Ch Lal Singh, Udey Bhanu Chib, Shah Nawaz Chaudhary, Neeraj Kundan, Mula Ram, Yogesh Sawhney, Haji Jahangir Mir, Nizamuddin Bhat, Ifikhar Ahmed MLAs & Others.

## Grand Launch of the All-New TATA Harrier.ev; The SUV of SUVs – Held at AM TATA Jammu

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 22

AM TATA proudly hosted the grand launch of the all-new TATA Harrier.ev, the SUV of SUVs, ushering in a new era of performance, intelligence, and luxury in electric mobility. The highly anticipated launch event took place at AM TATA's flagship showroom, NH-44 By-Pass Road, Opposite Radisson Blu, Narwal, Jammu and commenced at 5:00 PM.

The ceremony was graced by Chief Guest S. Jasmeet Singh (JKAS), RTO Jammu, Guest Of Honor Mr. Nisar Khan (JKAS), ARTO Jammu along with Mr. Parminder Singh, Patron AM Group whose presence added distinction and highlighted growing regional enthusiasm for sustainable and smart vehicle solutions.

The ceremony was led by the visionary leadership of the AM Group, including Chairman Mr. Jatinder Gupta, Managing Director Mr. Sanjay Mahajan and Directors Mr. Ankur Mahajan, Mr. Tarun Malhotra, Mr. Akshay Mahajan, Mrs. Sharmila Mahajan, Mrs. Vandana Mahajan, Mrs. Sakshi Mahajan, Dr. Chakshu Mahajan, Mr. Aryan Mahajan and Ms. Sahira Mahajan, Mr. Aman Bains Vice President AM Group, whose efforts continue to transform AM



TATA into At the heart of the celebration was the unveiling of the Harrier.ev - India's most powerful, most capable, and most intelligent SUV yet.

It was presented as an SUV that did not force a choice between adventure and indulgence but delivered both. From conquering untamed terrains to gliding through urban landscapes, the Harrier.ev wrapped every journey in a cocoon of unmatched luxury.

Equipped with 504 Nm torque and a QWD dual-motor system, the Harrier.ev was hailed as the best homegrown SUV in India to date, available in four striking colour options, starting at an introductory price of Rs 21.49 lakh\*.

The Harrier.ev was powered by the advanced acti.ev+ pure EV architecture, making it a performance benchmark, capable of sprinting from 0 to 100 km/h in a segment-best 6.3 seconds using boost mode.

Its six advanced terrain modes, coupled with exceptional ground clear-

ance, allowed it to tame even the most challenging terrains, while passengers luxuriated in the Zenith Suite, an interior setting infused with opulence and intelligent design.

Inside, the SUV boasted a collection of segment-first, industry-first and even world-first features, offering both comfort and cutting-edge innovation. These included:

- Digi Access using Ultra Wide Band for hands-free unlocking
- e-Valet mode
- 540° Surround View system, even revealing what lies underneath the vehicle

The Harrier.ev was described as Tata Motors' most intelligent SUV ever, designed not just to assist but to anticipate.

In a historic move, Tata Motors also introduced a lifetime warranty on the battery pack of the Harrier.ev, showcasing supreme confidence in their battery technology and offering unparalleled peace of mind to EV owners.

To reflect the stature of this new league of SUVs,

AM TATA had also introduced immersive visual merchandising elements at the showroom, enhancing the customer experience and highlighting the Harrier.ev's advanced capabilities through elevated and interactive showroom displays.

Speaking at the event, Chairman Mr. Jatinder Gupta remarked:

"The Harrier.ev is not just a car, but a revolutionary step forward. As the SUV of SUVs, it blends power, technology and indulgence like never before. We are honored to launch this flagship model in Jammu and give our customers a glimpse into the future of driving."

The event witnessed a huge turnout of customers, dignitaries, media personnel and EV enthusiasts, all of whom experienced the Harrier.ev firsthand through product demos, test drives and hospitality curated by the AM TATA team.

Bookings for the all-new TATA Harrier.ev opened immediately after the launch.

For more information or to book a test drive, customers may contact:

Call: 9484088888 | 9484188888

Showroom Location: NH-44 By-Pass Road, Opposite Radisson Blu, Narwal, Jammu

## Samsung India begins Pre Orders for Galaxy Watch8 Series

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 22

Samsung, India's largest consumer electronics brand, today launched the Galaxy Watch8 and Galaxy Watch8 Classic, establishing an iconic design identity across the entire Galaxy Watch lineup. Building upon the foundation of the Galaxy Watch Ultra's cushion design, this series boasts the thinnest Galaxy Watch ever. As part of the launch, Samsung is offering attractive introductory prices and exclusive pre-order benefits. Galaxy Watch8 40mm BT is priced at INR 32,999, while the 40mm LTE version is available at INR 36,999. The larger 44mm BT and LTE variants are

priced at INR 35,999 and INR 39,999 respectively. Galaxy Watch8 Classic 47mm BT model is priced at INR 46,999, while the LTE variant is available at INR 50,999. Consumers pre-booking Galaxy Watch8 series between July 9 and July 24, 2025 can avail of exciting benefits including multi-bank cashback or upgrade bonuses of up to INR 12,000 or multi-buy offers of up to INR 15,000 that are specially curated for new Galaxy S and Z series customers. Additionally, customers can enjoy no-cost EMI options for up to 18 months across leading banks and NBFCs. Redesigned Inside and Out for Ultimate Wellness. By reimagining

both form and function, the Galaxy Watch8 series delivers unmatched comfort alongside industry-leading performance, making it the ultimate companion for everyday wellness. The distinctive cushion design, which debuted with Galaxy Watch Ultra, now defines the entire Galaxy Watch lineup. To achieve the thinnest design yet, the internal structure of Galaxy Watch8 was completely reengineered and its component mounting capability has been improved by 30%, resulting in an 11% thinner design. Combined with the Dynamic Lug system, this design moves naturally with the wrist, providing greater comfort and improved

stability for a better fit and enhanced health-tracking accuracy. Even when you are outdoors under bright sunlight, the display is 50% brighter with a peak brightness of 3,000nits for easy visibility, and the enhanced battery ensures the watch can keep up with an active lifestyle. Moreover, the dual-frequency GPS provides more detailed and precise location results while our most powerful 3nm processor delivers faster performance and greater power efficiency. With the groundbreaking BioActive Sensor that enables deeper and more accurate health insights, the Galaxy Watch8 series helps provide a holistic view of your health.

## Yudhvir leads plantation-cum-sanitation drive at Govt. Hari Singh School

### Calls upon youth to lead change for a Greener Future

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 22

In a significant step towards promoting environmental sustainability and cleanliness, a plantation-cum-sanitation drive was organised today at Government Hari Singh Higher Secondary School, Jammu, under the banner of the "Clean Jammu, Green Jammu" initiative. The event was conducted by Jammu Municipal Corporation (JMC) in collaboration with the Urban Forestry Division of the J&K Forest Department.

On the occasion, Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu East, Sh. Yudhvir Sethi was the chief guest.

Addressing the gathering, Yudhvir Sethi lauded the efforts of the Jammu Municipal Corporation and the Forest Department for initiating such impactful programmes at the grassroots level. He stressed that schools are the ideal platforms to cultivate environmental values among the younger generation.



The senior BJP leader emphasized the importance of community participation in environmental conservation efforts and called upon the youth to lead the change for a greener future. "It is our collective responsibility to preserve nature and ensure a clean and green environment for the generations to come," he said.

The MLA emphasized that under PM Modi's leadership, the focus on sanitation, cleanliness, and green development has become a national movement, inspiring

people across the country to take ownership of their surroundings. He said that such drives at the local level contribute meaningfully to realizing the Prime Minister's dream of a cleaner, healthier, and more vibrant India.

Yudhvir Sethi also assured full support from his end for future activities aimed at improving urban greenery and sanitation, and urged other institutions to take inspiration from such drives. "Clean surroundings and green spaces are essential for a healthy society, and every

citizen must contribute actively," he added.

The event was held under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Charu Anand, Principal of the school, who played a vital role in mobilizing students, faculty, and local residents for the noble cause. A large number of saplings were planted within the school premises by enthusiastic students and staff, who actively took part in the sanitation efforts as well.

Prominent officers from the Urban Forestry Division including Dr. Divyan Rabia Khan, Ashwani, and Rafaq, along with Dr. Vinod, Health Officer from JMC, were also present.

Others who joined the initiative included Govind Sareen, Parveen Keri, Adarsh Jathiar, Sanjeev Sawhney, Arun Sethi, Sardar Harvinder Singh, Rakesh Jandyal, Sardar Funny, and Sanjay Majora.

The event concluded with a pledge to continue such initiatives to make Jammu a cleaner, greener, and more livable city.

## Arvind calls on Governor of Gujarat

J1 NEWS SERVICE  
JAMMU, JULY 22

Senior BJP leader and MLA Jammu West, Shri Arvind Gupta today had the honour of meeting the Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devvrat ji, during his visit aimed at promoting cultural and ideological engagement among the youth.

During the meeting, Shri Arvind Gupta held an in-depth discussion on meaningful ways to inspire and connect today's generation with the timeless



principles and values of Arya Samaj. The conversation focused on channelizing youth energy towards nation-building, character development, and social upliftment through Vedic

teachings and moral grounding.

Expressing his deep gratitude, Arvind Gupta said, "It was a privilege to receive the valuable insights and guidance of Hon'ble Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat ji. His clarity of thought and deep commitment to the ideals of Arya Samaj are truly inspiring. I look forward to working towards initiatives that connect our youth with

these powerful values."

The MLA emphasized that the teachings of Maharishi Dayanand Saraswati, founder of Arya Samaj, are more relevant today than ever before in countering social evils and encouraging a life rooted in truth, self-discipline, and service.

The meeting concluded with a shared resolve to take forward the message of Arya Samaj among the younger generation through educational initiatives, youth workshops, and community engagement programs.

## LS adjourned for second day amid continued ruckus by Opposition

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

The Lok Sabha was adjourned for the second consecutive day today without any proceedings, following persistent disruptions by Opposition parties.

As soon as the House re-assembled at 2 pm, Opposition members trooped into the well of the House, holding placards and shouting slogans.

Presiding officer Dilip Saikia urged the agitating members to go back to their seats and let the House function. But the sloganeering by the pro-



testing members continued.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister Kiren Rijiju while condemning the action of the Opposition said, "It was decided in the meeting that 'Operation Sindoor' would be discussed first, and a specific

time has been allotted for it. How can all issues be addressed simultaneously?"

He further said that the members protesting with placards is not acceptable. "In the Business Advisory Committee we have said that the government is

ready to discuss. But they (Opposition) don't want to run the House".

"You waste crores of tax payers' money by disrupting the House," Rijiju slammed the Opposition.

But the Opposition ruckus continued and the Chair adjourned the House till 11 AM on Wednesday.

Earlier, the zero hour was disrupted, leading to the adjournment of the House until 2 pm. When the proceedings resumed at 12 noon following the first adjournment, Opposition members entered the well of the House, shouting slogans and causing an uproar.

## Raghav Chadha flags uptick in post-Covid health issues, seeks legal right to annual check-ups

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

Rajya Sabha MP and Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader Raghav Chadha has flagged the growing incidence of heart-related ailments and other health complications in the country, particularly in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic.

In a post on social media platform X (formerly Twitter) today, Chadha highlighted what he termed a "sharp rise" in heart failures and health disorders



post-Covid, and called for annual health check-ups to be made a legal right for all Indian citizens.

"I raised a demand in Parliament: Make annual

health check-up a legal right of every citizen... "Post Covid-19, we're seeing a sharp rise in heart failures and other health issues. Early detection can

save lives," Chadha said.

Drawing a parallel with public health systems in developed nations, the AAP leader pointed out that many such countries provide government-funded annual check-ups to their citizens. "Why not in India?" he asked.

Stating that healthcare should not remain the preserve of the privileged, Chadha stressed the need for accessible and routine medical testing. "Healthcare must not remain a privilege for the elite," he remarked.

## SC issues notice on President's reference: Can courts set deadlines for guvs & Prez on bills?

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

The Supreme Court today issued notices to the Union government and all state governments on President Droupadi Murmu's crucial reference seeking clarity on the constitutional powers of governors and the President to grant assent to Bills under Articles 200 and 201.

A constitution bench led by Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, along with justices Surya Kant, Vikram Nath, PS Narasimha and AS Chandurkar, posted the matter for hearing next Tuesday to allow appearances by all respondents.



The CJ indicated that the court plans to hear the case in August.

Attorney General for India R Venkataramani was requested to assist the court.

Solicitor general Tushar Mehta, appearing for the Union government, waived

formal notice.

Senior advocate KK Venugopal, representing Kerala, flagged concerns over the maintainability of the presidential reference.

Similarly, senior advocate P Wilson, appearing for Tamil Nadu, noted that issues raised are already

covered by the recent Supreme Court ruling in the Tamil Nadu Governor's case and said Tamil Nadu would contest the maintainability as well.

The reference comes in the backdrop of the Supreme Court's recent landmark judgment in the Tamil Nadu case, where the court ruled that governors cannot indefinitely withhold assent to Bills (popularly termed as "pocket veto"), and set a maximum three-month timeline for decisions.

The court further held that if a governor reserves a bill for the President, the President too must act within three months.

## Rahul leads INDIA bloc protest in Parliament against Bihar SIR drive

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi today held a protest in the Parliament complex along with INDI Alliance party leaders against the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

The Opposition members of both the Houses held protest with slogans "SIR: Stealing Indian Rights" written on placards.

Meanwhile, Rahul Gandhi on social media said, "Joined the protest today in the Parliament complex along with



INDIA alliance partners happening in Bihar against the vote theft under the guise of SIR".

"Voting is the right of every citizen, and we will not allow it to be taken away at any cost. We will fight unitedly against the anti-constitutional forces," he added.

Wayanad MP and Congress general secretary Priyanka Gandhi Vadra told media, "SIR process is a murder of democracy, that's why we keep saying again and again that it is completely wrong."

Those who participated in the protest included Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, KC Venugopal, Misa Bharti, Akhilesh Yadav and Kanimozhi.

## 'We have power to seek proof of Citizenship during Bihar voter roll revision': EC tells SC

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JUL 22

The Election Commission of India (ECI) has told the Supreme Court that it has the statutory and constitutional authority to seek proof of citizenship during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar.

Defending its action in a counter-affidavit filed in the batch of petitions challenging the SIR process, the ECI rejected the argument that it was overstepping its jurisdiction by asking individuals to prove citizenship.

It asserted that this obligation flows from Article



326 of the Constitution and Sections 16 and 19 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950.

"ECI is vested with the power to scrutinize whether a proposed elector fulfils the criteria for being registered as a voter in the electoral roll, which includes an assessment of

citizenship as per Article 326," stated the affidavit filed by Deputy Election Commissioner Sanjay Kumar.

The ECI added that its powers flow directly from Articles 324 and 326 read with Sections 16 and 19 of the RP Act, 1950.

Highlighting Section 19,

the Commission emphasised that citizenship is a key eligibility criterion for voter registration. It is thus obligated to verify this condition to ensure that no ineligible person is included and no eligible person excluded.

The ECI rejected the contention that only the central government can adjudicate citizenship issues, clarifying that Section 9 of the Citizenship Act, 1955, vests exclusive jurisdiction with the Centre only for determining termination of citizenship upon voluntary acquisition of foreign citizenship.

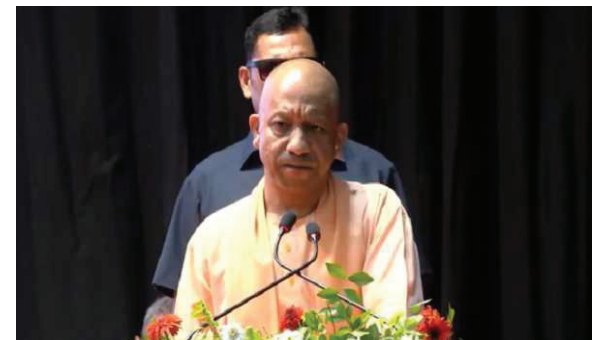
"Other aspects related

## Agriculture must drive prosperity, not force migration: CM Yogi

AGENCIES  
LUCKNOW, JULY 22

Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath today emphasized agriculture as the largest employment-generating sector in Uttar Pradesh, supporting nearly three crore farmers.

Speaking at the 36th Foundation Day of the Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR), he stressed that agriculture should lead to prosperity, not migration, and called for greater adoption of innovation and research to transform the sector. He noted that the MSME sector follows agriculture in employ-



ment, engaging around 1.65 crore people.

He stated that the development of Uttar Pradesh is critical to India's overall progress. "If UP advances, no power in the world can stop India from becoming a developed nation. Every individual must make

honest efforts in their respective fields to achieve this shared goal," he said.

On the occasion, the Chief Minister visited an agricultural exhibition, released informative booklets and newsletters, and addressed a national seminar titled 'Developed

Agriculture - Developed Uttar Pradesh at 2047'. He also felicitated distinguished agricultural scientists, young innovators, and Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) for their contributions to the sector.

Highlighting the importance of region-specific innovation, CM Yogi said that agricultural research and development must align with India's diverse climatic and soil conditions. "All such possibilities lie within UP," he noted, adding that the state has a key role in realizing Prime Minister Modi's vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047.

## SC declines to stay QR code rule for Kanwar Yatra eateries

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

The Supreme Court today refused to examine the legality of directives issued by Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand authorities requiring eateries along the Kanwar Yatra route to display QR codes revealing owners' details, stating that the matter had become infructuous with the Yatra ending.

A bench of Justice MM Sundresh and Justice NK Singh disposed of the interlocutory applications challenging the mandates, while clarifying that eateries must continue to display their licences and registration certificates



as per statutory requirements.

"We are told today is the last day of the Yatra. In any case, it is likely to come to an end in the near future. Therefore, at this stage, we would only pass an order that hotel owners comply with the mandate

of displaying licences and registration certificates," the bench ordered, adding that it was not entering into other contentious issues raised.

During the hearing, Justice Sundresh emphasised the importance of consumer choice, observ-

ing, "People have different food preferences. A vegetarian person may prefer to go only to a place serving exclusively vegetarian food, especially during a religious pilgrimage. If a hotel was earlier serving non-veg and switches to veg only during the Yatra for business reasons, the consumer should know. The choice is of the consumer... Customer is the king."

Senior advocate Dr Abhishek Manu Singhvi, appearing for the petitioners, argued that the directives mandating QR codes and owner names promoted religious profiling in violation of constitutional rights.

## Dhaka plane crash: Death toll rises to 27, including 25 children

AGENCIES  
DHAKA, JULY 22

The death toll from yesterday's Bangladesh Air Force fighter jet crash at Milestone School and College in Dhaka has risen to 27, with 25 of the victims confirmed to be children, many of them under the age of 12.

At least 78 people are currently receiving treatment at various hospitals, with five in critical condition, according to Professor Md Sayedur Rahman, special assistant to the chief adviser for health and family welfare. He briefed the media today morning at the National Institute of Burn and Plas-



tic Surgery.

"Among the deceased, 25 are children with severe burn injuries. The remaining two include the pilot of the aircraft and a female schoolteacher," Rahman stated.

So far, 20 bodies have been identified and

handed over to their families.

The devastating incident occurred when a Bangladesh Air Force training jet crashed into a school building during operational exercises yesterday. Witnesses described scenes of chaos as parents rushed

to the site and emergency services worked frantically to rescue the injured.

Hospital authorities confirmed that army personnel have now been deployed at the National Institute of Burn and Plastic Surgery to enhance security and manage the large influx of relatives and onlookers.

"We are doing everything possible to save lives. However, the condition of some patients remains extremely critical," Prof. Rahman added.

The country's interim leader, Mohammed Yunus, expressed "deep grief and sorrow" over the incident in a post on X (formerly Twitter).

## 'He wanted to show this is his team now': Ponting on Gill's uncharacteristic aggression

AGENCIES  
MANCHESTER, JULY 22

Ahead of the crucial fourth Test at Old Trafford starting on Wednesday, legendary batter Ricky Ponting has backed India skipper Shubman Gill's on-field aggression during the Lord's Test and said he was standing up for his team.

With the series level at 1-1 heading into the Lord's Test last week, the fiercely contested third Test between England and India delivered



plenty of on-field tension. One of the more heated moments came late on Day 3, when Gill had an

animated exchange with England's openers.

After India matched England's first-innings

total of 387, they hoped to sneak in two quick overs in the final six minutes of the day. But those plans were thwarted as Zak Crawley took his time by pulling out of two deliveries during Jasprit Bumrah's run-up and calling the physio for a hand injury, leading to a fiery confrontation between Gill and the two openers.

ICC Hall of Famer Ponting understood why Gill's aggressive posturing at Lord's was met with surprise.

## Brett Lee asserts Australia Champions as dominant force in WCL 2025

AGENCIES  
BIRMINGHAM, JULY 22

Australian bowling legend Brett Lee is a star attraction in the World Championship of Legends (WCL) 2025 and stated that the Australia Champions have a strong squad, very much capable for winning the trophy this time around.

The tournament is taking place in England from July 18 to August 2, across four iconic UK venues, as it brings fans an epic blend of nostalgia, fierce rivalries and world-class entertainment. WCL 2025 also brings together the heroes of yesteryears in a grand summer spectacle sanctioned by the England



and Wales Cricket Board (ECB).

Australia Champions is being led by Brett Lee and has many Aussie superstars who are prepared to go for the glory again in their illustrious careers.

"We are definitely going for the title this year. Our team had played well last season, but we came short of the title. However, this year we are really moti-

vated to do well and win the trophy for the fans and the great people who are associated with us, like GFS Developments," said Brett Lee during a meet and greet event.

He added, "The team looks well-balanced. We have good strength in every department and definitely I am very confident of a positive performance from our team."

The tournament has six teams: India Champions, Pakistan Champions, England Champions, Australia Champions, South Africa Champions and West Indies Champions.

Apart from captain Lee, Australia Champions have many legends in the team, including Shaun Marsh, Aaron Finch, Chris Lynn and Ben Cutting, etc. World Championship of Legends 2025 also features an all-star line-up including Yuvraj Singh, Harbhajan Singh, Shikhar Dhawan, Suresh Raina, Eoin Morgan, Moeen Ali, Sir Alastair Cook, AB de Villiers, Hashim Amla, Chris Morris, Wayne Parnell, Chris Gayle, DJ Bravo, Kieron Pollard and more.

## Leeds United sign midfielder Anton Stach from Hoffenheim on four-year deal

AGENCIES  
LEEDS, JULY 22

Leeds United have confirmed a sixth summer arrival for Daniel Farke's side, announcing German international Anton Stach. The 26-year-old has signed a four-year contract at Elland Road and has joined the team for a reported fee of 17 million pounds from Bundesliga side Hoffenheim.

Stach brings experience and further quality to the midfield areas after playing in the Bundesliga for the last five years. His time at the top-level in Germany was spent with Mainz 05 and TSG Hoffenheim and he previously won promotion from 2.



Bundesliga with Greuther Furth.

Giving his first thoughts after signing, Stach told of his desire to play in the Premier League. "First of all, I am feeling really good. I am excited to join such a good team, such a good Premier League team, and I am looking forward to the next

season. My style of play, I would say I am an aggressive player. I am good in duels. I am good at anticipating passes from the opponents and it would be good for the Premier League. Now we will see, I will try my best!

"The biggest target is to stay in the league and personally just develop,

adapt to the league, to the speed of course and then get many good experiences hopefully," said Stach to Leeds United's media team.

Leeds' latest addition has made over 250 career appearances in all competitions and brings further versatility to the team, having operated in both midfield and defence when required.

With two senior caps for his nation Germany to his name, Stach's international experience previously saw him play alongside fellow summer arrival Lukas Nmecha in the UEFA European Under-21 Championship final in 2021, winning 1-0 against Portugal to lift the trophy.

## Women's ODI Rankings: Deepti Sharma gains 10 spots, Harmanpreet loses five places

AGENCIES  
DUBAI, JULY 22

India captain Harmanpreet Kaur has dropped five places while Deepti Sharma climbed 10 spots to No.23 in the ICC Women's ODI batting rankings.

With the series level at 1-1 and everything to play for in the decider, the first two ODIs between England and India delivered thrilling contests, with standout performances reflected in the rankings.

Deepti was one of the biggest movers in the batting rankings after her unbeaten 62 in the first ODI, which earned her the Player of the Match award and guided India to



a successful chase of 259.

Meanwhile, Harmanpreet faced the heat of her dismal form with scores of 17 and 7 in the first two ODIs, dropping to No. 21 in the batting rankings.

Smriti Mandhana

remained steady at the top of the rankings, registering scores of 28 and 42 in the first two matches while maintaining her rating of 727.

Sophia Dunkley's 83 off 92 balls in the first ODI

played a key role in taking England to a strong total and earned her a jump of 24 places to No.52. Alice Davidson-Richards, who contributed with a solid 53, rose 40 spots to No.118.

In the ICC Women's ODI bowling rankings, world No.1 Sophie Ecclestone strengthened her position at the top with four wickets in the series so far, including a Player of the Match-winning 3/27 in the second ODI.

Her rating jumped from 747 to 776, further extending her lead over Aussie duo Ashleigh Gardner (724) and Megan Schutt (696), who round out the top three.

## Karun Nair to represent home team Karnataka for the 2025-26 domestic season

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

Karun Nair is set for a homecoming to Karnataka ahead of the upcoming domestic season, three years after his last appearance for the state team.

Nair's switch back to Karnataka marks a significant turnaround in his domestic career. After being sidelined by Karnataka ahead of the 2021-22 season, he joined Vidarbha and played a key role in their resurgence.

The middle-order batter, currently with the Indian Test squad in England, has received a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the Vidarbha



Cricket Association, clearing the way for his return, ESPNcricinfo reported.

Most notably, he was instrumental in Vidarbha's

successful campaign that saw them clinch their third Ranji Trophy title earlier this year. He scored 863 runs across 16 innings

at an average of 53.93, including four centuries - one of them a decisive knock in the final against Kerala. Ironically, Kerala had shown interest in signing Nair around the time of his Karnataka exit.

His form across formats was equally impressive. In the Vijay Hazare Trophy, Nair led Vidarbha to a runners-up finish as captain and emerged as the tournament's leading run-scorer. He piled up 779 runs in eight innings at a strike rate of 124.01, registering five centuries in succession. Notably, he set a new List A record by scoring 542 runs without being dismissed - the most ever in that category.

## Venus Williams wins in Washington doubles opener after 16-month layoff

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, JULY 22

Seven-time Grand Slam champion Venus Williams emerged victorious in her first professional tennis match in 16 months, joining Hailey Baptiste to defeat fellow doubles wild cards Eugenie Bouchard and Clervie Ngounou in the DC Open first round.

It was a sharp turnaround. Down 3-1 and facing a break point, Venus and Baptiste rallied to win 11 of the last 12 games. 'This is Venus' second appearance at the D.C. event, following a first-round loss in 2022.

The 45-year-old former world number one, who



accepted a wildcard for the tournament, had not competed since the Miami Open in March 2024 - and last won at the Cincinnati Open in August 2023.

"It was inspiring to be out here. I love this game and still hitting it big. I think from the first point

I could see that we were going to be a good team. We just should have started playing earlier, years ago, right? I think Serena was just in the way," Venus told Sky Sports.

Venus, who does not have a ranking, won 14 major titles alongside

Serena in the women's doubles, as the Williams sisters dominated the sport for many years.

She will face another American, Peyton Stearns, in the first round of the singles competition on Tuesday. When she takes the court as a wild card for her first singles match, she'll be the oldest player to compete at a WTA Tour-level main-draw match since Kimiko Date (then 46) seven years ago in Tokyo.

A victory on Tuesday Stearns, currently ranked No. 35, would make Williams the oldest to do it since Martina Navratilova (then 47) at Wimbledon 2004.

## Chennai Grand Masters: Arjun Erigaisi, Anish Giri, Vidit Gujrathi among top contenders

AGENCIES  
CHENNAI, JULY 22

With its biggest field and prize pool yet, the Chennai Grand Masters, India's most prestigious classical chess tournament, returns for the third edition from August 6-15 at the Hyatt Regency Chennai.

Featuring 20 players across the Masters and Challengers categories, the 2025 edition marks a new high for the tournament with Rs 1 crore prize pool as competitors chase FIDE Circuit points vital for qualifying for the 2026 Candidates Tournament.

Organised by MGDI and sponsored by Quantbox, the tournament will be



split into two categories: Masters and Challengers. The Masters field boasts global stars and Olympiad champions, including Anish Giri, Arjun Erigaisi, Vidit Gujrathi, Nihal Sarin, Jorden Van Foreest, Liang Aowder, Vincent Keymer, Ray Robson, Vladimir Fedoseev, and Pranav V,

who steps up after winning the Challengers in 2024. The Challengers category, introduced last year, returns as a proving ground for India's brightest emerging players. It features Karthikeyan Murali, Leon Mendonca, Vaishali R, Harika Drona-

valli, Abhimanyu Puranik, Aryan Chopra, Adhiban Baskaran, Iniyan P, Diptayan Ghosh and Pranesh M.

The Masters champion will take home Rs 25 lakh, with Rs 15 lakh and Rs 10 lakh for second and third place, respectively, while the Challengers' winner will receive Rs 7 lakh and a guaranteed place in the 2026 Masters. The tournament also carries FIDE Circuit points, with the winner earning 24.5 points towards the 2026 Candidates qualification. In the case of joint winners, each will receive 22.3 points, while second and third place will earn 17.8 and 15.6 points, respectively.

## Delhi Premier League Season 2 to begin on Aug 2; Women's League from Aug 17

AGENCIES  
NEW DELHI, JULY 22

The second edition of the Delhi Premier League (DPL) will begin on August 2 with the women's competition running between August 17 to August 24.

The second season will feature eight men's teams and four women's teams, with a sharp focus on competitive balance, emerging talent, and fan engagement.

The tournament will commence with an opening ceremony followed by the first men's match, while the final is scheduled for August 31 at the Arun Jaitley Stadium in



the national capital.

A reserve day for the men's final has been set for September 1, in case of weather interruptions or unforeseen circumstances.

Delhi Premier League has split its eight teams into two groups of four. Group A includes Outer

Delhi Warriors, Central Delhi Kings, New Delhi Tigers and North Delhi Strikers. Group B consists of West Delhi Lions, East Delhi Riders, South Delhi Superstarz and Purani Dilli 6.

The men's tournament will witness a total of 40 matches where eight

teams will battle it out for the trophy. Each side will play Double Round Robin (2 matches - Home & Away) with 3 teams from their own group and will play Single Round Robin (1 match) with four teams from the other group making it a total of 10 games.

# Tangmarg craft dealer blacklisted, deregistered for selling a machine-made carpet as handmade for Rs 2.5 lakh, criminal case ordered

Director H&H issues orders under Sections 6 & 7 of J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978 against the seller for committing fraud with a tourist

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, JULY 22

In a major crackdown on unfair trade practices threatening the very credibility of Kashmir's world-famous handicraft and handloom industry, Directorate of Handicrafts and Handloom, Kashmir, has blacklisted and deregistered a craft showroom - The Kashmir Art Bazaar, Tangmarg - after the showroom was found guilty of selling a machine-made carpet for 2.55 lakh to a tourist by fraudulently passing it off as a hand-knotted Kashmiri GI-certified product.

As per the Order No. 10-HD(QC) of 2025 dated 22.07.2025, issued by Director Handicrafts and Handloom, the seller used a fake QR label resembling the official label issued by the Indian Institute of Carpet Technology (IICT) to

mislead the buyer into believing the carpet was a genuine GI-certified craft. "A formal criminal complaint has been ordered, and further legal proceedings have been recommended under the GI Act and Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita," a spokesman of the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir revealed.

Meanwhile, a team from the Quality Control wing of the Department has reached Konchipora, Tangmarg and completed the blacklisting process of the showroom.

The matter came to fore after a tourist, Syed Furqan Alam, complained to Director IICT, Srinagar stating therein that he had paid 25,000 in advance for a carpet from The Kashmir Art Bazaar, located in Konchipora, Tangmarg, with the total transaction amounting to 2.55 lakh. The showroom allegedly presented a

certificate and QR code claiming IICT certification. "Upon verification, IICT confirmed the QR label was forged and not issued by their institution. The case was escalated to the department's Quality Control Division, which conducted a physical inspection, seized the carpet, and issued a show-cause notice to the proprietor," the spokesman added.

The spokesman further stated that in his response, the proprietor denied the fraud, claiming the customer declined the purchase once told the carpet wasn't GI-certified. "However, this was contradicted by photographic evidence submitted by the complainant, as well as findings from IICT that confirmed the fake



label had been pasted onto a machine-made carpet," he added.

The official spokesman further said that the Department, upon examining the reply, found it totally misleading and unsatisfactory and concluded the act was a deliberate attempt to cheat the buyer by exploiting Kashmir's GI craft reputation. "The Director in his reply stated that the seller had deliberately created a fake QR label resembling the original GI label of IICT and pasted the same on a machine-made carpet to cheat the concerned tourist," he said.

Citing violations of Sections 6 and 7 of the

J&K Registration of Tourist Trade Act, 1978, the Directorate ordered immediate blacklisting and deregistration of the seller.

"Furthermore, it is hereby ordered that a formal complaint shall be filed against the proprietor of The Kashmir Art Bazaar with the office of the Senior Superintendent of Police, Tourism Enforcement, Kashmir, for initiating strict action against him for pasting a fake QR label purportedly in the name of IICT, and requesting to investigate the network which seems to run this racket of pasting fake GI QR labels on machine-made items.

The order further observed that once the seller realised the fraud had been detected, he attempted to remove the fake QR label from the carpet to cover up the malpractice. However, evidence provided by the complainant and

expert verification from IICT confirmed the wrongdoing.

The spokesman reiterated that such fraudulent acts of misbranding genuine handmade products not only violate consumer trust but directly undermine the GI-certified identity of Kashmiri craft, threatening the livelihood of lakhs of artisans and weavers. "We take this opportunity to warn all business stakeholders in craft sector to desist from selling machine-made items in the garb of handmade products, failing which the Department will take immediate action by blacklisting and de-registration of such showrooms," he added.

He further urged all buyers and tourists to contact the Handicrafts and Handloom Department, Kashmir, if they have been sold a machine-made product in the garb of handmade item.

## Inclement Weather: DC Rajouri reviews preparedness of departments

J I NEWS SERVICE  
RAJOURI, JULY 22

In view of the prevailing and forecasted inclement weather conditions, Deputy Commissioner Rajouri Abhishek Sharma today chaired a meeting to review the preparedness and response mechanism of stakeholder departments to ensure the safety and well-being of the public.

Emphasizing the importance of proactive measures, the DC directed the concerned departments to remain on high alert. He specifically urged the general public to avoid venturing near water bodies during heavy rains, warning of possible rise in water levels and associated risks.

To maintain uninterrupted connectivity, the Executive Engineers of PWD and PMGSY were



sanitation. He directed the Health Department, Public Health Engineering (PHE) Department and Rural Sanitation Department to ensure that ground water sources prone to contamination are cleaned and tested regularly. "All necessary precautions should be taken to avoid any public health crisis" he ordered.

The DC further instructed that any damage caused to infrastructure due to heavy rainfall must be reported in a timely and structured manner to enable swift response and restoration.

As a safety measure, the Deputy Commissioner announced that all schools in hilly areas, particularly private institutions, shall remain closed to ensure the safety of children. He said, "No risk shall be taken when it comes to the safety of our students

in vulnerable zones."

Directions were also issued to keep rescue teams on standby for any untoward incident. The departments concerned were asked to ensure uninterrupted supply of water, electricity, road connectivity and ration especially in far-flung areas.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kalakote, Tanvir Ahmed, ADC Kotranka, Dilmir, ADC Sunderbani Ramkesh Sharma, ADC Nowshera Pritam Lal Thapa, ACR Rajouri, Mohd Jahangir Khan, SDM Thanamandi, Abid Hussain, CEO Iqbal Hussain; AD FCS&CA, Rohit Kumar; Executive Engineer PHE, Sudesh Kumar Bhagat; Deputy Controller SDRF, Jabeen Lone; Executive Engineer PWD and Executive Engineer PMGSY and other district & sectoral officers.

## Nasha Mukht Abhiyan: Extensive outreach drives held across Budgam to curb substance abuse

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BUDGAM, JULY 22

As part of the ongoing Nasha Mukht Bharat Abhiyan, a series of impactful Information, Education & Communication (IEC) campaigns were organised today across several locations in district Budgam to raise awareness about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to promote a drug-free lifestyle, especially among the youth.

The awareness programmes were conducted at various educational and community locations including Government Middle School Kralpora, Government Higher Secondary School Wathora, Government High School



Ompora etc.

The campaigns witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers, civil society members, and representatives from key departments such as Health, Education, Social Welfare, and local Municipal Committees.

Key activities included awareness sessions on psychological, health, and social impacts of substance abuse, Anti-drug pledge ceremonies

led by school faculty and administration, rallies and street awareness marches involving students and youth volunteers, door-to-door campaigns by volunteers and health workers in several locations including Kanihama and Narbal, Interactive sessions, including group discussions, quizzes, and distribution of educational material.

Speakers at the events highlighted the growing menace of drug addiction

among adolescents, emphasized early identification and intervention, and elaborated on available counselling and rehabilitation services. The importance of collective efforts by communities, schools, and families in tackling this challenge was underscored.

These IEC campaigns were aimed at equipping the youth with essential knowledge to resist substance abuse and to encourage them to be champions of change in their communities. The initiative reaffirmed the district's ongoing commitment to a Nasha Mukht Budgam, Nasha Mukht Jammu & Kashmir, and a Nasha Mukht Bharat.

## ADDC Kathua reviews arrangements for Independence Day-2025 celebrations



J I NEWS SERVICE  
KATHUA, JULY 22

Additional District Development Commissioner (ADDC) Surinder Mohan today reviewed the arrangements for the smooth and successful conduct of the Independence Day here at a meeting of officers from line departments.

The mega event will be held at the Sports Stadium, where the Chief Guest would hoist the National Flag and take the salute at the ceremonial march-past. The parade will include contingents from the JK Police, Army,

Paramilitary Forces, Forest Protection Force, NCC and platoons from various educational institutions, besides bands from the PTS and the Army.

The ADDC directed the concerned officers to carry out renovation works at the venue and make all necessary logistical arrangements to ensure a seamless conduct of the celebrations at the district headquarters.

It was informed that the event will begin with Shehnai Vadan at the offices of the Deputy Commissioner and Senior Superintendent of Police,

Kathua, to be presented by the teams of the Information Department.

The ADDC laid emphasis on meticulous arrangements pertaining to security, sanitation, drinking water, electricity, barricading, seating, transportation, distribution of invitation cards, prize distribution and illumination of government buildings for the occasion.

The Tehsildar (HQ) and Chief Education Officer were tasked to finalize the list of Cultural presentations by students.

The ADDC also called for cleanliness drives, plantation initiatives,

and flag hoisting in all government offices across the district, ensuring that the day is celebrated with due reverence and enthusiasm. He exhorted all departments to complete preparations well in advance and work in coordination to ensure a dignified and vibrant celebration of the national festival.

The meeting was attended by ADC Kathua, Vishavpartap Singh, Additional Superintendent of Police Rahul Charak, CPO Kathua Ranjit Thakur, CMO Dr Vijay Raina and officers from various line departments.

J I NEWS SERVICE  
SHOPIAN, JULY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Shopian, Shishir Gupta today presided over a distribution function of 70 sanction letters under the ambitious Mission Yuva scheme for entrepreneurship development and employment generation, organised at the Mini Secretariat Shopian.

The event was first of a kind held in the district, following clearance of cases for financial assistance by the District Level Committee.

The function was attended by scores of aspiring entrepreneurs and young budding business owners



who were handed over sanction letters by the Banks at the occasion and was a moment of great joy and satisfaction, ushering in a new phase of youth empowerment.

The cases were sanctioned in various kinds of businesses including manufacturing, services, trade

and agriculture.

DC congratulated all the youth and the concerned departments besides banks for lending great support to the youth and wished that the new enterprises will succeed in creating ample opportunities for themselves and for other unemployed youth

of the district. He appreciated the potential of the Mission and said this shall be instrumental in creating employment avenues for a vast majority of potential youth by developing a business ecosystem with integrated and connected businesses.

Other officers of banks on the occasion spoke at length on various benefits in the form of subsidies, interest subventions and handholding support under the Mission.

ADDC, Dr.Nasir Ahmad Lone; LDM Shopian and other heads of financial institutions and officials of the employment department were also present.

## DC Bandipora chairs Road Safety meeting, sanctions Rs 5.5 lakh relief for accident victims

J I NEWS SERVICE  
BANDIPORA, JULY 22

Deputy Commissioner (DC) Bandipora, Manzoor Ahmad Qadri, on Tuesday chaired a road safety committee meeting at the Mini Secretariat, during which he approved financial relief of Rs 5.5 lakh for the next of kins (NoKs) of road accident victims.



During the meeting, Assistant Regional Transport Officer (ARTO) Ban-

dipora, Mudasir Ahmad Wani, briefed the chair about the recent road accident cases reported across the district.

After a detailed discussion, six accident cases were cleared for financial assistance. Of these, five families of deceased victims were granted Rs 1 lakh each, while one grievously injured individual received

interim relief of Rs 50,000.

Emphasizing the need for prompt support to affected families, DC directed the ARTO to expedite the processing of all pending compensation cases in accordance with established norms. The meeting was attended by the Chief Medical Officer (CMO) Bandipora and other concerned officers.